

Syers Farm, The Causeway, Hitcham HTC 062

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report

SCCAS Report No. 2006/108

Client: Homes Britannia Limited

Author: Kieron Heard
August 2011

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HTC 062

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Summary

This post-excavation assessment report presents the evidence from an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at Syers Farm, The Causeway, Hitcham, Suffolk. It provides a quantification and assessment of the site archive and considers the potential of that archive to answer specific research questions. The significance of the data is assessed and recommendations for dissemination of the results of the fieldwork are made. In this instance it is recommended that no further analysis or reporting is required and that this document should be made available to researchers and the general public through the OASIS online archaeological database as a 'grey literature' report.

The site was located on farm land towards the northern edge of the village of Hitcham. The geological stratum was glacial till.

There was limited evidence for prehistoric activity on the site. Two small fragments of un-diagnostic pottery (possibly of Iron Age date) and a worked flint fragment were found in a small, truncated pit. Three other worked flints of probable prehistoric date occurred residually in later features.

There were no features of Roman date, and the only conclusive evidence for activity on or near the site during that period were a *tegula* fragment and an iron spearhead, both occurring residually in later features.

There was considerable evidence for medieval activity, concentrated in the south-western part of the site and dating mainly to the 12–14th centuries. Some small ditches/gullies were probably for localised drainage. Several pits were found close to, and in some cases cutting, the ditches. Some of these were large enough to have been small clay extraction pits and others were posthole-sized features, although there was no conclusive evidence for buildings or other structures within the excavated areas.

There was sufficient artefactual evidence (domestic pottery, some fired clay of uncertain origin and small amounts of animal bone) to suggest that there was occupation in the immediate vicinity during the medieval period, although the focus of settlement was presumably outside the excavated areas.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site location

An evaluation and subsequent excavation took place on land at Syers Farm, The Causeway, Hitcham (Fig. 1). The site was centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 9872 5175 and encompassed an area of approximately 2759m². It was bounded by The Causeway to the west, by residential properties to the north, by farmland to the east and by a construction site to the south.

1.2 The scope of the project

This report was commissioned by Homes Britannia Limited and produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Projects Team. It has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Brief and Specification (Martin, 2006). The report is consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2), notably appendices 4 and 5 (English Heritage, 1991). The principal aims of the project are as follows:

- Summarise the results of the archaeological fieldwork
- Quantify the site archive and review the post-excavation work that has been undertaken to date
- Assess the potential of the site archive to answer research aims defined in the Brief and Specification
- Assess the significance of the data in relation to the relevant Regional Research Framework (Glazebrook, 1997; Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) and in relation to recently drafted updates to those reports (Medlycott & Brown, 2008)
- Make recommendations for further analysis (if appropriate) and dissemination of the results of the fieldwork

1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out by SCCAS Field Projects Team in response to an archaeological condition relating to a planning application for a housing development. The southern part of the development site, occupied formerly by the farmhouse of Syers Farm, was unavailable for archaeological evaluation because construction work had started already in that area of the site.

An evaluation by trial-trenching was followed immediately by a small-scale excavation, the fieldwork taking place from 28 February – 09 March 2006 in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by SCCAS Conservation Team (Martin, 2006). Initially three evaluation trenches were excavated, these being located within the footprints of five proposed house plots. Due to positive archaeological results these trenches were extended almost immediately to create three areas of excavation, as shown on Figure 3.

Within these areas topsoil was stripped using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide, toothless bucket. Exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0070. They were drawn in plan at 1:50 and in section at 1:20 on A1-sized sheets of drawing film. Written records (context descriptions, etc) were made on *pro forma* context sheets. No environmental sampling was undertaken.

Surveying was by means of triangulation from existing boundaries and landscape features within the site.

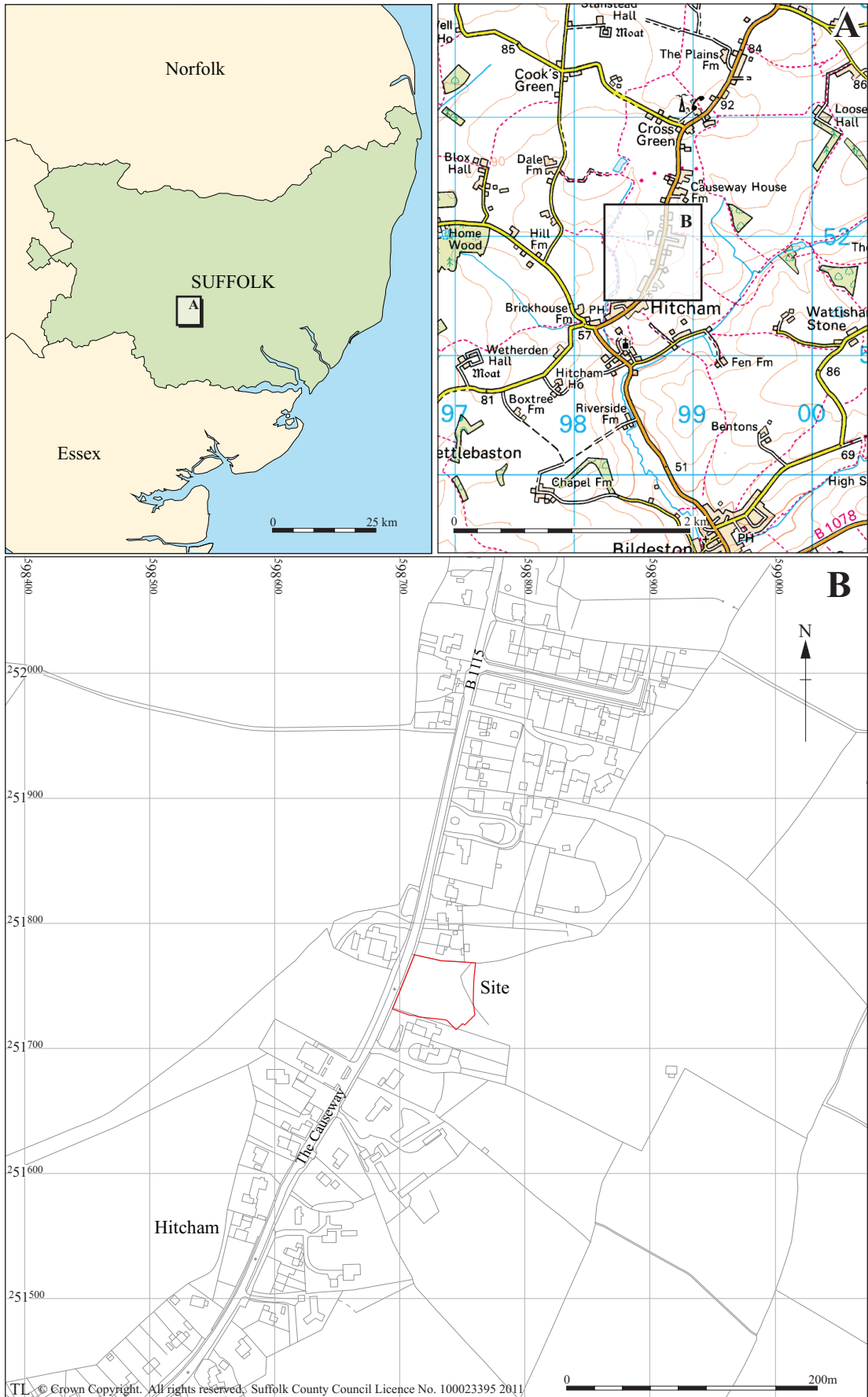


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red)

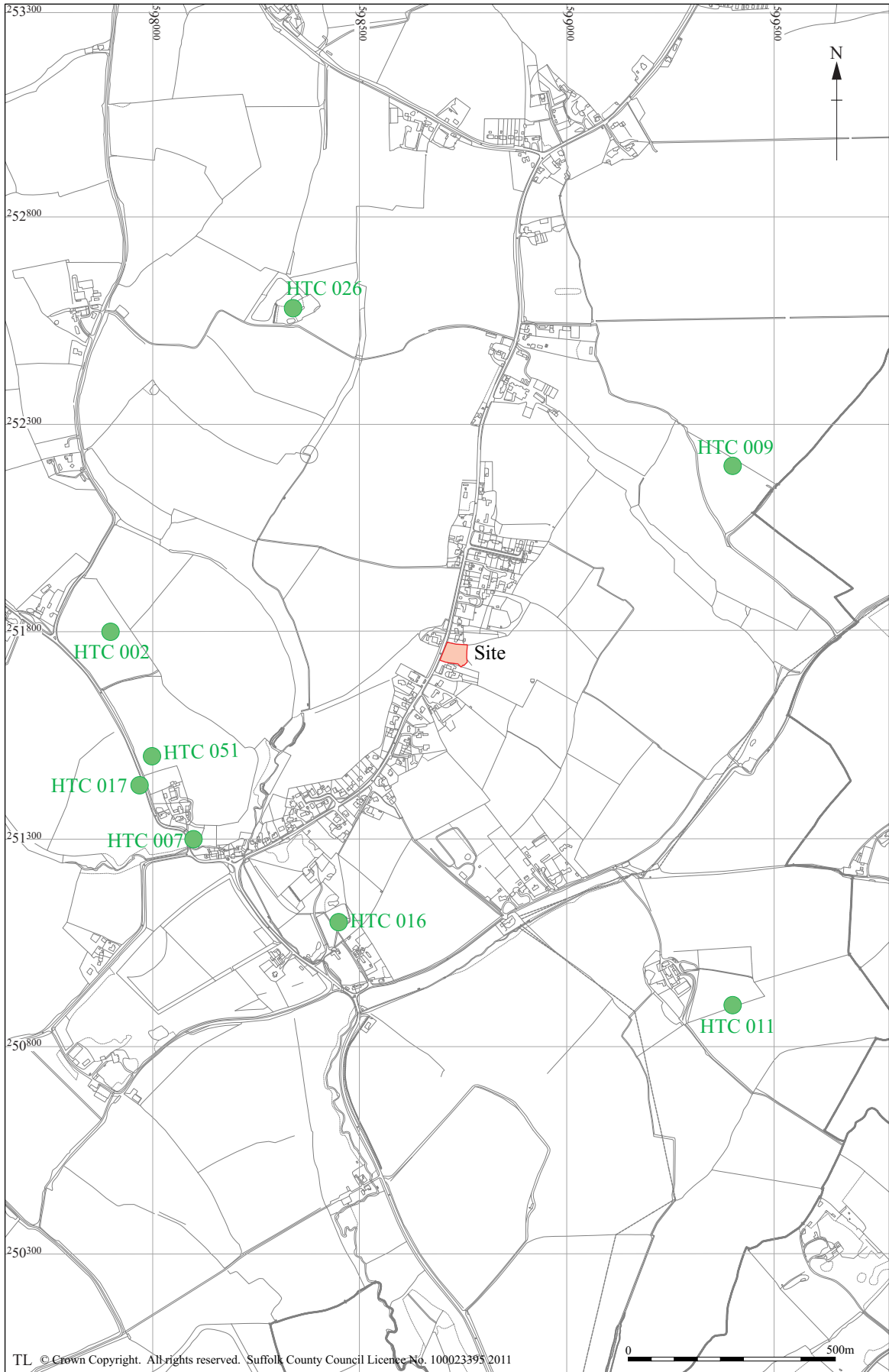


Figure 2. Development Area (red) and Historic Environment Record entries (green)



Figure 3. Areas of excavation showing features

2. Geological, topographic and archaeological background

2.1 Geology and topography

The published Quaternary geology of the site is glacial till (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00, Quaternary). Deep, loam to clay soils of the Ashley series overlie the till.

The site is on generally level ground at approximately 80.4m OD, overlooking the upper reaches of the River Brett valley to the west.

The site is located in an area of Rolling Valley Farmlands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment* (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk).

The key characteristics of this landscape type are as follows:

- Gentle valley sides with some complex and steep slopes
- Deep, well-drained loamy soils
- Organic pattern of fields smaller than on the plateaux
- Distinct areas of regular field patterns
- A scattering of landscape parks
- Small ancient woodlands on the valley fringes
- Sunken lanes
- Towns and villages with distinctive medieval cores and late medieval churches

2.2 Archaeology

There are references to prehistoric material being found in the fields around Hitcham, although none are recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within 1km of Syers Farm. The HER includes several post-prehistoric sites and find-spots within this area; they are summarised below and located on Figure 2.

In the Roman period there was a hill top settlement (HER reference: HTC 002) at Brickhouse Farm, approximately 0.7km west of Syers Farm. It was close to the

projected line of a north–south Roman road (HTC 017; Margary 330). Roman pottery was found in 1959 at Fen Farm (HTC 011), approximately 1km southeast of Syers Farm.

There is limited archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the Hitcham area; an Early Anglo-Saxon wrist clasp and a Middle Anglo-Saxon strap end with an animal-head terminal have been found by metal-detectorists at Brickhouse Farm (HTC 051).

The village of Hitcham has Anglo-Saxon origins; the earliest documentary reference to *Hecham* was in AD 992 and a church was recorded there in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The present church of All Saints (HTC 016) dates from the 14th century. Other medieval sites recorded in the HER within 1km of Syers Farm are the site of the medieval chapel of St Margaret at Brickhouse Farm (HTC 007), a medieval moated site at Parker's Wood (HTC 009) and a group of small, moated enclosures at The Hobbets (HTC 026).

Syers Farm itself was the site of a medieval farmstead, and was occupied by a Grade II listed building (of medieval and early post-medieval date) until it was destroyed by a fire shortly before the site was re-developed. It was one of a number of similar medieval properties extending along The Causeway.

3. Original Research Aims

The Original Research Aims of the project, as defined in the Brief and Specification for the trial-trench evaluation (Martin, 2006), were as follows:

ORA 1: Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*

ORA 2: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation

ORA 3: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits

ORA 4: Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit

ORA 5: Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development.

4. Site sequence: results of the fieldwork

4.1 Introduction

The results of the fieldwork are summarised below, by period. Detailed descriptions of the deposits and features are recorded in Appendix 2. They are shown in plan on Figures 4–6, and in section on Figures 7–10.

4.2 Natural stratum

The natural stratum was glacial till (boulder clay) – a stiff clay/silt containing varying amounts of chalk and flint.

4.3 Prehistoric (800 BC–AD 43)

There was limited evidence for prehistoric activity on the site. Two small fragments of un-diagnostic prehistoric pottery (possibly of Iron Age date) and a worked flint fragment were found in fill 0037 of pit 0036, in Area 2 (Fig. 5). The pit was oval, measuring 1.06m x >0.80m x 0.22m deep. Three other worked flints of probable prehistoric date were found, all occurring residually in later features.

4.4 Roman (AD 43–410)

There were no features of Roman date, and the only evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site during that period was a fragment of Roman roof tile (*tegula*) occurring residually in medieval ditch 0020, two abraded but joining fragments of possible Roman CBM from the fill of a probable medieval pit/posthole 0012 and an iron spearhead from fill 0010 of medieval ditch 0009; all of these features were in Area 3 (Fig. 6).

4.5 Medieval (1066–1500)

There was considerable evidence for medieval activity on the site, concentrated in Area 3 and represented by ditches, pits and possible postholes.

Medieval ditches

Ditches 0009, 0018, 0020, 0222 and 0062, in Area 3, were oriented approximately east–west. Generally they were narrow (0009 was the widest, at 0.70m) with steep sides and concave or flat bases, and they survived to depths of up to 0.60m (ditch 0062). The ditches each had at least one rounded terminus within the area of excavation. There is clear evidence that the ditches were not all dug at the same time; ditches 0018 and 0022 both partially truncated earlier ditch 0020, as shown on section S.8 (Fig. 7).

The ditches mostly had silty clay fills suggestive of gradual silting. The fills contained occasional to moderate amounts of medieval pottery, notably thirty-six sherds (dated mid 12th–13th century) from the western terminus of ditch 0009 and sixteen sherds (dated 12th–early 13th century) from the north-eastern terminus of ditch 0020.

Quantities of earlier pottery (11th–12th century) were present also.

Ditch 0062 was uncharacteristic in that it contained two distinctive fills, the uppermost of which (0064) seemed to represent deliberate backfilling since it included frequent large sub-angular flint nodules. It produced a moderate amount of medieval pottery dated to the late 12th–14th century.

0005 was a shallow ditch or gully on a different alignment, being oriented approximately northwest–southeast. It was >2.5m long x 0.38m wide x 0.20m deep with a concave profile and its single fill 0006 was grey clay that produced seven sherds of medieval

pottery (11th–12th century), moderate charcoal flecks and a large fragment from a lavastone quern. The ditch was apparently truncated at its northern end by ‘pit/posthole’ 0003, although in retrospect this might simply have been the rounded terminus of the ditch. The latter contained two sherds of pottery, dated also to the 11th–12th century.

A more substantial ditch with possible medieval origins was identified on Area 1. Ditch 0039 was oriented approximately north–south and measured 2.20m wide x 0.80m deep (Fig. 4). It contained two distinct fills (0040 and 0041) each of which produced four sherds of medieval pottery (12th–13th century) and small amounts of animal bone. In this instance the pottery assemblage is considered too small and abraded to provide a firm medieval date for this feature; the pottery might have been residual in a post-medieval ditch.

Medieval pits

Several pits in Area 3 (see Figure 6) were likely to have been of medieval date, containing occasional to moderate amounts of pottery. The larger pits included the following:

Pit 0055 was oval, measuring 2.12m x 1.68m x 0.70m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its primary fill 0056 was brownish grey clay without cultural material and might have derived from the weathering of the sides of the pit. Upper fill 0057 was grey clay containing fifteen small to medium-sized sherds of medieval pottery; at least one of these was dated to the late 13th–14th century.

Pit 0049 was oval, measuring 2.10m x 1.60m x 0.80m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It was filled by three distinct deposits of variously coloured silty clay, the lowest of which (0052) produced seven medium-sized sherds of medieval pottery that included fragments dated to the 13th–14th century. Notably this pit removed part of earlier ditch 0018.

Pit 0014 was oval, measuring 2.0m x 1.65m x 0.60m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill 0015 that produced thirty-six sherds of pottery and a small amount of animal bone. Most of the pottery dated to the late 12th–14th century but at least one fragment was of 13th–15th-century date.

It is noted that the slightly later medieval pottery (with a *terminus post quem* in the 13th century) came from the three larger pits 0014, 0049 and 0055.

Other, smaller pits (mostly located at the south end of Area 3) might have been postholes although there was little supporting evidence for this, such as the presence of post pipes or packing materials.

4.7 Modern (1900–present)

A substantial north–south ditch 0038 in Area 2 was dug for the insertion of a ceramic field drain. The ditch was 2m wide and up to 0.50m deep, with a V-shaped profile, and its fill (not numbered) was indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil.

The current topsoil 0002 extended site-wide and was up to 0.40m thick. Generally it directly overlaid the natural boulder clay, indicating that modern ploughing had removed most of the evidence that might have existed for former land surfaces and buried soil horizons.

4.8 Uncertain date

A few features and deposits were undated or of uncertain date, but given their proximity to medieval features they are likely to have been of that date also. Fill 0013 of pit/posthole 0012 produced two fragments of possible Roman CBM but this was probably residual. The only other finds were four fragments of fired clay.

Ditch 0062 in Area 3 was truncated by a large but relatively shallow pit or hollow (not numbered). This was filled by a distinctive sequence of undated horizontal deposits (Fig. 10, section S.22), none of which were recorded elsewhere within Area 3. The lowest deposit 0061, filling the base of the pit and sealing earlier ditch 0062, was a layer of grey silty clay that was probably washed into the feature. This was sealed by a thin (up to 0.12m) layer of mottled reddish grey and brown silty clay 0060 that contained frequent flecks and small fragments of fired clay; this material was too soft and degraded to be preserved for analysis off-site but it was interpreted by the excavator as probable ‘demolition material’. Deposit 0060 also contained moderate amounts of chalk and sand or degraded mortar. The uppermost deposit 0059 was a clayey loam with few

inclusions and no cultural material. This was interpreted by the excavator as the remnant of a former subsoil or ploughsoil that survived within the hollow but that was removed elsewhere in the course of modern ploughing.

The only other horizontal deposit noted on the site was an extensive spread of grey silty clay (0068) at the north end of Area 3 (Fig. 6). It contained frequent flecks and small fragments of charcoal, occasional medieval pottery (including fragments dated to the late 12th–14th century, though too few to provide a firm date for the deposit) and fired clay, and it might have been filling a hollow similar to the un-numbered feature to the south. Only limited excavation of this deposit was undertaken and its relationship with ditch 0022 could not be determined.

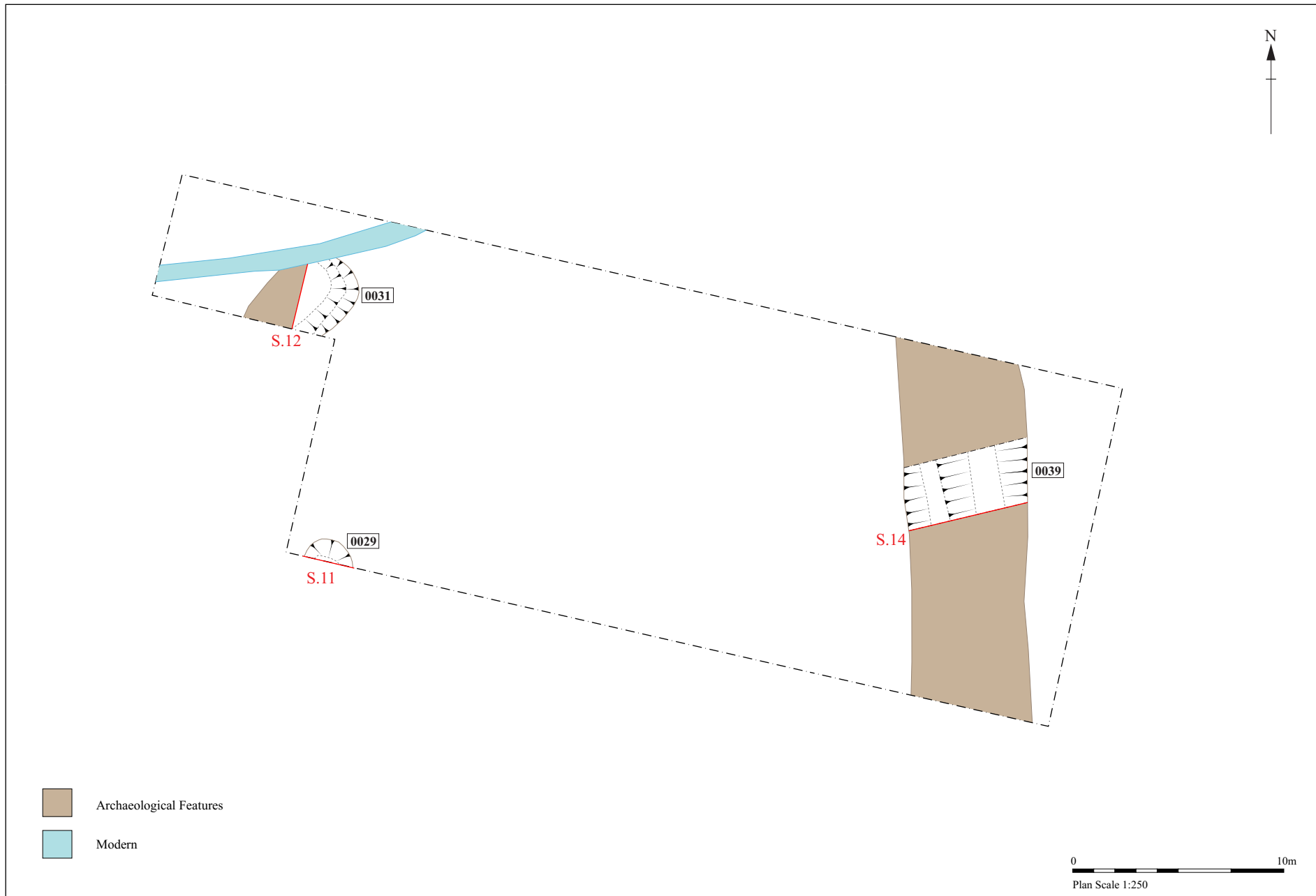


Figure 4. Plan of Area 1

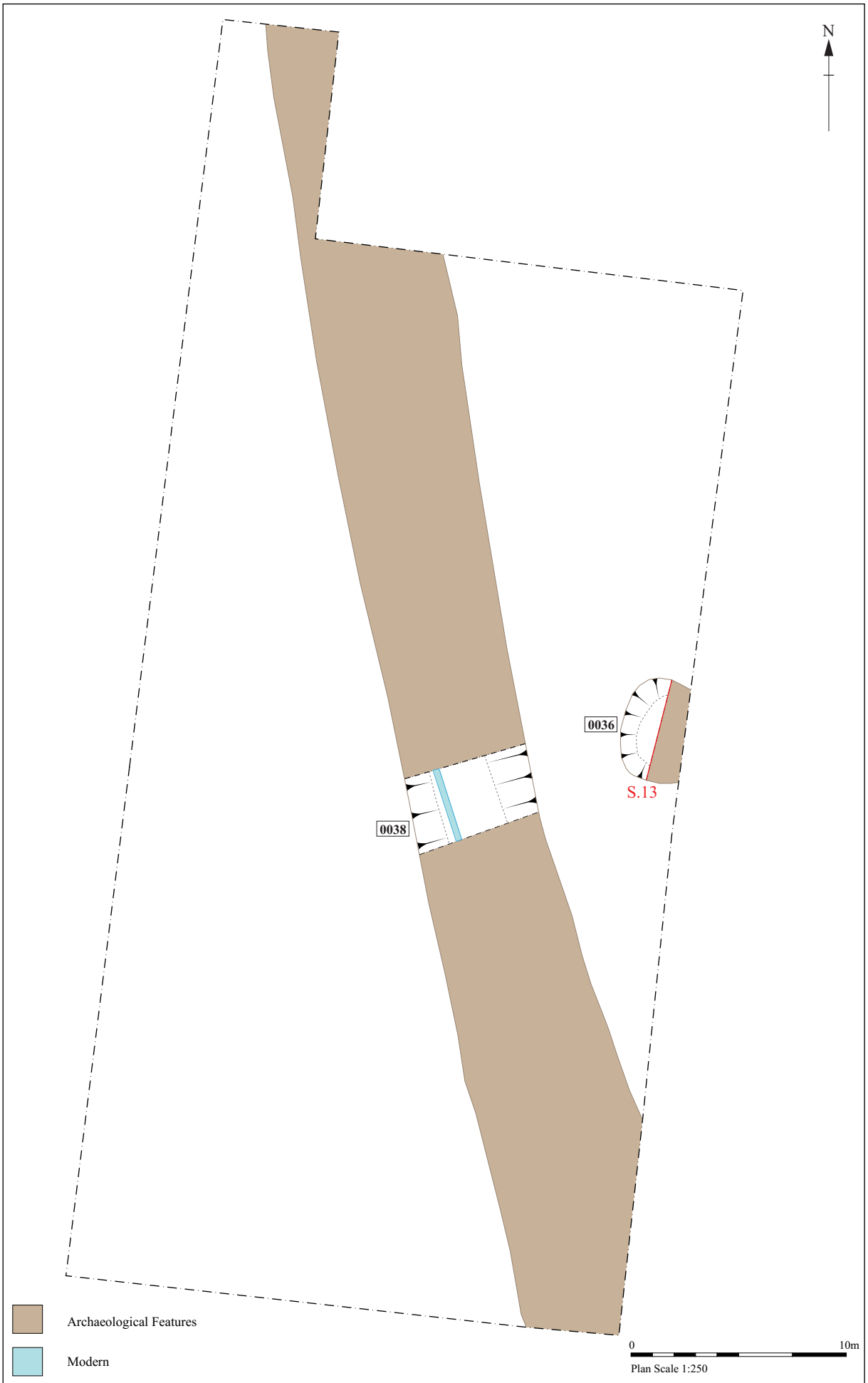


Figure 5. Plan of Area 2

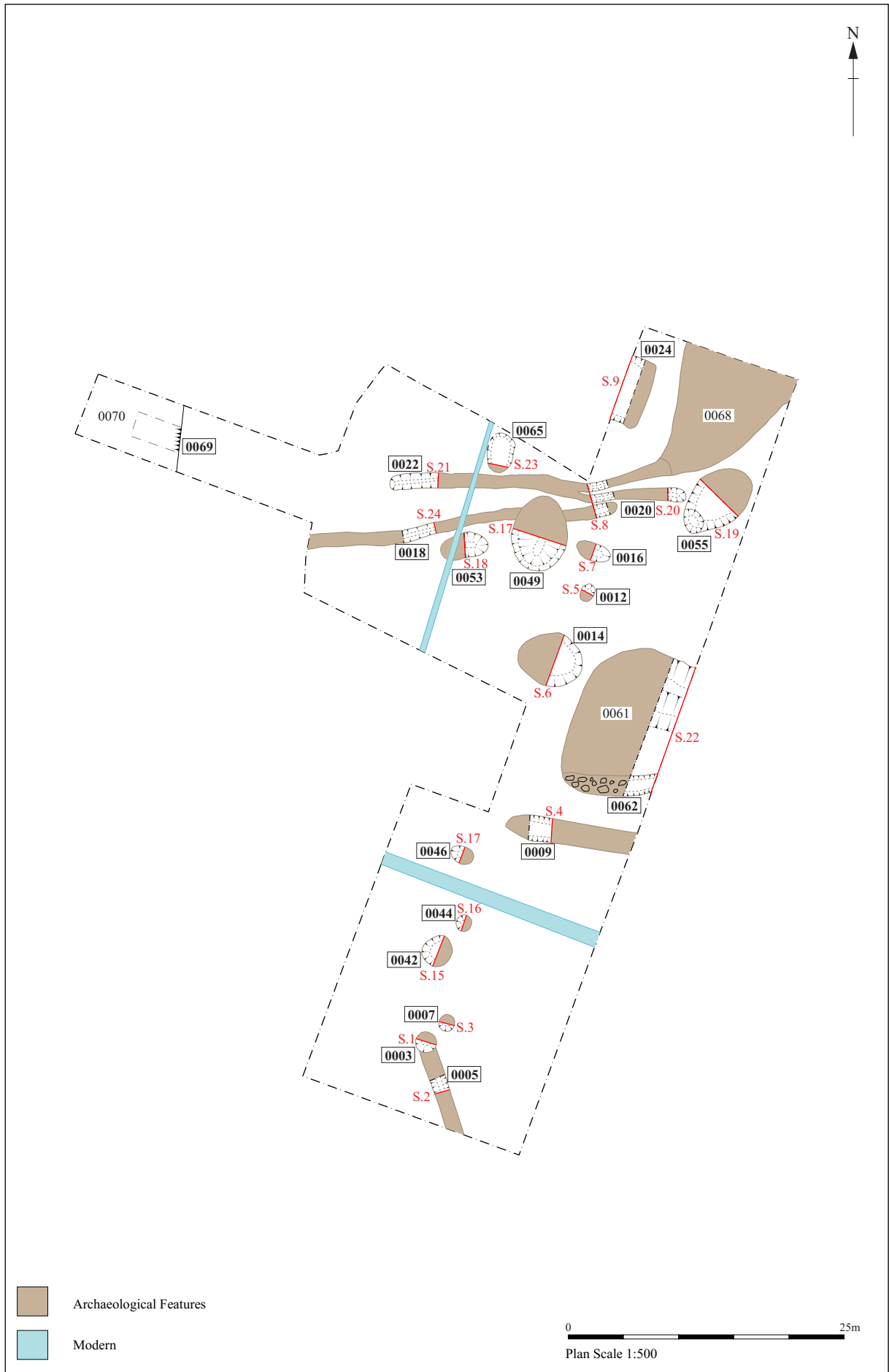


Figure 6. Plan of Area 3

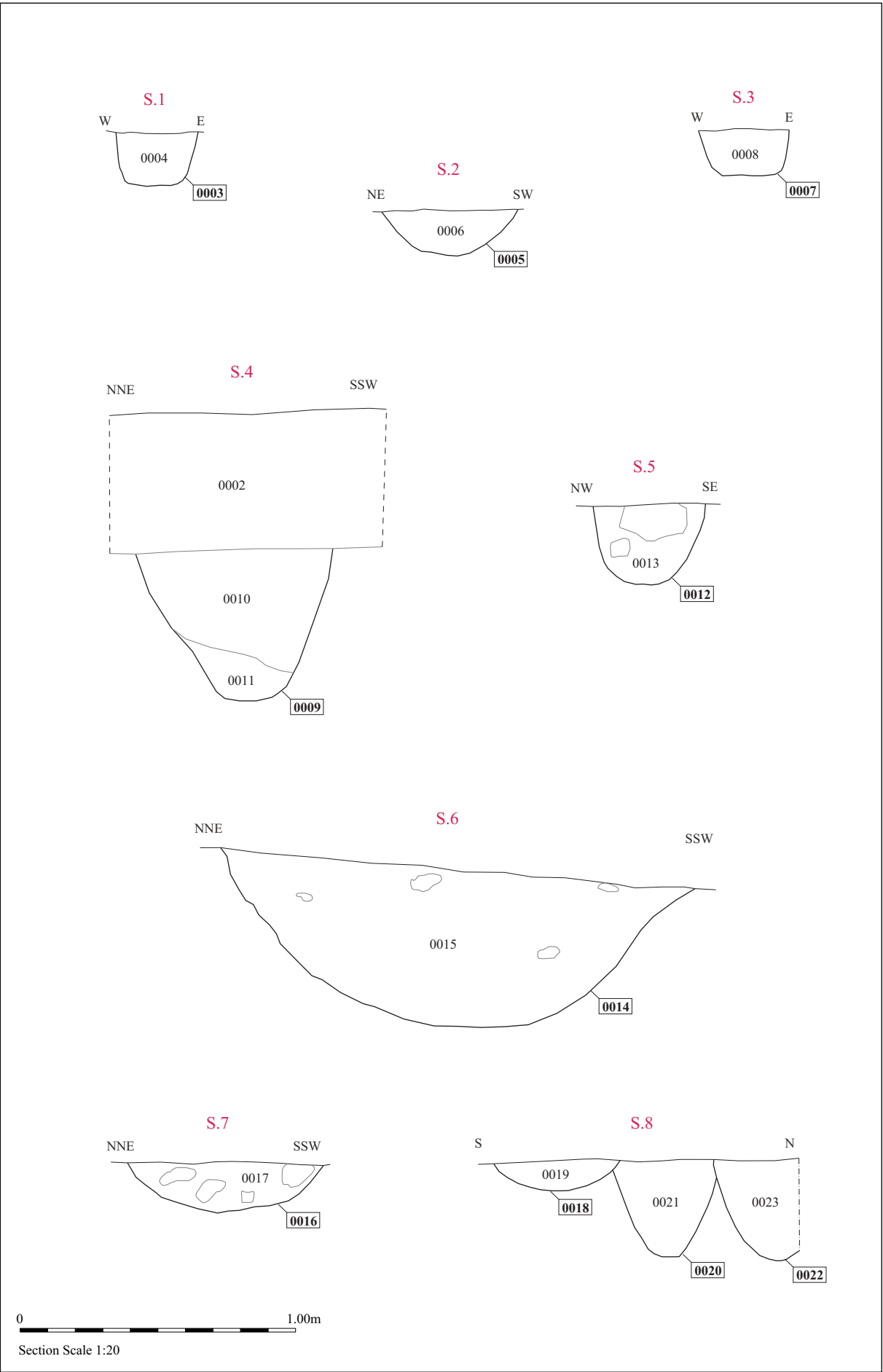


Figure 7. Sections 1 - 8

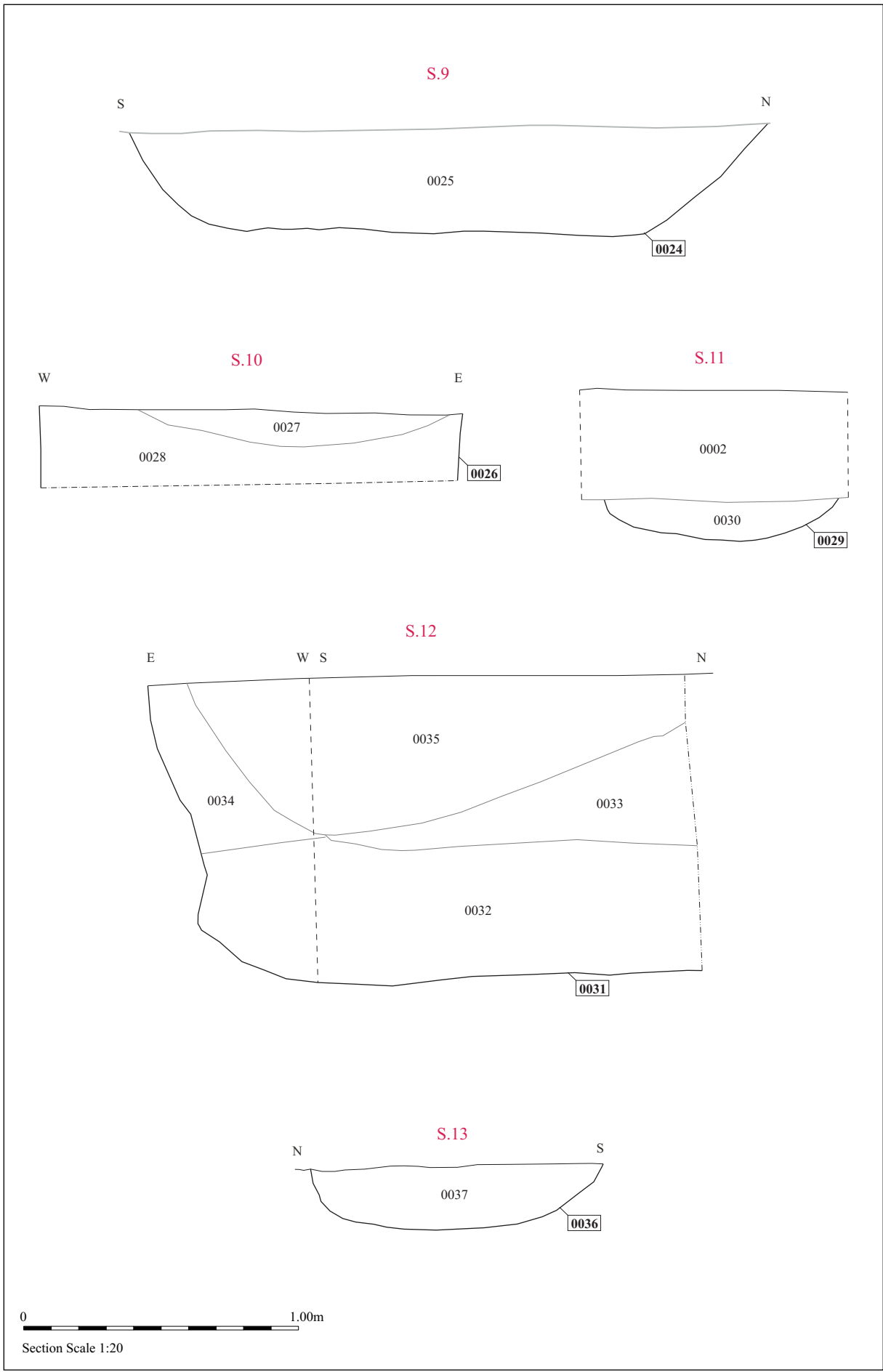


Figure 8. Sections 9 - 12

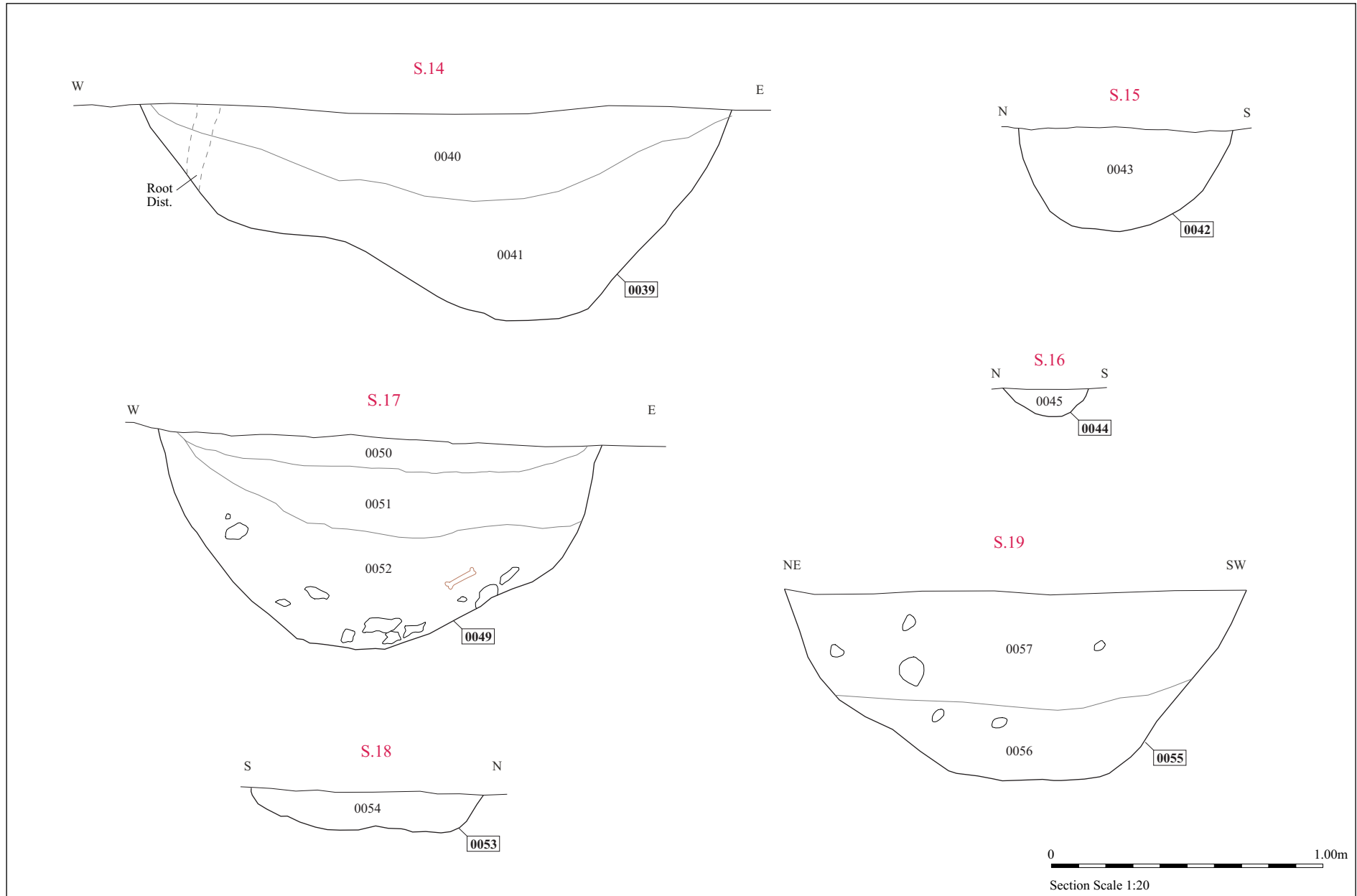


Figure 9. Sections 14 - 19



Figure 10. Sections 20 - 24

5. Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following post-excavation tasks have been completed for the stratigraphic, finds and environmental archives:

Task 01: Completion and checking of the primary (paper and digital) archive

Task 02: Microsoft Access database of the stratigraphic archive

Task 03: Microsoft Access database of the finds archive

Task 04: Inked versions of original plans and sections

Task 05: Plans digitised

Task 06: Sections digitised

Task 07: Processing, dating and assessment of finds

5.2 Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

The stratigraphic archive for both phases of fieldwork (evaluation and excavation) is quantified in Table 1:

Type	Quantity	Format
Context register sheets	2	A4 paper
Context sheets (numbered 0002–0070)	67	A4 paper
Plan drawing sheets (original)	2	A1 drawing film
Section drawing sheets (original)	1	A1 drawing film
Plan drawing sheets (inked)	2	A1 drawing film
Section drawing sheets (inked)	1	A1 drawing film
This post-excavation assessment report (SCCAS report no. 2006/108)	1	A4 wire-bound

Table 1. Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

5.3 Quantification of the finds archive

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from twenty-nine contexts, as shown in Table 2.

Context	Pottery		CBM/Fired clay		Flint		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spot date
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0004	2	7	1	5						11-12th C
0006	7	128							1 fragment of lavastone @ 425g	11-12th C
0008					2	154				Med?
0010	36	641							SF1001	M12-M13
0013			6	39						Res Rom
0015	36	523	2	11			3	62		13-15th C
0017	2	9								12-14th C
0019	7	107								12th C+
0021	16	133	1	352			3	90		13-14th C
0023	2	15					1	3		11-12th C
0027	1	6	2	22	1	5	1	3		L12-14 C
0028	1	8								L12-14 C
0032	1	18								11-12th C
0035	9	62	12	197						12-13th C
0037	2	7			1	13				L Pre
0040	4	18					2	5		12th C
0041	4	16	1	10			3	18	1 land snail @ 11g	M12-M13
0043	5	21					1	5		L13-14 C
0045	1	11								L12-14 C
0047	2	35			1	8				L12-14 C
0048									10 stone @ 1141g	Undated
0052	7	74	2	6			6	39		13-14th C
0054	7	39	1	5						L12-14 C
0057	15	394								L13-14 C
0058	1	5	5	19			1	11		11-12th C
0064	8	62	1	14						L12-14 C
0066	2	13								L12-14 C
0067	1	8								12-13th C
0068	4	25	1	19			1	130		12-E13 C
Total	183	2385	35	699	5	180	22	366		

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 183 fragments of pottery was recovered, weighing 2.385kg. The vast majority of the assemblage is medieval, but a small amount of prehistoric sherds were identified.

Methodology

The ceramics were quantified using the recording methods recommended in the MPRG Occasional Paper No 2, Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of Post-Roman ceramics (Slowikowski *et al.*, 2001). The number of sherds present in each context by fabric, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric was noted. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and

condition were recorded, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was catalogued on *pro forma* sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form and the information has been inputted into a Microsoft Access database.

The codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings, 1981), and additional fabric types established by SCCAS (Sue Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

Pottery by period

Prehistoric

Two small, handmade fragments of prehistoric date were identified from the fill 0037 of pit 0036, with a fragment of flint (7g). The sherds are thick-walled, reduced and heavily flint-tempered. Such sherds cannot be closely dated in themselves, but in view of the decorated flint-tempered wares recovered from the evaluation (Tester, 2006) it is likely that they date to the Iron Age period.

Medieval

The remainder of the assemblage is medieval and ranges in date from the 11th to the 14th centuries.

Much of the group is made up of early medieval wares, and consists of hand-made fabrics such as Early medieval ware and Yarmouth-type wares dating to the 11th and 12th centuries. Although these wares were recovered exclusively in a small number of features such as possible posthole 0003, ditch 0005 and pit 0031, they were also found more frequently with medieval coarseware and other fabrics dating from the 12th century. In these circumstances some of the more abraded fragments may be residual. Both Yarmouth-type ware fabrics are represented (calcareous and non-calcareous variants), as well as Early medieval ware Shelly, and Early medieval ware Sparse Shelly fabrics. The rims of several Yarmouth-type ware cooking vessels are present, including one with an upright flared rim (Fig. 11, No. 1) and a jar with an upright and slightly thickened rim (Fig. 11, No. 2). Both of these were from fill 0006 of ditch 0005. Yarmouth-type wares are commonly found on East Anglian sites, particularly in Norwich and towards the eastern side of the region. Having been first identified from excavations at Yarmouth (Mellor, 1976), their precise source has not yet been established. Several fragments of a thick-walled jar made in a fine fabric with shell dusting on the oxidised external surface, similar in form to Yarmouth-type jars, are likely to have the same date

range (Fig. 11, No 3). The fabric may be similar to Fabric 13S, (Shell dusted Early medieval Sandy ware) which is found in Colchester (Cotter, 40).

A wide variety of medieval coarseware was recorded from the excavation. Jars were the main form identified, in a range of wheel-thrown sandy fabrics dating to the 12th to 14th century (Fig. 11, Nos. 4, 5 & 6). A neck-less jar dating from the late 13th century was present in fill 0015 of pit 0014 (Fig. 11, No. 7). Few bowls were recorded; one possible fragment has been illustrated (Fig. 11, No. 8). Two examples of coarseware jugs were identified, including a Hollesley-type ware jug from fill 0057 of pit 0055 that has part of the rim and the decorated rod handle, with further incised decoration at the junction of the rim and handle (Fig. 11, No. 9).

Small quantities of glazed wares were also recovered. Sherds of Hedingham fineware, including a late variant, were found in three contexts. Three fragments of a glazed redware jug from fill 0057 of pit 0055 could not be fully identified. The vessel is made in a dense sandy fabric that is almost fully oxidised. It is patchily covered on the outside with a copper glaze. The jug has a horizontal thumb-applied strip running under the outside of the rim (Fig. 11, No. 10).

Discussion of the pottery

The medieval pottery was recovered from a series of pits and ditches, with small quantities also present in three small pits that could possibly be postholes (0003, 0016 and 0046).

Although early medieval pottery dating to the 11th to 12th centuries is present, much of the ceramic assemblage is slightly later, and covers the period of the late 12th–13th centuries. Probably the latest deposit with pottery is the secondary fill 0057 of pit 0055. No post-medieval wares were identified, although Syers Farm itself dated to the medieval and early post-medieval period.

The ceramic assemblage provides evidence of settlement in the vicinity of the site from the early medieval period, probably from the 12th century through to the 14th century. The range of pottery forms is typical of a domestic assemblage made up of tablewares and kitchen wares. Many of the jars are heavily sooted, showing that they had clearly been used. The production centres for most of the coarsewares cannot be established precisely due to similarities in their fabrics and overall appearance, although some sherds of Hollesley-type ware were identified. It is likely that many of the grey and dark

brown coarsewares were produced at two centres near Colchester – Mile End and Great Horkesley (Drury and Petchey, 1975). Where identifiable, the glazed wares also reflect an association with northwest Essex, as fragments of Hedingham ware were identified.

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of ceramic building material were collected (371g). Two very small, abraded and un-diagnostic joining fragments found in fill 0013 of ditch 0012 are likely to be Roman. A larger piece of Roman *tegula* or flanged roof tile was found in fill 0021 of ditch 0020. It is made in a fine fabric with clay pellet inclusions and is covered with an off-white mortar on all of its surfaces, indicating that it had been re-used.

Fired clay

Thirty-two fragments of fired clay were recovered from ten contexts, weighing 328g. Nearly all the material was made of the same kind of fabric, a fine soft orange matrix containing frequent small to medium chalk inclusions up to 8mm in length, and sparse flint inclusions up to 11mm in length. The largest quantity was found in fill 0035 of ditch 0031. One of the fragments from this context had a thumb-shaped impression and nail mark on it. Apart from this, no diagnostic features were present to give any indication of the function of the fired clay. The material could have been used for the construction of hearths/ovens, or have been used structurally.

Lavastone

A single fragment of lavastone, probably from the Rhineland, was present in fill 0006 of ditch 0005. None of the outer edges survive, but one surface has clearly been worn through grinding, and the opposite surface is undressed.

Worked flint

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Five fragments of worked flint were recovered in total (180g). These have been catalogued below:

1. An unpatinated shatter piece, with three cortical and three uncortical faces, probably for walling. Undated but could be medieval. From fill 0008 of possible posthole 0007.

2. An unpatinated squat flake with limited edge retouch, sub-triangular cross section. Probably later prehistoric. From fill 0008 of possible posthole 0008.
3. Unpatinated brown (possibly stained) flake with limited edge retouch. Natural striking platform with pronounced ripples. Prehistoric (possibly early). From fill 0027 of pit 0026.
4. Lightly patinated fragment of a flake. Thick sub-triangular cross-section with hinge fracture. Probably later prehistoric or more recent. From fill 0037 of pit 0036.
5. Lightly patinated flint on one face with unpatinated bulbar face with hinge fracture, with further longitudinal break, exhibiting recent damage. Probably later prehistoric. From fill 0047 of possible posthole 0046.

Discussion of the worked flint

The assemblage includes two fragments of residual flint from two medieval features (pit fill 0027 and possible posthole 0047). One flint from pit fill 0037 was found with two small sherds of flint-tempered pottery that can only be assigned an overall prehistoric date.

Overall the flint demonstrates crude workmanship typical of the later prehistoric period, although a residual flint in pit fill 0027 is potentially earlier.

Other stone

Ten fragments of broken and possibly burnt un-worked stone, (possibly sandstone) were recorded in 0048, the fill of the terminus of ditch 0020.

Small finds

A single small find was recovered:

1. A complete Roman iron spearhead with cleft socket from ditch fill 0011. The split socket tapers slightly towards the head which is leaf-shaped. Length: 93mm, width of head at widest point: 26mm. Diameter of socket: 13mm. Manning type 2. X-ray number: CX1340. SF1001.

Animal bone

Mike Feider

Twenty-one fragments of bone were recovered from ten medieval contexts, as shown in Table 3. They are in fairly good condition, with the occasional bit of surface weathering and staining present. Two fragments of cow mandible were found in pit fill 0015 and a partial cattle femur came from deposit 0068. Pit fill 0015 contained two unpaired sheep/goat mandibles, and a fragment of horn core was found in ditch fill 0058. Pig

incisors were recovered from ditch fill 0040 and pit/posthole fill 0043. All other remains are too fragmented to identify to species.

Context	Cow	Sheep/goat	Pig	Unidentified	Total
0015	0	2	0	1	3
0021	2	0	0	0	2
0023	0	0	0	1	1
0027	0	0	0	1	1
0040	0	0	1	1	2
0041	0	0	0	3	3
0043	0	0	1	0	1
0052	0	0	0	6	6
0058	0	1	0	0	1
0068	1	0	0	0	1
Total	3	3	2	13	21

Table 3. Species breakdown by context

Very little information is available from such a small assemblage. Tooth wear calculations were possible on the two sheep/goat and one cow mandible, but were not undertaken. The only butchery is a chop mark through the base of the sheep/goat horn core, probably made during the removal of the horn for processing.

Finds discussion and recommendations for further work

Small quantities of flint-tempered pottery and flint were recovered from pit fill 0037 and elsewhere. Although much of this material cannot be dated closely, the pottery was probably of Iron Age date, suggesting that most of the other finds may also date to that part of the later prehistoric period.

Part of a Roman *tegula* and an iron spearhead were recovered as residual finds, but there was no evidence of any immediate Roman activity on the site.

The main period of activity recorded from the finds spans the medieval period, with ceramics dating from the 12th century to the 14th century. The presence of so many unabraded sherds including sooted cooking vessels suggests that there was occupation in the vicinity of the site. The small quantity of fired clay is also further evidence for this. To date, little is known about the sources of supply for medieval ceramics for this particular village in central Suffolk, and the excavation has provided a useful glimpse of the wares that were being used there during that period. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken recently on medieval ceramic assemblages from other rural settlement sites in Suffolk. The largest of these has been published recently, from the neighbouring parish at Priory Farm, Preston St Mary (Anderson, 2010). Many of the

fabrics recorded at Hitcham were present at Priory Farm, although no Yarmouth-type wares were recorded there. As the assemblage is so much larger, the range of glazed wares is more comprehensive than those found from Syers Farm, with both Grimston, Mill Green and Colchester wares being identified. The medieval coarsewares at Priory Farm are similar to those from Hitcham and have strong similarities to Essex wares. Other medium-sized assemblages of a comparable date from within the county that have been catalogued recently are at Great Blakenham, Walsham le Willows and Leiston (all Anderson, forthcoming). No post-medieval pottery was identified from the site, although the farmhouse dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

The ceramics recovered from Syers Farm provide a valuable addition to the overall view of medieval ceramic assemblages and their distribution from a site in the centre of the county. The assemblage shows a strong association with ceramics produced in north Essex and the area around Colchester and Hedingham. In common with other sites, the presence of unprovenanced glazed ware shows that there is still further work to be done to identify either new production sites or catalogue accurately products of existing kiln sites, perhaps from further afield. Otherwise the ceramic assemblage has been catalogued fully and selected sherds have been illustrated. Apart from suggesting that the glazed ware from pit 0057 should be identified at a future date, possibly as part of a synthetic investigation into the 'un-provenanced glazed wares' category, no further work on the assemblage is suggested. The other types of finds have been catalogued fully and no further work on them is required.

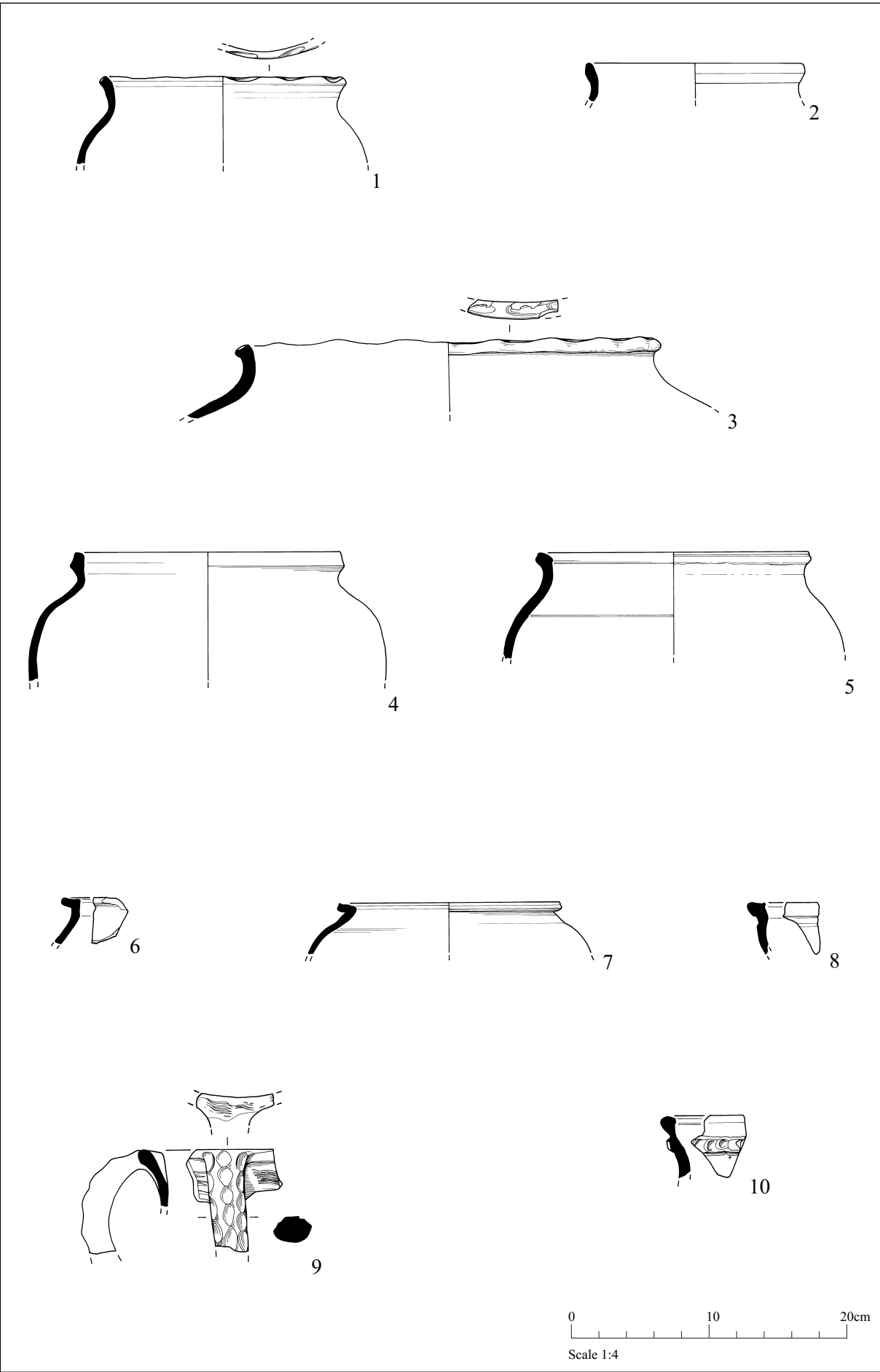


Figure 11. Medieval pottery

6. Potential of the data

6.1 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

ORA 1: *Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.*

Realisation: Archaeological deposits were recorded in all three areas of excavation although they were more prevalent in Area 3, in the south-western part of the site. None of the deposits were deemed (in the opinion of the Curatorial Officer) to merit preservation *in situ*.

ORA 2: *Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.*

Realisation: Pit 0036 in Area 1 might have been of prehistoric (probably Iron Age) date, on the evidence of two fragments of un-diagnostic prehistoric pottery and a worked flint. The purpose of the feature is unknown. It was only 0.22m deep, having apparently been truncated by modern ploughing.

Medieval activity was represented by several pits and small ditches, located mostly in Area 3. These represented concentrated activity that continued beyond the limits of excavation to the east and south. The ditches were between 0.20–0.60m deep and the pits ranged from 0.10m to 0.80m deep. All features were truncated by modern ploughing and survived only from the level at which they were seen to cut the natural till.

There was insufficient evidence to confirm the functions of the pits. Some of the smaller features were identified provisionally as postholes, although there is little evidence to support this and they do not appear to have been arranged in recognisable patterns suggestive of buildings or structures. The larger pits might have been for clay extraction, or for the disposal of rubbish or cess. Similarly the function of the ditches is uncertain; they might have been for localised drainage.

Ditch 0039 in Area 1, of medieval or later date, might have been a field boundary or drainage feature. Post-medieval ditch 0038 in Area 2 was clearly intended for drainage.

ORA 3: *Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.*

Realisation: Masking deposits of colluvium/alluvium were not present on this site. Modern agriculture had produced a relatively thick layer of topsoil that directly overlay the natural boulder clay. Ploughing had truncated the archaeological features and removed any evidence that might have existed for former land surfaces or buried soil horizons.

ORA 4: *Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.*

Realisation: There were no artificial soil deposits on this site.

ORA 5: *Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development.*

Realisation: No waterlogged organic deposits were found.

6.2 General discussion of potential

The fieldwork revealed a single feature (pit 0036) that was probably of Iron Age date, although the two small fragments of pottery and single worked flint *might* have been residual in a later feature.

There was considerable evidence for medieval activity on the site, concentrated in Area 3 but occurring also in Area 1. Unfortunately the evidence is difficult to interpret. Several small ditches/gullies with rounded termini are likely (given the heavy clay soil) to have been for localised drainage, although the precise reason that this was required is not clear. There are some pits of a similar or slightly later date than the ditches but the

function of the pits is also unclear. Some were large enough to have been small clay extraction pits and others were posthole-sized features although there was no conclusive evidence for buildings or other structures within the excavated areas.

There was enough artefactual evidence (domestic pottery, some fired clay of uncertain origin and small amounts of animal bone) to suggest that there was occupation in the immediate vicinity, although the focus of settlement was presumably outside the excavated areas.

Despite the problems of interpretation the stratigraphic evidence is relatively straightforward and has been described adequately in this report. There is no potential for further analysis of the stratigraphic archive.

With regard to the finds archive, the site has produced an assemblage of medieval domestic pottery that provided some useful insights into the distribution of ceramics within the county. However, there is no potential for further analysis of the pottery or other categories of finds.

7. Significance of the data

Given that the prehistoric evidence is inconclusive and that the evidence for medieval occupation is understood poorly, the results of the fieldwork are of limited significance. They are unlikely to make a contribution towards research objectives described in the East Anglian Regional Research Framework (Glazebrook, 1997; Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) or to the Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott & Brown, 2008).

8. Recommendations for further work and publication

There are no recommendations for further work on either the stratigraphic or finds archives.

9. Archive deposition

The primary (paper) archive for the fieldwork is located currently at the SCCAS Ipswich office. The finds are at the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office, in the main store on shelf H/77/3.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned and funded by Hammerton Leisure and managed by John Newman (SCCAS Contracts Manager). This post-excavation project was commissioned and funded by Homes Britannia Limited and managed by Rhodri Gardner.

Rhodri Gardner directed the fieldwork and was assisted by Robert Atfield and Roy Damant. Richenda Goffin assessed and reported on the finds, with contributions by Mike Feider (animal bone) and Colin Pendleton (worked flint). Graphics are by Gemma Adams.

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Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

LAND ADJACENT TO SYERS FARM, THE CAUSEWAY, HITCHAM

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [B/05/0035] has been made for a residential development on land adjacent to Syers Farm, The Causeway, Hitcham
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place **BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition)**. **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 Syers Farm was the site of a medieval farmstead (formerly a listed building, accidentally destroyed by fire) and was one of a number of similar medieval properties situated along The Causeway. There is therefore a high probability of other medieval settlement evidence in the vicinity.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide*

the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days

notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.

3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.

3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

3.4 Provide a transcription of archaeological features from all available air photographs held by Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport Department and its SMR, at a scale of 1:2500.

4 Specification B: Field Evaluation

4.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.

4.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a **minimum 5% by area of the entire site** and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. **The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.**

4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant

archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. *"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England"* English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352442

Date: 13 February 2006

Reference: Hitcham Syers 06

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix 2. Context List

Context	Type	Area	Description	Interpretation
0001	Finds	All	Unstratified finds. None retained.	
0002	Deposit	All	Soft, dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small to medium sub-rounded flint pebbles. Rare modern CBM	Topsoil
0003	Cut	3	Circular cut, 0.38m diameter x 0.2m deep with very steep sides breaking sharply to a flattened base.	Posthole?
0004	Fill	3	Firm mid slightly brownish grey clay with rare chalk flecks and small sub-angular flint pebbles. Very rare pot sherds.	Fill of 0003
0005	Cut	3	Straight, parallel-sided linear cut with truncated NNW terminus. Aligned NNW-SSE. At least 2.5m long, 0.54m wide and 0.2m deep. Moderately sloping slightly concave sides with an imperceptible break to a gently rounded base.	Ditch
0006	Fill	3	Firm, mid grey clay with rare chalk flecks, moderate charcoal flecks and very rare small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles. Finds rich - deliberate backfill/refuse disposal?	Fill of 0005
0007	Cut	3	Circular cut, 0.33m diameter and 0.22m deep with very steep/near vertical slightly concave sides breaking fairly sharply to a blunt point.	Posthole?
0008	Fill	3	Firm mid slightly brownish grey clay with rare chalk flecks and very small flint pebbles.	Fill of 0007
0009	Cut	3	Straight, parallel-sided linear cut with a rounded W terminus. Aligned E-W. At least 4m long, 0.7m wide and 0.55m deep. Straight near vertical sides with a sharp break to a flat base.	Ditch
0010	Fill	3	Firm mid grey silty clay with moderate potsherds; rare chalk flecks and small flint pebbles; occasional charcoal flecks.	Upper fill of 0009
0011	Fill	3	Firm pale greyish brown slightly silty clay with occasional chalk flecks; mod small flint pebbles; rare charcoal flecks.	Primary fill of 0009
0012	Cut	3	Oval cut, 0.7m long (NE-SW), 0.42m wide and 0.25m deep. Near vertical eastern side, steeply sloping slightly concave western side with a gradual break to a flattish base.	Posthole?
0013	Fill	3	Firm mid to dark slightly brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay lumps/fragments; very rare large sub-angular flint 'packing'; rare chalk flecks.	Fill of 0012
0014	Cut	3	Large oval cut, 2m long (WSW-ENE), 1.65m wide and 0.6m deep. Moderately sloping (steeper at top) concave sides with a gradual break to a gently rounded base.	Pit, function unknown
0015	Fill	3	Soft mid to dark slightly brownish grey silty clay. Occ charcoal flecks; frequent chalk nodules; very rare flint pebbles.	Fill of pit 0014
0016	Cut	3	Elongated oval cut, 1.2m long (E-W), 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Gently sloping concave sides with an imperceptible break to a flat base.	Posthole?
0017	Fill	3	Firm mid grey silty clay with frequent oyster shell; rare chalk flecks/small to medium nodules; moderate large flint cobbles and sandstone pieces; very rare potsherds.	Fill of 0016
0018	Cut	3	Shallow, linear cut aligned NE-SW. Straight and parallel-sided with a rounded NE terminus. At least 9.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and a gradual break to a flattish base.	Ditch
0019	Fill	3	Soft mid to light brownish grey slightly silty clay with rare pot sherds and small to medium flint pebbles; occ chalk flecks.	Fill at terminus of ditch 0018
0020	Cut	3	Linear cut aligned NE-SW. Slightly irregular parallel sided linear with rounded NE terminus. 9m long, 0.33m wide and 0.32m deep.	Ditch
0021	Fill	3	Soft mid grey silty clay with rare chalk and charcoal flecks; very rare small flint pebbles.	Fill at terminus of ditch 0020
0022	Cut	3	Linear cut aligned NE-SW. Slightly irregular parallel sided linear. Rounded SW terminus. NE end not visible/relationship unclear with spread 0068. At least 9m long, 0.4m wide and 0.35m deep.	Ditch
0023	Fill	3	Soft mid grey silty clay with rare chalk and charcoal flecks; occasional small flint pebbles.	Fill of ditch 0022
0024	Cut	3	Large sub-rectangular cut, measuring 2.4m long (N-S), at least 1m wide and 0.4m deep. Moderately sloping concave sides with a gradual break to a flat base.	Pit, function unknown

Context	Type	Area	Description	Interpretation
0025	Fill	3	Soft dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks; moderate chalk flecks/small nodules; rare small to medium sub rounded flint pebbles.	Fill of pit 0024
0026		3	Only used in evaluation - superseded by 0049	
0027		3	Only used in evaluation - superseded by 0050 – 0052	
0028		3	Only used in evaluation - superseded by 0050 – 0052	
0029	Cut	1	Small, circular or oval cut. 0.75m long, at least 0.36m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping slightly concave sides breaking imperceptibly to a gently rounded base.	Pit, function unknown
0030	Fill	1	Firm mid brownish grey slightly silty clay with occ chalk flecks and small sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles.	Fill of 0029
0031	Cut	1	Large slightly undercut feature with slightly lobed shape. 2.1m+ long (E-W), 1.7m+ wide and 1.15m deep. Sub-oval in plan with smooth slightly concave sides with pronounced undercut on E side. Gradual BOS to a flat base.	Pit, function unknown
0032	Fill	1	Primary fill of 0031. 0.5m deep. Firm mottled slightly brownish grey silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks; rare medium flint pebbles; very rare potsherds and burnt clay flecks/small lumps.	Fill of pit 0031
0033	Fill	1	Secondary fill of pit 0031. Up to 0.4m thick. Stiff light greyish brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk flecks; moderate fired clay lumps/flecks; rare charcoal flecks.	Fill of pit 0031
0034	Fill	1	Weathered natural slumped into E side of pit 0031. Firm light yellowish brown clay with frequent chalk flecks/small nodules; rare small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles; occasional small pockets of dark grey silt.	Fill of pit 0031
0035	Fill	1	Uppermost fill of pit 0031. Very soft mid grey silty clay with moderate fired clay lumps; rare potsherds; occasional charcoal and chalk flecks; rare small flint pebbles.	Fill of pit 0031
0036	Cut	2	Oval cut measuring 1.06m x >0.80m x 0.22m deep, with moderately sloping concave sides with a fairly sharp break to a flat base.	Pit, function unknown
0037	Fill	2	Soft mottled mid brownish grey silty clay with occ chalk and charcoal flecks; rare ?worked flints and pot sherds.	Fill of pit 0036
0038	Cut	2	16.5m+ long, 2m wide and maximum of 0.5m deep. Straight parallel sided linear with smooth shallow sides breaking imperceptibly to a v-shaped base containing a ceramic field drain. Fill = 0002	Drainage ditch and associated land drain
0039	Cut	1	N-S aligned linear feature, 5.5m+ long, 2.2m wide and 0.8m deep. Asymmetrical profile: eastern side moderately sloping and slightly concave; western side with pronounced step. Gradual step to slightly rounded base.	Ditch
0040	Fill	1	Firm mid brown/yellowish grey silty clay with occasional burnt clay flecks/small lumps, charcoal and chalk flecks; frequent small flint pebbles; occasional medium flint pebbles.	Upper fill of ditch 0039
0041	Fill	1	Firm pale brownish yellowish grey slightly silty clay with occasional burnt clay flecks/small lumps; moderate chalk flecks; rare small to medium flint pebbles.	Primary fill of ditch 0039
0042	Cut	3	Large circular cut, 0.8m diameter and 0.38m deep. Steeply sloping slightly concave sides with a gradual break to a rounded base.	Small pit of posthole
0043	Fill	3	Firm mottled light brownish grey silty clay with frequent chalk flecks/small nodules; rare pot and ANBN frags; very rare charcoal flecks; occasional small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles.	Fill of pit/PH 0042
0044	Cut	3	Shallow, circular cut, 0.3m diameter and 0.1m deep. Moderately sloping slightly concave sides with a gradual break to a rounded base.	Posthole?
0045	Fill	3	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate chalk flecks/small nodules; rare potsherds and small flint pebbles.	Fill of 0044
0046	Cut	3	Shallow, oval cut, 0.6m long (E-W), 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep. Gently sloping slightly concave sides with a gradual break to a gently rounded base.	Posthole?
0047	Fill	3	Soft, mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small flint pebbles; rare pot sherds.	Fill of 0046
0048	Fill	3	Soft light slightly brownish grey ailty clay with moderate large sandstone lumps; occasional chalk and charcoal flecks; rare small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles.	Fill at terminus of ditch 0020
0049	Cut	3	Large, oval cut, 2.1m long (N-S), 1.6m wide and 0.8m deep. Moderately sloping concave sides with imperceptible break to a rounded base.	Pit, function unknown
0050	Fill	3	Soft, mid brownish grey silty clay with mod small to medium flint pebbles; occ small chalk nodules and charcoal flecks.	Upper fill of pit 0049

Context	Type	Area	Description	Interpretation
0051	Fill	3	Firm, pale brownish orange silty clay with moderate chalk flecks/small nodules; occasional charcoal flecks and small to medium flint pebbles.	Middle fill of pit 0049
0052	Fill	3	Firm, light greyish brown slightly silty clay with occasional small to medium flint pebbles and charcoal flecks; frequent large flint stones in base of feature.	Primary fill of pit 0049
0053	Cut	3	Shallow, oval cut, 1.8m long (NE-SW), 0.9m wide and 0.16m deep. Gently sloping concave sides with gradual break to a rounded base.	Small pit, function unknown
0054	Fill	3	Soft pale greyish brown silty clay with rare small flint pebbles and chalk flecks; occasional fired clay flecks.	Fill of pit 0053
0055	Cut	3	Large oval cut, 2.12m long (NE-SW), 1.68m wide and 0.7m deep. Steeply sloping straight sides with a gradual break to a flattish base.	Pit, function unknown
0056	Fill	3	Firm mottled mid brownish grey clay with frequent chalk flecks and small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles; occasional chalk flecks; rare charcoal flecks and potsherds; very rare large flint stones in base of feature.	Primary fill of pit 0055
0057	Fill	3	Soft mid grey silty clay with rare potsherds; occasional chalk flecks/small nodules; moderate charcoal flecks and small to medium flint pebbles/cobbles.	Upper fill of pit 0055
0058	Fill	3	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small to medium flint pebbles and charcoal flecks.	Fill in terminus of ditch 0022
0059	Deposit	3	Layer of very soft, mid to light grey silty clayey loam with rare chalk flecks, up to 0.18m thick; very rare charcoal flecks and small to medium sub-rounded flint pebbles.	Former ploughsoil
0060	Deposit	3	Layer of soft, heavily mottled/mixed light reddish greyish brown slightly silty clay, up to 0.12m thick. Frequent red fired clay flecks/very soft small weathered pieces; moderate chalk flecks and small sandy/mortar pockets.	Demolition spread?
0061	Deposit	3	Layer of very soft mid grey silty clay with very rare potsherds and flecks of fired clay/demolition debris, up to 0.42m thick. Fills a hollow in natural stratum. Occ chalk flecks; rare charcoal flecks and small to medium pebbles.	Occupation deposit?
0062	Cut	3	Curving, parallel sided linear feature with rounded W terminus. Broadly NE-SW aligned. 3m+ long, 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep. Near vertical straight sides with a sharp break to gently rounded base. Sealed by deposit 0061.	Ditch/gully
0063	Fill	3	Firm light brown mottled clay with occasional sand/?mortar pockets/flecks; frequent chalk flecks; rare small to medium angular flint pebbles.	Primary fill of ditch/gully 0062
0064	Fill	3	Soft dark grey mottled silty clay with very rare potsherds; rare chalk flecks; occasional charcoal flecks; frequent large (c. 0.3m diameter) sub-angular flints in upper 0.3m of fill.	Upper fill of ditch/gully 0062
0065	Cut	3	Steep-sided, oval cut, 1.45m long (NNW-SSE), 0.8m wide and 0.36m deep. Steeply sloping, gently concave sides with a gradual break to a near flat base.	Pit, function unknown
0066	Fill	3	Firm pale greyish brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks; occasional charcoal flecks, burnt clay flecks and small to medium small flint pebbles.	Fill of pit 0065
0067	Fill	3	Soft light greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium flint pebbles, chalk flecks and burnt clay flecks/small fragments.	Fill of ditch 0018 (SW end)
0068	Deposit	3	Extensive layer of very soft light to mid grey very mixed silty clay with frequent chalk and charcoal flecks/small lumps; rare pot sherds and ANBN frags; moderate flints. 4.5m+ long (N-S), 4m+ wide and up to 0.2m thick.	Occupation deposit?
0069	Cut	3	Parallel to road - approx N-S. Only E edge seen. Known to have been disturbed for insertion of main foul sewer so profile may not be original. Length uncertain (see maps), 3.3m+ wide and 1m+ deep.	Road-side ditch or pond
0070	Fill	3	Stiff, pale brownish yellow clay with rare discrete silty pockets; frequent chalk flecks to medium nodules; occasional small to large sub-rounded flint pebbles/cobbles. Redeposited natural used as backfill.	fill of ditch/pond 0069

