

Land north of Alexandra Cottage,
Walberswick
WLB 079

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/178

Client: Lorrimar Investments Ltd

Author: Simon Cass

April 2012

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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

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during ground works related to planning application C/09/0934 on land to the rear of Alexandra Cottage, The Street, Walberswick in July 2011. This revealed extant archaeological features and deposits of Late medieval date, possibly forming a small outdoor smithy belonging to a larger house nearby. The Street appears unlikely to have moved much since the medieval period, with listed buildings of 16th century origin fronting onto the street in both directions, and it is suggested that the possible smithy belonged to a dwelling sited where Manor House/Manor Lodge now stand. No further works are recommended at this time, though this monitoring has added valuable knowledge to what is known about the medieval town of Walberswick that will be useful when sufficient data has been amassed for a synthetic assessment of the town.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land to the north of Alexandra Cottage, The Street, Walberswick in relation to a planning application for the erection of three dwellings. Lorrimar Investments Ltd commissioned and funded the archaeological project. The fieldwork was conducted by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team.

The development site was centred at National Grid Reference TM 4933 7481 and encompassed an area of approximately 2,500m². The site was bounded to the north, west and east by the gardens of neighbouring properties and to the south by The Street (Fig. 1).

Prior to the archaeological fieldwork the site had been used as a garden and paddock.

The site has been given the county Historic Environment Record number WLB 079.

2. Geology and topography

The development site is in an area of glaciofluvial drift deposits of sand and gravel. These are overlaid by deep, sandy soils of the Newport 4 series. These soils are often very acidic, with leached (podzolised) sub surface horizons occurring in heath and woodland areas.

The site is on fairly level ground with a slight slope from 10.15m OD at the street frontage to approximately 9.0m OD at the northern boundary.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site is within an area of archaeological potential for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement of Walberswick, as defined in the county Historic Environment Record (WLB 080)

Walberswick is presumed to have had Anglo-Saxon origins although it was not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The Medieval church and village (WLB 010 in the Historic Environment Record) are thought to have been located some two hundred metres south and southwest of the Alexandra Cottage site.

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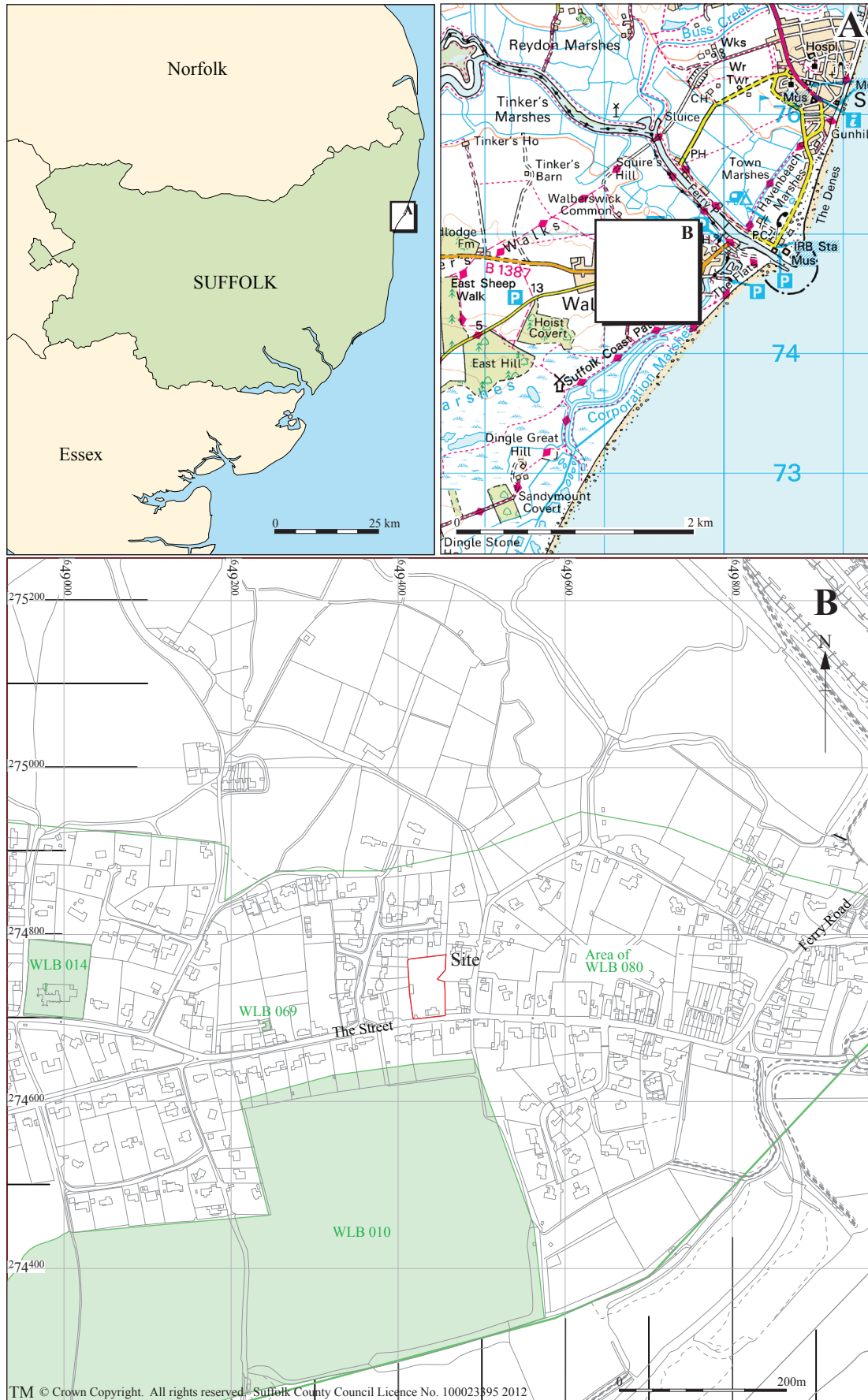


Figure 1. Location of site, showing Historic Environment Record entries (green)

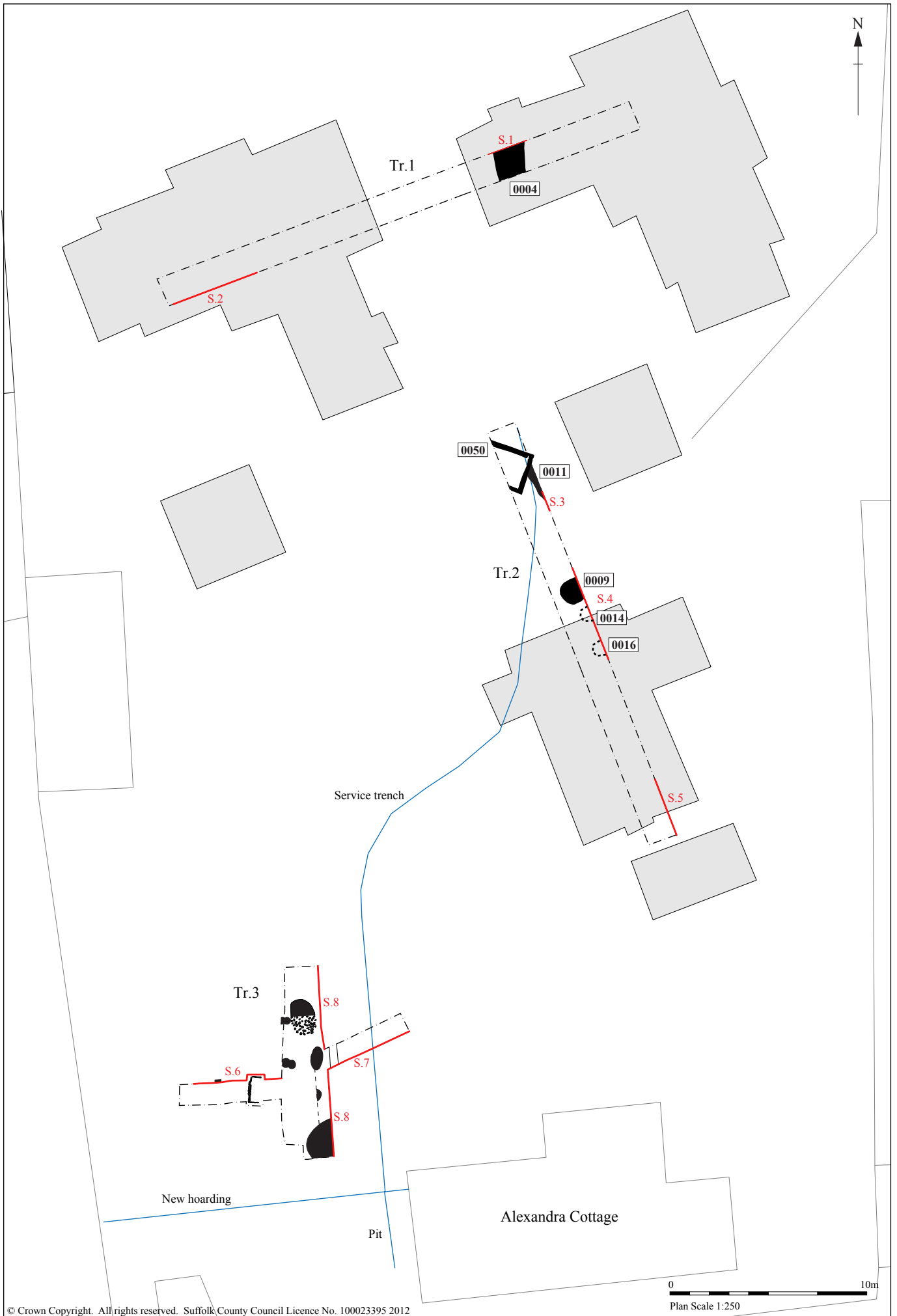


Figure 2. Trench plan, showing features (black) and proposed development (grey)

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification for the investigation required an archaeological monitoring of ground work for the construction of an access road, house foundations and new services (Wade, 2010). The monitoring began on 14 July 2011, with the inspection of a machine-dug trench for new services along the east side of the proposed access road (Fig. 2). This revealed a sequence of horizontal deposits near the street frontage, which included an extensive clay layer and underlying areas of scorched ground; these were interpreted provisionally as the remains of a clay-floored building and earlier fire deposits.

Due to the positive results of this initial site visit the Curatorial Officer (Keith Wade) required an amendment to the original Brief and Specification, to include the excavation of archaeological evaluation trenches within the footprints of the proposed houses and an open-area excavation at the southern end of the proposed access road. This second phase of fieldwork took place on 25–29 July 2011, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Rhodri Gardner of SCCAS, Field Team (Gardner, 2011).

Two evaluation trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a tracked 360o mechanical excavator (Trenches 1 & 2; Fig. 2). They were excavated to depths of up to 1.10m, that being just below the surface of the natural stratum. The trenches had a combined area of 72m², or approximately 15% of the area threatened by the construction of the three houses and detached garages.

The open-area excavation (Trench 3; Fig. 3) was located below the proposed access road, immediately inside the site hoarding. A mechanical excavator was used to strip the garden soil and expose the underlying archaeological deposits. Initially a north–south trench measuring approximately 10m x 2.4m was excavated, but this was extended to the east and west in order to further investigate certain structural remains. The final area of excavation measured 34m² or approximately 10% of the area threatened by the construction of the proposed access road.

The extent of the open-area excavation was limited by several factors; these included a requirement to preserve vehicular access to the site for the building contractors and the need to protect a row of mature beech trees along the western boundary of the site.

Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0050. They were drawn in plan (at 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate) and in section (at 1:20) on 290mm x 320mm sheets of gridded drawing film. Written records were made on pro-forma context sheets. A photographic record was made, consisting of high resolution digital images. One environmental sample was taken.

The trenches were located by measured off-sets from neighbouring buildings and boundaries. A temporary bench mark of 10.15m OD was established at ground level adjacent to the site entrance, by reference to an Ordnance Survey bench mark of 5.22m OD located at the junction of The Street and Millfield Road.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The results of the fieldwork are described below, by trench. Archaeological deposits and features are shown in plan and section on Figures 2, 3 and 4 and some of the more significant remains are shown on Plates 1-7.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 25.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.8m deep, orientated approximately north-east/south-west. The surface height was 9.2m OD at the north-eastern end and 9.4m OD at the south-western end of the trench. The general stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.4m of loose, dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil with frequent roots (recorded as 0001 in the context database) which overlay 0002, a podzolised sandy subsoil that was also approximately 0.4m thick. This sealed mottled mid orangey-yellow glaciofluvial sand and gravel (not numbered) which undulated slightly at an average height of approximately 8.70m OD. A single feature was noted in this trench

Ditch 0004

This ditch, oriented approximately northwest–southeast (Fig. 2, Pl. 1), was up to 1.92m wide x 0.48m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides and a narrow, rounded base. It contained a single fill (0003) of soft, light to mid grey silty sand with moderate small to medium pebbles and one fragment each of post-medieval or modern bottle glass and brick.



Plate 1. Trench 1 facing south, showing Ditch 0004 (0.5m scale)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 22.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 1.2m deep, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. The surface height was 9.64m OD at the north-western end and 9.73m OD at the south-eastern end of the trench. The general stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.52m of loose, dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil with frequent roots (0005) which overlay a layer visible in the southwest-facing section of the trench of firm, yellowish grey clay containing small fragments of chalk (0017, Pl. 2). The layer was up to 0.15m thick. Its extent was uncertain; it was removed to the north by a later pit, and did not appear in the east-facing section of the trench. It seemed to peter out to the south, although a similar deposit, much disturbed by rooting, was recorded in section at the southeast end of the trench. This sealed a subsoil layer of soft, mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium pebbles (0007). No cultural material was seen in this deposit, and it is assumed to have been a natural soil horizon or possibly a former plough soil. Below this subsoil was 0012, the sparse remains of the same podzolised sandy subsoil seen in Trench 1 (recorded as 0002 in the other trench),

visible in the central part of the trench and recorded as approximately 0.25m thick. This sealed mottled mid orangey-yellow glaciofluvial sand and gravel (not numbered) which undulated slightly at an average height of approximately 8.60m OD (Fig. 2).

Pit 0011

Pit 0011 was located c. 5m from the north end of the trench with the greater part of the feature being outside of the trench. It had irregular sloped sides and an irregular base, and was filled with a mid brown-grey loose silty sand. Pottery retrieved from this feature dated to the 19th century and it is possible that this is a garden feature.

Pit 0009

Pit 0009 was located c. 8.5m from the north end of the trench and was oval in plan, with part of the feature being outside of the scope of trench. It was at least 1.0m in diameter but was no more than 0.76m deep. It had steep, almost vertical sides, a flat base and contained two fills. Lower fill 0010 was a soft, mid-brown silty sand with occasional flecks of chalk and contained no finds. Upper fill 0008 was made up of a more compact, mixed mid-brown silty sand and chalky clay mix. It contained CBM and fragments of clay tobacco pipes. Pit 0009 cut through clay layer 0017 and subsoil 0007, only being overlain by the garden topsoil 0005.

Pit 0014

Pit (or possible posthole) 0014 was located approximately 0.14m south of pit 0009. Its shape in plan is uncertain as it was only seen in section. It was 0.43m in diameter with a depth of 0.2m. It had steep sides, a concave base and contained a single fill (0013) of compact, dark brown sandy loam, which was identical to the garden topsoil, 0005, although it did not appear to cut through it. Fill 0013 contained no finds.

Pit 0016

Pit 0016 was located approximately 1.4m south of pit 0014. The shape of the pit is uncertain as it was only seen in section. It was approx. 0.64m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill (0015) of a compact, dark brown sandy loam that was identical to the garden topsoil 0005. The function of the pit is unclear, it contained no finds.

Cellared building 0050

Feature 0050 was located at the northern end of Trench 2. It consisted of three walls, made of mortared flint cobbles with decorative brick inserts, and was approximately 3.8m long by 2.4m wide and was greater than 1.0m deep. The building had been back filled with 20th Century rubbish and topsoil, and was not fully exposed or recorded in detail – it is believed to be either an ice house or possibly a garden feature.



Plate 2. Trench 2 facing west, southern part of section 4 (part of 2m scale visible)

Trench 3

The main area within Trench 3 was 10m long and varied in width from 1.7m at the north end to 2.5m near the southern end, aligned north to south within the new site access road. Two extensions were added, one north-east to south west trench was extended for 5.4m off the east side of the original trench and the second, east-west aligned extension, extended off the west side for 4.5m. The additional west and north-east to south west aligned trenches were 1.0m in width. The general stratigraphy encountered above complex archaeology was 0.35-0.4m of garden topsoil layer 0001 which overlaid a compact, mid-greyish brown sandy silt layer (0022) 0.05m thick. This was either a tread layer above clay slab 0021 or a compacted basal element to the garden topsoil 0001. The stratigraphy for Trench 3 was complex and can be seen in Figures 4 and 5.

The ground surface undulated slightly with the north end of the trench at 9.96m OD and the south end at 10.14m OD. The natural strata was again a glacio-fluvial sand and gravel and undulated between 8.98m OD and 9.37m OD in height.

Pit 0020

Pit 0020 was located at the south end of the trench. The feature was not fully excavated as it only partially seen within the trench, therefore its shape in plan is undetermined, although a circular or ovoid shape appears most likely from the visible edges. Its extents as observed were 1.9m north-south by 1.3m east-west and it was in excess of 0.7m deep with very steep sides (occasionally slightly undercut but this is thought to be most likely due to slumping of the sides during the life of the feature). A pronounced step in the side of the feature was observed at 0.6m deep after which the sides continued almost vertically.

Fill 0018 was a compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with a wide variety of inclusions ranging from ceramic building material (CBM) and cobbles to oyster shells and pottery, believed to be the final backfilling of the pit. 0019 was a mixed compaction of light yellowish brown sand and gravel mix with frequent grey clay patches and lenses, cobbles, fragments of CBM, bone and oyster believed to be a construction fill around a postulated lining within the pit. It is thought that the pit is most likely to be either a cess or soakaway/general refuse pit although it could also be a well (it would be necessary to fully excavate the feature to determine this). The vertical interface between 0018 and 0019 suggests that there was some sort of (probably timber) lining within the pit that has since decayed leaving no direct evidence. The feature appears to have dated to the later part of the 16th century, with a well-dated range of pottery retrieved.



Plate 3. Pit 0020 facing south-east (1m scale)

Postholes 0037, 0039, 0041 and 0043

These postholes were located towards the centre of the north-south part of the trench, arranged in two intercutting pairs of adjacent postholes. They were all between 0.25-0.35m diameter and from 0.15-0.25m deep and were fully excavated within the trench (posthole 0041 extended outside the trench to the west). They were all filled with brownish grey silty sand deposits with occasional pebbles and small fragments of pottery, while the make-up of fill 0036 in posthole 0037 suggested a central post-pipe had been in place, but this was not conclusively clear. Posthole 0037 appears to have dated from around the late 18th – early 19th centuries, but no clear stratigraphic relationship could be discerned between either of the intercutting pairs of postholes.

Posthole 0047

This posthole was located in the northern section of the western extension to Trench 3. It was a U-shaped feature, 0.3m wide and up to 0.22m deep and filled with 0046 – a mid /dark brown sandy loamy fill (very similar to the topsoil). No finds were recovered from this feature but it was noted as cutting through layer 0021.

Cobble deposit 0023

This deposit was located towards the northern section of Trench 3. It was an ovoid deposit, up to 0.2m thick and measuring 1.8m north-south and 1.2m east-west and is suggested to be an area of hollow infilling or consolidation rather than a true floor layer

or pathway. Pottery and CBM found within the cobbles suggests a 16th century date of deposition.



Plate 4. Trench 3 facing south, showing cobbles 0023 and clay layer 0021 (1m scale)

Buried soil 0024

This deposit was located in the northern section of Trench 3. It consisted of a compact mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small/medium pebbles and assorted detritus (pottery, CBM, animal bone, etc), and c.0.15-0.2m thick. Unfortunately due to its position at the end of the trench, it was not possible to clearly define whether it was a fill of a cut feature or a layer – it is possible that this deposit represents a beaten earth floor as it abuts 0023 to the south, but equally it could be an occupation/tread or dumping layer. The pottery from this deposit has been dated to the late 15th to early 16th century.

Buried soil 0030

This deposit was located in the eastern extension of Trench 3. It consisted of a compacted light greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small/medium pebbles and assorted detritus (CBM, chalk, charcoal and coal, etc) and overlay clay slay 0021. It is believed to be broadly contemporary with/equivalent to deposit 0024 to the north-west.

Deposit 0031

This deposit was located in the southern section of Trench 3 and was truncated by Pit 0020 to the south. It consisted of a compacted light yellowish brown sand with frequent small/medium rounded pebbles inclusions and has been interpreted as either the truncated remnant of a surface itself, or a patching/repair of clay slab deposit 0021. No finds were associated with this feature.

Clay Slab deposit 0021

This deposit extended across most of Trench 3. It consisted of a firm/stiff light yellowish brown clay/silt with frequent rounded pebbles of all sizes, occasional fragments and lumps of CBM, small-medium fragments of pottery and bone alongside mortar, charcoal, coal and oyster shell. It was generally 0.1-0.12m thick, increasing to 0.18m thick where it filled underlying hollows and appeared to peter out towards the east and possibly the north. While its function is uncertain, it has been suggested that it may be the remains of a collapsed cob wall. Several areas of scorching (0025) and a line of bricks (0044) were sealed underneath this deposit.

Scorched material 0025

This number has been issued to describe several areas of very similar material, all showing signs of being affected by heating. The deposits were all generally soft but with a compacted surface, mottled dark brown/ brownish red and yellowish red clay/silt and up to 0.03m thick with occasional-moderate flecks and fragments of charcoal. All had diffuse edges and it is unclear if they represent separate localised scorching of underlying layer 0026 or if they are simply dumped material across that surface.



Plate 5. Scorched deposit 0025, facing south-east (0.5m scale)

Hearth 0044

This feature was located in the western section of Trench 3. It was an open-sided rectangular brick structure, with a single line of bricks laid on edge and set into surface 0026. The bricks were 0.2m by 0.15m by 0.05m and had rounded edges (of a type locally referred to as 'stable bricks'). There was a concentration of scorched material (0025 above) within the area enclosed by bricks and the bricks themselves appear to have been heat-affected after their own initial creation. This feature is interpreted as the base of a hearth contemporary with deposit 0026. While there is no direct dating for this feature, it sits within a stratigraphic matrix of 16th century deposits.



Plate 6. Brick hearth 0044 and scorching 0025, facing north (0.4m scale)

Floor 0026

This deposit was revealed across much of the centre of Trench 3. It consisted of firm light yellow/brown clay/silt with frequent chalk flecks and small-medium pebbles, and was up to 0.12m thick (though generally much thinner). The extent of this layer is unclear though it appears to be less extensive than clay slab 0021 above and it has been interpreted as a clay floor/working surface. No finds were associated with this deposit.

Pit 0029

This feature was identified below surface 0026, towards the centre of the north-south section of the trench. It measured 1.1m north-south, 0.6m east-west and up to 0.3m deep, filled with material indistinguishable from 0026 and not separately numbered. The purpose and/or function of this pit is unknown.

Pit 0045

This feature was identified below surface 0026, 1m south of pit 0029. It was only half-exposed by the sondage dug along the eastern edge of the trench, but where seen it appeared to be an ovoid pit potentially similar in size to 0029. Again, the fill of this feature was indistinguishable from layer 0026 above.

Pit 0033

This feature was identified below surface 0026, adjacent to and south of pit 0045, extending out of the trench to the east. The shape was either circular or ovoid, and it measured 1.2m north-south by at least 0.4m east-west and was up to 0.24m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile. It was filled with a compact mid brown silty sand (0032) with occasional pebbles and small-medium sized bone fragments and moderate fragments of pottery dating to the 15th – 16th century and predated the clay floor layers sealing it.



Plate 7. Pit 0033 sealed by clay floor layers 0021 and 0026, facing east

Pit 0035

This feature was identified in section just south of the eastern extension to the trench, adjacent to and south-east of pit 0029, extending out of the trench to the east. The shape was either circular or ovoid, and it measured approximately 0.7m north-south and up to 0.08m deep with a shallow saucer-shaped profile. It was filled with a scorched sandy deposit (0034) that was mid brownish red fading to dark brown at the base of the feature, with occasional small pebble inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature but it was visibly cut into layer 0027.

Subsoil 0027

This deposit was encountered across the whole trench, and consisted of a mid-dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions. It was generally 0.1m thick (up to 0.16m in places) with a clear/clean interface with the overlying clay floor 0026 but a slightly diffuse horizon with the underlying podzol 0028. It has been suggested as being a subsoil/ploughsoil predating the clay floors and pits 0033, 0035. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Podzol 0028

This podzolised layer of loose light grey fine sand with dark brown mottling was between 0.2-0.3m thick and extended across the whole trench. No finds were recovered from this deposit, believed to be the same as that in Trench 1 (0002) and Trench 2 (0012).

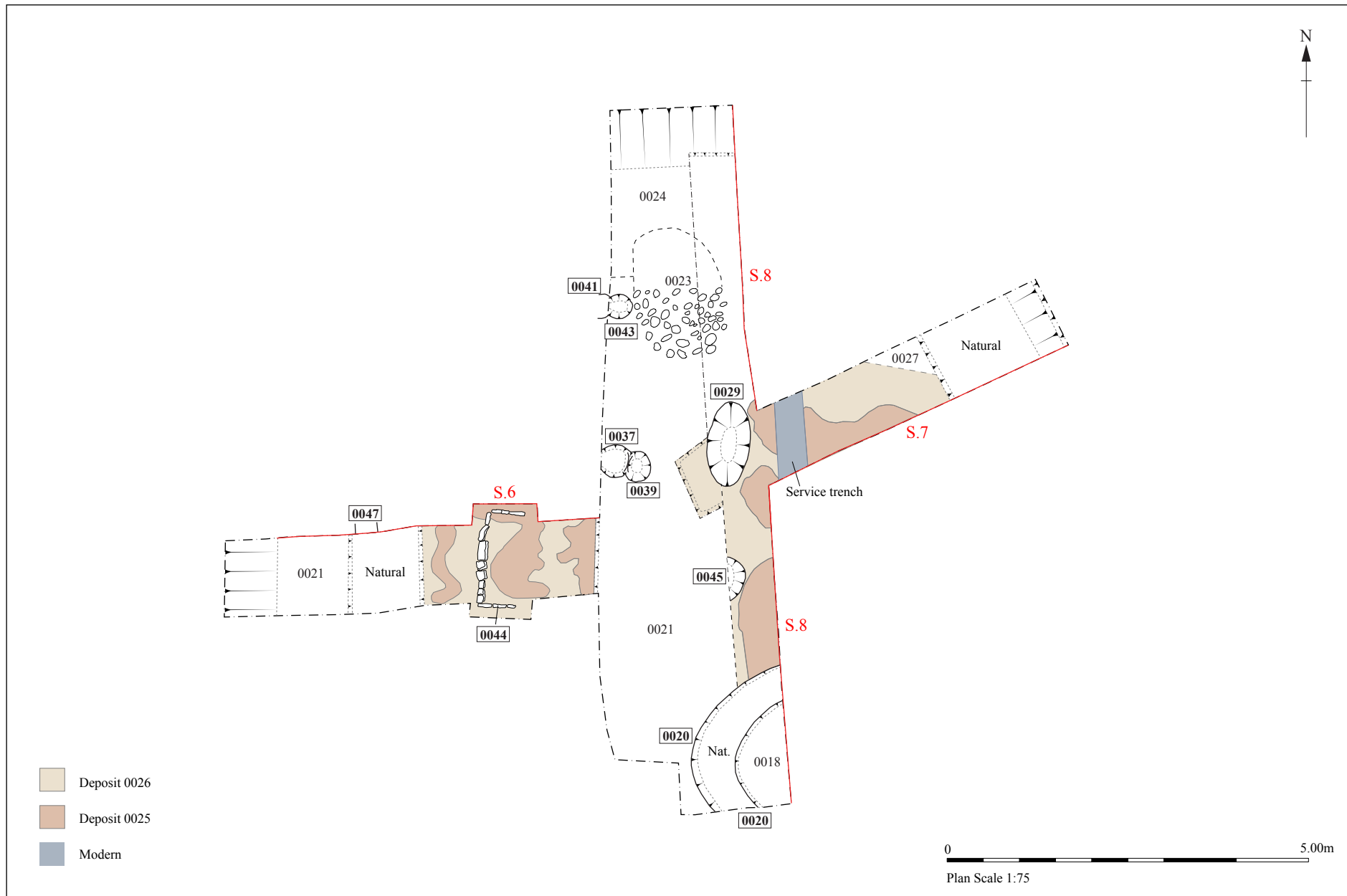


Figure 3. Plan of trench 3

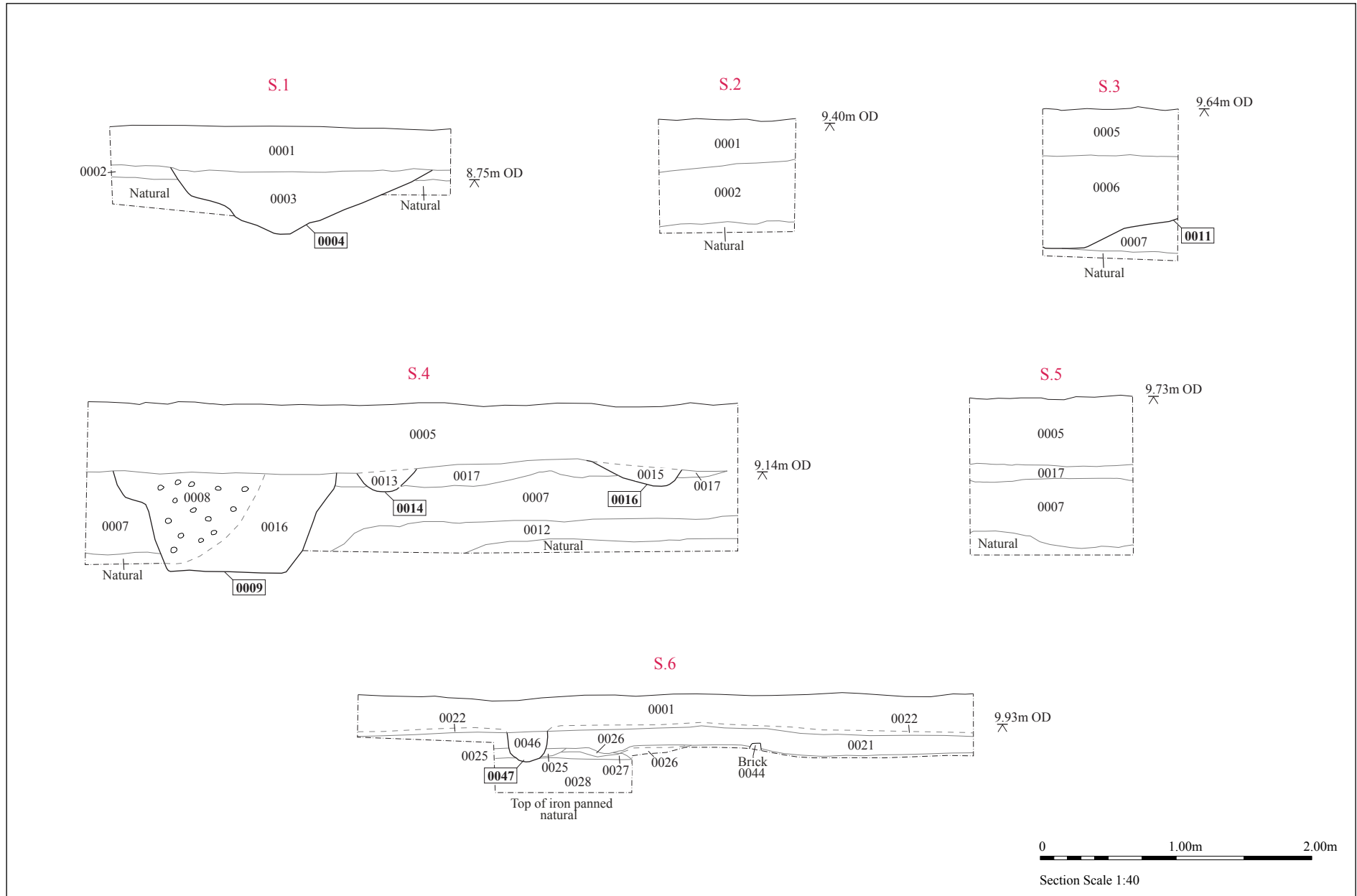


Figure 4. Sections 1-6

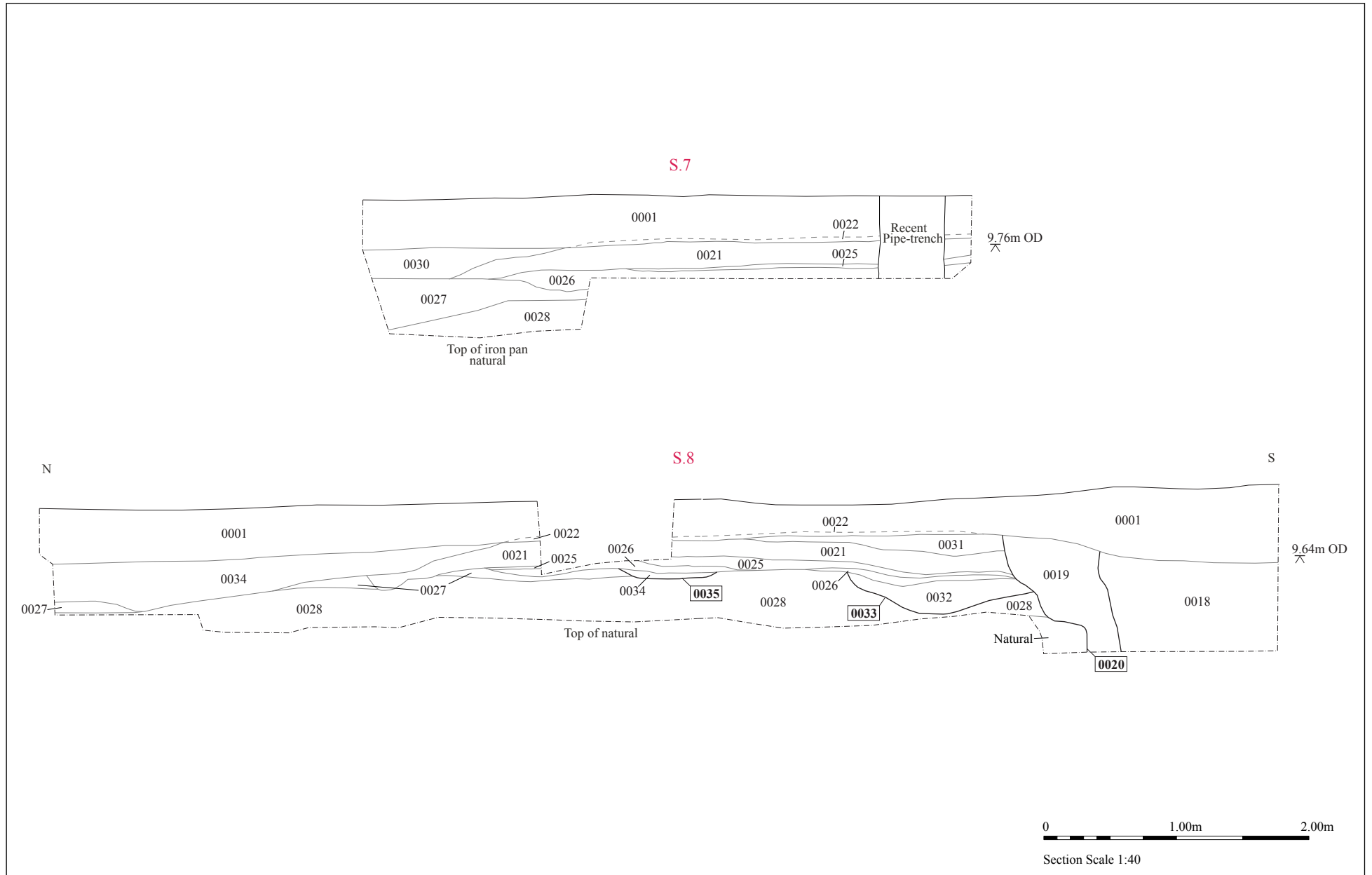


Figure 5. Sections 7-8

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds recovered from the monitoring.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Clay pipe		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0001	2	11			1	10				P-med u/s
0003			1	11					1 p-med glass @ 3g	P-med
0006	4	25	3	1						19th C?
0008			1	181	1	12				L17th-18th C
0018	18	607	22	5108			48	1650		Late 16th C
0019	1	102	2	280			2	62	3 shell* @ 32g	16th-18th C
0020	8	127	4	304	1	5				Mid 16th-17th C
0021	9	81	8	1004			13	184	1 nail @7g, 1 shell* @ 67g	16th C
0023	66	706	5	2254			5	119	1 w flint @6g	16th C
0024	51	572	13	533			21	392	4 nails @ 42g, 7 shells* @ 53g	L15-E16th C
0025	5	21					3	3	3 b flint @7g	L13th-14th C
0032	12	337					2	29		15th (15th-16th C)
0036	4	39								L18th-19th C?
0042			6	1421						P-med
0044			3	2073					* all shell is oyster	13th-15th C?
0048	2	19								16th-18th C
Total	182	2647	68	13170	3	27	94	2439		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 The pottery

A total of 182 fragments of pottery were recovered, weighing 2.647kg. The assemblage dates mainly to the post-medieval period, but a large quantity of medieval wares are present.

Methodology

In view of the quantity and date of the ceramics, they were fully 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 proforma sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form and has been inputted as such on the database (Appendix 3).

Pottery by period

Prehistoric pottery

A tiny sherd weighing less than a gramme which may be of possible prehistoric date was found in the deposit 0025 which was sealed by the clay slab 0021. It is sandy with occasional flint inclusions and could possibly be medieval.

Medieval pottery

One hundred and twenty five fragments of medieval pottery were collected, weighing 1.535kg. The pottery consists for the most part of fragments of medieval coarsewares, including several sherds of Hollesley type ware. In addition a small quantity of Local medieval glazed wares, similar to those found in Norfolk assemblages was identified. A few sherds belonging to the earlier part of the medieval period are present, such as a fragment of Early medieval ware (0024) and a possible sherd of Yarmouth type ware (0023), both dating to the 11th-12th century. These form a small element and are always outnumbered within a context by fragments which have a broader date range of the 12th-14th century.

Small quantities of medieval pottery, consisting of four fragments of wheelthrown coarseware including a fragment of Hollesley type ware dating to the L13th-14th century were recovered from 0025, a deposit associated with clay floor 0026. This feature overlies pit 0033 which contains a small quantity of Late medieval and transitional ware dating to the 15th to 16th century. Either the medieval sherds from 0025 are residual (there is also a small possible prehistoric sherd in this context) or the coarsewares are long-lived and were deposited in the fifteenth century. The medieval coarsewares from the site consist for the most part of body sherds, but the rims of several cooking vessels and a jug were identified. Two developed rims dating to the 13th-14th century are present in the dumped deposit 0024, which also contained a large fragment of a coarseware jug.

A number of imported wares are also medieval in date, although they belong to the later part of this period. Several sherds of Langerwehe stoneware were recovered, including

two fragments of a jug from the possible clay floor 0021, with a further three sherds present found in the levelling deposit 0024. These Rhenish stonewares span the late medieval period, c1350-1450.

Many of the medieval coarsewares were recovered from 0023, a consolidation deposit of soil and cobbles which contained both pottery and ceramic building material. Although a small number of other pottery fabrics from 0023 are sixteenth century in date, the sixty fragments of medieval coarsewares may not all date to the 12th-14th centuries, as some of them may belong to the fifteenth century. The coarseware industry was a conservative one, and is likely to have continued in production for some time into the fifteenth century. Although ultimately replaced by locally produced cooking vessels made in Late medieval and transitional wares, there is likely to have been a degree of overlap of the two traditions. This transition is demonstrated in this assemblage by the presence of a Hollesley type dish rim in deposit 0024, which is very similar in form to those made in Late medieval and transitional ware.

A similar pattern was also found with the ceramics from the dumping/levelling feature 0024, which as well as containing some 16th century wares, was also characterised by considerable amounts of medieval coarsewares, and sherds of Langerwehe stoneware which date to the late medieval period.

Post-medieval

A total of fifty-six sherds of post-medieval pottery was recovered in total (1.096kg). This part of the assemblage is dominated by groups containing pottery of sixteenth century date, with only a few contexts containing later pottery.

Twelve fragments of pottery recovered from the fill 0032 of pit 0033 date to the 15th-16th century, possibly the 15th century. The group consists of medieval coarsewares with three sherds of Late medieval and transitional ware.

Small quantities of late medieval/early post-medieval wares were found in layer 0021, and 0023, with a larger amount present in 0024. These contain approximately the same range and date of pottery types, many late medieval wares, together with a number of fragments which date to the sixteenth century such as Glazed red earthenwares and Raeren stoneware.

A small number of features contain pottery dating to the second part of the sixteenth century.

One of these is the upper fill 0018 of the possible cess-pit/soakaway/well 0020. This contained Glazed red earthenwares and the remains of a locally produced mug dating to the sixteenth century (Pl. 8). This has a stamped motif applied in red clay, and a handle also made out of red clay. The body of the vessel is made in a fine micaceous fabric. The overall glaze covers both the orange-pink body of the vessel and the red stamp and handle to produce a two-tone effect. The mug is corrugated, a common feature on this type of vessel, and a characteristic which, as Jennings notes, is found on medieval jugs produced in the Low Countries (Jennings, 1981, 72). The presence of the tubular handle of a Border ware pipkin indicates a deposition date of the second half of the sixteenth century for this context, but the presence of the base of a Siegburg *schnelle* or tall drinking tankard suggests that the assemblage was actually deposited after the third quarter of the sixteenth century. A small fragment from the stem of a clay tobacco pipe was also present. A similar date (1550-1600) is assigned to 0019, which was below fill 0018.



Plate 8. Sixteenth century locally produced mug

Few features contain ceramics which date to the seventeenth century or later. A fragment of an English stoneware bottle was present in pitfill 0006, but was found with a sherd of Yellow Border ware (1550-1700) and a sherd of Late medieval and transitional ware (15th-16th C), so it may be intrusive. A single sherd of probable decorated pearlware in posthole 0037 (0036) may also be intrusive.

Conclusion

The assemblage recovered from Alexandra Cottage provides clear evidence of occupation in the sixteenth century, with the earlier wares suggesting a presence dating to the fifteenth century or earlier. The range of imported wares is impressive, and shows how stoneware drinking vessels from the Rhineland were in common use. The Local early post-medieval ware stamped jug is an unusual find which could be researched further.

6.3 Clay tobacco pipe

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were collected (27g). The partial base of a bowl consisting of a small foot (an unstratified find in 0001) is likely to date the second half of the seventeenth century. The lower part of a bowl from pitfill 0008 (0009) probably dates to the late 17th-18th century, although none of the upper part of the bowl had survived. A single stem fragment was present in pitfill 0020.

6.4 Ceramic building material

Sixty-eight fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, weighing 13,170kg. The assemblage was not catalogued but has been briefly scanned with a view to confirming or amending the dates for the pottery, but no obvious disparity was recorded. The group will be fully retained for fuller study in the future. The abbreviations lm (late medieval), epm (early post-medieval) and pm (post-medieval) have been used for the list below:

0003 Pm roofing tile

0008 Pm brick

0018 V large ?brick or v thick floortile, handmade w thumb imp (epm), small burnt floortile (epm), lm/epm roofing tile

0019 Unglazed floortile (prob epm), v abraded ?tile similar date

0018 Med brick, pm brick, yellow calcareous brick (?date)

0020 Estuarine brick frag (med), lm/epm roofing tiles

0021 Estuarine brick frags (med), roofing tile (epm/pm)

0023 Iron glazed floortile, worn green glazed floortile, brick, roofing tile (epm/pm)

0024 Slipped and glazed floortile, roofing tile (epm/pm)

0042 Med brick frag with pm brick and roofing tile

0048 Fragments of small estuarine handmade bricks, sooted along 1 edge (13th-15th C)

The presence of several types of plain glazed floortiles dating to the early post-medieval period, together with the roofing tiles suggest a dwelling of some substance.

6.5 Worked flint

Colin Pendleton

A single small simple unpatinated flake with limited edge retouch collected from consolidation deposit 0023 probably dates to the later prehistoric period.

6.6 Faunal Remains

Ninety-four fragments of animal bone were collected from seven contexts. These have not been catalogued or scanned but are retained for the archive.

6.7 Small finds

Two metal objects were assigned small find numbers:

1. A fragment from the rim of a cast copper alloy ?cooking vessel, heavily sooted on the exterior. The vessel is thin-walled and has a slight carination at the break. A similar rim fragment is shown in a possible 17th century context from Abbot's Lane, Southwark (Egan, 2005, No 447, 99). SF 1001 Pitfill 0020
2. A heavily corroded rod-shaped iron fragment, measuring 83mm in length. SF 1002 Pitfill 0018.

6.8 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Lisa Gray

Introduction - aims and objectives

A single undated sample taken from the undated scorched surface (0025) of a clay floor was presented for assessment. The purpose of taking the sample was to see if it could help to determine if the material represented an industrial process or a burnt deposit on the floor (Anna West, pers. comm.).

This report will assess the type and quality of preservation of organic (mainly botanical) remains and any inorganic materials in the sample and consider its potential and significance for further analysis.

Sampling and processing methods

Sampling, flotation and residue sorting was carried out by SCCAS. Processing was carried out using a flotation tank with a 300 micron mesh sieve (Anna West, pers. comm). The sample was completely processed.

The flots were scanned by the author under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in the sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across the flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale. All data was recorded onto paper record sheets for tabulation. These sheets are kept with the author's archive and copies are available on request.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010) and for mollusca from Kerney and Cameron (Kerney and Cameron 1979). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Due to the low number of non-charcoal charred plant remains, these were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimate levels of abundance. Spheroidal hammerscale was counted.

Results (Appendix 4)

Quality and type of preservation of the plant macrofossils

Charred and uncharred (not waterlogged and unmineralised) plant remains were recorded. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2002, 12). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds 1979, 57). Charring leaves a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (English Heritage 2002, 12).

The plant remains

The charred plant remains consist of a small number of seeds and charcoal fragments, some of identifiable size. The charred seeds are those of the segetals cabbage/mustard (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.), common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) and sheep's sorrel

(*Rumex cf. acetosella*). The uncharred remains were dominated by root/rhizome fragments. Low numbers of seeds were present consisting of those of fumitory and the segetal/grassland plant annual mercury (*Mercurialis annua* L.).

Faunal material in the flots

Terrestrial mollusca, dominated by the subterranean snail *Ceciliodes acicula* are the only fauna noted in this sample.

Inorganic material

Abundant fragments of magnetic material were present, and one fragment of spherical hammerscale. These are formed when droplets of hot slag are expelled during welding and primary smithing (Starley 1995). No other inorganic remains were observed.

Biases in recovery, residuality, and contamination

The present of rootlets and *Ceciliodes acicula* indicate that bioturbation is possible. No other observations were made regarding residuality or contamination.

Significance of the sample and further recommendations

The plant remains in the sample were very thinly spread with a low (<1) counted charred items per litre of sampled soil. It is unlikely that they can provide any more information than that given in this assessment. No further work is recommended on the plant remains. There is no evidence for cess disposal or large numbers of plant remains that could indicated plant food/craft waste. The magnetic material and hammerscale does hint at the possibility that industrial/craft activity was taking place.

Conclusions

One sample, from a scorched floor surface, was presented for assessment with the intention of determining the cause of the scorching. The plant remains did not reveal evidence of any activity but the sample did produce hammerscale that could be evidence of metalworking.

6.9 Discussion of material evidence

The rich finds assemblage from the recent work provides some evidence for an affluent household flourishing in the vicinity during the sixteenth century. The presence of so many imported vessels reflects this prosperity, although as Walberswick was still an

active port during this period, such imports may not have been unusual, even for relatively modest houses. The ceramic building material assemblage includes some late medieval/early post-medieval floortiles as well as roofing tiles, both indicators of some level of wealth, but this material could easily have come from a property nearby, representing debris which was eventually deposited in make-up deposits as part of a process of consolidation and levelling.

The hammerscale flakes indicative of metal working identified from the clay floor surface 0025 suggest that it is likely to have been part of a smithing area. A small quantity of medieval pottery dating from the late 13th century possibly through to as late as the fifteenth century was recovered from the feature but it is possible that the five sherds are actually residual and the smithy floor dates to the sixteenth century.

7. Discussion

The results of this evaluation appear to show a brief, focussed, occupation of the site starting perhaps in the mid to late 15th century on land that was previously cleared farmland. Initially this involved pits of unknown purpose, but by the 16th century a dedicated clay floor/work surface (0026) had been laid down and a brick-built hearth (0044) installed. The hammerscale identified in the sampled remains suggests a possible function of this hearth as a small-scale smithing area, which might account for the modest nature of the structural remains and their apparently purely functional repairs. No evidence of enclosing walls has been found, which might suggest that the floor and hearth were contained by an open-sided building with widely spaced posts, but after the fireplace goes out of use there is a further clay floor layer that may have been created by the demolition of some nearby walling (0021). There does not seem to have been a great period of time where the fireplace was in use, since the second clay floor/demolition layer also contained 16th century artefacts.

This second floor layer appears to have been in use for a slightly greater length of time, certainly it gives the impression that extensions (0024 and 0030) and repairs (0023) were undertaken, unlike the first surface below it. However, the excavation of pit 0020 and the two pairs of postholes (0037, 0039, 0041 and 0043) likely to be in the later part of the 16th century would suggest that this occupation did not continue past then. It appears that the next utilisation of this land was the construction of the property at Alexandra Cottage in the later post-medieval period.

The apparent mis-match between a modest, fairly-short-lived, smithing area and the widely sourced quite high-status finds might be explained by the close proximity of this site to the suspected medieval Manor House to the west (Fig. 6) – if this was a small smithy on the manor grounds it is possible that artefacts could have been transported between the two while the smithy was active – or simply the proximity of the site to the medieval street frontage and close to building refuse dumping or the like.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, the monitoring carried out at Alexandra Cottage appears to have identified a small, short-lived, likely domestic smithy consisting of a clay work surface, brick-based hearth and probably an open-sided shelter structure atop the hearth. While there is limited potential for further work considering this site in isolation, it will form a useful part of any later synthesis of the known archaeological resource in and around the medieval town of Walberswick and be of use in defining the area of the habitation zone during this period.

No further works are recommended in connection with this development; although it should be noted that additional works may be required of any future development on the site since these may uncover additional remains.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Walberswick\WLB 079 Monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HLI 43-93

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: **J / 116 / 3**.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Phil Camps, Roy Damant and Kieron Heard (all of SCCAS Field Team) and project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin and additional specialist advice was provided by Lisa Gray and Colin Pendleton.

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The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Land North of Alexandra Cottage, The Street, Walberswick

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect three dwellings on land north of Alexandra Cottage, The Street, Walberswick has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/09/1575). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for Walberswick medieval village in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and drainage trenches and the construction of vehicular access.. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 741230; Fax: 01284 741257) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Reporting Requirements

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results.
If significant archaeological features or finds are found:**
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 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 HER 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.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report)
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

When no significant features or finds are found

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
 - Grid Ref
 - Parish
 - Address
 - Planning Application number
 - Date(s) of visit(s)
 - Methodology
 - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development
(a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
 - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
 - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
 - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
 - Recorder and Organisation
 - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment Department
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 10th May

Reference: North of Alexandra Cottage

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 Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0001		Deposit	Layer	<p>Loose, dark greyish brown silty sand (loam) with frequent roots. 0.30m to 0.60m thick.</p> <p>Given this number in Trenches 1 and 3. Same as 0005 in Trench 2</p> <p>Interpretation Garden soil, extending site-wide</p>
0002		Deposit	Layer	<p>Loose, mottled brownish grey and greyish brown silty sand with frequent small stones.</p> <p>0.10m to 0.40m thick, extending trench-wide.</p> <p>Same as 0012 in trench 2</p> <p>Interpretation Podsolised soil horizon</p>
0003	0004	Ditch	Fill	<p>Soft, light to mid grey silty sand with moderate small to medium pebbles.</p> <p>Occ CBM and modern glass.</p> <p>Interpretation Single fill of ditch 0004</p>
0004	0004	Ditch	Cut	<p>Linear, oriented approx N-S. Moderately steep but irregular sides sloping to a narrow, rounded base.</p> <p>Sealed by topsoil 0001, cuts podsol layer 0002</p> <p>Interpretation Relatively modern ditch.</p>
0005		Deposit	Layer	<p>Compact, dark brown sandy loam with frequent building rubble.</p> <p>Extends trench-wide. 0.36m to 0.50m thick.</p> <p>Same as 0001 in Trenches 1 and 3.</p> <p>Interpretation Garden soil in Trench 5.</p>
0006	0011	Pit	Fill	<p>Loose, mid brownish grey silty sand with some pottery and CBM.</p> <p>Interpretation Single fill of relatively modern pit 0011</p>
0007		Deposit	Layer	<p>Soft, mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium pebbles. No finds.</p> <p>Extends trench-wide. 0.30m to 0.50m thick.</p> <p>Interpretation Subsoil in Trench 2. Probably equates to 0027 in Trench 3</p>

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0008	0009	Pit	Fill	Compact, mixed mid brown silty sand and chalky clay. Contains some CBM and CTP. Only seen in section. Interpretation Upper fill of pit 0009
0009	0009	Pit	Cut	Circular/oval pit with steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base. Interpretation Relatively modern pit
0010	0011	Pit	Fill	Soft, mid brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks. No finds. Interpretation Lower fill of pit 0009
0011	0011	Pit	Cut	Shape in plan and profile uncertain (not recorded fully in section) Interpretation Probable pit, containing modern material
0012		Deposit	Layer	Loose, mottled light grey and mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional stones. No finds. 0.16m to 0.25m thick. Extent uncertain but mainly recorded in the central part of the trench Interpretation Podsolised soil horizon
0013	0014	Pit	Fill	Same as 0005 Interpretation Single fill of small pit (or possible posthole) 0014
0014	0014	Pit	Cut	Shape uncertain (seen in section only). Moderately steep sides breaking gradually into a concave base. Interpretation Small, shallow pit (or possible posthole).
0015	0016	Pit	Fill	Same as 0005 Interpretation Single fill of small pit 0016
0016	0016	Pit	Cut	Shape unknown (only seen in section). Shallow sides and a concave base. Interpretation Small pit, function unknown
0017		Deposit	Layer	Firm, yellowish grey clay with occasional flecks and small fragments chalk, up to 0.15m thick. No finds. Extends most of length of trench, although discontinuous. Removed to N by pit 0009. Also cut by small pits 0014 and 0016. Interpretation Clay slab, similar to 0021 in Trench 3. Floor?

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0018	0020	Pit	Fill	<p>Compact, mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate large pebbles and cobbles, small to medium fragments pot, CBM, bone, occasional oyster (whole and fragments), moderate flecks to small fragments charcoal, coal, mortar and fired clay.</p> <p>>0.80m thick, within central part of pit 0020</p> <p>Interpretation Upper fill of pit (well?) 0020, representing disuse.</p>
0019	0020	Pit	Fill	<p>Variously loose or compact, generally light yellowish brown mix of sand and gravel with frequent patches/lenses of yellowish grey clay/silt. Moderate cobbles, occasional medium to large fragments CBM, bone and oyster.</p> <p>Confined to edges of pit 0020, with a near vertical interface between this and upper fill 0018</p> <p>Interpretation Probable construction fill around postulated timber lining to pit 0020</p>
0020	0020	Pit	Cut	<p>Sub circular/oval pit. Upper edge has very steep, slightly irregular sides (often under-cut through slumping of surrounding sand). At 0.60m depth the sides step in abruptly, before continuing vertically for at least another 0.20m (base not seen).</p> <p>Interpretation Large pit with stepped profile. Vertical interface between fills 0018 and 0019 suggests an original timber lining. Possibly a cess pit/soakaway, if not a well.</p>
0021		Deposit	Layer	<p>Firm, light yellowish brown clay/silt. Frequent flecks/small fragments chalk, small to large pebbles, occasional s-lfrags CBM, s-mfrags pot and bone, sfrags mortar, charcoal, coal and oyster (whole and fragments).</p> <p>Extends almost trench-wide, with clearly defined limited to N and E, but extending beyond LOE to W and S.</p> <p>Thickness generally 0.10m - 0.12m, becoming thicker where it fills underlying hollows.</p> <p>Interpretation Extensive clay slab - function unknown but likely to have been a floor (or collapsed and levelled cob walling). Seals scorched areas 0025, brick hearth 0044 and associated clay floor 0026</p>
0022				<p>Compact, mid greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional pebbles, small fragments CBM, pot, CTP, bvone (bone not kept).</p> <p>Approx 50-60mm thick. Overlies clay slab 0021 and deposit 0031, and sealed by garden soil 0001.</p> <p>Mostly removed by machine. Difficult to distinguish in section.</p> <p>Interpretation Either a tread layer on top of the clay slab 0021 or a compacted basal element to the garden soil 0001.</p>

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0023		Deposit	Fill	<p>Oval area of flint cobbles in a loose, sandy silt matrix (50:50). The cobbles are up to 0.18m. Generally there are two layers of cobbles. They have an irregular surface and are not densely packed.</p> <p>The soil matrix contains frequent small to medium fragments pot and occasional small to large fragments CBM (inc. glazed floor tiles).</p> <p>No clear relationship with adjacent deposit 0024, but likely to have been contemporary.</p> <p>Deposit fills an oval hollow in underlying clay slab 0021 - not obviously a cut.</p> <p>Interpretation Probably not a yard/path, as it is too irregular and localised. Could just be a localised consolidation/infilling of an eroded/slumped hollow in underlying strata.</p>
0024		Deposit	Layer	<p>Compact, mid brownish grey sandy silt. Frequent s-m pebbles, moderate small fragments of pot, oyster and charcoal, occasional s-m fragments CBM and bone.</p> <p>Up to 0.35m thick to the N, petering out to the S.</p> <p>Abuts cobbles 0023 but relationship uncertain. Overlies clay slab 0021 or underlying subsoil 0027.</p> <p>Interpretation Dumping/levelling, or possibly the fill of an unidentified cut.</p>
0025		Deposit	Layer	<p>Generally soft with a compacted surface, mottled dark brown, brownish red and yellowish red (scorched) clay/silt.</p> <p>Generally 10-20mm thick, but up to 50mm in a few places.</p> <p>This number given to several patches of similar material, all with diffuse edges. All sealed by clay slab 0021</p> <p>Interpretation Either localised scorching of underlying clay floor 0026, or material dumping on that surface.</p>
0026		Floor	Layer	<p>Firm, light yellowish brown clay/silt. Frequent chalks flecks, moderate s-m pebbles. No finds.</p> <p>Up to 0.12m thick but generally much thinner, becoming negligible in places.</p> <p>Extent uncertain (not exposed fully) but where seen in section it appears to cover an area slightly smaller than overlying clay slab 0021.</p> <p>Generally overlies subsoil 0027 with a clear interface, but also seals/fills several small features.</p> <p>Interpretation Caly floor / working surface. No obvious wall lines or associated posts</p>

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0027		Deposit	Layer	<p>Soft, mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles. No finds.</p> <p>Extends trench-wide. Generally 0.10m thick, increasing to 03.6m at the east end of the trench (section 7).</p> <p>Very clean interface with overlying clay floor 0026. Slightly diffuse horizon with underlying leached soil layer 0028.</p> <p>Interpretation Subsoil / former ploughsoil pre-dating clay floor 0026 and pits 0029/0045/0033/0035</p>
0028		Deposit	Layer	<p>Loose, light grey fine sand mottled dark brown in places.</p> <p>0.20m to 0.30m thick, with diffuse upper and lower boundaries.</p> <p>Interpretation Leached/podsolised soil horizon. Same as 0002 in Trench 1 and 0012 in Trench 2</p>
0029		Pit	Cut	<p>Elongated oval, with steep sides and a narrow base that slopes down slightly to the north.</p> <p>Filled with material indistinguishable from overlying clay floor 0026.</p> <p>Cuts subsoil 0027</p> <p>Interpretation Small pit, function unknown, but probably contemporary with 0045, to the south</p>
0030		Deposit	Layer	<p>Compact, light greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flecks-small fragments chalk, moderate flecks-small fragments charcoal and coal, moderate pebbles, occasional oyster and small fragments of brick.</p> <p>Only seen in section 7, overlying clay slab 0021. Up to 0.20m thick, petering out to the west.</p> <p>Interpretation Dumping/levelling deposit, possibly broadly contemporary with 0024</p>
0031		Deposit	Layer	<p>Compact/firm, light yellowish brown sand and small to medium rounded pebbles (50:50). Much root disturbance.</p> <p>Only seen in section. Up to 0.14m thick, petering out to north. Removed by pit 0020 to the south.</p> <p>Interpretation Overlies an area where underlying clay slab 0021 has slumped into pit 0033. Therefore, probably a levelling deposit/repair</p>
0032	0033	Pit	Fill	<p>Compact, mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and s-m bones, and moderate s-l fragments of pot.</p> <p>Single, homogenous fill of pit 0033</p> <p>Interpretation Pit fill, pre-dating clay floor 0026 etc</p>

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0033	0033	Pit	Cut	<p>Shape uncertain - oval or circular. Shallow, irregular sides and a narrow concave base.</p> <p>Only recognised in section but sketched on plan retrospectively.</p> <p>Assumed to have cut layer 0027, although that relationship is not shown on section 8</p> <p>Interpretation Small pit pre-dating clay floor 0026</p>
0034	0035	Pit	Fill	<p>Soft, mid brownish red (upper) fading to dark brown (lower) scorched sand. Occasional pebbles, no finds.</p> <p>Interpretation Single fill of shallow pit 0035</p>
0035	0035	Pit	Cut	<p>Shape unknown (oval or circular). Shallow, saucer-shaped profile.</p> <p>Only seen in section. Cuts subsoil 0027 and sealed by clay floor 0026</p> <p>Interpretation Shallow pit, function unknown</p>
0036	0037	Posthole	Fill	<p>Compact, dark brownish grey silty sand. Occasional pebbles and small fragments of pot.</p> <p>Becomes softer/darker towards centre.</p> <p>Interpretation Single fill of posthole 0037, with the suggestion of a central post pipe</p>
0037	0037	Posthole	Cut	<p>Sub circular, with very steep sides breaking sharply into a slightly concave base.</p> <p>Uncertain relationship with adjacent posthole 0039</p> <p>Interpretation Posthole</p>
0038	0039	Posthole	Fill	<p>Compact, dark brownish grey silty sand. Occasional pebbles, no finds.</p> <p>Becomes softer/darker towards centre.</p> <p>Interpretation Fill of posthole 0039, with probable post pipe</p>
0039	0039	Posthole	Cut	<p>Oval, with very steep sides and a concave base.</p> <p>Uncertain relationship with adjacent PH 0037</p> <p>Interpretation</p>
0040	0041	Posthole	Fill	<p>Compact, mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional pebbles and chalk flecks/sfrags.</p> <p>Interpretation Single fill of posthole 0041</p>

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0041	0041	Posthole	Cut	Oval or circular, with very steep sides and a concave base. Mostly beyond LOE Interpretation Posthole
0042	0043	Posthole	Fill	Compact, mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional pebbles and moderate s-l fragments CBM Interpretation Single fill of posthole 0043
0043	0043	Posthole	Cut	Oval, with very steep sides breaking gradually into a flat base. Uncertain relationship with adjacent PH 0041 Interpretation Posthole
0044		Structure	Other	Open-sided, rectangular brick structure. One course laid on edge, slightly set into clay floor 0026. Open to east. 1.38m NS x 0.55m EW. Bricks are 200 x 10 x 5mm and have a rounded edge. Most are heat affected (cracked/brittle). Assumed to be contemporary with scorched layer 0025, which is more intense inside the structure and outside the N end of the structure. Interpretation Hearth/fireplace
0045	0045	Pit	Cut	Oval/circular (not exposed fully), with steep sides (base not seen). Filled with clay that is indistinguishable from overlying clay floor 0026 Interpretation Small pit. Probably associated with nearby pit 0029
0046	0047	Posthole	Fill	Same as overlying garden soil 0001 Interpretation Single fill of probably posthole 0047
0047	0047	Posthole	Cut	Only seen in section, so shape unknown. Vertical sides and a concave base. Cuts clay slab 0021, sealed by garden soil 0001 Interpretation Probable posthole (may be associated with 0037 etc)
0048	0049	Pit	Fill	Soil containing much animal bone and oyster, and occasional pot. Fill of pit 0049 Interpretation Noted during initial monitoring visit but not recorded fully.

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0049	0049	Pit	Cut	<p>No detailed record.</p> <p>Seen in new services trench during initial monitoring visit.</p> <p>Located approx 1.3m from W face of house, and 3.5m from NW corner of house.</p> <p>Interpretation Rubbish-filled pit</p>
0050		Structure	Other	<p>A small, rectangular cellared building, approximately 3.8m x 2.4m x >1m deep. Walls of heavily mortared flint cobbles with decorative brick inserts.</p> <p>Not recorded in detail or exposed fully.</p> <p>Filled with soil and rubbish - 20th century</p> <p>Interpretation Possible ice house or garden feature. Can be seen on 1890 and 1920 OS, with a path leading to it from the house.</p>

Appendix 4. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample contents:

Sample No.	1
Context No.	0025
Cut No.	0
Feature type	scorched clay floor
Charred Seeds	
<i>Brassica/Sinapis</i> sp.	4
cf. <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> L.	1
<i>Rumex</i> cf. <i>acetosella</i> L.	1
Uncharred Herbs	
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> L.(fragment)	+
<i>Mercurialis annua</i> L.	+
Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal >4mm ²	++
Charcoal <4mm ²	+++++
Bark fragment	+
Uncharred root/rhizome fragments	+++++
Mollusca subterranean	
<i>Ceciliodes acicula</i>	++
Mollusca- unidentified	
Terrestrial Mollusca	+
Sample volume (litres)	20
Volume processed (litres)	20
Volume of flot(litres)	0.030
Other remains	
Magnetic flakes	++++
spherical hammerscale	+

Key - + =+-+0, ++++=-50, +++=5+-+50, ++++=+5+-250, ++++=>250

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