

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Land to rear of the Old Post Office Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk

Client:

C. E. Davidson Ltd

Date:

October 2016

FSF 090 / ESF24734
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2016/075
Author: J. A. Craven
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HER Information

Site Code:	FSF 090
HER Event Number:	ESF24734
Site Name:	Land to rear of the Old Post Office
Report Number	2016/075
Planning Application No:	2526/15
Date of Fieldwork:	04/10/2016
Grid Reference:	TM 26167740
Oasis Reference:	263551
HER Search Reference:	9192035
Curatorial Officer:	James Rolfe (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service)
Project Officer:	John Craven
Client/Funding Body:	C. E. Davidson Ltd

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. 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.

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Summary

An evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk was carried out to assess the impact of a proposed residential development on heritage assets.











The single evaluation trench showed that the potential archaeological horizon/intact geological surface lay at a depth of 0.6m+, directly below a heavily disturbed 20th century topsoil, and so has potentially been truncated to an unknown degree.

Two or more substantial intercutting/adjoining pits, infilled with a deposit containing late medieval and post-medieval material were identified, one reaching a depth of at least 1.65m below groundlevel. The position of the site, to the rear of buildings fronting onto Church Street, suggests that these pits lay in in the rear gardens/yards, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. Their original function is uncertain but they appear to have been infilled/used for rubbish disposal




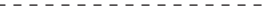







The finds material indicates activity in the area during the 15th -16th century and possibly suggests the presence of a kiln in the settlement, producing similar wares to contemporary known kilns at Metfield and Weybread.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

An evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk (Fig. 1) was carried out to meet a condition on planning application 2526/15, in accordance with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The evaluation was requested by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), as it was thought likely that heritage assets of archaeological interest could be present and vulnerable to damage from the proposed development groundworks. The project requirements were outlined in a SCCAS Brief (dated 19/09/2016). The project was subsequently carried out following preparation of a Suffolk Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2) which had been approved by SCCAS. The project was commissioned by C E Davidson Ltd.

The site, an irregularly shaped vacant plot of 0.063ha, was occupied by a 20th century garage, gravel driveway/hardstanding and former garden lawns. To the west and south it was enclosed by walls and fencing which mark the rear boundaries of properties fronting Church Street, to the north by Victoria Terrace and the fenced boundary of Mulberry Cottage, and to the east by a pasture field. Prior to the evaluation one small building shown on Ordnance Survey mapping had been demolished but the garage was still present. The proposed development is for a single property, aligned north-west to south-east, across the centre of the site and the position of the extant garage.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of c.42m above Ordnance Datum, towards the top of a natural slope that descends north towards a tributary stream of the River Waveney. The site geology consists of superficial deposits of glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation overlying sedimentary bedrock of Norwich Crag Formation Sand (British Geological Survey website).

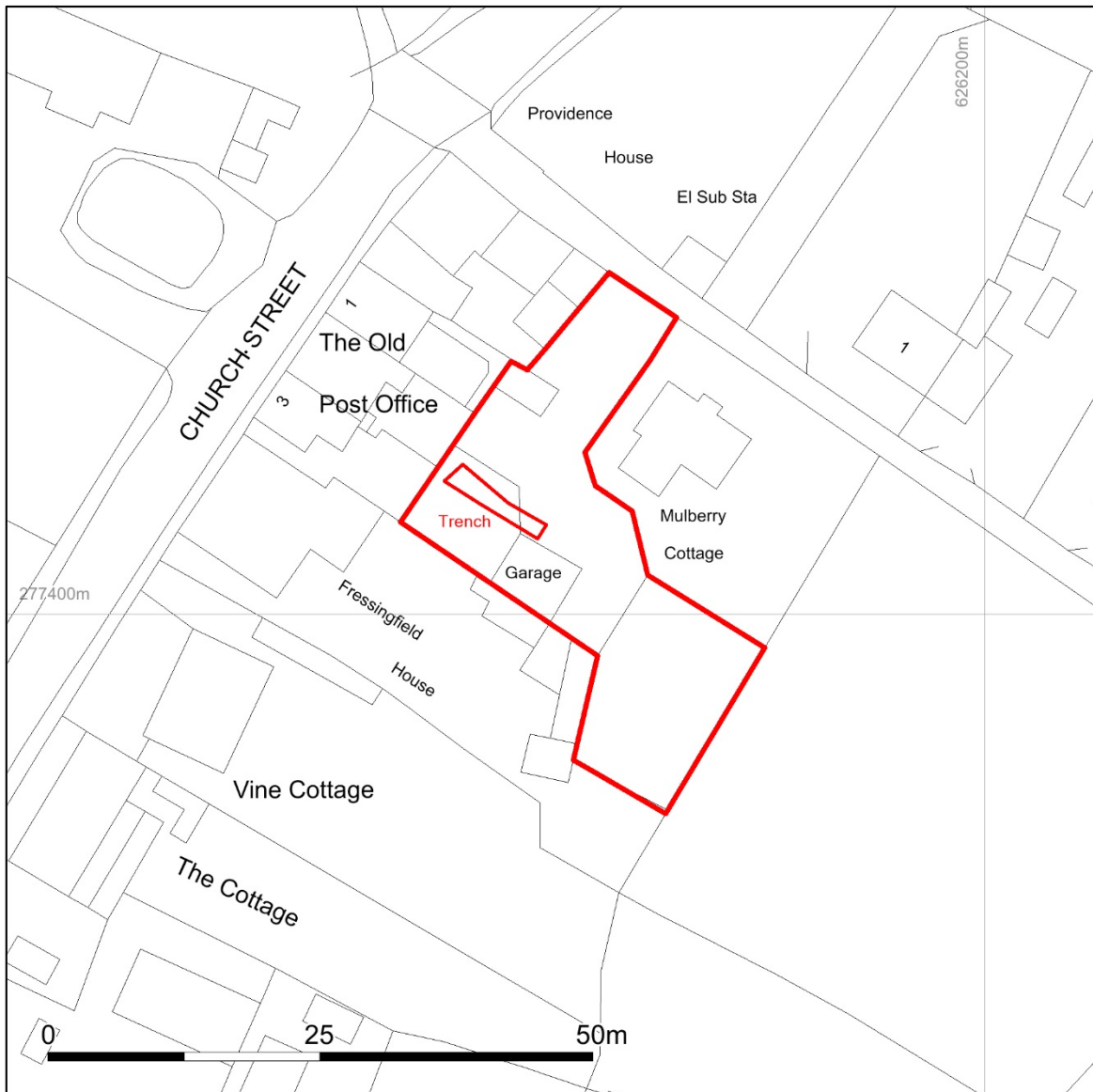
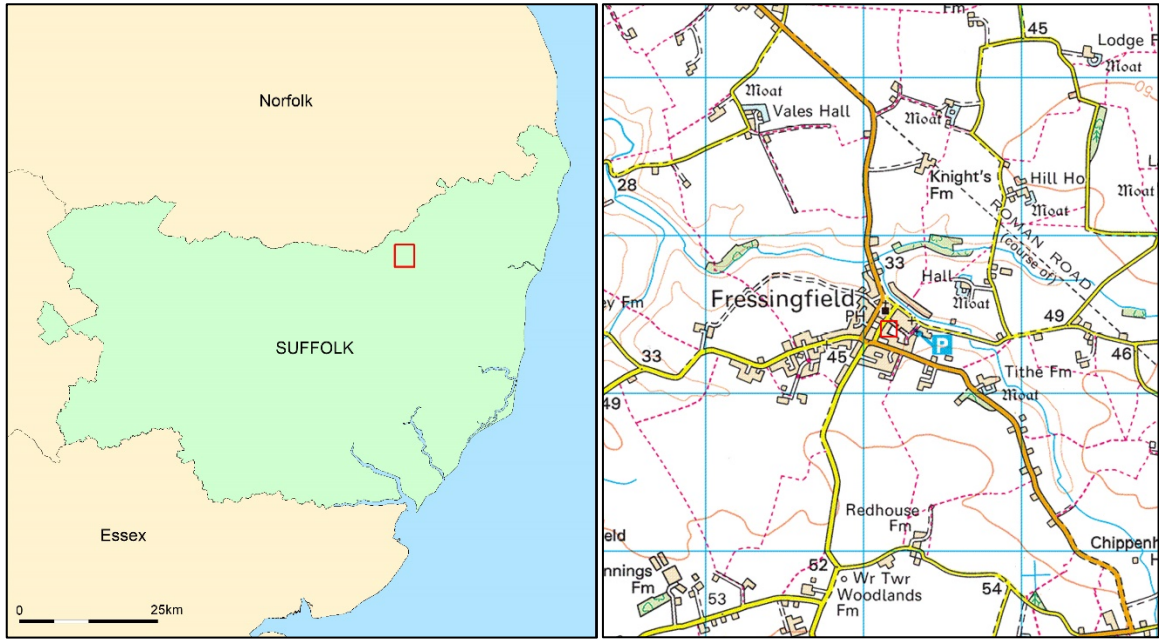


Figure 1. Location map
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3. Archaeology and historical background

The Brief stated that the condition has been placed as the site

'lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core of Fressingfield and to the east of a medieval church (HER no. FSF 023).

A search of the Suffolk HER, for a 500m radius centred on the site, was subsequently commissioned as part of the project (Ref No. 9192035). The full results of the search are held in the digital project archive.

Site Code	ID	Name	Summary	Period
FSF 023	MSF1682	Church of St Peter and St Paul	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese, Suffolk archdeaconry, Hoxne deanery.	Medieval
FSF 029	MSF9992 & MSF9993	Fox and Goose Inn	Former C14 Guildhall with modernisation and conversion as poor house dated 1616 on old door lintel at rear	Medieval & Post-medieval
FSF 030	MSF10005	Church farm stable and barn	In July 1983 the SIA visited the Church Farm stable and found an "unprepossessing exterior conceals 1 1/2 bays of early C14 raised aisled hall.	Medieval
FSF 046	MSF14379	Find spot	Silver IA coin, disked irregular outline.	Iron Age
FSF 046	MSF14380	Find spot	Large oval bronze spoon bowl, metal detected.	Post-medieval
FSF 049	MSF17589	Find spot	Metal detected bronze fragment slightly curved flat piece with a plain framed rectangle with an oval hole.	Saxon
FSF 049	MSF17590	Find spot	Metal detected metalwork scatter.	Medieval
FSF 050	MSF19117	Harleston Hall	Two small terraced platforms in pasture field.	Undated
FSF 055	MSF25528	Land adjacent to the Old Vicarage	Archaeological monitoring during the construction of a swimming pool and pool barn detected 2 post medieval buildings, a drain and a posthole	Post-medieval
FSF 068	MSF25461	Barn at Willow House	A heritage asset assessment carried out for a late 18th/early 19th C barn with an integral cow house and area of stabling	18th-19th C
FSF 070	MSF25366	Barn at Church Farm	Late 13th/early 14th C barn rebuilt in the 17th C using much of its early timber	13th-17th C
FSF 073	MSF31209	Street Farm	Archaeological monitoring following a major leak of central heating oil to remove any fuel-contamination. The building dates to the late 16th/17th century and the work showed that the existing chimney fireplace was added/alterd during the 18th century and evidence for an earlier hearth was found. Archaeological deposits indicating permanent occupation predating the current building were preserved at the rear of the farmhouse.	Post-medieval
FSF 081	MSF32760	Find spot	Medieval coin scatter	Medieval

Table 1. Nearby monument entries on the Suffolk HER

The search identified fourteen 'monuments' at eleven locations, listed in Table 1 above and shown in Figure 2. The majority relate to medieval and post-medieval buildings and

findspots relating to the history of the village, but include earlier findspots of Saxon and Iron Age material. Further confidential findspots of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval metalwork and pottery are also noted in the search area.

Five previous archaeological events are recorded in the search area. These include the aforelisted FSF 068 heritage asset assessment, and the FSF 055 and FSF 073 archaeological monitorings, and two small trial trench evaluations with negative results (FSF 064 and 065).

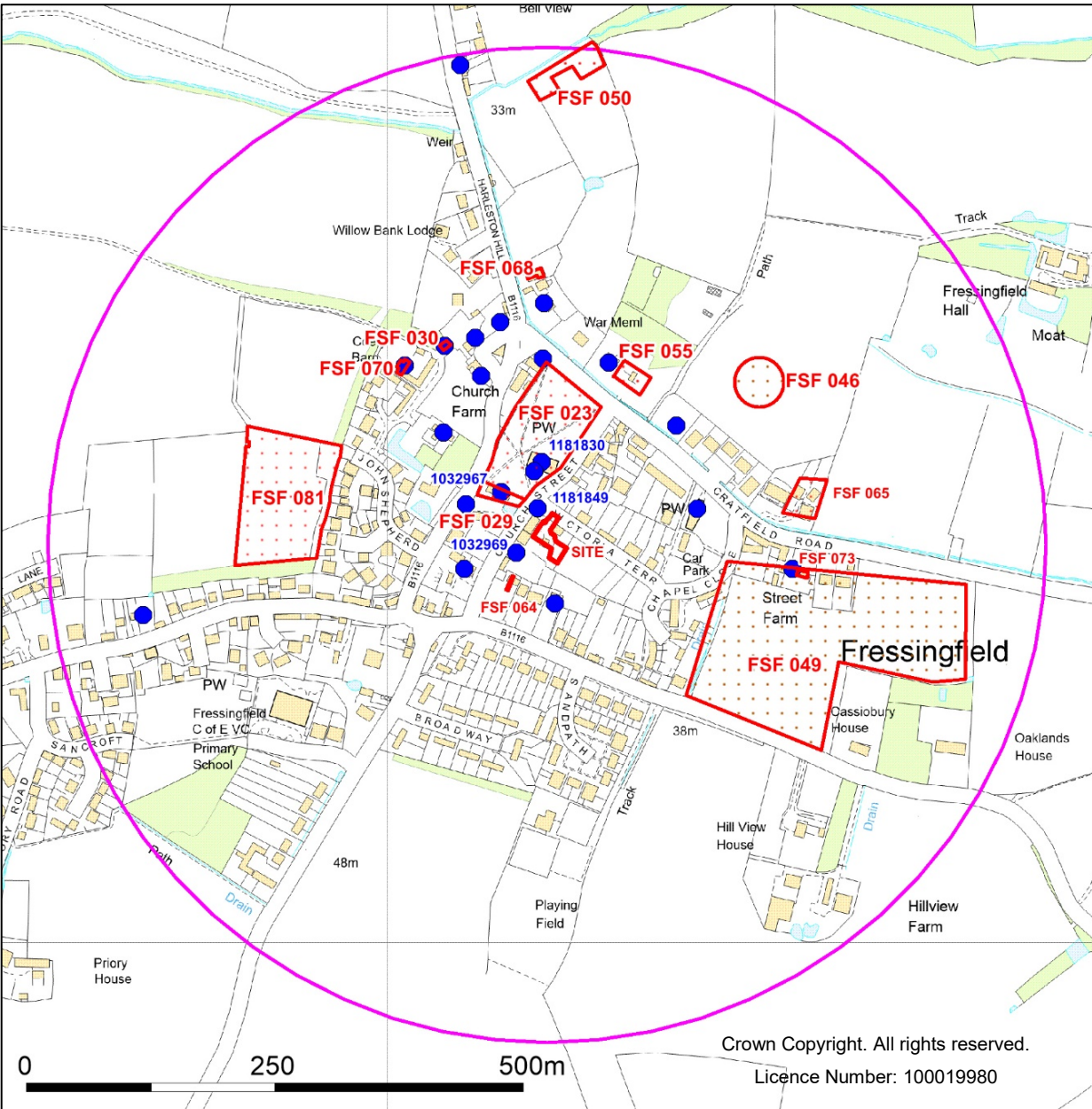


Figure 2. Suffolk HER entries within 500m radius
Monuments/events (red), listed buildings (blue)

The search also identified twenty-two Listed Buildings, dating from the 13th – 19th centuries, predominantly scattered through the northern part of the settlement core to the west of the site. The nearest, Vine Cottage (National Heritage List for England Ref No. 1032969) and Providence House (NHLE Ref No. 1181849) lie 20m to the south-west and north, on the Church Street frontage and are both Grade II early 19th century timber framed properties with earlier elements. 50m to the north and north-west are the aforementioned Church of St Peter and St Paul (1181830) and The Fox and Goose, a 16th century former guildhall listed as Grade II* (1032967).

Historic Ordnance Survey mapping from the late 19th/early 20th century shows the site as straddling parts of three plots/yards and two small buildings lying to the rear of the Church Street frontage. The south-east part of the site lies with an open field (Figs. 3 and 4). The small building depicted crossing into the northern part of the site correlates to the recently demolished structure.

4. Methodology

One trench, measuring 10m in total length and 1.8m wide, was excavated across the proposed building footprint by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The trench position was adjusted from that proposed in the WSI to allow for the extant garage.

The trench was machined to the top of the undisturbed natural geological surface at the south-east end, and to an arbitrary point to the north-west when the nature of the underlying deposits became apparent (see below). The trench was then cleaned, and potential features investigated, by hand. Trench and spoilheaps were scanned/metal-detected for artefactual material.

A single continuous numbering system was used to record all layers, features and other deposits on SACIC *pro forma* sheets and photographic and drawing registers were maintained. The trench positions, excavated sections and all levels were recorded by RTK GPS. Hand drawn sections at a scale of 1:20 were recorded on an A3 *pro-forma*

pre-gridded permatrace sheet, which has been scanned and added to the digital project archive. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the site archive.

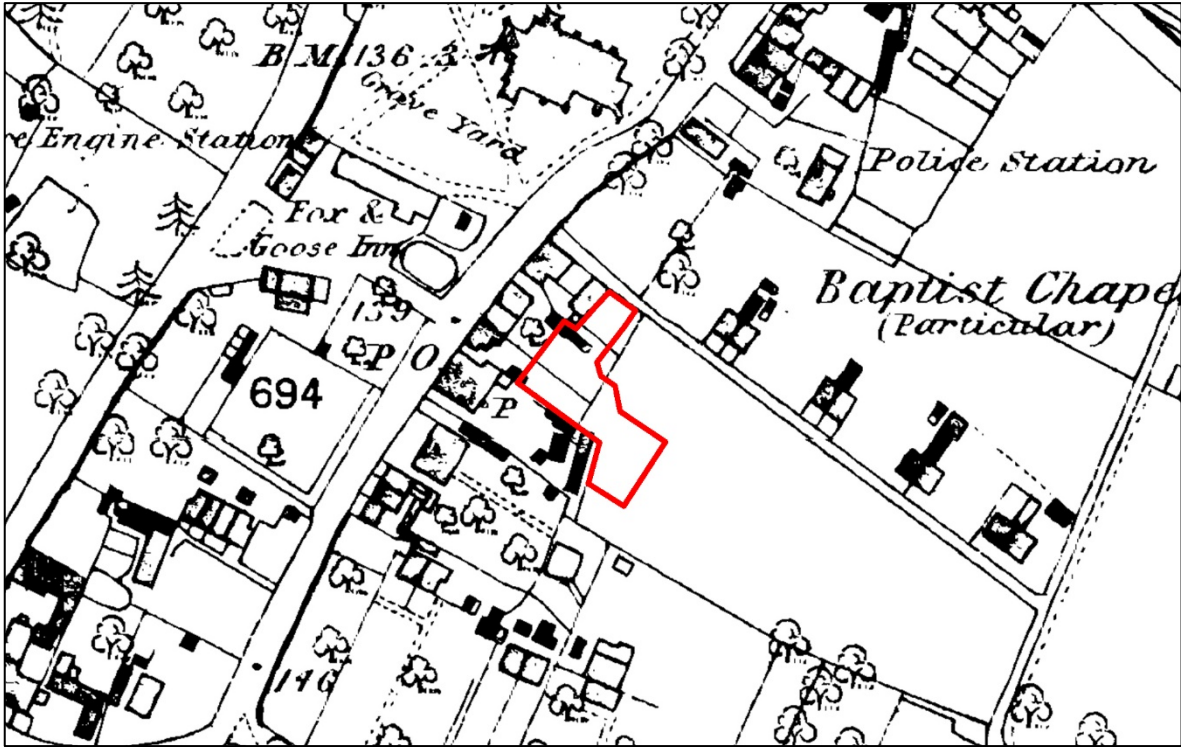


Figure 3. Site as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1885

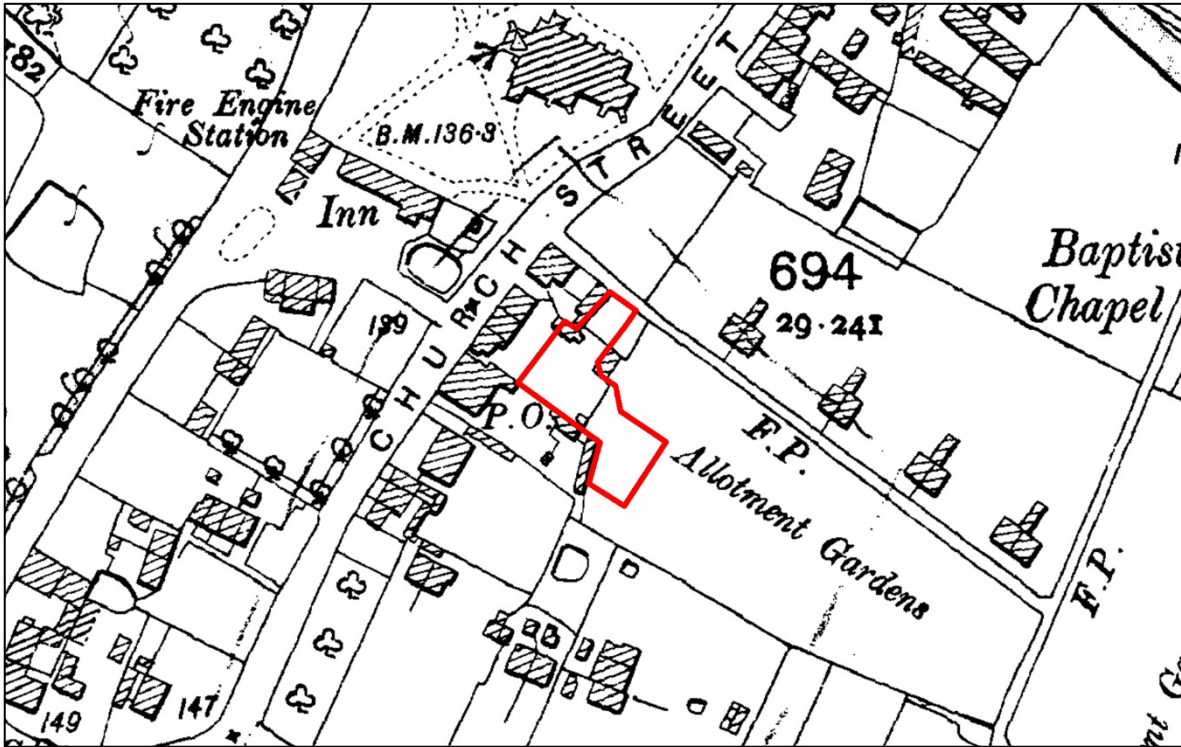


Figure 4. Site as shown on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1904

5. Results

(Pls. 1 and 2, Fig. 5)

The trench showed a consistent modern topsoil profile, with a 0.5-0.6m deep deposit extending throughout.

Machining of the trench started from the north-west end and this meant that when a deposit of dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and fragments of CBM, 0002, was identified beneath the topsoil it was thought to be a uniform layer/ buried soil horizon as it extended throughout the trench. Only after the removal of c.0.3m of the deposit by machine did outcrops of natural clay appear, suggesting the presence of two or more substantial pits (tentatively numbered as 0005 and 0006). As the machining extended to the south-east an edge to these pits appeared and the excavation depth rose to follow the natural clay surface. In the south-eastern end of the trench this lay directly below the topsoil and was cut by several small pits containing modern debris.

Rather than being a single post-medieval soil layer, 0002 appears to be the main final fill of at least one pit (0005). A second probable pit, 0006, was infilled with 0003, a cleaner mid grey/brown silty clay with small amounts of charcoal but no clear change or relationship between 0002 and 0003 could be identified. No finds were retrieved from 0003.

Small 0.2m deep sondages were excavated by hand into both features but soon penetrated the water table and filled with water. This combined, with the depth of the trench, mean that further hand-excavation was abandoned. A sample of the finds from 0002, consisting of pottery, CBM, animal bone and shell, were recovered from the spoilheap and excavated sondage and indicate a late medieval date or later for the infilling of the features.

Following recording the machine was used to excavate a 0.65m deep slot across 0002. This exposed the steep cut for pit 0005 but did not reach the base of the feature at 1.65m below groundlevel, instead uncovering a deposit, 0004, of dark grey/green silt/clay. No finds were retrieved from 0004.



Plate 1. Trench 01, facing south-east



Plate 2. Trench 01, facing northwest



Plate 3. Final machine slot across 0005, facing west

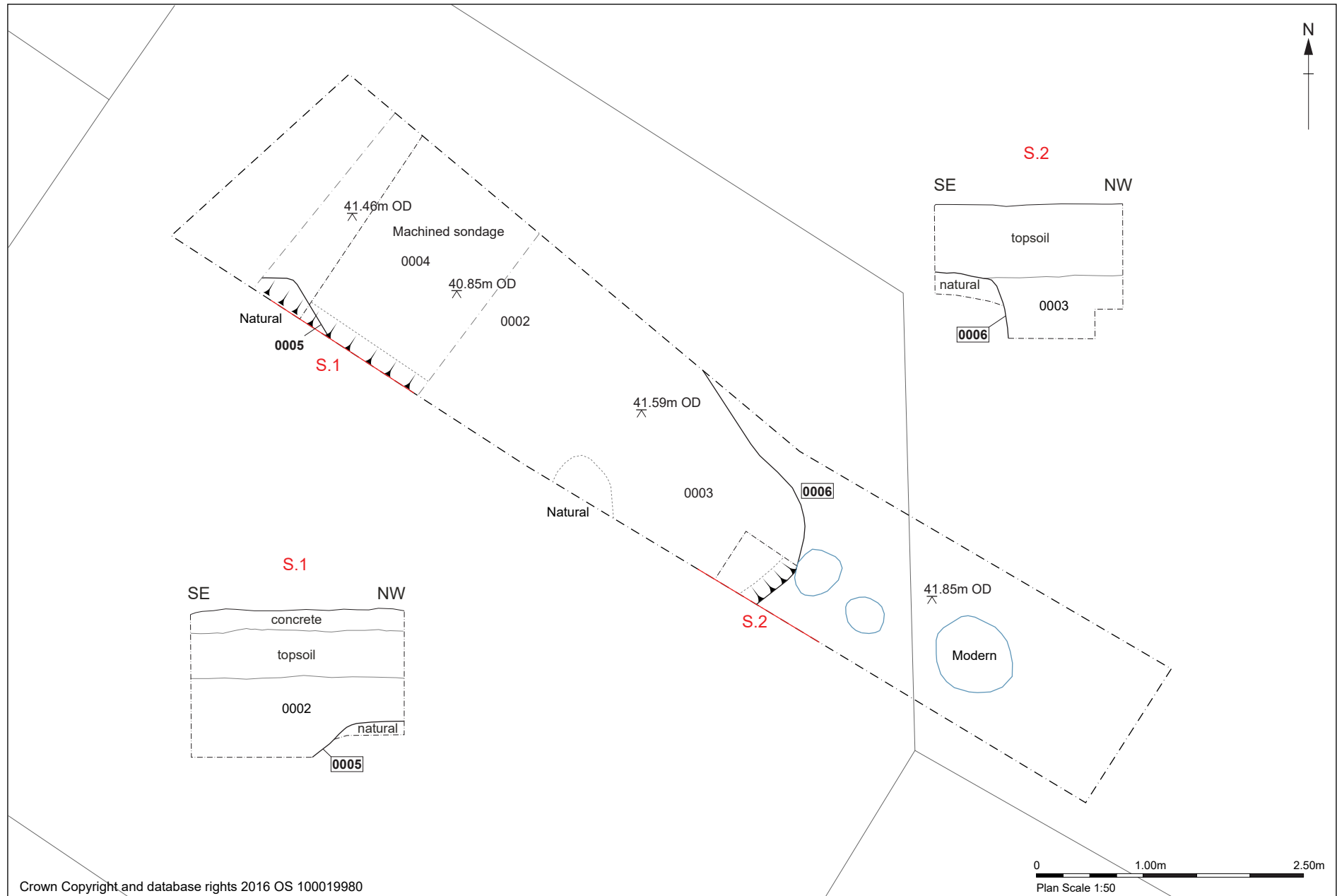


Figure 5. Trench plan and sections

6. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

6.1. Introduction

Finds were recovered from a single context during the evaluation, as shown in Table 2.

Context	Pottery No	Pottery Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	ABone No	ABone Wt (g)	Shell No	Shell Wt (g)
0002	8	341	2	230	5	234	2	16

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2. The Pottery

6.2.1. Introduction

Eight sherds of pottery were collected from the fill 0002 of a rubbish pit, weighing a total of 341g. The small assemblage was fully quantified and catalogued and the information can be seen in Table 3.

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	No of sherds	Wt (g)	Condition	Comments	Date
0002	LMT	JAR		1	168		Thumbed applied horizontal handle, patchy gl int/ext. Similar to acoustic jar (Jennings)	15th-16th C
0002	LMT	BODY	IRON	6	107		Misc body sherds including 1 flat base and 1 with fe oxide stripe	15th-16th C
0002	LMT	JUG		1	66	A	Remains of strap handle and spl copp glaze. Glaze on broken edge. Waster	15th-16th C

Table 3. Pottery catalogue

6.2.2. The assemblage

The largest fragment is a sherd of a handled jar made in a Late medieval and transitional ware fabric. It has a thumbed horizontal handle which is typical of this type of pottery, and internal glaze around the upper inner surface of the vessel, with a kiln scar. The fragment is accompanied by other sherds of the same pottery type, including a base fragment, and also a body sherd decorated with a dark red iron oxide slip. The most interesting piece is a sherd of a LMT waster from a jug (Pl. 4), consisting of part of a strap handle which has a wide central groove. Observation of the inner surface reveals that it has been unsuccessfully fired and some of the clay has broken away,

with the glaze running into the inner surface of the pot.

Such Late Medieval and Transitional wares date to the 15th-16th century, and were produced in several different production sites along the Waveney valley (Anderson et al, 1996). The fabrics from the evaluation are sandy and have moderate fine mica. Some of the other sherds are relatively highly fired but appear to be viable products rather than wasters. The site at Fressingfield lies to the south of the known production sites of Weybread and Metfield, but the products from these kilns are not typically as micaceous (Anderson et al, 10, Table 1).

6.3. Ceramic Building material

Two fragments of ceramic roofing tiles were recovered from fill 0002. The largest is a roofing tile (weight 209g). It has pale orange outer margins and a pale grey core, and is made from a sandy fabric with frequent fine mica (Pl. 5). On the moulded side there is evidence of dribbles of lead glaze along one of the outer edges. It is possible that this tile came from a kiln and was used for the internal structure, for the pots to be stacked on, rather than being a glazed medieval roof tile. If so, this is further evidence of the likelihood of there being a kiln in the vicinity. The tile is accompanied by a much smaller piece of post-medieval roof tile (weight 20g). It is fully oxidised all the way through and shows the remains of a circular peg hole.

6.4. Small finds

Ruth Beveridge

A single iron object was retrieved from the evaluation and recorded as a small find. It has been fully recorded with the assistance of low level magnification. Its overall condition is poor, as it is corroded and encrusted with dirt.

SF 1001, final fill 0002 of pit 0005.

Elongated iron object, possibly a knife or a tool such as a chisel. The blade is rectangular in plan with no obvious cutting edge, and whilst it tapers, the end is flat not pointed. It has a long tapering tang (94mm in length) that is rectangular in section and centrally placed on the blade.

Probably medieval - post medieval in date.

The knife or tool is likely to have been discarded in pit 0005 along with the disposal of other domestic rubbish. It is recommended that this object undergoes radiography to reveal further detail and preserve a record of it.

6.5. Faunal remains

Five fragments of animal bone were collected weighing 233g. The best preserved pieces are the remains of the mandible of a pig and the unfused metatarsus of an immature bovine. Three other small fragments include a piece of the rib of a large mammal, probably cattle, and a small fragment which shows five parallel incisions down one side, either representative of butchery or perhaps gnawing.

6.6. Shell

Two oyster shells from fill 0002 have not been retained.

6.7. Discussion of material evidence

The small assemblage of finds includes locally-made pottery dating to the 15th-16th centuries, together with ceramic building material of a similar date and small quantities of animal bone and shell, typical of a refuse or midden pit. The group is of significance since it contains at least two items which indicate that they were associated with pottery production – a waster sherd of LMT pottery and a tile which has glaze on it, possibly representing kiln furniture. The nature and extent of this industry is only partially known, and this information is valuable.



Plate 4. LMT waster from a jug



Plate 5. Possible kiln tile, 0002

7. Discussion

The evaluation trenching shows that the potential archaeological horizon/intact geological surface lies at a depth of 0.6m, directly below a heavily disturbed 20th century topsoil. Across the trench as a whole there has potentially been some truncation to an unknown degree, and where the natural geology survived at this depth it was affected by deeper localised disturbance.

The majority of the trench was occupied by two or more intercutting/adjoining pits, the upper fill of which was sealed by the topsoil. At least one pit reached a total depth of 1.65m+ from groundlevel, suggesting that any earlier archaeological deposits will have been wholly removed. The upper fill 0002 contained material indicative of activity in the area during the 15th-16th century and possibly suggests the presence of a kiln in the settlement, producing similar wares to contemporary known kilns at Metfield and Weybread.

The position of the site, to the rear of buildings fronting onto Church Street, suggests that these pits lay in in the rear gardens/yards, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. Their original function is uncertain but they could be medieval in date and appear to have been infilled/used for rubbish disposal in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The presence of post-medieval roof tile in the 0002 assemblage suggests the actual date of the deposit may be later, but this could be intrusive.

8. Conclusions

The presence of the pits themselves can be regarded as of moderate local interest and significance, being a typical and expected feature of rural settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The finds assemblage however is of particular note in a local and regional context for our understanding of the late medieval pottery industries in Mid Suffolk and the wider region, possibly indicating the presence of another local kiln site.

The proposed development will involve significant ground disturbance but, with the archaeological horizon appearing to lie at a depth of 0.6m+, it is thought that only house

footings and particularly deep service trenches will have any impact on archaeological deposits.

9. Archive deposition

The complete physical and digital archive is held by Suffolk Archaeology at their office and stores in Needham Market, Suffolk, pending deposition with SCCAS.

An OASIS form (Appendix 1) has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-263551) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

10. Acknowledgements

The project was managed, directed and carried out in full by John Craven. Finds processing and quantification was supervised by Ruth Beveridge. The finds report was prepared by Richenda Goffin and Ruth Beveridge. Finds photography and creation of the digital trench plan and section drawings was carried out by Gemma Bowen.

Suffolk Archaeology would like to thank the client C. E. Davidson Ltd for their co-operation in supplying and operating plant.

11. Bibliography

Anderson, S., Breen, A. M., Caruth, J., and Gill, D., 1996, The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border, *Medieval Ceramics* 20, 1996.

Websites

British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Appendix 1. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-263551

Project details

Project name	FSF 090 Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street
Short description of the project	An evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk was carried out to assess the impact of a proposed residential development on heritage assets. The single evaluation trench showed that the potential archaeological horizon/intact geological surface lay at a depth of 0.6m+, directly below a heavily disturbed 20th century topsoil, and so has potentially been truncated to an unknown degree. Two or more substantial intercutting/adjoining pits, infilled with a deposit containing late medieval and post-medieval material were identified, one reaching a depth of at least 1.65m below groundlevel. The position of the site, to the rear of buildings fronting onto Church Street, suggests that these pits lay in the rear gardens/yards, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. Their original function is uncertain but they appear to have been infilled/used for rubbish disposal. The finds material indicates activity in the area during the 15th -16th century and possibly suggests the presence of a kiln in the settlement, producing similar wares to contemporary known kilns at Metfield and Weybread.
Project dates	Start: 04-10-2016 End: 04-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FSF 090 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF24734 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2526/15 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK FRESSINGFIELD Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street
Study area	0.06 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 2616 7740 52.347413371553 1.320933059035 52 20 50 N 001 19 15 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 41m Max: 42m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	John Craven
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	C. E. Davidson Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Physical Contents	"Metal", "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to rear of the Old Post Office Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk
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Other bibliographic details	SACIC Report No. 2016/075
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Description	SACIC Evaluation report

Appendix 2. Written Scheme of Investigation

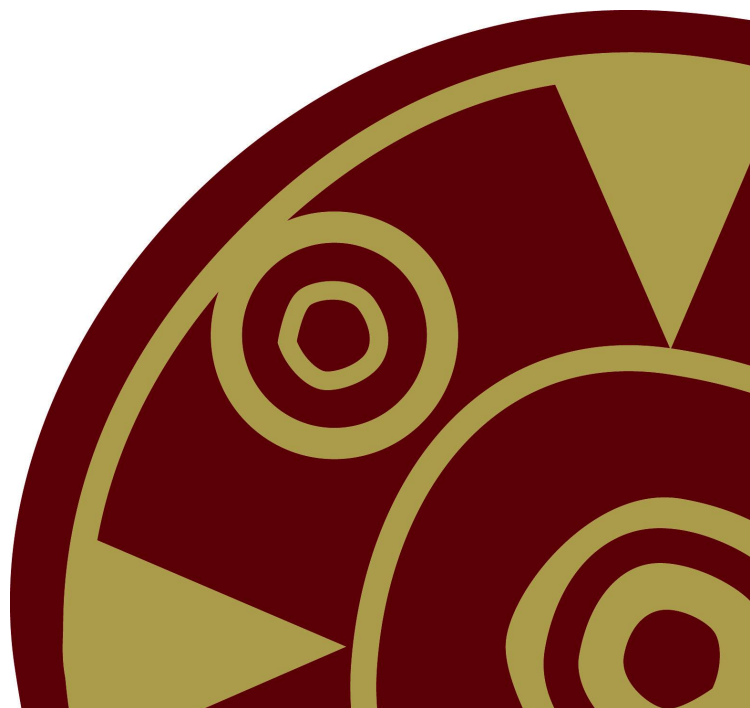


Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk

Client:
C E Davidson Ltd

Date:
September 2016

FSF 090 / ESF24734
Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment – Archaeological Evaluation
Author: John Craven
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Project details

Planning Application No:	2526/15
Curatorial Officer:	James Rolfe (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service)
Grid Reference:	TM 26167740
Area:	c.161sqm
Site Code / HER Event No:	FSF 090 / ESF24734
Oasis Reference:	263551
Project Start date	4 th October 2016
Project Duration:	c.1 day
Client/Funding Body:	C E Davidson Ltd
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Project Officer:	John Craven
SACIC Job Code:	FSFOPO001

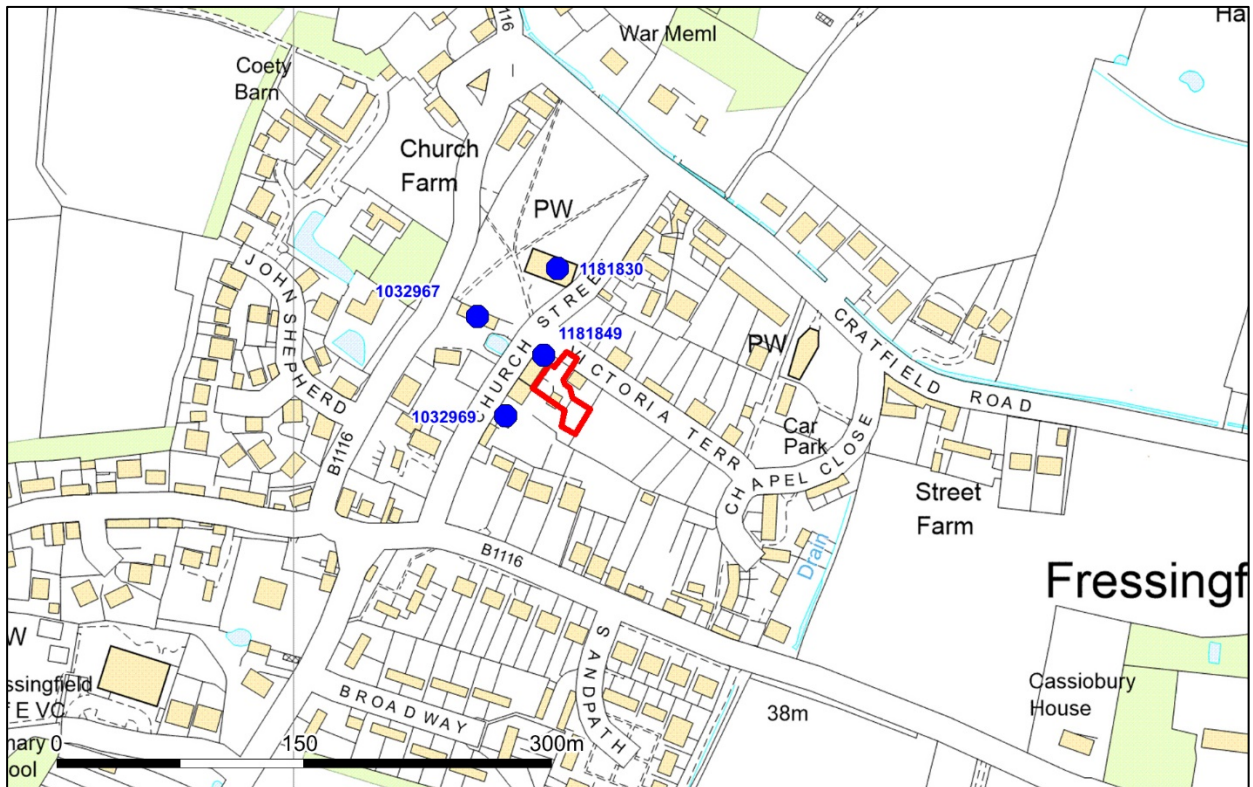
1. Introduction

- A program of archaeological evaluation is required to assess the site of residential development at Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk (Fig. 1) for heritage assets, prior by a condition on planning application 2526/15, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The work required is detailed in a Brief (dated 19/09/2016), produced by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- Suffolk Archaeology (SACIC) has been contracted to carry out the project. This document details how the requirements of the Brief and general SCCAS guidelines (SCCAS 2011) will be met, and has been submitted to SCCAS for approval on behalf of the LPA. It provides the basis for measurable standards and will be adhered to in full, unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS.
- It should be noted that the evaluation is only a first stage in a potential program of works and that this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers this trenched evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that are required in relation to the proposed development will be specified by SCCAS, will require new documentation (Brief and WSI) and estimate of costs. Such works could have considerable time and cost implications for the development and the client is advised to consult with SCCAS as to their obligations following receipt of the evaluation report.

2. The Site

- The site consists of an irregular shaped plot, to the rear of existing properties on Church Street and Victoria Terrace. One small building formerly occupying part of the site centre has recently been demolished. The proposed development is for a single property, aligned north-west to south-east, across the centre of the site.
- The site lies at a height of c.41m above Ordnance Datum, towards the top of a natural slope that descends north towards a tributary stream of the River Waveney. The site geology consists of superficial deposits of glacial tills of the

Lowestoft Formation overlying sedimentary bedrock of Norwich Crag Formation Sand (British Geological Survey website).



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Figure 1. Location map

3. Archaeological and historical background

- The Brief states that the condition has been placed as the site *'lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core of Fressingfield and to the east of a medieval church (HER no. FSF 023). There is a strong possibility that heritage assets of archaeological interest will be encountered at his location. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'*
- The National Heritage List for England website shows that the site lies in close proximity to several listed buildings, the nearest lying 20m to the south-west and north, on the Church Street frontage. Vine Cottage (NHLE Ref No. 1032969) and Providence House (NHLE Ref No. 1181849) are both Grade II early 19th century

timber framed properties with earlier elements. 50m to the north and north-west are the aforementioned Church St Peter and St Paul (1181830) and The Fox and Goose, a 16th century former guildhall listed as Grade II* (1032967).

- Historic Ordnance Survey mapping from the late 19th/early 20th century shows the site as straddling parts of three plots/yards and two small buildings lying to the rear of the Church Street frontage. The south-east part of the site lies with an open field (Fig. 2).

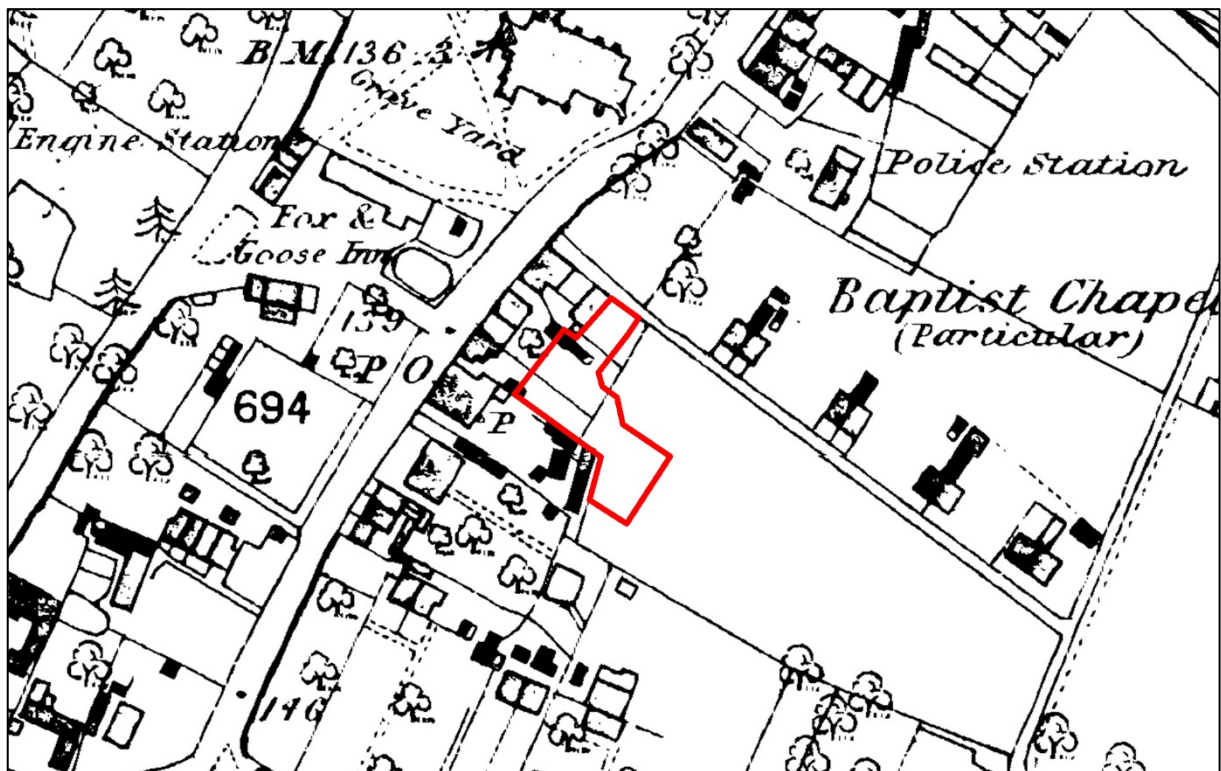
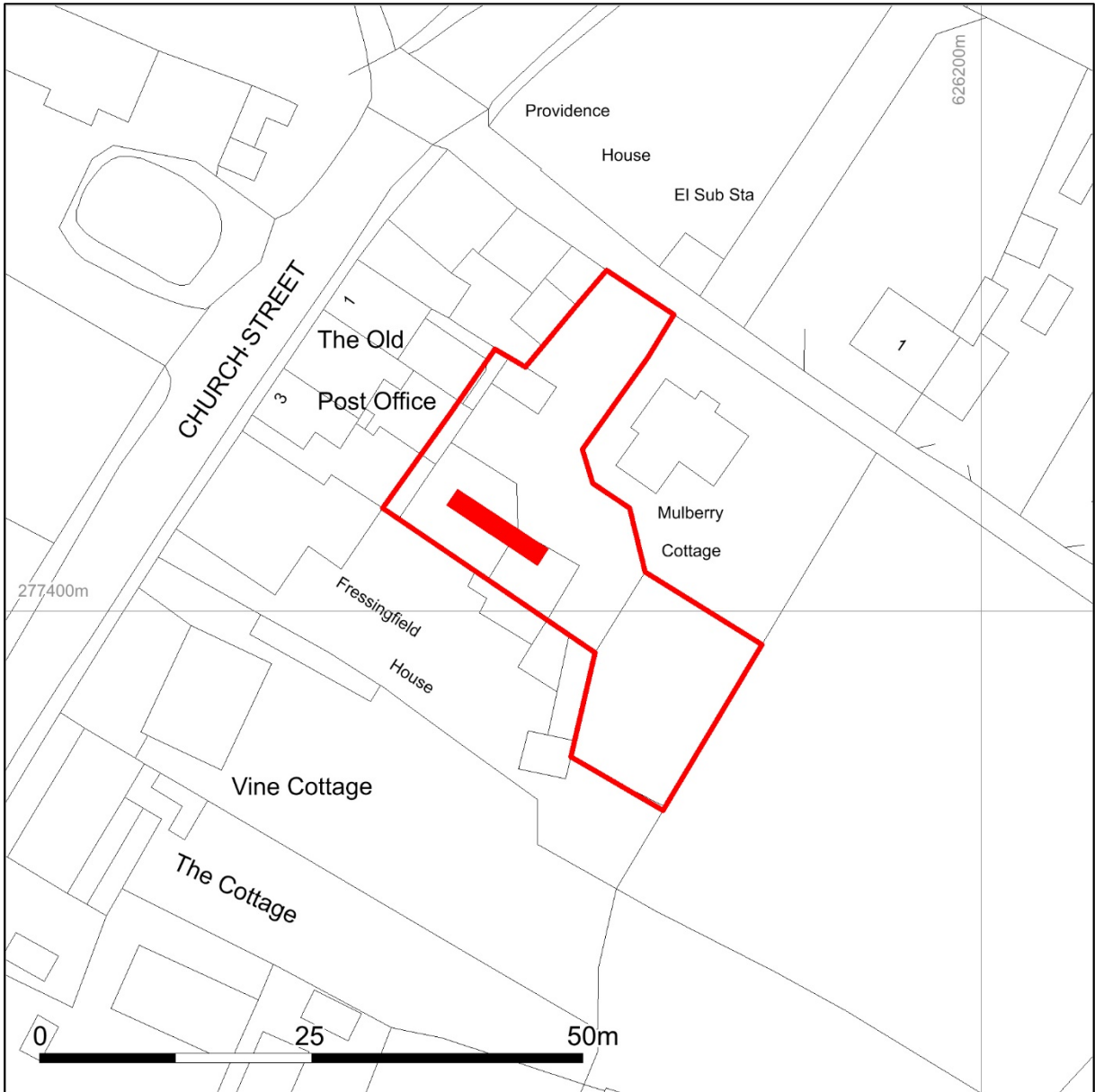


Figure 2. Site as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1885

4. Project Objectives

- The aim of the evaluation is to accurately quantify the quality and extent of the sites archaeological resource so that an assessment of the developments impact upon heritage assets can be made.
- The evaluation will:
 - Establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
 - Identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
 - Establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits are present.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
 - Provide sufficient information for SCCAS to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
 - Provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.



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Figure 3. Proposed trench plan

5. Archaeological method statement

5.1. Management

- The project will be managed by SACIC Project Officer John Craven in accordance with the following local, regional and national standards and guidance:
 - *Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).
 - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Papers 14).
 - *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).
 - *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS, 2011).
- SCCAS will be given five days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork and arrangements made for SCCAS visits to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- Full details of project staff, including sub-contractors and specialists are given in section 6 below.

5.2. Project preparation

- An event number and site code has been obtained from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be included on all future project documentation.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed.
- An HER search has been requested from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be used to inform fieldwork and the subsequent report. The reference number will be included in the report.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment for the project has been completed.

5.3. Fieldwork

- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of SACIC led by Project Officer John Craven. The fieldwork team will be drawn from a pool of suitable staff at SACIC and will include an experienced metal detectorist/excavator.
- The project Brief requires the application area to be evaluated by placing a 10m trench across the development footprint and a proposed trench plan is included above (Fig. 3). If necessary minor modifications to the trench plan may be made onsite to respect any previously unknown buried services, areas of disturbance/contamination or other obstacles.
- The trench locations will be marked out using an RTK GPS system.
- The trenches will be excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring at least 1.6m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist. This will involve the removal of an estimated 0.4m-0.8m of modern soils and subsoils until the first visible archaeological surface or natural surface is reached.
- Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required.
- Metal detector searches will take place prior to and throughout the excavation by an experienced SACIC metal-detectorist. Spoilheaps will be examined and metal-detected for archaeological material.
- The trench sides, base and archaeological surfaces will be cleaned by hand as necessary to identify archaeological deposits and artefacts and allow decisions to be made on the method of further investigation by the Project Officer. Further use of the machine, i.e. to investigate thick sequences of deposits by excavation of test pits etc, may be undertaken as necessary after consultation with SCCAS.
- There will be a presumption that a minimum of disturbance will be caused whilst achieving adequate evaluation of the site, i.e. establishing the period, depth and nature of archaeological deposits. Typically 50% of discrete features such as pits and 1m slots across linear features will be sampled by hand excavation, although in some instances 100% may be removed, with the aim of establishing date and function. All identified features will be investigated by excavation unless otherwise

agreed with SCCAS. Significant archaeological features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact if possible.

- Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh will be undertaken if they clearly appear to be occupation deposits or structurally related. Other deposits may be sieved at the judgement of the excavation team or if directed by SCCAS.
- Any fabricated surface (floors, yards etc) will be fully exposed and cleaned.
- The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits across the site will be recorded.
- An overall site plan showing trench locations, feature positions, sections and levels will be made using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Individual detailed trench or feature plans etc will be recorded by hand at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate to complexity. All excavated sections will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, also as appropriate to complexity. All such drawings will be in pencil on A3 pro forma gridded permatrace sheets. All levels will refer to Ordnance Datum. Section and plan drawing registers will be maintained.
- All trenches, archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using standard pro forma SACIC registers and recording sheets and numbering systems. Record keeping will be consistent with the requirements of the Suffolk HER and will be compatible with its archive.
- A photographic record, consisting of high resolution digital images, will be made throughout the evaluation. A number board displaying site code and, if appropriate, context number and a metric scale will be clearly visible in all photographs. A photographic register will be maintained.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Finds on site will be treated following appropriate guidelines (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required.
- All finds will be brought back to the SACIC finds department at the end of each day for processing, quantifying, packing and, where necessary, preliminary conservation. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the on-site evaluation methodology.

- Environmental sampling of archaeological contexts will, where possible, be carried out to assess the site for palaeoenvironmental remains and will follow appropriate guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011). In order to obtain palaeoenvironmental evidence, bulk soil samples (of at least 40 litres each, or 100% of the context) will be taken using a combination of judgement and systematic sampling from selected archaeological features or natural environmental deposits, particularly those which are both datable and interpretable. All environmental samples will be retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following these assessments.
- If necessary, for example if waterlogged peat deposits are encountered, then advice will be sought from the Historic England Science Advisor for the East of England on the need for specialist environmental techniques such as coring or column sampling.
- If human remains are encountered guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed and the Coroner informed. Human remains will be treated at all stages with care and respect, and will be dealt with in accordance with the law and the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*. If human remains are to be lifted, for instance if analysis is required to fully evaluate the site, then a Ministry of Justice license for their removal will be obtained in advance. In such cases appropriate guidance (McKinley & Roberts 1993, Brickley & McKinley 2004) will be followed and, on completion of full recording and analysis, the remains, where appropriate, will be reburied or kept as part of the project archive.
- In the event of unexpected or significant deposits being encountered on site, the client and SCCAS will be informed. Such circumstances may necessitate changes to the Brief and hence evaluation methodology, in which case a new archaeological quotation will have to be agreed with the client, to allow for the recording of said unexpected deposits. If an evaluation is aborted, i.e. because unexpected deposits have made development unviable, then all exposed archaeological features will be recorded as usual prior to backfilling and a report produced.

- Trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of SCCAS. Trenches will be backfilled, subsoil first then topsoil, and compacted to ground-level, unless otherwise specified by the client. Original ground surfaces will not be reinstated but will be left as neat as practicable.

5.4. Post-excavation

- The post-excavation finds work will be managed by the SACIC Finds Team Manager, Richenda Goffin, with the overall post-excavation managed by John Craven. Specialist finds staff, whether internal SACIC personnel or external specialists, are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field.
- All finds will be processed and marked (HER site code and context number) following ICON guidelines and the requirements of the Suffolk HER. For the duration of the project all finds will be stored according to their material requirements in the SACIC store at Needham Market, Suffolk. Metal finds will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, *initially recorded and assessed for significance* before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the evaluation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts 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.
- All on-site derived site data will be entered onto a digital (Microsoft Access) SACIC database.
- Bulk finds will be fully quantified and the subsequent data will be added to the digital site database. Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context and will include a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Assessment reports for all categories of collected bulk finds will be prepared in-house or commissioned as necessary and will meet appropriate regional or national standards. Specialist reports will include sufficient detail and tabulation by context of data to allow assessment of potential for analysis and will include non-technical summaries.

- Representative portions of bulk soil samples from archaeological features will be processed by wet sieving and flotation in-house in order to recover any environmental material which will be assessed by external specialists. The assessment will include a clear statement of potential for further analysis either on the remaining sample material or in future fieldwork.
- All hand drawn site plans and sections will be scanned.
- All raw data from GPS or TST surveys will be uploaded to the project folder, suitably labelled and kept as part of the project archive.
- Selected plan drawings will then be digitised as appropriate for combination with the results of digital site survey to produce a full site plan, compatible with MapInfo GIS software.
- All hand-drawn sections will be digitised using autocad software.

5.5. Report

- A full written report on the fieldwork will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. The report will contain a description of the project background, location plans, evaluation methodology, a period by period description of results, finds assessments and a full inventory of finds and contexts. The report will also include scale plans, sections drawings, illustrations and photographic plates as required.
- The objective account of the archaeological evidence will be clearly separated from an interpretation of the results, which will include a discussion of the results in relation to relevant known sites in the region that are recorded in the Suffolk HER and other readily available documentary or cartographic sources.
- The report will include a statement as to the value, significance and potential of the site and its significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). This will include an assessment of potential research aims that could be addressed by the site evidence.

- The report will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further work not be required.
- The report may include SACIC's opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the sites development. The final decision as to whether any recommendations for further work will be made however lies solely with SCCAS and the LPA.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual '*Archaeology in Suffolk*' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.
- A copy of this Written Scheme of investigation will be included as an appendix in the report.
- The report will include a copy of the completed project OASIS form as an appendix.
- An unbound draft copy of the report will be submitted to SCCAS for approval within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork.

5.6. Project archive

- On approval of the report a printed and bound copy will be lodged with the Suffolk HER. A digital .pdf file will also be supplied, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A paper copy of the form will be included in the project archive.
- A second bound copy of the report will be included with the project archive.
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied to the client on request.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be deposited in the SCCAS Archaeological Store at

Bury St Edmunds within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and ICON guidelines. The project archive will also meet the requirements of SCCAS (SCCAS 2014).

- The project costing includes a sum to meet SCCAS archive charges. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- If the client, on completion of the project, does not agree to deposit the archive with, and transfer to, SCCAS, they will be expected to either nominate another suitable depository approved by SCCAS or provide as necessary for additional recording of the finds archive (such as photography and illustration) and analysis. A duplicate copy of the written archive in such circumstances would be deposited with the Suffolk HER.
- Exceptions from the deposition of the archive described above include:
 - Objects that qualify as Treasure, as detailed by the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible of any such objects are discovered/identified and the find will be reported to SCCAS and the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer and hence the Coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification. Treasure objects will immediately be moved to secure storage at SCCAS and appropriate security measures will be taken on site if required. Any material which is eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroners Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of SCCAS, or volunteers etc present on site, will not eligible for any share of a treasure reward.
 - Other items of monetary value in which the landowner or client has expressed an interest. In these circumstances individual arrangements as to the curation and ownership of specific items will be negotiated.
 - Human skeletal remains. The client/landowner by law will have no claim to ownership of human remains and any such will be stored by SCCAS, in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence, until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.

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- SCCAS, 2011, *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011, ver 1.2*.
- Watkinson, D. and Neal, V., 2001, *First Aid for Finds*. Third Edition, revised. Rescue/UKIC Archaeology Section, London.

Websites

British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

National Heritage List for England

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

6. Project Staffing

6.1. Management

SACIC Manager	Dr Rhodri Gardner
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Finds Dept	Richenda Goffin

6.2. Fieldwork

The fieldwork team will be derived from the following pool of SACIC staff.

Name	Job Title	First Aid	Other skills/qualifications
Robert Brooks	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
Simon Cass	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
John Craven	Project Officer		
Linzi Everett	Project Officer	Yes	
Michael Green	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
Martin Cuthbert	Project Officer		
Jezz Meredith	Project Officer	Yes	
Simon Picard	Assistant PO	Yes	Surveyor
Tim Schofield	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor/Geophysics
Mark Sommers	Project Officer	Yes	
Preston Boyle	Supervisor	Yes	
Tim Carter	Project Assistant	Yes	Metal detectorist
Nathan Griggs	Project Assistant		
Steve Hunt	Project Assistant		
Owen Lazzari	Project Assistant		
Romy McIntosh	Project Assistant		
Rui Oliveira	Project Assistant		
Ed Palka	Project Assistant		
Rui Santo	Project Assistant		
Filipe Santos	Project Assistant		
Rebecca Smart	Project Assistant	Yes	
Eddie Taylor	Project Assistant		
Aimee McManus	Trainee Project Assistant		

6.3. Post-excavation and report production

The production of the site report and submission of the project archive will be carried out by the fieldwork project officer. The post-excavation finds analysis will be managed by Richenda Goffin. The following SACIC specialist staff will contribute to the report as required.

Graphics and illustration	Ellie Cox, Gemma Bowen
Post Roman pottery and CBM	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery	Dr Ioannis Smyrniaios
Environmental sample processing/assessment	Anna West
Finds quantification/assessment	Dr Ruth Beveridge
Finds Processing	Jonathan Van Jennians

SACIC also uses a range of external consultants for post-excavation analysis who will be sub-contracted as required. The most commonly used of these are listed below.

Sue Anderson	Human skeletal remains	Freelance
Sarah Bates	Lithics	Freelance
Julie Curl	Animal bone	Freelance
Anna Doherty	Prehistoric pottery	Archaeology South-East
Val Fryer	Plant macrofossils	Freelance
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Donna Wreathall	Illustration	SCCAS

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