

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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## EDF CABLE TRENCH, PARK FARM QUARRY, FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE FSG 019

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2005

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All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by EDF Energy and the archaeological work specified by Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by Jo Caruth, David Gill and Andrew Tester from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The Field Team is grateful to the contractors, Lamva Ltd for their co-operation during the monitoring.

## Summary

Monitoring of the trench excavation for an underground cable around Park, Farm Quarry at Fornham St Genevieve revealed occasional silt filled features. Most of these were probably ditches and aligned with the projected course of ditches found during evaluation within the same field in 2004.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	None
Date of fieldwork:	September 2005
Grid Reference:	TL85376800 to TL84666929
Funding body:	EDF Energy
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-10205

## Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the replacement of an overhead high voltage cable that ran across Park Farm Quarry, Fornham St Genevieve, with an underground route around the edges of the quarry. The route ran from a wooden pylon at TL8537 6800 to another at TL 8466 6929. The central part of the route ran through existing quarry bunds and therefore did not disturb natural subsoil, the lengths from each pylon, however ran along the edges of arable fields. Length A ran alongside an area that was archaeologically evaluated in 2004 (Craven, 2004) in advance of extended quarrying and from where extensive prehistoric (predominantly Iron Age) remains had been identified, including a possible ring ditch. Length B ran through an area where no archaeological finds have been reported.

Trench length A was continuously monitored whilst the excavation was taking place; feature sections and soil profiles were recorded at 1:20 and feature locations plotted. Trench B was visited during excavation and soil profiles recorded. No features were seen in this length. The contractors' working method was to excavate long lengths of trench before laying the cables; this minimised the time required for the archaeological monitoring and reduced the number of visits required.

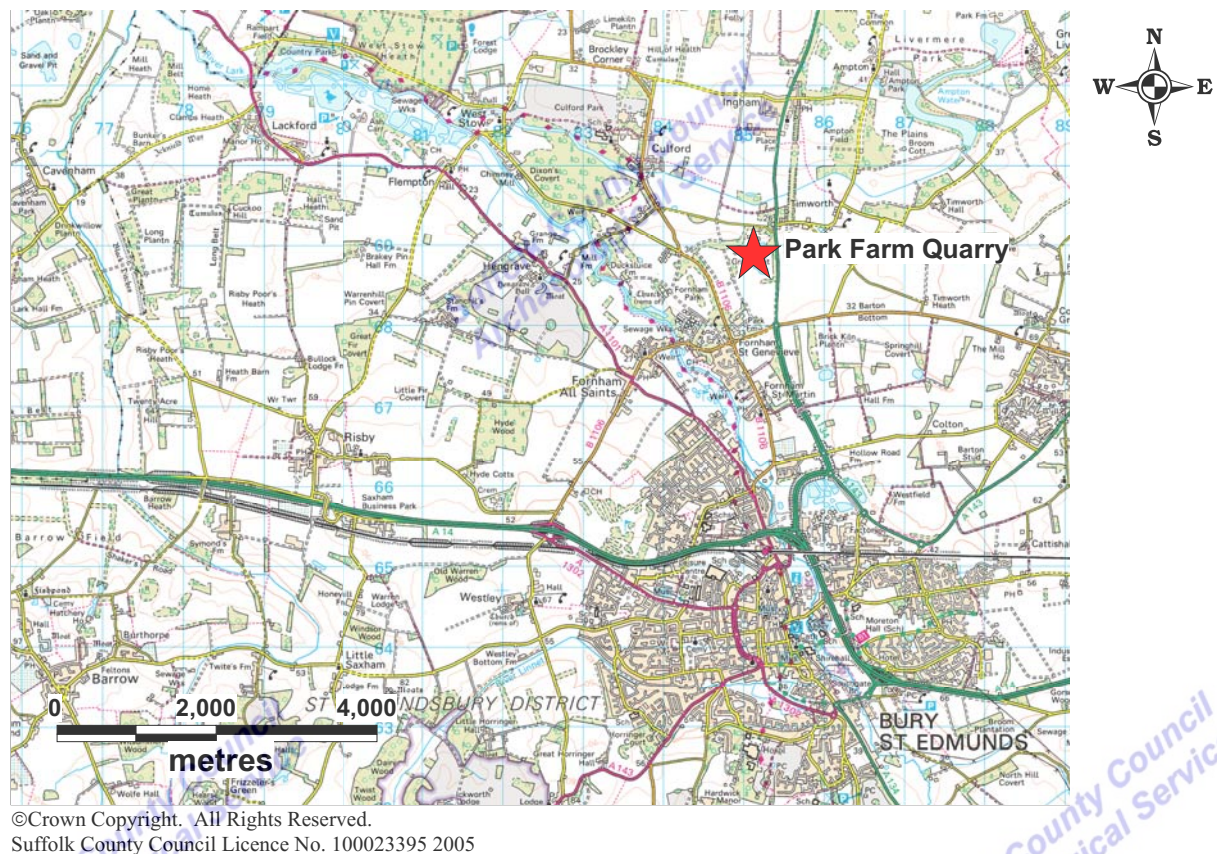


Figure 1. Site location

## Results

Both trenches ran through arable fields and showed a ploughsoil depth of between 0.35m and 0.5m. Subsoil varied from orange silt to flinty clay, sand and gravel or a mixture of these. Chalk patches were seen occasionally. The trenches were generally 1.3m deep and c. 0.5m wide. Archaeological features were found in Trench A (see Table 1 for full list of contexts).



Figure 2. Trench location

### Trench A

This was c.340m long and ran from the pylon in the west TL 8466 6929 to the corner of the quarry bund in the west TL 8499 6924. The ploughsoil was up to 0.5m deep in the western end of this trench and much of the length had a c.0.25m deep layer of orange-brown silt, **0014**, (a 'B horizon') underlying the ploughsoil and overlying natural. A 22m wide silt, **0013**, filled natural hollow was seen in the western end of the trench; this had a deeper, c.4.5m wide cut at its western end which may have been a ditch cut, **0012**, (Fig. 3). The remaining features were all found in the eastern half of the trench (Fig. 4).

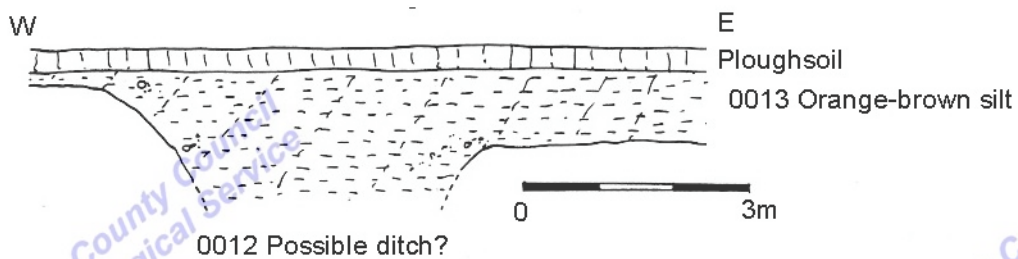
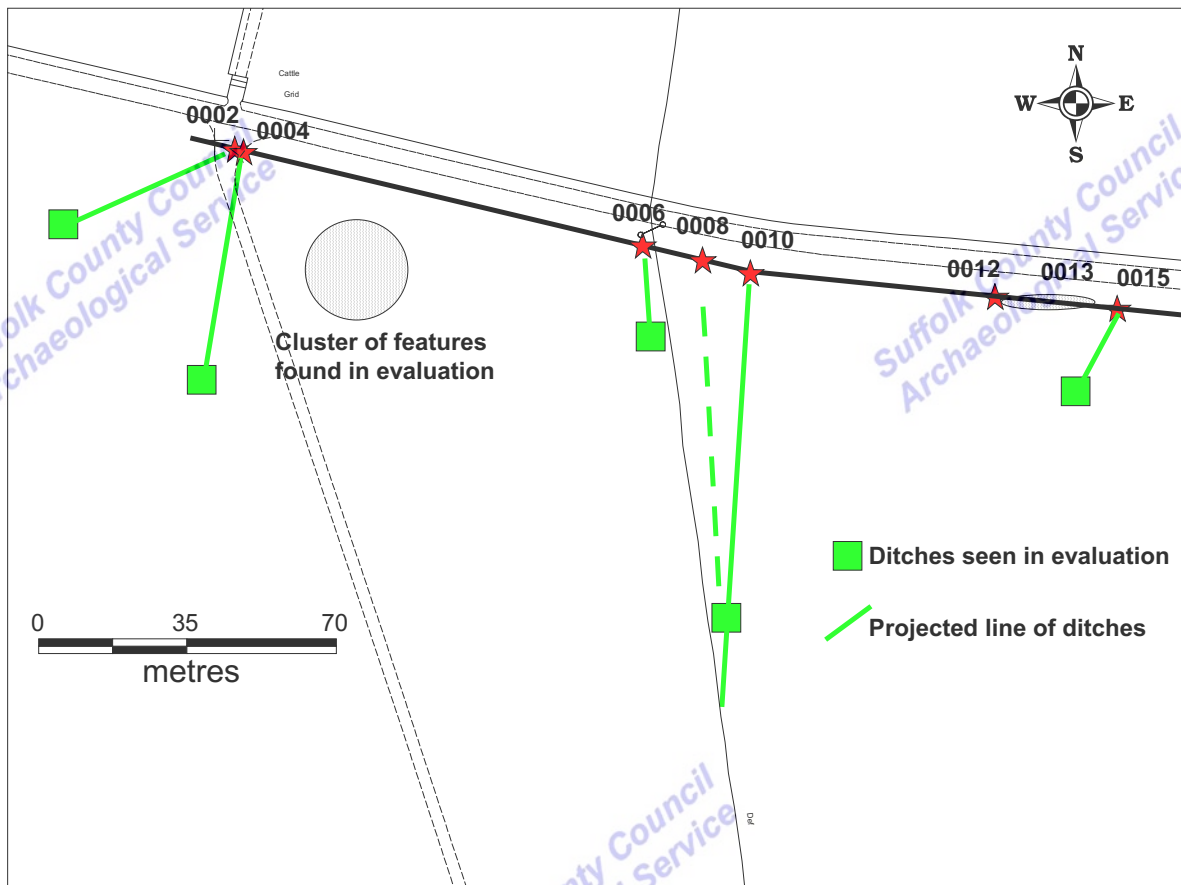


Figure 3. Possible ditch and part of silt-filled hollow



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Figure 4. Trench A, feature location

All the features found in the eastern half of the trench looked to be ditches (see Table 1 for context descriptions) and most aligned with the projected course of ditches seen during the evaluation (Fig. 4). All were filled with mid brown silty sand or orange-brown silt or clay (Fig. 5). This fill was generally very similar to the 'B' horizon, 0014. Ditch 0006 was located very close to the parish boundary between Fornham St Genevieve and Timworth and probably represents field edges along this line.

No finds were recovered from any of the features but five flint flakes were found in the upcast soil, one of which had some edge damage to one side (Edward Martin pers. comm.).

### *Trench B*

This was 540m long and no features were seen within this length (Fig. 2). Ploughsoil was between 0.35 and 0.45m deep and came straight down onto a mixed natural of sand, chalk and clay. There were occasional ill defined disturbances, one of which was probably associated with the change of road alignment in the 1980s/90s, and others which probably represent tree boles.

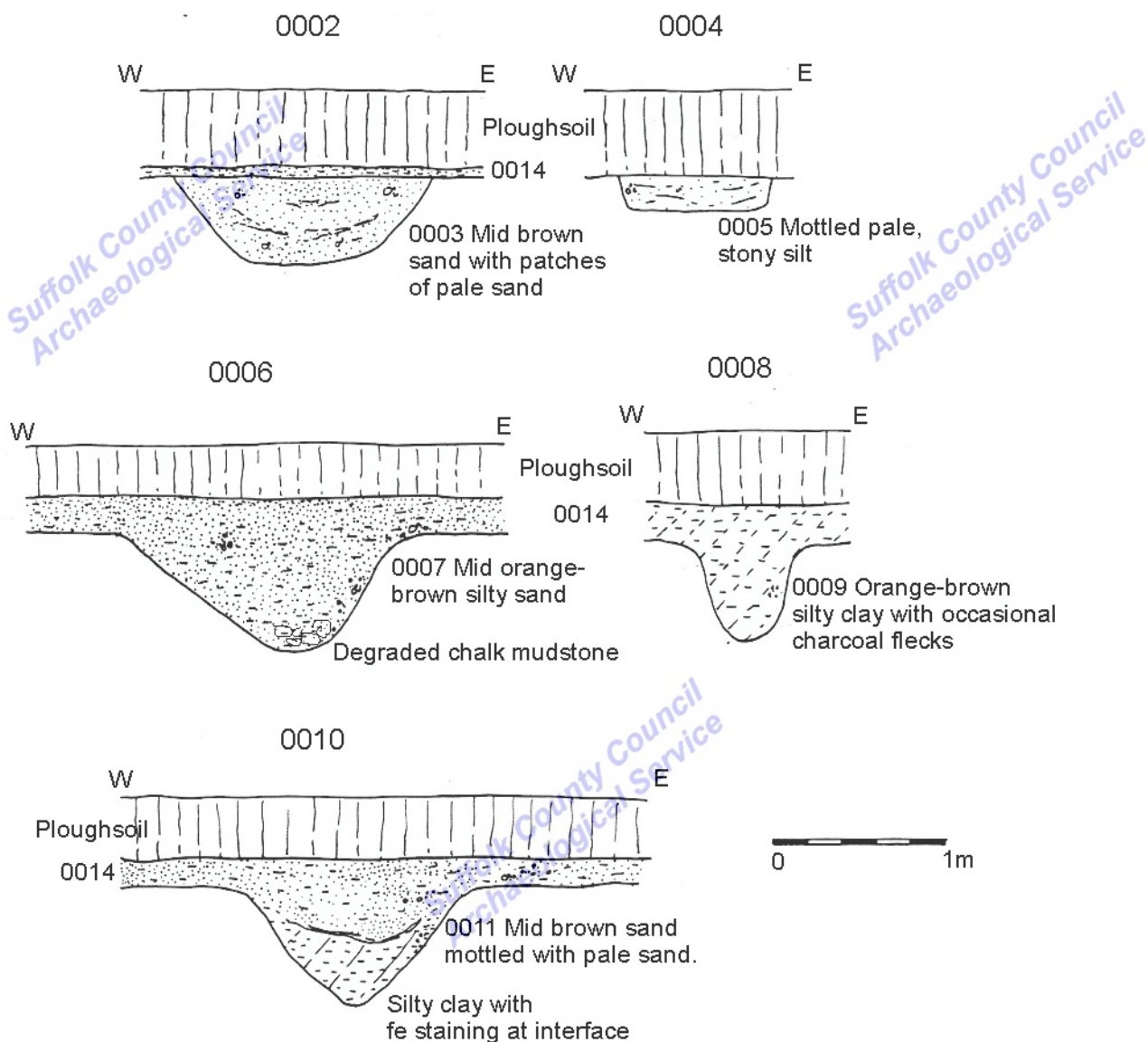


Figure 5. Feature sections

Context	Feature	Identifier	Description
0001		Finds	Unstratified finds from upcast soil. Five flint flakes.
0002	0002	Ditch	Probable ditch cut with sloped side and flat base. Underlies 0014 soil layer. 1.5m wide x 1m deep.
0003	0002	Ditch fill	Mid brown silty sand with paler patches. Underlies 0014
0004	0004	Ditch	Square profiled probable ditch. 0.9m wide x 0.7m deep.
0005	0004	Ditch fill	Mottled pale stony sand-silt fill of 0004.
0006	0006	Ditch	Triangular profiled ditch 1.7m wide x 1.2m deep on line of parish boundary.
0007	0006	Ditch fill	Mid brown silty sand with degraded chalk mudstone at base.
0008	0008	Ditch	Possible ditch. Steep U-shaped profiled ditch, 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep.
0009	0008	Ditch fill	Natural looking clay-silt but with occasional charcoal flecks.
0010	0010	Ditch	Triangular profiled ditch cut, 1.2m wide x 1.2m deep.
0011	0010	Ditch fill	Mid brown silty sand mottled with pale sand with more clay-silt at the base and Fe staining at the interface with natural.
0012	0012	Layer	Homogeneous orange-brown silt filling 22m wide natural hollow.
0013	0013	Ditch?	Possible ditch on west edge of 0012. 4.5m wide and > 1.5m deep.
0014	0014	Layer	Orange-brown silt lying between ploughsoil and natural. 'B horizon'.

Table 1. List of contexts



## Conclusion

This monitoring has helped to establish more accurately the line of ditches initially found during archaeological evaluation within the same field. However no evidence of the Iron Age features also seen in the evaluation was found and the only finds were flint flakes from the upcast soil, which whilst indicating background prehistoric occupation do not add to the dating evidence for this site.

Jo Caruth  
September 2005

## References

Craven, J., 2004 *Archaeological evaluation report, Extension to Ingham Quarry, Fornham St Genevieve, FSG 017.* SCCAS Report no. 2004/122