

# Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk; An Archaeological Evaluation Report

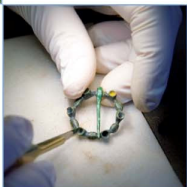
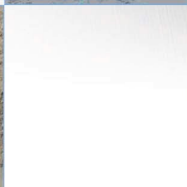
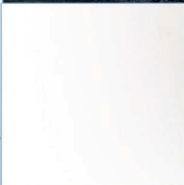
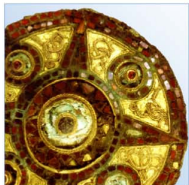
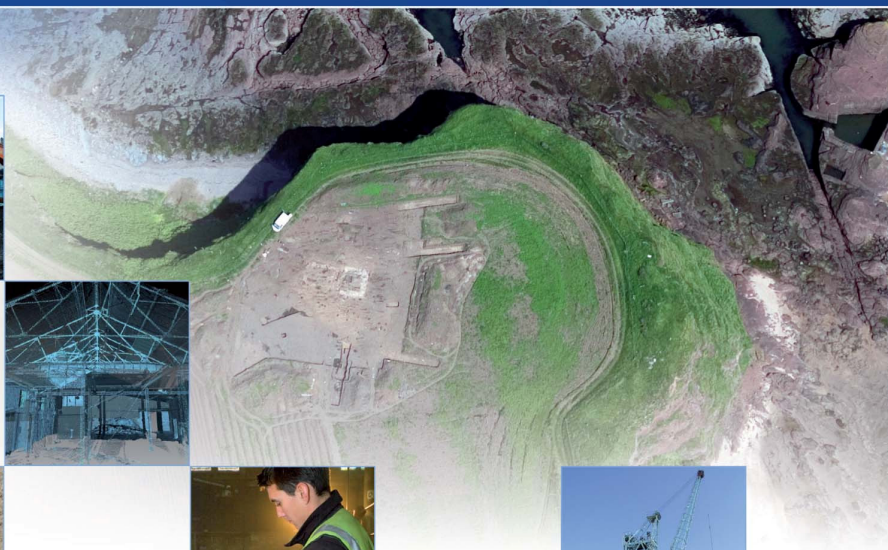
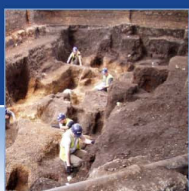
Planning Application Number: C/09/0221/

National Grid Reference Number: TM 4450 6100

AOC Project no: 30551

Site Code: ARG 059

Date: February 2010



# Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk; An Archaeological Evaluation Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR):	TM 4450 6100
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Date:	February 2010

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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**Appendix A: Context Register**

**Appendix B: OASIS Form**

## Non-Technical Summary

*In January 2010, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of John Crane at Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk (NGR: TM 4450 6100).*

*The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches located outside the footprint of structures that formerly occupied the site. Trench 1 was L shaped and measured 5.5m x 5.5m x 1.8m whilst Trench 2 measured 12m x 1.8m. No archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation trenching. A 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete garden features was observed in Trench 1. Natural sand was recorded on site at between 6.57mOD and 8.09mOD. The natural deposit was overlain by a layer of mid-light brown/grey soft sandy silt subsoil which in turn was overlain by dark brown/grey made ground.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham Cum Thorpe, Suffolk, (Figure 1). The investigation took place in February 2010 and comprised the excavation of two trenches. All works were undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists.
- 1.2 The site is located on the west side of Aldeburgh Road, on Aldringham lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk. The site is currently occupied by four large buildings formerly used as a craft market. It comprises an irregularly L-shaped plot of land covering an area of 860m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 4450 6100.
- 1.3 The redevelopment comprises the demolition of a former café, creation of new dwelling, conversion of a former market building into a dwelling and the erection of a new garage.

## 2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Suffolk Coastal District Council. Archaeological advice to the Council is provided by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- 2.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) within a historic settlement core (SCCAS, 2009).
- 2.3 Planning permission was granted (Ref: C09/0221/) subject to conditions. Condition 14 states:

*"No development shall take place within the area of the application site, until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval in writing".*

Reason: to ensure the proper recording of archaeological artefacts.

- 2.4 Prior to works on site a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation (AOC 2009) was approved by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

## 3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The site lies at around 8.00m AOD. The underlying geology comprises sandy glaciofluvial drift material (SCCAS, 2009)
- 3.2 Although no geotechnical survey has been undertaken for the site, the British Geological Survey Map (Sheet 191) indicates the site is underlain by Coralline Crag beds.

## **4 Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **4.1 The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)**

- 4.1.1 The following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009).
- 4.1.2 A number of prehistoric find spots have been recorded within 1km of the site. The earliest find comprised a Mesolithic pebble mace head (HER ref LCS Misc), recovered at West House Farm at an unrecorded date.
- 4.1.3 Two cinerary urns were found when digging a trench for a gas main in Carr Road in July 1957, near the Gas works, Leiston (HER ref LCS 004). Both urns had horse-shoe applied handles, the larger inverted over the smaller which contained some material resembling ash. Unfortunately the contents were tipped out by the finders. Through analysis the urns were found to date from the middle to late Bronze Age.

### **4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)**

- 4.2.1 Roman finds recorded within 1km of the site comprise 19 sherds of late 1st and 2nd century grey ware pottery, some of which may form a single pot (HER ref LCS 149). They were found by a machine driver during ground works adjacent to 104 The High Street. Numerous oyster shells were found with the pottery.

### **4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)**

- 4.3.1 Suffolk is well known for its impressive Saxon history. It formed the southern part of the kingdom of East Anglia, settled by the Angles in the latter half of the 5th century. The most important Anglo-Saxon settlements were found at Sudbury and Ipswich to the west of Aldringham. However, the only evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation within the settlement is an assemblage of possible Saxon pottery recovered during a watching brief at the edge of Aldringham cum Thorpe common in 2000 (HER ref ARG 021). The pottery was found amongst a scatter that included some Roman sherds, but mostly comprised later medieval pottery, suggesting a continuation of occupancy within the settlement.

### **4.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536) Periods**

- 4.4.1 The settlement of Aldringham was recorded within the Domesday Book of 1086 under the name Alrincham, which denotes the homestead of the family or followers of a man called Aldhere (Mills, A.D, 2003).
- 4.4.2 Within John Marius' accounts of the town in 1870 the Church of St Andrews is described as Norman transition (Marius 1870). Although the church was completely refurbished within the 19<sup>th</sup> century a blocked door and lancet in the south chancel suggests a probable date of about 1200 for the church. Pictorial and documentary evidence suggests that a later 15<sup>th</sup> century tower was also present until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century ([www.suffolkchurches.co.uk](http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk)).
- 4.4.3 The HER records reveal a number of archaeological finds within 1km of the site. A pottery scatter was recovered from the settlement core during a watching brief in 2000 (HER Ref. ARG 021). It mostly comprised medieval sherds, suggesting a level of activity within the area during this time.

- 4.4.4 Another programme of monitoring and archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2000 and 2001 (HER ref ARG 020) at the north-west edge of Aldringham Green revealed an unstratified scatter of medieval pottery on a mainly post medieval occupation site, in addition to a circular chalk ring structure thought to be medieval (Boulter (SCCAS) 2000).

## **4.5 The Post Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods**

- 4.5.1 Within “A Topographical Dictionary of England” produced in 1848, Aldringham (St. Andrew) is described as comprising 1,736 acres, with 323 acres of common or waste land. It also documents that a market had formerly been held within the town, but had fallen into disuse. The living is described as “a perpetual curacy”, with standard income low, suggesting that the town was small and rather insignificant at this time (Lewis, 1848).
- 4.5.2 Later, in 1870, John Marius described Aldringham as a slightly larger settlement of 1,783 acres, with a population of 471, 111 houses and real property amassing £1,913, suggesting that “property is divided among a few” (Marius, 1870)
- 4.5.3 An archaeological evaluation undertaken in January 2000 (ARG 020) revealed the only archaeological evidence from this period, comprising a post medieval settlement site within the north-west of Aldringham cum Thorpe Green.
- 4.5.4 Listed buildings within 1km of the site include the Parrott and Punchbowl Public house (LBS no 400979), which dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and appears to have formed the settlement core at this time. It is timber framed and plastered, with later brick additions.

## **5 Aims of the Investigation**

- 5.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable Jess Tipper, archaeology advisor to Suffolk Coastal District Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
  - To make the results of the investigation available to interested parties.
- 5.2 The specific objectives of the investigation were to:
- Determine the presence of any Roman remains.
  - Determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon remains.
  - Determine the presence of medieval remains.
  - Reveal medieval or post medieval remains that relate to the historic core of Aldringham.



- Determine the impact of past land uses on the site and identify evidence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits.
- 5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 6 Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches. Trench 2 measured 12m x 1.8m whilst Trench 2, which was L shaped measured 5.5m and 5.5m x 1.8m. Trench 1 was moved from its proposed location due to location of a public footpath which needed to be retained.
- 6.2 All machining during the evaluation was carried out using a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor.
- 6.3 The accession code **ARG 059** was obtained for the project, and used for all primary records.
- 6.4 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using a temporary benchmark with a value of 7.45mOD.
- 6.5 The site was visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation, including the examination of any available exposures (e.g. recently cut ditches and geotechnical test pits). The area was CAT scanned prior to excavation.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:
- Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage June 1998)
  - IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (IFA 1995, revised 2001).
- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated.
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 6.10 All work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009).



## 7 Results

### Trench 1 (Figure 2 & 3)

Context No.	Depth.	Height of Deposit (mOD).	Description.
101	0.20m	7.20 – 7.00	Mid dark brown grey clay silt with occasional brick and frequent pea gravel.
102	0.40m	7.00 – 6.60	Mid light brownish grey soft and sandy silt.
103	0.05m	6.60 – 6.55	Mottled orangey yellow sand.

7.1 Trench 1 measured 5.5 x 5.5 x 1.8 and was L shaped in plan, (Figure 2 and 3).



Plate 1 and 2 – Trench 1

7.2 The earliest deposit recorded was the natural orange yellow sand (103) recorded at a height of 6.60mOD. Overlying the natural sand was a 0.40m thick deposit of light brown grey soft sandy silt (102) interpreted as subsoil. Cutting into the subsoil was a modern flower bed comprising a 0.25m thick concrete ring. The trench was overlaid by a mid dark brown grey clay silt with inclusions of brick and pea gravel interpreted as made ground.

7.3 No significant archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 1.

## Trench 2 (Figure 2 & 4)

Context No.	Depth.	Height of Deposit (mOD).	Description.
1/001	0.50m	8.43 – 7.93	Mid dark brown grey clay silt with occasional brick and frequent pea gravel.
1/002	0.05m	7.93 – 7.88	Mid light brownish grey soft and sandy silt.

7.4 Trench 1 measured 12m x 1.8 and was aligned north-south, (Figure 2 and 4).



Plate 3 and 4 – Trench 2

7.5 The earliest deposit was the natural mottled red, orange and yellow sand (202) recorded at a height of 7.93mOD. Overlying the natural sand was a 0.50m thick deposit of light brown grey soft sandy silt subsoil (201).

7.6 No significant archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 2.

## 8 Finds

8.1 No finds were recovered from the site.

## 9 Conclusion

9.1 The archaeological evaluation met its primary aim; to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. No archaeological remains were identified during the archaeological evaluation. The only remains of human activity revealed during the investigation comprised a modern garden feature in Trench 1.

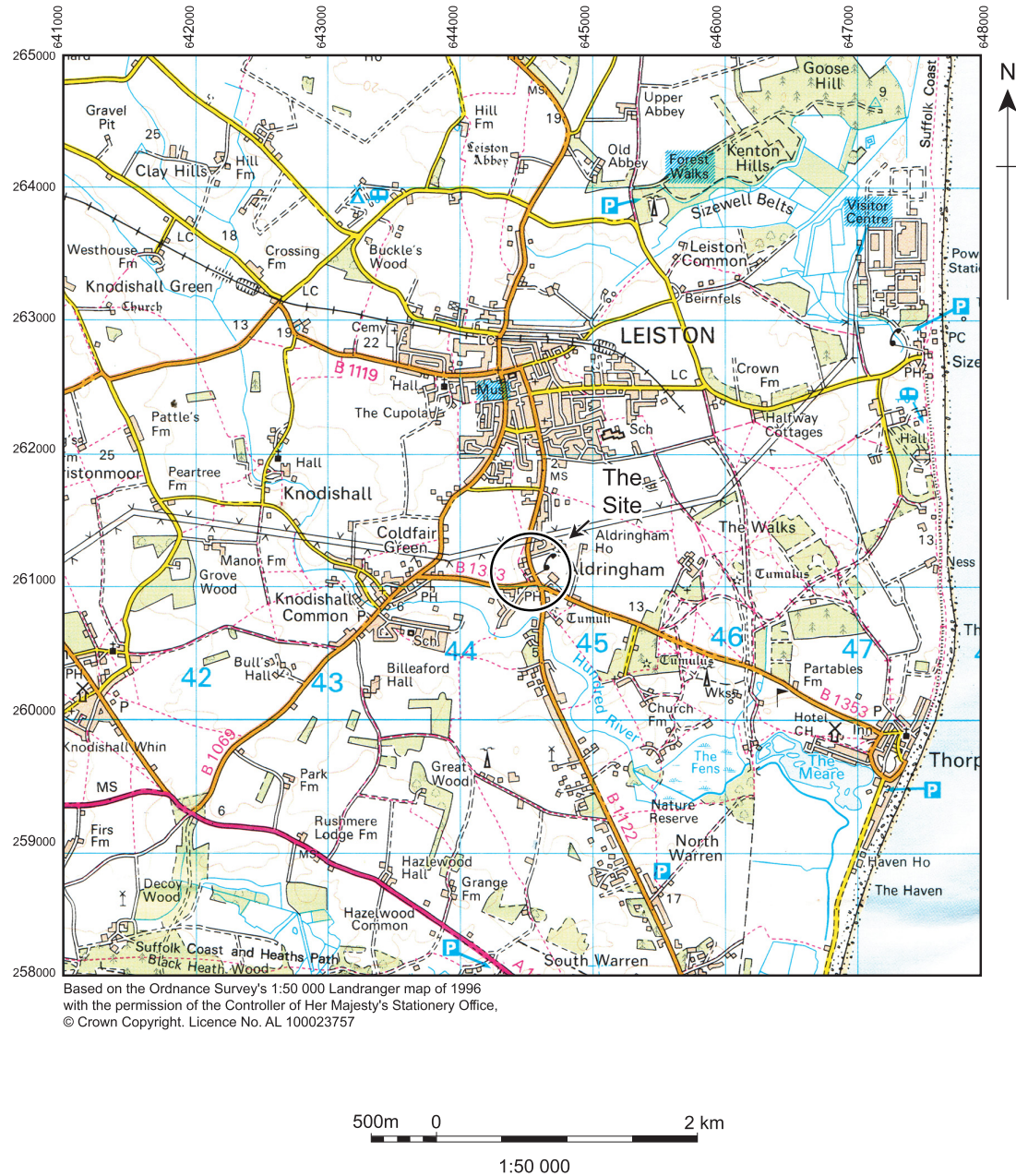
9.2 It is therefore recommended that no further work be undertaken on the site. Publication will be limited to a short summary submitted to the local journal and via the OASIS project (Appendix B).

## 10 Bibliography

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CRAFT COTTAGE, ALDRINGHAM LANE, ALDRINGHAM CUM THORPE, SUFFOLK:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



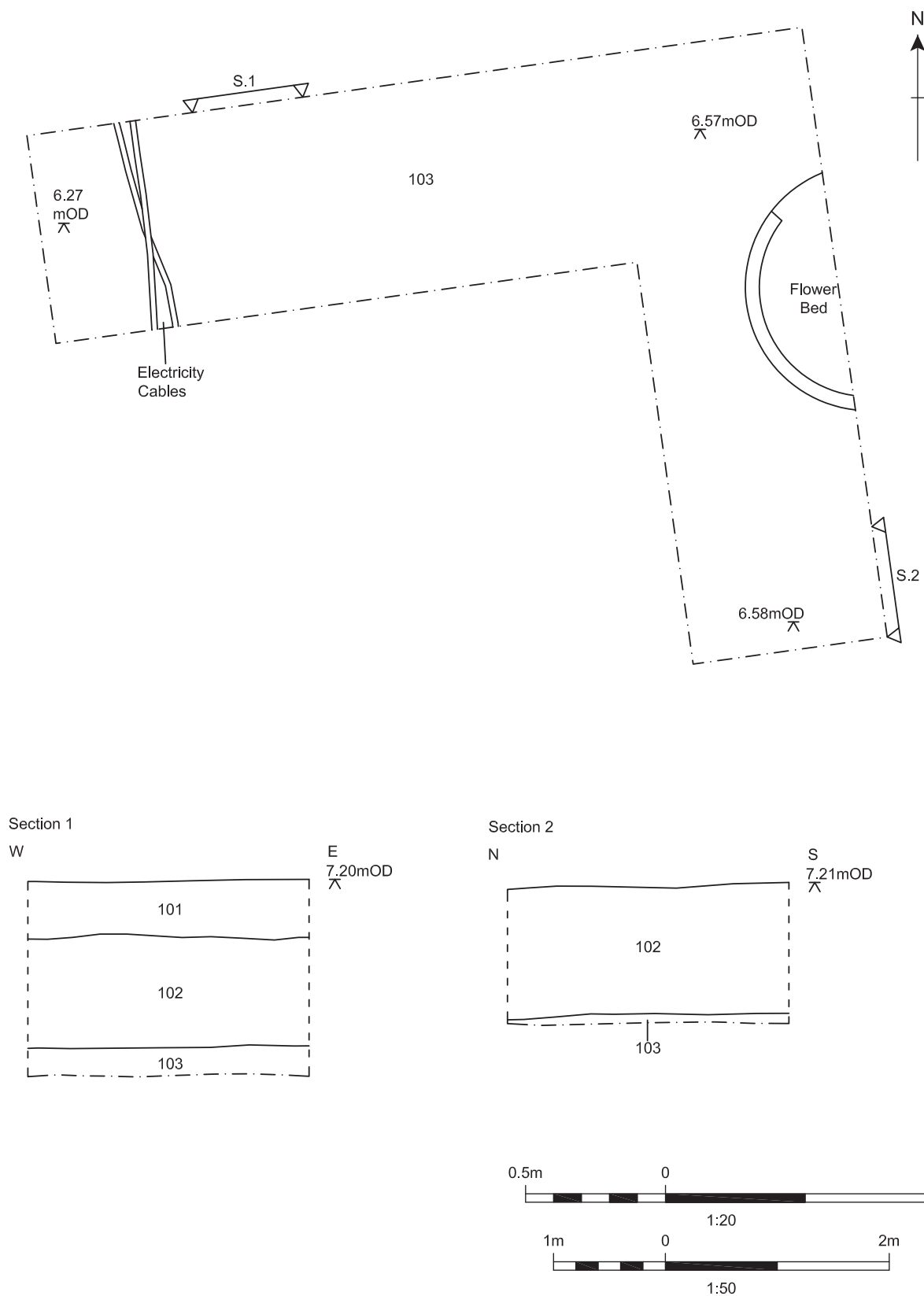
**Figure 1:** Site Location

# CRAFT COTTAGE, ALDRINGHAM LANE, ALDRINGHAM CUM THORPE, SUFFOLK: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

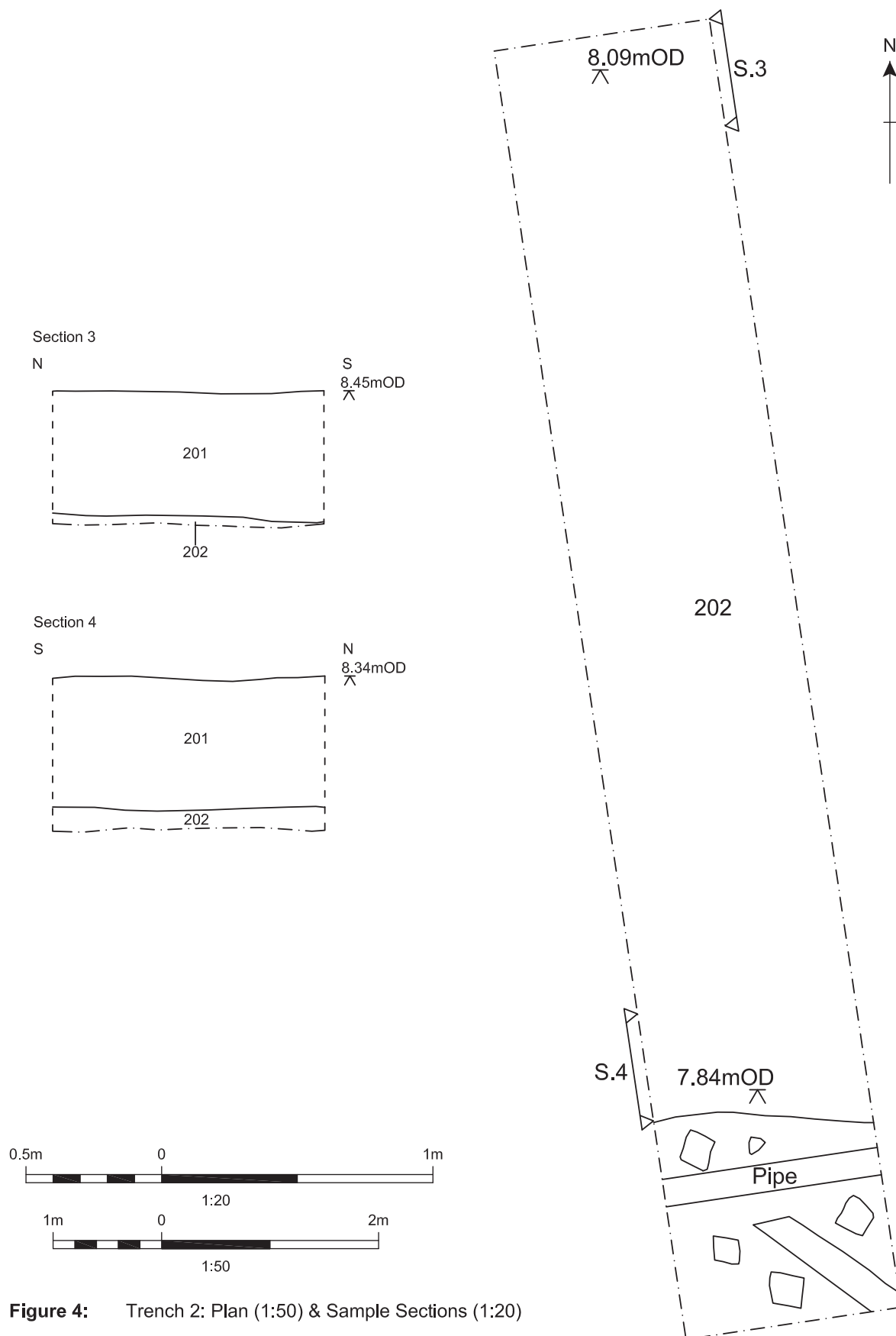


**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location





**Figure 3:** Trench 1: Plan (1:50) & Sample Sections (1:20)



**Figure 4:** Trench 2: Plan (1:50) & Sample Sections (1:20)



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## Appendices

## Appendix A: Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
101	Mid dark brown grey clay silt with occasional brick and frequent pea gravel.	5.5m	5.5m	0.20m	1	1
102	Mid light brownish grey soft and sandy silt.	5.5m	5.5m	0.40m	1	1
103	Mottled orangey yellow sand.	5.5m	5.5m	0.05m	1	1
201	Mid dark brown grey clay silt with occasional brick and frequent pea gravel.	12m	1.8m	0.50m	2	2
202	Mid light brownish grey soft and sandy silt.	12m	1.8m	0.05m	2	2

## Appendix B: Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-65846**

### Project details

Project name	Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk
Short description of the project	In January 2010, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches located outside of the previous structures that formerly occupied the site. Trench 1 was L shaped and measured 5.5 x 5.5m x 1.8 whilst Trench 2 measured 12m x 1.2m. No archaeological remains were recorded during the excavation. A modern concrete garden feature was observed in Trench 1.
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2010 End: 08-02-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ARG059 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	GARDEN FEATURE Modern
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential

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EVALUATION REPORT

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ALDRINGHAM CUM THORPE Craft Cottage, Aldringham Lane, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Suffolk
Postcode	IP16 4PY
Study area	860.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 445 610 52.1923250335 1.577804918860 52 11 32 N 001 34 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.57m Max: 8.09m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

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EVALUATION REPORT

Name of  
sponsor/funding  
body John Crane Ltd.

### Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital recipient	Archive	Suffolk CC archaeological service
Digital Contents		'Survey'
Digital available	Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper recipient	Archive	Suffolk County Council
Paper available	Media	'Context sheet','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','S urvey ','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	CRAFT COTTAGE, ALDRINGHAM LANE, ALDRINGHAM CUM THORPE, SUFFOLK; AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Edwards, C
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology

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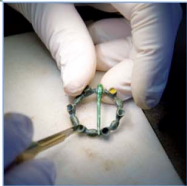
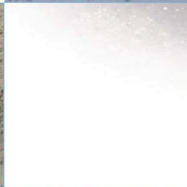
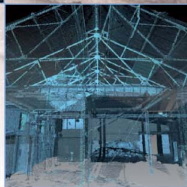
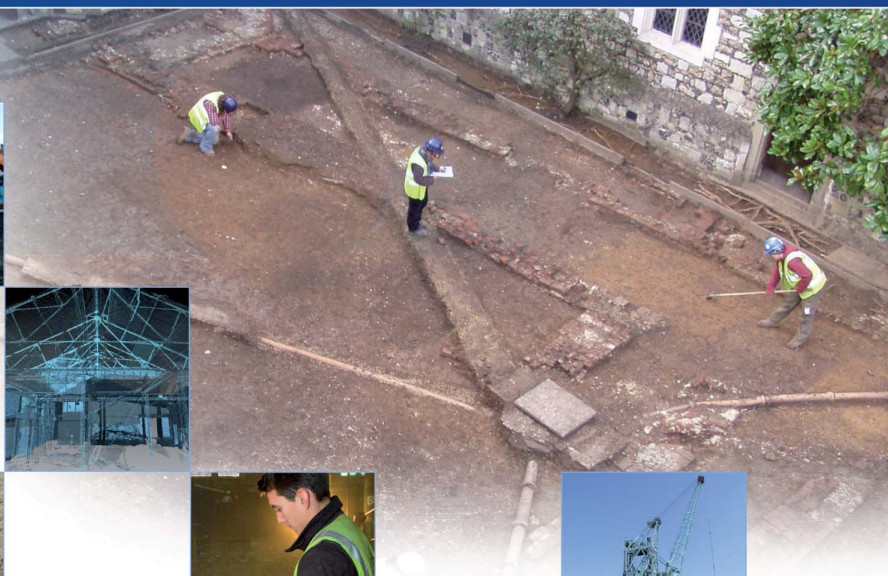
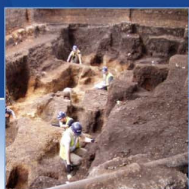
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19 February 2010



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