

**Archaeological Monitoring at Burlington House  
Cavendish Road Clare  
Suffolk**

(Interim report for Plot 2)

Grid reference: TL 770 454  
Planning Application No: DC/16/1725/FU  
HER no: CLA 089  
Event No. ESF 25077  
Oasis No.: 269868  
Her Inv. No. 9194392

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## Summary

Following an evaluation at Burlington House, carried out in December 2016, monitoring of the groundworks was requested by the SCCA/CT; this report presents the findings from plot 2 .

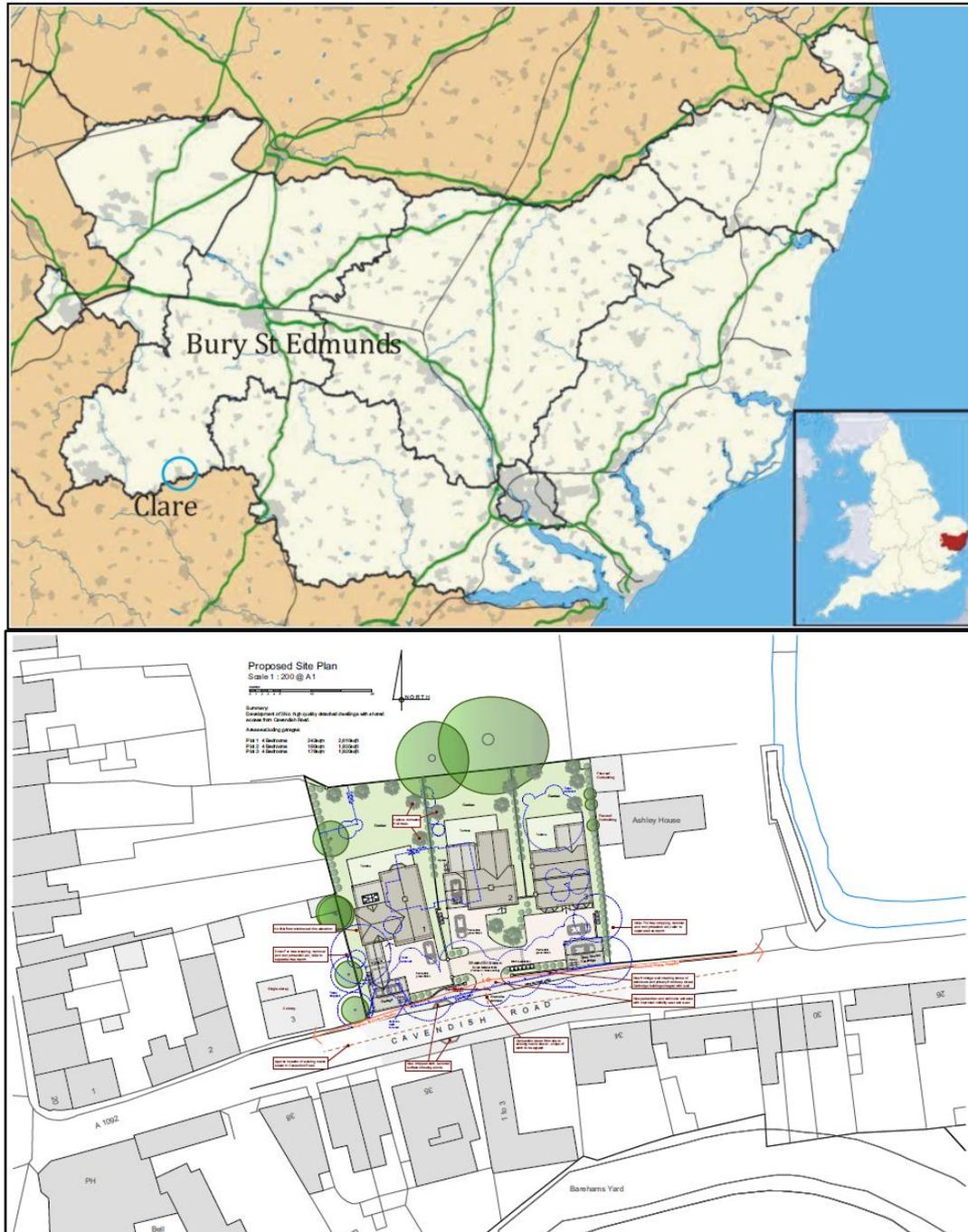
Archaeological monitoring was carried out on Plot 2, of 3 plots in total for the development of three dwellings at Burlington House Cavendish Road Clare Suffolk. Due to the protracted timescale of this project, each plot will receive an interim report on the findings as the work progresses. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 16th of November 2016.

The monitoring revealed two medieval pits. The extent of quarrying was established to exist only in the eastern end of the site; no quarrying was revealed during the monitoring of plot 2. The occupation layer seen in the previous evaluation continued across the site.

# 1. Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 992 692

1.1 The superficial geology of the site is clayey sands and gravels, common through much of Clare where the rivers have cut through the heavy boulder clay (BGS: 206; 1990).



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

**Figure 1. Location of Clare and Block plan of site**

1.2 The site is located at Burlington House Cavendish Road Clare Suffolk. The proposed development lies on the north side of Cavendish road and adjacent to the earthwork of Clare Castle (HER: CLA 008). Located on the eastern side of the town of Clare a through route from Long Melford. It is just within the conservation area and probably what was, and still is, the original town boundary

## **2. Planning Background**

The planning application No. DC/16/1725/FU was granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, for the erection of three new dwellings and garages on land at Burlington House Cavendish Road Clare.

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, the condition for No's 17 & 18 states: *"No development shall take place within the application site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: "To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development.*

*This condition is required to be agreed prior to the commencement of any development to ensure matters of archaeological importance are preserved and secured early to ensure avoidance of damage or loss due to the development and/or its construction. If agreement was sought at any later stage there is an unacceptable risk of loss and damage to archaeological and historic assets." (MSDC Decision Notice)*

*This condition is 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).*

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

### **3.1 Archaeological Background**

The SCCA/CT brief states that: *The proposed development site is of high archaeological potential, within the historic core of Clare as outlined in the County Historic Environment Record (CLA 008). It lies opposite the castle, on a historic road. There is particular potential for archaeological remains on the site, relating to the development of the town from its earliest days. The proposed works would cause ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.* (SCCA/CT Brief, 2016).

### **3.2 Archaeological Monuments**

Fifty six records are held by the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment records, within a 500m search radius of the site.

Of relevance to the current proposal and in closer proximity to the proposal are four records: to the immediate west of the site is a recorded Quaker burial ground (CLA 049), which dates to the mid seventeenth-century, with its last known usage in the nineteenth century, the burial ground is defined by a wall in the ground of No. 3 Cavendish Road (the neighbouring property), its extent therefore should be within that property, but its original extent is not clear. Clare Castle (HER: CLA 008) is sited across the road and to the south of the development and its outer bailey extends to the rear of the properties that border Cavendish Road. Close to the junction with Church Street, medieval and Post-medieval pits and features were found during monitoring of ground-works (CLA 072).

### **3.3 Archaeological Interventions**

Clare has received a great deal of attention as attested by the 35 entries from the Historic Environment Records for the town. An archaeological evaluation and building survey: Clare Priory Church recorded foundations for the development of the Priory church (HER: ESF 21220) ; at Larks Malting Lane, the groundworks for the present project revealed two quarry pits of uncertain date. The garden to the east appears to have remained relatively undisturbed. No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered (ESF 21682). A watching brief in 22 Bridewell Street was conducted for Mr Jack Gemmill of 22 Bridewell Street, Clare, Suffolk, during construction of an extension to his property at the aforementioned address. The property backs directly onto Clare Camp, a Scheduled Monument, and work on the site indicated that this and the adjacent houses had actually been built over the outermost defensive bank of the site and a backfilled defensive ditch (ESF 22283). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of Richmond House, 20 Nethergate Street, Clare as part of a planning condition on application SE/11/0099. The requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification by Jess Tipper 27 May 2011. The condition required two trial trenches to be dug in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The planning application is for the construction of a swimming pool behind the existing range of buildings. The excavation of an evaluation trench and two test pits at Richmond House Clare uncovered at least seven cut features dating between the 12th to 19th centuries. Finds from the site included 25 sherds of medieval pottery dated from the 12th to 14th centuries although the majority of these were found in later contexts. The evaluation has provided evidence for the occupation of Nethergate Street from the medieval period (HER: CLA 071). In Nethergate Street, Occupation spanning the Roman through to Post-medieval periods was recorded.. Roman features included a large ditch and a posthole. A series of medieval pits was recorded in the centre of the site and a single pos-medieval boundary ditch was also identified (ESF 20103).

Other than finds made from the Bronze Age to the Medieval periods (CLA 059), during expansion of Clare Primary school, little evidence so far has come to light from several interventions in and around Clare.

### **3.32 Recent work at Burlington House**

In January 2017 an evaluation at Burlington House (Evaluation Report; Archaeoserv- Payne, D., 2017) revealed quarrying and pits from the Late Saxon period to the high medieval. In addition, postholes for a structure were also recorded. The large pits located within an extensive occupation layer contained dating evidence from pottery sherds with dates ranging from the 11th-15th centuries; evidence for a long usage for the site, perhaps beginning with the building of Clare castle during the 11th century, adjacent to the development, to the 14th-15th from domestic use, the site being very close to the centre of the town and next to the *Long Melford* road. In view of the findings of the evaluation, it was decided by the SCCA/CT to extend the work to monitoring of the three new dwellings.

Monitoring of Plot 3 revealed similar deposits and features as found during the evaluation phase of the project. The footings trench for the Garage (tr 1) revealed made-up ground to a depth of 1.10m, shallowing out towards the road and was interpreted as an occupation layer following late Saxon - medieval quarrying on the site. By the road's edge a small pit was recorded of uncertain date.

The footings for trench 2 (plot 3), revealed a similar deposit to the garage, bottoming out at 1.60m, being the maximum depth (from the surface) of the quarrying, also of Late Saxon-early medieval date. The possible cut of the quarrying pit of Late Saxon to medieval date was also noted in a one metre section (Monitoring Report: Plot 3, Archaeoserv- Payne, D., 2017).

## **3.4 Historical Background**

### ***Prehistoric***

A Neolithic flint arrowhead was found in a garden on Bridewell Street. A Neolithic long mortuary enclosure and three Bronze Age barrows were located across the river towards Ashen. Evidence of a barrow together with 200 worked flints were found near Chilton Street. A Bronze Age socketed gouge was unearthed from plough soil on the Common. There are some 24 other pre-Iron Age structures in the parishes around Clare.

An Iron Age pot was found embedded in the river bank, half a mile east of Clare. together with an iron spearhead, they are held in The Ancient House. Iron Age coins have also been found, one from the Belgic Trinovantes tribe. In 2009 during a recent rebuilding programme at Clare Community Primary School, postholes of a late Bronze/Early Iron Age structure were located, with an associated ring ditch. This supports the view that Clare Camp (OS TL768458), at the north end of the town, just behind Bridewell Street) with its double ditches, one of the most impressive of its kind in Suffolk, is from that period; with an area of 2.9 hectares, it is second only to Burgh Castle. The north side is most complete, with an inner rampart 9 ft high and counterscarps 12 and 14 ft high. In 1993 a field survey and magnetometer scan revealed the possibility of entrances on the east and south sides. Clare was on the outer borders of the Trinovantes territory and to the south of the Icenii region.

## **Roman**

A Roman boundary ditch and posthole have been found just off Nethergate Street; a strap fitting, coins, sepulchral urns and a bronze figurine of Mercury or a dancing boy have been unearthed from around the town. Some Roman brick seems to have ended up in the Parish Church.

## **Medieval**

The name first appears in the Domesday Book as 'Clara'. It possibly derives from the "clear" nature of the Chilton Stream as it flows through the town, but from a Latin word rather than a Celtic one as was previously thought.

In the Domesday Book, it is described as "'Always a market. Now 43 burgesses' – an astonishingly high number, because at the time very few Suffolk towns had any burgesses, let alone 43". It lists 37 acres (15 ha) of meadow, woodland for 12 swine, a mill, 5 arpents of vineyard (an arpent was 4–6 acres) and 400 sheep (Rumble, A., 1986). The manor included Stoke-by-Clare and the hamlet of Chilton Street, totalling 128 households. Improbably it has been suggested that the word claret is derived from Clare and its extensive vineyards. There is a Claret Hall towards Ashen, but that could simply mean 'Little Clare'.

The Domesday Book of 1087 also records that the lands around Clare belonged to a Saxon thane, Aluric (or Aelfric), son of Wisgar (or Withgar) and that he gave them to St John, probably creating in Clare a collegiate church, under Edward the Confessor. William the Conqueror re-granted the land to one of his closest supporters in the Norman Conquest of 1066, Richard Fitz Gilbert of Bienfaite, Count of Brionne, the son of one of his cousins, along with 170 other manors, 95 of them in Suffolk.

This huge feudal barony became known as the Honour of Clare. Richard became known as "Richard de Clare" (or "of Clare") after he made the castle of Clare the caput of his feudal barony, that is to say his administrative centre. He also held a large manor in Tonbridge, Kent where he built a motte and bailey castle of a very similar size to Clare Castle. Clare Castle is first recorded in 1090.

His son Gilbert de Clare gave the church in the castle to the Benedictine Bec Abbey in Normandy. Gilbert and his brother were present with Prince Henry when King William II was shot dead by an arrow fired by Walter Tyrell, Gilbert's steward in 1124 Gilbert's son Richard de Clare removed the Benedictines to a new foundation in Stoke-by-Clare, the origin of today's Stoke College..

Gilbert de Clare, 4th Earl of Hertford inherited the title and vast estates of the Earl of Gloucester. It was his son, Richard who brought the Augustinian Friars to Clare to found the mother house in England in 1248.

## **Late medieval -Post-Medieval**

By the Fifteenth century, Clare enjoyed the prosperity of the Wool trade, as can be attested from the number of Late medieval and Tudor houses surviving within the town, although it never gained the high prosperity of the other nearby competing towns of Lavenham and Long Melford.

#### 4. Cartographic Information

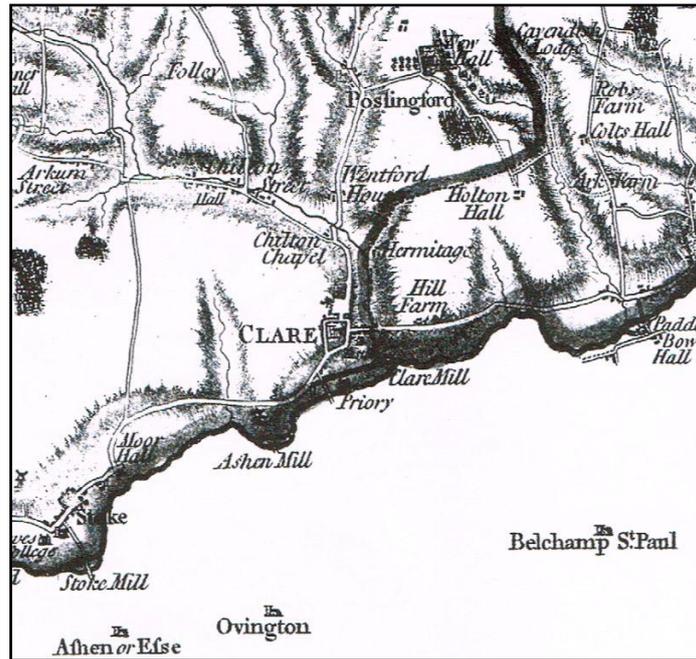


Figure 2. Hodskinson's map of Clare 1783



Figure 3. The First Ed. O.S. Map showing Clare (1885)

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Fieldwork

The Trench was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections of the trench were drawn to a scale of 1:10.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The continuous archaeological monitoring was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ClfA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties research frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

### 5.2 The Monitoring of the Trench for Plot 2

Monitoring of plot 2 showed that the occupation layer (1048)=(1042-1044) seen in plot 3 had reduced slightly within the area of plot 2, from 1.25m to 1m in depth. This may represent an approach to its outer extent, which will be verified during the monitoring of plot 1, to the immediate west, later on during the final phase of monitoring (tba). Two features were seen during the monitoring and recorded: a pit [1050] of unknown date was seen in section within the footings trench (figs 5, 6). This pit, with a single fill of a mid-brown silt (1049), was 1.30m width and 1.10m depth.

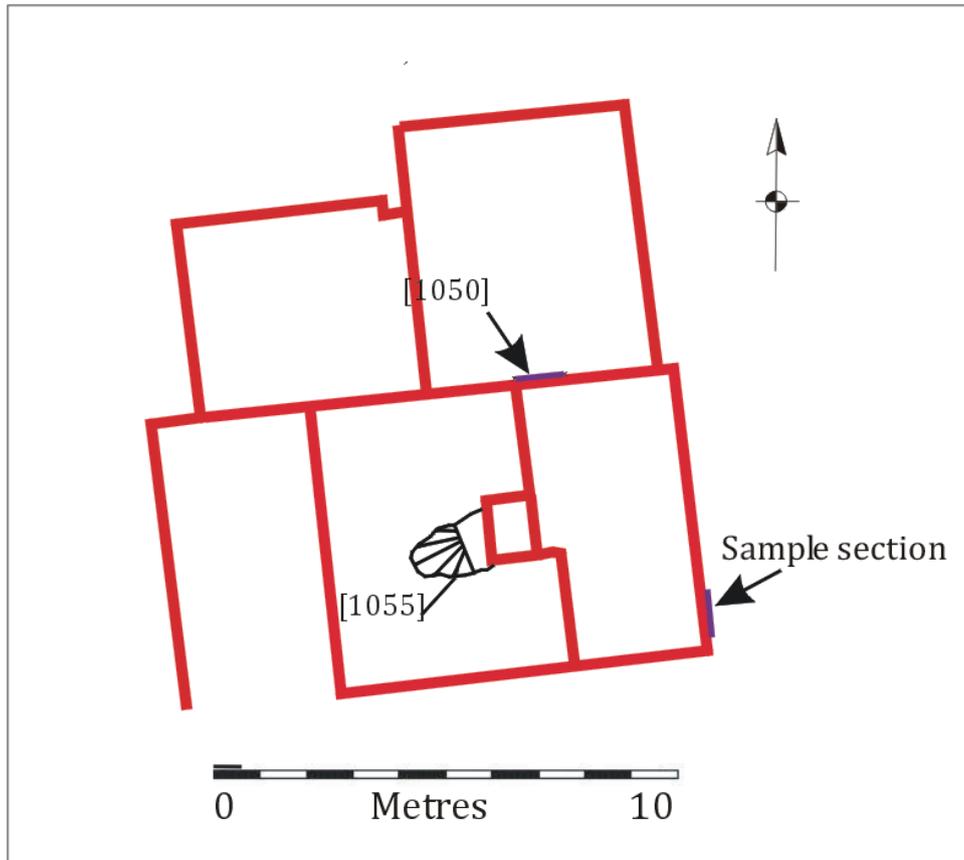
During ground reduction by mechanical digger, the area for plot 2 was exposed in plan down to the natural horizon, revealing a single pit close to the centre of the plot. The pit [1055] was recorded fully and contained fills, (1052) a tertiary fill with charcoal in a sandy dark-brown silt; a similar tertiary fill (1051) without charcoal of brown sandy silt; a main secondary fill (1053) with re-deposited, greyish-green clay lenses (plt 4.) and brown silt; a primary fill (1053), a similar fill to (1054) without the clay lenses of brown silt. The charcoal fill was sampled for environmental analysis; pottery sherds were also found in fill (1052).

One sample section was recorded, showing the depth of the occupation layer (1048) and depth of the natural.

### 5.3 Plans

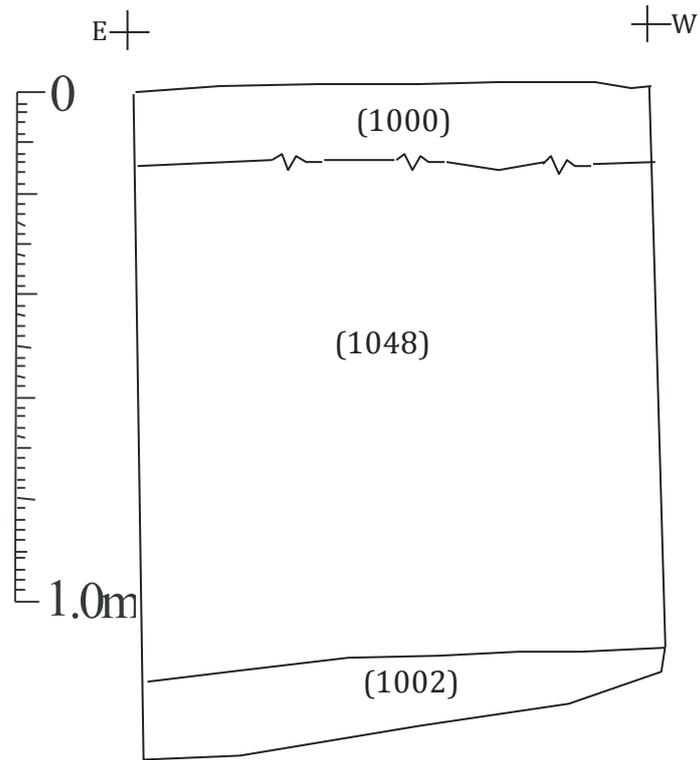


Figure 4. Trench plan, plot 2

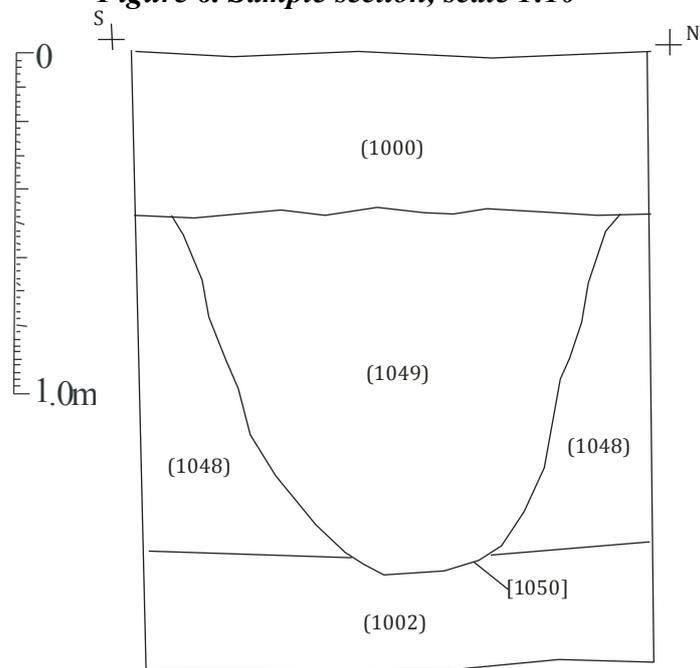


*Figure 5. trench plan, scale 1:50*

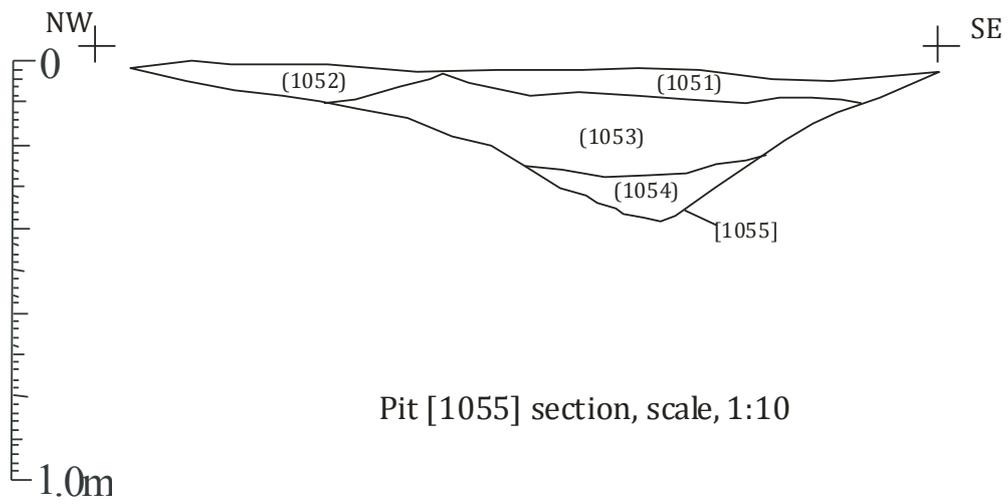
## 5.4 Sections



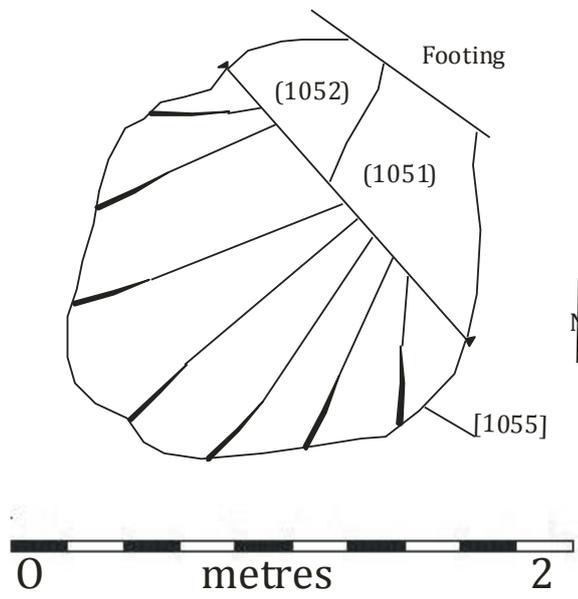
**Figure 6. Sample section, scale 1:10**



**Figure 7. Pit [1050], scale 1:10**



Pit [1055] section, scale, 1:10



Pit [1055] plan, scale, 1:20

**Figure 8. Pit [1055] section and plan**

## 5.5 Contexts

| Context | Type  | Description/Dimensions   | Interpretation                | Find Types /comments                       |
|---------|-------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| (1000)  | Layer | Topsoil Maximum depth: 0.45m   | Garden soil                   |  |
| (1002)  | Layer | Natural drift geology of sandy clays and gravel  |                               |  |
| (1048)  | Layer | Layer in footings of house, same as (1042), (see report for plot 3); width 1.0m, depth, 1m | occupation layer;             | n/a  |
| [1049]  | Fill  | Fill of pit; depth 1.0m, width, 0.90m  | disuse                        | No finds                                   |
| (1050)  | Cut   | Cut of pit; depth 1.0m, width, 0.90m   | waste                         | No finds/undated                           |
| (1051)) | Fill  | Fill of pit Width, 1.0m, depth, 0.07m  | Waste/disuse                  | No finds                                   |
| [1052]  | Fill  | Fill of pit Width, 0.66m, depth, 0.07m   |                               | Pottery sherds, animal bone, enviro sample |
| (1053)  | Fill  | Fill of pit Width, 1.10m, depth, 0.17m   |                               | No finds                                   |
| (1054)  | Fill  | Fill of pit Width, 0.48m, depth, 0.09m   | With re-deposited clay lenses | No finds                                   |
| [1055]  | Cut   | Cut of pit 1.65m wide, 0.32m depth   |                               | n/a  |

Context Table 1.

## 6. The Finds

By Richenda Goffin

### 6.1 Introduction

A small quantity of finds including pottery sherds, fired clay and animal bone were assessed, including one environmental sample containing 10lts.

### 6.2 Pottery & Fired clay

1 sherd of medieval coarseware of Essex type weighing 27g. It is part of a jar with a thickened flat topped rim, which is very worn internally (Cotter 94). The jar dates to the 12th-13th century. There are also three body sherds of medieval coarsewares, also of Essex type, with the general date of the 12th-14th century. One of these is sooted.

Four small fragments of fired clay were recovered from the same context (weight 8g). These are made in a fine light orange to mid grey coloured fabric with frequent chalk inclusions, and are likely to be medieval.

### **6.3 Animal Bone**

Three small pieces of animal bone were found in context 1052 (weight 13g). One of them is part of the shaft of a tibia, towards the proximal end, of a medium sized mammal such as a sheep. A small fragment of a rib of a larger mammal was also present.

### **6.4 Iron object**

A fragment of an iron fitting was also found in this context. It is heavily corroded, but is the shape of a hook, appearing to have a circular section and is broken at both ends. It may be part of an oval link of a chain.

Reference: Cotter, J.P., 2000, *Post-Roman Pottery from Excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*. Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 7. English Heritage, London.

### **6.5 Plant Macrofossils**

**by Anna West**

#### **Introduction and Methods**

A single 10 litre bulk sample was taken by archaeoserv during this monitoring, the sample was from context 1052, the upper fill of pit 1055, which was observed in the side of the monitoring trench. The sample was processed in full, by Suffolk Archaeology CIC, in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to *New Flora of the British Isles*, (Stace 1997).

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. The residue was scanned using a magnet to recover any ferrous material present. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

#### **Quantification**

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and

fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = *rare*, ++ = *moderate*, +++ = *abundant*

## Results

| SS no | Context no | Feature/cut no | Feature type | Approx date of deposit | Flot contents   |
|-------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| 1     | 1052       | 1055           | Pit          | Medieval               | charred cereal grains ####, charred legumes ##, charred weed seeds +++, charcoal +, snails+, rootlets + |

Table 2

## 6.6 Discussion

The preservation of the plant macro remains was through charring and was fair to good. Many of the cereal grains present were puffed, fragmented and friable, as though they had been exposed to high temperatures. Wood charcoal was present in small quantities and was highly comminuted making it unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating. Fibrous rootlet fragments were also present in small quantities and are considered modern contaminants.

Terrestrial snail shells were rare within the sample, no attempt has been made to identify these for the purposes of this report.

Although the flot was small at approximately 10ml, it was rich in material. Both wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) caryopses were abundant, hulled barley was dominant and the wheat appears to be a free threshing, bread wheat type. Many of the cereal grains were too abraded or fragmented to identify to species and fragments have been included in the count along with whole grains. No chaff, glume bases, spikelet forks or rachis fragments were observed within the flot.

A small number of charred pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) cotyledon was observed within the flot and may represent the production and consumption of pulses within the vicinity. Pulses provided an important source of protein both for humans and as animal fodder during the Medieval period, however as they do not require processing with heat in the way some cereals do they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and are often under-represented in the archaeological record.

Charred weed seeds were abundant within the sample. Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) seeds were common and are an indicator of crops grown on heavier soils. Goosefoot family (*Chenopodium* sp.) and knotweed family (*Polygonaceae*) seeds were also common. Cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.) an indicator of autumn sown crops, field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense* L.) and mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) seeds were present but rare. Grass caryopses were also common, with Rye-grass (*Lolium* sp.) amongst them. The majority of the weed seeds present were smaller in size than the cereal grains. No chaff was observed suggesting that the cereals preserved within the sample may have been semi-prime or prime grain at the later stages of processing (Fryer, 2014). In wetter climates cereals were often sieved in batches immediately prior to use and the waste disposed of straight into the domestic fire (Hillman, 1981).

## 6.7 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The charred cereal and legume fragments observed most likely represent domestic waste, the later stages of cereal processing and/or accidentally lost during food preparation. It is likely that the waste material recovered was deliberately deposited within the feature sampled.

Due to the limited nature of the current investigations it is difficult to say anything conclusive beyond the fact that agricultural, horticultural and domestic activities were likely to be taking place in the vicinity.

Wood charcoal fragments were only present in small quantities and were too fragmented to be useful for species identification or radiocarbon dating, charred cereal grains could however be used for this if the context remains undated.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flint material at this stage. Although no further work is required on these samples they should be retained as part of the site archive.

## Bibliography

Cappers R.T.J, Bekker R.M & Jans J.E.A. 2006. *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Second edition. Groningen Institute of Archaeology (GIA). Burkhuis.

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Fryer, V. 2014. 'An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains from BSE 442' in Tester A. 2014. *19-20 Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds*. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service report 2014/062.

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## 6.8 Discussion of Material Evidence

The pottery found in the pit from the centre of the plot [1052] was consistent in date-range (12th to 14th centuries) to that found during the previous monitoring stage for plot 1 and for the initial evaluation phase of the site. The small quantity of animal bone and an Iron hook or chain link offered little to the interpretation of the site.

Faunal remains found at this site were consistent to the usual food remains found on medieval sites. In this instance though, the sample was quite rich and gave further in-site to the various plant species being present or close by. The cultivation and processing of cereal plants and pulses from the charred seed remains gave an indication of what was being consumed and how it may have been processed.

## **7. Interpretation and Discussion**

The monitoring of plot 2 was fairly consistent with that of plot 3, except that the quarrying recorded during the monitoring of plot 3 was not seen in this area of the site. Therefore, the quarrying was confined to the eastern-end of the site. A layer (1048) recorded in both the evaluation and during monitoring of plot 3 was still present as a dark earth, showing that occupation of the site was fairly consistent across its entire extent. The two pits recorded confirmed the use of the site during the 12th-14th centuries, as attested by the finds.

## **7. Conclusion**

This archaeological monitoring of plot 2 has therefore shown that less archaeology was present than within its eastern extent, with extensive quarrying, but activities and occupation continued here until at least by the 14-15th century.

The archaeological monitoring has therefore been successful in establishing the character of the site so far. A final assessment of which will be established once the monitoring of plot 1 has been completed.

## **8. 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>.

## **9. Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Stephen Wilson who funded the project and commissioned this work.

This report for archaeological monitoring was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work. Dr Abby Antrobus of the SCCA/CT produced the brief for this project.

## Appendix I: Digital Images



*Plate 1. Pre-excavation of site*



*Plate 2. Pit [1050]*



*Plate 3. General view of footings trench with no evidence for further quarrying*



*Plate 4. Pit [1055] seen in plan*



*Plate 5. Sample section showing depth of occupation layer*

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