

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CAC 035

Household Waste & Recycling Centre, South Lowestoft Industrial Estate

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

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

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Edward Martin	Prehistoric Pottery Specialist
Colin Pendleton	Flint Specialist

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Suffolk County Council Waste Management and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division).

The evaluation was carried out by Roy Damant and Clare McLannahan from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. It was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams and Richenda Goffin, both of whom contributed to the specialist finds and environmental assessment reports. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Edward Martin and Colin Pendleton.

Summary

Carlton Colville, Household Waste Recycling Centre (TM 5274 8945, CAC 035)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of construction of a new split level Household Waste and Recycling Centre at South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Carlton Colville, in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. Scattered Prehistoric finds are recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in the area, and the site is just to the east of Bloodmoor Hill, an area with abundant archaeology including an Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery site. Four trenches were excavated over the development area, and were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil. Scattered prehistoric features comprising pits, post-holes and ditches were recorded to the south, east and centre of the plot including a probable Neolithic pit, Iron Age ditch and various prehistoric ditches. The finds suggest a multi-period occupation site and it is difficult to interpret the site without further study.

(C. McLannahan, for SCCAS and Suffolk County Council Waste Management; 2005/192)

SMR information

Date of fieldwork:	03/11/2005 – 07/11/2005
Grid Reference:	TM 5274 8945
Funding body:	Suffolk County Council Waste Management

1. Introduction

Planning consent for a new Household Waste and Recycling Centre at South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Carlton Colville required an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken. The site is centred on TM 5274 8945 and is currently used for arable purposes. It covers an area of c.10, 800 square metres and lies at approximately 14m OD. It is flat with underlying drift geology of heavy clay. To the north, west and east are industrial units with varying functions such as an existing recycling centre to a frozen food storage facility. To the south, open farmland stretches for some miles. According to early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps for this area, the site appears to have been open farmland for some time.

The proposed recycling centre is in reasonably close proximity to areas of known archaeology recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Fig. 1). Bloodmoor Hill in particular, is a site that lies just to the west of the development where extensive archaeological evidence from prehistoric to medieval has been recorded, in particular an Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery site (CAC 016). Scattered prehistoric finds including a Neolithic axehead were also found on the industrial estate itself. Its worth noting that many of the buildings in the industrial estate were built before the PPG16 condition and so would not have been subject to archaeological survey during construction. Considering the location of the site in relation to Bloodmoor Hill, it was deemed necessary to evaluate it in the first instance.

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team and the work was carried out by Clare McLannahan of the SCCAS Field Team, funded by Suffolk County Council Waste Management.

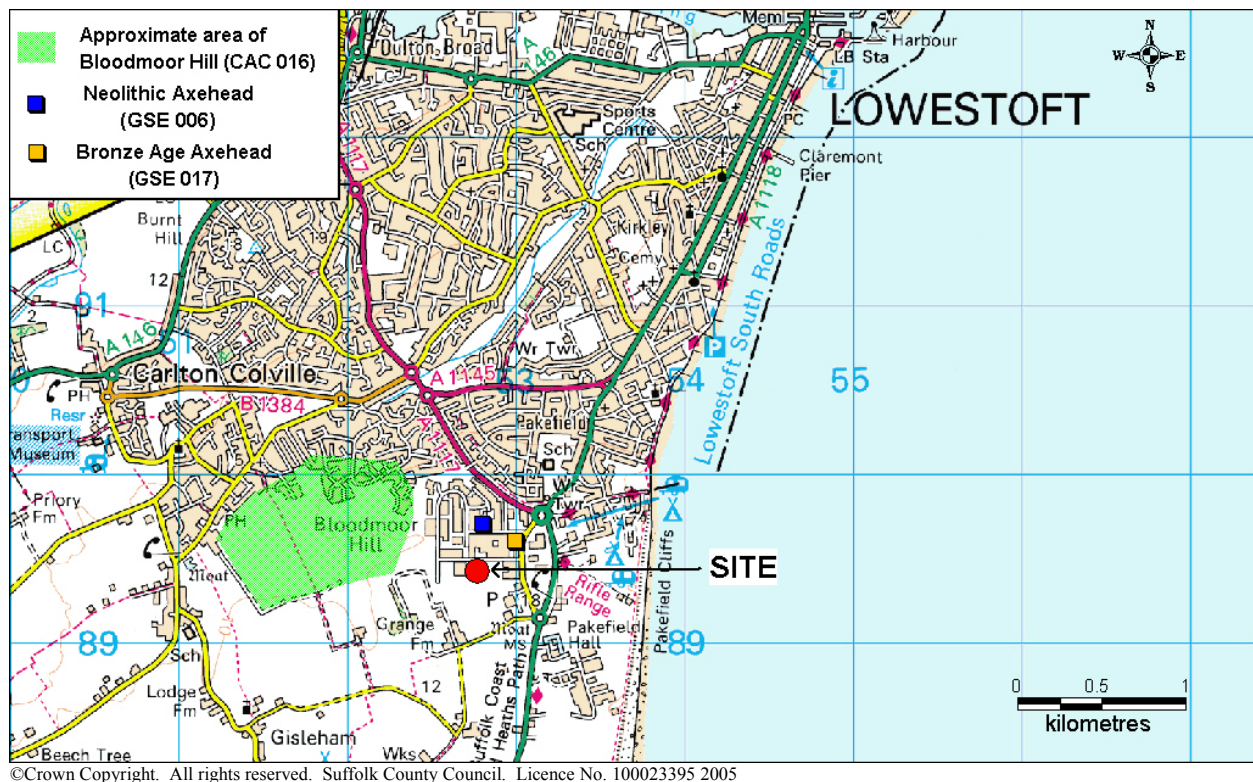


Figure 1: Location of site and records held on county SMR.

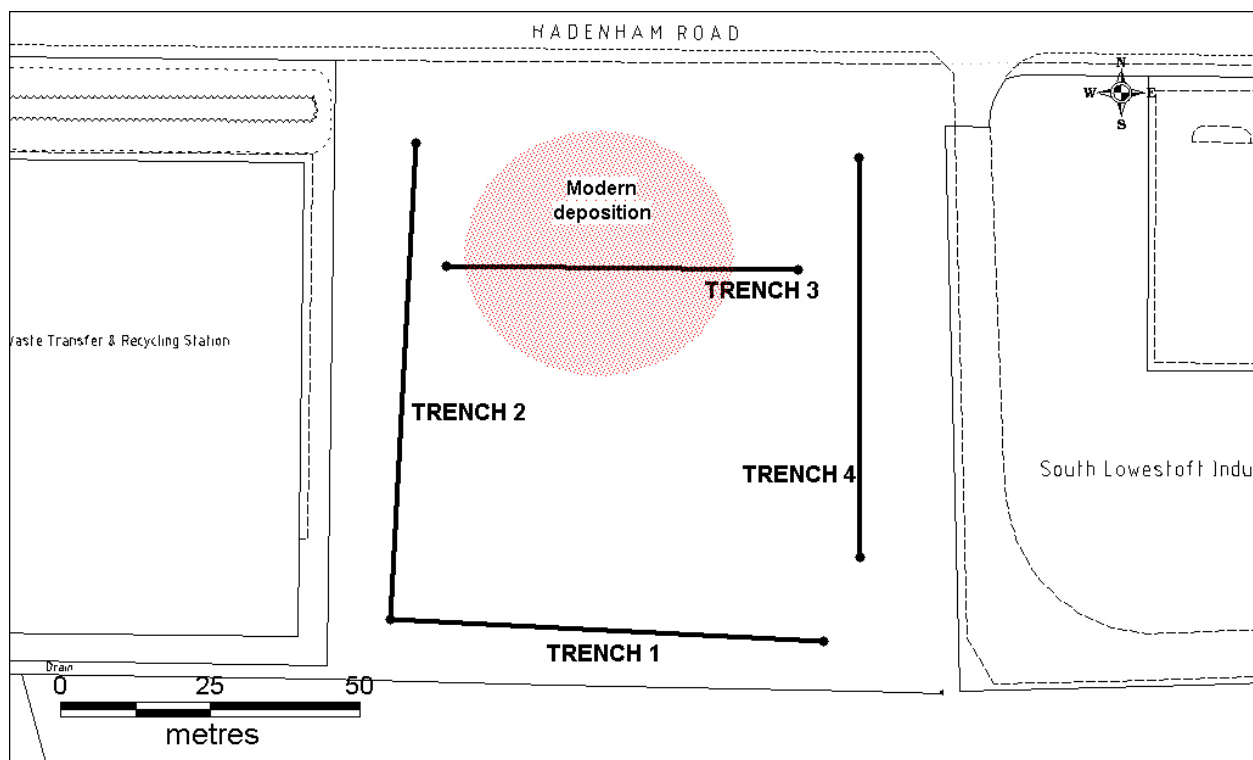
2. Methodology

Four trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in November 2005 using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 2). A total of 276m in length was excavated representing a sample of approximately 2.5% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist. The field had been very recently ploughed and regular heavy rain meant that evaluation conditions were particularly difficult with the machine frequently becoming stuck.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' (OP) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the SMR code CAC 035 then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function. The surface of the trench and the excavated topsoil were subjected to a thorough metal detector search by a competent operative. Where deemed necessary, features were sampled for environmental analysis by a specialist. They were drawn on site at a scale of 1:20, levelled in relation to Ordnance Datum and recorded photographically using a digital and black and white camera. The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined manually using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (see section 4. The Finds). Suffolk County Council Waste Management funded all archaeological work.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-11569.



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Figure 2: Trench location and area of modern deposition

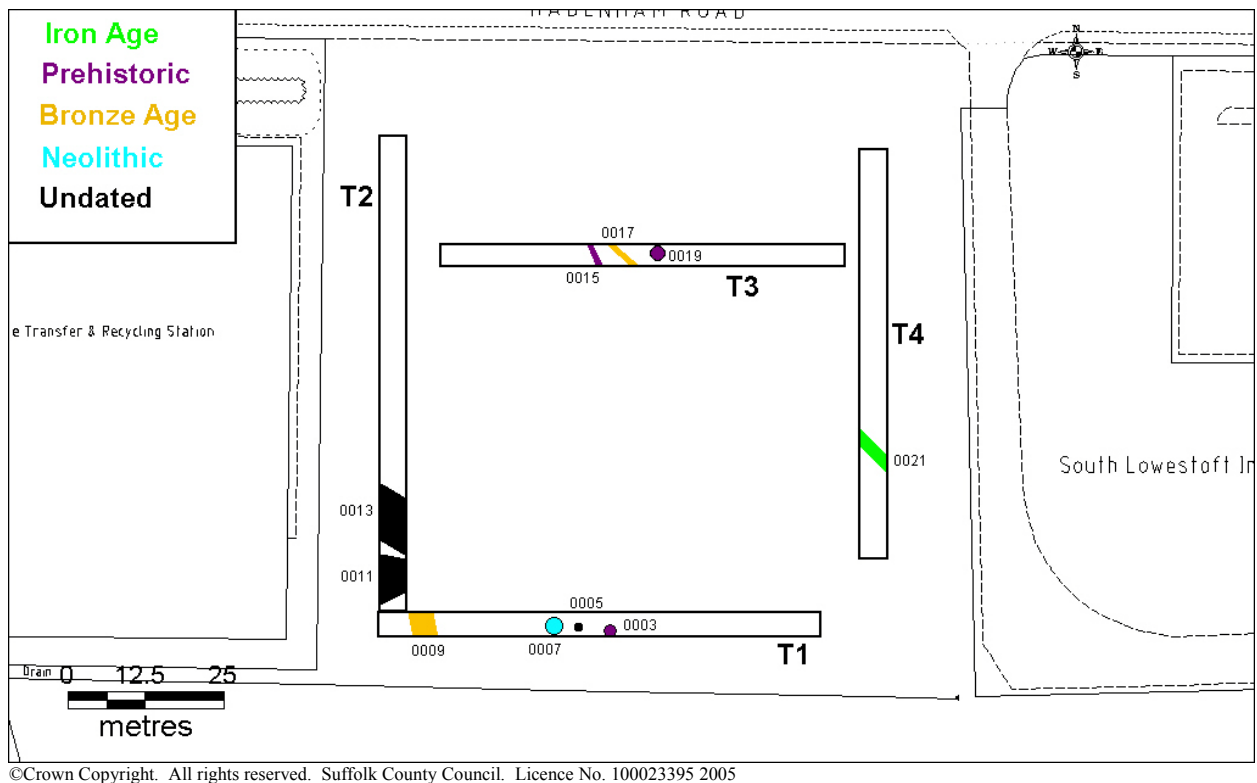


Figure 3: Feature location

3. Results (Figures 3-6 and Appendix 2)

0001 was allocated to unstratified finds from the development area. Topsoil 0002 was similar over the whole site; a dark brown sandy clay with occasional stones. In all trenches, the natural subsoil occurred at c.0.40m deep and consisted of heavy sandy clay. The samples recovered for environmental analysis have not yet been assessed.

Trench 1 (Figure 3 & 4)

Trench 1 (T1) was aligned east-west along the southern side of the development plot and was 70.3m long.

Pit 0003 was a partially exposed, roughly circular pit approximately 0.60m diameter by 0.26m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and an estimated 50% of the feature was removed. It was filled by 0004, a solid mottled light grey brown slightly silty sandy clay with occasional patches of reddened clay and very frequent charcoal flecks and densely packed heat-altered flints/stones at the base. A small sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill.

Post-hole? 0005 was a small, circular, shallow feature 0.26m wide by 0.06m deep. It was filled by 0006, a solid mid grey brown silty clay mottled with orange and occasional charcoal flecks. Approximately 50% of the feature was excavated but no finds were recovered from the fill.

Pit 0007 was an amorphous shaped feature, only partially exposed but at least 2m wide by 0.26m deep. It may possibly be two pits inter-cutting although both parts had indistinguishable fill, and

similar potsherds and so it was treated as one feature. A 2m by 0.65m section was excavated through it revealing moderately sloping sides and a gently undulating base. It was filled by 0008, a solid light grey brown clay mottled with orange and occasional reddened areas, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and very frequent heat altered flints and sandstones throughout the fill. This fill was sampled for environmental analysis. 18 sherds of pottery were recovered from within it including a large sherd from a vessel likely to be Neolithic. A further 11 fragments are likely to be from the same period, some from the same pot. The remaining sherds are of an undiagnosed prehistoric date.

Ditch 0009 was a slightly curving linear feature at the west end of Trench 1. It was not defined in Trench 2. The portion in the trench was aligned south south east-north north west and was c.2.5m wide. It was c.0.80m in depth and had vertical sides and a horizontal base. A 1.2m section was excavated by the machine during the evaluation, so a complete profile could be determined in section. The vertical sides and horizontal base might suggest an original machine excavation and so an attempt was made to find machine teeth marks in section that would confirm this. However, none were seen. The ditch was filled by 0010, a homogenous slightly orange mid brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and very occasional stones and flints. The fill was almost solid in compaction and was sampled for environmental analysis. Three flint flakes were recovered from the machine excavated fill, all likely to be early Bronze Age in date.

Trench 2 (Figure 3 & 4)

Trench 2 (T2) was aligned north-south along the western side of the site, and was 76m long.

Ditch? 0011 was a 6m wide feature, aligned roughly east-west at the southern end of the trench. It is likely that this feature is a ditch although its sides are not parallel meaning it could feasibly be a large pit. The depth and characteristics were not determined due to the feature being covered up almost immediately after excavation because of unstable trench sides. It was filled by 0012, a very compacted homogenous slightly orange mid brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and very occasional stones and flints but no finds. A charcoal lens lined roughly south east – north west ran through the middle of this feature and possibly represents the continuation of 0009 in some way. 0011 was similar to the adjacent 0013 although there was a definite break between them.

Ditch? 0013 was similar to, and immediately north of, 0011 although 0013 had parallel sides. It was a c.8.5m wide linear feature with a total depth of c.1.5m and was aligned roughly north west – south east. Again, this feature was machine excavated; a roughly 2m wide section which revealed vertical sides and a horizontal base. The fill of 0009, 0011 and 0013 had all been ‘spread’ slightly from the original features surface, possibly due to modern agriculture, giving an appearance of being wider than they actually were. 0013 was filled by 0014, a very compacted homogenous slightly orange mid brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and very occasional stones and flints and no finds. This fill was sampled for environmental analysis.

Trench 3 (Figure 3 & 5)

Trench 3 (T3) was aligned west-east in the northern half of the site, and was 64.8m long. This trench was deliberately placed to take in a raised area of yellow soft sand that was seen mixed in with the topsoil. However, this was shown to be some kind of modern dump of yellow sand in the upper layers of topsoil, and did not affect the archaeology underneath at all.

Ditch 0015 was a shallow, narrow, 'u' shaped linear feature aligned south south east-north north west. It was 0.40m wide by only 0.12m deep and had a half metre section excavated through it. It was filled by 0016, a mid brown silty sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. A single undiagnostic sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill.

Ditch 0017 had a steep 'u' shaped profile and was aligned south east-north west. It was 0.40m wide by 0.30m deep and was filled with 0018, a mid grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and very occasional charcoal flecks. It also had a half metre section excavated through it. Two sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were found in this feature. This ditch was on a similar alignment to 0021 in Trench 4 although they are characteristically different.

Pit 0019 was an amorphous pit only partially exposed. It may be a natural feature such as a tree bowl as it had no clear edge to the E side. It was approximately 0.60m wide by 0.40m deep and approximately half of the portion exposed was excavated. It was filled by 0020, a mid brown sandy clay with occasional stones and lumps of natural looking clay within the fill. However, two flint flakes were recovered from this fill and so the possibility remains that this is a prehistoric feature

Trench 4 (Figure 3 & 5)

Trench 4 (T4) was aligned north-south towards the eastern side of the site, and was 64.9m long.

Ditch 0021 was a large feature, aligned south east -north west, located towards the southern end of the trench. It was steep sided to the north with a ledge to the south and ankle breaker at the base. There was considerable slump to both sides, especially the north. It was approximately 1.5m wide by 0.44m deep at the deepest part and had a 0.70m section excavated through it. It was filled by 0022, a very compacted and hard mid grey brown sandy clay, siltier towards the base. Occasional flint fragments, stones and charcoal were present throughout the fill. A total of 22 pottery sherds were found in the fill. Most of them are likely to be early Iron Age in date although 4 are probably earlier than this. Six worked flints were also recovered including a core, scraper and some flakes which are probably Bronze Age in date and reflect the earlier pottery recovered rather than the Iron Age sherds. This ditch is on a similar alignment to 0017 in Trench 3, although they are characteristically different.

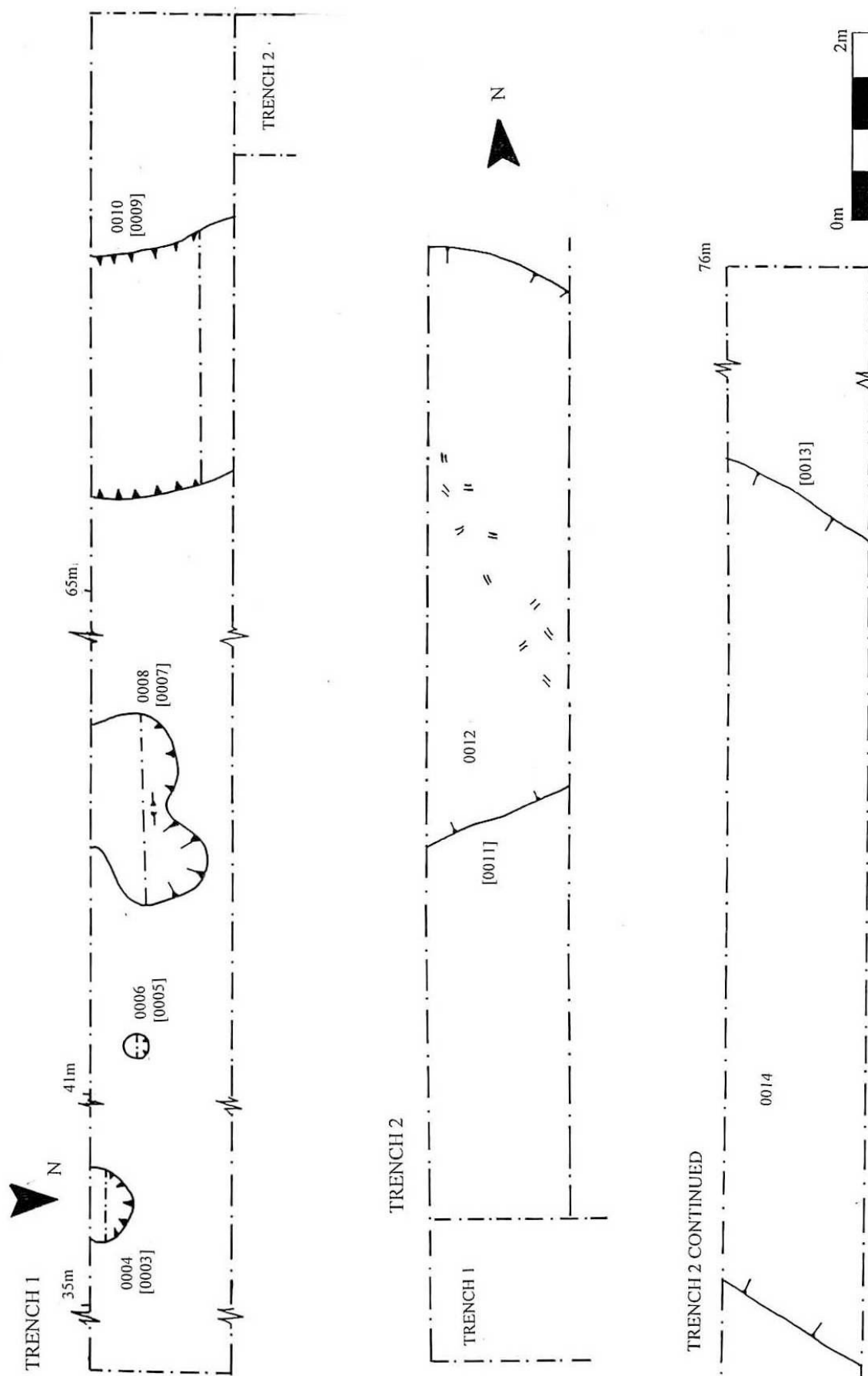


Figure 4: Trenches 1 & 2

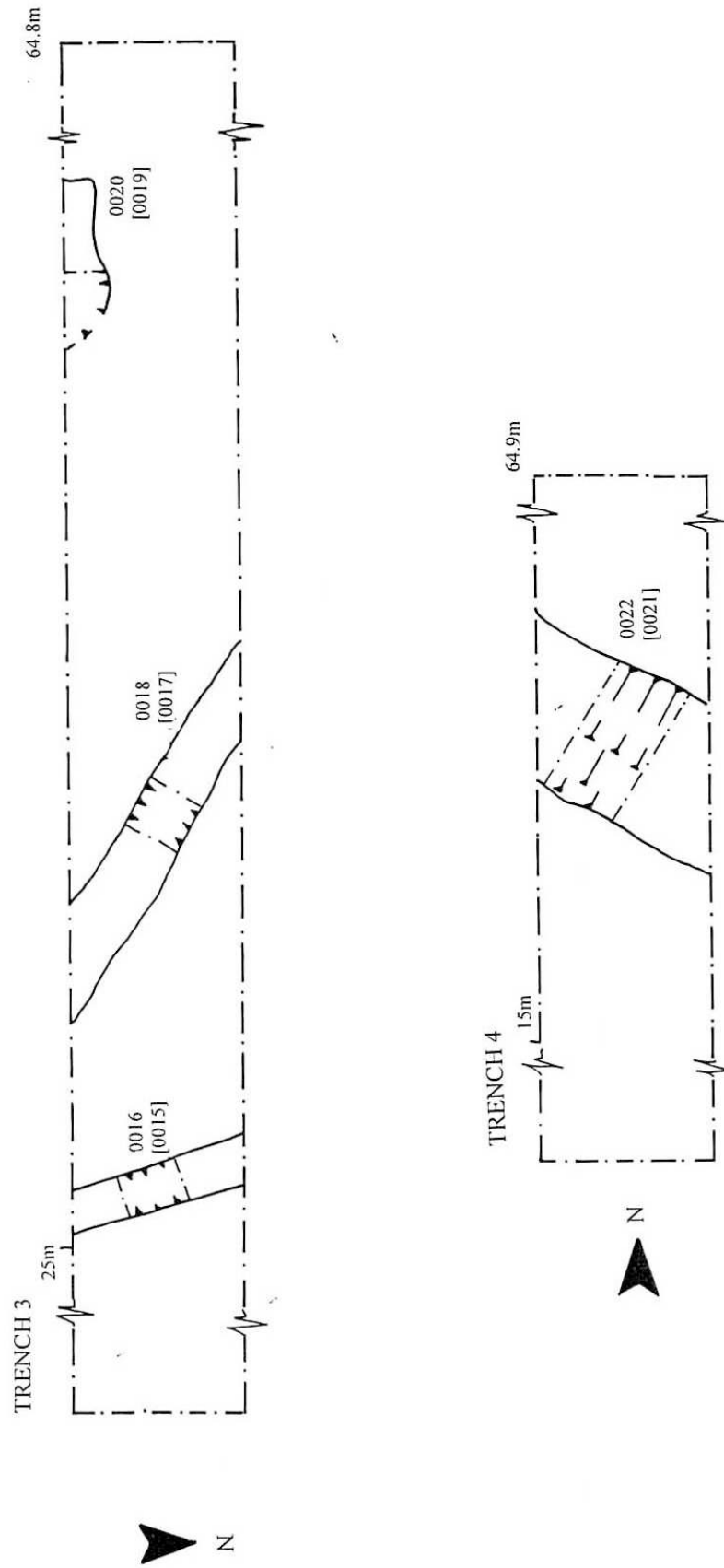


Figure 5: Trenches 3 & 4



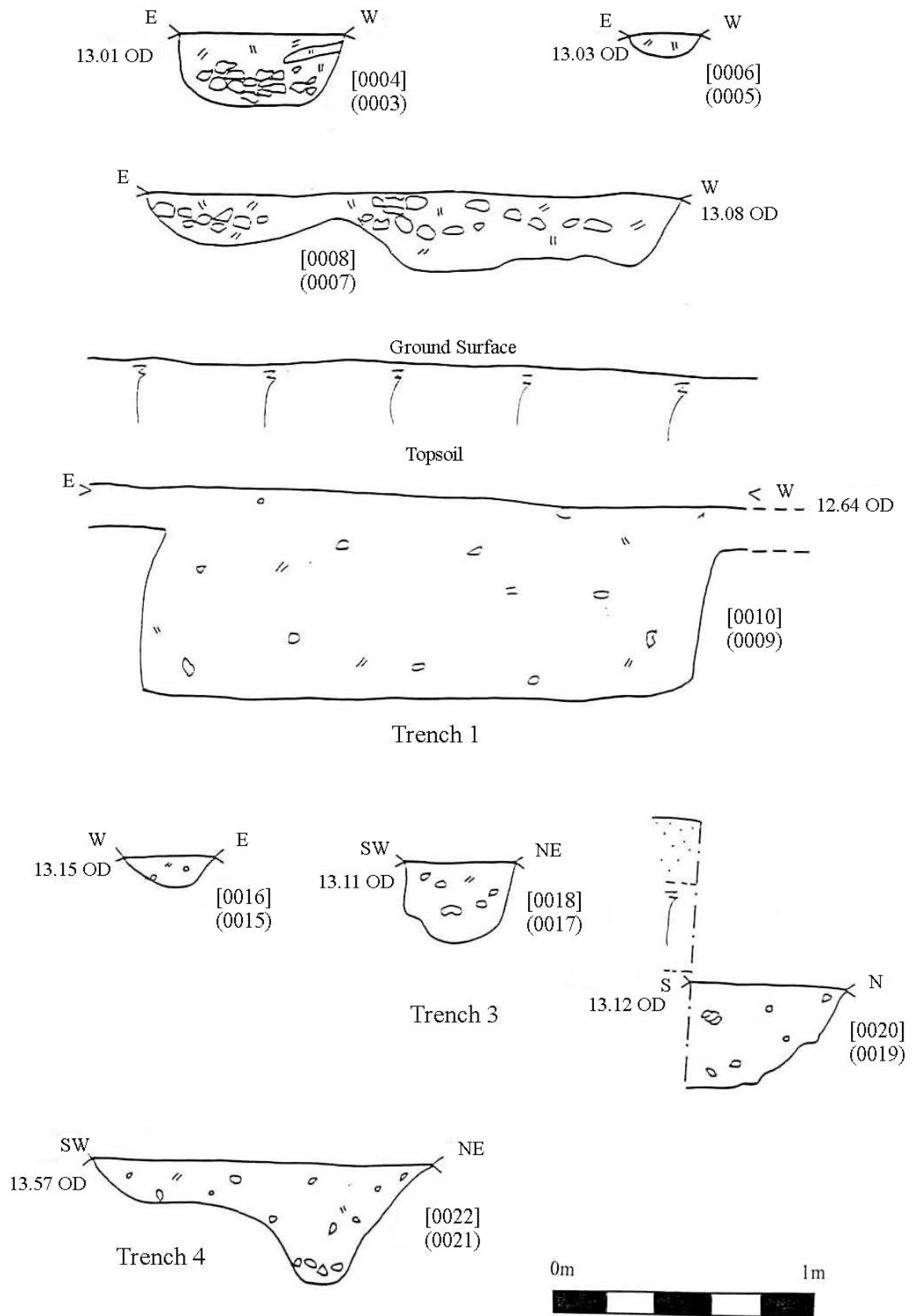


Figure 6: Sections of Features

4. The Finds

Household Waste Recycling Centre, Lowestoft (CAC 035): the finds

Richenda Goffin, November 2005

Introduction

Finds were collected from 7 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint/stone		Fired clay		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0004	1	2			24	2001			Prehistoric
0008	18	126	1	2	12	91			?Neolithic
0010			3	13	1	25			Prob EBA
0016	1	5							Prehistoric
0018	2	9					2	6	?Bronze Age
0020			2	18					Prehistoric
0022	22	114	6	75					Iron Age
Total	44	256	12	108	37	2117	2	6	

Pottery (Identifications by Edward Martin)

A total of 44 fragments of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation, weighing 0.256kg. Much of the assemblage consists of small and abraded sherds, although the rims of two vessels were present.

A single fragment in pitfill 0004 is made from a sandy hard reduced fabric containing moderate small angular flint inclusions. It cannot be dated more closely than the prehistoric period. A similar undiagnostic sherd was present in the fill 0016 of one of the round bottomed ditches. Two very abraded fragments were recovered from fill 0018 of another ditch. A single, highly abraded thick-walled fragment containing grog inclusions may be Bronze Age. The sherd is overfired or burnt perhaps from being used in some kind of industrial process. A second smaller grog-tempered sherd is also likely to be of this date. Two further fragments from this context are probably fired clay rather than actual ceramics.

Eighteen fragments of pottery were identified from pitfill 0008. A large sherd from a vessel with a rounded rim made in a reduced fabric with small to medium angular flint is likely to be Neolithic. A further 11 fragments are similar and at least some of them are part of this vessel. Six other sherds are more thick-walled and contain larger flint inclusions. Most of them have oxidised external margins and all of them are abraded.

A second group of pottery was found in the fill 0022 of the large ditch. An abraded sherd of a flat-topped jar is Iron Age, probably dating to the Early Iron Age. The vessel is crudely made with moderate medium flint inclusions and is patchily fired with a reduced core. A number of additional sherds are much finer and are made of hard sandy fabrics which have an oxidised external margin. The sherds, which contain sparse small flint inclusions and some organic material are also Iron Age in date. Four additional sherds are much more heavily flint tempered with large angular fragments and are likely to be earlier.

Flint (Identifications by Colin Pendleton)

A total of 12 fragments of worked flint were identified, mainly from the ditchfills 0010 and 0022. These are catalogued below:

1. Small long secondary flake with limited retouch or use, wear on edges. Flake scars on dorsal face on the transverse area to bulbous face. Unpatinated, prob Neolithic or EBA. From pitfill 0008.
2. Long secondary flake with natural striking platform. Edges with limited retouch including small notch. 3 parallel flake scars on dorsal face (struck from distal end). Unpatinated, prob EBA. From ditchfill 0010.
3. Short secondary flake with limited retouch on edge. Thin and well struck. Unpatinated, probably EBA. From ditchfill 0010.
4. Squat, secondary flake with limited edge retouch or use-wear. Thin. Unpatinated, probably EBA. From pitfill 0010.
5. Secondary flake with hinge fracture and limited edge retouch. Unpatinated, probably BA. From ditchfill 0018.
6. Snapped secondary flake. Thin. Unpatinated, probably BA. From pitfill 0020
7. Crude secondary flake with natural platform. Unpatinated, Later prehistoric. From pitfill 0020.
8. Thin secondary flake core with some hinged flake scars. Unpatinated, BA possibly earlier. From ditchfill 0022.
9. End scraper on short secondary flake. Unpatinated, BA possibly earlier. From ditchfill 0022.
10. Secondary flake with ripples and limited edge retouch or use-wear. Oblique striking platform. BA, possibly earlier. From ditchfill 0022.
11. Squat secondary flake with hinge fracture. Unpatinated. From ditchfill 0022.
12. Secondary flake/blade(?), snapped, with limited edge retouch. Marked flake ripples at distal end. Unpatinated. BA, possibly earlier. From ditchfill 0022.

Many of the flints from this assemblage probably date to the Early Bronze Age, although some of them have characteristics which are more typical of later flint technology. The largest group of flints recovered from ditchfill 0022 seems to reflect the date of the earlier pottery found in the fill, rather than the later Iron Age pottery.

Burnt flint/stone

Fragments of burnt flint and heat affected stone were recovered from four contexts, weighing 2.117kg in total. The largest quantity was found in the fill 0004 of a circular pit. Other fragments were recovered from another pitfill 0008 which contained pottery dating to the Neolithic period.

Fired clay

Two fragments of fired clay were found in the fill 0016 of one of the round-bottomed ditches. One piece has a reduced inner core, and may be evidence of some kind of industrial process.

Discussion

The artefacts recovered from the evaluation do not form a coherent group dating to the same prehistoric period. The mixed nature of the pottery in particular, suggests that the pits and ditches were filled with a range of material redeposited from the vicinity. The presence of Neolithic material has been identified elsewhere in Carlton Colville as three Neolithic flint axes (Gill, D., 2001) have been found (Edward Martin, pers. comm).

5. Discussion

Both the date and the character of probable ditches 0009, 0011 and 0013 are yet to be determined. They give the appearance of being modern with their vertical sides, horizontal bases and very compacted 'clean' fill (i.e. comparatively few stones). WW2 features such as anti glider ditches are common in this area as Lowestoft was heavily bombed during the War however these are usually visible on aerial photographs, which these features are not. They could also be prehistoric such as the ditches seen at Babraham Road at Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge which were relatively shallow but vertically sided Iron Age features (M. Hinman, pers. Com.). It was not possible to obtain enough information about these features during the evaluation to determine any possible function.

The remainder of the features were scattered prehistoric ditches and pits. The differing date range suggests that they were filled with a variety of redeposited material from the surrounding area. Features 0003 and 0007 show evidence of burning with their abundant burnt stone and flint. This burning was either in situ or took place nearby as the stones were obviously hot when placed in the pits. This suggests some kind of prehistoric activity, possibly settlement, nearby.

This evaluation has identified a multi-period site, with evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity that requires further investigation to define the full extent and character of that activity.

Bibliography

Ordnance Survey Map, 1st edition, c.1880.

Gill, D., *Carlton Park, Carlton Colville. CAC 017 and CAC 020*. SCCAS, 2001/24, June 2001

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.