

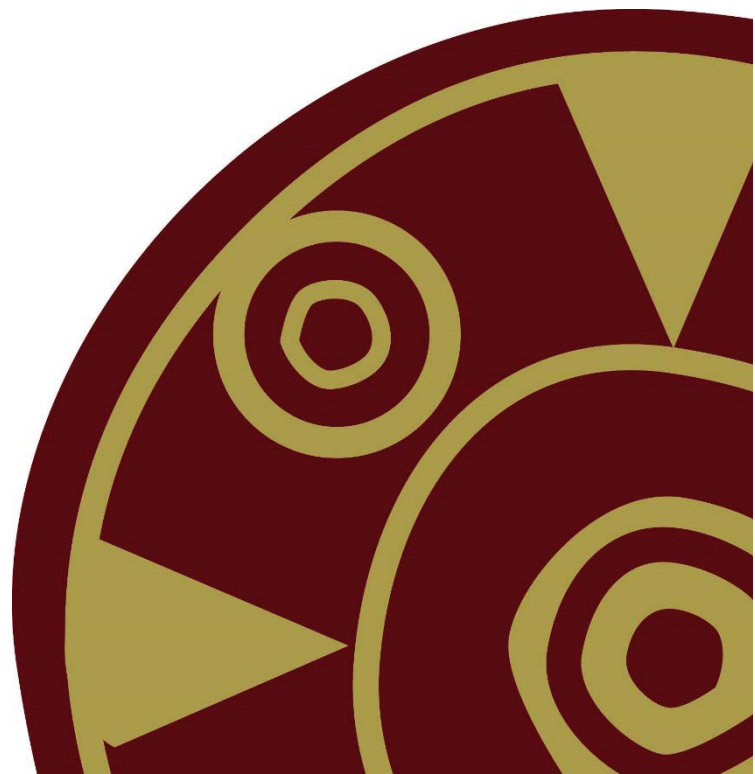


Land adjacent 1, St. Johns
Street,
Beck Row, Suffolk

Client: RPV Group

Date: May 2015

MNL 718
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2015/35
Author: Linzi Everett
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HER Information

Site Code: MNL 718

Site Name: Land adjacent 1, St. Johns Street, Beck Row

Report Number 2015/35

Planning Application No: Pre-planning

Date of Fieldwork: 7th May 2015

Grid Reference: TL 6960 7720

Oasis Reference: suffolka1- 210231

Curatorial Officer: Rachael Abraham

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

Client/Funding Body: RPV Group

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Linzi Everett

Date: May 2015

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner

Position: Managing Director

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

Four evaluation trenches were excavated on land adjacent to 1, St. Johns Street, Beck Row in order to fulfil pre-planning requirements for proposed residential development. Trenching followed a geophysical survey which identified a number of anomalies of likely archaeological origin and provided a focus for each trench. Excavation proved the geophysical targets to be genuine cut features including two large, deep ditches, one of which appeared to be re-cut sometime from the late medieval period, as well as two modern rubbish pits. Other features recorded include a pit or hollow filled with Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material and three ditches, two of which could be related to boundaries shown on historic maps.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to 1, St. Johns Street, Beck Row (MNL 718; TL 6960 7720; Fig. 1) to fulfil pre-planning requirements. The work was carried out to a Brief issued by Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCASCT) and to a Written Scheme of Investigation by Linzi Everett (Suffolk Archaeology CIC, Appendix I). The work was funded by RPV Group and carried out on the 7th-8th May 2015.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located on the edge of the fens, towards the southern fringe of the village of Beck Row. It comprises an irregularly shaped plot of 2.2 hectares bounded by housing at a height of between 5m OD and 6m OD. The land is generally flat, though the northern half of the site contains suggestions of slight undulating earthworks.

The geology of the area is recorded as superficial River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel) over chalk bedrock. A nearby borehole log recorded peat deposits beneath limited topsoil deposits up to 1.75m below ground level.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site is located on the edge of the historic settlement area of Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill (recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 675), and lies within 500m of a medieval moated site at Aspal Hall (MNL 083). Medieval activity was identified during evaluation at 65, The Street (MNL 576) whilst directly opposite, Roman and prehistoric features were recorded at MNL 619. A prehistoric hearth pit and post-medieval boundary ditch were identified east of the site at MNL 579 whilst an undated ditch was the only feature observed during evaluation adjacent to the Kings Head, The Street (MNL 577). A nineteenth century barn and cart shed survive at Beck Lodge Farm (MNL 668).

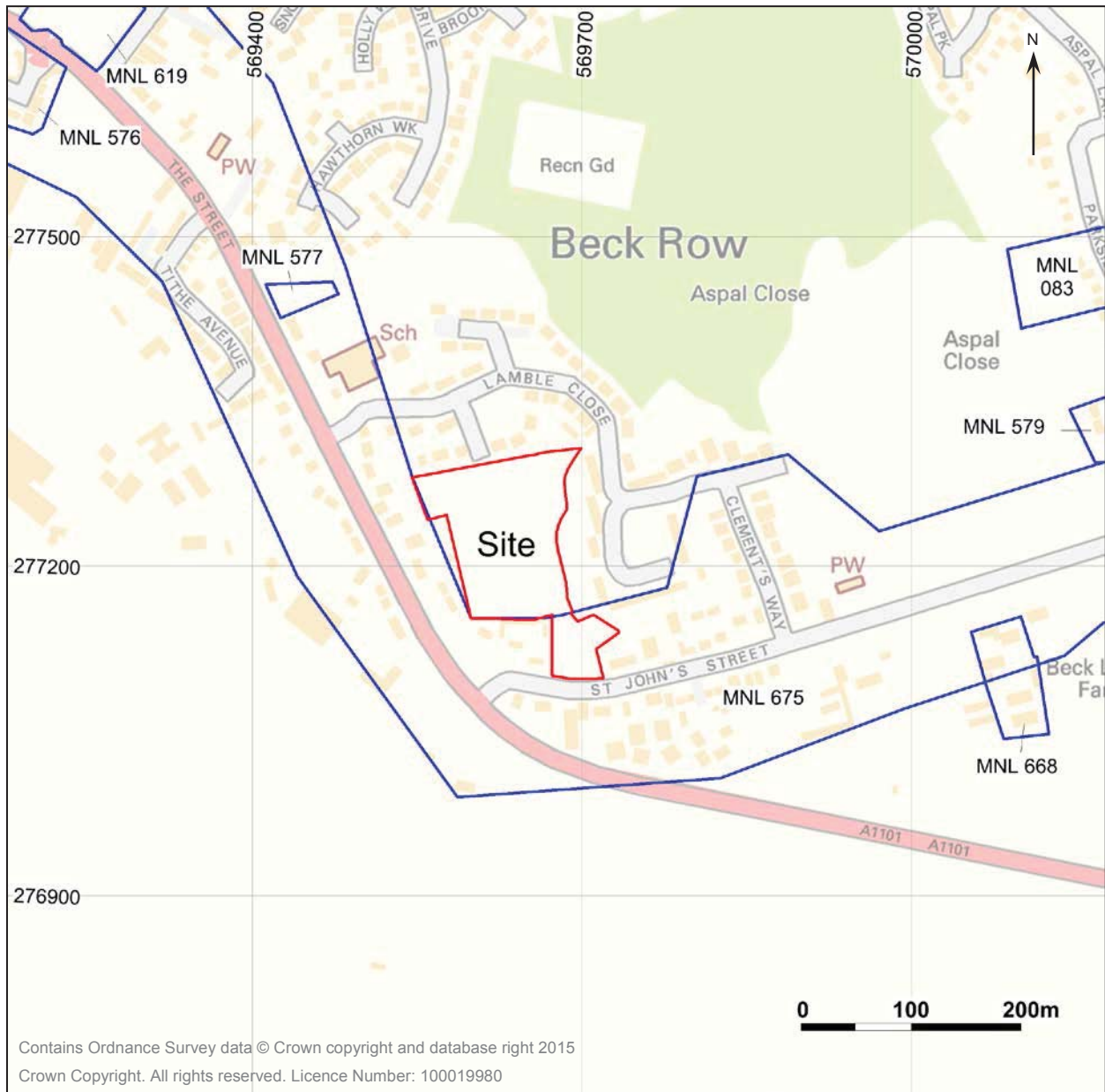
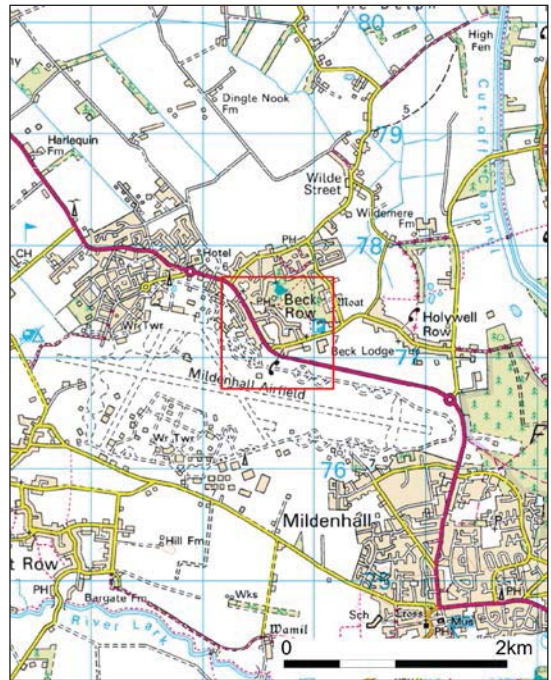


Figure 1. Site Location showing HER entries (blue)

4. Methodology

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and were located to target geophysical anomalies identified during a geophysical survey carried out by Britannia Archaeology Ltd. (Report no. 1092). Four trenches were excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket. The work was constantly monitored and directed by an experienced archaeologist. The topsoil was removed, followed in places by a subsoil layer, to expose the natural geology.

The base of each trench was examined for features or finds of archaeological interest and the upcast spoil was examined visually for any archaeological finds and subject to metal detector survey. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposits encountered.

The site has been given the Suffolk HER code MNL 718. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record (for the Archaeological Data Service) has been initiated and the reference code suffolka1-210231 has been used for this project. Colour digital photographs were taken of the trenches and their soil profiles and the positions of the trenches were plotted using a GPS.

5. Results

Trench 1 (Figs. 3&4; Plates 1&2)

A 300mm thick layer of mid brown loamy sand topsoil was removed from the trench, followed by a subsoil layer. Three features were recorded, all of which cut subsoil layer 0002, a fine, mid brown sand layer between the topsoil and natural subsoil.

0003 was a narrow, shallow N-S aligned ditch with rounded sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. It appears to relate to a field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1882. The recorded section showed a suggestion of a re-cut in the topsoil above the ditch cut but it was not clear enough to be certain this had occurred.

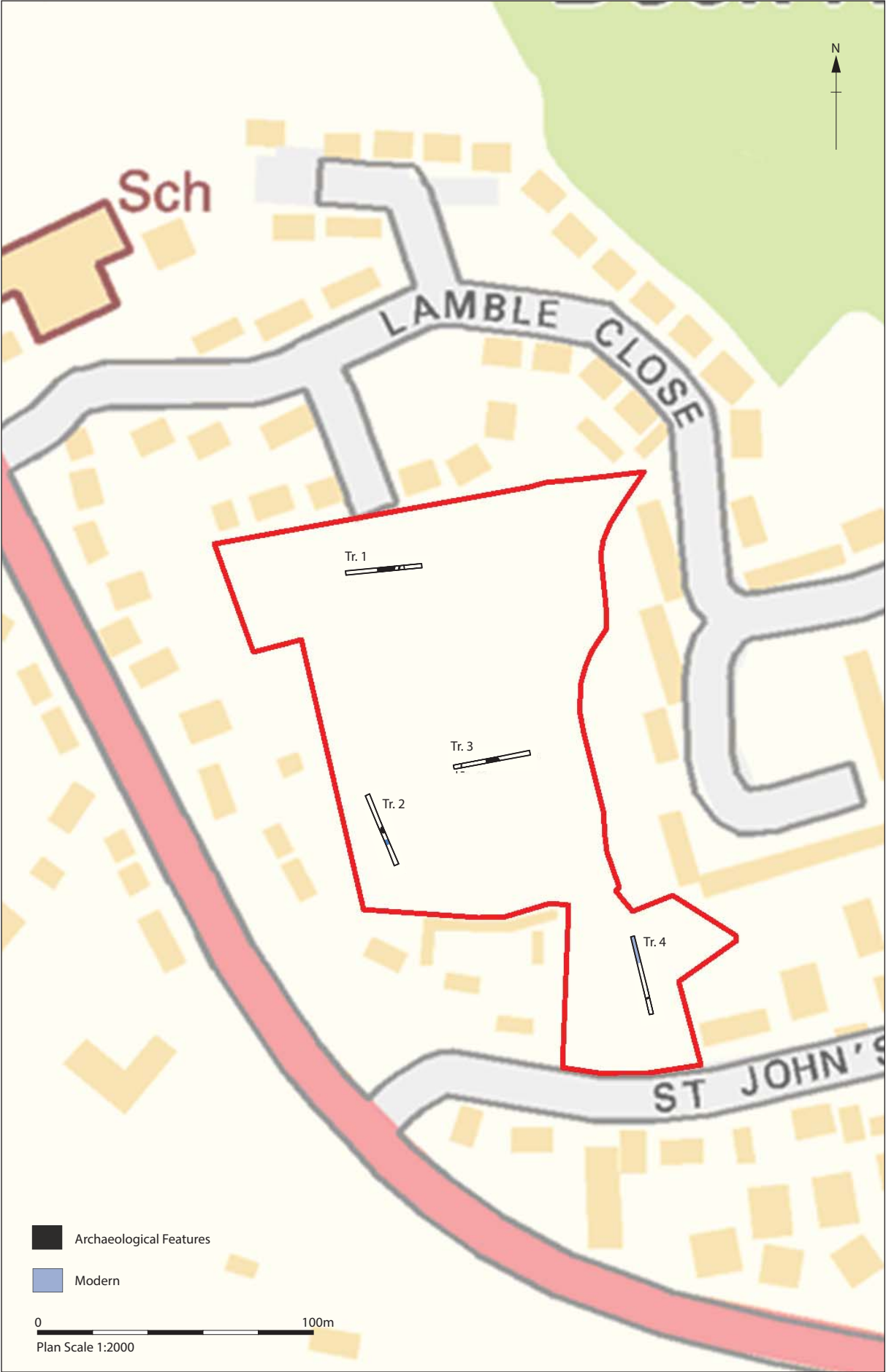


Figure 2. Site plan

0008 was a large, deep feature approximately central to the trench, with shallow sloping sides, stepped in places on the east side, and steeper towards the base. It measured 7.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m from the ground surface. Three distinct fills were recorded, all of which comprised quite sterile fine sands, the lowest of which was darker brown and more humic. A sheep vertebrae and a fragment of a molar tooth were found in this fill, 0011, as well as an oyster shell.

Adjacent to, and parallel with the eastern edge of 0008 was a NNE-SSW aligned ditch, **0005**. This feature was narrow with sloping sides break to a rounded base, and was filled by a pale greyish brown fine sand, darker towards the base, with patches of orange sand mottling from which no finds were recovered.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking W



Plate 2. Excavated sections of 0008, looking S

S.1

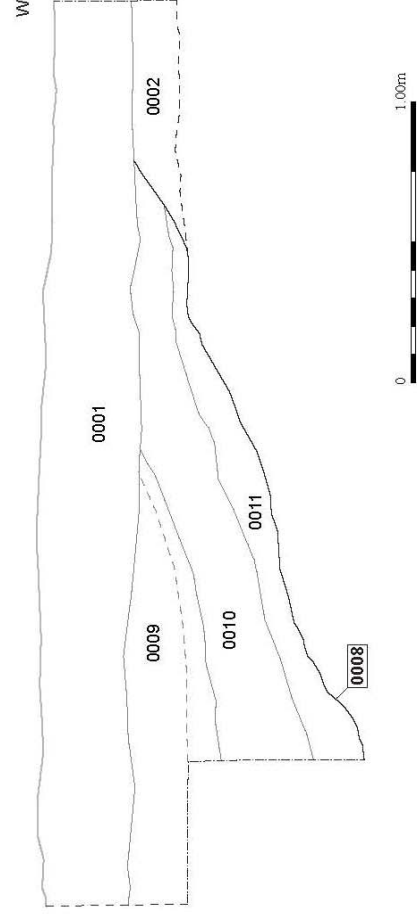
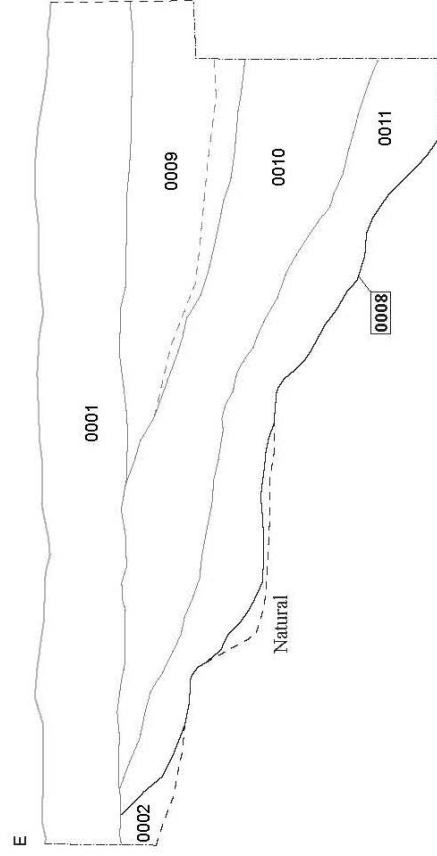


Figure 3. Ditch 0008, E-W section

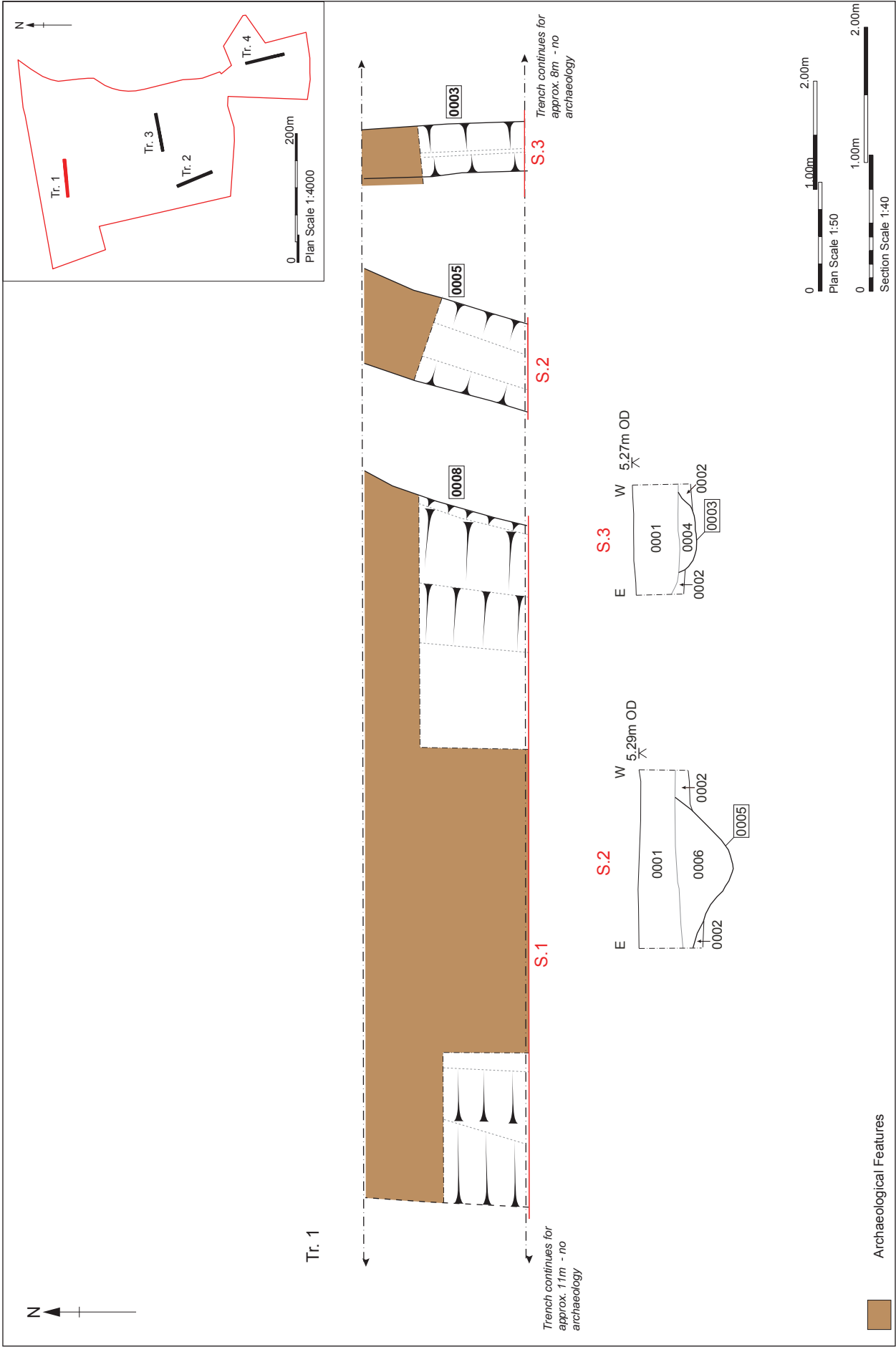


Figure 4. Trench 1, plan and sections

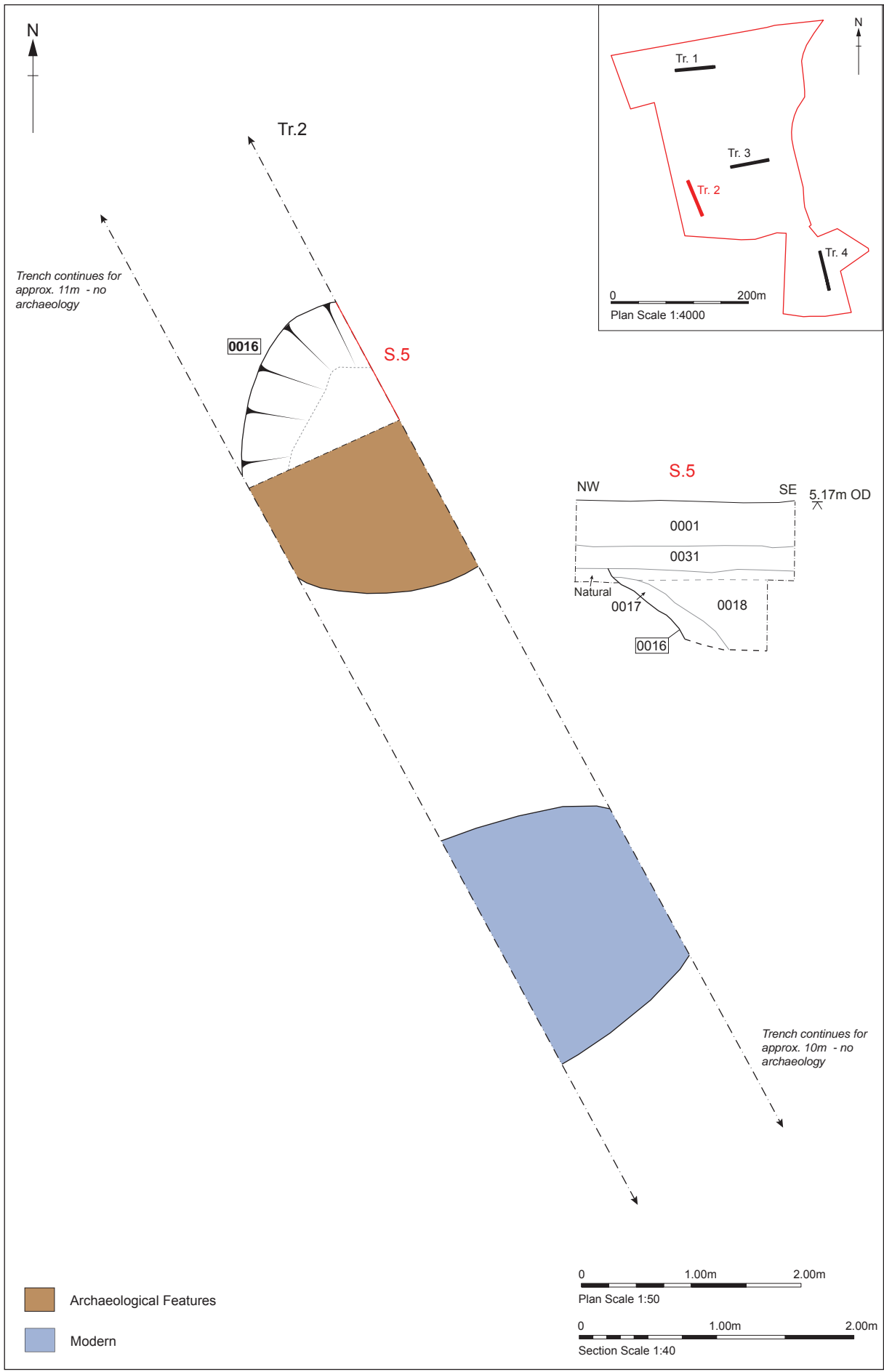


Figure 5. Trench 2, plan and sections

Trench 2 (Fig. 5; Plate 3)

0016 was a sub circular pit with gently sloping sides, the full depth of which was not established having halted excavation at a depth of 1.1m. Its upper fill, 0018, was a fine pale yellowish grey sand very similar to the natural subsoil in this trench, whilst the lower fill, 0017, was a more greyish yellow sand and contain ten sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and a number of struck flint flakes.

A large rubbish pit, mostly filled with jars and bottles of early 20th century date, was observed towards the southern end of the trench, correlating to a geophysical anomaly.



Plate 3. NNW-SSE section through pit 0016

Trench 3 (Plate 4)

0015 was a large, deep feature with sloping sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. It measured c.3.2m wide and 1.34m deep and was very similar in character to 0008 recorded in Trench 1. It appeared to have been re-cut and subsequently filled by a mid brown humic sand basal fill, 0024, from which an oyster shell and a green glazed ceramic head (Plate 7), were the only finds recovered from the feature. The

face is likely to have been a decorative support from the rim of a late medieval chafing dish. The western edge of 0015 seemed to cut a narrow N-S ditch, **0019**, which was fairly shallow with a rounded profile. Its primary fill was a mottled yellow and brown sand and appeared to be disturbed, likely by an animal burrow.

0012 was a NNE-SSW ditch in the western end of the trench with evenly sloping sides breaking gradually to a rounded base. A thin dark blackish brown sand layer with charcoal flecks lined the features base, sealed by a mixed mid grey and orange sand fill. No finds were recovered from either fill.



Plate 4. WSW-ENE section through ditches 0019 and 0015

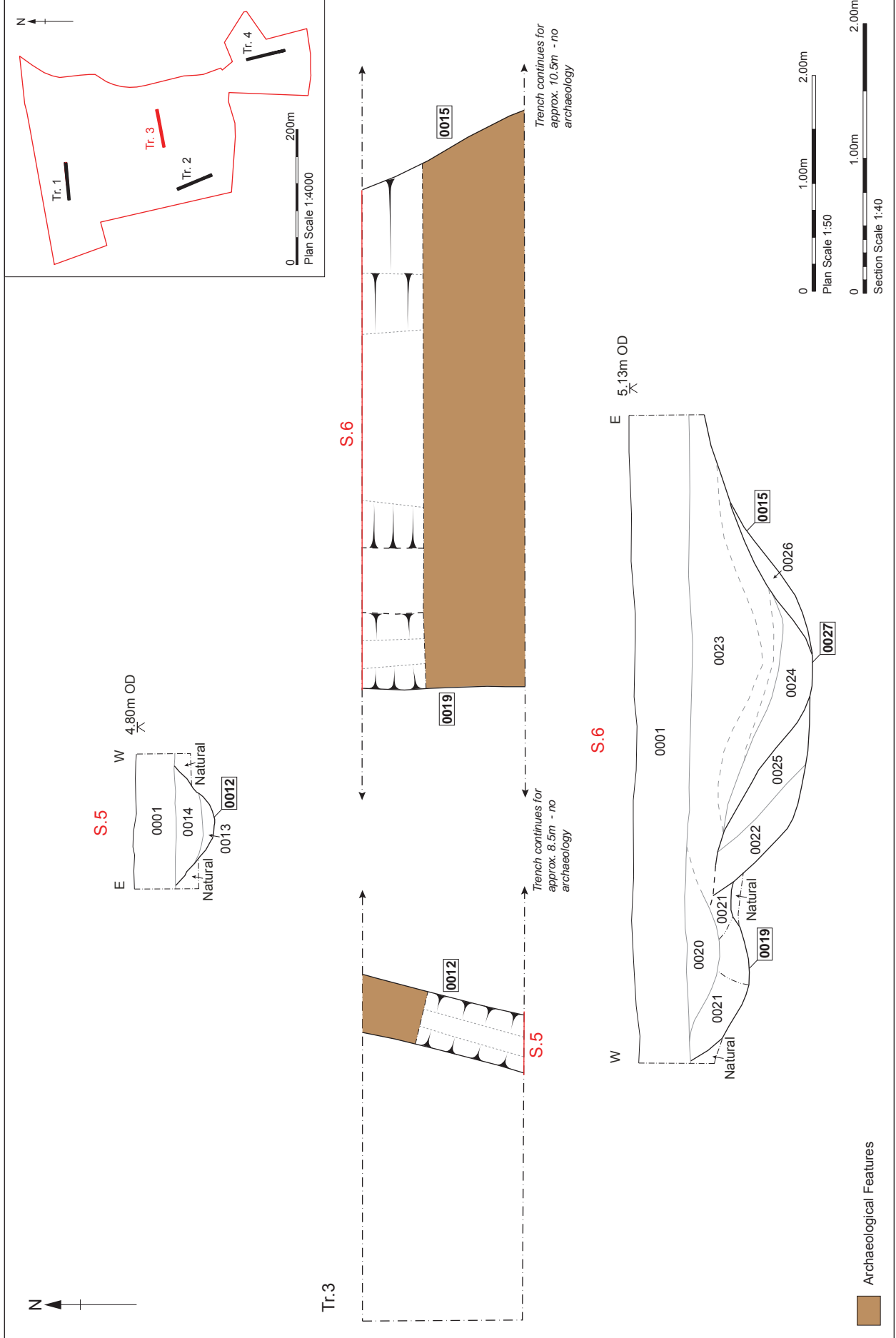


Figure 6. Trench 3, plan and sections

Trench 4 (Fig.7; Plates 5&6)

The first 10m from the north end of the trench was heavily disturbed by a number of intercutting modern pits to a depth of c.0.6m. Beneath this in the very end of the trench was a large pit measuring 3.2m wide and 1.2m deep which was filled with tight packed late 19th century rubbish such as bottles, metalwork, ceramics and leather scraps. The density of metal objects was high, and many were identifiable as agricultural tools including scythe blades, shovels and spades. Four small square post holes were also noted in the trench base, each filled with dark brown topsoil fill and remnants of rotting wood, leading to the interpretation of these features as recent fence post bases.

0028 was ENE-WSW aligned ditch in the southern end of the trench, filled by pale greyish brown fine sand, from which a single sherd of late medieval pottery was recovered. Snail shells were noted towards the base of the cut.



Plate 5. Trench 4, looking N



Plate 6. NNW-SSE section through ditch 0028

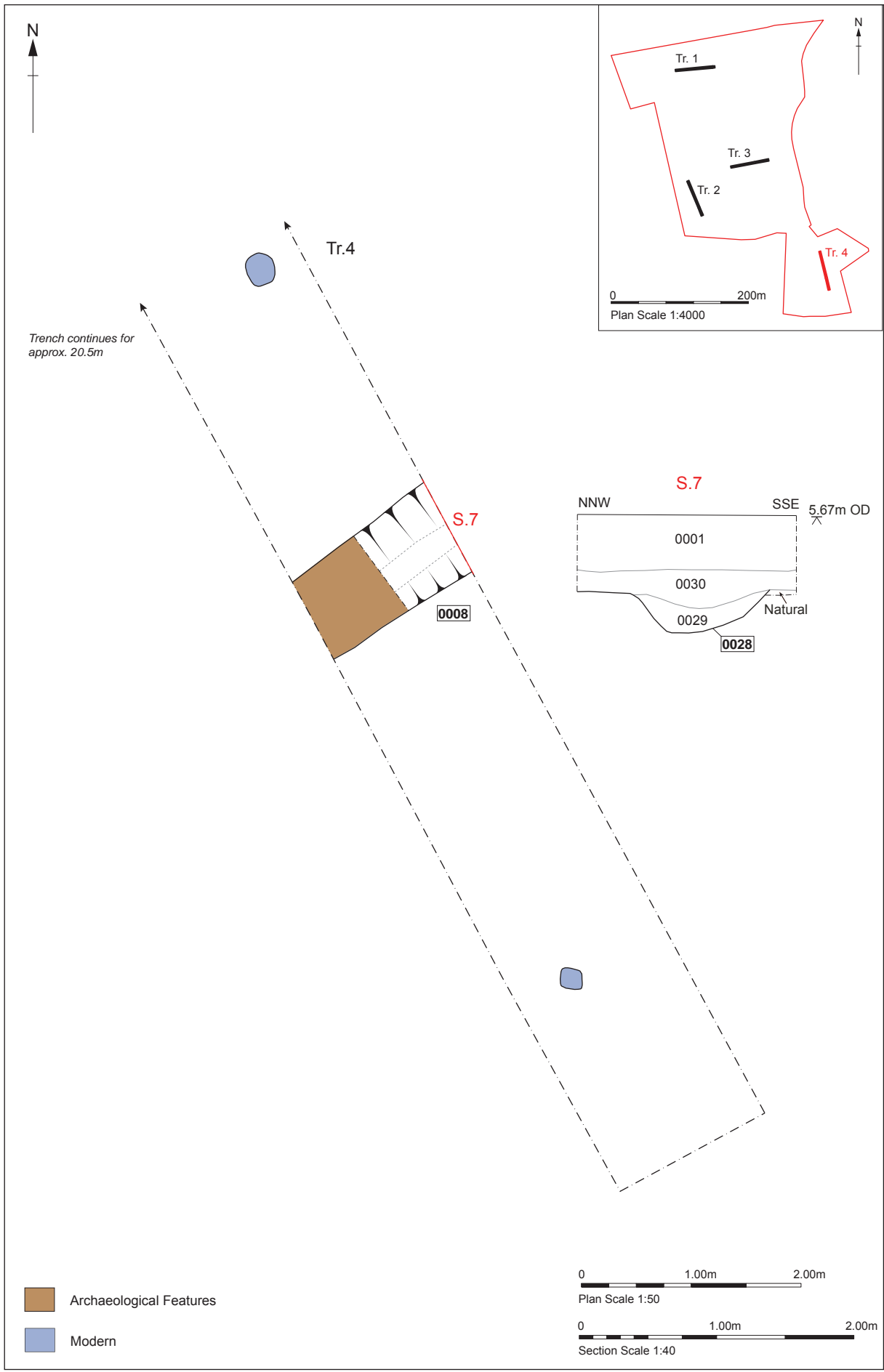


Figure 7. Trench 4, plan and section

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Small quantities of finds were recovered from four trenches, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		W Flint		Animal Bone		Oyster Shell		Trench No	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	2	25	2	33	0	0	0	0		16th-18th C
0011	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	4	1	Undated
0017	10	19	34	78	0	0	0	0	2	Late Neo/earlier Bronze Age
0024	1	28	0	0	0	0	6	8	3	15th-16th C
0029	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	Late med
Total	14	87	36	111	2	9	7	12		

Table 1. Finds quantities

The Pottery

Introduction and method

Fourteen fragments of pottery weighing 87g in total were recovered from three of the evaluation trenches. The ceramics are wide ranging in date, from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period.

The number of sherds present in each context by fabric, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric was noted. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and condition were recorded, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was catalogued by context using letter codes based on fabric and form. For the Post-Roman pottery 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). The pottery catalogue is shown in Appendix 4.

Prehistoric pottery

Ten small sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill 0017 of pit 0016 in Trench 2. They are likely to have originated from the same vessel. The fragments are hand-made in a fine sandy soft fabric with grog inclusions and moderate small circular voids. They have a dark grey inner core and a buff to reddish brown outer margin. The largest sherd is decorated with an applied cordon which has a transverse groove, together with narrow incised lines which run approximately parallel to the cordon.

The fabric and decoration of this vessel indicate that it belongs to the Grooved ware tradition dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. The largest sherd shows some curvature but it is not possible to suggest what the form of the vessel would be. A similar combination of fabric and decoration was found on ceramics from a much larger assemblage in north-eastern Suffolk, from Flixton Quarry (Percival 2012).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

A small body sherd of a Hollesley-type ware dating to the late 13th-14th century was present in the topsoil (0001). A larger fragment of late medieval pottery was identified in the fill 0029 of ditch 0028 in Trench 4. It has a mid grey inner margin with an oxidised orange outer margin and is made in a sandy fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions. The outer surface is partially covered with dribbles of lead glaze. The sherd is from a Late Medieval Ely ware (LMEL) dating to the 14th-15th century (Spoerry 13, and 31).

A single fragment of pottery was recovered from fill 0024 of ditch 0027 in Trench 3. It is a small human head crudely made with incised eyes and mouth, and long straight nose (Plate 7). Its forehead and the side of the head are made of cusp-like flanges of clay, but there probably would have been a third flange on the other side which is missing through damage. It is partially covered with a green glaze to which copper has been added and is made in a fine fabric with moderate red grog inclusions and small voids. It is similar to late medieval and transitional wares which span the late medieval - early post-medieval period. The fragment most probably was attached to

the upper part of a chafing dish, and would have formed one of several heads (probably three) which were located around the rim of the vessel to provide supports for any dishes which were resting over this heating device.



Plate 7. Ceramic head from ditch 0027

Although uncommon, such anthropomorphic vessels are not unknown. The more substantial remains of a chafing dish which has anthropomorphic heads affixed to the rim was recovered from the Seal House and Billingsgate excavations in London (Pearce et al, 1985 44 and fig. 73). Here in addition to the heads, there were applied arms on each side of the heads, providing the effect of three individuals holding hands around the rim of the dish. This particular example is considered to be medieval as the sherds were found in an early 13th century context. Fragments of human faces from LMT ware chafing dishes have been found in sites in Norwich (Jennings, fig. 28, nos. 477-479) but these tend to be from the handles.

The example from the evaluation is not likely to date before the fifteenth century.

A single slightly abraded sherd of Glazed red earthenware was found in topsoil deposit 0001 dating to the 16th-18th century.

Struck flint

Michael Green

Introduction

Thirty-six fragments of struck flint were recovered from two fills 0001 and 0017. All pieces from fill 0017 of pit 0016 apart from one broken flake showed moderate patination and were a light grey glassy flint. The darker brown coloured flints from 0001 (topsoil) included a damaged end scraper and a flake.

Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded in the table below. The material was classified by type with the number of fragments and corticated and patinated pieces being recorded and the condition of the flint being noted in the discussion.

Context No	Type	Patination	Cortex %	Number	Weight (g)
0001	End scraper	Moderate	0	1	27
0001	Flake (broken)	Moderate	0	1	5
0017	Flake (thinning)	Moderate	0	7	32
0017	Flake (broken)	Moderate	0	8	7
0017	Flake (broken)	light	60%	1	1
0017	Flake	Moderate	0	2	3
0017	Flake (Core rejuvenation)	Moderate	0	2	13
0017	Small Flake (chip)	Moderate	0	7	2
0017	Small Flake (chip)	Moderate	5%	3	2
0017	Flake	Moderate	0	2	3
0017	Burnt flint	Moderate	20%	2	16
	Total			36	111

Table 2. Flint summarised by type

Discussion

The struck flint from the topsoil (0001) was darker in colour and showed signs of recent edge damage. The end scraper from this context is most likely to be Neolithic in date due to the size and the flint knapping techniques used although it is possible that it may be later in date as the production of these tools is similar in later periods.

The majority of the struck flint found was from fill 0017 of pit 0016. The assemblage from this feature includes thinning flakes, small flakes or chips, broken flakes and core rejuvenation flakes. Most of the flakes from this group show prominent bulbs

and distinct lines of percussion suggesting that a hard hammer was used for much of the flint working; this is also evident by smaller broken flakes that are a result of hinge fracture. Four of the larger thinning flakes show signs that a soft hammer was also used as they do not have distinct bulbs and are relatively thin in comparison to the other hard hammer flakes in the assemblage.

Conclusion

The assemblage from this site is likely to represent a Late Neolithic single knapping event for the production of tools. The size of some of the soft hammer struck thinning flakes alongside the smaller hard hammer flakes makes it most likely that this activity represents evidence of larger tool production such as axes. The lack of cortex on most pieces may also suggest that the primary reduction and cortex removal occurred elsewhere, possibly near to where the flint was sourced. This type of flint is locally commonly found and most likely has not been extracted through mining.

Faunal remains

A cervical vertebra of a sheep (Laszlo Lichtenstein, pers. comm.) and a fragment of a molar tooth was found in fill 0011 together with an oyster shell.

Environmental evidence

Anna West

Introduction and Methods

Two bulk samples were taken from archaeological features during the evaluation. The samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from 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 1995).

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

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

Remains 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	Approximate date of deposit	Flot Contents
1	0024	0027	Ditch	Medieval	Un-charred weed seeds #, Charcoal ++, Snails ++, Amphibian/small mammal bones +, Rootlets +
2	0029	0028	Ditch	Medieval	Charred cereal grains #, Un-charred weed seeds +, Charcoal +, Rootlets ++, Snails +++, Amphibian/small mammal bones #

Table 3. Flot results

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

Both samples produced relatively small flots of around 100ml. The majority of this material was made up of root fragments and snail shells. Small fragments of wood charcoal were present in both flots but were highly comminuted making them unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

Sample 2, fill 0029 from ditch 0028 contained a small number of charred cereal grains, a couple of these were identifiable as Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) others were puffed and fragmented, consistent with having been exposed to combustion at high temperatures, making identification difficult at this stage. No chaff elements were observed within either of the flots.

Uncharred weed seeds in the form of Elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) were common in both samples but are likely to be intrusive within the archaeological deposits.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. A small number of the cereal grains present within Sample 2, 0029, are identifiable to an archaeobotanist and 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. However it is most likely that this material represents domestic waste, chance loss in the oven or hearth, which has then been disposed of as domestic refuse within the archaeological features. As the material present is fragmented and abraded it is also possible that it has been moved across the site from its original location, being windblown or trampled, 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.

7. Discussion

The four trenches were positioned in order to target anomalies identified during a geophysical survey which were believed to be likely to be archaeological in nature. In each trench, the main feature targeted proved to be a genuine cut feature, though not always of any antiquity; the large anomalies in the centre of Trench 2 and in the north of Trench 4 were 20th and 19th century rubbish pits respectively. The former in Trench 4 was interesting for its high density of metal tools and objects. This could be agricultural rubbish or it could be related to the former smithy adjacent to the south eastern corner of the site (marked 'Sm.' on Fig. 8). The contents of the rubbish pit in Trench 2 was much more domestic in nature and is likely to be associated with the former cottages shown immediately east of the trench on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

Two positive linear features (shaded red on the geophysical interpretation plot) were tested in Trench 1 and 3 and recorded as ditches. These were very similar features, both deep, wide and with fairly sterile fills, characteristics which would have likely led to an interpretation of extraction pits had they not related to linear geophysical anomalies. In both cases, the lower fills (0011 in ditch 0008 and 0024 in re-cut 0027) were damp and slightly humic, suggesting that at some point, each had been water-bearing. It is interesting to note that both features had a smaller ditch adjacent to one edge but whether this is significant or co-incidental is unclear.

Pit 0016 in Trench 2 was not convincing as an archaeological feature, and could represent a natural hollow where the lower fill is a buried topsoil sealed by windblown material. The flint assemblage from this context appear to be waste flakes from a single episode of tool production. Whether it is a natural feature or a human intervention, fragments of diagnostic prehistoric pottery and struck flint which provide evidence of a single manufacturing event for flint tools are significant indicators of early activity on the fen edge during the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.

Ditches 0003 (Trench 1), 0012 (Trench 3) and 0028 (Trench 4) were not picked up by geophysics but two of the three can be related to features visible on historic maps.

0003 matches with a field boundary shown on Figure 8 and 0028 aligns with the rear boundary of 3, 5 and 7 St. Johns Street, suggesting a continuation of that boundary which had gone out of use when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was drawn up in 1882. Ditch 0012 was undated and has no obvious relationship or shared alignment with anything shown on modern or historic maps. Late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was identified in Trenches 3 and 4, with fabrics reflecting the location of the site near Ely production centres.

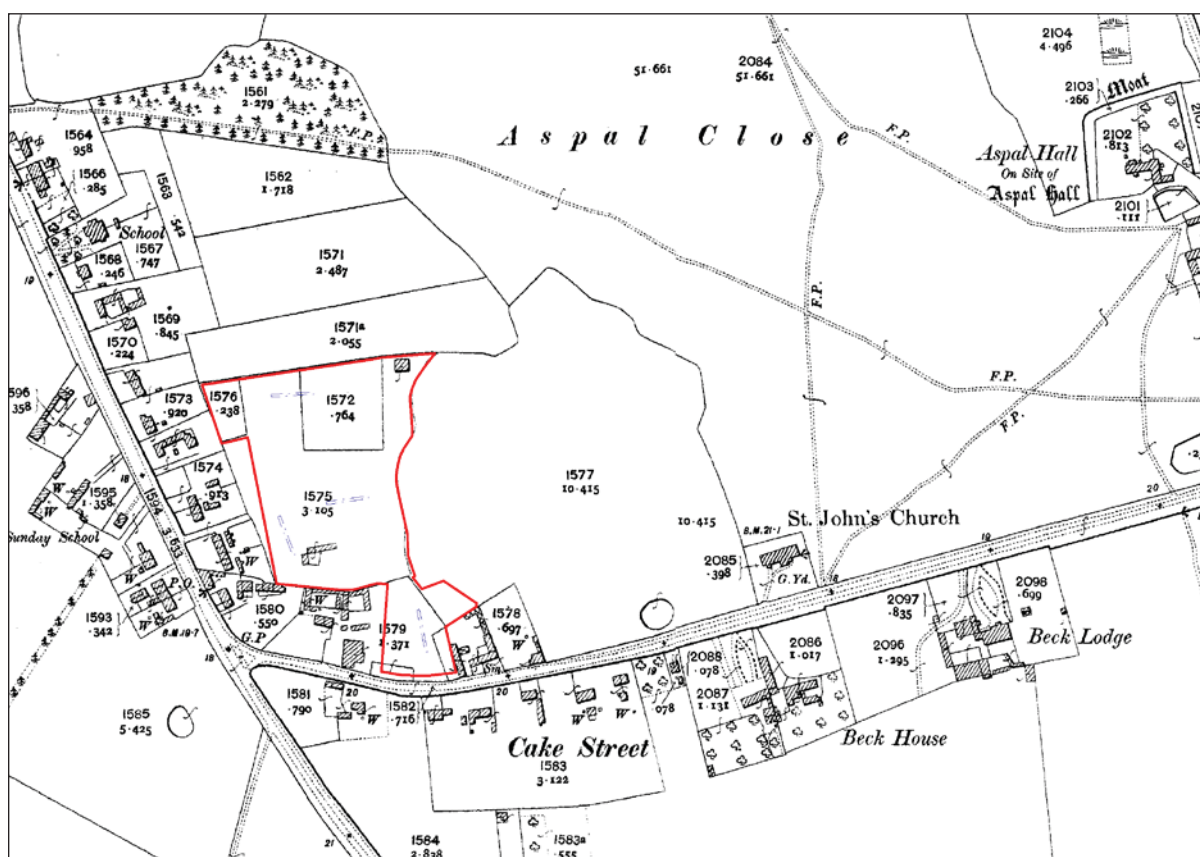


Figure 8. Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1882, with approximate trench locations shown in blue. The moated site of Aspal Hall is visible on the right of the map

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Evaluation successfully characterised the nature of the geophysical anomalies targeted by the trenches and identified other positive results in a sample of just under a 1% of the total area of the site. With a number of other geophysical anomalies recorded on the site and the trenching results suggesting the presence of additional features not identified by geophysics, further archaeological recording works are likely be required prior to any construction related groundworks, although the final decision on this rests with SCCAS Conservation Team.

9. Archive deposition

The archive is currently with Suffolk Archaeology CIC (Needham Market), but will be archived at the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code MNL 718 when all related archaeological works are completed.

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

Appendix 1

Context	Pottery		WFlint		Animal Bone		Oyster Shell		Miscellaneous	Ceramic Period
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	2	25	2	33	0	0	0	0		Medieval
0011	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	4		
0017	10	19	32	78	0	0	0	0		Prehistoric
0024	1	28	0	0	0	0	6	8		Medieval
0029	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0		Medieval
Total	14	87	34	111	2	9	7	12		

Appendix 2

Context	Ceramic period	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No of sherds	Weight (g)	ENV	Abrasion	Illustrate	Fabric spotdate	Overall spotdate
10	Med	MCW	Body		1	2	1			L12th-14th C	
10	PMed	GRE	Body		1	23	1			16th-18th C	16th-18th C
17	Pre	fsg	Body	Cord, Inc	10	19	1	A		Late Neo/EBA	Late Neo/EBA
24	LM/PM	LMT	Chaf	Anthro	1	28	1		YES	15th-16th C	15th-16th C
29	LM	LMEL	Body		1	15	1			14th-15th C	14th-15th C



Land Adjacent to 1, St Johns Street, Beck Row, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation

Trenched Evaluation

Date: April 2015

Prepared by: Linzi Everett

Issued to: Rachael Abraham (SCCAS Conservation Team)

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Summary Project Details

Site Name	Land Adjacent to 1, St Johns Street, Beck Row
Site Location/Parish	Beck Row
Grid Reference	TL 6963 7718
Access	Off St Johns Street
Planning Application No	TBC
HER number	MNL 718
Type:	Trial trench evaluation
Area	4x30m trenches
Project start date	7th May 2015
Fieldwork duration	2 day (estimated)
Number of personnel on site	Up to 2

Personnel and contact numbers

SACIC Project Manager	Rhodri Gardner	01449 900120
Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)	Linzi Everett	07753788606
Curatorial Officer	Rachael Abraham	01284 741232
Consultant		

Emergency contacts

Local Police	Kingsway, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 7HS	01473 613500
Location of nearest A&E	West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ	01284 713000

Hire details

Plant:	N/A	
Toilet Hire	N/A	
Tool hire:	N/A	

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1. Background

- 1.1 Suffolk Archaeology have been asked to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers this trenched evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.
- 1.2 The whole site is located at NGR TL 6963 7718 (Figure 1).
- 1.3 The work is to be undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application. A residential development is proposed for this site.
- 1.4 The LPA has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place prior to development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Para 141). The purpose of such a condition being the recording and advancement of understanding of any heritage assets present at the location before they are damaged or destroyed in the course of the development.
- 1.5 The archaeological investigation will be conducted in order to comply with a Brief produced for this specific proposal by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) (dated 21st April 2015).
- 1.6 The proposed site lies on the edge of the historic settlement area of Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill recorded on the County HER as MNL 675. A geophysical survey has been carried out at the site which detected a series of anomalies which are likely to be archaeological in nature. As such, the site has high potential for encountering archaeological deposits.
- 1.7 As the development has the potential to cause significant ground disturbance, and therefore damage buried remains, trial trenching is required to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed building footprint. The trial trench location is shown in Figure 2.
- 1.8 This WSI complies with the SCCAS standard Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2012, Ver. 1.1), as well as the following national and regional guidance 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation' (IFA, 1995, revised 2001) and 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occasional Papers 14, 2003).
- 1.9 The research aims of this trial trench evaluation are as follows, as described in Section 4.2 of the SCCAS Conservation Team brief:

RA1: 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.

RA2: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

RA3: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

RA4: Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

In addition to these specific aims the potential of the site to address any relevant themes outlined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000; Medlycott, 2011).

Figure 1. Site Location (circled red) – removed

Figure 2. Proposed trench layout (trenches in red), and trench locations in relation to the geophysical anomalies - removed

2 Fieldwork: trial trench evaluation

- 2.1 All archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by full-time professional employees of Suffolk Archaeology. The project team will be led in the field by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer grade/experience. The excavation team will comprise a Project Officer and up to 3 experienced excavators and surveyors (to include metal detectorist).
- 2.2 Evaluation of the development area in this instance will employ a total length of 120m of 1.8m wide trial trench, as specified in the brief (Section 3.3). The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and have been located to target geophysical anomalies.
- 2.3 No information has currently been provided about the presence or otherwise of services by the developer. Therefore if previously unknown services or similar restrictions are encountered during work on site then trench layout may have to be amended accordingly.
- 1.4 All trenches will be excavated by a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Spoil will be stored adjacent to each trench and topsoil, subsoil and concrete/overburden will be kept separate for sequential backfilling.
- 1.5 Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and the trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims and also comply with the SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation, 2012.
- 1.6 Trenches requiring access by staff for hand excavation and recording will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. Any trench in which this depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief and Specification will be brought to the attention of the client or their agent and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA so that further requirements can be established. Deeper excavation can be undertaken

provided suitable trench support is used or, where practicable, the trench sides are stepped or battered. However such a variation will incur further costs to the client and time must be allowed for this to be established and agreed.

- 1.7 All features will be investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features and deposits.
- 1.8 A site plan showing all trench locations, feature positions and levels AOD will be recorded using an RTK GPS or TST, depending on the specific requirements of the project. A minimum of one to two sections per trench will be recorded at 1:20. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:20 and trench and feature plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All recording conventions used will be compatible with the County HER.
- 1.9 The site will be recorded under a unique HER number acquired from the Suffolk HER Office and archaeological contexts will be recorded using pro forma Context Recording sheets and entered into an associated database.
- 1.10 The HER number in this instance is MNL 718.
- 1.11 A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.
- 1.12 Metal detector searches will be made at suitable stages of the excavation works.
- 1.13 All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed.
- 1.14 All finds will be brought back to the Suffolk Archaeology premises for processing, preliminary assessment, conservation and packing. Most finds analysis work will be done in house, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in other parts of the country.
- 1.15 Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from suitable features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions can then be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- 1.16 In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*. During the evaluation any exposed human remains will be securely covered and hidden from the public view at all times when they are not attended by staff. At the conclusion of the work backfilling will be carried out in a manner sensitive to the preservation of such remains.
- 1.17 If circumstances dictate that the lifting of human remains is unavoidable then a Ministry of Justice Licence for their removal will be obtained prior to their removal from site.

3 Post-excavation

- 3.1 A unique HER number will be acquired from the Suffolk HER. This will be clearly marked on all documentation and material relating to the project.
- 3.2 The post-excavation work will be managed by Suffolk Archaeology's Post-excavation and Finds Manager, Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff whether in-house personnel or external specialists are experienced in local and regional types of material in their field.
- 3.3 All artefacts and ecofacts will be held by Suffolk Archaeology until their analysis of the material is complete.
- 3.4 All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on archivally stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County HER photographic index.
- 3.5 All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.
- 3.6 Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context with a clear statement on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- 3.7 Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- 3.8 Pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994) and to The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for analysis and Publications, Occasional Papers No.1 and No. 2, 3rd Edition (Revised 2010, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group).
- 3.9 Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor with a clear statement of potential for further analysis and significance.
- 3.10 Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- 3.11 An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).

- 3.12 A report on the results of the evaluation will be completed within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The report will be commensurate with the level of results but will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should no further work be required on the site.
- 3.13 The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual "Archaeology of Suffolk" section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 3.14 The Suffolk HER is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. Suffolk Archaeology will complete a suitable project-specific OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. The completed form will be reproduced as an appendix to the final report.
- 3.15 A draft of the report will be submitted to SCCAS for approval.
- 3.16 On acknowledgement of approval of the report from SCCAS hard and digital copies will be sent to the Suffolk HER.
- 3.17 Upon completion of reporting works ownership of all archaeological finds will be given over to the relevant authority. There is a presumption that this will be SCCAS, who will hold the material in suitable storage to facilitate future study and ensure its proper preservation.
- 3.18 The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the SCCAS (2010). The client is aware of the costs of archiving and provision will be made to cover these costs in our agreement with them. The archive will be deposited with the County Archaeology Store unless another suitable repository is agreed with SCCAS.
- 3.19 If the client does not agree to transfer ownership to SCCAS they will be required to nominate another suitable repository approved by SCCAS or provide funding for additional recording and analysis of the finds archive (such as, but not limited to, additional photography or illustration of objects).
- 3.20 The law dictates that client can have no claim to the ownership of human remains. Any such remains must be stored by SCCAS, in accordance with the relevant site's Ministry of Justice licence.
- 3.21 In the rare event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.
- 3.22 If an object qualifies as Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible if this is the case and the find(s) will be reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer (who then reports to the Coroner) within 14 days of the objects discovery and identification. Treasure objects will immediately be removed to secure storage, with appropriate on-site security measures taken if required.

3.23 Any material eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroner's Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of Suffolk Archaeology, their subcontractors or any volunteers under their control will not be eligible for any share of a treasure reward.

4 Additional considerations

4.1 Health and Safety

- 4.1.1 The project will be carried out in accordance with Suffolk Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy at all times. A copy of this policy is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 All Suffolk Archaeology staff are experienced in working under similar conditions and on similar sites to the present site and are aware of Suffolk Archaeology H&S policies. All permanent Suffolk Archaeology excavation staff are holders of CSCS cards.
- 4.1.3 A separate Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) document will be prepared for the site and provided to the client. Copies will be available to SCCAS on request.
- 4.1.4 All staff will be aware of the project's risk assessment and will receive a safety induction from the Project Officer.
- 4.1.5 It may be necessary for site visits to be made by external specialists or Suffolk County Council monitors. All such staff and visitors must abide by Suffolk Archaeology's H&S requirements for each particular site, and will be inducted as required and made aware of any high risk activities relevant to the site concerned.
- 4.1.6 Site staff, official visitors and volunteers are all covered by Suffolk Archaeology's insurance policies. Policy details are shown in Appendix 2.

4.2 Environmental controls

- 4.2.1 Suffolk Archaeology is committed to following an EMS policy. All our preferred providers and subcontractors have been issued with environmental guidelines. On site the Project Officer will police environmental concerns. In the event of spillage or contamination reporting procedures will be carried out in accordance with Suffolk Archaeology's EMS policies.

4.3 Plant machinery

- 4.3.1 A 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a full range of buckets will be required for the trial trenching. The sub-contracted plant machinery will be accompanied by a fully qualified operator who will hold an up-to-date Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) card (approved by the CITB).

4.4 Site security

- 4.4.1 Unless previously agreed with the client this WSI (and the associated quotation) assumes that the site will be sufficiently secure for archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 4.4.2 In this instance all security requirements including fencing, padlocks for gates etc. are the responsibility of the client.

4.5 Access

- 4.5.3 The client will secure access to the site for Suffolk Archaeology personnel and subcontracted plant, and obtain all necessary permissions from landowners and tenants. This includes the siting of any accommodation units/facilities required for the work.
- 4.5.2 Any costs incurred to secure access, or incurred as a result of access being withheld (for example by a tenant or landowner) will not be the responsibility of Suffolk Archaeology. Such costs or delays incurred will be charged to the client in addition to the archaeological project fees.

4.6 Site preparation

- 4.6.1 The client is responsible for clearing the site in a manner that enables the archaeological works to go ahead as described. Unless previously agreed the costs of any subsequent preparatory works (such as tree felling, scrub/undergrowth clearance, removal of concrete or hardstanding not previously quoted for, demolition of buildings or sheds, removal of excessive overburden, refuse or dumped material) will be charged to the client in addition to the archaeological project fees.

4.7 Backfilling

- 4.7.1 Trenches will be backfilled sequentially in reverse order of deposit removal. Where present topsoil will be returned as the uppermost layer. The backfilled material will then be compacted by the machine tracking along the line of trench.
- 4.7.2 No specialist reinstatement is offered, unless by specific prior agreement.

4.8 Monitoring

- 4.8.1 Arrangements for monitoring visits by the LPA and its representatives will be made promptly in order to comply with the requirements of the brief and specification.

5 Staffing

5.1 The following staff will comprise the Project Team:

- 1 x Project Manager (supervisory only, not based on site full-time)
- 1 x Project Officer (full time)
- 1 x Site Assistant (as required)
- 1 x Site Surveyor (as required)
- 1 x Finds/Post-excavation manager (part time, as required)
- 1 x Finds Specialist (part time, as required)
- 1 x Environmental Supervisor (as required)
- 1 x Finds Assistant or Supervisor (part time, as required)
- 1 x Senior Graphics Assistant (part time, as required)

5.2 Project Management will be undertaken by Rhodri Gardner and the Project Officer will be confirmed at a later date. All Site Assistants and other staff will be drawn from Suffolk Archaeology's qualified and experienced staff. Suffolk Archaeology will not employ volunteer, amateur or student staff, whether paid or unpaid, to undertake any of the roles outlined in 5.1.

5.3 A wide range of external specialists can be employed for artefact assessment and analysis work as circumstances require.

OASIS ID: suffolka1-210231

Project details

Project name	MNL 718 Land adjacent to 1, St Johns Street, Beck Row
Short description of the project	1% trench evaluation targeting positive anomalies identified by geophysical survey.
Project dates	Start: 07-05-2015 End: 30-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MNL 718 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Late Neolithic
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BECK ROW, HOLYWELL ROW AND KENNY HILL MNL 718 Land adjacent to 1, St. Johns Street
Study area	2.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6960 7720 52.366134529 0.491297889963 52 21 58 N 000 29 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Rachael Abraham
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Linzi Everett

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Physical Archive ID	MNL 718
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	ADHS
Digital Archive ID	MNL 718
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID	MNL 718
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Photograph","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	MNL 718 Land adjacent 1, St. Johns Street, Beck Row
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Everett, L.
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