

Report 3166



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at  
21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton, Suffolk**

SUT 222



**Prepared for**  
Flagship Housing Group Ltd  
c/o Oxbury & Company  
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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## Contents

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<i>Summary</i> .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
2.0 Geology and Topography .....	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology .....	4
5.0 Results.....	6
6.0 Finds .....	14
6.1 Pottery .....	14
7.0 Conclusions .....	14
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	15
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i> .....	15
Appendix 1a: Context Summary .....	16
Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary .....	16
Appendix 2a: Finds by Context .....	16
Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary .....	16
Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary .....	17

## **Figures**

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Location of trenches
- Figure 3 Trench 2, plan
- Figure 4 Trench 2, sections

## **Plates**

- Plate 1 Trench 1, drain cut
- Plate 2 Trench 2, post-hole [05]
- Plate 3 Trench 2, post-hole [07]
- Plate 4 Trench 2, post-hole [07] and pet burials
- Plate 5 Trench 2, hollow [09]

Location:	21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton, Suffolk
District:	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Grid Ref.:	TM 308 458
Planning Ref.:	C/10/24442
HER No.:	SUT 222
OASIS Ref.:	147187
Client:	Flagship Housing Trust
Dates of Fieldwork:	25-26 February 2013

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Flagship Housing Trust ahead of proposals for a new residential development.*

*A single trench was placed in the garden of each of two of the properties at 21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton, Suffolk. Trench 1 was located in the garden of number 24 and contained no archaeological evidence. Trench 2 was located in the garden of number 21 and revealed two post-holes of post-medieval to modern date, several pet burials of modern date and natural hollows/tree holes.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted ahead of the proposed residential development at 21-24 Old Post Office Lane, at the south-east end of the village of Sutton in Suffolk.

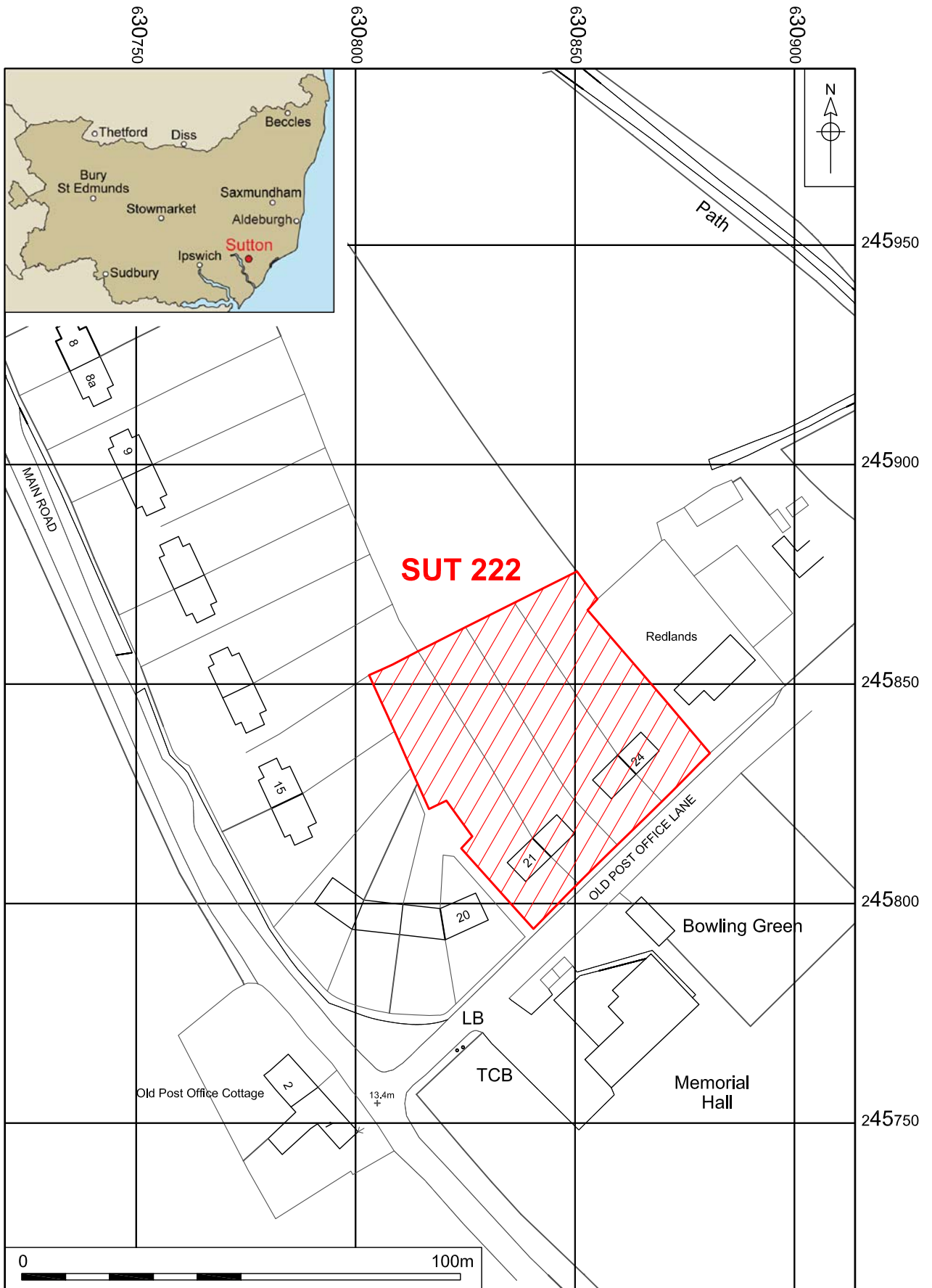
This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/10/24442) and a Brief issued by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council (Sarah Poppy 16 August 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (NAU/BAU3166/NP). This work was funded by Flagship Housing Trust and commissioned on their behalf by Oxbury & Company.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The solid geology of the area is listed as consisting of Red Crag Formation – sand formed approximately 2 to 4 million years ago. Superficial or drift deposits are not recorded for this area (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:1250

The topsoil varied slightly between the trenches with topsoil in Trench 1 consisting of moderately loose mid-pale brown soft sandy silt between 0.46m and 0.51m deep. The topsoil in Trench 2 was dark-mid brown, soft sandy silt c.0.34m deep.

The subsoil in Trench 1 was moderately compact, soft, orangish pale brown silty sand between 0.11m and 0.28m thick whilst the subsoil in Trench 2 appeared to be more of a c.0.26m-deep orangey mid brown silty sand.

At the time of archaeological trial trenching part of the site was occupied by four Airey houses that occupied the street frontage of the plots and their respective gardens, with the proposed demolition of these houses planned ahead of the anticipated residential development of this site. Airey houses are prefabricated structures built after World War II in rural areas and named after Sir Edwin Airey who designed them.

The site is located on the south-east edge of the village of Sutton which is c.13 miles to the east of Ipswich. The River Deben is located c.1m to the west of Sutton. The site is located at a height of c.12m O.D.

Trench location was restricted in both gardens of number 21 and 24; a clump of Japanese Knotweed in the garden of number 21 and an animal stabling area and sunken paddling pool in the garden on number 24 prevented both trenches being laid out to their full specified lengths.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Information held by the Suffolk HER was searched for an area of 500m around the site (centred on TM 308 458) and this produced 26 results. Those in closest proximity and of most relevance are summarised below.

To the south of Old Post Office Lane is SUT 053, recorded as two concentrations of medieval pottery potentially associated with two properties (SUT 086) that were recorded in this area on William Haiward's map of Suffolk 1629 and now non-existent.

To the north of the site the SHER shows SUT 145 as possible Early Bronze Age-Roman enclosures or field boundaries which include linear and rectilinear features.

To the north-east of this area is SUT 076 which is recorded as three buildings which represent the buildings of the manor of Fenhall, recorded from the 14th century and demolished after 1596.

Further to the north-east is SUT 089 - two buildings which appear on William Haiward's map of 1629 and which have since disappeared.

To the north-west of the site, close to the old vicarage in Sutton, is SUT 042 which records scatters of greyware, Ipswich ware and Thetfordware as well as a diffuse scatter of medieval pottery over the entire area, metal artefacts from a Roman to post-medieval date have also been recovered in this area.

To the west of the site SUT 148 a medieval/post medieval hollow way, visible as a cropmark and soil mark on aerial photographs of the area; orientated north-east to south-west this appears to measure c.182m in length.

To the south-west of the site is a very busy area of archaeological remains recorded by the SHER. The main record is SUT 022, a probable Iron Age-Roman

settlement to the north-east of Sutton Hall, seen as a dense series of cropmarks of a complex settlement which includes the remains of a probable Roman building. This record also encompasses an extensive finds scatter (SUT 002 and SUT 041) which is associated with coin hoards found in one of two small north-east to south-west linear features. SUT 002 and SUT041 comprise pottery and metal artefacts, a pottery sherd of possible Bronze Age date, Late Iron Age pottery and metal objects and a Late Saxon wrist clasp.

Also within this vicinity is SUT 021, the record of a Roman coin. SUT 150 records the presence of post-medieval quarry pits. SUT 044 is the remains of a possible prehistoric sub-circular enclosure of 40m diameter which appears to be cut by the later Iron Age/Roman settlement SUT 022.

To the south-east of the site are SUT 101 and SUT 211. SUT 101 is a site of cropmarks of a small sub-rectangular field system and SUT 211 is a burnt flint scatter.

The evidence described above is in close proximity to the site suggesting a high potential for artefacts or features of a Bronze Age to post-medieval date to be present in the area.

#### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that two trenches, one measuring c.40.0m x 1.8m and a second c.30.0m x 1.8m be excavated in two of the plots (numbers 21 and 24 respectively) to provide a sample of the proposed development area.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Environmental samples were not taken.

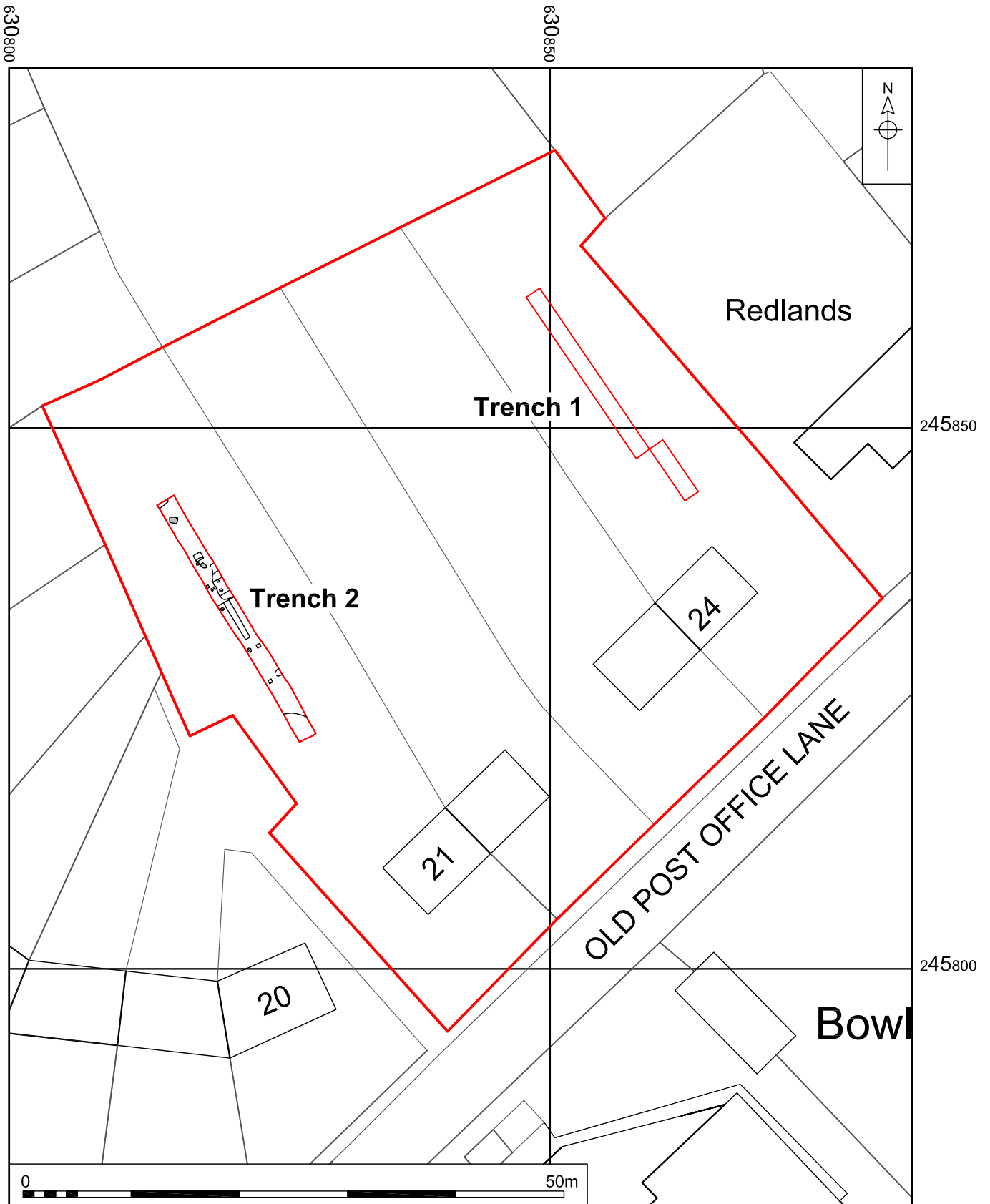
All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were set using a GSP by NPS Land Survey.

Access to the whole area of the gardens of numbers 21 and 24 was constrained by the presence of Japanese knotweed in the garden of 21 and by an animal stabling area and circular sunken paddling pool in the garden of number 24 (wooden fence panels were removed to gain access to this property).

The work took place in overcast and chilly weather.





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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:500

## 5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1							
			<b>Fig. 2; Plate 1</b>				
			<b>Location</b>				
			Orientation		North-west to south-east		
			North-west end		630822.138 245829.996		
			South-east end		630859.5 245845.465		
			<b>Dimensions</b>				
			Length		23.80m		
			Width		1.55m		
			Depth		0.57-0.76m		
			<b>Levels</b>				
North-west top		12.37m OD					
South-east top		12.77mOD					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL			
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Moderately compact mid-pale brown (with a greyish hue) soft sandy silt with very rare occurrences of stones.	0.46-0.51m	0.00-0.51m			
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Soft, moderately compact, orangish pale brown silty sand with very, very rare occurrences of stones.	0.11-0.28m	0.46-0.78m			
--	Deposit	Natural. Very pale brown orange yellow soft sand with manganese and rare occurrences of flint.	--	0.78m+			
Discussion							
Trench 1 was devoid of archaeological artefacts or features.							
The trench was shortened to 23.80m in length with the final 5.80m excavated as an offset due to the proximity of the house (Fig. 2). This trench was also excavated to bucket width of 1.50m due to the restrictions either side of a sunken paddling pool and fencing.							
Modern post-holes were noted at the northern end of the trench in close proximity to concrete posts and they are therefore thought to be an earlier part of this arrangement.							
A modern drain crossed the trench (Plate 1).							

**Trench 1**



Plate 1. Trench 1, drain cut

## Trench 2



**Figs 2, 3 and 4; Plates 2, 3 4 and 5**

### Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 630814.479 245843.320

South-east end 630826.410 245823.200

### Dimensions

Length 25.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.54 – 0.60m

### Levels

North-east top 12.28m OD

South-west top 12.79mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark–mid brown soft sandy silt.	0.34m	0.00-0.34m
04	Deposit	Subsoil. Orangey mid brown silty sand.	0.26m	0.00-0.60m
05	Cut	Post-hole. Sub-circular in plan with near-vertical sides and a sloping base; sharp break of slope at top and abrupt break of slope at base.	0.38m	0.54-0.92m
06	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [05]. Moderately compact, soft mid-grey-brown sandy silt with very rare occurrences of small stones and roots.	0.38m	0.54-0.92m
07	Cut	Post-hole. Sub-circular in plan with near-vertical sides and a sloping base; sharp break of slope at top and abrupt break of slope at the base.	0.32m	0.54-0.86m
08	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [07]. Loose, soft greyish mid brown sandy silt.	0.32m	0.54-0.86m
09	Cut	Natural hollow. Unclear in plan as it extended beyond the limits of the trench. It had irregularly sloping edges, ranging from gentle to steep and a fairly flat base. There was a gradual	0.50m	0.54-1.04m

<b>Trench 2</b>				
		break of slope at top and subtle break of slope at the base.		
10	Deposit	Fill of Natural hollow [09]. Soft pale greyish-pale beige-brown with an orange hue silty sand with rare occurrences of flint.	0.50m	0.54-1.04m
11	Cut	Tree-hole. Unclear in plan but possibly sub-oval with a flattish base; it had gradually sloping sides and gentle break of slope at top and base.	0.24m	0.24-0.78m
12	Deposit	Fill of tree-hole. Soft greyish pale beige brown silty sand.	0.24m	0.24-0.78m
13	Cut	Test-hole to investigate area of siltier material, possibly a natural hollow. Unclear in plan, possibly a siltier spread of natural. The base of the test-hole was uneven with one area slightly deeper with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.	0.40m	0.60-1.00m
14	Deposit	Fill of ?natural hollow [13]. Soft pale yellow beige brown slightly silty sand.	0.40m	0.60-1.00m
-	Deposit	Natural. Very pale brown orange yellow soft sand and yellow orange sand with manganese and rare occurrences of flint.	--	0.60m+

### **Discussion**

Trench 2 was positioned to avoid a stand of Japanese knotweed located at the rear boundary of 21 Old Post Office Lane. The trench was shortened at its south-western end to 25m to avoid the mechanical excavator operating close to the house.

Post-holes [05] and [07] (Plates 2, 3 and 4) were of probably modern date. Two fragments of post medieval pottery were recovered from post-hole [05].

Modern pits containing the buried remains of small pets were encountered in the middle and at the north-western end of the trench.

Feature [09] appeared to be a natural hollow; its full extent could not be determined.

Some of the natural (geological) deposits at the site appeared to have been disturbed in the relatively recent past and contained concrete. There were also some areas of natural hollows/tree-holes ([11] and possibly [13]).

No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

**Trench 2**



Plate 2. Trench 2, post-hole [05]



Plate 3. Trench 2, post-hole [07]

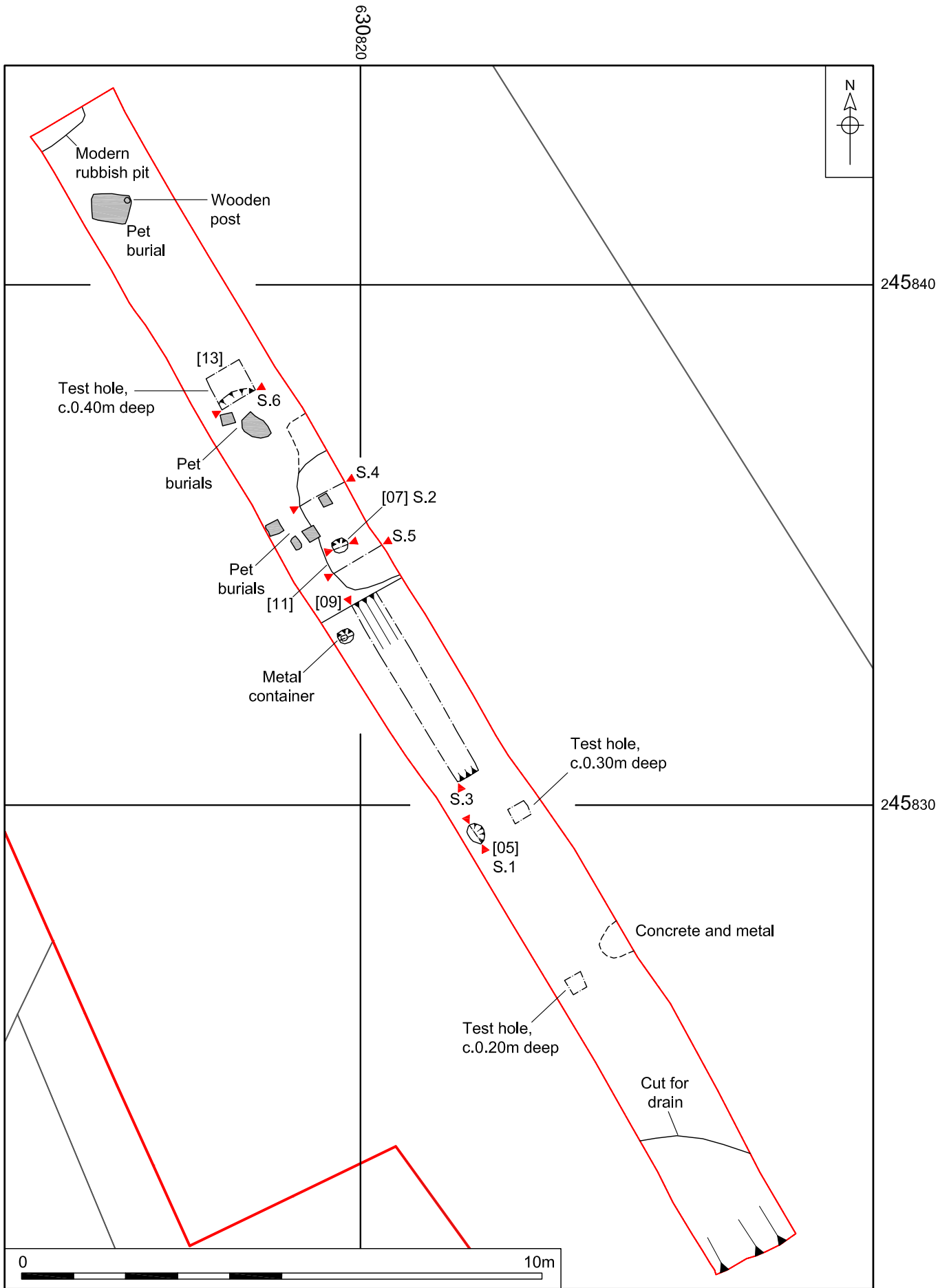
Trench 2



Plate 4. Trench 2, post-hole [07] and pet burials



Plate 5. Trench 2, hollow [09]



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Figure 3. Trench 2, plan. Scale 1:100



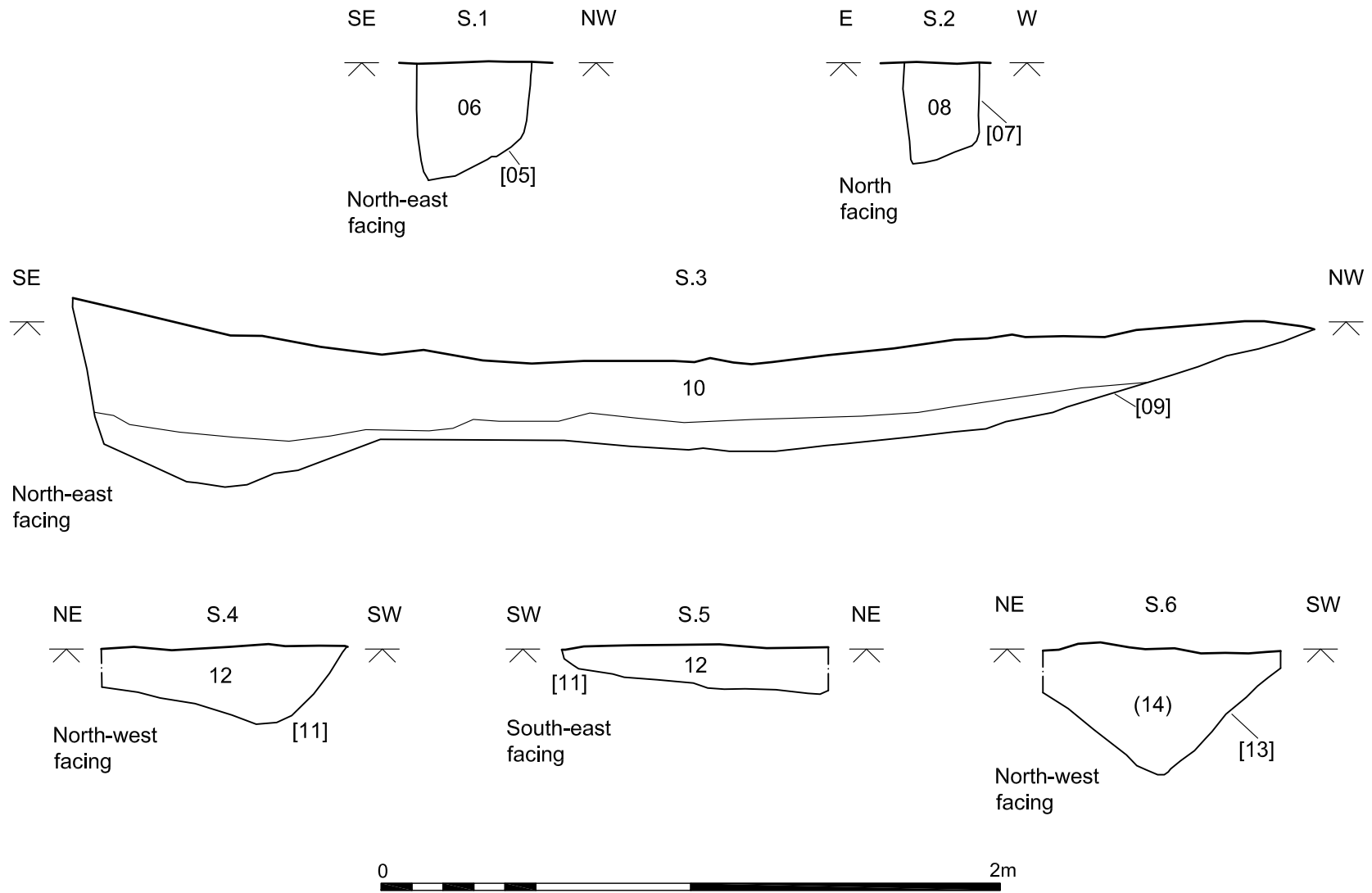


Figure 4. Trench 2, sections. Scale 1:20

## **6.0 FINDS**

by Rebecca Sillwood

The limited number and scope of finds recovered during this evaluation (two sherds of pottery from one feature) is surprising given the archaeological evidence recorded in the vicinity. The sherds were processed and recorded by count and weight.

The sherds are listed by context in Appendix 2a.

### **6.1 Pottery**

Two body sherds of post-medieval pottery (8g) were recovered from fill [06] of post-hole [05].

One of the pieces is in pale orange fabric with remnants of orange glaze on one surface. The second fragment is dark orange with thick brown glaze on the exterior surface, and a white slip on the interior. Both of these pieces are probably glazed red earthenwares or similar, a utilitarian ware, and date to the 16th to 18th centuries.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed by the trial trenching at 21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton.

Trench 1 contained evidence of modern post-holes possibly related to a line of concrete posts to the west of the trench.

Trench 2 contained two post-holes, pet burials and a natural hollow

One of the post-holes ([05]) contained a couple of sherds of post-medieval pottery. There were several burials of small animals (pets) of fairly modern date within the trench.

Natural hollow [09] was present in the middle of the trench and natural deposits that had been disturbed by concrete and a modern drain were located at the south-western end of the trench.

Feature [11] was identified as a possible tree-hole whilst a second feature ([13]) might also represent a similar feature.

The paucity of archaeological remains, especially artefacts, within the evaluated area is worth noting, given the evidence surrounding the site recorded on Suffolk's Historic Environment Record. This absence might be in part explained by the disturbed deposits encountered in Trench 2 where some of the natural deposits appeared to have been disturbed relatively recently.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank those below for their contribution to this project.

The project was funded by Flagship Housing Trust and commissioned by Oxbury & Company.

The trenches were located by Sandrine Whitmore of NPS Land Survey Team.

Excavation was undertaken by the author.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Mark Gladden of GB Digger Hire.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of The Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council by Sarah Poppy.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

## ***Bibliography and Sources***

Department for Communities    2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*  
and Local Government

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>    Accessed 22.03.2013

## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 1	Modern	1
02	Deposit			Subsoil Trench 1	Post-medieval/ modern	1
03	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 2	Modern	2
04	Deposit			Subsoil Trench 2	Post-medieval/ modern	2
05	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval/ modern	2
06	Deposit		05	Fill of post-hole [05]	Post-medieval/ modern	2
07	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Post-medieval/ modern	2
08	Deposit		07	Fill of post-hole [07]	Post-medieval/ modern	2
09	Cut	Natural hollow		Large natural hollow	--	2
10	Deposit		09	Fill of large natural hollow [09]	--	2
11	Cut	Tree-hole		Possible tree-hole	--	2
12	Deposit		11	Fill of possible tree-hole [11]	--	2
13	Cut	?Natural hollow		?Natural hollow	--	2
14	Deposit		13	Fill of ?natural hollow [13]	--	2

## Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Post-medieval/modern	Post-hole	2
Uncertain	Natural hollow	2
	Tree-hole	1

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
6	Pottery	2	8g	Post-medieval	GRE; 16th-18th century

## Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Pottery	2

## **Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norfolka1-147187**

### Project details

Project name	21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Flagship Housing Trust ahead of proposals for a new residential development. A single trench was placed in the garden of each of two of the properties at 21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton, Suffolk. Trench 1 was located in the garden of number 24 and contained no archaeological evidence. Trench 2 was located in the garden of number 21 and revealed two post-holes of post-medieval to modern date, several pet burials of modern date and natural hollows/tree holes.
Project dates	Start: 25-02-2013 End: 26-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SUT 222 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POST-HOLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL SUTTON 21-24 Old Post Office Lane,
Study area	3500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 308 458 52 1 52 03 42 N 001 22 02 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Whitmore
Project supervisor	Lilly Hodges
Type of sponsor/funding body	Housing Association
Name of sponsor/funding body	Flaship Housing Trust

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at 21-24 Old Post Office Lane, Sutton, Suffolk
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## OASIS:

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