

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AT  
MALTINGS FARM THE STREET HEPWORTH SUFFOLK**

Grid reference: TL 985 746

Planning Application No: SE/12/0646/FUL

HER no: HEP 032

Oasis No.: 157524

**Prepared for:**

Simon Burgess Homes Ltd

**Prepared by:**

Archaeoserv (Dennis Payne Archaeological Services)

Dennis Payne BA (Hons) AIfA  
Great Heath  
351 High Road Trimley St Martin  
Felixstowe  
Suffolk IP11 0RS

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Oasis.



## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeoserv for trial trenching on land at Maltings Farm The Street Hepworth Suffolk, between the 20th and the 21st of January 2013. This was in advance of the erection of four new dwellings. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2012.

Three 10m long and one 12m long x 1.8m wide trenches were excavated to cover two specific areas of archaeological potential.

Trench 1, to the south of the development revealed no archaeology. Trench 2 was a double trench forming a T-shaped arrangement, which located linear boundary ditches, one of which was cut by a pit, trench 3 also located a small linear ditch interpreted as a property boundary. Although the orientation of the small ditches were at a slight variance to each other it was thought that they were all created for the same purpose of delineating properties on an east-west alignment and of similar medieval dates.

## **1. Introduction and Planning Background**

An application has been made by the client, Simon Burgess Homes Ltd for the construction of four new dwellings on land at Maltings Farm The Street Hepworth Suffolk (TL 985 746). The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

The planning application, SE/12/0646/FUL granted by Bury St Edmunds District Council, for the erection of four dwellings on Land at Maltings Farm The Street Hepworth Suffolk (TL 985 746) is subject to the following condition:

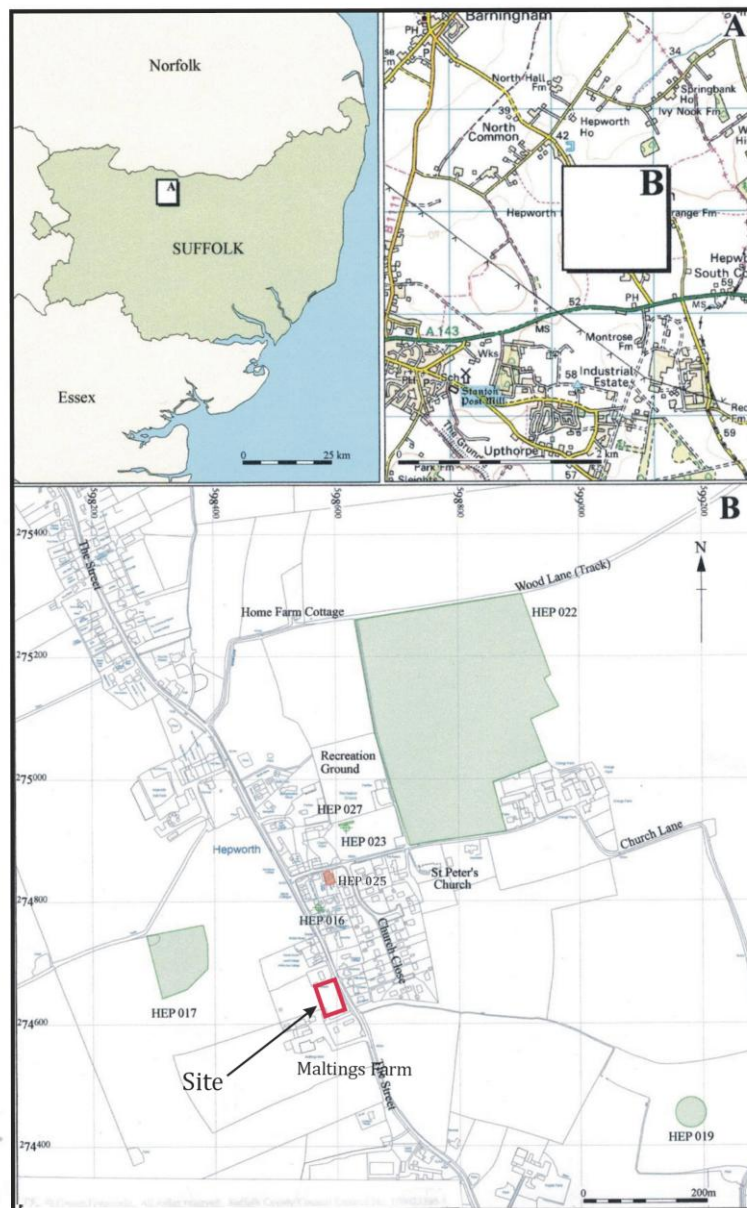
*The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).*

Condition 10 states: *In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan. Condition 10 also states "No development shall take place within any part of the application site until the applicant, or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To allow proper investigation and recording of the site, which is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.*

## 2. Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 985 746



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**Figure 1. Site location showing area of development and adjacent HER sites**

Hepworth is a dispersed village, a settlement of farms and houses set amongst mainly arable farmland with the former commons (North and South Common), on the outer edges of the village. The site lies within the historic village core, (south-western extent), which consists of a compact group of houses, former commercial buildings, workshops and the church of St Peter's, centred on The Street. The site lies at TL 968 746 close to the 45m contour on a south facing slope. The geology of this area consists of orange clay-silt with gravels over boulder clay, with outcrops of clay (BGS, 2011).

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

3.1 The County's Historic Environment Record (HER) records a number of sites within a 500m radius of the evaluation where field walking and metal-detecting have produced extensive Roman, Saxon and Medieval finds assemblages (Fig.1). Middle and Late Saxon pottery have been found in the field opposite the church (HEP 022) and Late Saxon metal objects including 9th century disc brooches (HEP 016 and 017), including a ring and a strap end (HEP 027 and 023) all have been recovered from sites within the search area.

3.2 The present church of St Peter's dates from the 13th century, but elements of Norman stonework have been identified within the porch. An earlier church is likely to have stood on the site of the existing building with 15 acres of free land, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, suggesting a pre-conquest foundation date.

#### **3.3 Archaeological Events**

There have been three archaeological events within Hepworth: an excavation at Rose Cottage Church Lane, c 100m north of the proposed development located the remains of a Saxon building and associate features including medieval ditches (ESF 21863) SCCAU 2011; monitoring Windy Hill produced a well thought to be of medieval date at c 100m north of the proposed site (ESF 20020) SCCAU 2009; an evaluation at Church Farm did not locate any features but a Saxon finger ring was found in the spoil heap at c 200m north of the proposed site (ESF -20017) SCCCAU 2009.

### **4. Results**

#### ***Fieldwork Methodology***

4.1 The SCCAS/CT brief required a programme of archaeological trial trenching, and stipulated that a 5% sample of the site should be subject to trenching, to comprise c. 140m of 1.8m wide trenching. Three trenches, totaling 42m of linear trenching were excavated (Tr 1, 10m; Tr 2, 22m on a T-shaped arrangement); Tr 3, 10m). All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using the mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. deposits were recorded using pro-forma recording sheets, drawn to a scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 4.2 The Evaluation Trenches

### Trench 1

Trench 1, orientated east-west in the southern area of the site was 10 m long by 1.8 m width and was opened to reveal no archaeology. The total depth was 0.65m and the deposit model was as follows: a topsoil layer (0001) of mid-brown top soil to a maximum depth of 0.20m, this overlay a demolition spread (0002) from a previously demolished farm building of mixed mid-brown soils and clays with a cbm component to a depth of 0.39m. The base of the trench was natural drift geology (0003) of yellowish-brown silty clay.

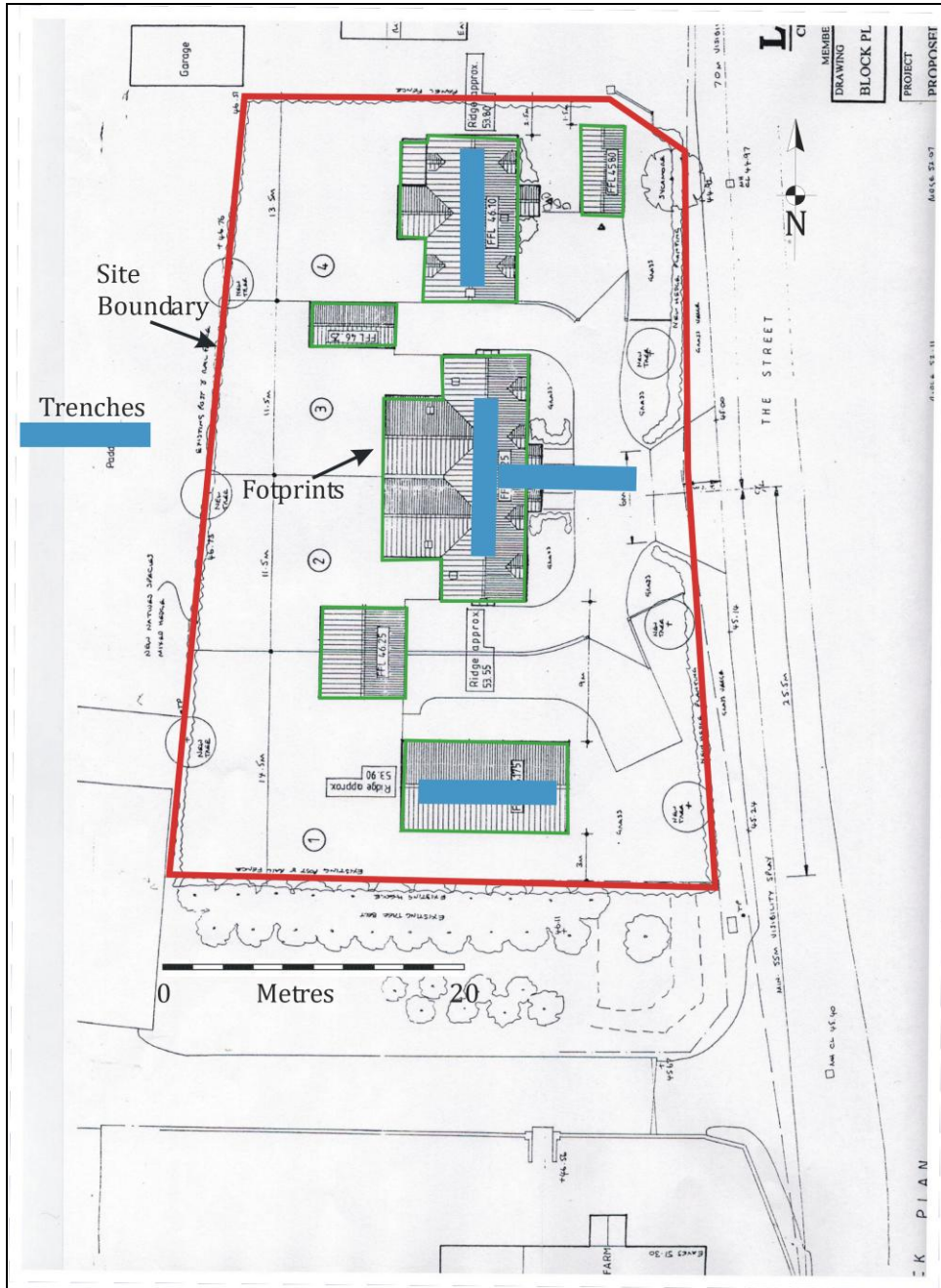
### Trench 2

Trench 2, orientated east-west and north-south was combined with a further trench of 12m in length to form a T-shaped trench to cover the footprint of the two centre dwellings and the access road. This trench revealed archaeology in the form of two parallel gulleys [0018; 0008] with [0008] being the larger of the two (a small ditch) interpreted as property boundaries (orientated east-west) and are probably of similar date. The larger of the two had a pit cut into it [0006] and is probably fairly contemporary to the ditch it cuts. Pottery finds from (0016) the fill of the larger ditch [0008] were dated to the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, whilst the pottery evidence from the pit fill (0007), cutting into this feature, was also of a similar date range. A discrete post hole [0019], and of a very shallow depth, revealed no dating evidence.

### Trench 3

Trench 3, orientated north-south, and located in the north of the site revealed archaeology in the form of a further small ditch or gulley [0005], orientated east-west and on a very similar alignment to the previous gulley and ditch revealed in trench 2, and contained, by far the greatest concentration of pottery numbering 32 sherds weighing 321 gm in total and all dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to this there were two post hole alignments, the first was [0010; 0012; 0014]. This group appeared to be cut by the centred post hole [0012], which interestingly contained an iron nail. The second group was [0021; 0023], being larger than the previous group. The deposit model was as follows: a topsoil layer (0001) of dark-brown soil to a depth of 0.28m, below this an old agricultural subsoil to a depth 0.28m, lying above the natural, glacial sandy clay.

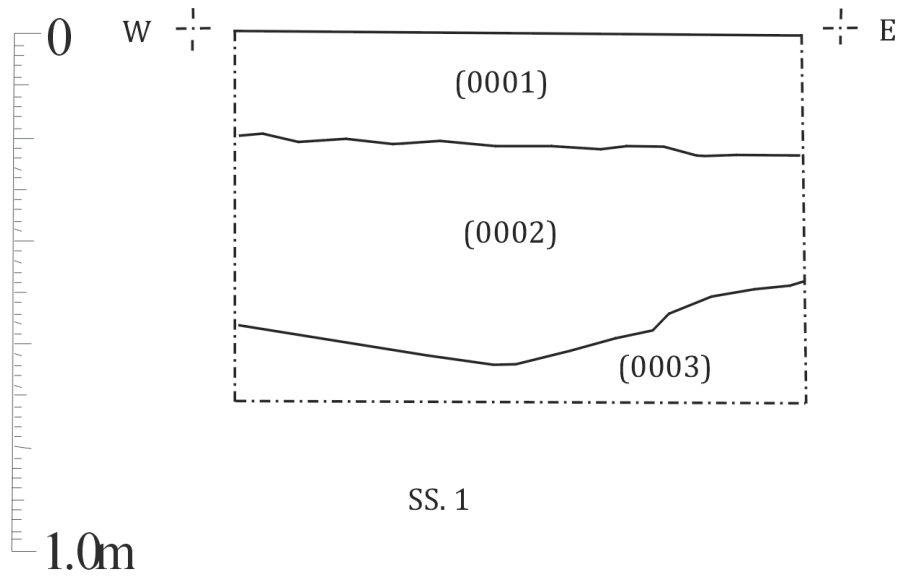




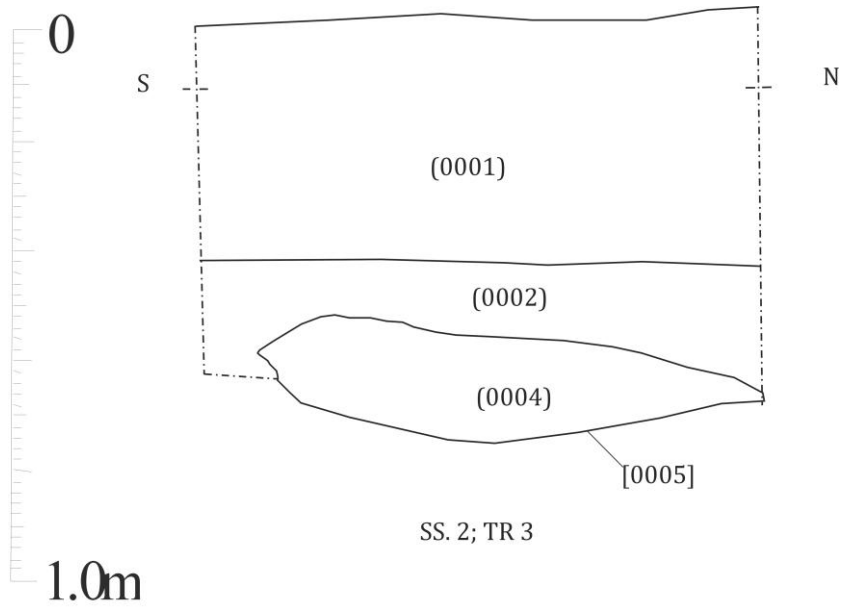
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**Figure2. Trench Locations**

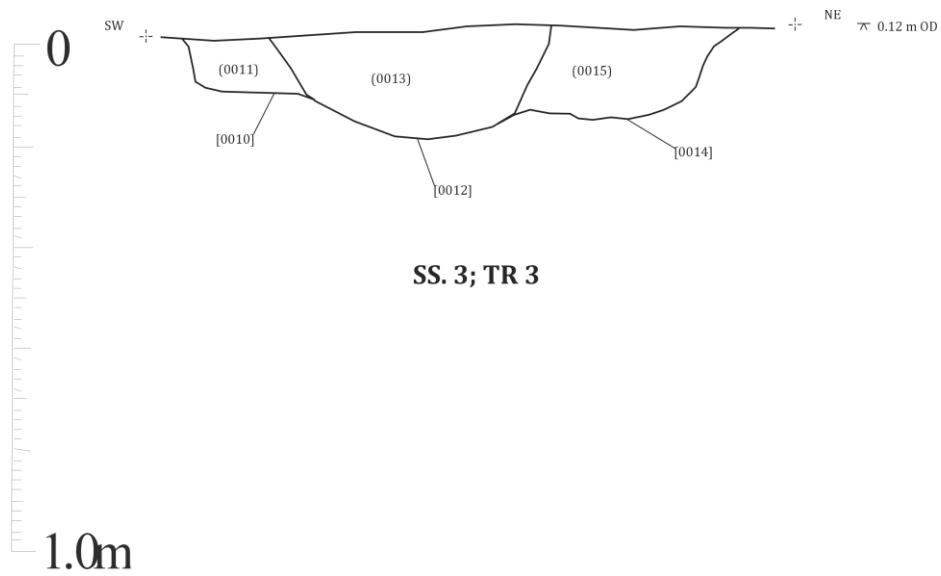
### 4.3 Illustrations



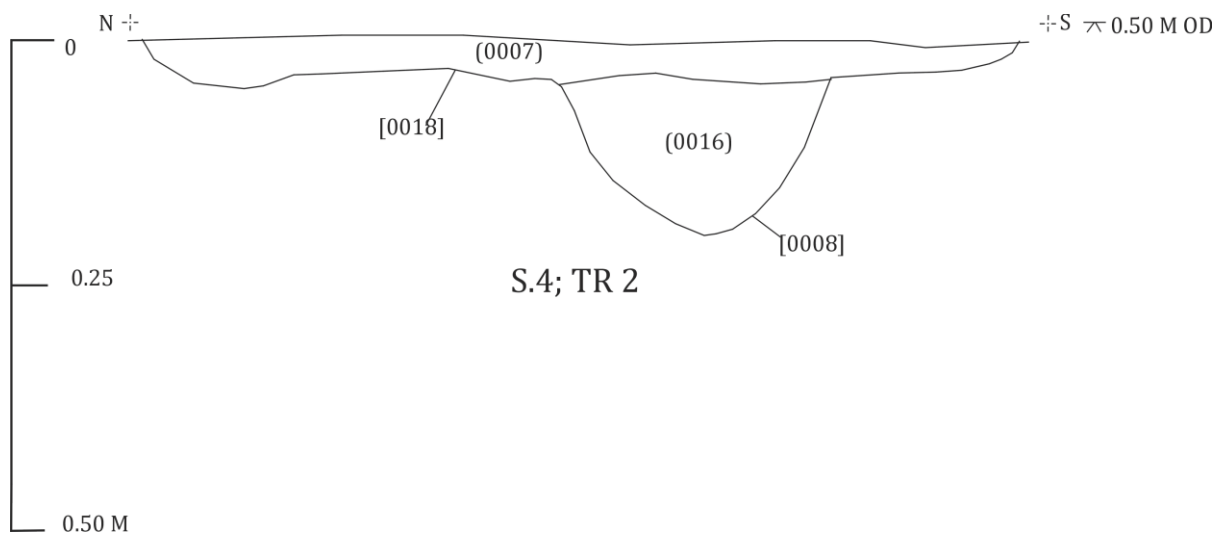
*Figure 3. Trench 1, sample section 1*



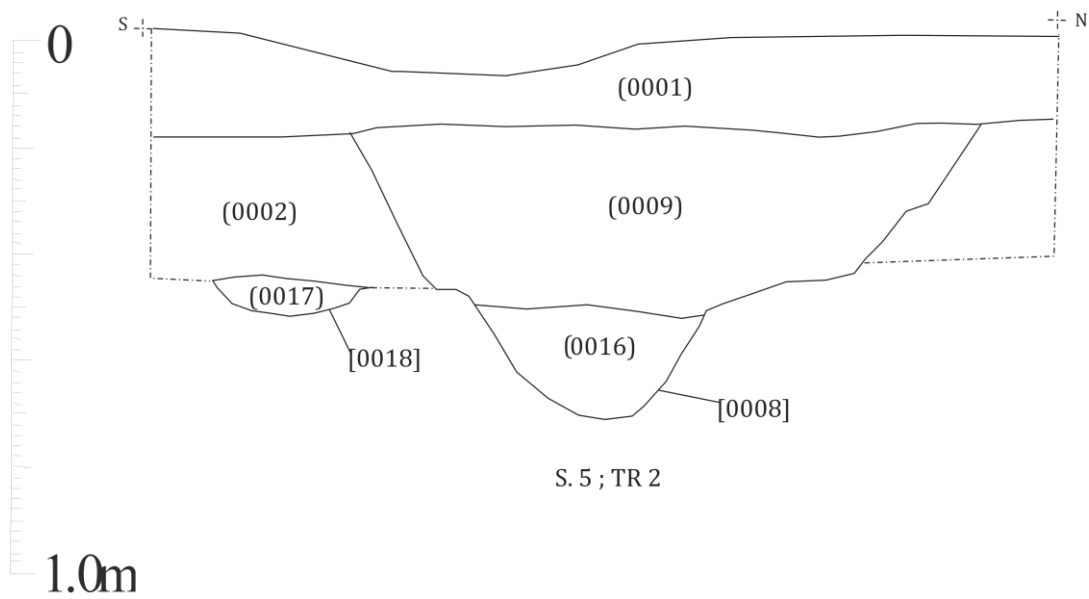
*Figure 4. Trench 3; sample section 2*



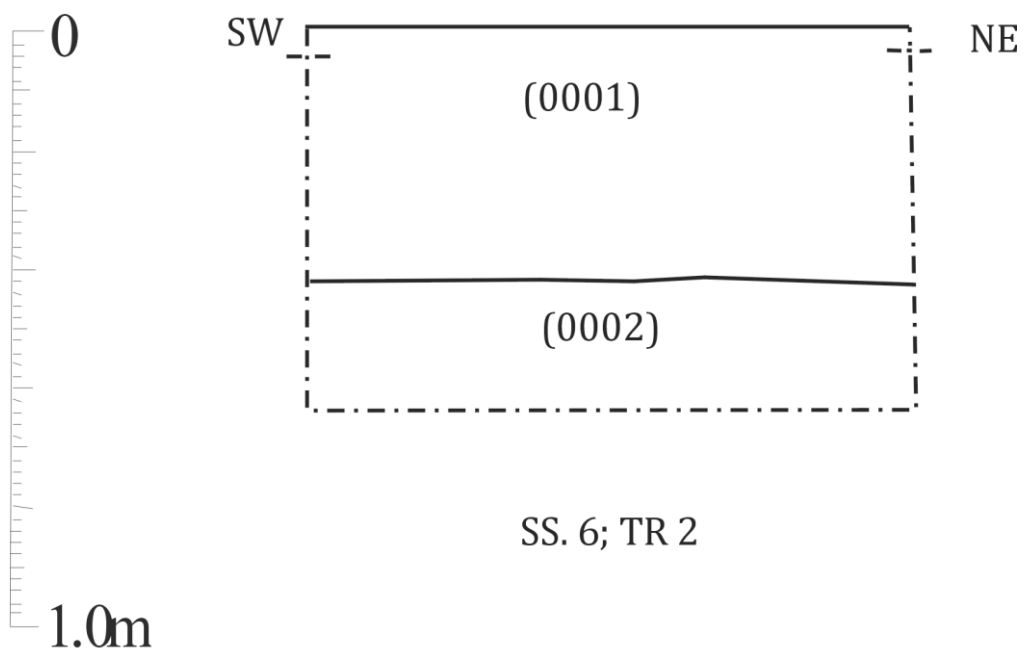
**Figure 4. Trench 1, section 3 of post hole alignment**



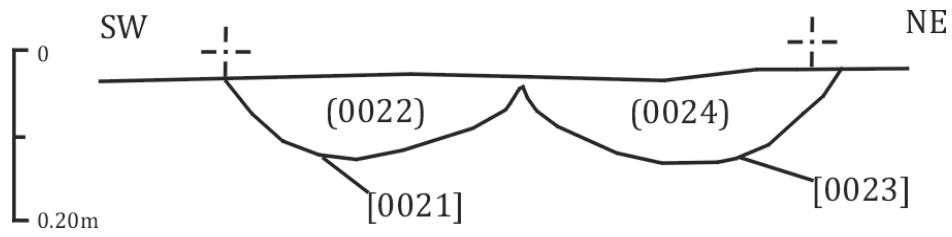
**Figure 5. Section 4 of gulleys [0008] and [0018] in trench 2**



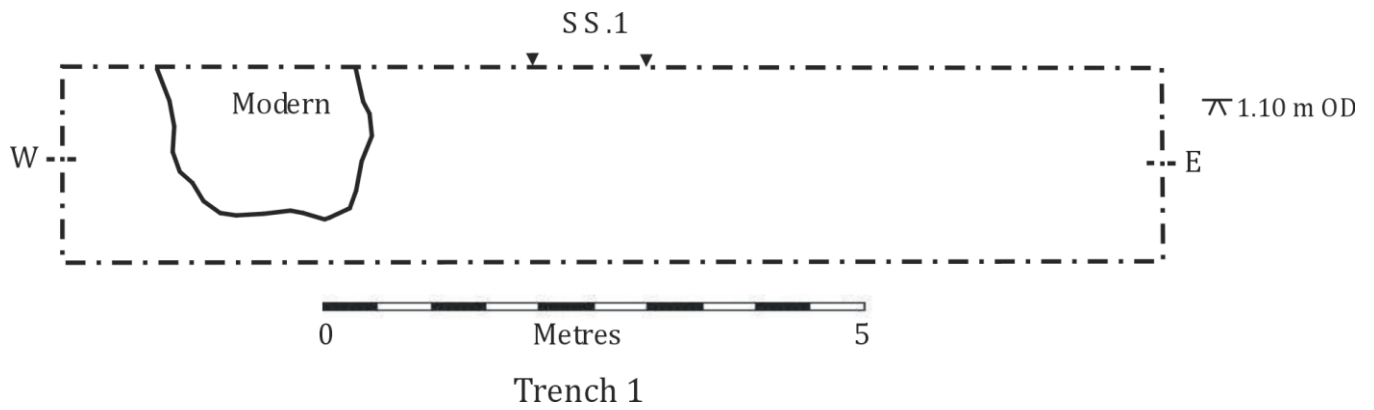
**Figure 6. Trench 2; section 5**



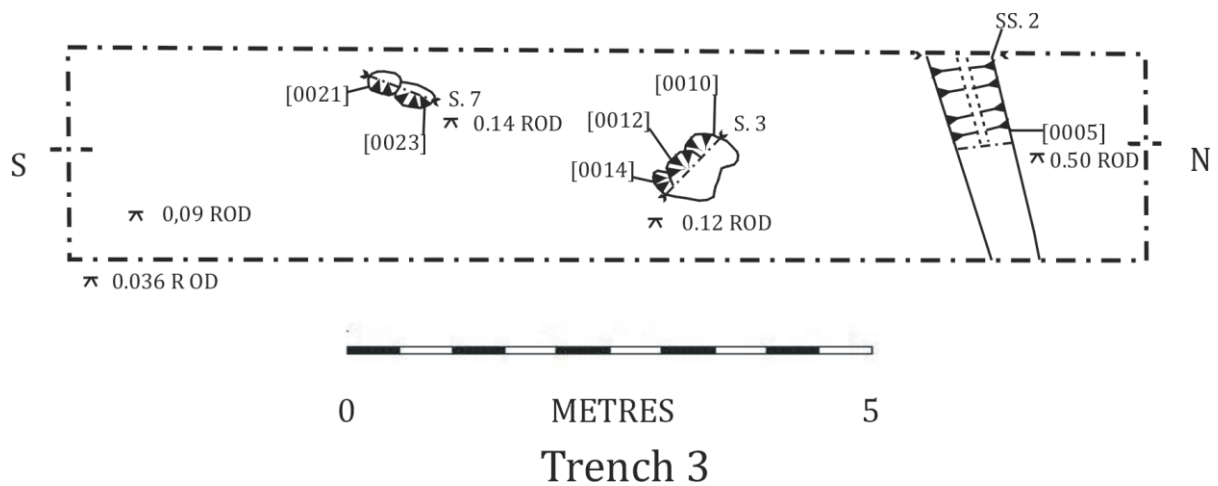
**Figure 7. Trench 2, sample section 6**



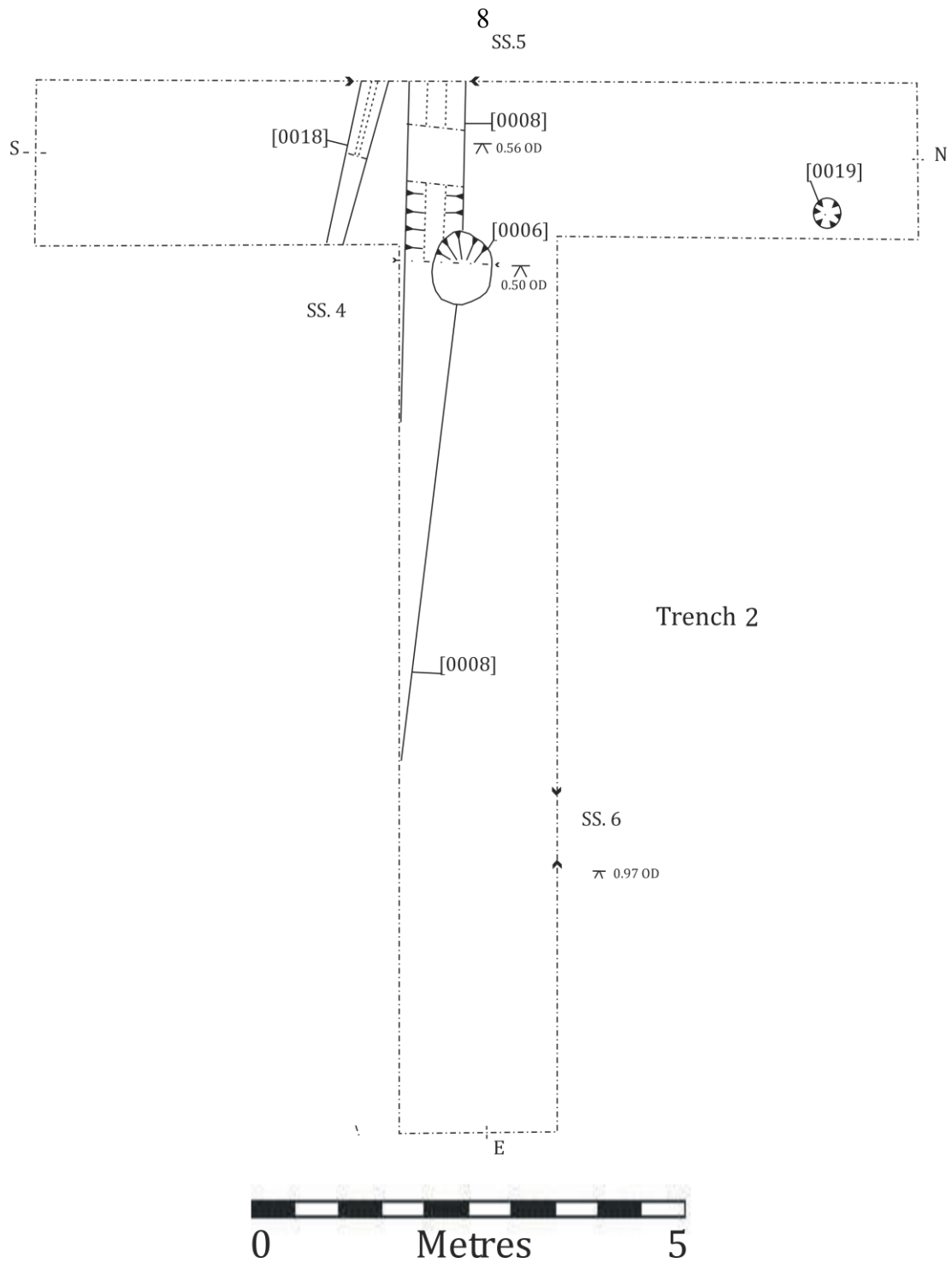
**Figure 8. Section 7 of post holes in trench 3**



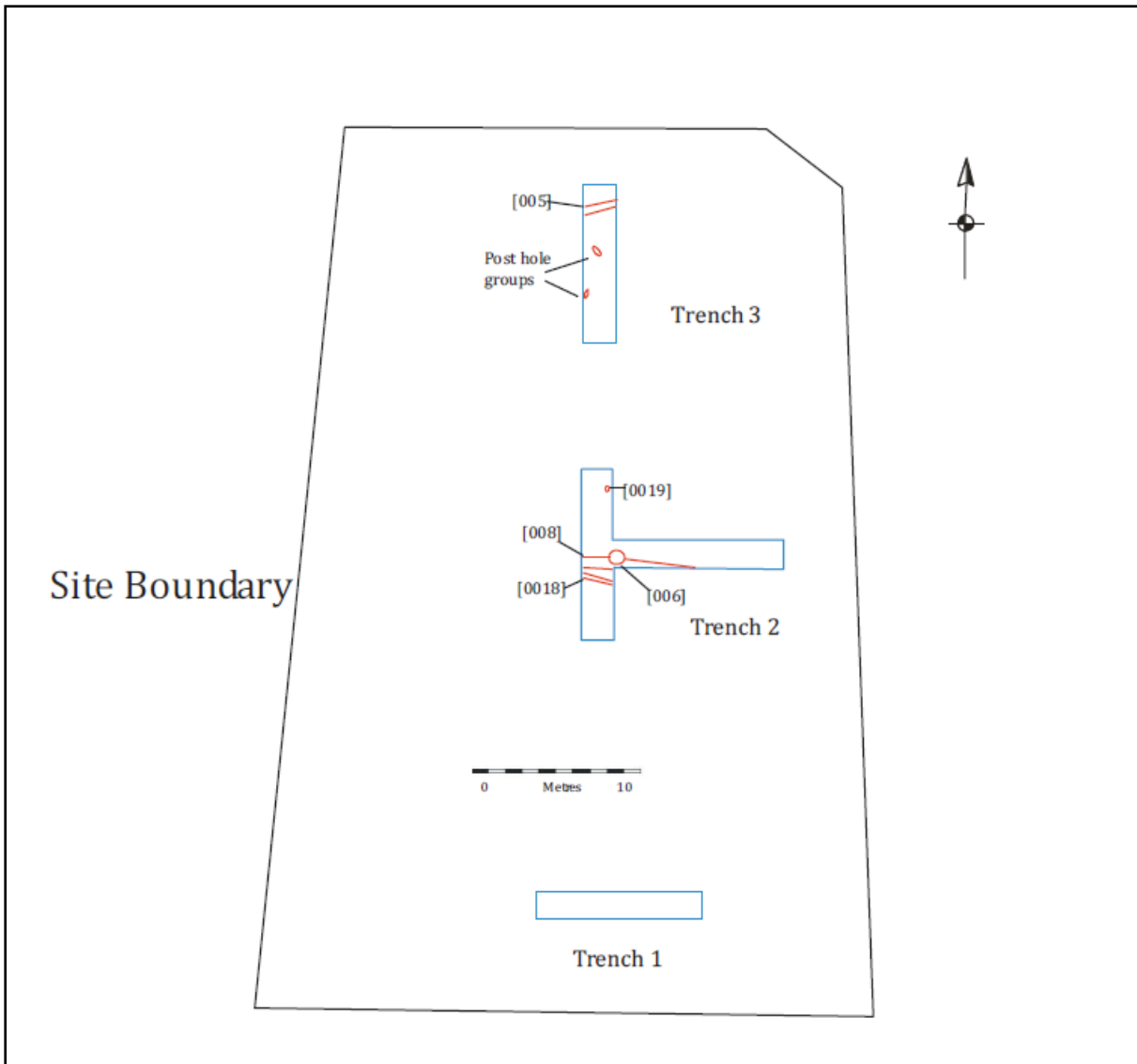
**Figure 9. Plan of Trench 1**



**Figure 10. Plan of Trench 3**



**Figure 11. Plan of Trench 2**



**Figure 12. Site and Trench locations**

## 5. Interpretation

The gulleys/ditches in trench 2 are likely to date from the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, being late Saxon in date, based on the pottery evidence with one residual Roman sherd showing occupation from this period close by. The gully or ditch revealed in trench 3, on a similar alignment to those in trench 2, has dating evidence based on the pottery finds from the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, a span of up to four centuries from those found in trench 2. The pottery evidence, ditches/gulleys and the post holes demonstrate strong evidence for occupation of this site. The evidence demonstrates that there was an established allotment of properties developing along the street in Hepworth from at least the late Saxon period in the 10<sup>th</sup> century through to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, showing a continuum of occupation through until at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly by the fifteenth century, there was a shift of domestic settlement within the village, to a concentration nearer to the church, the current pattern of development where properties are located today.

Post holes revealed in trench 3 are further evidence for structures sited within these property boundaries and may represent evidence for low status dwellings, based on the size of the post holes, averaging around 0.30m in diameter. A single pottery sherd of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c. from one of the post holes may date this feature and associated post holes as contemporary with the ditch or gulley, interpreted as a property boundary.



## 6. Contexts

Table 1 of Contexts

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find Types /comments
(0001)	Layer	Topsoil Maximum depth: 0.45m	Old plough soil	
(0002)	Layer	Sub soil - with cbm in parts of this layer; maximum depth 0.38m	Old agricultural soil with mixed debris from demolition of previous buildings	Cbm, modern debris of early 20th date, mainly in trench 1
(0003)	Layer	Natural drift geology		
(0004)	Fill	Fill of gully [005]; length, 0.80m, depth, 0.20m; width, 0.42m	Disused property boundary	Pottery sherds of 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c. date
[0005]	Cut	Cut of gully; length, 0.80m, depth, 0.20m; width, 0.42m	Property boundary	n/a
(0006)	Cut	Cut of pit; depth, 0.20m, width, 1.20m	Refuse pit	n/a
(0007)	Fill	Fill of pit; depth, 0.20m; width, 1.20 m	Waste disposal	Pottery sherds of 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> c. date and animal bone
[0008]	Cut	Cut of gully; length, 0.80m, width 0.85m, depth, 0.27m	Property boundary	n/a
(0009)	Fill	Fill of gully [008]; length, 0.80m, width 0.85m, depth, 0.27m	Disused property boundary	Animal bone
[0010]	Cut	Cut of post hole; 0.20m wide, 0.10m depth	Structure/building (re-sited by [0012]?)	n/a
(0011)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width 0.20m, depth, 0.10m	Disuse	Pottery, 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c. date
[0012]	Cut	Cut of post hole; width 0.40m width, depth 0.24m	Structure/building (resiting of [0010] or [0014]?)	n/a
(0013)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width 0.40m width, depth 0.24m	Disuse	n/a

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description/Dimensions</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Finds/Types comments</b>
[0014]	Cut	Cut of post hole; width, 0.28m, depth 0.20m	Structure/building – (resited by [0012]?)	n/a
(0015)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width, 0.28m, depth 0.20m	Disuse	n/a
(0016)	Fill	Fill of gulley/ditch	Disused property boundary	Pottery, 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> c. in date
(0017)	Fill	Fill of gulley	Disused property boundary	n/a
[0018]	Cut	Cut of gulley	Property boundary	n/a
[0019]	Cut	Cut of post hole; width, 0.30m, depth 0.10m	Building/structure	n/a
(0020)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width, 0.30m, depth 0.10m	Disuse	n/a
[0021]	Cut	Cut of post hole; width, 0.28m, depth 0.10m	Building/structure	n/a
(0022)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width, 0.28m, depth 0.10m	Disuse	n/a
[0023]	Cut	Cut of post hole; width, 0.30m, depth 0.10m	Building/structure	n/a
(0024)	Fill	Fill of post hole; width, 0.30m, depth 0.10m	Disuse	n/a

## 7. The Finds

### By Richenda Goffin

#### 7.1. Introduction

Finds were recovered from seven contexts from the evaluation (Table 2).

Context	Pottery		Animal bone		Iron nail		Shell		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0004	29	321			1	2			1 frag ?slag @ 2g	13th-14th C
0007	2	16	2	152						10th-11th C
0009b			1	20						
0010	1	4								L12th- 14th C
0012	1	18			1	12	1	6		L12th- 14th C
0016A	1	6								10th-11th C
0016	1	3	1	43						(Roman)
Total		35	378		4	215	2	14	1	6

**Table 1. Finds quantities**

#### 7.2. The Pottery

A total of 35 fragments of pottery weighing 378g was recovered from 6 contexts. The pottery is wide ranging in date, from the Roman to medieval period.

The pottery was fully quantified and catalogued by sherd count, estimated number of vessels, weight, fabric and form type and date range. The fabric codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich (Jennings 1981), and additional fabric types established by the Suffolk Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

#### Roman

A single body sherd of a grey micaceous ware which is slightly abraded was present in the fill 0016 of gully 0008 (Cathy Tester, pers. comm). The sherd cannot be closely dated within the Roman period.

#### Late Saxon/early medieval

Two sherds recovered from the fill 0007 of pit 0006 date to the Late Saxon period. A single fragment of St Neots-type ware was identified, containing abundant shelly inclusions. It was accompanied by a greyware base, which could be medieval, but in view of the slight evidence of pronounced rilling on the interior surface, is more likely to be from the base of a Thetford-type ware jar of Late Saxon date.

Another probable sherd of Thetford-type ware was found in the fill 0016A of gully 0008. This too has pronounced internal rilling and although a body sherd, it is more likely to be Thetford-type ware rather than a medieval coarseware.

### **Medieval**

The remainder of the assemblage dates to the medieval period. By far the largest quantity was recovered from the fill 0004 of gully 0005. The group includes two glazed ware sherds and two vessels with developed rims which date to the 13th-14th century. A single glazed sherd of Grimston-type ware was found in the fill of post hole 0010, and a single abraded fragment of medieval coarseware was present in post hole 0012.

#### **7.3. Slag**

A tiny fragment of probably fuel ash slag was present in the fill 0004 of gully 0005.

#### **7.4. Iron nails**

The shaft of an iron nail was found in the fill 0004 of gully 0005. A better preserved example with the nail head intact was found in the fill of posthole 0012.

#### **7.5. Faunal Remains**

Small quantities of animal bone were collected from three contexts. The distal end of a bovine tibia and part of the rib were present in the fill 0007 of pit 0006. Part of the end of a humerus of a medium sized mammal such as a sheep or pig was recovered from the gully fill 0009b. The remains of a limb bone which has been chopped longitudinally, probably from a cow was identified in the fill 0016 of the gully 0008.

#### **7.6. Shell**

A fragment of an oyster shell was recovered from the fill of posthole 0012.

#### **7.7. Discussion of material evidence**

The presence of small quantities of Roman and Late Saxon pottery is consistent with other artefacts of that date which have been found in the locality. In particular, evidence of a Late Saxon building was found to the north of the site closer to the church (Gill, 2011).

#### **Bibliography**

Gill, D, 2011, Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Church Lane, Hepworth HEP 025, SCCAS Report No. 2011/212

Jennings, S., 1981, Eighteen Centuries of pottery from Norwich. EAA 13, Norwich Survey/NMS.

## 8. Environmental Analysis

### An assessment of the plant macrofossils

By Anna West

#### Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from archaeological features during an evaluation at Maltings Farm, Hepworth. The samples were all processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence for this site.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Once dried the flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant macro remains or artefacts were recorded in Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

#### 1.1 Quantification

1.1.1 For this initial assessment, macro remains such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones were scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

1.1.2 Remains that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

**x = rare, xx = moderate, xxx = abundant**

#### 1.2 Results

1.2.1 The preservation of the macro fossils within these samples was through charring and is generally good to fair. All the samples contain wood charcoal fragments in small quantities. Fibrous rootlets were also common within all of the samples and are modern contaminants.

1.2.2 All three samples contained charred cereal caryopsis within the portions scanned, the largest concentration was within Sample 1, (0004) from gully [0005]. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were both present, with perhaps Barley grains being slightly dominant within the portion scanned. Many of the cereal grains were however puffed and fragmented making them difficult to identify in any detail.

- 1.2.3 Within the other two samples cereal remains were present but in smaller numbers. No chaff elements, which would have suggested grain processing on site, were observed within the portions scanned.
- 1.2.4 Charred peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) and beans (*Vicia faba* L.) were recovered from gully fill (0004) along with a small number of legumes that could only be identified as pea/lentil/vetch. Peas were also observed within Sample 2, fill (0016) from gully [0008] and legume fragments were present within Sample 3, fill (0007) from pit [0006].
- 1.2.5 Legumes were commonly used during the Medieval period as both an important source of carbohydrates and protein for humans as well as a fodder for livestock. As pulses do not need to be processed using heat in the same way as cereals, they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and so are often under represented within archaeological deposits.
- 1.2.6 A single un-charred Bramble (*Rubus* sp.) seed was observed within Sample 1. Snail shells were present within Samples 1 and 3 and amphibian bones were observed within Samples 2 and 3.

### **1.2.7 Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In general the samples were fair to good in terms of identifiable material.

The grains recovered are representative of the cereals grown during the Medieval period, with bread wheat and barley being the dominant crops. A rich source of protein and carbohydrate within the diet is provided by peas and beans, the small number of pulses recovered from these samples may not be representative of their importance within the diet. The presence of legumes could indicate that either small scale garden-type production of food crops or larger crop rotation was taking place nearby.

- 1.2.8 If further archaeological interventions are planned for this site it is recommended that further environmental sampling should be considered as these results show that there is potential for the recovery of plant macrofossils. Specific sampling to examine the nature of the cereal waste is recommended.

### **Bibliography**

Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed 2006 (*Stefanie Jacomet et al*) Archaeobotany Lab IPAS, Basel University.

New Flora of the British Isles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed (*Stace C.*)

**Table 3: Macrofossils from the bulk samples**

Sample No.	1	2	3										
Context No.	0004	0016	0007										
Cut No.	0005	0008	0006										
Feature type	Gully	Gully	Pit										
Date													
<b>Cereals and other food plants</b>													
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)	##	#	#										
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	#		#										
Cereal indet. (grains)	##	#	#										
<i>Vicia faba</i>	#												
<i>Pisium sativum</i>	##	#											
Legume fragments	#												
<b>Herbs</b>													
Fabaceae indet.			#										
Small Poaceae indet.		#	#										
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	#												
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>													
Charcoal 0-5mm	xx	xx	x										
Charcoal >5mm	x		x										
Charred root/stem	x	xx	xxx										
<b>Other remains</b>													
Snails	x		x										
Small mammal/amphibian bone		#	#										
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>													
Volume of flot (ml)	30	10	30										
% flot sorted	20%	100%	100%										

## 9. Discussion

### 9.1 Discussion of Finds/Material Evidence

The finds represent domestic occupation of the site and are consistent to finds of similar dates recorded from elsewhere in the village. The reuse of the ditches or gulleys, interpreted as property boundaries, for domestic refuse is attested by the animal bone and pottery sherd finds along with an oyster shell, and are consistent with food production and waste. Iron nails from two features, in particular post hole fill (0012) in trench 3 are evidence for buildings of a reasonable quality. Iron nails from this period are not common and may represent an early use of such items in building techniques, which were common throughout the Roman period. A small particle of slag material may also allude to industrial practices in the vicinity of the evaluation; one small fragment of slag is only likely to be residual and from a location close by.

### 9.2 Discussion of the Environmental Sampling

The macrofossil assemblage, as shown in Table 3 is typical of food production residues common from medieval contexts and corroborates the evidence of the finds from the site. The presence of pulses from the food types found may indicate small scale growing and production of these crops on site or close by.

The boundaries or gulleys may be delineating individual plot owners for this purpose, however, with the preservation by charring of cereals and pulses with charcoal being present in all three samples, cooking and food preparation appears to be a dominant factor on site. This evidence therefore alludes to direct occupation of the site, although no hearths were found.

### **9.3 General Discussion and Synopsis of the finds evidence and environmental sampling**

Based on the evidence gathered, this evaluation has been successful in demonstrating that occupation from the late Saxon period through to the late medieval period existed at this location and formed, possibly, part of a ribbon development along what is now known as The Street in Hepworth.

Food production evidence from the bulk samples confirms occupation of the site along with the post holes, possibly evidence for buildings, and boundary ditches all combining to form strong evidence for occupation at this location.

As no evidence after the 14<sup>th</sup> century has been found at this location, it may be assumed that the site was abandoned at this time in favour of newer properties within the present nucleation of the village, closer to the church.

## **10. Conclusion**

This evaluation has demonstrated that archaeology is present on the site and the evidence found for previous occupation has also added to our knowledge of medieval Hepworth from the late Saxon period through to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

As a result of the findings it would be prudent to carry out further investigative work during the construction of the new dwellings. Future development of the site is likely to uncover further similar evidence of the nature already discovered and any opportunity to record this evidence would be highly beneficial in adding to our knowledge of Hepworth's past.

## **11. Archive Deposition**

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.



## **12. Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr A Burgess of Burgess Homes Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

The author would like to thank Matt Adams of Britannia Archaeology who assisted with the field element of this project.

## **Bibliography**

**British .Geological. Survey. 1990; sheet 189**

**Gill, D, 2011, Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Church Lane, Hepworth HEP 025, SCCAS Report No. 2011/212**

**Jennings, S., 1981, Eighteen Centuries of pottery from Norwich. EAA 13, Norwich Survey/NMS.**

### **ONLINE REFERENCES**

*PastScapes* <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

## Appendix I: Digital Images



*Plate 1. Post-excavation, Trench 1 from the east*



*Plate 2. Post-excavation, Trench 2 from the south*  
I



***Plate 3. Post-excitation, Trench 2 form the east***



***Plate 4. Post Excavation, Trench 3 from the south***



***Plate 5. Trench1,, sample section 2 showing demolition layer, from the south***



***Plate 6. Trench 3 sample section 2 and gulley [005], from the east***



*Plate 7. Pit [006] and gully [008] in trench 2, from the west*



*Plate 8. Gully [008] section in trench 2, from the east*



*Plate 9, Post hole alignment [0010, 0012, 0014] in trench 3, from the south-west*



*Plate 10. Post hole alignment [0021, 0023] in trench 3 (008), from the south-east*





**Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation  
AT  
MALTINGS FARM THE STREET HEPWORTH SUFFOLK**

Grid reference: TL 968 746

Planning Application No: SE/12/0646/FUL

HER no: HEP 032  
Oasis No.: 157375

**Prepared for:**  
Burgess Homes Ltd

**Prepared by:**  
Archaeoserv (Dennis Payne Archaeological Services)

Dennis Payne BA (Hons)  
Tudor House  
Church Road  
Westhorpe  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk, IP14 4SU

August 2013



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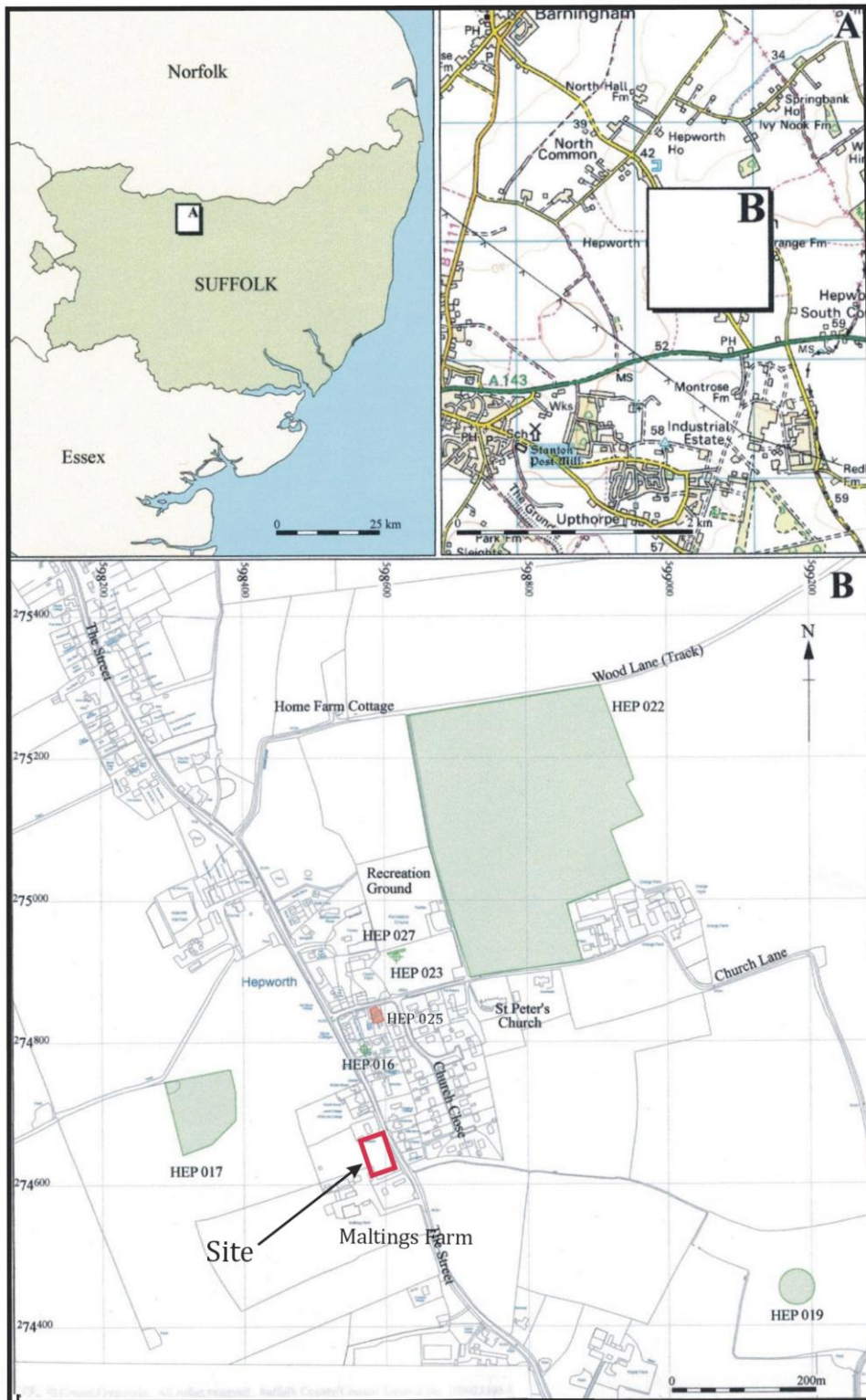
## Non-technical Summary

This is a written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the erection of four new dwellings. It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Monk of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2012.

The proposal to erect four dwellings affects an area of archaeological interest and potential indicated by the County Historic Environment Record: *The site is located within the historic core of Hepworth (HER no. HEP 031) on a street fronted by listed medieval and post-medieval buildings and finds of medieval pottery have been recorded from the immediate area of the proposal (HEP 012, HEP 013). In addition the development is situated adjacent to a number of multi-period 3 findspots (HEP 017, HEP 022). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets from all periods in this area.*

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief will be sought in standards for 'Field Archaeology in the East of England,' (East Anglian Occasional papers 14, 2003). In addition, this brief has been compiled respecting the following standards: Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008; and Medlycott, M., 2011.

1 Site Location and Description  
Grid Reference: TL 968 746



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**Figure 1. Site location showing area of development and adjacent HER sites**

Hepworth is a dispersed village, a settlement of farms and houses set amongst mainly arable farmland with the former commons (North and South Common), on the outer edges of the village. The site lies within the historic village core, (south-western extent), which consists of a compact group of houses, former commercial buildings, workshops and the church of St Peter's, centred on The Street. The site lies at TL 968 746 close to the 45m contour on a south facing slope

## **2 Geology**

The geology of this area consists of orange clay-silt with gravels over boulder clay, with outcrops of clay (BGS, 2011).

## **3 Planning Background**

There is potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

The planning application: granted by SE/12/0646/FUL Bury St Edmunds District Council, for the erection of four dwellings on Land at Maltings Farm The Street Hepworth Suffolk (TL 968 746) is subject to the following condition:

*The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).*

*Condition 10 states: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, Condition 5 states "No development shall take place within any part of the application site until the applicant, or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To allow proper investigation and recording of the site, which is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.*

## **4 Methodology**

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

A risk assessment will be carried out in consultation with the site developer (Simon Burgess Homes Ltd), to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be carried out: to provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological find of significance, will be based upon result of the evaluation and will be subject to an additional specification. This evaluation will identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits. Also, to establish the potential of the survival of environmental evidence.

Sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and orders of costs.

This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP 2). Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive and report with an assessment of any potential archaeological or environmental evidence. Any further excavation required as mitigation will be the responsibility of SCCAS/CT to advise. Each stage will be subject of a brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage. The developer or DPAS will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, to enable the archaeological work to be monitored.

## **5 Evaluation by Trench**

Three 10m long and one 12m long x 1.8m wide trenches will be excavated to cover the area of the new development. The trenches will be positioned to target the building footprints and the potential archaeology highlighted on the map research as per the trench design (fig.2) and will allow for spoiling and access by staff and visitors.



The Excavation will be by mechanised using a toothless 'ditching bucket'. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenching shown above and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins. The top soil will be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface.

All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil will be examined for any archaeological material.

The top of the first archaeological deposit will, if necessary, be initiated by machine, but further cleaning will be done by hand. The excavation of any archaeological deposits will be continued by hand unless it can be shown that there will be no loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist, taking into account the nature of the deposit.

As in all evaluation excavation work there is the need to cause the minimum of disturbance to the site so that significant archaeological features e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min) will be excavated across their width.

For discrete features such as pits, 50% of their fill will be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

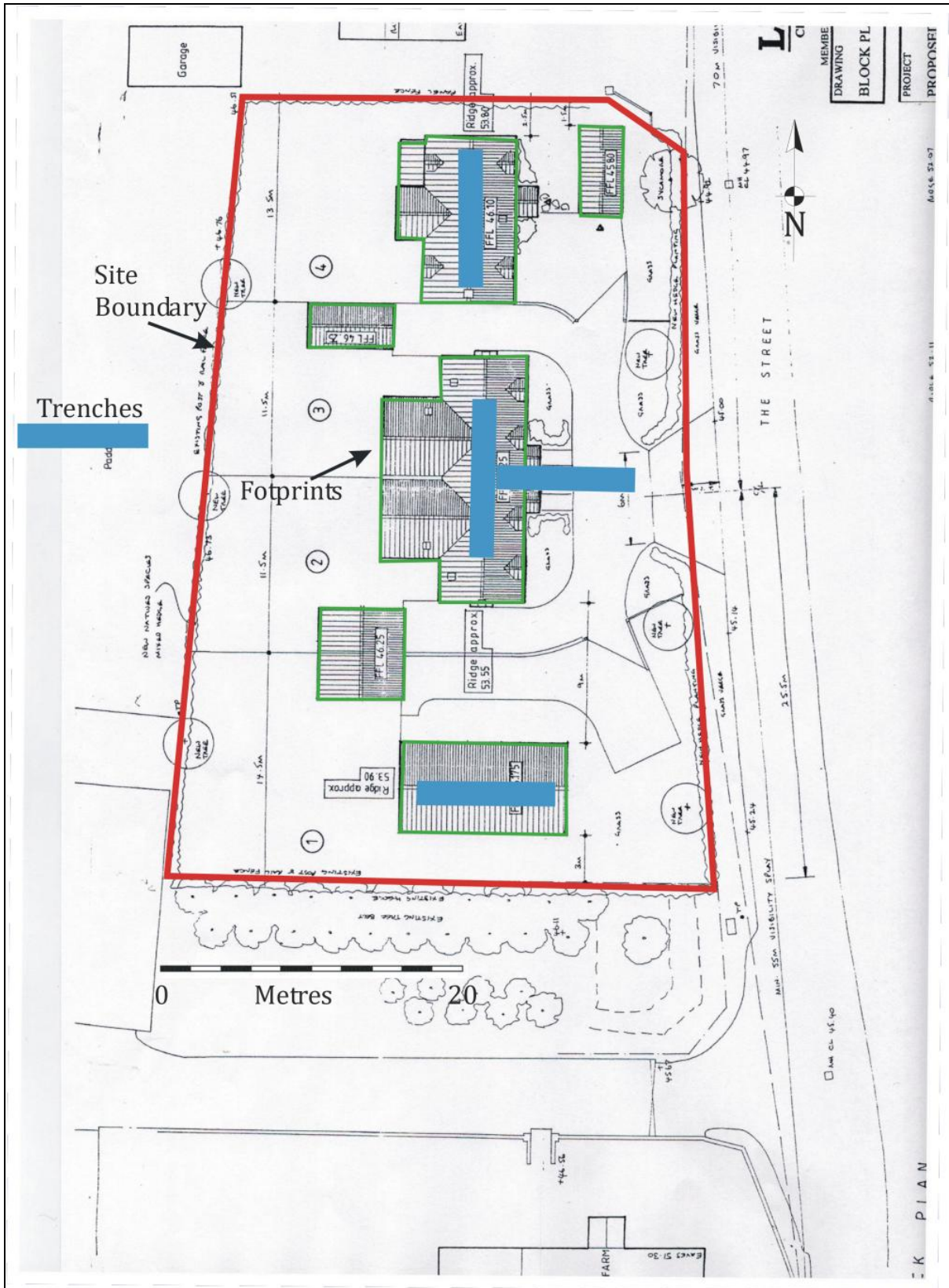
Sufficient excavation will be made to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established.

All archaeological features exposed will be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 or 1:20 on a plan. Any stratigraphic sequences encountered will be recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Any structures, for example, hearths, kilns and other significant finds will be excavated and recorded in plan and by single context recording where required.

In the event that no stratigraphic sequences are encountered, sections and features in plan will be hand cleaned and will be drawn to either 1:10 or 1:20 scale depending on the size, and details of any features and deposits will be fully recorded.

All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context.

All levels will relate to Ordnance Datum.



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

Figure 2. Trench plan

All contexts will be recorded using numbered context sheets containing descriptions and sketches of the deposits and finds that might be encountered.

Best practise will be employed to allow for the sampling of archaeological deposits. All archaeological contexts will, where possible, be sampled for the potential of the site, taking, at a minimum, 40 litre bulk samples (using sealable containers designed for the purpose) or 100% of smaller features. These containers, before leaving site, will be clearly marked by the site team showing from which context they were taken. Environmental samples will be sent to the relevant specialist for flotation and analysis resulting in the specialists report for inclusion into the final report. Where waterlogged `organic` features are encountered, advice will be sought from a geoarchaeologist or environmental specialist, and if necessary, will be invited to the site to consider all options available.

This should include the extraction of monolith samples, whether by the site team or the specialist. If rich or unusual features are encountered, further advice will be sought from the RSA before any attempt to remove them is made.

Should it be deemed necessary, the guide to sampling Archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L & Wiltshire., P.E.J., 1994). A guide to Sampling Archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) will be consulted. Copy held for viewing by SCCAS/CT. Advice will also be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional adviser for Archaeological science (East of England), should the need arise.

Any natural subsoil surface revealed will be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character

Metal detector searches of the site will be undertaken at all stages of the excavation, this will be undertaken by Mr D Payne or other staff given the task.

All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

The data recording methods and conventions used will be consistent with, and approved by, the County HER.

Proper respect will be accorded any disturbed human remains encountered. Possible human remains will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Any remains observed will be related to the relevant authorities. The client will make contingency for a Licence to disturb the remains, and DPAS will inform SCCA/CT before any removal takes place.

All work will be undertaken to Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (Molas) standards.

The project will be managed and undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) AlFA with extensive experience in undertaking archaeological evaluations. One further site assistant, with the relevant experience, will be appointed as deemed necessary. The Post excavation work will be carried out in part by Dennis Payne along with the appropriate specialists that may be appointed for this project.

A photographic record will be compiled, comprising an overview of the site prior to work starting, as well as after completion of the work using black and white photographs, colour transparencies and high resolution digital images, and will be included with any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

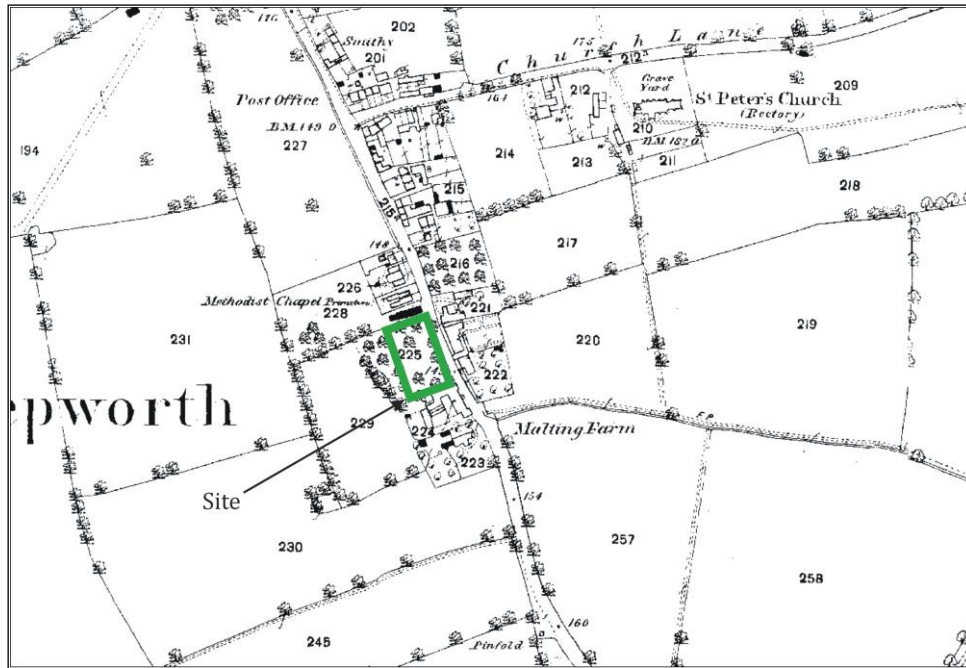
Finds will be conserved where required.

All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive

## 6 Map information



*Figure 3. Hodkinson's map of 1783 of Hepworth*



*Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of 1883 showing site as a possible orchard*

### 6.1 Discussion of Map Evidence

Clearly the site has high potential for locating evidence from the medieval and Saxon periods, being within the historic core. A large number of metal detecting finds and field-walking locating extensive pottery scatters suggests that Hepworth was an important village in Saxon times. The maps however give little indication of the site's potential other than being within the southern extremity of the medieval historic core.

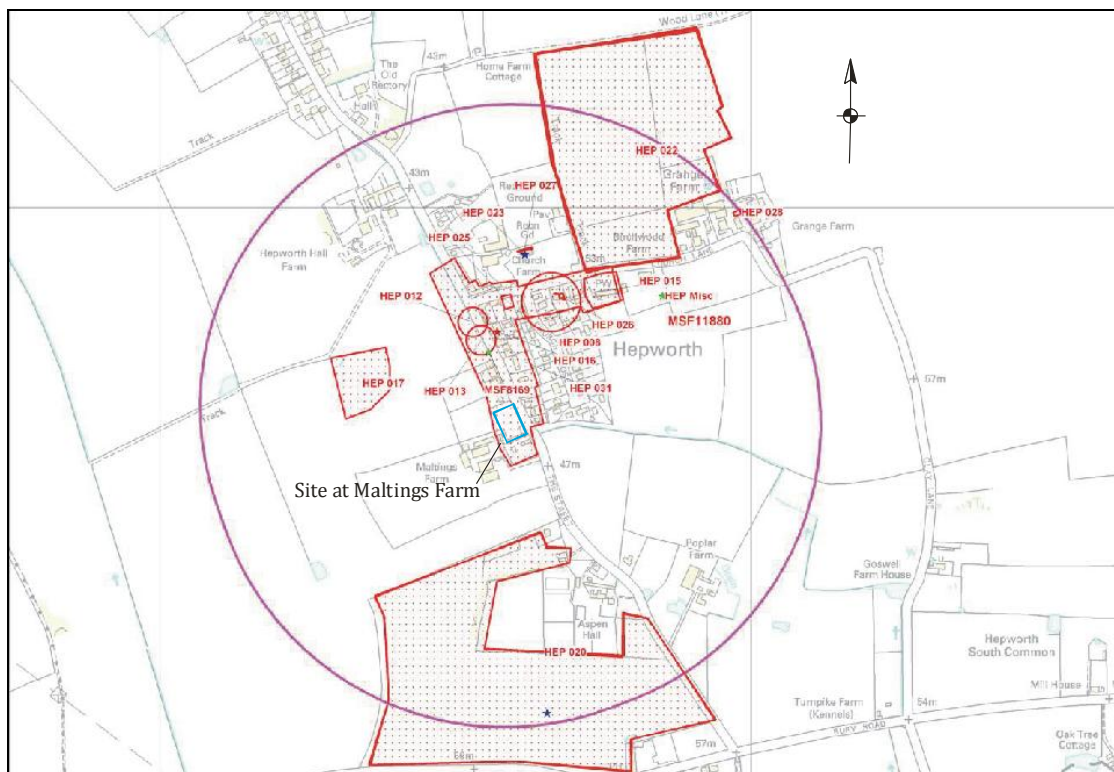
## 7 Archaeological and Historical Background

The County's Historic Environment Record (HER) records a number of sites within a 500m radius of the evaluation where field walking and metal-detecting have produced extensive Roman, Saxon and Medieval finds assemblages (Fig.1). Middle and Late Saxon pottery have been found in the field opposite the church (HEP 022) and Late Saxon metal objects including 9th century disc brooches (HEP 016 and 017), including a ring and a strap end (HEP 027 and 023) all have been recovered from sites within the search area.

The present church of St Peter's dates from the 13th century, but elements of Norman stonework have been identified within the porch. An earlier church is likely to have stood on the site of the existing building with 15 acres of free land, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, suggesting a pre-conquest foundation date.

## 7.1 Archaeological Events

There have been three archaeological events within Hepworth: an excavation at Rose Cottage Church Lane, c 100m north of the proposed development located the remains of a Saxon building and associate features including medieval ditches (ESF 21863) SCCAU 2011; monitoring Windy Hill produced a well thought to be of medieval date at c 100m north of the proposed site (ESF 20020) SCCAU 2009; an evaluation at Church Farm did not locate any features but a Saxon finger ring was found in the spoil heap at c 200m north of the proposed site (ESF -20017) SCCCAU 2009.



**Figure 6. HER Monuments map**

## 8 Aims and objectives of the project

To provide as much information about the archaeological resources within the proposed development site.

To comply with SCCAS/CT request for an archaeological evaluation as part of the planning process for the new development.

To obtain information about the archaeological resources within the development site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

To identify and establish the approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area together with its likely extent localized depth and quality of preservation.

To evaluate the likely impact of land uses in the past and the possible presence of colluvial/alluvial deposits.

Assess the condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To preserve by recording, any evidence of the potential for survival of any environmental deposits of the area.

Research questions allied to this project will be focused upon the high potential for locating Saxon remains and or Medieval remains which will further add knowledge to the development of this once thriving community from the early – late medieval periods.

## **9 Health, Safety and Environment**

A risk assessment strategy covering all activities will be carried out during the lifetime of the project.

All work will be carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

Every care will be taken to minimise the environmental impact.

## **10 Back Filling & Reinstatement**

Backfilling of trenches is included in the cost unless otherwise agreed with the client.

## **11 Ownership of Finds, Storage and Curation of Archive**

All artefactual material recovered will be held in long term storage by the archaeological service Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to SCC to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all such artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to the Treasure Act (1996), separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.

## **12 Monitoring Arrangements**

Curatorial responsibility lies with Suffolk County Council Archaeology (Conservation Team). They are to be notified of each stage of work. They will be notified in advance of the date of works on the site (minimum of five days).

Access is required to the site at all reasonable times to allow for monitoring by SCCA/CT or their agents and ARCHAEOSEV -DPAS. Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Dennis Payne (Archaeoserv).

### **13 Archive Preparation and Deposition**

The archive will be presented to the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Department, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief. This will respect the ``SCCAS Archive guidelines, 2010`` for the county store, being the intended depository.

### **14 Reporting Procedures**

The report will be completed within three months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities. A summary report will be produced with the final report. A draft of the report will be submitted to Rachael Monk (SCCAS/CT) for approval.

The report will reflect the aims of the WSI by giving an objective account of the archaeological evidence, clearly distinguished from its interpretation.

A discussion and interpretation of the archaeological evidence including environmental and palaeoenvironmental recovered from palaeosoils and cut features and its conclusions will include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3&8, 1997 and 2000) and Medlycott, M., 2011.

An opinion may be given within the report for further evaluation or excavation work based upon the findings. A mitigation strategy will be written to how best preserve any archaeological deposits or finds encountered.

Reports on specific areas, for example, ceramic or bone evidence will be included within the report to allow for a fully informed interpretation of any archaeology encountered. Sufficient detail will be placed upon the specialists findings to permit a detailed of assessment of the finds, including tabulation of data by context, including non-technical summaries.

One copy will be sent to the client.

One copy, and CD version will be sent to Suffolk County Council, Archaeology Conservation team.



One copy will be sent to the Mid Suffolk District Council Conservation officer.

In addition a summary report will be submitted into the OASIS project.

## **15 Publication and dissemination**

The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the specification written by Rachael Monk of the Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

## **16 Other factors (including contingency)**

Contingency will be made for operational delays including weather.

Contingency will be expected of the client for significant archaeology discovered as a result of the evaluation.

Contingency will be expected of the client for any specialist report that the relevant authority deems appropriate that cannot satisfactorily be produced by ARCHAEOSEV or their agents.

Contingency will be expected of the client in the event that human remains are discovered in the course of the trench excavations.

## **17 Resources**

The evaluation will be undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) (Archaeoserv) and Matt Adams BA PIfA (Britannia Archaeology), additional staff will be appointed if necessary using standard archaeological field techniques to IFA standards.

Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the trench excavations.

## **18 Insurance Statement**

Archaeoserv (Dennis Payne Archaeological Services) is covered for: public indemnity to a maximum of £2,000,000 and professional Indemnity to a maximum of £250,000 with Towergate Insurance. (Cert No.s UN/10052 and 2012022951372)

## **19 Copyright**

Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

## **20 Ownership**

It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the brief be donated with the archive.

All material deemed Treasure Trove will be subject to the investigations of the Coroner.

## **Bibliography**

British Geological Survey. 2011; sheet 189

## Appendix I: Consultant Specialists

Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Archaeoserv-DPAS and where required, specialist analysis and advice from:-

Barnett, Dr. Sarah	Luminescence Dating
Biddle, Justine	Animal Bones
Bishop, Barry	Lithics
Boreham, Steve	Pollen and soils (Geoarchaeologist Holly, Duncan
Cowgill, Jane	Slag /metal working residues
Crummy, Nina	Roman Metalwork
Doig, T	Drainpipes, underground structures, social history
Duhig Corrinne	Human bones
Fletcher, Carol	Medieval ceramics
Anna West	Environmental
French, Dr. C.A.I	Soil micromorphology
Goffin, Richenda	Post Roman Pottery
Murphy, Peter	Environmental advice
Percival, Sarah	Prehistoric pottery
Precious, B	Roman Ceramics
Seeley, Paul	Iron Age pottery
Spoerry, Paul	Medieval ceramics
Atkins, Robert	Medieval-post-medieval bricks

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**OASIS ID: *dennispa1-157524***

### Project details

Project name	MALTINGS FARM HEPWORTH SUFFOLK EVALUATION
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by trial trenching on land at Maltings Farm The Street Hepworth Suffolk, between the 20th and the 21st of January 2013. This was in advance of the erection of four new dwellings. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Monk of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 17th of December 2012. Three 10m long and one 12m long x 1.8m wide trenches were excavated to cover two specific areas of archaeological potential. Trench 1, to the south of the development revealed no archaeology. Trench 2 was a double trench forming at-shape, located linear boundary ditches, one of which was cut by a pit and trench 3 also located a small linear ditch interpreted as a property boundary. Although the orientation of the small ditches were at a slight variance to each other it was thought that they were all created for the same purpose of delineating properties on an east-west alignment and of similar medieval dates.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2013 End: 21-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	MFH13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	MEDIEVAL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY HEPWORTH maltings farm hepworth
Postcode	IP33 6YL
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	ST 9680 7460 51.4698703539 -2.046075099 51 28 11 N 002 02 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	ARCHAEOSERV
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	RACHAEL MONK
Project director/manager	DENNIS PAYNE
Project supervisor	DENNIS PAYNE
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	BURGESS HOMES

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	St Edmundsbury Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	St Edmundsbury Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	St Edmundsbury Museum
Paper Contents	"Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

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Entered by D PAYNE (archaeoserv@aol.com)

Entered on 11 March 2014

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## **OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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