



**Land at Beck Lodge Farm,
Beck Row
Mildenhall, Suffolk**

Client:
Mill House Homes Ltd

Date:
October 2018

MNL 800
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2018/087
Author: Preston Boyles
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Mildenhall, Suffolk
MNL 800

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HER Information

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Date: October 2018
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Date: October 2018

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Summary








Four trenches were excavated at Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk. A large pit, containing abraded fragments medieval and post-medieval pottery, was partially uncovered in one trench and might represent the remains of a quarry. A brick-built well and associated ceramic pipe, perhaps the same feature recorded on late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps as a pump, was also uncovered. The site overburden consisted of topsoil over a layer of colluvium, which was deeper in trenches towards the southern end of the site.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number **0008**
- Archaeological Feature 
- Modern Feature 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Cut - Uncertain 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Uncertain 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number **0088**
- Deposit Number 0089
- Ordnance Datum

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55.27	
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1. Introduction

Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row, within the Suffolk parish of Mildenhall (referred to hereafter as ‘the site’), to assess the likely impact of a proposed housing development by Mill House Homes Ltd (planning application reference DC17/0717/FUL) on heritage assets. The site consists of a c.0.4ha plot of land, located on the SW periphery of Beck Row (Fig. 1), fronting the southern side of St John’s Road and opposite the post-medieval church of St John the Evangelist. The A1101 and RAF Mildenhall are c.150m to the south.

The present stage of archaeological works was requested by Hannah Cutler of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), who advised the Local Planning Authority that archaeological work should be carried out prior to determination of the planning application. Hannah Cutler produced a Brief to this effect, dated 22nd August 2018, requesting 5% of the c.0.4ha site to be evaluated with trial trenches, amounting to 111m worth of 1.80m wide trenches.

Based upon this Brief, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by John Craven of SACIC, which was accepted by Hannah Cutler (included as Appendix 1). The WSI specified four 1.80m wide trial trenches, three of which were to measure 30m and the fourth to measure 21m. The specific project objectives of this trenching, as stated in the Brief and subsequent WSI, were to:

- *‘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).'* [citation in original; Appendix 1]
- *'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.'*

The excavation of these trenches was conducted by SACIC on the 2nd October 2018.

An up-to-date County Historic Environment Record (HER) search was undertaken for monuments previously identified within a 500m radius of the site (HER search invoice number 9217928). The site has been given the HER parish code MNL 800 within the Historic Environment Register for Suffolk, and this code will be used to identify all material and reports pertaining to the site. The national OASIS record for the site is suffolka1-327738 (a summary of which is included as Appendix 4).

2. Geology and topography

The site occupies a c.0.4h field, formerly used for arable agriculture, orientated NW – SE, on the SW outskirts of Beck Row, a settlement within the larger parish of Mildenhall (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the NW by St. John’s Road, to the east by a farmyard (‘Beck Lodge’), and to the west by a series houses. The field in which the site is located continues SE beyond the site limits, and is currently wasteland. A farm track passes NW – SE across the eastern end of the site, running from St John’s Road to a series of farm buildings located SE of the site boundary. The site slopes gently from the SW to the NE, dropping from 6.80m AOD (‘above ordnance datum’) to 5.30m AOD (Pl. 1).

The surface geology of the site consists of a coarse, reddish-yellow sand, with bands of darker grey-yellow sand and outcrops of fragmentary chalk. Although the British Geological Survey (BGS) does not record the superficial deposits for the site location (BGS 2018), it does record sand and gravel river terrace deposits, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, just to the north of St John’s Road, which may correlate to the site geology. The underlying bedrock for the area is recorded as chalk, formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2018).



Plate 1. Site topography prior to excavation, looking NE.

3. Archaeology and historical background

An examination of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps for Beck Row reveals that the field in which the site is located has not changed shape or land use since the first edition (1882) OS was produced. The only change is that a small pump/well, located in the NE corner of the field on the 1882 and 1890 – 92 editions (see for example Figure 2 in Appendix 1), does not appear on maps dating from 1904 – 05 onwards.

A search of the Suffolk HER monuments list was conducted for a 1km radius around the site boundary (Fig. 1). Because most of these sites lie to the north of the site, Figure 1 omits MNL 513, which lies further to the SE. Lying outside of this search area are RAF Mildenhall, to the south, and RAF Lakenheath, to the NE, both of which have been the subject of extensive archaeological investigations within the past 20 years, revealing a dense band of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupation following the fen edge. Two HER monument entries within the search area (MNL 580 and 628), both located around 500m NE of the site boundary, uncovered peat deposits that relate to the fenlands, alongside a number of undated features.

The current site lies within an area designated by the HER as the historic core of Beck Row (MNL 675), which, along with Holy Row and Wilde Street, constitute outlying settlements within the parish of Mildenhall. The land to the north of the site is the location of Aspal Park (MNL 483), once part of the grounds of the now-demolished Aspal Hall (MNL 083), a moated manor of medieval origin which formerly stood c.250m to the NE. The site is bounded to the east by Beck Lodge Farm (MNL 668), which contains a number of 19th century farm buildings, with a group of 17th century pits (MNL 765) located just east them. Across the road to the north of the site is the late 19th century Church of St John the Evangelist (MNL 217), constructed in the mid-1870's. Around 700m to the east is a 19th century former Quaker meeting house (MNL 332), later used as a Methodist church, which was built within the grounds of a Quaker cemetery dating back to the late-1600's.

The HER monument entries with the earliest dates include a series of pits and associated features (MNL 788) located c.900m NW of the site, dated to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, and a Bronze Age socketed axe (MNL 120) discovered 1km to the west. Two hearths (MNL 579), one of which was radiocarbon-dated to the

Bronze Age, were discovered alongside a number of post-medieval features, c.180m to the NE of the site.

Two undated ditches (MNL 591) were recorded c.650m to the east of the site, which are thought to be prehistoric or Roman in date, whilst a Roman pottery and coin scatter (MNL 168) was discovered c.360m away in the same direction. Around 1km to the NW, a dispersed group of Roman or prehistoric features (MNL 619) were identified.

A scatter of Medieval pottery and building material was recorded in the mid-1950's (MNL 071) in an area 560m to the NE of the site boundary.

Post-medieval ditches and pits have been identified at a number of locations within the HER search area (MNL 576, 579, 700 and 705). One of these (MNL 576), located c.900m to the NW, also contained features dated to the 15th century.

Several HER monument entries record the discovery of undated features. A rectangular posthole building (MNL 513) was excavated just over 600m to the SE of the site, whilst undated ditches and pits have been uncovered at several other locations (MNL 525, 577, 598 and 625). A geophysics survey (MNL 718) revealed the position of several as-yet undated ditches, perhaps part of a prehistoric or Roman field system, c.280m to the west of the site.

HER no.	Period	Description
MNL 332	Post-medieval	Friends Meeting House, Holywell Row. 19th century
MNL 483	Medieval	Aspal Park, formerly part of Aspal Hall (MNL 083)
MNL 513	Undated	Undated rectangular posthole building
MNL 525	Undated	Several undated ditches (Roman? Prehistoric?)
MNL 591	Undated	Two undated ditches
MNL 566	NA	Monitoring, no archaeological features uncovered
MNL 579	Post-medieval	Undated pits and post-medieval features, including a ditch
MNL 580	Undated	Peat layers relating to fen edge
MNL 598	Undated	Scatter of undated pits and gullies
MNL 576	Post-medieval	Late and post-medieval features
MNL 619	Roman	Dispersed Roman and prehistoric activity
MNL 577	NA	Evaluation, no archaeological features found
MNL 625	Undated	Posthole, no date
MNL 647	NA	Possible modern disturbance recorded, no archaeology
MNL 668	Post-medieval	Beck Lodge Farm, 19th century farm buildings
MNL 675	Medieval	Beck Row, historic settlement core
MNL 217	Post-medieval	Church of St John the Evangelist, 19th century
MNL 700	Undated	Undated and modern features at The Rose and Crown
MNL 705	Multi-period	Medieval/post-medieval pit/ditches and undated features
MNL 628	Undated	Undated peat layer identified during monitoring at Aspal Lane
MNL 718	Undated	Undated field boundaries identified by geophysical survey
MNL 765	Post-medieval	17th century pits
MNL 788	Prehistoric	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age features and undated ditches
MNL 071	Medieval	Medieval pottery and building material scatter
MNL 083	Medieval	Former site of Apsal Hall, moated manor
MNL 120	Prehistoric	Findspot of a Bronze-Age bronze socketed axe.
MNL 168	Roman	Scatter of Roman pottery and Iceni coin

Table 1. HER Monument information summary

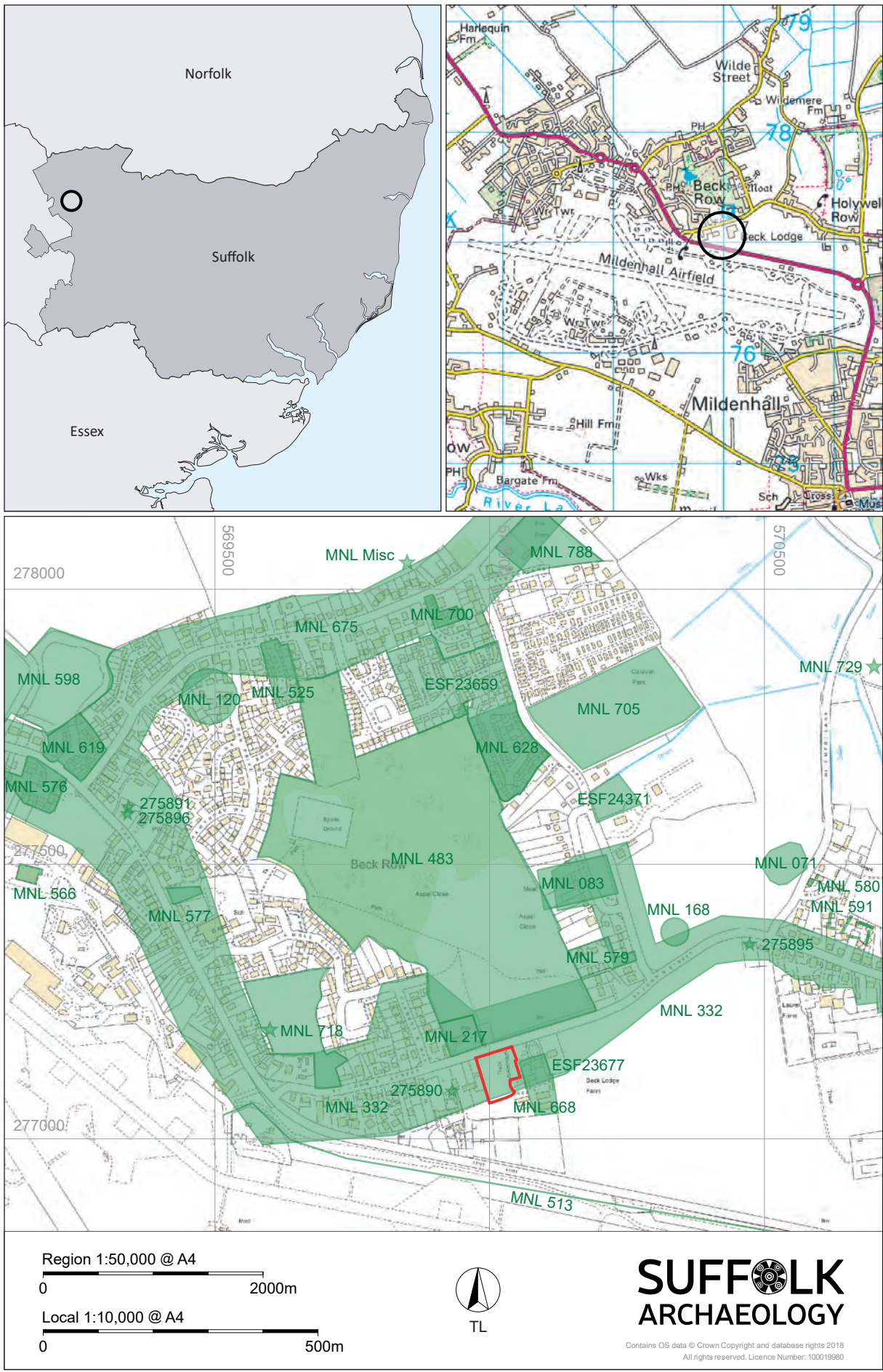


Figure 1. Site location (red) and local HER entries (green)

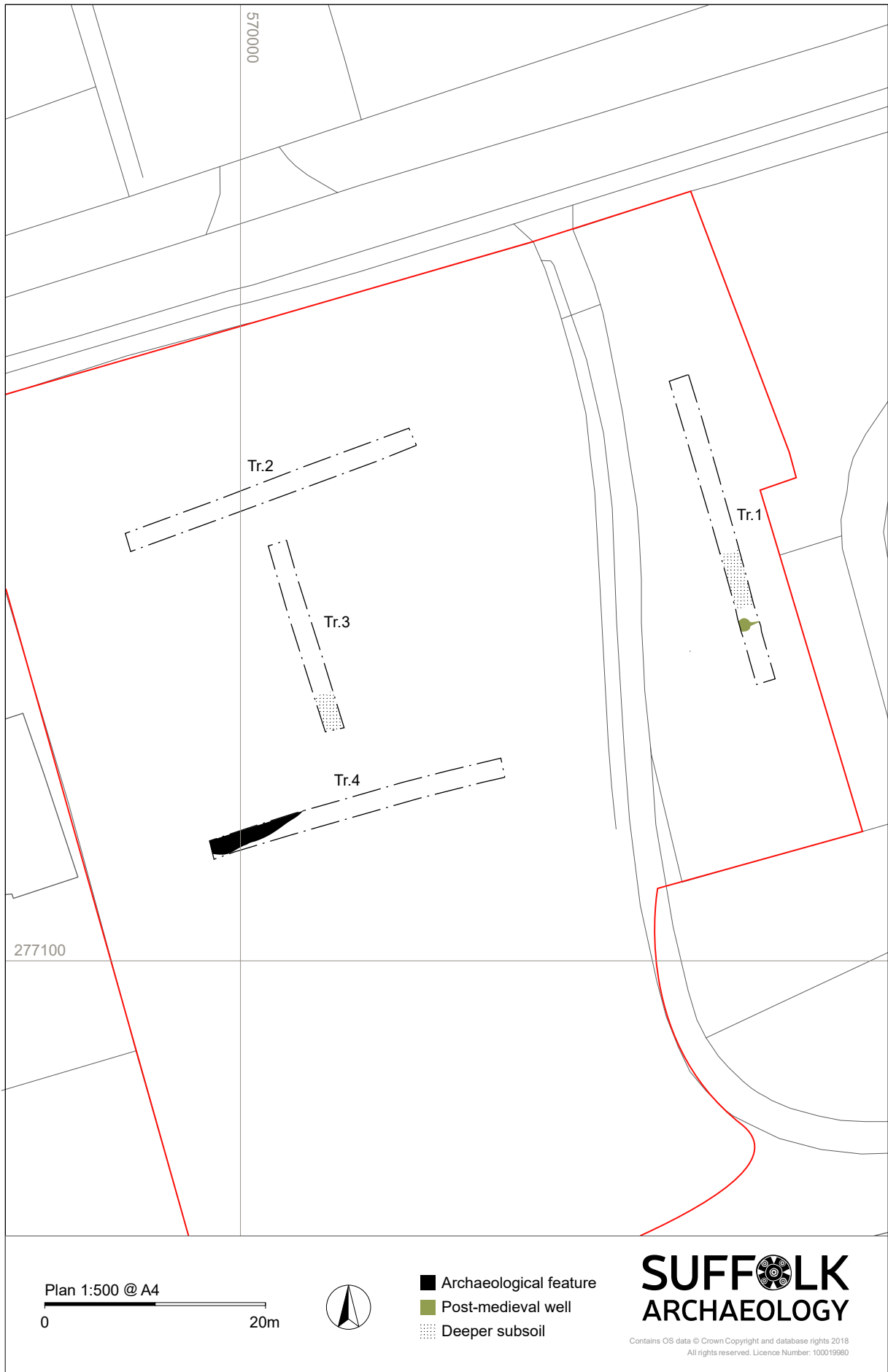


Figure 2. Trench location plan showing all features

4. Methodology

The four trenches were laid out using an RTK GPS in the locations specified in the WSI (Fig. 2). Prior to excavation, a metal detecting survey was carried out along the lengths of the trenches. Excavation of the trenches was conducted using a tracked digger with a 1.80m wide toothless bucket. All machine excavation was conducted under direct archaeological observation, with the overburden removed to the level at which archaeology or surface geology was exposed. The bases of each trench were examined for features and deposits of archaeological interest, and where these were identified they were hand excavated. The up-cast spoil from the machining was checked visually for any archaeological finds and was also searched with a metal detector. A metal detecting survey was also conducted across the base of each trench. All trenches were photographed with a digital camera, and a SACIC *pro forma* trench recording sheet was produced for each trench. A section of the overburden deposits was recorded using digital photographs, a section drawing and written descriptions on each trench recording sheet. Trench outlines were recorded using an RTK GPS.

The single, possibly pre-19th century, archaeological feature encountered during the trenching was hand excavated with a trowel, mattock and shovel, with a 1.00m long segment excavated across the width of the feature. The WSI set a maximum depth of excavation for features at 1.20m from the top of the trench edge (Appendix 1), which this feature exceeded. As such, the base of the feature could not be excavated, and Hannah Cutler of SCCAS was informed of the situation.

The overburden deposits and the cut and fill of the pre-19th century feature were given individual context numbers, within the range 0001 to 0004 (a full list of assigned context numbers is included as Appendix 2). Sections of the feature and trench edges were photographed using a digital camera with a scale bar and north-arrow included. The feature section was hand drawn at 1:20 scale on SACIC *pro forma* gridded permatrace sheets. A 1:20 hand-drawn plan, also on SACIC *pro forma* gridded permatrace sheets, was made of the trench containing the archaeological feature. Levels, referencing height in metres above ordnance datum (AOD), were taken using an RTK GPS. SACIC *pro forma* context sheets were used to record context information.

Finds were identified with the context number of the deposit from which they were removed. All pre-modern finds were brought back to SACIC premises to undergo processing and temporary storage. One 40-litre bulk soil sample was collected from the fill of the single archaeological feature, in accordance with the sampling strategy outlined in the WSI. This was processed by the SACIC environmental team.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Four trenches were excavated (locations shown in Fig. 2), of which one, Trench 4, contained a pre-19th century archaeological feature. A summary of trench information, including dimensions and levels, can be found in Table 2, to accompany the written descriptions.

The overburden in each trench consisted of a topsoil deposit, 0001, over a subsoil deposit, 0002. These will be referred to hereafter as ‘topsoil and ‘subsoil’, for brevity. The topsoil consisted of a mid-greyish brown, loose sandy silt, with moderate CBM and modern metal waste fragments throughout. It was generally 0.30m thick, but reached 0.46m thick at the south end of Trench 3. The subsoil was a mid-reddish/yellowish brown silty sand, slightly firm in compaction, with occasional chalk flecks throughout. There were numerous N – S orientated plough scars throughout the subsoil layer. The subsoil varied in depth across the site, appearing to be deeper in the area of a natural hollow seen in Trenches 1 and 3 (see below).

The metal detecting survey recorded a large number of obviously modern finds from the topsoil, which were not recorded, whilst no finds were recovered from the subsoil.

Trench	Orientation	Length	Depths of trench	Height of top of trench
1	NW – SE	30m	0.46m (NW end) 0.95m (SE end)	5.49mAOD (NW end) 6.62mAOD (SE end)
2	NE – SW	30m	0.57m	5.31mAOD (NE end) 5.77mAOD (SW end)
3	NW – SE	21m	0.73m (NW end) 0.98m (SE end)	5.68mAOD (NW end) 6.38mAOD (SE end)
4	NE – SW	30m	0.72m	6.63mAOD (NE end) 6.60mAOD (SW end)

Table 2. Trench summary

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 2) contained no pre-19th century archaeological features, although a 19th century well, constructed of unbonded pale yellow bricks, with an attendant E – W aligned ceramic pipe, was encountered 5m in from the SE end of the trench, just below the topsoil (Pl. 2). The pipe headed east towards the direction of Beck Lodge farm. The centre and SE end of the trench was deeper, with 0.30m of topsoil over 0.65m of subsoil, than the NW end, with 0.30m of topsoil over 0.16m of subsoil (Table 2; the mid-point of the deeper area is depicted in Fig. 2 with shading). The material within this deeper area, which may represent a natural channel in the geology, was largely indistinguishable from the subsoil, except for being slightly paler.



Plate 2. The 19th century well and associated pipe in Trench 1, looking west.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located parallel to the road on fairly level ground (Fig. 2, Pl. 3). Due to the presence of trees along the northern site boundary edge, the trench was moved c.2m to the south beyond the tree canopy. The overburden in Trench 2 consisted of 0.30m of topsoil over 0.17m of subsoil (Pl. 4; Table 2). No archaeological features were encountered in the trench.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking SW, showing typical site surface geology.



Plate 4. Trench 2 section looking NW, showing overburden sequence.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located along the length of a gentle sloping leading down to the NE. It contained no archaeological features. The trench was deeper at its SE end (Fig. 2), with 0.46m of topsoil over 0.52m of subsoil, compared to the NW end, where there was 0.32m of topsoil over 0.41m of subsoil (Pl. 5; Table 2). This deeper area extended for around 3.50m from the SE end of the trench.



Plate 5. The overburden at the SE end of Trench 3, looking NE

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on the highest point of the site, at the top of the gentle slope leading towards the NE (Fig. 2, Pl. 6). The overburden sequence in Trench 4 (Pl. 7; Table 2) consisted of 0.32m of topsoil over 0.50m of subsoil. A single archaeological feature, pit 0003, was located at the western end of the trench (Fig. 3).



Plate 6. Trench 4, looking SE

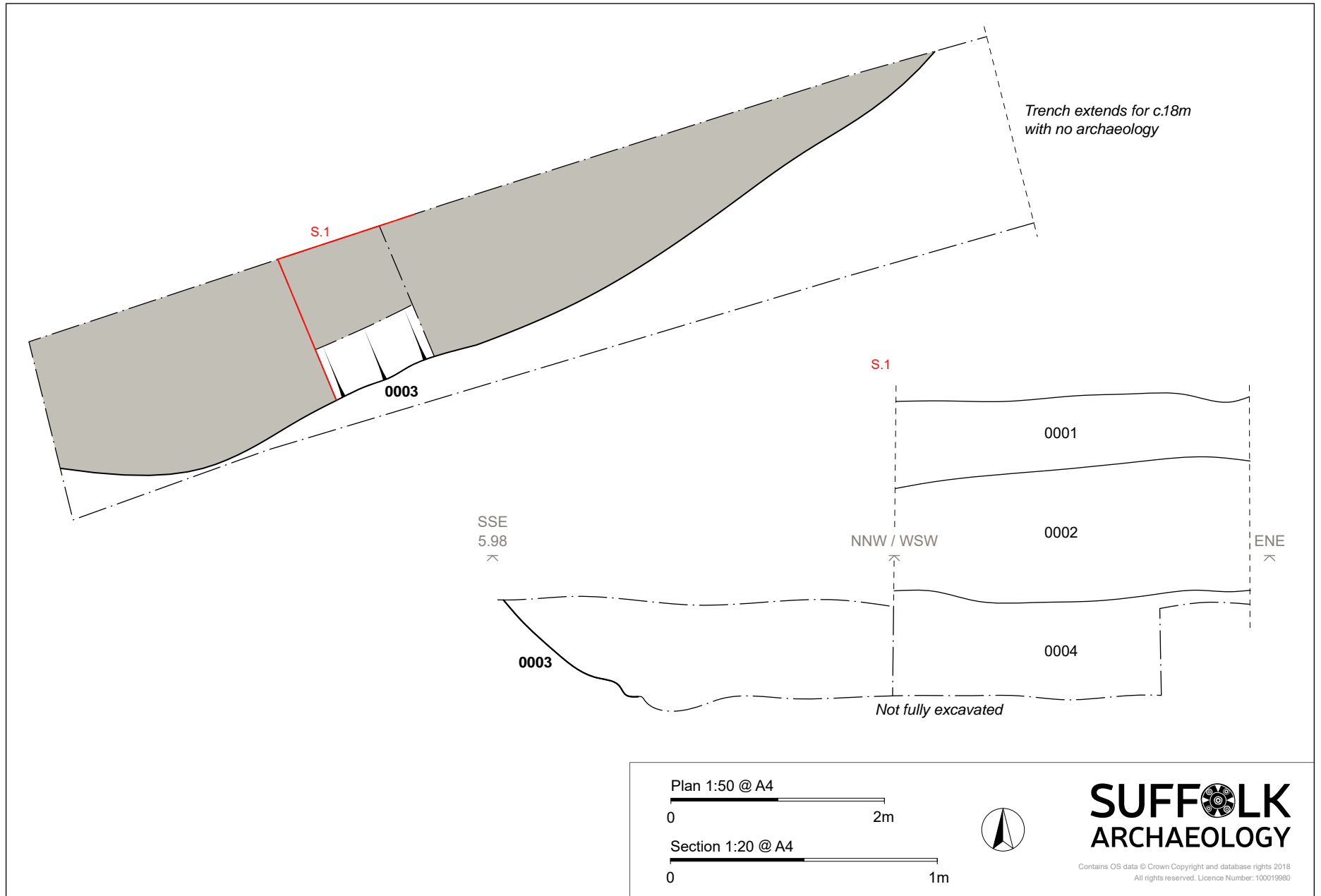


Figure 3. Trench 4, plan and feature section



Plate 7. Section 1 through pit 0003, Trench 4, looking NW.

Pit 0003

Pit 0003 was seen against the northern side of the western end of Trench 4 (Fig. 3). From what was visible in the trench, it appeared to be a somewhat rounded, perhaps oval, shape in plan. It had a steep concave southern edge. The base of the feature could not be excavated, due to the depth of the trench. The fill consisted of a mid-greyish brown, silty sand, containing occasional small rounded stones and chalk flecks. This contained 24 animal bone fragments and six pottery sherds. The relationship between the pit and the subsoil was ambiguous, due to the similarities of the material.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Steve Benfield with Richenda Goffin (medieval pottery)

6.1 Introduction

A small quantity of finds, consisting of animal bone and medieval and post-medieval pottery, was recovered from the evaluation. The quantities of finds are listed by type in Table 3. Quantities of finds by context are shown in Appendix 3.

Finds Type	No	Wt (g)
Pottery	6	24
Animal bone	24	118

Table 3. Bulk finds quantities (excluding finds from samples)

6.2 The Pottery

Introduction and methodology

A total of six small sherds of pottery, with an overall weight of 24g, was recovered from fill 0004 of pit 0003. These were quantified following the Suffolk post-Roman Fabric series (unpublished). The fabrics and quantity of each fabric type are recorded in Table 4.

Fabric code	Fabric name	Sherd no.	Wt./g.
HFW	Hedingham fineware	1	2
MELC	Medieval Ely calcareous	1	5
LMT	Late medieval transitional ware	2	10
GRE	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware	2	7

Table 4. Pottery by fabric

The assemblage

The assemblage includes sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. The medieval pottery consists of a small sherd identified as a fineware from the Hedingham potteries in north Essex (dated c.mid-11th – mid-13th century), and a sherd that is probably from the Ely potteries in Cambridgeshire, which is broadly dated as medieval. There are also two sherds of Late medieval transitional ware of 15th – 16th century date. Two small sherds of Post-medieval glazed red earthenware, which can be broadly dated to the period of the 16th – 18th century, have the latest date in the pottery assemblage.

6.2 Animal bone

A total of 24 pieces of animal bone, weighing 118g in total, were recovered from fill 0004 of pit 0003. The bone is in good condition and consists of several large pieces, including fragments of scapula from a large mammal, probably all part of one bone and almost certainly cattle, together with a single cattle tooth (molar).

6.3 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

Introduction and methodology

A single 40 litre bulk sample was taken from pit fill 0004. The sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of any plant remains present and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry.

Results

Fibrous rootlets were common within the flot; this material has been disregarded as modern and intrusive within the archaeological context.

The flot was relatively small in volume, at 20ml, with wood charcoal fragments being extremely rare and highly comminuted, making them unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

Charred plant remains were extremely rare, with only a single grass family, Poaceae culm node, being observed. Un-charred plant remains were also rare; bladder campion *Silene vulgaris* Garcke and common fumitory *Fumaria officinalis* L. were observed, but as less than five specimens each. These are both relatively common species of open grassland, cultivated or waste ground. However, as they are un-charred and unabraded, they are likely to be modern and intrusive within the archaeological context sampled.

Terrestrial snails were common, a single complete common garden snail shell *Helix aspersa* (*Cornu aspersum* O.F. Müller 1774) was recovered along with a further fragment of shell. Heath snails, *Hellicella itala* (Linnaeus 1758), were common, but the majority of the shells present were from blind snails, *Cecilioides acicula* (O.F. Müller 1774), which live in the soil, and moss chrysalis snails, *Pupilla muscorum* (Linnaeus 1758). All these species are either catholic in their habitats or prefer open ground and grasslands (Allen 2017).

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the material from this sample as it contained no identifiable plant material that could provide an insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity or economic evidence in relation to the site.

6.4 Discussion of material evidence

The finds assemblage is very small, consisting of a few small pottery sherds and pieces of animal bone. All of the finds were recovered from a single context, fill 0004 in pit 0003. The latest dates in the pottery assemblage are post-medieval, to the period of the 16th – 18th century. A few residual sherds of medieval pottery (the earliest dated to the mid-12th – mid-13th century) are also present. The small size of the sherds and the limited quantity suggests the pottery represents residue from agricultural practice, almost certainly manure scatter peripheral to settlement areas. The animal (cattle) bone presumably represents food waste, while its good condition may suggest it probably belongs with the post-medieval material from the pit rather than the residual medieval finds.

7. Discussion

Pit 0003 constitutes the only archaeological feature encountered during the trenching that might be of a pre-19th century date. What was visible of the feature appeared to be the remains of a large pit, perhaps a quarry for sand and/or chalk, which was backfilled during or after 18th century. There are a number of quarry pits depicted around Beck Row on the first edition (1882) and later OS maps, alongside several unnamed but similarly-shaped, oval/sub-circular features, generally 20m in circumference, which might be the remains of disused quarries. On the 1882 OS, two such unlabelled oval features are mapped on the north side of St John's Street, just across the road from the site, with a third further to the west by the junction of St John's Street and what is now the A1101. Pit 0003 might relate to similar quarrying activity. The abraded nature of the pottery within the pit fill may indicate that the sherds had not been discarded directly into the feature as waste, but had arrived incidentally as residual or intrusive material from the topsoil, perhaps from arriving on the site through manuring. The same might be the case with the animal bone fragments. The pottery from pit 0003 suggests an 18th century *terminus post quem* for the infilling of the feature, having been completed before the production of the 1882 edition OS map.

The 19th century well in Trench 1 might be the 'pump' recorded in the NE corner of the field on the first (1882) and second edition (1890 – 1892) OS maps (see for example Figure 2 in Appendix 1), perhaps linked to the Beck Lodge farm complex. This pump was not mapped on the 1904 – 1905 OS, or any later editions, and may therefore have gone out of use around the turn of the 20th century. There is a slight discrepancy between the location of the well in Trench 1 and the location of the pump on the OS maps, with the latter being around 10 – 15m further west and north than the former. This might be due to an error in mapping, or it could be that the feature in Trench 1 is a separate, unmapped 19th century well or even a soak-away related to the nearby farm buildings of Beck Lodge. A similar feature, surviving to a height of c.0.30m above the ground and capped off with concrete, lies against the site edge just to the east and in line with the direction of the ceramic pipe originating from the well in Trench 1, and may be related.

The subsoil beneath the topsoil is likely to be of colluvial origin. It is generally deeper towards the south than the north, although with two much deeper areas in the centre of

the site, in the SE ends of Trenches 1 and 3. These deeper areas might relate to a natural channel, perhaps created by post-glacial runoff.

8. Conclusions and realisation of the project objectives

The WSI (Appendix 1), included a series of project objectives (see Chapter 1, above), the realisation of which will be considered here.

The results of the evaluation suggest that the quantity of archaeological features and deposits within the site boundary is low. The only possible pre-19th century feature uncovered by the trenching was pit 0003 in Trench 4, containing pottery dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, which is perhaps the remains of a quarry. The well in Trench 1 is most likely the pump recorded on late 19th century OS maps, or a similar feature.

In terms of understanding land use, the evidence from the evaluation supports the idea that the site has largely retained its agricultural character since at least the early 1880's, at the time the first edition OS map was produced. The possible quarry pit may relate to similar low-level quarrying activity conducted by local farms as recorded on OS maps within surrounding fields. No evidence for activity along the street frontage was revealed by the trenching.

The evaluation uncovered a colluvial subsoil layer, which showed indications of having been disturbed by ploughing, covered the entire site beneath the topsoil. This subsoil was unevenly distributed, appearing to fill a natural depression running across the centre of the site in the areas of Trenches 1 and 3.

Any recommendations for future archaeological works based on the results of this evaluation will rest solely with SCCAS.

9. Archive deposition

The entire site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk HER, with all elements of the archive identified with the HER code MNL800.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Filipe Santo and Romy McIntosh, and was directed by Preston Boyles, whilst project management was undertaken by John Craven, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Stephen Benfield and Richenda Goffin. The specialists environmental report was produced by Anna West. The report illustrations were created by Ryan Wilson, and the report was edited by John Craven.

11. Bibliography

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Stace, C.1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Websites

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



Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk

Client:

Mill House Homes Ltd

Date:

September 2018

MNL800

Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeological Evaluation

Author: John Craven

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Appendix 1. Brief

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Project details

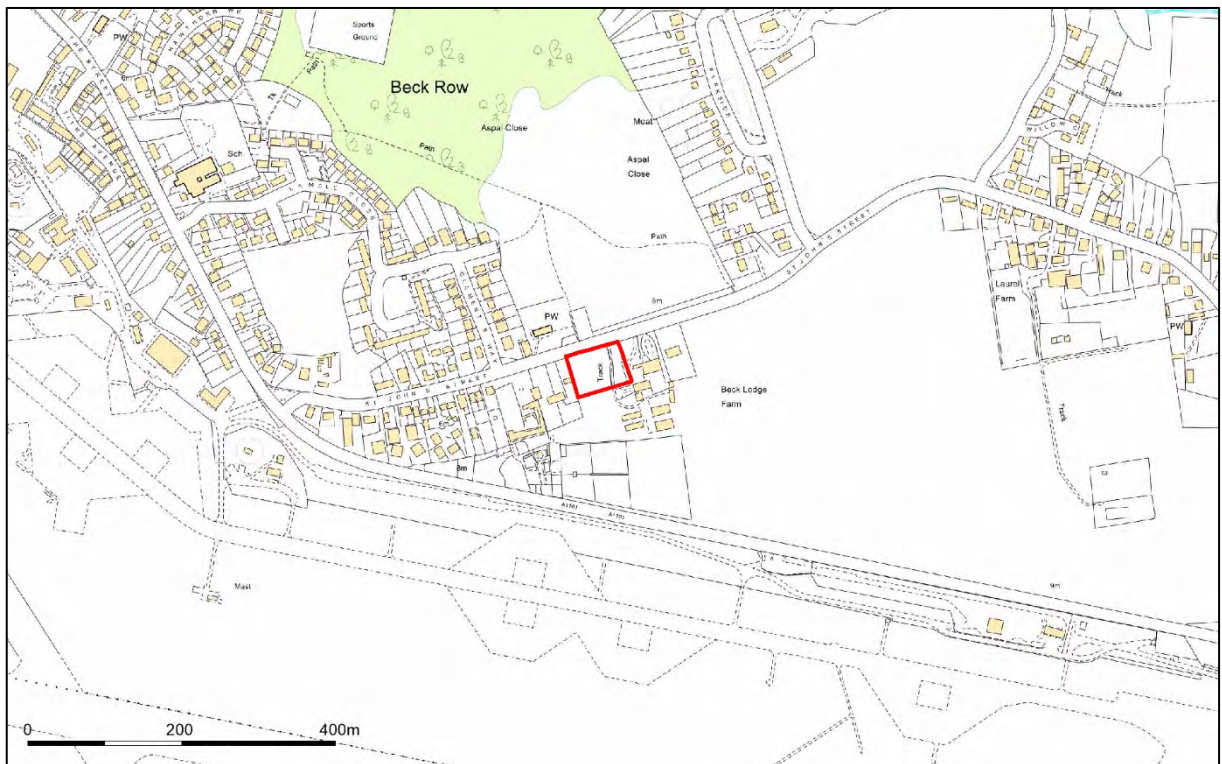
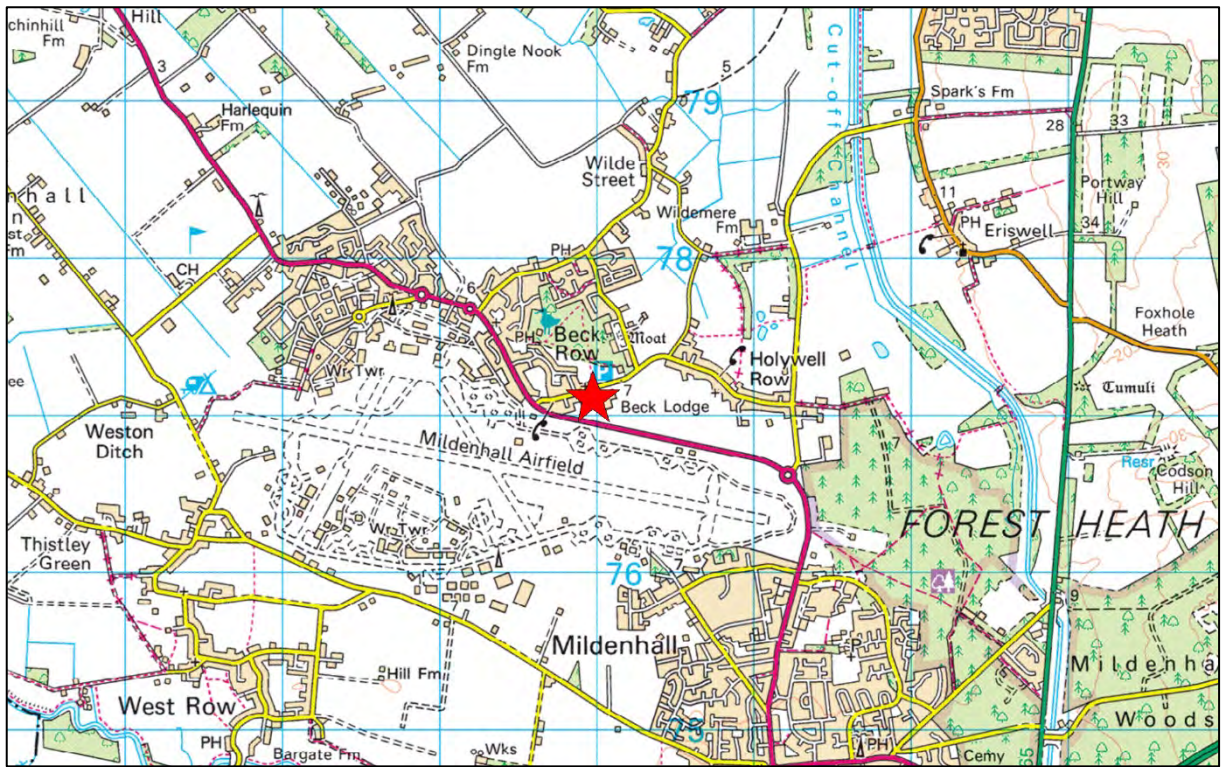
Location	Site Name Parish, County Grid Reference	Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row Mildenhall, Suffolk TL 7002 7714
Site details	Project type Size of Area	Trial trench evaluation 0.4ha
Staffing	No. of personnel (SACIC) No. of subcontractor personnel	3 1
Project dates	Start date Fieldwork duration	02/09/2018 c. 2 days
Reference codes	Site Code OASIS No. Planning Application No. SACIC Jobcode	MNL800 327738 DC/17/0717/FUL MNLBLF001
Key persons	Project Manager Project Officer	John Craven TBC

Project Contacts

SACIC	Managing Director	Dr Rhodri Gardner	01449 900120
	SACIC Project Manager	John Craven	01449 900121
	SACIC Finds Dept	Richenda Goffin	01449 900129
	SACIC H&S	John Craven	01449 900121
	SACIC EMS	Jezz Meredith	01449 900124
	SACIC Outreach Officer	Alex Fisher	01449 900126
Client	Client	Andrew Garnett (Mill House Homes Ltd)	0845 2244845
	Client Agent		
	Landowner/Tenant		
Archaeological	Curatorial Officer	Hannah Cutler (SCCAS)	01284 741229
	Consultant		
	EH Regional Science Advisor	Dr Zoe Outram	01223 582707

1. Introduction

- A program of archaeological evaluation is required to assess the site of residential development on land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck row, Mildenhall, Suffolk (Fig. 1) for heritage assets, by a condition on planning application DC17/0717/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The work required is detailed in a Brief (dated 22/08/2018, Appendix 1), by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Hannah Cutler of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- Suffolk Archaeology (SACIC) has been contracted to carry out the project. This document details how the project will be carried out in accordance with the typical requirements of an SCCAS Evaluation Brief and general SCCAS guidelines (SCCAS 2017), and has been submitted to SCCAS for approval prior to submission to 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. Following completion of the evaluation the decision as to whether any further archaeological work will be required in relation to the proposed development will be made by SCCAS and the LPA. Any further stages of work will be specified by SCCAS and will require new documentation (Brief, WSI, RAMS etc) and a new 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.
- This archaeological WSI is accompanied by a separate Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) document which details how the fieldwork project will be carried out and addresses health and safety issues.



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Figure 1. Site location plan

2. The Site

2.1. Location and land-use

- The site, an area of c.0.4ha, lies on the southeastern edge of modern Beck Row, one of several small historic settlements within the parish of Mildenhall, at TL 7002 7114. It consists of a small open field fronting onto the south side of St John's Street and is crossed by a gravel track from north to south on its eastern side. The modern A1101 and then the perimeter of RAF Mildenhall lies c.150m to the south.

2.2. Topography and geology

- The site is broadly flat and lies on an area of relatively high ground at a height of c.7m above Ordnance Datum. The recorded site geology consists of chalk bedrock of the Grey Chalk Subgroup. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey website).

3. Archaeological and historical background

- The Brief states that the site *'lies within the historic settlement core of Beck Row, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 675. It is also situated opposite a post-medieval church (MNL 217). As a result there is high potential for encountering evidence of early occupation at this location'*
- An updated search of the Suffolk HER has been commissioned and results will be used to inform fieldwork and the evaluation report. The author and SACIC however have considerable past experience of archaeological work in the immediate vicinity and are aware that the site lies within the known dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that exists along the edge of the fens. Multiple archaeological works over the past 20 years at RAF Mildenhall and in Beck Row, c.1.2km to the northwest have identified extensive evidence of multi-period activity and scattered smaller sites or findspots indicating are known throughout the general area.
- The site also lies in close proximity to St John's Church and immediately to the

south of the former Aspal Park (MNL 483), now Aspal Close, which was associated with the medieval moated site of Aspal Hall, c.250m to the northeast (MNL 083). Combined with the site's road frontage position within the historic settlement core and adjacent to the post-medieval farm complex of Beck Lodge Farm, this suggests the site also has potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits.

- Initial examination of historic Ordnance Survey mapping held by SACIC shows that the site and its immediate surroundings has seen little change since the late 19th century (Fig. 2) and so preservation of any archaeological horizon may be good. The site is depicted as a single field to the west of the Beck Lodge Farm complex, with the open fields and light woodland of Aspal Close to the north, St John's Church to the northwest and a range of properties fronting St John's Road to the west. The trackway across the eastern part of the site is not apparent but a pump is marked near the northeast corner.
- In the wider region comparison of modern and historic mapping shows considerable changes to the landscape through the 20th century, largely associated with the creation and development of RAF Mildenhall to the south and west which has led to rerouting of roads and the substantial expansion of Beck Row to the north. None of this development however appears to have had any direct impact upon the site.

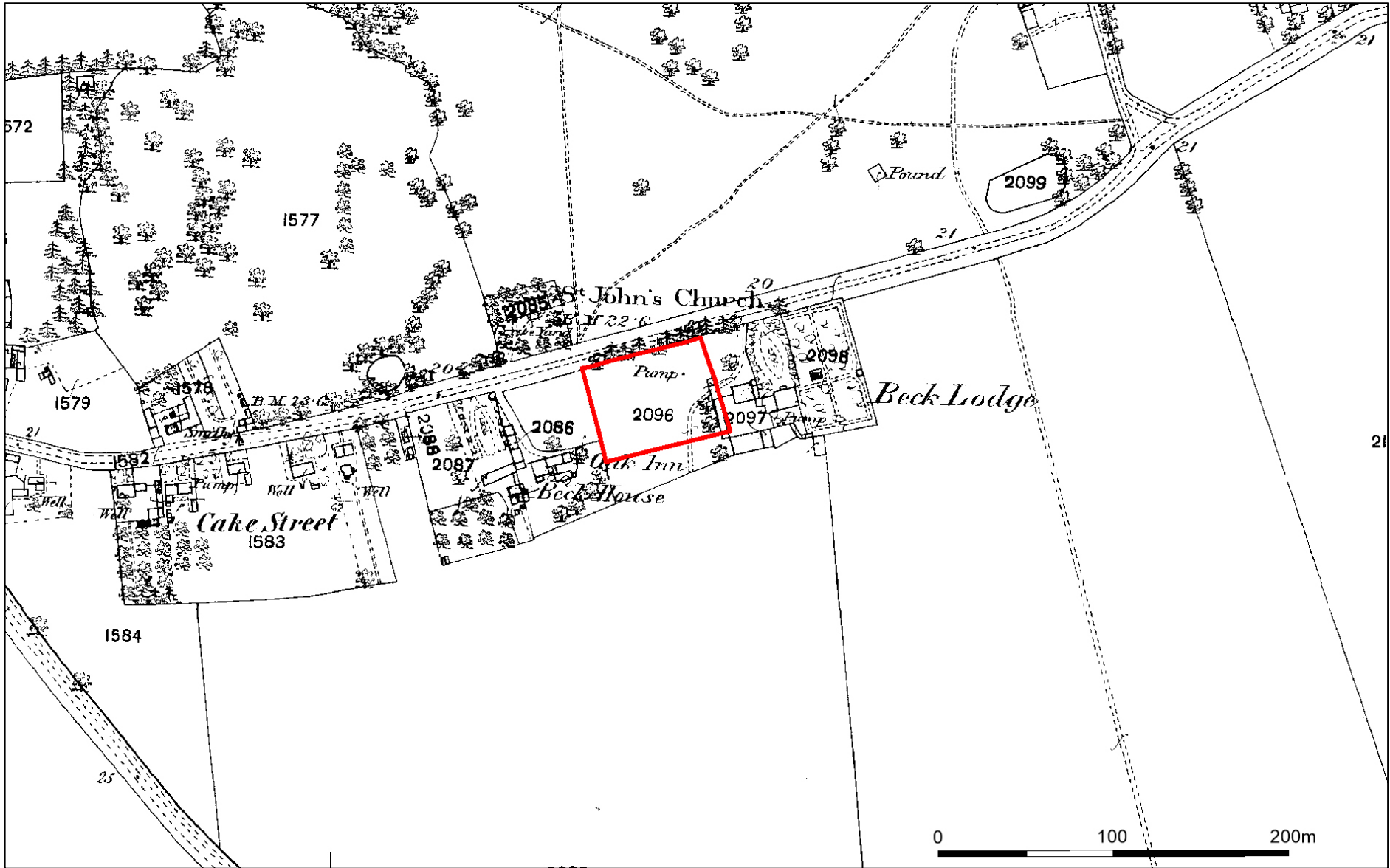
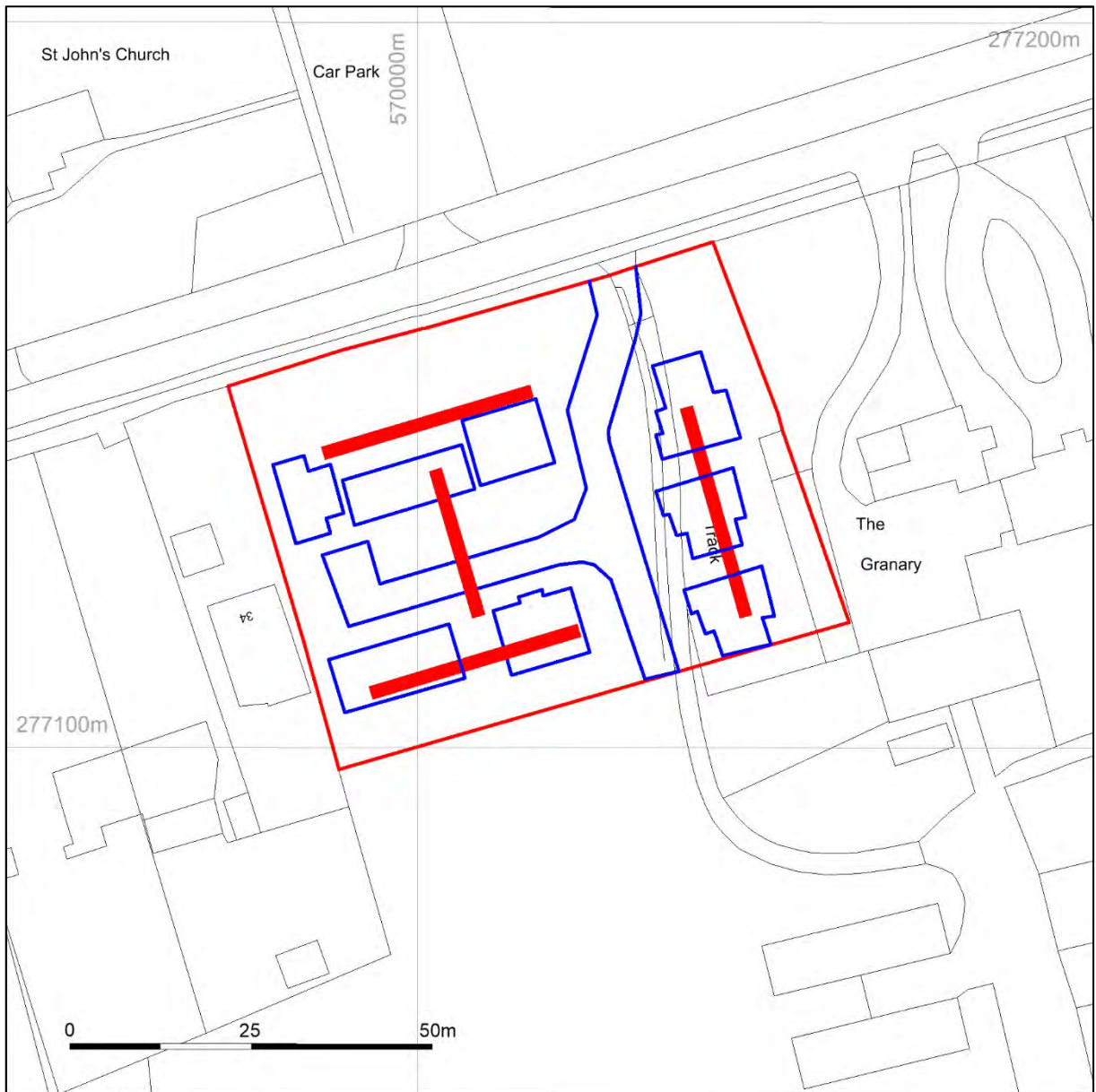


Figure 2. Site as depicted on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882

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 (proposed main buildings and access road in blue)

5. Archaeological method statement

5.1. Management

- The project will be managed by SACIC Project Manager 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, 2017a).
- SCCAS will be given ten days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork and arrangements made for SCCAS visits to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- Details of project staff, including sub-contractors and specialists are given in section 6 below.

5.2. Project preparation

- A 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 RAMS document for the project has been completed.

5.3. Fieldwork

- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of SACIC led by a Project Officer (TBC). The fieldwork team will be drawn from a pool of suitable full-time professional staff at SACIC and will include an experienced metal detectorist/excavator.
- The project Brief requires 5% of the 0.4ha application area to be evaluated, with trenches positioned to samples all areas of the site. This amounts to 111m of 1.8m wide trenches, or 200sqm, and a proposed trench plan of three 30m trenches and one 21m trench is included above (Fig. 3). The evaluation principally targets the main areas of the proposed development whilst avoiding the existing track. 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 1.5m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Trenches are likely to range from 0.4m to 1m deep.
- If a trench requires access by staff for hand excavation and recording, it will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. If the trench depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief it will be brought to the attention of SCCAS so that further requirements can be established. Deeper excavation can be undertaken, where practicable, provided the trench sides are stepped or battered and/or suitable trench support is used. However, such a variation will incur further costs to the client and time must be allowed for this to be established and agreed.
- Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required. 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.
- Metal detector searches (non-discriminating against iron) will take place throughout the project, both prior to and during machine excavation, and the subsequent hand-excavation phase, by an experienced SACIC metal-detectorist.
- 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 and SCCAS 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. SCCAS will be consulted to determine the subsequent work required but it is expected that 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.

- 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, such as McKinley & Roberts 1993, Brickley & McKinley 2004 etc. will be consulted. On completion of full recording and analysis, the remains, where appropriate, will be reburied or kept as part of the project archive. At the conclusion of the work backfilling will be carried out in a manner sensitive to the preservation of such remains.
- 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. Any further stage of works will require new documentation and are not covered by this WSI.
- 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.

- On approval of the report a printed and bound hard copy, and a digital .pdf file, will be lodged with SCCAS for submission to the Suffolk HER, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software.
- 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.
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the Historic England Science Advisor if it contains the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments or other scientific analyses.

5.6. Project archive

- 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.
- An unbound copy of the report will be included with the project archive.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be held in the SACIC Archaeological Store at Needham Market, Suffolk, until deposition, within 6 months of completion of fieldwork, with the SCCAS Archaeological Store within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. If SACIC is engaged to carry out any subsequent stages of fieldwork then deposition of the evaluation archive may be delayed until the full archive is completed. 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 2017b).
- The project costing includes a sum to meet SCCAS archive charges. A form transferring ownership of the finds archive to SCCAS will be completed on the client/landowners behalf by SACIC and will be included in the project archive.
- The client and/or landowner will have the opportunity to request retention of part/all of the material finds archive prior to deposition. In such circumstances 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.

- Exceptions from the deposition of the archive described above include:
 - Objects that qualify as Treasure, as detailed by the Treasure Act 1996.
 - The client (and landowner if different) will be informed as soon as any such objects are discovered/identified and the find will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification. SCCAS, the British Museum and the local Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Finds Liaison Officer will subsequently be informed of the find.
 - Treasure objects will immediately be moved to secure storage at SACIC and appropriate security measures will be taken on site if required.
 - Upon discovery of potential treasure the landowner will be asked if they wish to waive or claim their right to a treasure reward, which is 50% of the market value. Employees of SACIC, or volunteers etc. present on site, will not be eligible for any share of a treasure reward.
 - If the landowner waives their share the British Museum and Coroner will be informed and the object returned to the project archive for deposition in an appropriate repository. If the landowner wishes to claim an inquest will be held and, once officially declared as Treasure and valued, the item will if not acquired by a museum, be returned to SACIC and the project archive.
 - Human skeletal remains. The client/landowner by law will have no claim to ownership of human remains and any such will be stored by SACIC, in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence, until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- SACIC will retain copyright of all documentation and records but a form granting SCCAS a perpetual, royalty free, licence will be included in the archive.

6. Project Staffing

6.1. In-house staff

A summary of key project staff is presented below. Short CV's of key staff are available on request. The project will be managed by John Craven. The fieldwork team will be led by one of the listed Project Officers who will also produce the subsequent site report. The post-excavation finds analysis will be managed by Richenda Goffin and members of the SACIC post-excavation team will contribute to finds analysis, report production and archive preparation, and supervise junior staff as required.

Department	Role	Name	CifA level
Management	Dr Rhodri Gardner	Managing Director	MCifA
	John Craven	Project Manager	MCifA
	Richenda Goffin	Finds Manager	MCifA
	Jo Caruth	Senior Project Officer	MCifA
	Stuart Boulter	Senior Project Officer	MCifA
Fieldwork	Preston Boyles	Project Officer	PCifA
	Rob Brooks	Project Officer	MCifA
	Simon Cass	Project Officer	
	Martin Cuthbert	Project Officer	ACifA
	Linzi Everett	Project Officer	
	Michael Green	Project Officer	ACifA
	Jezz Meredith	Project Officer	MCifA
	Mark Sommers	Project Officer	
Post-excavation	Ryan Wilson	Graphics Officer	
	Dr Ruth Beveridge	Finds Officer	
	Stephen Benfield	Finds Officer	
	Anna West	Environmental Officer	

6.2. External specialists

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, further details are available on request.

Sue Anderson	Human skeletal remains	Freelance
Sarah Bates	Lithics	Freelance
Julie Curl	Animal bone	Freelance
Anna Doherty	Prehistoric pottery	Archaeology South-East
Kristina Krawiec	Palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating	Archaeology South-East
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Donna Wreathall	Illustration	SCCAS

7. Bibliography

- Brickley, M., and McKinley, J. I., 2004, *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. IFA Professional Practice Paper No 7.
- Brown, N and Glazebrook, J. (Eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8.
- Campbell, G, Moffett, L and Straker V., 2011, *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)*. Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.
- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.
- Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No 14.
- McKinley, J., I and Roberts, C., 1993, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*. IFA Technical Paper No 13.
- Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.
- SCCAS, 2017a, *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (updated March 2017)*.
- SCCAS, 2017b, *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk. Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition*.
- 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>

Resource Management
Bury Resource Centre
Hollow Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 7AY

Appendix 1. Brief

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Forest Heath District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: DC/17/0717/FUL

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged with the Suffolk HER Officer (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)

GRID REFERENCE: TL700771

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Housing

AREA: 0.4 ha

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Hannah Cutler
Archaeological Officer
Tel. : 01284 741229
E-mail: Hannah.cutler@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 22/08/2018

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following conditions relating to archaeological investigation:

3. No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.

- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. No building shall be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Condition 1 and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition.

Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance with Policy CS3 of Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2010) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

- 1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation and should be used in conjunction with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service's (SCCAS) Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2017. These should be used to form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor, commissioned by the applicant, must submit a copy of their WSI to SCCAS for scrutiny, before seeking approval from the LPA.
- 1.4 Following acceptance by SCCAS, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS to advise the LPA that a condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS), the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.7 Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (e.g. excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation must be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed development lies within the historic settlement core of Beck Row, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 675. It is also situated opposite a post-medieval church (MNL 217). As a result there is high potential for encountering evidence of early occupation at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.

Planning Background

- 3.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority were advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 200m². Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, using, where possible, a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c. 110m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS before fieldwork begins.
- 4.5 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the evaluation by a named, experienced metal detector user, including reference either to their contributions to the PAS database or to other published archaeological projects they have worked on. Metal detecting should be carried out before trenches are stripped, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.
- 5.4 The archaeological contractor will give SCCAS ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site. The contractor should update SCCAS on the nature of archaeological remains during the site works, particularly to arrange any visits by SCCAS that may be necessary. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to agreed locations and techniques in the WSI.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain a parish code for the work. This number will be unique for each project and must be used on site and for all documentation and archives relating to the project.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER, and an HER search should be commissioned. In any instances where it is felt that an HER search is unnecessary, this must be discussed and agreed with the relevant Case Officer. **ANY REPORTS WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE AN UP TO DATE HER SEARCH WILL NOT BE APPROVED. ALL REPORTS MUST CLEARLY DISPLAY THE INVOICE NUMBER FOR THE HER SEARCH, OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE RETURNED.**

- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 **This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.**

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2017 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2017.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report

Notes

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net> or 0118 378 6446).

The Historic Environment Records Data available on the Heritage Gateway and Suffolk Heritage Explorer is **NOT** suitable to be used for planning purposes and will not be accepted in lieu of a full HER search.

Appendix 2: Context List

Context Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Feature Number	Description
0001	1, 2, 3, 4	Deposit	Layer		Mid-greyish brown, loose sandy silt, with moderate CBM and modern metal waste fragments. Heavy root disturbance. Varies in depth, generally 0.30m thick, but reaching 0.46m thick at the south end of Trench 3.
0002	1, 2, 3, 4	Deposit	Layer		Mid-reddish/yellowish brown silty sand, slightly firm, with occasional chalk flecks. Plough scars throughout. Varies in depth across trenches. Two deeper areas in Trenches 1 and 3. Unsure if it is over pit 0003, as fill is similar to this layer.
0003	4	Ditch	Cut	0003	Partially seen feature against the northern edge of Trench 4. Appears to be rounded or oval in plan, and orientated NE-SW. It has a steep concave southern edge. The base was not excavated due to the depth of the trench.
0004	4	Ditch	Fill	0003	Mid-greyish/reddish brown, silty sand, containing occasional small rounded stones and chalk flecks.

Appendix 3. Bulk finds catalogue

Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		Spotdate	Sample No.	Finds from samples
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g			
0004	6	24	24	188	Med, Pmed	1	N/A

Appendix 4. OASIS summary

OASIS ID: suffolka1-327738

Project details

Project name	Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row
Short description of the project	Four evaluation trenches were excavated. A 19th century well and post-medieval pit (perhaps a quarry) were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2018 End: 08-10-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MNL 800 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	327738 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	DC/17/0717/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling", "Metal Detectors", "Sample Trenches", "Visual Inspection"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH MILDENHALL Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row
Study area	0.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7002 7714 52.365464955885 0.497430619825 52 21 55 N 000 29 50 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Hannah Cutler

Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Preston Boyles
Type of sponsor/funding body	developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mill House Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Beck Lodge Farm, Beck Row
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Boyles, P.
Other bibliographic details	SACIC report number 2018/087
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
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Entered by	Preston Boyles (preston.boyles@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	12 October 2018

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