



LAND AT FOX MEADOW, BARKING, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





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SUFFOLK**

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Abstract

On the 11th and 12th May 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land at Fox Meadows, Barking, Suffolk, (TM 067 527) in advance of the construction of 3 dwellings and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham. R. Dated 6th March 2015) required a total of two trial trenches measuring 10.00m x 1.80m (Fig. 3) to assess the nature and potential of the site.

Background research for the project indicated that evidence for medieval activity was most likely to be encountered, with additional potential for Roman remains.

The evaluation revealed four phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was topsoil Layer 1000 which was the current garden soil layer covering both plots of land. The second phase of activity relates to Subsoil Layer 1001. Pottery recovered from this layer gives a date of 12th – 14th century. This layer sealed all features in Trench 1. The third phase was represented by Second Subsoil Layer 1013. No dating was recovered from this layer. This layer could represent a later medieval plough soil that formed in the northern part of the site. This layer sealed all features in trench 2.

The fourth and final phase of activity on the site is represented by the medieval features in both trenches 1 and 2. Trench 1 contained curvilinear gully 1003 and pit 1005. Trench 2 contained pit 1007, and ditches 1009 and 1011. The nature of curvilinear gully 1003 is likely to be a small enclosure of agricultural origin, possibly for the storage of animals or for drainage. Ditches 1009 and 1011 appear to run parallel to each other on the same north-east to south-west orientation. The fill of ditch 1009 contained pottery dating it to 12th – 13th century AD and it is likely that ditch 1011 was contemporary with it, given their similar profiles and fills. These parallel ditches may have defined a track way or drove way, connected to Barking Road, a known medieval road.

The finds assemblage shows the features contained material produced locally and dating reveals a continuous phase of use through the early medieval to medieval periods.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 11th and 12th May 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land at Fox Meadows, Barking, Suffolk, (TM 067 527), (Fig. 1) at in advance of the construction of 3 dwellings and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham. R. Dated 6th March 2015) required a total of two trial trenches measuring 10.00m x 1.80m (Fig. 3) to assess the nature and potential of the site.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site was located in the village of Barking, Suffolk, which is located approximately 2.9km south west of the town of Needham market. The site lies off Barking Road on two parcels of land which are currently under residential use as gardens, (Fig. 1). The bedrock geology is described as White Chalk Subgroup Chalk, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 66 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (BGS, 2015).

The superficial deposits are described as Glacial Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits were formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions. (BGS, 2015)

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012). The relevant local development framework is the *Mid Suffolk Local Plan*.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figure 2)

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4). There are 44 monument entries and 2 events within and just outside the 1km search radius. 16 listed building entries were also returned within the 1km search area.

The site is located in the village of Barking, Suffolk, which is located approximately 2.9km south west of the historic town of Needham market.



The SHER search returned four entries dating to the prehistoric period. Three of these entries, (MSF 13360, MSF 18513 and MSF 18514) area all located on the periphery of the search area approximately 850m to the south west. One of the records, MSF 18513 relates to the Neolithic period and refers to the discovery of a part polished and unpatinated flint chisel / small axe. MSF 18514 relates to a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead found at the same location as MSF 18513 but it is dated to the Bronze age. MSF 13360 is only broadly dated to the prehistoric period but refers to the discovery of a worked flint scatter as a result of a field walking survey.

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with Camulodunum (Colchester) becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Barking is located approximately 28km north of Camulodunum and located near Combretovium (Coddenham) where four Roman roads converge. Ten monuments entries of Roman date were returned from the SHER search. The closest record (MSF 13146) to the site returned by the SHER search relates to a Roman pottery scatter found during a field walking survey. Two of the records (MSF 13363 and MSF 13364) both refer to field walking surveys undertaken approximately 350m south of the site which encountered scatters of Roman pottery. Unfortunately the full extent and details of these two sites was not recorded. Approximately 450m south west of the site 200 Roman coins were reputedly discovered (MSF 14188), however this is a third hand account and has not been verified.

The origins of the name Barking appears as 'Berchinges' which is a combination the old English (Anglo - Saxon) name '*Berica*' and the word '*ingas*' meaning followers or family of, (Mills. 2003). No records relating to the Saxon period were returned from the SHER search. By the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 the name of the village had evolved into 'Berchingas'. The Domesday entry for Barking shows it to be of very large size with 63 households and part of the Bosmere Hundred and the County of Suffolk. This suggests that there was a settlement of a decent size present during the Saxon period however due to the increased level of activity seen in the medieval period any Saxon remains that may have been encountered may have been lost.

The medieval period is the best represented period from the records returned. A total of 15 monument records were returned from the SHER search. The most significant record returned by the search (MSF 23760) relates to the Barking Tye and the green present in the village from 1066 AD. Three records (MSF 13144, MSF 13145 and MSF 13147) returned by the search, all within 100m of the site refer to medieval pottery scatters again discovered during field walking exercises. In the wider search area another 11 scatters of medieval pottery have been found indicating a high likelihood of encountering remains of a medieval date. MSF 13288, located approximately 400m to the south of the site relates to the discovery of more medieval pottery alongside longstanding earthworks believed to be a 14th century farmhouse with a quadrangular moat.

The post-medieval period only returned 1 monument record from the SHER, 16 listed buildings and two event records. The single post medieval monument record (MSF 23759) is the mapped location of a now extant windmill. The two event records (ESF 19721 and ESF 19817) both refer to monitoring works that took place within 200m of



the site. Both sites located features of an unknown date which are believed to relate to post medieval boundaries. The two most significant listed buildings in relation to the site are 406572 and 406573. The Grange (406573) is located 100m south of the site along Barking Road. The structure is Grade II listed and consists of a 17th century house with mid-19th and 20th century alterations. The house is timber framed and encased in mid-19th century brick which has now been painted. The Fox Inn (406572) is an 18th century public house with alterations from the early 19th century. Extensive alterations and additions were made in the 1970's.

Five modern records were returned by the search. All of these records relate to world war two defences and are positioned on the periphery of the search area on the approaches to the village.

The SHER returned seven records that are undated. Four of these relate to ancient woodland, while the other records refer to cropmarks in the surrounding fields.

Given the above records the site had a specific potential for **medieval** features and finds relating to the medieval core of the village and a lesser potential for Roman remains.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief stated that an evaluation was required to enable archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified (Abrahams. 2015) Brief, Section 4.1).

Section 4.2 of the brief states that the archaeological evaluation is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Establish the potential for the survival and significance of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence (with reference to adjacent and regional sequences, and to national frameworks).

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

The brief also states that the project will need to consider the following objectives:

- The characterisation of the sequence, and patterns of the accumulation of palaeo-environmental/geoarchaeological deposits across the development area, including



the depth and lateral extent of major stratigraphic units, and the character of any potential land surfaces/buried soils within or pre-dating these sediments.

- Identify significant variations in the deposition sequences indicative of localised features, particularly in relation topographic variation and the presence of features such as palaeo-channels.
- Identify the location and extent of any waterlogged organic deposits and where appropriate and practical, to retrieve suitable samples in order to assess the potential for the preservation of environmental remains and material for scientific dating.
- Clarify the relationship between sediment sequences and other deposit types, including periods of 'soil', peat growth, and archaeological remains.
- To provide for the absolute dating of critical contacts.
- To focus academically upon the high potential for this site to produce palaeoenvironmental evidence, with the potential to inform on our understanding of past environments, palaeo-climates, sea-level changes and human interaction.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7)

The trenches were located on the area of the proposed developments. Trench 1 was located on the southern plot of land while Trench 2 was located in the northern plot. Both trenches measured 10.00 x 2.20m and were both orientated north-east to south-west.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.67m. The trench contained two archaeological features.

Topsoil layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.29m. This layer overlay subsoil layer 1001 which was 0.33m thick to a depth of 0.67m. Subsoil layer 1001 sealed all archaeological features in Trench 1.

Both archaeological features were discovered at the southern end of trench 1. Gully 1003, interpreted as part of a small domestic or agricultural enclosure, was curvilinear in plan with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Fill, 1004, contained 14 sherds of pottery weighing 95g. All the sherds were dated to the mid-11th to 12th centuries and were body sherds from various broad types which include fine sandy wares and course sandy wares, both with and without shell.



A 20 litre sample was taken from layer 1004 and sent for processing. The results revealed that the sample contained charred cereal grains, charcoal, snails and rootlets.

Pit 1005 was located 0.10 east of curvilinear Gully 1003. Oval in plan, the pit had steep sloping sides with a concave base. The pit fill, 1006, contained five sherds of pottery weighing 9g. The pottery all represented body sherds and was dated from 11th to 13th centuries.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.97m. The greater depth of this trench is due to the presence of a lower subsoil layer 1013 representing a possible late medieval subsoil. Topsoil layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.22m. This layer overlay subsoil layer 1001 which was 0.31m thick to a depth of 0.58m. This in turn overlay the lower subsoil layer 1013 which was 0.39m thick and which sealed all archaeological features in trench 2. The trench contained 3 archaeological features.

Pit 1007 was located in the centre of trench 2 between ditches 1009 and 1011. It was circular in plan with sloping sides and an uneven concave base. The pit had a single fill, 1008, which contained 26 sherds of pottery weighing 180g. The pottery from pit 1007 was similar to that found in Curvilinear Gully 1003 and all dates from the 11th to 12th centuries.

A 20 litre sample was taken from 1007 and sent for processing. The results revealed that the sample contained charred cereal grains, charcoal, snails and rootlets.

Ditch 1009 was located in the southern part of trench 2. It was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base and appeared to be on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch fill, 1010, contained 14 sherds of pottery weighing 75g. The pottery from this feature is dated slightly later than that in nearby Pit 1007, ranging in date between the 12th to 13th centuries.

A 20 litre sample was taken from ditch fill 1010 and results revealed charred cereal grains, charred legumes, charcoal, snails and rootlets.

The final feature in trench 2 was ditch 1011 located at the northern end of the trench. Linear in plan with steep sloping sides and an uneven concave base, the ditch also appeared on a similar north-east to south-west alignment to ditch 1009,. No finds were recovered from the fill 1012 however its location adjacent to ditch 1009 and the similarity of its alignment suggests a contemporary date possibly defining a track way or drove way.

A 20 litre sample was also taken from fill 1012 and the results revealed charred cereal grains, charcoal, snails and rootlets.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 4, 5, 6 and 7)

The deposit model differed across trenches 1 and 2.

In both trenches at the top of the sequence was topsoil layer 1000, comprising dark brown grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional chalk stone and flint inclusions to a maximum thickness of 0.29m in Sample Section 1B. A single sherd of Refined White Earthenware pottery recovered from this layer dated to the 19th century.

Beneath 1000 was subsoil layer 1001, comprising mid-orange brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk stone and flint gravel inclusions. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.67m in sample section 1B. Two fragments of pottery recovered from this layer date to the medieval period but are most likely residual. A single fragment of post-medieval glass was also recovered.

In trench 2 on the northern plot of land the next layer in the stratigraphic sequence was lower subsoil layer 1013. This layer comprised a light orange brown, firm, clayey silt with infrequent chalk inclusions. The layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.89m. Two fragments micaceous sandstone were collected from this layer weighing 563g. One of the fragments has been partially burnt on its upper face and on one of its sides. It is possible that it may have been used in a hearth or similar feature.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in both trenches, was natural drift geology 1002, comprising light yellow grey, compact, chalky clay with lenses of silty sand and frequent flint gravel and chalk stone inclusions.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval features and finds relating to the medieval core of the village. The evidence from the features encountered relates to this period specifically.

The evaluation revealed four phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was topsoil Layer 1000. This was formed as the current garden soil layer covering both plots of land. Until recently the land had been cultivated with fruit bushes and flowerbeds.

The second phase of activity relates to subsoil layer 1001, which sealed all features in trench 1. Pottery recovered from this layer, which included a Hollesley-type ware, gives a date of 12th – 14th century suggesting that this is a former medieval plough soil or accumulation layer however the presence of lower subsoil layer 1013 beneath this in trench 2, sealing medieval features with a date range of 11th to 13th century suggests that this layer is later and the finds are residual, possibly from layer 1013, and have been moved by agricultural intervention. If that is the case then it is more likely that a late medieval to post-medieval date can be assigned to this layer possibly as a much later plough soil or accumulation layer pre dating the houses that were erected in the



field that the two plots formed part of. The 1905 Second Edition OS shows no houses in the vicinity of the site however by 1958 the houses that stand adjacent to the site today had been built. .

The third phase is represented by lower subsoil layer 1013. No dating was recovered from this layer however two fragments of burnt micaceous sandstone were found. It is possible that these were burnt in a hearth or similar feature. This layer could represent a medieval plough soil in the northern part of the site. With the suspected presence of animal corrals on the site this layer could very well represent the change in the primary use of the site from animal husbandry to agriculture. This layer sealed all features in trench 2 and was below subsoil 1001 in the stratigraphic sequence.

The fourth and final phase of activity on the site is represented by the medieval features in both trenches 1 and 2. Curvilinear feature 1003 and pit 1007 contain similar pottery of a contemporary date suggesting that these were in use at the same time. The nature of curvilinear gully 1003 is likely to be a small enclosure of agricultural origin, possibly an animal corral. Another likely use of the feature would be for drainage.

Ditches 1009 and 1011 appear to run parallel to each other on the same north-east to south-west orientation. While only ditch 1009 returned any dating evidence (12th – 13th Century) given the similar profile and fill of Ditch 1011, it is not unreasonable to suggest that these two features are indeed contemporary. They could define a track way or drove way, the orientation would eventually connect them to Barking Road which is a known medieval road. Another possibility is that they simply define field boundaries which have been slightly redefined over time. The medieval period was the best represented by the records returned by the SHER search. The Barking Tye and Green were both in close proximity to the site and three pottery scatters of medieval date were recovered within 100m. This evidence discovered during the evaluation coupled with the monument records in the wider area show a distinct phase of occupation and development in the medieval period for the village of barking and its surrounding area.

The finds assemblage shows the medieval features contained material produced locally and the dating of the fills reveal a continuous period of use through the early medieval to medieval periods. The pottery appears to be hand made with a few examples of wheel thrown wares included. While there are no wares of exceptional quality the assemblage can be described as 'competently' made, (Goffin, R. 2015).

Unfortunately the environmental data was sparse. All of the samples collected from the features contained charred cereal grains, charcoal, snails and rootlets which can represent the later stages of cereal processing. Ditch 1009, did contain both wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) in very small numbers, (West. 2015). The presence of legumes in Ditch 1011 could indicate that either small scale garden-type production of food crops or larger crop rotation was taking place nearby.

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The site was excavated by Martin Brook and Matt Adams of Britannia Archaeology.



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DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

TRENCH 1

Deposit Tables

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
1	N - S	63.13m	DP3
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1A	E Side N End	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.22m	Topsoil: Dark brown grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional chalk stone and flint inclusions	
1001	0.22 - 0.57m	Subsoil: Mid-orange brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk stone and flint gravel inclusions.	
1002	0.57m +	Natural. Light yellow grey, compact, chalky clay with lenses of silty sand and frequent flint gravel and chalk stone inclusions.	

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
1	N - S	63.77m	-
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1B	W Side S End	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.29m	Topsoil: Dark brown grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional chalk stone and flint inclusions	
1001	0.29 - 0.67m	Subsoil: Mid-orange brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk stone and flint gravel inclusions.	
1002	0.67m +	Natural. Light yellow grey, compact, chalky clay with lenses of silty sand and frequent flint gravel and chalk stone inclusions.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)	Other
1003	Curvilinear Gully (2.50+ x 0.60 x 0.30m) Curvilinear in plan, steep sides with sharp break of slope and a slightly concave base.	1004	Mid-orange grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional chalk and gravel inclusions.	Mid-11th - 12th Century	95 (14) Pottery	Possible Drip Gully
1005	Pit (0.50 x 0.28+ x 0.29m) Oval in plan, steep sides with a sharp break of slope and a concave base.	1006	Mid-orange grey, friable, sandy silt.	11th - 13th Century	9 (5) Pottery	

TRENCH 2

Deposit Tables

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot No
2	N - S	64.04m	DP7
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2A	E Side N End	W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.22m	Topsoil: Dark brown grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional chalk stone and flint inclusions	
1001	0.22 - 0.41m	Subsoil: Mid-orange brown, compact, clayey silt with	



		occasional chalk stone and flint gravel inclusions.
1013	0.41 - 0.89	Subsoil: Light orange brown, firm, clayey silt with infrequent chalk inclusions.
1002	0.89m +	Natural. Light yellow grey, compact, chalky clay with lenses of silty sand and frequent flint gravel and chalk stone inclusions.

Trench No 2	Orientation N - S	Height AOD 63.89m	Shot No DP9
Sample Section No 2B	Location E Side S End	Facing W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.11m	Topsoil: Dark brown grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional chalk stone and flint inclusions	
1001	0.11 - 0.40m	Subsoil: Mid-orange brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk stone and flint gravel inclusions.	
1013	0.40 - 0.69m	Subsoil: Light orange brown, firm, clayey silt with infrequent chalk inclusions.	
1002	0.69m +	Natural. Light yellow grey, compact, chalky clay with lenses of silty sand and frequent flint gravel and chalk stone inclusions.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /q (sherds or number)	Other
1007	Pit (1.02+ x 0.47+ x 0.14m) Circular in plan, moderately sloping sides with a moderate break of slope and an uneven concave base.	1008	Light orange brown, firm sandy silt with infrequent sub angular flint gravel inclusions.	Mid-11th - 12th Century	180 (26) Pottery	
1009	Liner Ditch (1.00+ x 0.80+ x 0.27m) Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides with moderate break of slope and a concave base. Orientated NE - SW.	1010	Mid-grey brown, firm, sandy silt with infrequent small sub angular flint gravel inclusions.	12th - 13th Century	75 (14) Pottery	
1011	Linear ditch (1.00+ x 0.70+ x 0.20m) Linear in plan, steep sloping sides with moderate break of slope and a uneven concave base. Orientated NE -SW.	1012	Light orange brown, firm sandy silt with infrequent small sub angular flint gravel inclusions.		None	



APPENDIX 2 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

Land at Fox Meadows, Barking Road, Barking Suffolk

Finds assessment

Richenda Goffin

The Pottery

Introduction and recording methods

The ceramics were quantified using the recording methods recommended in the MPRG Occasional Paper No 2, Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of Post-Roman ceramics (Slowikowski et al 2001). The number of sherds present in each context by fabric was recorded; the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric was noted. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and condition and fabric date ranges were recorded, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was catalogued on proforma sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form and the data was inputted into a database and is shown in Appendix *.

The 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).

A total of sixty-two fragments of pottery was recovered from the evaluation, weighing 404g in total. The assemblage dates almost entirely to the medieval period.

Pottery by period

Medieval

Sixty sherds of pottery weighing 398g were recovered from five features. The assemblage consists for the most part of a range of hand-made early medieval wares made in a variety of fabric types which were probably all made locally.



Fabric types were grouped into several different broad types: fine sandy with shell, fine sandy with no shell, medium sandy with shell, medium sandy without shell, coarse sandy, coarse sandy with shell. As there are modifications within these groups, fabrics were assigned a basic code with additional numerical marker to denote a different fabric type. Some variants contain additional inclusions such as red clay pellets and/or fine silver mica. Vessels exhibit a range of firing effects; some sherds have oxidised external margins with a grey core, whilst the majority are dark brown grey or reddish brown, or are patchily reduced. Shell where present is almost always within the fabric of the pottery itself, rather than only on the external surface ('shell-dusted'). There is considerable variety in both the quantity of shell and the size of these inclusions, as they are both moderate and abundantly present, but rarely sparse. A single rim of a sand and shell-tempered ware was separated out as Yarmouth-type ware, (a known early medieval fabric identified on a number of sites in Norfolk and Suffolk), and there are other sandy shelly fabrics which are similar to this fabric but not the same.

Although many body sherds are represented, there are some rims present, as well as a number of sagging bases. The rims of six vessels are present amongst the medieval wares, all from jars or cooking vessels. The rim forms represented are beaded rims (2), and thickened everted (4). Such rim types are characteristic of the mid-11th-12th century, although a jar rim in the fill 1010 of ditch 1009 has a thickened flat-topped rim with a slight internal bevel which is likely to date from the late 12th-13th century. The base of a sooted jar present in the subsoil 1001 is also likely to be later in date, as it is made in a Hollesley-type ware which is considered to date to the late 13th-14th century.

Although fragmentary, the sherds are for the most part not particularly abraded. Many pieces have evidence of sooting but no residues were noted, although dark staining was recorded on a sherd in fill 1006 of pit 1005.

Post-medieval

A fragment from the corner of a plain white glazed wall tile made in a refined white earthenware dating to the 19th century or later was recovered from the topsoil (1000).

Significance and recommendations for further work

The small assemblage is dominated by a range of hand-made medieval wares which are likely to have been produced locally during the 11th-13th centuries. Similar wares covering a slightly later date range and including some glazed wares were found in ditches and pits excavated as part of the Stowmarket to Great Blakenham Underground Cabling fieldwork (BRK 136), (Anderson 2014).



The bulk of the pottery was recovered from gully 1003 and pit 1007. Both these features contain ceramics of the same date (mid-11th-12th century). The pottery from the fill 1010 of ditch 1009 may be slightly later in date (L12th-13th century). The ceramics appear to be mostly hand-made although it is possible that some of the rims are wheel turned. The group exhibits a wide variety of fabric sub-types, which are for the most part competently made. There are no glazed wares present, which is another indication that the pottery is likely to mostly pre-date the late 12th century, and apart from the sherd of Hollesley type ware in the subsoil, none of the pottery is fully wheel-thrown, a characteristic of medieval coarsewares dating to the late 12th-14th century.

This is a small but well-dated early medieval/medieval assemblage. Although some rims are present, the sherds are for the most part small, and there are no vessel profiles or substantial remnants of complete vessels, so no illustrations are recommended. The range of fabric types is wide but it is likely to be limited in terms of representing mainly local production sites.

Fired clay

A single fragment of fired clay weighing 2g was recovered from the fill 1004 of gully 1003. It is made in a fine sandy fabric with occasional chalk inclusions and is likely to be medieval. It has no diagnostic features to provide some indication of its function.

Glass

A single fragment of clear glass weighing 2g was present in subsoil deposit 1001. It is from a post-medieval vessel and was found with two sherds of medieval pottery.

Stone

Two fragments of stone were collected from 1013 weighing 563g. The stone which is probably micaceous sandstone (depth c.37mm) has been partially burnt on its upper face and one of its sides. It may have been used in a hearth or similar feature.

Discussion

The finds from this evaluation have provided evidence of activity dating from the 11th-13th century. Apart from the pottery, the range of other finds is small and no further work is recommended.

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Plant macrofossils

Anna West

Introduction and Methods

Four samples were taken from archaeological features during an evaluation of land at Fox Meadows, Barking Road, Suffolk. The samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Table x. 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.

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	1004	1003	Gully		charred cereal grains #, charcoal +, snails +, rootlets ++
2	1008	1007	Pit		charred cereal grains #, charcoal +, snails +, rootlets ++
3	1010	1009	Ditch		charred cereal grains #, charcoal ++, snails ++, rootlets +
4	1012	1011	Ditch		Charred cereal grains #, charred legumes #, charcoal +, snails +,



					rootlets +
--	--	--	--	--	------------

The preservation of the macro fossils within these samples was through charring and is generally poor. The cereal grains present were often puffed and fragmented making them difficult to identify in any detail at this stage. Fibrous rootlets were common within all the flots and are regarded as modern contaminants within the archaeological deposits.

All the samples produced relatively small flots of 10-15ml with Sample 1, fill 1004 of gully 1003, producing 50ml. The majority of this material was made up of fibrous rootlets and snail shells. Small fragments of wood charcoal were present in all the flots but were highly comminuted making them unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

All the samples contained a small number of charred cereal grains, between 1 and 3 caryopses in each sample. Sample 3, fill 1010 of ditch 1009, contained both wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) in very small numbers. No chaff elements were observed within any of the flots.

A single fragment of what appear to be a charred pea (*Pisum* sp.) was observed within Sample 3, from ditch 1009.

Discussion

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The small number of the cereal grains present within the samples are identifiable to an archaeobotanist. Although no chaff elements were observed the cereal grains had been exposed to heat, so may represent the later stages of cereal processing when the grains are exposed to heat and pounded in order to release them from their spikelet.

The small number of possible legume fragments observed may not be representative of the importance of pulses within the diet. 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. The presence of legumes may indicate that either small scale garden-type production of food crops or larger crop rotation was taking place nearby.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

It is possible that this material represents domestic waste, chance loss in the oven or hearth which has then been disposed of within the archaeological features. The sparse and fragmented nature of the material, however, suggests that it may have been moved either trampled or windblown across the site before becoming incorporated into the archaeological deposits.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material from these samples at this stage, but if further interventions are carried out on this site it is



recommended that bulk samples should be taken from any well sealed and well dated context, in order to investigate the nature of the cereal waste.

Bibliography

Stace C. 1995, *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd Ed, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge University Press

Stefanie Jacomet et al, 2006, *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites*, 2nd Ed, Archaeobotany Lab IPAS, Basel University.



APPENDIX 3 - CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

FEATURE CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	LAYER / FILL DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE	POTTERY /q (SHERDS)	GLASS /g (NUMBER)	BURNT STONE /q (NUMBER)
-	Topsoil	1000	-	19 th Century	4 / (1)		
-	Subsoil	1001	-	12 th - 14 th Century	41 / (2)	2 / (1)	
1003	Gully	1004	Fill	Mid-11 th - 12 th Century	95 / (14)		
1005	Pit	1006	Fill	11 th - 13 th Century	9 / (5)		
1007	Pit	1008	Fill	Mid-11 th - 12 th Century	180 / (26)		
1009	Ditch	1010	Fill	12 th - 13 th Century	75 / (14)		
-	Subsoil	1013	-	-			566 / (2)



APPENDIX 4 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: britanni1-209283

Project details

Project name	Land at Fox Meadow, Barking, Suffolk
Short description of the project	On the 11th and 12th May 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land at Fox Meadows, Barking, Suffolk, (TM 067 527) in advance of the construction of 3 dwellings and associated works. The evaluation revealed four phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was topsoil Layer 1000 which was the current garden soil layer covering both plots of land. The second phase of activity relates to Subsoil Layer 1001. The evaluation revealed four phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was topsoil Layer 1000 which was the current garden soil layer covering both plots of land. The second phase of activity relates to Subsoil Layer 1001. The fourth and final phase of activity on the site is represented by the medieval features in both trenches 1 and 2. Trench 1 contained curvilinear gully 1003 and pit 1005. Trench 2 contained pit 1007, and ditches 1009 and 1011. The finds assemblage shows the features contained material produced locally and dating reveals a continuous phase of use through the early medieval to medieval periods.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2015 End: 12-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRK 138 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

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OASIS FORM - Print view

Country England
Site location SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BARKING Land at Fox Meadow, Barking, Suffolk
Postcode IP6 8HS
Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates TM 067 527 52.1333649382 1.020526829 52 06 00 N 001 01 13 E Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 63.13m Max: 64.04m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Martin Brook
Project director/manager Martin Brook
Project supervisor Martin Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body Mid Suffolk District Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Physical Archive ID BRK 138
Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID BRK 138
Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available "Database", "GIS", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
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Paper Archive ID BRK 138
Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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OASIS FORM - Print view

**Project
bibliography 1**

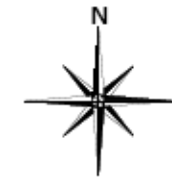
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Brook, M
Other bibliographic details R1095
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Place of issue or publication Stowmarket, Suffolk
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Entered by Martin Brook (martin@britannia-archaeology.com)
Entered on 28 July 2015

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NGR: 606750 252770 REPORT NUMBER: P1105

PROJECT: FOX MEADOWS, BARKING ROAD, BARKING, SUFFOLK



DESCRIPTION: GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

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SCALE: 1:2000 

PLOT: A3 APPROVED: MB VERSION: 01

DATE: MAY 2015 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 01

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	Archaeological Feature
	Trial Trench
	Proposed Building
	Site Boundary

NGR: 606750 252770 REPORT NUMBER: P1105

PROJECT:
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BARKING, SUFFOLK

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DESCRIPTION:
TRENCH & FEATURE PLAN


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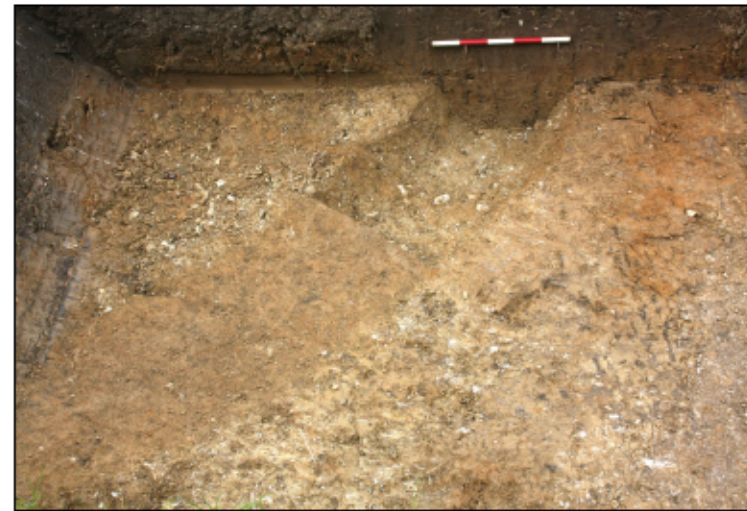
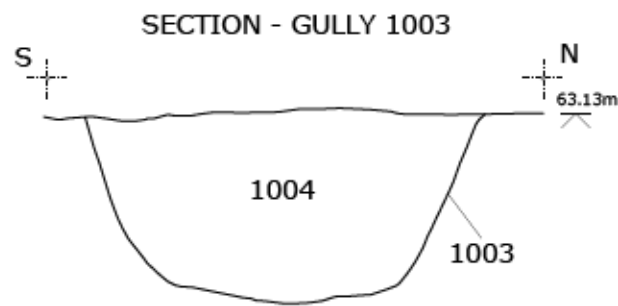
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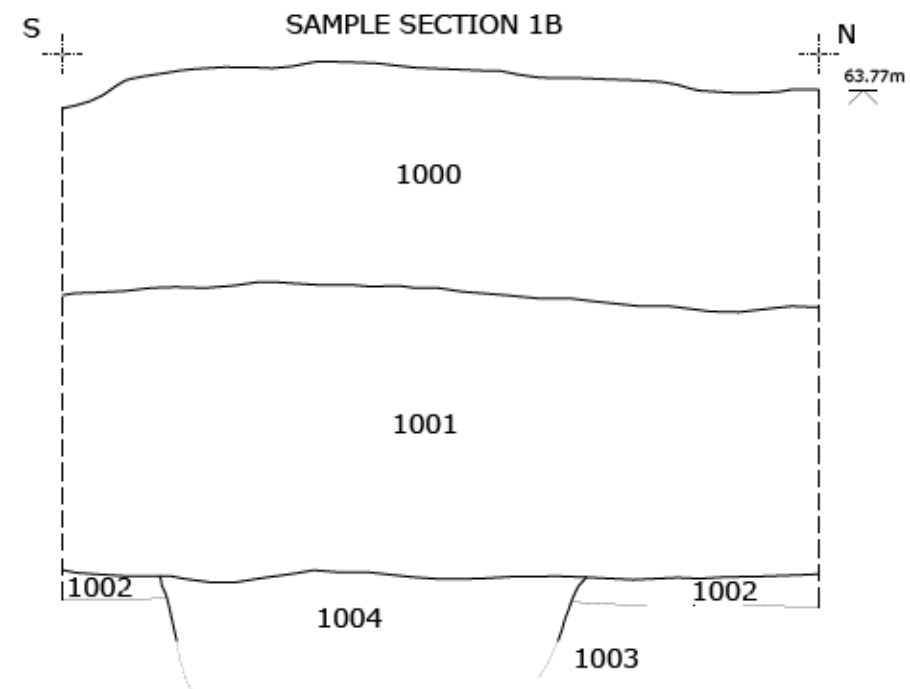
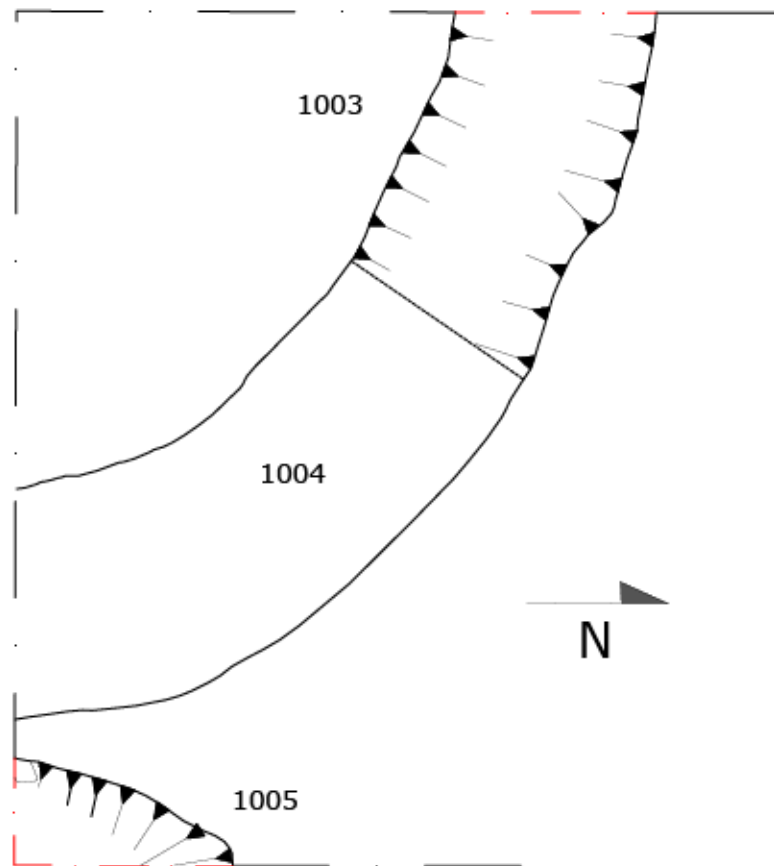
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TRENCH 1



DP1 - Gully 1003 - View W

PLAN - GULLY 1003 & PIT 1005



	Trench Section Line
	Section Line

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PROJECT:
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DESCRIPTION:
TRENCH 1 - PLANS, SECTIONS &
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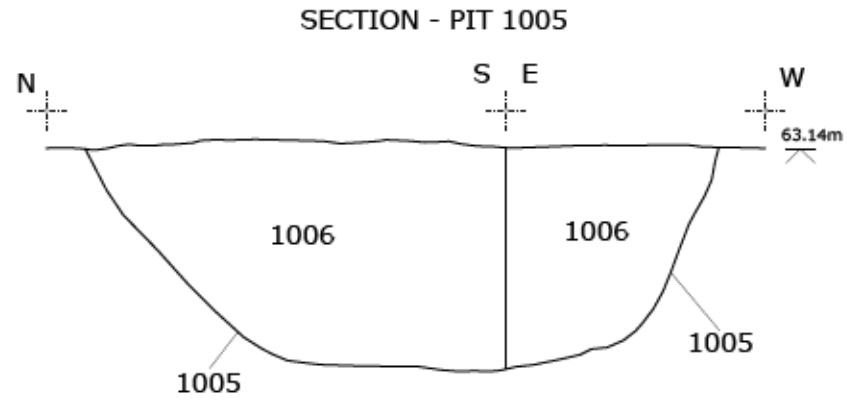
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Plans 1:20		
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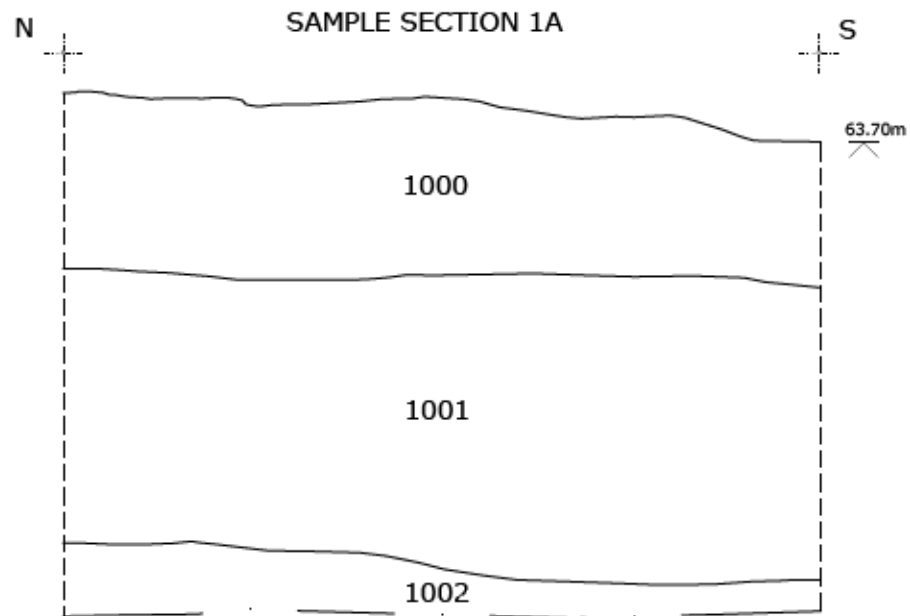
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MAY 2015	MCA	04





DP2 - Pit 1005 - View E



DP4 - Post Excavation Trench 1 - View S



DP3 - Sample Section 1A - View E

 SS 1A	Trench Section Line
	Section Line

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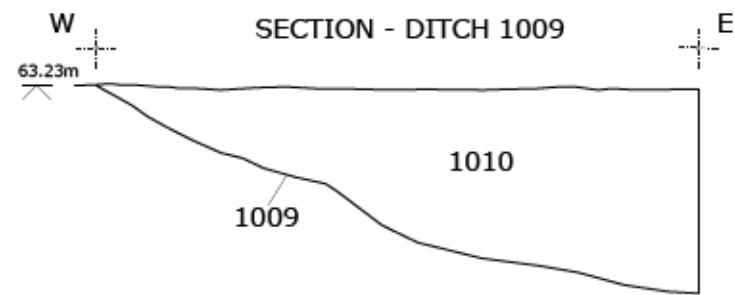
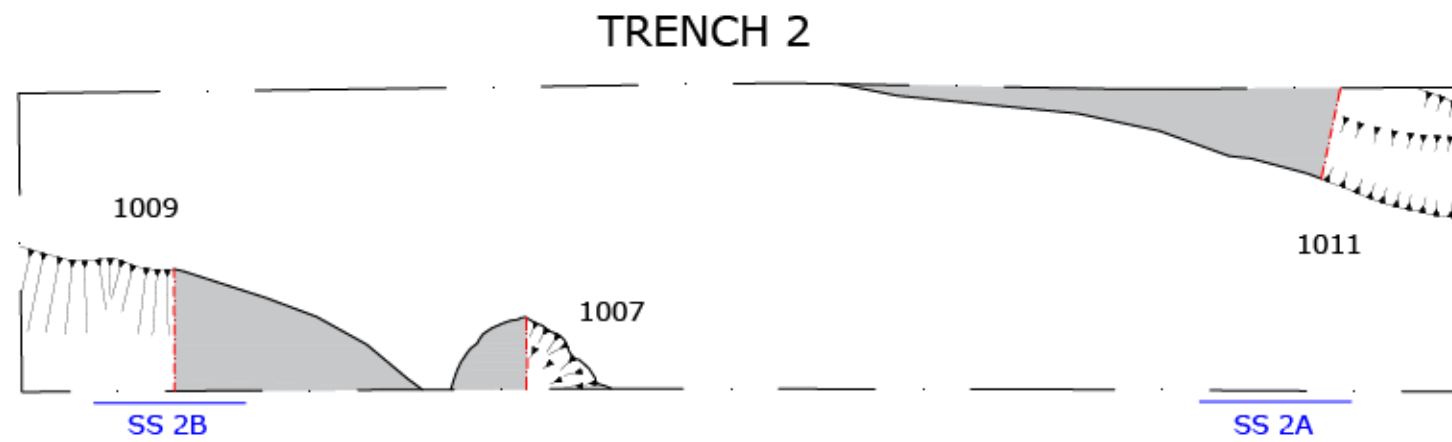
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	Sections 1:10 	

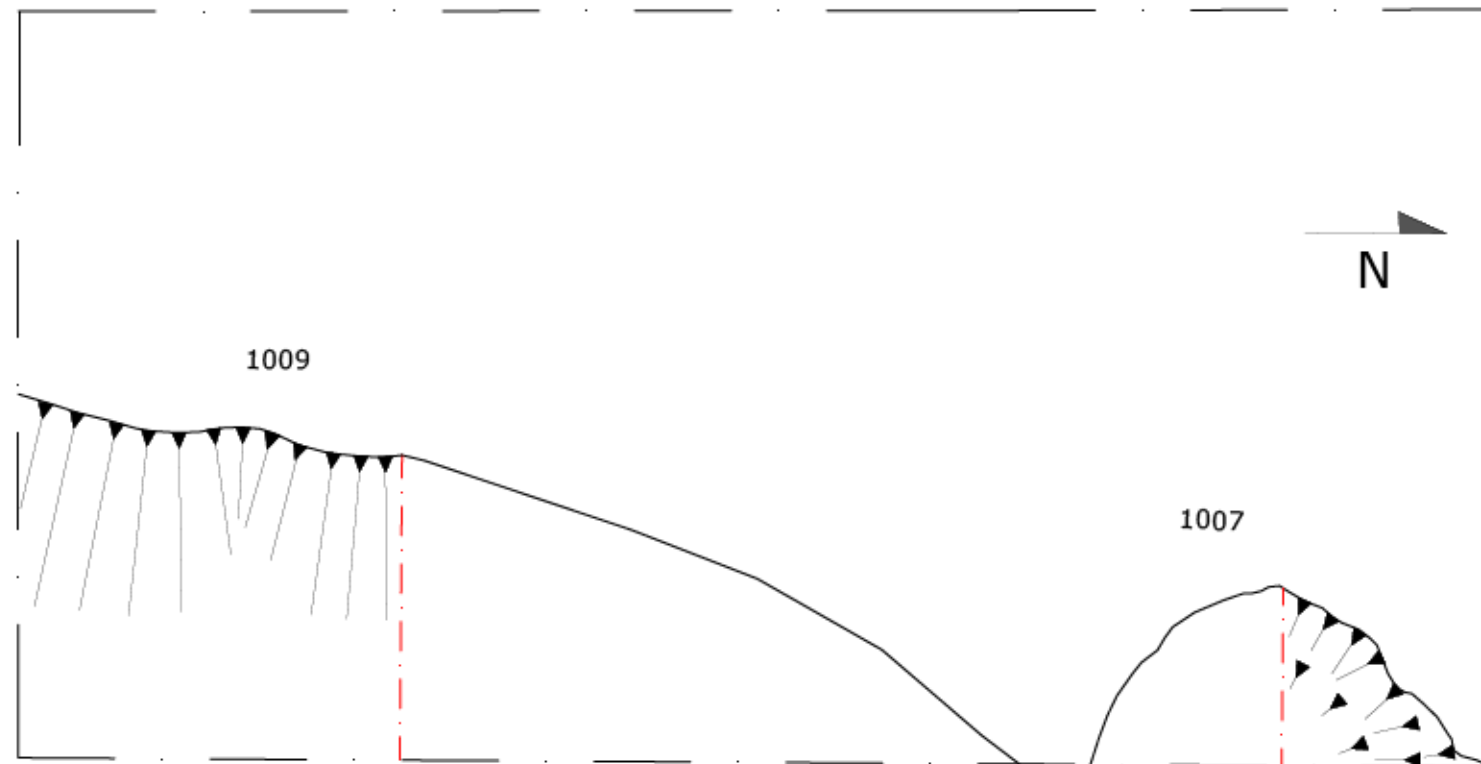
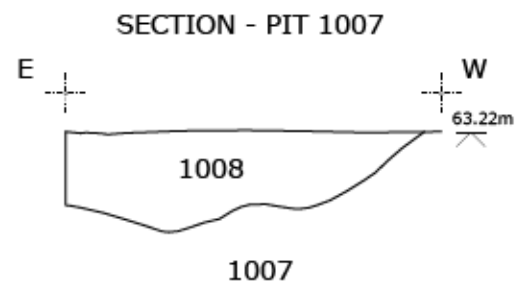
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DATE:	MAY 2015	AUTHOR:	MCA	FIGURE:	05



DP5 - Ditch 1009 - View N



DP6 - Pit 1007 - View S



	Trench Section Line
	Section Line

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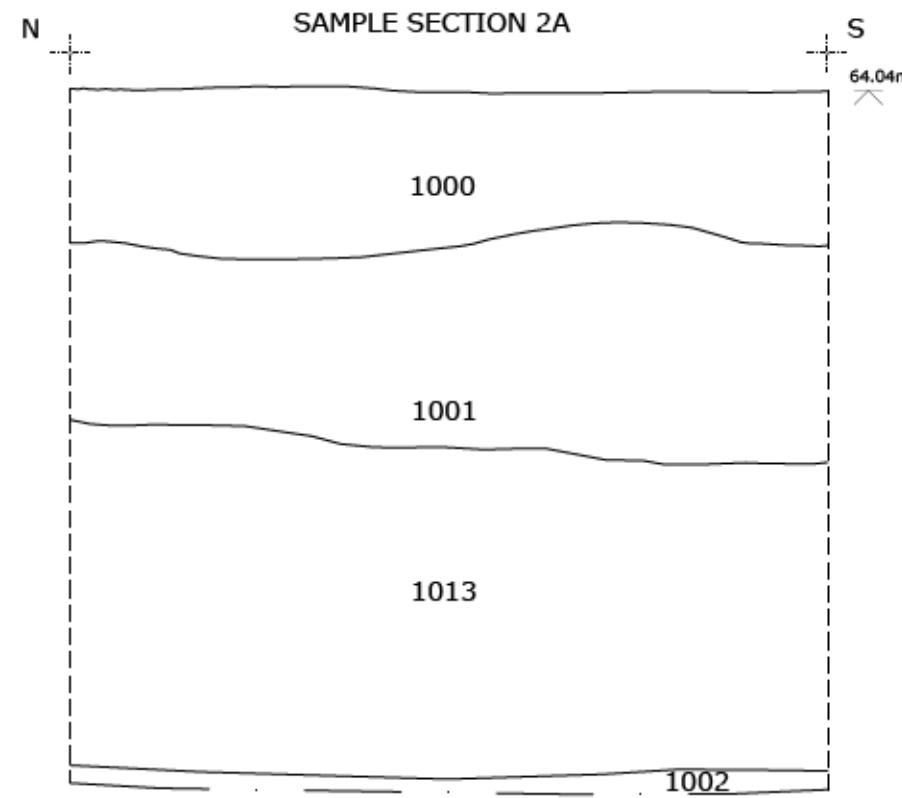
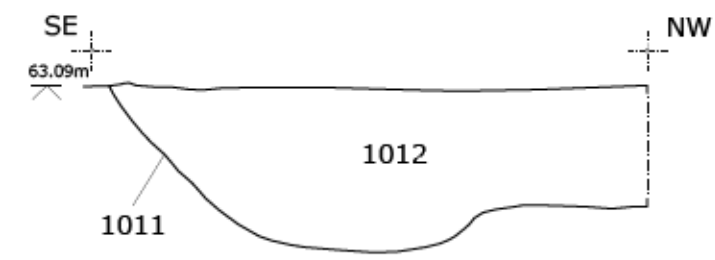
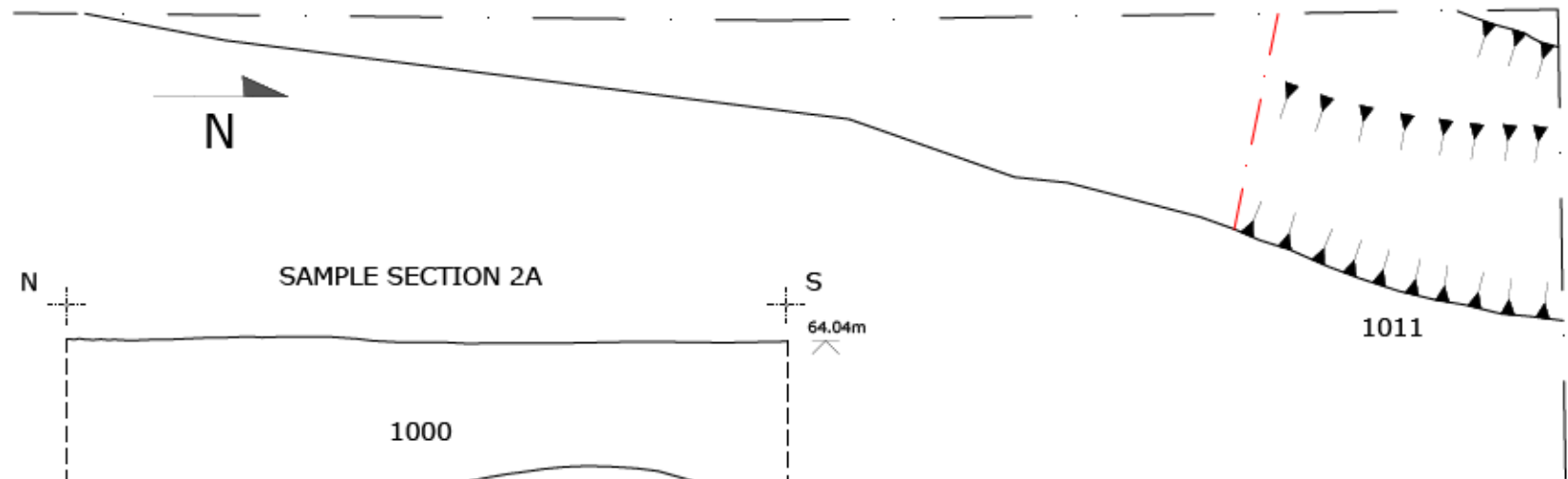
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Plans 1:20	
Sections 1:10	

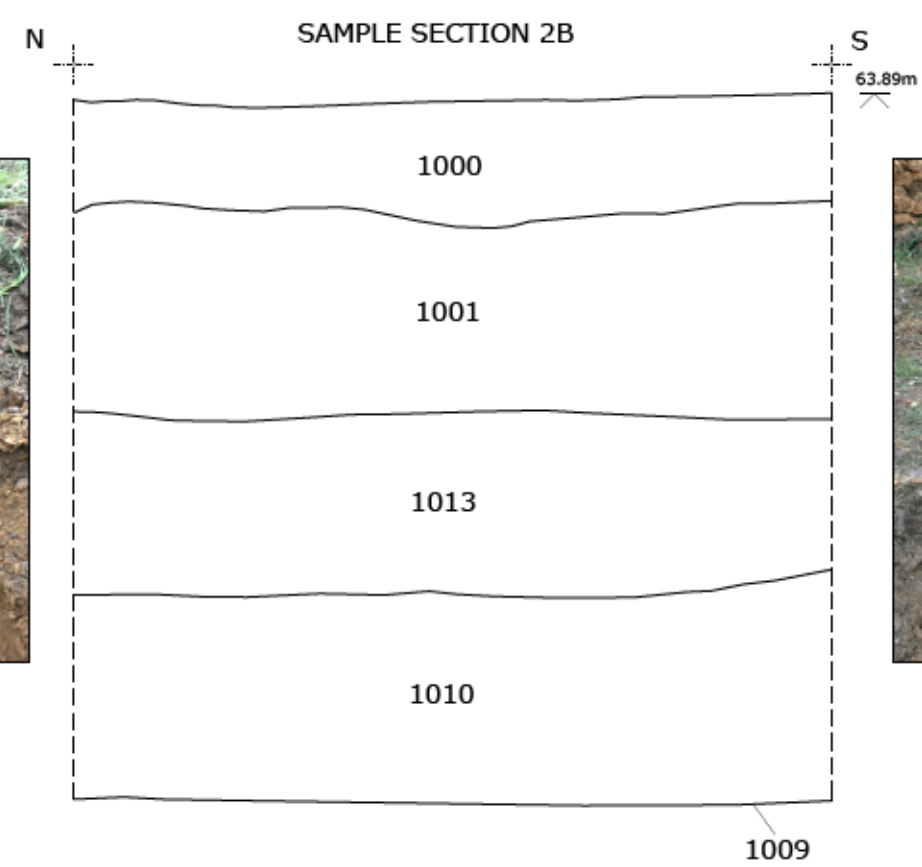
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DATE: MAY 2015	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 06



DP7 - Sample Section 2A - View E





DP8 - Ditch 1011 - View SW



DP9 - Sample Section 2B - View E



DP10 - Post Excavation Trench 2 - View N

 SS 1A	Trench Section Line
	Section Line

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PROJECT:	FOX MEADOWS, BARKING ROAD, BARKING, SUFFOLK		

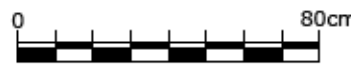

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DATE:	MAY 2015	AUTHOR:	MCA	FIGURE:	07