



2020/106381

Phase 1 Development, Land South of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8DL

Archaeological Investigative Trial Trenching



Prepared for: Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited

Planning Ref: DC/18/05104

HER: NDM 058

September 2020



nps archaeology

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Client:	Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited
Location:	Land South of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market, Suffolk
District:	Mid Suffolk District Council
Planning Reference:	DC/18/05104
Grid Reference:	TM 08527 55196
HER No.:	NDM 058
OASIS ID:	norfolka1-400063
Dates of Fieldwork:	28th July-6th August 2020

Summary

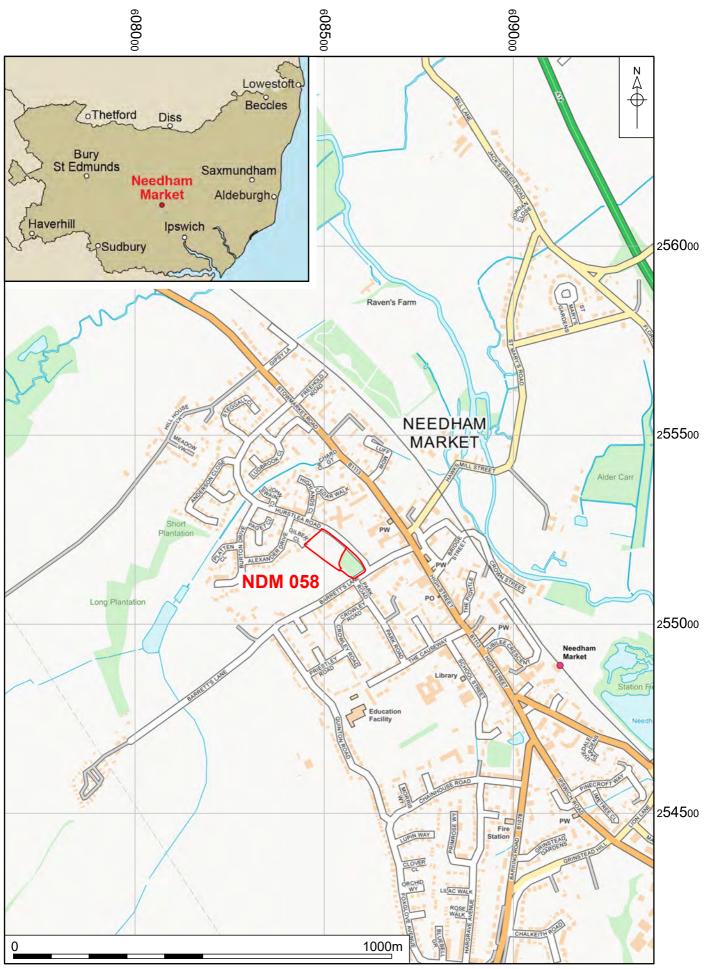
In 2020 NPS Archaeology carried out informative archaeological trial trenching at Land South of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market, Suffolk in advance of a proposed residential development. This work was in response to a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The fieldwork and reporting was funded by Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited.

The evaluation comprised six trenches which tested 5% by area of the 0.65ha proposed development area. Archaeological features were identified as present in five of the six trenches.

Modern groundworks for a surface car park had heavily truncated any pre-existing archaeological remains at the site. The earliest evidence of human activity provided by the evaluation were two struck flints, typologically dated as probably late prehistoric and considered likely to be residual in later features. One ditch containing a single piece of struck flint and no other finds might be of prehistoric date, but this is a very tentative conclusion based on limited evidence.

The evaluation recorded a small number of pits and ditches which on the basis of pottery recovered from them, dated to the medieval to early post-medieval period. A domestic waste pit of c. 14th century date indicates some medieval activity in the vicinity. Other pitting was probably due to mineral extraction, with a small number of ditches serving as boundaries and drainage for the clay soils present at the site.

The site would seem to be peripheral to any significant medieval or post-medieval activity, with such activity likely to be focused to the east of the site and closer to the historic core of Needham Market.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

- 1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by Cocksedge Building Contractors Limited to carry out investigative trial trenching of Land south of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market, Suffolk. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TM 08527 55196.
- 2 The proposed development is for residential housing with a retail unit and associated works, set in a plot of c. 0.79ha. of which the development forms 0.65ha.
- 3 The trial trenching comprised a total of 6 trenches comprising 4nos. 30.00m x 1.80m trenches, one of 35.00m x 1.80m and one 25.00m x 1.80m.
- 4 This program of work was conducted by NPS Archaeology to comply with planning conditions set by Mid Suffolk District Council ahead of proposed construction at the site.
- 5 The site is currently largely surface car parking with small areas of flower bed. An extant pond set within a green area with trees occupies the south east corner of the development area.
- 6 The site represents the first part of a larger phased development which will eventually include a second area north of Hurstlea Road.

Planning Background

- 7 Planning permission has been granted subject to a programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work in line with paragraph 199 of National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2019).
- 8 Investigative trial trenching is required prior to the determination of any future planning application (National Planning Policy Framework 2019, paragraph 189).
- **9** This program of work was conducted to fulfil a brief issued by Mathew Baker of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), on behalf of the planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council (Baker 2020).
- 10 A desk based assessment (DBA) undertaken by NPS Archaeology is issued as *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment For Former Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, Needham Market, Suffolk (Trimble 2019).* This considered a larger area than the current site and encompassed the full extent of the former Mid Suffolk District Council Office buildings to the east of the Phase 1 Development considered in this report.
- 11 The DBA concluded that 'the site had a high potential for archaeological remains of Saxon, medieval and post medieval date to survive at the site. However, the development area is large and given the wide range of archaeological remains recorded in the Assessment Area, the cumulative potential for archaeological remains of earlier periods to survive in at least parts of the site is considered to be medium on this basis'.
- 12 No previous archaeological fieldwork is documented as having been carried out on the site.

- **13** The SCCAS brief outlines the requirements of an evaluation by investigative trial trenching which includes:
 - 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.
- 14 The SCCAS brief states that the: 'site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER), on the edge of the historic medieval core of Needham Market (HER ref no. NDM 026). A desk-based assessment (Purcell, October 2018) submitted with the application showed that there is potential that archaeological remains may survive from earlier periods; any surviving remains may be of some significance at a local to regional level' (Baker 2020).
- **15** These factors highlight some potential for archaeological remains of a range of periods to be present on the site.
- **16** The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (Adams 2020).
- 17 The recipients of this report will be the client, SCCAS and the Local District Authority.

SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 18 The town of Needham Market, in the civil parish of Needham Market and the administrative district of Mid Suffolk, is located approximately 13km north-west of Ipswich and 25km southeast of Bury St. Edmunds. The town lies on the River Gipping.
- **19** The proposed development is located a short distance north west of Needhams historic core.
- 20 Topographically, the site is situated on slightly sloping terrain, decreasing from an elevation of c.32.00m in the north west to c.29.00m to the south east. The site is bounded by a sports field to the west, housing to the north and Hurstlea Road to the east. Two historic ponds are present in the southern portion of the development area. The larger of the two is within parkland containing yew and redwood trees of some age.
- Solid geology is of the Newhaven Chalk Formation. The chalk is overlain by 21 Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, a sedimentary deposit of glacial origin. Deposits of river terrace sand and gravel and Lowestoft Formation fringe the line of the River Gipping and are in turn overlain by clay and silt alluvium. (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

22 The place-name of Needham Market is thought to derive from the Anglian word 'ned' for needy and the Old English 'ham' for settlement or farmstead, indicating a community in distress or poverty. The market element was added in the fourteenth century. The settlement was not listed in the Domesday Book of 1068 but this is likely to be because it was grouped with nearby Barking which was a more significant settlement at the time. Until 1901 Needham Market was in Barking parish. The survey mentions 2 churches under the entry for Barking, one of which was held by Roger Bigot. It is possible that the church held by Roger Bigot was in Needham Market. The town was granted a market by Henry III in 1245 (Paget, 1988).

Sources

- 23 The primary source for archaeological information in the county is the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), which details sites of historical interest including finds, archaeological excavations, and remote sensing data. In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, a 250m radius search of Historic Environment Records (HER) centred on TM 08527 55196 was purchased (Purchase Order No. 01041042). The information presented, which has been sourced from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, remains the copyright of SCCAS.
- A total of 53 separate records were recovered by this search, including 36 HER monument records and 21 event records (archaeological works). Those most relevant are discussed below in chronological order. Records located in close proximity to the site are shown in Figure 2.
- **25** The archaeological desk based assessment (Trimble 2019) produced in relation to the development presents a detailed and wider ranging archaeological and historical background to that presented here which is focussed on Phase 1 portion of the development south west of Hurstlea Road.

Prehistoric

- 26 The SCCHER contains only two records relating to known prehistoric remains with the Search Area. Both sites are located to the east of the proposed development area. During trial trenching off The Pightle, located approximately 250m east of the proposed development works, flint, including material of earlier Mesolithic date was identified in a layer of exposed subsoil (NDM 008). Subsequent monitoring recovered further flintwork and features of probable prehistoric date. It is possible that the 'exposed subsoil' may be a sealed and preserved buried soil horizon, particularly if the layer was cut by the recorded features.
- 27 Close to the edge of the Search Area, further to the south-east, a ring ditch and human cremation burials (HER NDM 033) of Bronze date were recorded during trial trenching and excavation in 2012 and 2013. The remains of 17 cremations were recorded enclosed by the ring ditch. A sizeable assemblage of residual Early and Late Neolithic flint was recovered during the investigation.

Romano-British

28 No evidence of Romano-British activity has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site though four HER entries attest activity to the south and east.

- **29** Approximately 170m to the south east, Roman pottery was discovered during the development of a small extension to number 95 High Street (NDM 012).
- **30** A pit containing Roman pottery was recorded during trial trenching approximately 250m to the east of the proposed development on The Pightle (NDM 008).
- A Roman coin of Trajan (AD 98-117) was found at 7 Priestley Road approximately 200m to the south of the site (NDM 005).
- 32 At the southern edge of the search area some 300m south of the site, Roman pottery has been found at the primary school on Quintin Road (NDM 004).

Anglo-Saxon

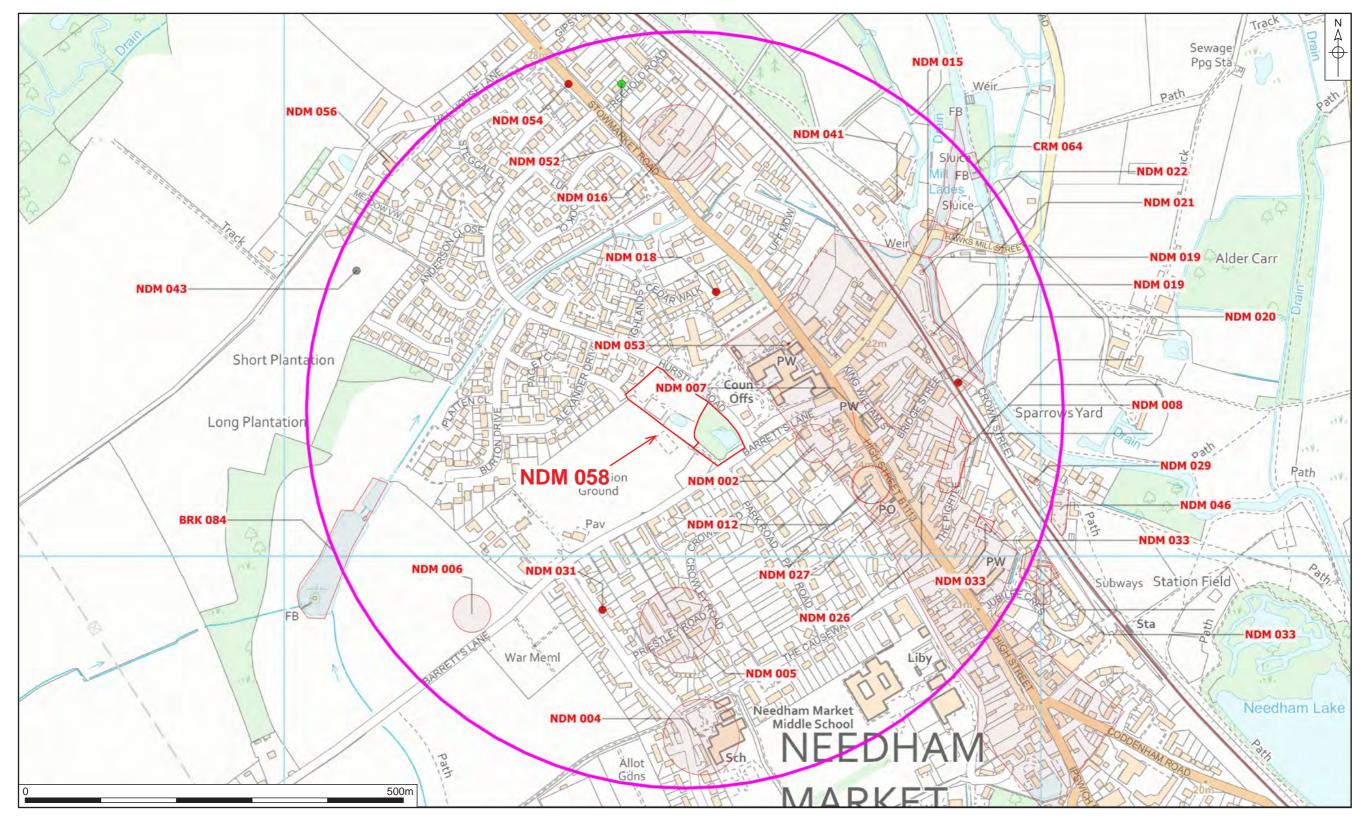
- 33 Excavations at the former Unilever site situated some 300m to the south east of the site at Hurstlea Road located two Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings (NDM 033).
- A further sunken featured building along with two enclosure ditches and two pits of Early Saxon date were recorded during trial trenching at the Pightle (NDM 008) only 100m south east of the Unilever site.

Medieval

- **35** Pottery sherds of medieval date have been found on the south side of Barrett's Lane from the garden to rear of 111 High Street (NDM 002) and on the north side of Barrett's Lane (NDM 006).
- **36** Trial trenching at The Pightle (NDM 008) 250m east of the Hurstlea site exposed a number of medieval features including post holes, pits and a possible ditch.
- 37 A penny of Edward III was found at 60 Stowmarket Road some 375m north of the site (NDM 052).
- 38 The medieval church of John the Baptist (NDM 007) fronts onto the east side of High Street approximately 100m south-west of Hurstlea. The church is most notable for its hammerbeam roof, thought by some to be the finest in England. Pevsner remarks that it is 'culminating achievement of English carpentry'. The church was a chapel of ease until Needham Market became a separate parish in 1907.

Post Medieval and Modern

- **39** Fomerly a private house, Hurstlea (131 High Street) is a late 18th century Grade II Listed building (NHL 1254005) and lies at the core of the former council offices situated opposite to the site east of Hurstlea road. Fronting onto the High Street, the house was constructed by S.A Maw, Quaker and banker.
- 40 Also fronting onto High Street to the north-west of Hurstlea is a now brick-encased 16th century timber framed Grade II Listed Building (HER 436932) (NHL 1253666) originally built as a single structure but now divided into two. Immediately to the north-west is a Grade II Listed mid-16th century listed building (HER 436933) (HHL 1261496) with a jettied upper floor. The building is known as Hallgarth House. To the south-east, at the junction of High Street and Barretts Lane is a Grade II Listed early or mid-16th century timber framed building jettied towards Barrett's Lane at first floor level. It is thought that Samuel Alexander moved his bank to this site in 1756.



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- 42 The site of a Friends Meeting House and burial ground is marked on the 1904 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map to the rear of the post office at 89 High Street (NDM 027).
- 43 Two surfaces of possible post medieval date were discovered during the monitoring of footing trenches at 139 High Street, just to the north-west of Hurstlea (NDM 053).
- 44 A watermill known as Hawks Mill (NDM 022) is shown on late eighteenth maps on the River Gipping on the east side of the town. A brick corn mill replaced the original brick and paper boarded paper mill in 1884.
- 45 A lock is also shown on the River Gipping on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. Close to the limit of the search area and to the south-east of the proposed development are the sites of two maltings (NDM 033) which operated from the post medieval period into the twentieth century.
- **46** The Needham Market gasworks which operated during the 19th and 20th centuries is located to the north of the maltings.
- 47 A lake or pond of 18th to 20th century date (BRK 084) lies at the western limit of the search area. Approximately 600m to the north of the development area is the site of a post-medieval windmill (NDM 016) which is thought to have operated during the 18th and nineteenth centuries.
- 48 The site of a bridge (NDM 015) shown on late 18th century maps is a former course of the River Gipping is located approximately 250m to the north-east of the Hurstlea Road site.
- **49** The sites of two second world war spigot mortar emplacements (NDM 019) positioned to defend the river crossing are located approximately 200m to the east.

Cartographic Information

James Pennington's map of Needham Market 1772

- **50** Pennington's map shows the area bounded by High Street to the east of the site and Barrett's Lane to the south in reasonable detail.
- 51 The line of buildings fronting the High Street discussed previously are clearly marked and the western extent of the plots to the rear of the properties are defined by a common boundary which extends from Barrett's lane up to the end of the built up area to the north. This boundary, roughly parallel to High Street, is likely to define the rear of the medieval plot boundaries.
- 52 The area of the map coinciding with the Phase 1 development is open and relatively undeveloped. The two ponds still extant on the site are visible bounded by apparently quite formally arranged lines of trees. The layout is reminiscent of parkland.

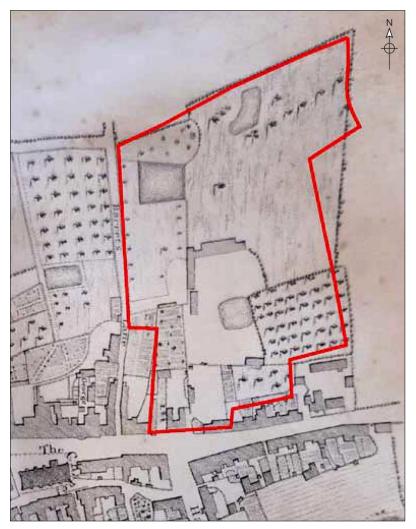


Figure 3. James Pennington's map of Needham Market 1772

Tithe map of Barking cum Needham and Darmsden 1841

- 53 Needham Market is included on the Tithe map of parish of Barking cum Needham and Barking, surveyed in 1841.
- 54 The two still extant ponds are shown and there is now a track running diagonally across the site leading to a plot of land shown as an orchard to the rear of the buildings fronting the High Street on Pennington's map.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition six inch county series map 1890

- 55 The first edition six inch map of 1890 (surveyed in 1884) is the first to name Hurstlea. The area encompassed by the Phase 1 development a curving track extends from the rear of Hurstlea to the south east corner of the larger of the still extant ponds. The track then joins a network of paths which access an area of woodland to the northwest of the pond and areas at the centre of the formally open field. The area has the characteristics of a formally laid out garden possibly built for recreational use of the occupants of Hurstlea.
- 56 A new boundary appears to partition off an area to the north-west of the paths and larger pond following the line of the diagonal track shown on the tithe map.

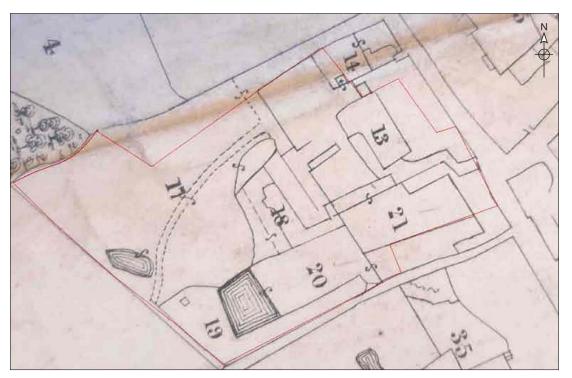


Figure 4. Tithe map of Barking cum Needham and Darmsden 1841

Ordnance Survey Survey 25 inch provisional edition of 1924 with additions in 1938 county series map 1927

57 The overall layout of buildings and gardens is largely unchanged since 1890 on this map.

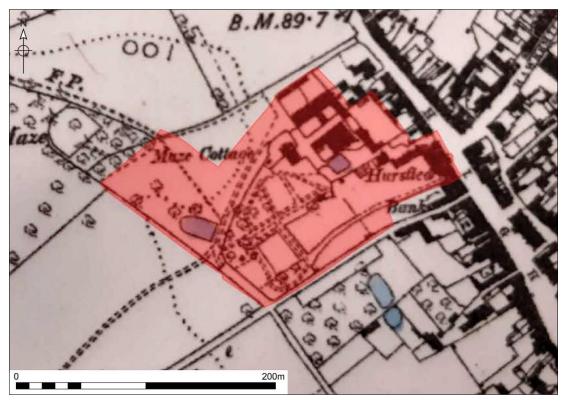


Figure 5. Ordnance Survey 1st edition six inch county series map 1890

METHODOLOGY

General

- 58 Methodology for the investigative trial trenching followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Adams 2020), where the mitigation strategy for the works is presented in full.
- **59** Archaeological procedures followed Requirements for a Trenched Evaluation set out by SCCAS (2020) and the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). The trial trenching was conducted within the context of the current regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).

Objectives

- 60 The objective of the trial trenching 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 area of development.
- **61** The archaeological project aimed to provide appropriate and adequate data to permit informed decisions regarding any requirement for future archaeological mitigation work at Land south of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market, Suffolk, and to make the results of the work accessible.

Methodology

- 62 The brief (Baker 2020) required that trial trenches were to be excavated to cover 5% by area (minus the area of existing ponds), which equated to a 325m2 sample area. Linear trenching was considered to be the most appropriate sampling method, set out in a systematic grid array. This resulted in a requirement for 180m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 63 Initially this was to comprise six 30.00m x 1.80m trenches, but constraints at the site meant some variation to the individual lengths was required, while still maintaining the same overall length of linear trenching.
- 64 A site survey was carried out by NPS Land Survey using a GS16 GPS. Trenches were situated according to the agreed WSI plan and located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- **65** Prior to mechanical excavation, each trench location was scanned with a CAT scan to check for buried services. The areas to be stripped of topsoil were examined and metal detected for surface features and for archaeological artefacts prior to any excavation.
- 66 Machine excavation was carried out by a 8 tonne hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.
- 67 Due to presence of tarmac and reinforced concrete in some trench locations, a breaker attached to the excavator was initially used to break out and reduce this material.

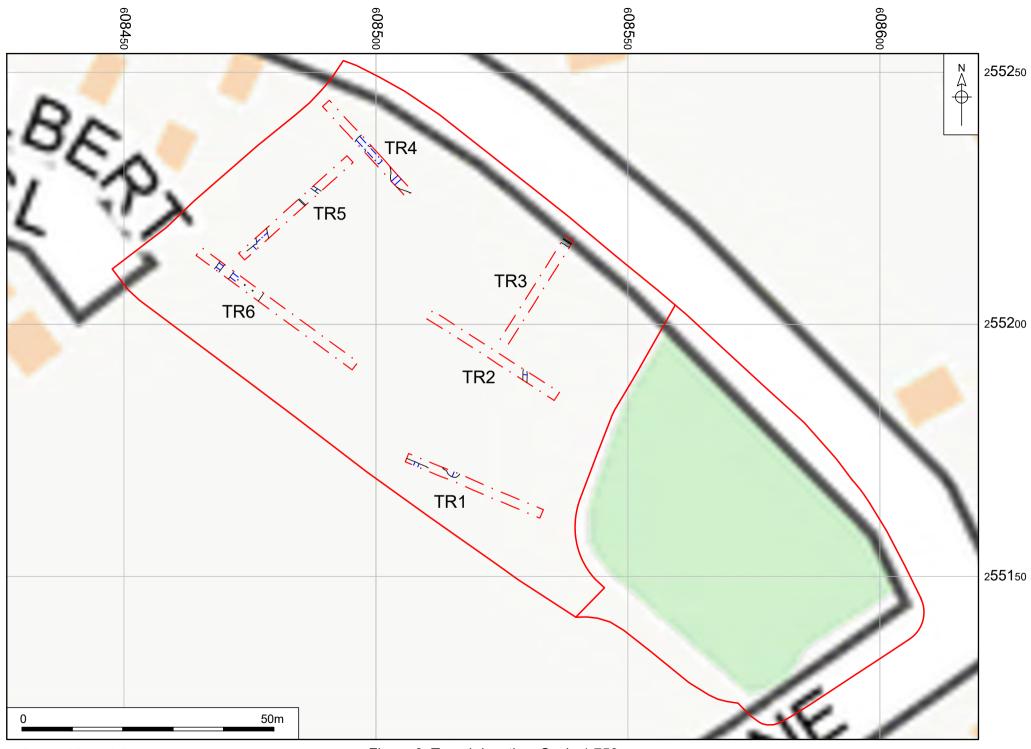
- 68 All trench surfaces revealed by machine were hand-cleaned and any archaeological deposits were excavated by hand. On completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.
- 69 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds, other than those that were evidently modern, were retained for examination, with their location being recorded via GPS. All retained finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit and were processed and recorded in line with relevant guidelines for archaeological finds (ClfA 2014b).
- 70 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.
- 71 Temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were located at the ends of each of the trenches with spot heights recorded by the GS16 GPS.
- 72 Site conditions were hot and dry during the course of fieldwork. Despite this, the conditions did not hinder the excavation or recording of the archaeological deposits or features.
- **73** All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provisions. Hard hats, high-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times.

Archive

- 74 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology. Upon completion of the project, the documentary archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines obtained from the relevant Museum and relevant national guidelines (ClfA 2014c). The archive, consisting of all paper elements created during recording of the archaeological site, including digital material, will be deposited with SCCAS.
- **75** Subject to written consent and donation by the landowner, all archaeological finds recovered by the current work will be deposited with SCCAS.
- **76** A summary form of the results of this project has been completed for Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) under the reference norfolka1-400063 and this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.
- The contents of the site archive is summarised in Table 1.

Item	No.
Contexts	36
Files/paper record sheets	45
Plan and section sheets	8
Photographs	43
Finds	51

Table 1. Site archive quantification



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RESULTS

Trench 1

de	1 And		Figures 6, 7; Plate 1	I			
	and the second second second		Location	Location			
	N/		Orientation	Northwe	est-southeast		
			Dimensions				
			Length	30.00m			
			Width	1.80m			
1 and 1	APPT	···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Depth	0.84m			
	Company and		Levels				
a for the second second		Northwest top		29.89m OD			
E. M		to the second	Southeast top		29.19m OD		
Context	Туре	Description	and Interpretation		Thickness		
01	Deposit	Topsoil			0.30m		
02	Deposit	Modern mal	ke-up		0.36m		
03	Deposit	Modern mal	Modern make-up		0.20m		
04	Cut	Modern trun	Modern truncation		N/A		
		Amorphous	Amorphous pit		0.10m		
05	Cut	Amorphous	pit		0.1011		

Discussion

Any pre-existing deposits in Trench 1 had been laterally truncated **04** in modern times, probably to below the earlier level of superficial geology which here consisted of a pale orange brown sandy clay with occasional chalk and flint pebbles. This ground level was then subsequently raised to present levels, an event probably connected to the levelling and construction of the recreation ground situated immediately west with modern deposits **02** and **03**.

The base of a single, heavily truncated and amorphous pit **05** survived in the NW portion of the trench. This probable waste pit measured 3.50m NW-SE x > 1.0m NE-SW and was filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy clay **06** containing oyster shell, a butchered mammal rib fragment and seventeen sherds of pottery. The pottery assemblage is of broadly 12th-14th century date and tentatively spot dated late 14th century. A piece of roof tile deemed to be of late medieval date was also recovered from this fill.

No other features were present in this trench.

Trench 1



16

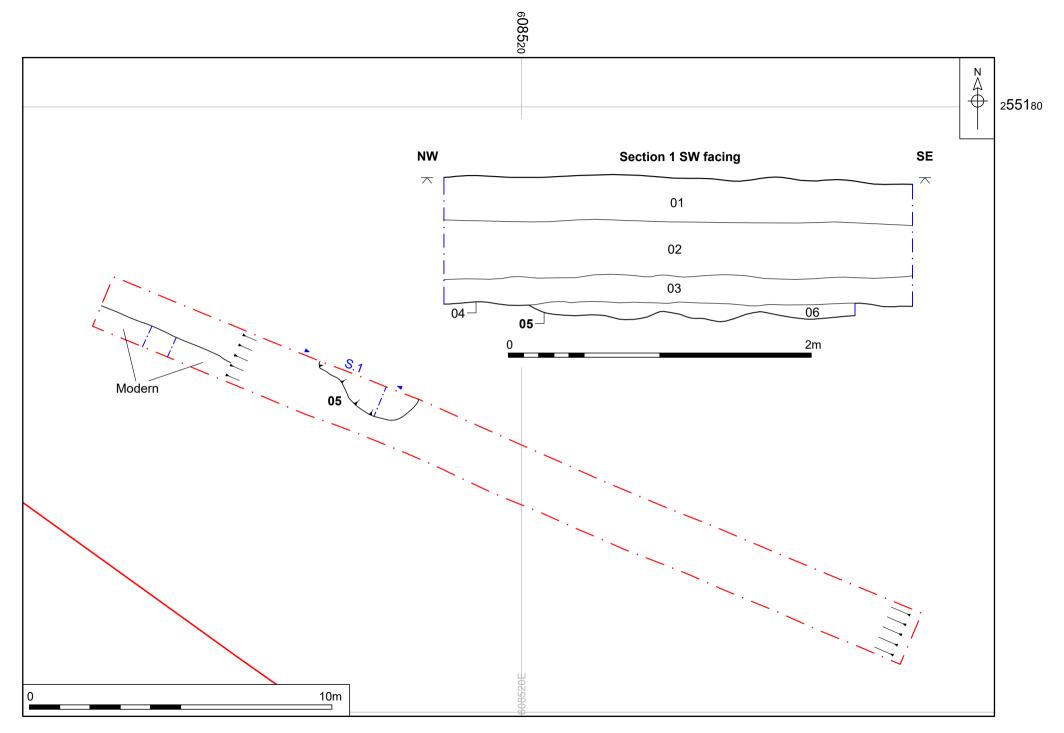
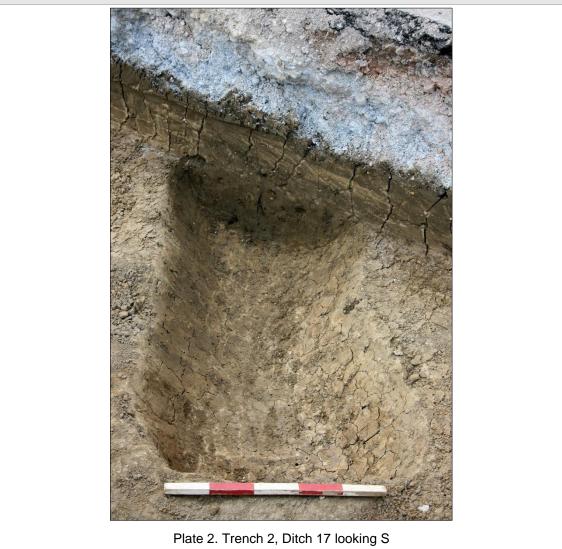


Figure 7. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2					
Figures 6, 8; Plate 2					
			Location		
		Orientation	Northwest-southeast		
	-		Dimensions	1	
			Length	30.00m	
			Width	1.90m	
			Depth	0.50m	
		A second	Levels	1	
and the second of the		Northwest top		30.26m OD	
ale :	and the second		Southeast top		29.30m OD
Context	Туре	Description a	Description and Interpretation Thick		
17	Cut	Ditch	Ditch		
18	Deposit	Fill of 17- Mid	Fill of 17- Mid-brown0.40m		
Discussi	on	1			1

In modern times the area of Trench 2 had been reduced to superficial geological deposits. This event was presumably connected to the construction of the car park. Layers of concrete, hoggin and asphalt sealed the pale cream-brown chalky clay geological deposits. A single N-S oriented ditch **17** was recorded approximately 6.50m from the SE end of the trench. The 0.70m wide, 0.40m deep feature was quite steep sided with a flat base. The single fill **18** comprised a firm and compact slightly greenish mid brown clay with rare charcoal fleck. A single undiagnostic struck flint was recovered from the deposit. The orientation of this ditch appears to be at odds with all other linear features and modern boundaries and might very tentatively be interpreted as prehistoric in date.

Trench 2



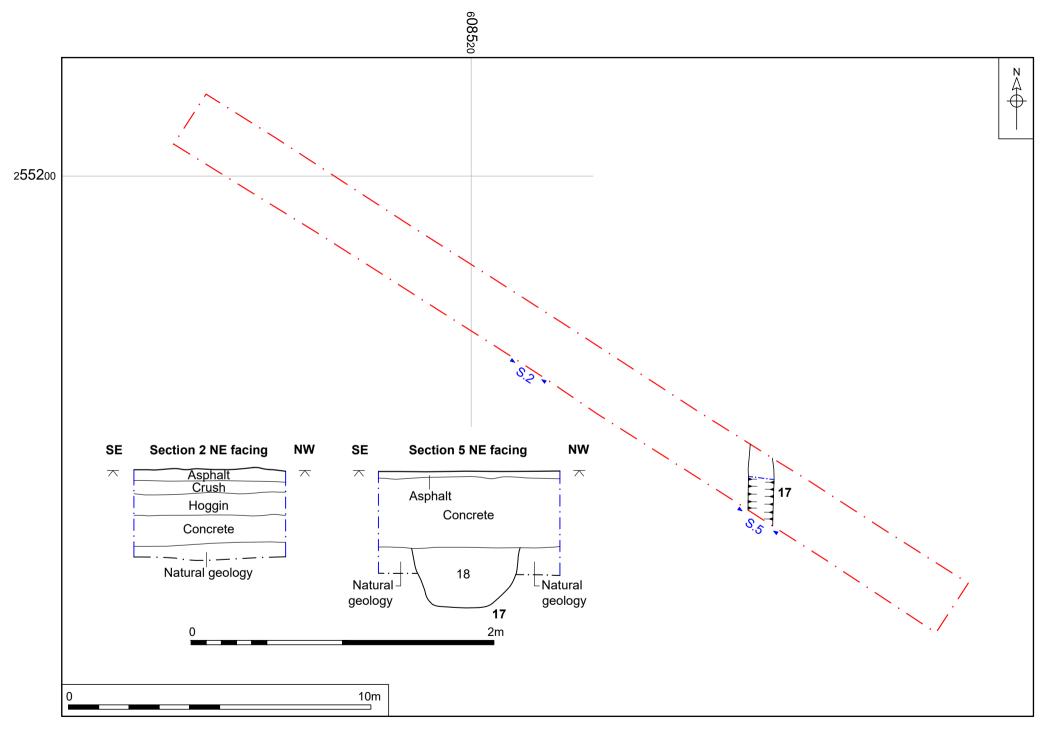


Figure 8. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Trench 3					
		Figure 6.			
		Location			
1-1		Orientation	Northea	st-southwest	
		Dimensions	Dimensions		
1 Alexandre		Length 25.00m			
all -		Width	1.90m		
P 1 C 1 P P P P		Depth	0.48m		
A		Levels			
and a second		Northeast top		30.43m OD	
The spinst		Southwest top		29.74m OD	
Context Type	Description	and Interpretation		Thickness	

Discussion

The area of Trench 3 had been reduced to the surface level of geological deposits in modern times. This event was presumably connected to construction of the car park. A thick layer of concrete overlain by asphalt sealed the pale cream-brown chalky clay natural. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench. A NW-SE aligned electricity cable was detected at the NE end of the trench.

Trench	4				
			Figures 6, 9; Plate 3		
	F/	1 all	Location		
			Orientation	Northw	est-southeast
1. Ale	142		Dimensions		
and the second sec			Length	25.00m	l
1			Width	1.80m	
			Depth	0.40m	
(Ac			Levels		
			Northwest top		31.99m OD
			Southeast top		31.11m OD
Context	Туре	Description	and Interpretation		Thickness
28	Cut	Sub-circular	pit		0.76m
29	Deposit	Backfill of 28	5 – Mid yellow brown		0.76m
30	Cut	Sub-circular	pit		>0.80m
31	Deposit	Backfill of 30	Backfill of 30 – Dark grey brown		>0.80m
32	Cut	Sub-circular	Sub-circular pit		0.70m
33	Deposit	Backfill of 32	. – Mid grey brown		0.70m
					1

Discussion

Any pre-existing overburden in Trench 4 had been laterally truncated in modern times to the level of superficial geology which consisted of pale greenish-grey chalky clay with occasional flint pebbles. Three substantial pits cut these natural deposits and occupied much of the SE half of the trench.

The south-westernmost of the these, **32**, measured approximately 6.50m NW-SE and at least 1.90m NE-SW, extended beyond excavation limits to the NE. The feature was backfilled with a mid-greyish brown silt-clay **33** with flint inclusions. Seven small pieces of fired clay possibly representing oven/kiln waste were recovered from the deposit.

Two intercutting pits **28 30** were positioned immediately NW of **32** and approximately central to the trench. The stratigraphically earliest of the these **28** measured at least 4.30m NW-SE and extended beyond excavation limits to both NE and SW. No finds were recovered from the dense, compact, mid yellow brown chalky clay **29** used to backfill this feature.

The later feature, **30**, measured at least 3.70m NW-SE and extended beyond excavation limits to both NE and SW. No finds were recovered from the dense, compact, dark grey brown silt clay with chalk and flint inclusions **31** used to backfill the feature.

The almost complete lack of finds from these three features makes dating difficult. A medievalpost-medieval date is however suggested based on the nature of the deposits.

As to function, the sterile fills and relatively large size of pits **28** and **32** are perhaps suggestive of mineral extraction. Pit **30** on the other hand appeared to be largely cut into the backfill of **28** and contained an organic, humic fill with some charcoal suggestive of the dumping of detritus.

Trench 4



Plate 3. Trench 4, Pits 28, 30 looking N

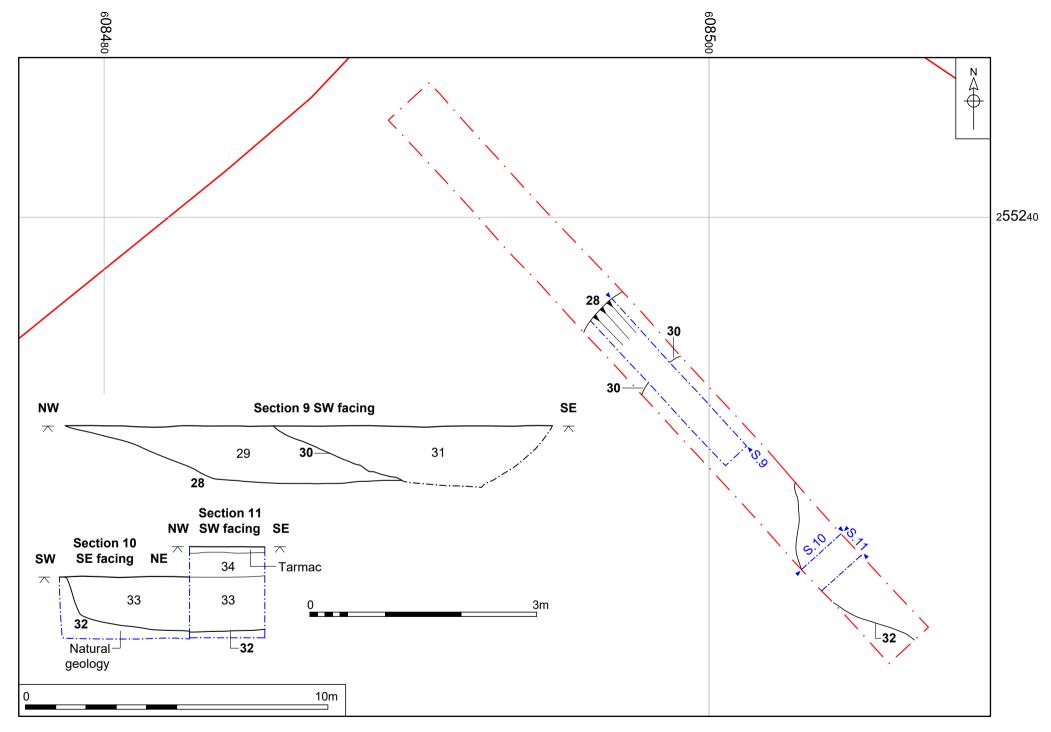


Figure 9. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:50

Trench	5
	•

			Figures 6, 10; Plate 4		
			Location		
			Orientation	Northea	st-southwest
			Dimensions		
	A Frank		Length	30.00m	
h			Width	1.80m	
			Depth	SW - 0.7	70m NE- 0.35m
	the second second	Strates -	Levels		
		125	Northeast top		31.60m OD
	22		Southwest top		31.90m OD
Context	Туре	Description (199			
Someri	Type	Description	n and Interpretation		Thickness
	Cut	Description	and Interpretation		0.12m
07		Ditch	h and Interpretation		
07 08	Cut	Ditch			0.12m
07 08 09	Cut Deposit	Ditch Fill of 07 – I			0.12m 0.12m
07 08 09 10 11	Cut Deposit Deposit	Ditch Fill of 07 – M Natural Ditch			0.12m 0.12m N/A
07 08 09 10	Cut Deposit Deposit Cut	Ditch Fill of 07 – N Natural Ditch Primary fill o	Mid bluish grey		0.12m 0.12m N/A 0.56m
07 08 09 10 11	Cut Deposit Deposit Cut Deposit	Ditch Fill of 07 – N Natural Ditch Primary fill of Secondary	Mid bluish grey		0.12m 0.12m N/A 0.56m 0.16m
07 08 09 10 11 12	Cut Deposit Deposit Cut Deposit Deposit	Ditch Fill of 07 – N Natural Ditch Primary fill of Secondary	Mid bluish grey of 10-mid orange brown fill of 10-mid brownish grey		0.12m 0.12m N/A 0.56m 0.16m 0.35m
07 08 09 10 11 12 13	Cut Deposit Deposit Cut Deposit Deposit Deposit	Ditch Fill of 07 – M Natural Ditch Primary fill of Secondary Upper fill of Ditch	Mid bluish grey of 10-mid orange brown fill of 10-mid brownish grey		0.12m 0.12m N/A 0.56m 0.16m 0.35m 0.24m

Discussion

Any pre-existing overburden in the NE half of Trench 5 had been laterally truncated in modern times to the level of superficial geology, which consisted of pale greenish grey chalky clay with occasional flint pebbles **09**. The only surviving feature in this NE portion was an undated NW-SE aligned ditch **07**. This 0.62m wide, 0.11m deep feature had gently sloping sides to a slightly concave base. The single, naturally accumulated fill **08** comprised a firm and compact mid bluish grey clay with occasional pebbles and chalk flecks.

Two more substantial intercutting ditches were recorded close to the SW end of the trench. The earlier of these, **10**, was approximately N-S aligned and measured 2.50m across and 0.56m deep- the c. 45° sloping sides gave way to a reasonably flat base. Primary fill **11** was an undated, compact, naturally accumulated mid-orange brown silt-clay with chalk pieces. Secondary fill **12** was a less sterile, compact, chalk-flecked, mid brownish grey silt-clay. Finds comprised two fragments of roof tile, two pieces of fired clay and a piece cattle scapula showing signs of butchery. The tile is high medieval in date and probably dates the feature. The upper ditch fill, a dark, grey brown sand silt **13** was undated.

NE-SW aligned ditch **14** truncated ditch **10** and terminated within the trench. This 0.44m deep, quite steep-sided, flat-based feature, which extended beyond excavation limits to the SW, measured in excess of 4.0m long and 1.0m wide. A single fragment of roof tile recovered from the silt clay fill **15** is late medieval in date.

Trench 5

Features situated in the SW half of the trench were sealed by a 0.40m thick (av.) layer of dark orange brown silt clay **16**, a modern make-up/levelling deposit associated with construction of the car park.



Plate 4. Trench 5, Ditches 10, 14 looking SE

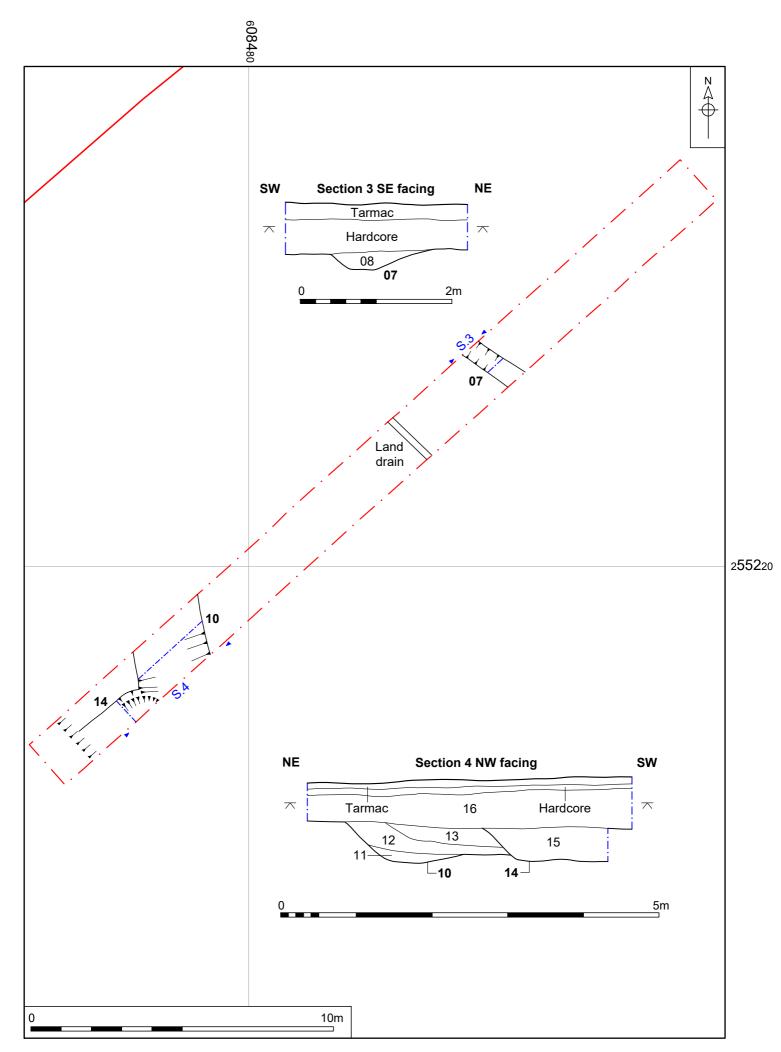


Figure 10. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125, 1:50 and 1:25

Trench	6					
			Figures 6, 11; Plates 5, 6			
			Location			
		Contraction of the second	Orientation	Northwe	est-southeast	
5.	· 11 · ···	All and	Dimensions	-		
		- 11/2	Length	38.50m		
7	1 and a	-	Width	1.80m		
			Depth	SE –1.2	0m NW- 0.85m	
			Levels			
			Northwest top		32.31m OD	
14 74	this is the		Southeast top		30.70m OD	
Context	Туре	Description	and Interpretation		Thickness	
19	Cut	Ditch			0.65m	
20	Deposit	Fill of 19 – Mi	d orange brown		0.65m	
21	Cut	Pond			0.70m	
21 22	Cut Deposit		21- Pale blueish grey			
		Primary fill of	21- Pale blueish grey of 21-mid blueish grey		0.70m	
22	Deposit	Primary fill of Secondary fill			0.70m 0.20m	
22 23	Deposit Deposit	Primary fill of Secondary fill	of 21-mid blueish grey		0.70m 0.20m 0.40m	
22 23 24	Deposit Deposit Deposit	Primary fill of Secondary fill Upper fill of 2	of 21-mid blueish grey		0.70m 0.20m 0.40m 0.10m	
22 23 24 25	Deposit Deposit Deposit Deposit	Primary fill of Secondary fill Upper fill of 2 Natural	of 21-mid blueish grey 1-dark orange brown		0.70m 0.20m 0.40m 0.10m N/A	
22 23 24 25 26	Deposit Deposit Deposit Deposit Cut	Primary fill of Secondary fill Upper fill of 2 Natural Pit Fill of 26-mixe	of 21-mid blueish grey 1-dark orange brown		0.70m 0.20m 0.40m 0.10m N/A >1.20m	

Discussion

Superficial natural geology comprising a pale, greenish grey, chalky clay **25** was encountered at a depth of c. 0.85m below modern ground level at the NW end of the trench. At a distance of approximately 4.50m from the NW end of the evaluation trench, a 1.14m wide ditch **19** oriented NE-SW was seen to be cutting this natural.

'V' shaped in profile, this undated feature was 0.65m deep and filled with a very compact, chalk flecked, mid orange brown silt clay with occasional angular flint pebbles **20**.

Some 2.30m further SE, a pond-like feature **21** extended for more than 7.0m SE before being truncated by a large modern intrusion **26** which occupied the remainder of the trench.

The steep-sided pond-like feature **21** was found to have an undulating base which sloped gradually from NW- SE. Close to the NW edge the feature was c. 0.45m deep, auger soundings finding it to increase steadily to 0.70m some 5.0m to the SE.

The basal fill of the seemingly cut feature was a naturally accumulated, compacted, pale, blueish grey silt clay with rare chalk flecking **22**. This sterile, undated deposit was sealed by a midblueish grey silt clay **23**. This deposit, also a result of natural silting, yielded a single animal bone from sheep showing a knife cut from the skinning process.

Trench 6

The upper fill, a moderately compact, dark orange brown sand silt **24**, may have been deliberately introduced to level the ground. Finds comprised four fragments of post-medieval tile and brick, a length of post-medieval copper alloy wire and a single abraded pottery sherd of probable late 14th-mid 16th century date. Both ditch **19** and pond **21** were sealed by an undated, 0.20m thick, chalk flecked, dark orange brown, sand silt soil **35**.

The soil was in turn sealed by a modern levelling deposit **36** up to 0.50m thick and similar to that recorded in the SW half of trench 5.

The large modern intrusion **26** to the SE of the pond was filled with dumps of sands, clays, soils, rubble, iron objects and concrete **27**. A slight hydro-carbon scent was detected to be emanating from this material.



Plate 5. Trench 6, Undated ditch 19 looking NE



Plate 6. Trench 6, Pond 21 looking SE

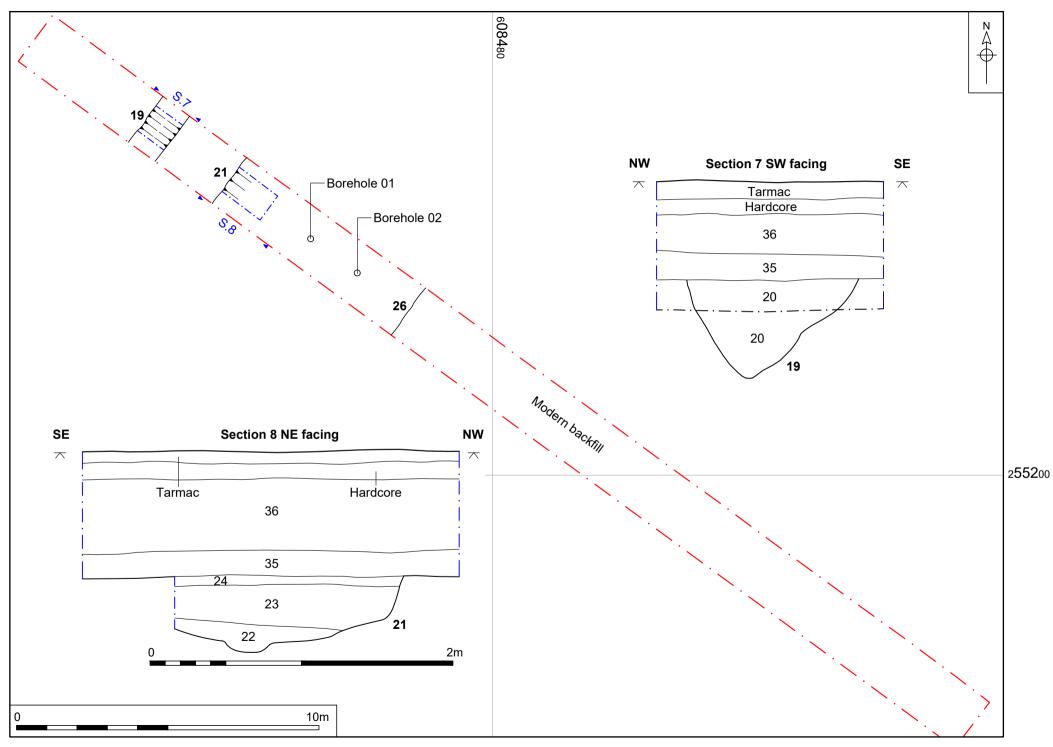


Figure 11. Trench 6, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Post-Roman Pottery

Sue Anderson

Introduction

78 Eighteen sherds of pottery weighing 288g were collected from two contexts. Table 2 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 4.

Fabric	Code	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Bury medieval coarseware	BMCW	12th-14th c.	1	11		1
Bury sandy ware	BSW	12th-14th c.	1	22		1
Medieval Lark Valley coarseware	MLVCW	12th-14th c.	3	21		1
Stowmarket medieval coarseware	SKTMCW	12th-14th c.	2	16	0.10	2
Medieval South Suffolk coarseware	MSSCW	12th-14th c.	3	82		3
Medieval coarseware micaceous	MCWM	12th-14th c.	2	19		2
Unprovenanced glazed ware	UPG	L.12th-15th c.	3	32		2
Late medieval and transitional ware	LMT	L.14th-M.16th c.	3	85		3
Totals			18	288	0.10	15

Table 2. Pottery quantification by fabric in approximate date order.

Methodology

79 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series (Anderson 2019). A x20 microscope was used for fabric identification and characterisation. Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998) and methods follow the MPRG guidelines (2001). The results were input directly onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Pottery by period

Medieval

- 80 Medieval pottery of broadly 12th–14th-century date formed the bulk of this assemblage, and all was recovered from pit fill **6**. A range of medieval coarsewares was found, all in small quantities. The majority were types commonly found in the Lark and Gipping valleys, including Bury and Stowmarket wares. A few sherds were typical of south Suffolk or Essex, and there were two fine micaceous wares which could have been made in Essex or north Suffolk (Wattisfield area).
- 81 Most vessels were represented by undiagnostic and undecorated body and base sherds. Only one jar rim was present, a short everted type springing from an upright neck, similar to Essex form H2, which is dated to the 13th century (Drury 1993).
- 82 Three glazed sherds were present, a frequency of 16.7% (based on MNV of the medieval group). The sherds were in a medium sandy micaceous fabric with red clay pellets, dark red with a grey core. Two of the sherds had partially unfused glaze

and the other had spots of green glaze. It is possible that these were locally made and that they were an early type of LMT (see below).

Late medieval

83 Three sherds of late medieval and transitional ware were recovered. This is a tradition rather than a 'fabric' as such, and the sherds were all quite different. Two fragments were recovered from pit fill **6**, in association with high medieval wares, some of which may have been contemporary with the LMT. One fine sandy body sherd was fully oxidised apart from a thin grey area externally, and had orange-brown glaze. The other, a large fragment of a jug, was in a very fine fabric with only silt-sized inclusions and was decorated externally with three bands of combed horizontal lines, a possible combed wavy line (perhaps accidental) and green glaze externally. This latter may be non-local and has similarities with late medieval wares in Scotland and northern England. One body sherd from pond fill **24**, heavily abraded but apparently with brown slip line decoration under a thin green glaze, also appeared to be LMT, but an earlier date is possible.

Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by context is provided in Table 3.

Feature	Context	Туре	Fabric	Spotdate
5	6	pit	BMCW BSW MLVCW SKTMCW MSSCW MCWM	L.14th c.?
		-	UPG LMT	
19	24	pond	LMT?	L.14-M.16th c.?

Table 3. Pottery types present by feature/context

Discussion

84 The majority of sherds are of high medieval date and the range of wares is typical of the Lark/Gipping Valley, with pottery mainly sourced from Bury, Stowmarket and south Suffolk/north Essex, as well as minor assemblages from elsewhere in Suffolk. Most of the sherds were recovered from one context and included a 13th-century rim and sherds of glazed wares which are likely to be of slightly later medieval date. Both contexts probably date to the 14th century or later.

CBM and Fired Clay

Sue Anderson

Introduction

85 Eight fragments of CBM weighing 416g were collected from four contexts. Nine fragments of fired clay (18g) were also found, in two contexts. A full quantification by context is included in the Appendix.

Methodology

86 The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of bricks and floor tiles were measured, but roof tile thicknesses were only measured when another dimension was available. Forms were identified from work in Norwich (Drury 1993), based on measurements. Other form terminology follows Brunskill's glossary (1990).

Ceramic building material

Table 4 shows the quantification by form.

Туре	Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	MNO
Roofing	Plain roof tile: medieval	RTM	4	176	3
	Plain roof tile: late/post-medieval	RTP	2	55	2
Walling	Late brick	LB	1	166	1
Miscellaneous	Field drain	FD	1	19	1
Total			8	416	7

Table 4.	CBM	by	Form
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(MNO = minimum	number	of	objects)
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Roofing

87 Roof tile forms the bulk of this assemblage by fragment count. The majority of pieces are in fine or medium sandy fabrics with few inclusions, with clay pellets, or with flint or coarse rounded quartz fragments. These are the typical fabrics found in the region during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The fragments are generally fully oxidised and are probably of late medieval or post-medieval date, although two joining fragments in a soft pale orange fabric with a reduced core may be high medieval. Most were probably pieces of peg tile, but none had evidence for the form of attachment (peg or nib). Post-medieval examples were recovered from pond fill 24, late medieval pieces from pit fill 6 and ditch fill 15, and the medieval tile was from ditch fill 12.

Walling

88 An abraded fragment of post-medieval brick was recovered from pond fill **24**. It was in a white/red mixed clay with coarse grog and fine sand inclusions.

Miscellaneous

89 A small fragment of a post-medieval field drain or unglazed drain pipe with a straightcut end was found in pond fill **24**.

Fired clay

90 The fragments were all small and undiagnostic. Two pieces from ditch fill 12 were fully oxidised and had flat surfaces, one with an apparent right-angle at the edge. Seven fragments from quarry pit fill 33 had smoothed surfaces which were flat or slightly convex, and these were reduced at the surface and oxidised beneath. The largest piece was 11+mm thick. Chalk-tempered clays were commonly used in the medieval period to build oven/kiln domes and to line hearths.

Struck Flint

Sarah Bates Methodology

91 Each flint was examined and recorded by context. The material was classified by *category* and *type* with numbers of pieces and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded and the condition of the flint being commented on. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. The struck flint is list by context in *Appendix 9*.

The Struck Flint

- **92** Two pieces of struck flint were recovered from the site.
- **93** A small blade-like piece has cortex along its left side and irregular edge damage to its right lateral edge **12**. It has a mottled patina. Some of the damage may relate to

use, especially that forming a slight 'notch' in the central area. It is possible that the cortex formed natural backing, making it easier to hold the piece and a short length at that edge may be slightly abraded – perhaps blunted here to facilitate this further. A chip in the distal edge (itself potentially use-related?) has made it difficult to ascertain whether that end may be slightly retouched. If so, there is also the possibility that the slight concavity and the possible abrasion to the opposite side could relate to prehension (with a slight possibility that the piece was hafted).

94 The other flint is an irregular small quite thin flake the distal edge of which has irregularly fractured **18**. It seems most likely that this occurred during knapping due to the irregular stepped nature of the ventral surface. This suggests a flaw in the flint and/or poor rather careless knapping. The flake is sharp with no signs of use.

Context and discussion

- **95** The flint represents prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. It is not closely datable but its rather irregular nature and the suggestion of ad hoc working suggests that a later Neolithic or later date is likely.
- **96** The blade-like piece was from ditch **10** which also included medieval tile, animal bone and shell in its fill. The flint was clearly a residual piece and its edge damaged nature is unsurprising. The unutilised flake was the only find from ditch **17** but, on its own, is unlikely to provide a date for the feature. Both flints are likely to have been redeposited in the ditches during their infilling with soils from their vicinities.

Faunal Remains

Julie Curl

Methodology

98 A summary assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976, and bones suitable for a tooth record following Hillson, 1996 recorded. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species with the Number of bones Identified for each Species Present (NISP). Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts. As this is a small assemblage, information was recorded directly into an appendix table in this report.

The Bone Assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

99 A total of 59g of bone, consisting of 3 elements, was recovered. Remains were produced from one pit fill and two ditch fills, all with post-medieval ceramic material, with some residual medieval and prehistoric finds present. The bone assemblage is quantified in Table 5.

Context	Туре	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
6	Pit	Post-medieval	1	1g	Mammal	1
15	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	41g	Cattle	1
23	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	17g	Sheep	1

Table 5. Quantification of the Faunal Remains

100 The bone is in good condition, although fragmentation has occurred from butchering in contexts **6** and **10**. The bone from **23** shows some damage and loss of part of the distal end from canid gnawing. Little wear or secondary damage was evident, suggesting the bone is in its original place of deposition.

Species range and modifications and other observations

- **101** Two species were positively identified in the assemblage. The quantification by species and NISP is in Table 5.
- **102** Ditch fill **15** produced part of a blade from a cattle scapula, which had been chopped to prepare meat.
- **103** A sheep metatarsal was recovered from the Ditch fill **23**, the bone is from an adult animal and shows a knife cut from the skinning process. Light canid (smaller dog or fox) gnawing was seen on the bone and resulted in the loss of part of the distal end of the bone.

104 The mammal rib fragment from the pit fill **6** had been butchered, perhaps to prepare sections of rib for soups or stews. The size of the rib suggests it is either sheep or pig.

Discussion and conclusions

105 This is a small assemblage of bone that is derived from meat and butchering waste. The sheep leg may be from skinning waste.

Recommendations for further work

106 This is a small assemblage that has limited potential for further study and no further work is recommended on this assemblage.

The Mollusc Assemblage

Methodology

107 The molluscs were identified to species using a variety of reference material. Shells were catalogued by species and where appropriate, counts were made of the number of individual species present (NISP), counts of top and base shells and an estimate of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Bivalve shells are known to be used as painter's palettes and the remains are examined for any traces of pigments. Shells are also examined for any cut marks that would confirm their use for food from the prising apart of the shells or removal of meat with a knife. Information was recorded directly into an appendix with this report.

The assemblage

- **108** A total of 79g of shell, consisting of 4 elements, was recovered from this excavation, which is quantified by feature type in Table 6 by feature, species and NISP. Shell was recovered from pit deposit and a ditch fill, with the remains associated with ceramics of a post-medieval date range.
- **109** The shell is in good condition with surfaces still showing remains of marine sponges and some worm activity that attests to the shell coming from a marine environment rather than farmed stock.

Context	Туре	Period	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Freshwater	Marine	Land	Fossil	Species	NISP
6	Pit	Post-medieval	3	40g		3			Oyster	3
12	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	39g		1			Oyster	1

Table 6. Quantification of the Mollusc Assemblage.

Species and observations

110 All of the remains in the mollusc assemblage are from the common marine oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, an abundant species in coastal areas and shallow waters. The assemblage is in good condition with mostly complete shells. One of the shells showed a clear cut from the butchering process, and another is broken where the cut is expected, which would occur when the shells are prised open with a knife. All of the shells are the dish-like base shells, which might suggest some deliberate selection, probably for serving the oysters, but possibly for use as painters palettes.

Discussion and conclusions

111 This is a small shell assemblage, it is dominated by the remains of the most frequent food species on archaeological sites. Common Oyster are found all around the British coast, even in quite shallow waters. Such molluscs could be collected by individuals, but are perhaps more likely to be sold at local markets. The butchering of the shells clearly shows they provided variety to the diet at this site.

Recommendations for further work

112 Sufficient recording has been made and no further work is required on this assemblage.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

- **113** The trial trenching at Needham Market recorded pits, ditches and other discrete features of medieval to post-medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and three were submitted for assessment.
- 114 The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred.
- **115** The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted after drying. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

- 116 The three assemblages are small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition, but cereal grains are present throughout. However, most are very poorly preserved being both severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of high temperature combustion) and very fragmentary. Only two potentially identifiable cereals are recorded, namely a wheat (Triticum sp.) grain from medieval/post medieval pit **30** (sample <3>) and a possible specimen of rye (Secale cereale) from medieval ditch **10** (sample <2>). Similarly, only one weed seed is recorded a cotyledon of an indeterminate small legume, also from sample <2>. Comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present through and are particularly common within the assemblage from samples 3.
- **117** A limited range of other materials is also recorded. The fragments of black porous material are all thought to be residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Other remains include bone fragments, small pellets of burnt or fired clay and small pieces of coal.
- **118** Occasional shells of terrestrial and marsh molluscs are present within all three assemblages. It is currently unclear whether these may be contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

119 In summary, as stated above, the current assemblages are small and limited in composition and it would appear most likely that the remains are all derived from scattered refuse, much of which was possibly accidentally incorporated within the various feature fills. However, cereal grains are present throughout and there is limited evidence that activities involving high temperature combustion were occurring within the immediate vicinity. Therefore, if further interventions are anticipated, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of 20 - 40 litres in volume are taken from targeted features recorded during excavation, to include pits, ditches and structural features/deposits.

DISCUSSION

- 120 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Land South of Hurstlea Road, Needham Market recorded a total of ten archaeological features, these present in five of the six trenches excavated. One trench, Trench 3, contained no archaeological features. All the trenches provided evidence of significant modern disturbance, with horizontal truncation seen across much of the site, this believed to result from construction of the surface car, an action that may well have removed shallower features.
- **121** The available cartographic evidence shows the site to have been open and largely undeveloped since at least the late 18th century, probably being used as a recreational area from then until relatively recently.
- 122 The earliest convincingly dated feature recorded during the work was a probable medieval domestic waste pit recorded in Trench 1. Features such as this are commonly associated with the rear plots of dwellings. Hurstlea Road is a 20th century creation so Barret's Lane would seem to be the likeliest candidate for a dwelling of this period fronting onto a thoroughfare. This lane is however situated some 75m south east of the pits location, so the presence of a currently unknown medieval building in the vicinity of the feature cannot perhaps be discounted.
- 123 The medieval ditches recorded at the south west end of Trench 5 likely represent field boundaries perhaps with a duel function of land drainage given the impermeable substrate at the site. These features predate the available maps of the locale, but the High Street probably formed the medieval core of the town so the nearby presence of contemporary land division is not surprising.
- 124 The substantial pits recorded in Trench 4 are suggested to represent small scale mineral extraction in the late medieval-early post-medieval period. The fact that these features did not contain significant domestic refuse suggests they were some distance from the medieval town core or any other contemporary activity. Nevertheless, the clay-rich deposits may have been of sufficient quality to serve in the construction of floors and suchlike. It is possible that the ponds on the site result from similar workings in the past.
- 125 'Marly' in nature, the material extracted from these pits may alternatively have had an agricultural use to raise the pH of more acidic soils.
- 126 The pond-like feature recorded in the northwest half of Trench 6 was not securely dated. It does not however appear on the available maps and can therefore probably be assumed to predate the late 18th century. The alignment of the 'V' profiled undated ditch recorded adjacent to the pond like feature appears to mirror the NW edge raising the possibility the two features are related.
- **127** Based purely on anomalous alignment and the discovery of a single struck flint within the fill, the ditch recorded in Trench 2 is tentatively suggested to be prehistoric but this is extremely tentative, particularly considering the general paucity of cultural material at the site
- 128 In conclusion, any archaeological remains present at the site have been considerably truncated by modern groundworks. There is some limited evidence for medieval activity, but there appears to be no clear focus to this. Overall, any activity would appear to be limited and peripheral to the historic core of Needham Market

which lies c. 200m to the east of this site on the High Street and the church of St John the Baptist.

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

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Historic Map Sources

James Pennington's map of Needham Market 1772 (Fig 10) SRO HD480/36

Tithe map of Barking cum Needham and Darmsden 1841 (Fig 11) SRO FDA12/A1/1b

Ordnance Survey 1st edition six inch county series map 1890 (Fig 12) SRO SRO Suffolk Sheet LV1. S.E

Ordnance Survey Survey 25 inch provisional edition of 1924 with additions in 1938 county series map 1927 (Fig 15) SRP LXV NE

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench No.
1	Deposit			Topsoil	N/A	1
2	Deposit			Upper modern make-up layer	Modern	1
3	Deposit			Lower modern make-up layer	Modern	1
4	Deposit			Natural	N/A	1
5	Cut	Pit		Pit	High medieval	1
6	Deposit		5	Fill of 05	High medieval	1
7	Cut	Ditch		E-W Ditch	Undated	5
8	Deposit		7	Ditch fill	Undated	5
9	Deposit			Natural	N/A	5
10	Cut	Ditch		E-W Ditch	High medieval	5
11	Deposit		10	Primary fill of ditch	High medieval	5
12	Deposit		10	Secondary fill of ditch	High medieval	5
13	Deposit		10	Upper fill of ditch	High medieval	5
14	Cut	Ditch		N-S Ditch	Late medieval ?	5
15	Deposit		14	Ditch fill	Late medieval ?	5
16	Deposit			Modern make-up layer	Modern	5
17	Cut	Ditch		NW-SE Ditch	Prehistoric ?	2
18	Deposit		17	Ditch fill	Prehistoric ?	2
19	Cut	Ditch		N-S Ditch	Undated	6
20	Deposit		19	Ditch fill	Undated	6
21	Cut	Pond		Pond like feature	Unknown	6
22	Deposit		19	Lower fill of pond	Unknown	6
23	Deposit		19	Secondary fill of pond	Unknown	6
24	Deposit		19	Upper fill of pond	Unknown	6
25	Deposit			Natural	N/A	6

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench No.
26	Cut	Pit?		Large modern intrusion	Modern	6
27	Deposit		26	Fill of large modern intrusion	Modern	6
28	Cut	Pit		Quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
29	Deposit		28	Backfill of quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
30	Cut	Pit		Quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
31	Deposit		30	Backfill of quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
32	Cut	Pit		Quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
33	Deposit		32	Backfill of quarry pit	Med/pmed ?	4
34	Deposit			Modern make-up layer	Modern	4
35	Deposit			Buried soil	Unknown	6
36	Deposit			Modern make-up layer	Modern	6

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Prehistoric ?	Ditch	1
Medieval	Pit	1
	Ditch	1
Late medieval	Ditch	1
Med/pmed ?	Pit	3
Modern	Pit	1
Undated	Ditch	2
Unknown	Pond	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
6	Animal bone	1	1g	Unknown	
6	Ceramic building material	1	28g	Medieval	
6	Pottery	17	277g	Medieval	
6	Shell	3	40g	Unknown	oyster
12	Ceramic building material	2	42g	Medieval	roof tile
12	Fired clay	2	6g	Unknown	

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
12	Shell	1	39g	Unknown	oyster
12	Worked flint	1	6g	Prehistoric	uncertain if worked
15	Animal bone	1	41g	Unknown	
15	Ceramic building material	1	106g	Medieval	Roof tile
18	Worked flint	1	2g	Prehistoric	uncertain if worked
23	Animal bone	1	17g	Unknown	
23	Stone	1	5g	Prehistoric	Fossil
24	?Pottery	5	10g	Medieval	
24	Ceramic building material	4	243g	Post-medieval	roof tile & brick
24	Copper alloy	1	4g	Post-medieval	Wire
24	Pottery	1	17g	Medieval	
33	Fired clay	7	12g	Unknown	Oven/kiln waste ?

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Stone	1
	Worked flint	2
Medieval	Ceramic building material	4
	Pottery	18
Post-medieval	Ceramic building material	4
	Copper alloy	1
Unknown	Animal bone	3
	Fired clay	9
	Shell	4

Appendix 3: Historical Periods

Period	Date From	Date To
Prehistoric	-500,000	42
Early Prehistoric	-500,000	-4,001
Palaeolithic	-500,000	-10,001
Lower Palaeolithic	-500,000	-150,001
Middle Palaeolithic	-150,001	-40,001
Upper Palaeolithic	-40,000	-10,001
Mesolithic	-10,000	-4,001
Early Mesolithic	-10,000	-7,001
Late Mesolithic	-7,000	-4,001
Late Prehistoric	-4,000	42
Neolithic	-4,000	-2,351
Early Neolithic	-4,000	-3,001
Middle Neolithic	-3,500	-2,701
Late Neolithic	-3,000	-2,351
Bronze Age	-2,350	-701
Early Bronze Age	-2,350	-1,501
Beaker	-2,300	-1,700
Middle Bronze Age	-1,600	-1,001
Late Bronze Age	-1,000	-701
Iron Age	-800	42
Early Iron Age	-800	-401
Middle Iron Age	-400	-101
Late Iron Age	-100	42
Roman	42	409
Post Roman	410	1900
Saxon	410	1065
Early Saxon	410	650
Middle Saxon	651	850
Late Saxon	851	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1900	2050
World War One	1914	1918
World War Two	1939	1945
Cold War	1945	1992
Unknown		

after English Heritage Periods List, recommended by Forum on Information Standards in Heritage

Context	Fabric	Туре	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Notes	Spot date
6	MLVCW	U	3	21	1				12- 14
6	MSSCW	В	2	73	2				12- 14
6	MSSCW	D?	1	9	1				12- 14
6	SKTMCW	U	1	8	1				12- 14
6	BMCW	U	1	11	1				12- 14
6	BSW	U	1	22	1				12- 14
6	MCWM	U	2	19	2			fsm, sparse calc	12- 14
6	SKTMCW	R	1	8	1	jar	upright everted		13
6	UPG	D	2	26	1			dark red fabric, msm, fe & fe- stained sand, glaze partly unfused	13- 14?
6	UPG	D	1	6	1			dark red fabric, msm, fe & fe- stained sand	13- 14?
6	LMT	D	1	63	1			unusually fine, hard, could be a NE or Scottish type	L.14- M.16
6	LMT	D	1	5	1				L.14- M.16
24	LMT	D	1	17	1			ext surface mostly lost	L.14- M.16

Appendix 4: Post-Roman Pottery Catalogue

Appendix 5: CBM Catalogue

contex t	fabri c	for m	n o	wt/g	minn o	ab r	comments	date
6	fscp	RT M	1	28	1	+	coarse red cp, dark red tile	Imed?
12	fscp	RT M	2	42	1	+	pale orange, white & red cp, reduced core	med
15	fscp	RT M	1	106	1		coarse red cp, dark red tile	Imed?
24	fs	FD	1	19	1	+		pmed
24	fscq	RT P	1	30	1	+		pmed
24	msf	RT P	1	25	1	+		pmed
24	wfxg	LB	1	166	1	+	white/red clay, coarse grog	18+

Appendix 6: Fired Clay Catalogue

Context	Sample	Fabric	Туре	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Impressions	Abr	Notes
12		fsccp		2	6	orange	flattish, 1 with ?right angle		+	
33		fsccp		7	12	grey- orange	smoothed, flattish			11+mm thick

Appendix 7: Animal Bone Catalogue

Context	Туре	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Element range	Gnaw	Comments
6	Pit	Post-medieval	1	1g	Mammal	1		Rib fragment		Chopped, Sheep/pig size
15	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	41g	Cattle	1	1	Scapula fragment		Chopped, cut
23	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	17g	Sheep	1	1	Metatarsal	1	Cut from skinning, light canid gnawing

Appendix 8: Catalogue of Mollusc Remains

Context	Туре	Period	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Species	NISP	Base	MNI	Apex	Worms	Sponge	Cuts
6	Pit	Post-medieval	3	40g	Oyster	3	3	3	3	1	2	1
12	Ditch	Post-medieval	1	39g	Oyster	1	1	1	1		1	

Appendix 9: Struck Flint Catalogue

Ctxt	Туре	No.
12	blade-like flake (probably utilised)	1
18	flake	1

Appendix 10: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	6	12	31
Feature No.	5	10	30
Feature type	Pit	Ditch	Pit
Date	Med.	Med.	Med/Pmed
Cereals			
Avena sp. (awn frag.)	х		
Secale cereale L. (grain)		xcf	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)			Х
Cereal indet. (grains)	xfg	xfg	xfg
(rachis internode frag.)		x	
Dry land herbs			
Small Fabaceae indet.		x	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	ххх	XXXX	XXXX
Charcoal >2mm	x	XX	XXX
Charcoal >5mm		x	Х
Charcoal >10mm		x	Х
Other remains			
Black porous material	xx	х	X
Bone	x		
Burnt/fired clay	x	х	
Marine mollusc shell	xfg		
Small coal frags.	x		X
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x	
Mollusc shells			
Woodland/shade loving species			
Acanthinula aculeata			x
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.		х	xcf
Clausilia sp.		x	
Punctum pygmaeum		x	
Zonitidae indet.		x	
Open country species			
Helicella itala			xcf
Vallonia sp.	x	x	x
Catholic species			

Sample No.	1	2	3
Trichia hispida group		x	x
Marsh species			
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.		x	
Other			
Limacid plates		x	
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10
Volume of flot (Litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

 $x=1-10\ \text{specimens}\ xx=11-50\ \text{specimens}\ xxx=51-100\ \text{specimens}\ xxxx=100+\ \text{specimens}$

cf = compare fg = fragment Med = medieval Med/PMed = medieval/post-medieval