



Archaeological Evaluation

**Silverwood
Ixworth Road, Pakenham**

PKM 100

**Heather Wallis
December 2014**

HW Report No. 154



Project name	Silverwood
Parish	Pakenham
NER No.	PKM 100
Event No.	ESF 22558
Grid Ref.	TL 9213 6747
Date of Work	4th December 2014

Summary

A single evaluation trench was excavated at a domestic property in Pakenham. The edge of a single feature, interpreted as a possible pit or linear feature was recorded. No dating evidence was recovered.

Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a rear extension and double garage at Silverwood, Ixworth Road, Pakenham with the condition that an archaeological investigation be undertaken. In this instance a single evaluation trench within the footprint of the new garage has been requested (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Brief dated 20/10/14).

Location and Geology

The site is located close to a crossroads on the east edge of the village of Pakenham (Fig. 1) beyond which lay agricultural land.

The British Geological Survey (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>) indicates that the underlying bedrock geology of the region is chalk overlain by alluvial deposits of, sands, gravels silts and clays.

Archaeological Background

The development site lies close to a major Roman road and some 2.5km to the south of the Roman fort and settlement at Pakenham. In 1951 a human skeleton was found in the garden of a neighbouring house. It is due to the presence of human remains that an evaluation of this site was requested.

Methods

One trench was excavated on the site within the footprint of the proposed garage measuring 1.8m x 9m. Its precise location was influenced by the presence of modern treeboles. As one archaeological feature occupied over half of this trench a small spur (2.4m x 1.1m) was also excavated in order to identify the presence or absence of smaller archaeological features and in particular and human remains (Fig. 2).

Initial excavation was by machine using a flat-bladed bucket and operating under constant archaeological supervision. Soils were removed in appropriate spits until the natural subsoil was reached.

Below the upper topsoil all soils within the trench was surprising dry and extremely compacted.

A site plan was drawn at 1:50 and sections at 1:20 and 1:10. The photographic record consists of black and white negatives and colour digital images. The written record consists of context descriptions on *pro-forma* recording sheets.

Works were carried out in full accordance with national and regional guidelines for the treatment of archaeological remains, and in particular the guidance set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994 revised 2001 and 2008).

Results (Figs 3 and 4)

The natural subsoil was orange clay with patches of sand (05).

Part of one feature [04] was revealed in the base of the trench cut into the natural clay (Plate 1). This feature ran almost the full length of the trench along its western edge. A section was excavated across this. This was undertaken by machine as the soils were too compact for hand excavation. A single fill (03) of mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent chalk fleck, occasional medium flints and occasional patches of large flints was revealed. This feature was 0.5m deep and its sides sloped gently down to a flat base. No artefacts were recovered from this feature. It is thought that this could either be the edge of a large shallow extraction pit or an earlier field boundary ditch.

Over this feature lay a subsoil of dark orange brown sandy clay (02) with occasional small flints. This subsoil was c.0.4m deep in the west section but was less noticeable in the east section. This variation may be due to the deeper cultivation of the garden away from the hedged boundary

The topsoil was dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional ceramic building material flecks, occasional medium flint and occasional chalk flecks. This had been under garden cultivation with trees, shrubs and vegetables.

In the south-east corner of the trench a brick structure measuring 0.9mx0.7m was revealed (Plate 2). This was an overflow chamber for the now disused soakaway. A similar chamber lay c.4.5m to the north of this. A narrow gulley was located within the spur of the evaluation trench which appeared to join the two chambers.

Finds from the site amount to three fragments of unstratified animal bone.

Conclusions

No human remains or grave cuts were identified in the evaluation trench. One feature of unknown date was recorded. This could be the edge of clay extraction pit or the edge of an earlier field boundary.

Two modern brick chambers were also noted, and the presence of other modern disturbances, such as treeholes was also noted in or near the proposed garage footprint.





Figure 1. Site location.

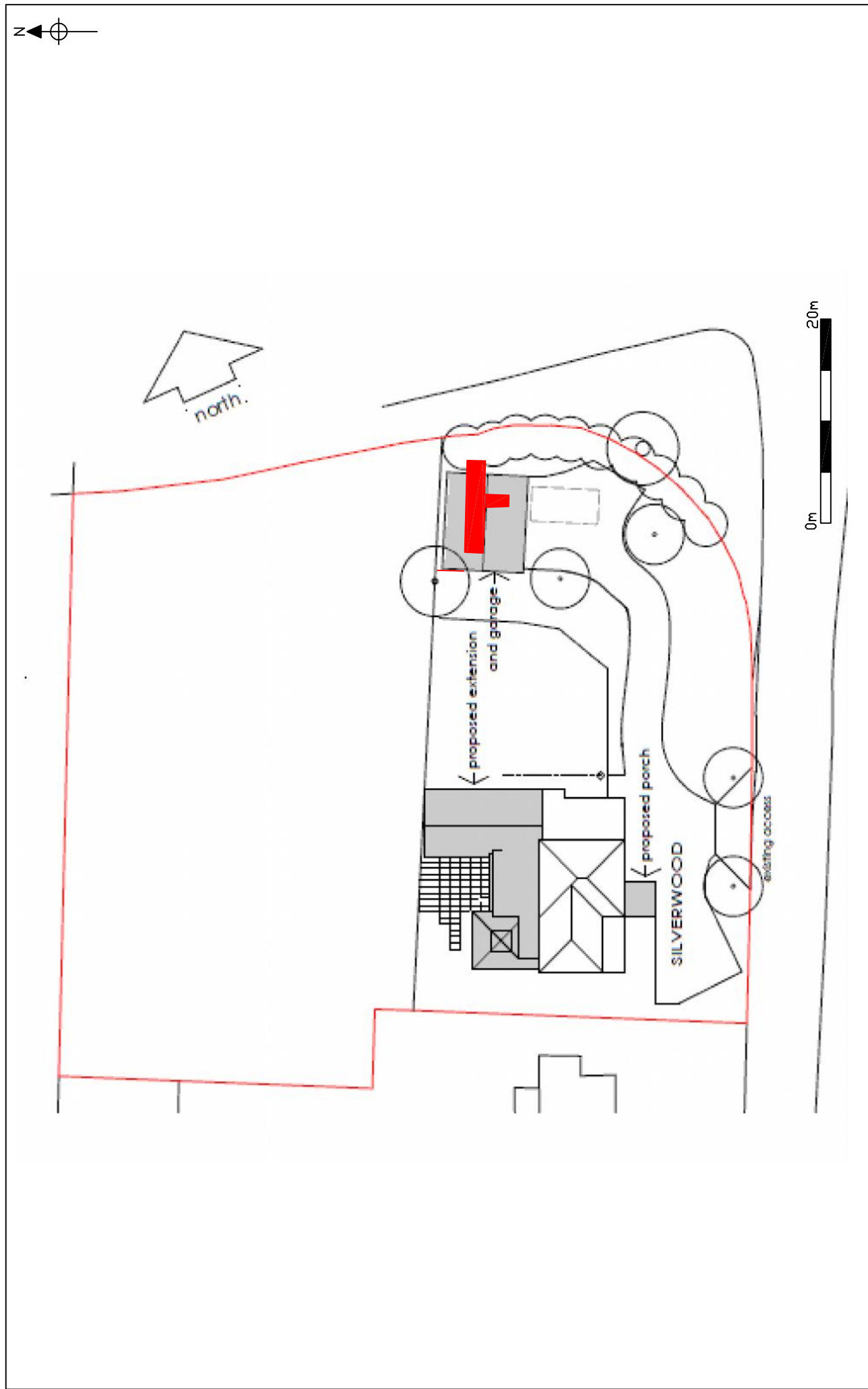


Figure 2. Plan showing proposed development and trench location. Scale 1:500.

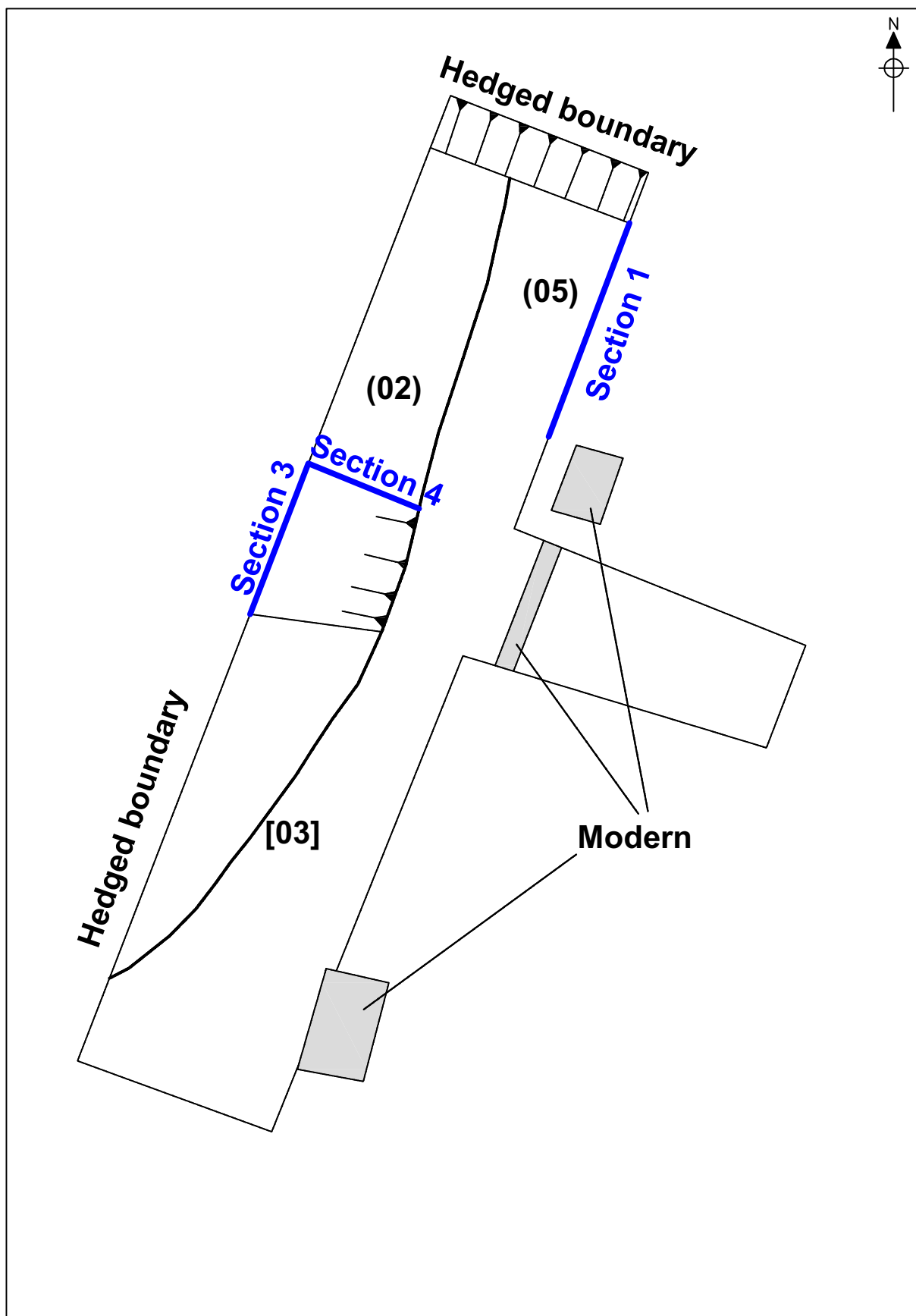


Figure 3. Plan of trench. Scale 1:50.

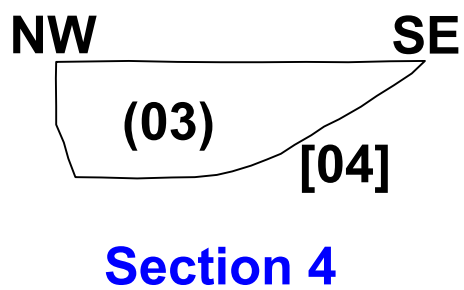
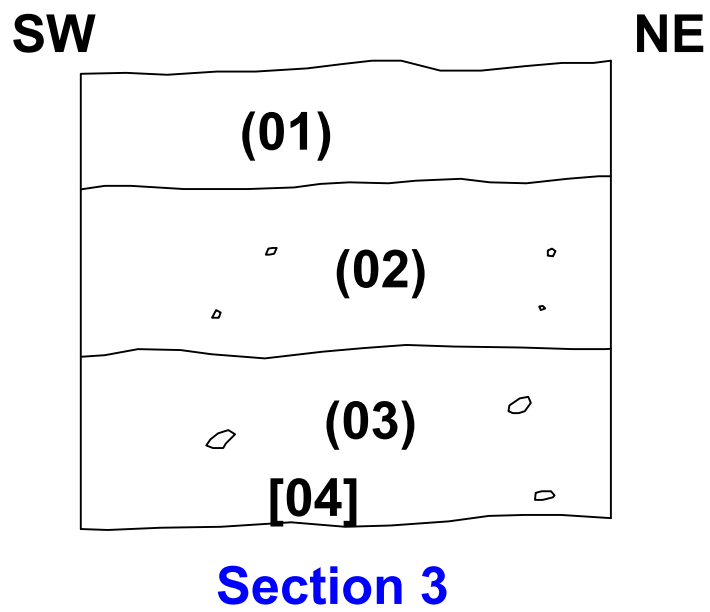
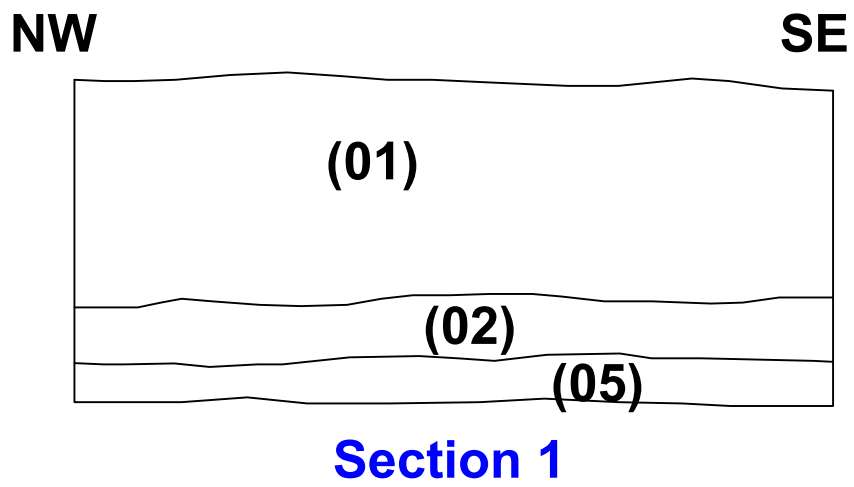


Figure 4. Sections. Scale 1:20.



Plate 1. View of trench, looking south-west. Feature [04] on right.



Plate 2. Brick chamber, with feature [04] in background.

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Project details

Project name	Silverwood, Pakenham
Short description of the project	A single evaluation trench was excavated at a domestic property in Pakenham as in 1951 a human skeleton had been found in the garden of a neighbouring property. The edge of a single feature was revealed in the trench. This can be interpreted as a possible pit or linear feature. No dating evidence was recovered.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2014 End: 04-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22558 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	?PIT Uncertain
Monument type	?DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY PAKENHAM Silverwood, Ixworth Road
Study area	16.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9213 6746 52.2712011343 0.816275359426 52 16 16 N 000 48 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Heather Wallis
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heather Wallis

Project director/manager	Heather Wallis
Project supervisor	None
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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