

Land at County Farm, Church Field Road,
Chilton
CHT 021

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/029

Client: NHS Suffolk

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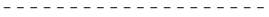






Summary

Archaeological evaluation on land at the former County Farm, Church Field Road, Chilton confirmed the position of three medieval/post-medieval ditches, previously known from aerial photography and earlier programmes of evaluation and excavation in the adjacent fields. A single pit containing fragments of an early Anglo-Saxon ceramic vessel, possibly a crucible, was an isolated feature but suggests a phase of industrial activity in the vicinity.












There was no indication for any activity extending this far westwards from the substantial Late Bronze/Early Iron Age ditched enclosure (CHT 009/015) c.200m to the east.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of development on 1.38ha of land at the former County Farm, Church Field Road, Chilton, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, the NHS Suffolk.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies in the parish of Chilton, on the outskirts of modern Sudbury, at a height of 63m AOD, and consists of the western corner of a former arable field, now semi-managed grassland or scrub. The site is relatively flat, on an area of high ground overlooking the valley of the River Stour which lies 1.5km to south and west. Approximately 80m to the east ground-levels descend into a shallow valley aligned SW-NE. The site geology consists of deep, well drained, fine loam/ clay soils over chalky till.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The archaeological condition was placed as the site lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER. Extensive archaeological work has previously been carried out to the east of the site (Fig. 1) and the potential of the area has been highlighted in both a recent desk-based assessment (DBA) for the site itself (Thompson 2011) and two DBA's for the field as a whole (Abbott 1996a), and the part of the field immediately to the east (Craven 2009).

In summary a fieldwalking and auger survey of the majority of the field, and partially overlapping the current site, identified a scatter of burnt and worked flints, two sherds of prehistoric pottery, a thin scatter of abraded medieval pottery and assorted metalwork (Abbot 1996b). Trial trench evaluation (CHT 009, Abbott 1996c and 1996d), one of which extended into the site, then identified a series of field boundary/drainage ditches

containing medieval pottery, several of which related to a potential trackway and field ditches, CHT 010, previously identified in aerial photography, running north-west to south-east across the field towards St Mary's Church and Chilton Grange (Fig. 2). The western end of this trackway runs across the north part of the current site and one of the three single linear features which extend south-west from the trackway also crosses the current site.

Approximately 200m to the south-east of the site, the evaluation and two subsequent phases of excavation, CHT 009 (Abbot 1998) and CHT 015 (Craven in prep), identified a substantial Late Bronze/Early Iron Age ditched enclosure measuring c.250m by 120m. Two entrances were seen through the north-western arm of the ditch with a trackway, complete with wheel ruts, running through the northern of the two and then heading towards the current site. A range of postholes indicated distinct linear structures or buildings including up to four round houses, other rectangular structures, eight possible four-poster buildings and other miscellaneous post-alignments. Other features consisted of possible rubbish or grain drying and storage pits. Of particular interest were three further four-poster buildings lying outside of the enclosure ditch, demonstrating that settlement activity was not confined to within the enclosure itself.

The medieval trackway, CHT 010, was clearly identified running across the enclosure with the southern of the ditches likely to have survived into the 19th century where it was noted on the 1840 tithe map as a field boundary (Craven 2009).

The site's recent history has seen it as an open field to the north of modern Sudbury, 1.5km from the historic town core. The DBA highlighted that the north and west part of the site was occupied by the buildings of County Farm in the early/mid 20th century. With the expansion of Sudbury in the late 20th century, in the form of a modern industrial estate and Church Field Road immediately to the south of the site, the general area has been allocated for development and the whole field, including the CHT 009 site, has not been in use for at least the past decade, perhaps since the demolition of County Farm.

The proposed development of the site therefore had high potential to disturb or destroy evidence of prehistoric or medieval occupation and the archaeological evaluation was required to ascertain whether such deposits were present.

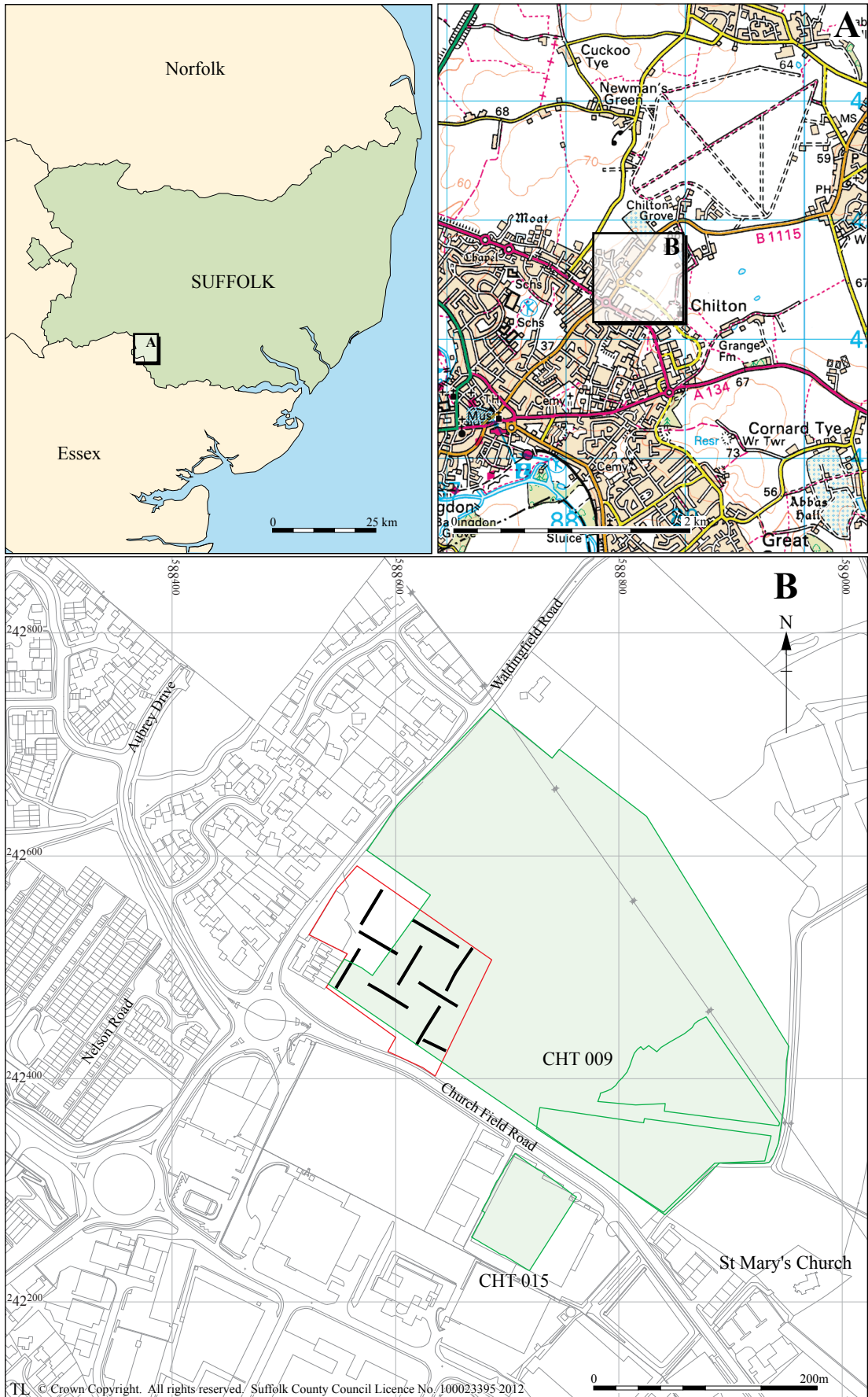


Figure 1. Location plan, showing development area (red), trenches (black) and HER entries mentioned in the text (green).

4. Methodology

Ten trenches, measuring 390m in total length and 1.8m wide, or 5% of the total 1.38ha site, were excavated across the proposed development area by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels (Fig. 2). Trenches were marked out by an RTK GPS.

Where required the trench was hand-cleaned, and several potential features investigated by hand. Trench and spoilheaps were metal-detected and scanned for artefactual material.

The trenches were recorded by RTK GPS, as were feature and section positions and site levels. Hand drawn plans at a scale of 1:50, and sections at 1:20, were recorded on A3 pro-forma pregridded permatrace sheets. Digital colour photographs (300 dpi) were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form (Appendix 4) has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-119449) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under Suffolk HER No. CHT 021.

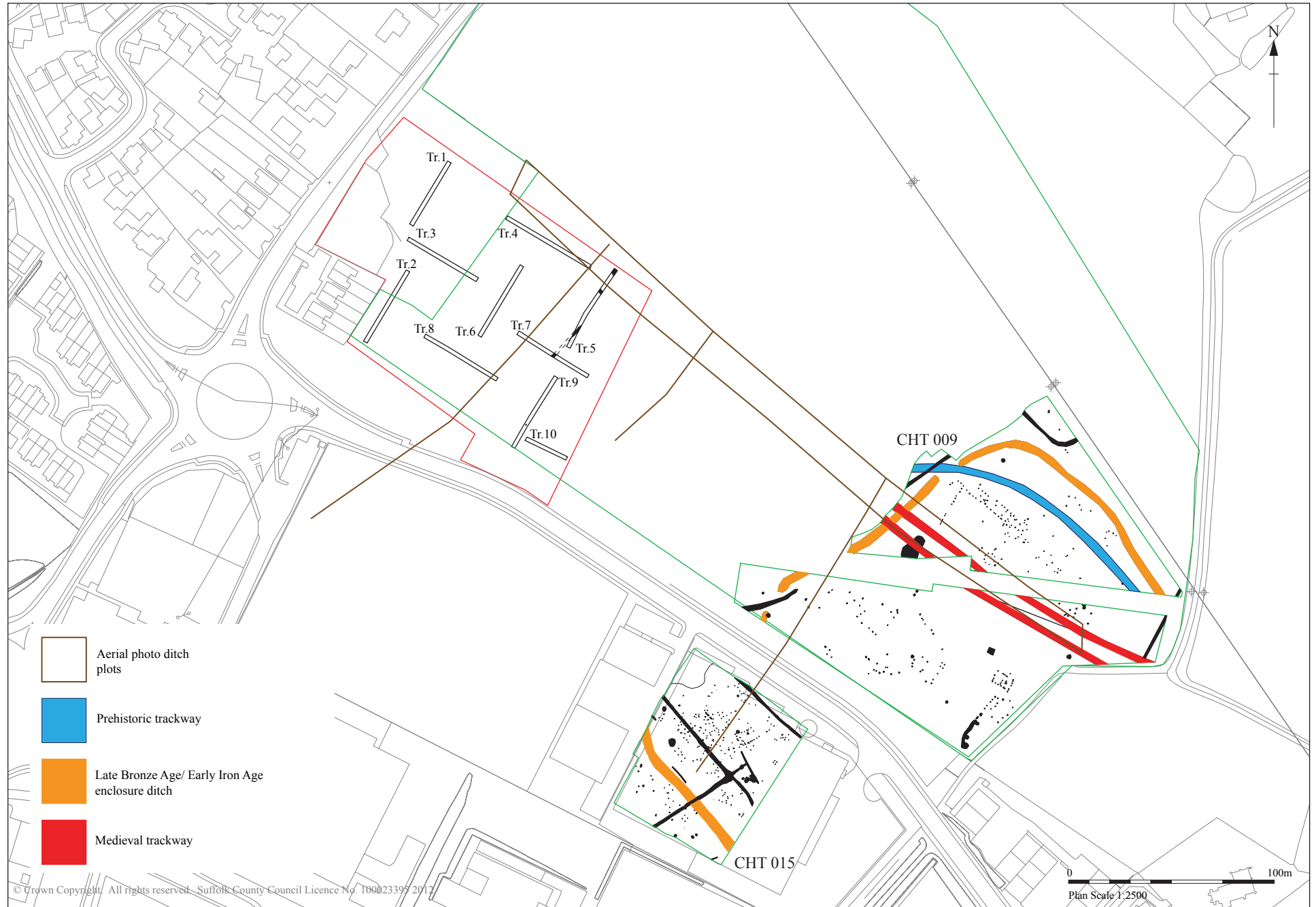


Figure 2. Trench plan, including CHT 009 and CHT 015 features and position of CHT 010 Cropmarks

5. Results

5.1. Introduction

The trenching showed a relatively uniform soil profile across the site with 0.m-04m of topsoil directly overlying the natural subsoil (Appendix 2). Topsoil in most of the eastern trenches was heavily mixed with demolition rubble from the former farm buildings and there were occasional, but substantial areas of deeper disturbance. Archaeological features, relating to two periods of activity, were identified in three trenches (Figs. 3-5).

5.2. Phase I: Prehistoric

Two residual pieces of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint were recovered from the fill of an early Anglo-Saxon pit, 0010 (see below). This feature also contained eighty-seven small abraded fragments of a possibly redeposited vessel which could be Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon in date, plus a small quantity of cremated, possibly human, bone which was recovered during processing of soil sample 01.

5.3. Phase II: Early Anglo-Saxon (5th-7th century)

A single oval pit, 0010, was identified in Trench 09. Aligned N-S it had a vertical southern side and a possibly disturbed or irregular/stepped northern side together with an irregular base. Its fill, 0011, was a firm, mid/dark brown/grey clay, becoming darker/black at base with abundant charcoal. Occasional flecks of burnt clay, and rare chalk nodules and flecks were also present. During fieldwork twenty-four sherds of pottery from a single early Anglo-Saxon vessel were collected from the fill, which was 100% excavated and kept as soil sample 01. Processing of the sample retrieved a further fifty-eight sherds of the vessel.

5.4. Phase III: Medieval/post-medieval

Four sections of ditch were observed in Trenches 05 and 07. Two parallel ditches, 0001 and 0003, seen in the northern part of Trench 05, were aligned NW-SE. The upper fills of both were very hard to distinguish from the surrounding natural subsoil and so were overmachined by c.0.5m before hand excavated slots were placed across each one. The width of each was hard to determine but was probably c.3m and both had moderate

sloping sides. The base of 0001 was 1.3m below ground level while the base of 0004 was at least 1.2m below groundlevel. A modern land drain running along the centre and top of 0001 shows that it may still have been a recognised feature in the late 19th/20th century even if largely infilled and not shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey.

Ditch 0001 was infilled with 0002, a firm mid grey, slightly orange, silt/sand clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. This overlaid a thin deposit of pale grey/orange sandy clay with common charcoal flecks, 0005, that lay slumped over the sloping sides. A single piece of residual Roman CBM, together with five pieces of post-medieval roof-tile and a large iron fragment were collected from 0002.

Ditch 0003 was infilled with 0004, a mid orange/brown silty clay with intermittent chalk flecks and rare stones, from which two sherds of 12th-14th century medieval pottery were collected.

A third ditch, 0006, was seen crossing the southern part of Trench 05 on a SW-NE alignment. After the collection of two post-medieval CBM fragments from its surface (0007) this was left unexcavated as the ditch was also visible in Trench 07, here numbered as 0008, where a slot was excavated. Again the surface of the ditch was very hard to distinguish from the natural subsoil but seemed to be c.2m wide with moderate sloping sides. The base was not seen but was at least 1.2m below groundlevel. Its fill, a mid orange/brown clay/silt with occasional chalk flecks and stones, was numbered as 0006 in Trench 05 and 0009 in cut 0008. Finds recovered from 0009 consisted of residual Roman material, a single sherd of pottery and fragment of roof tile.

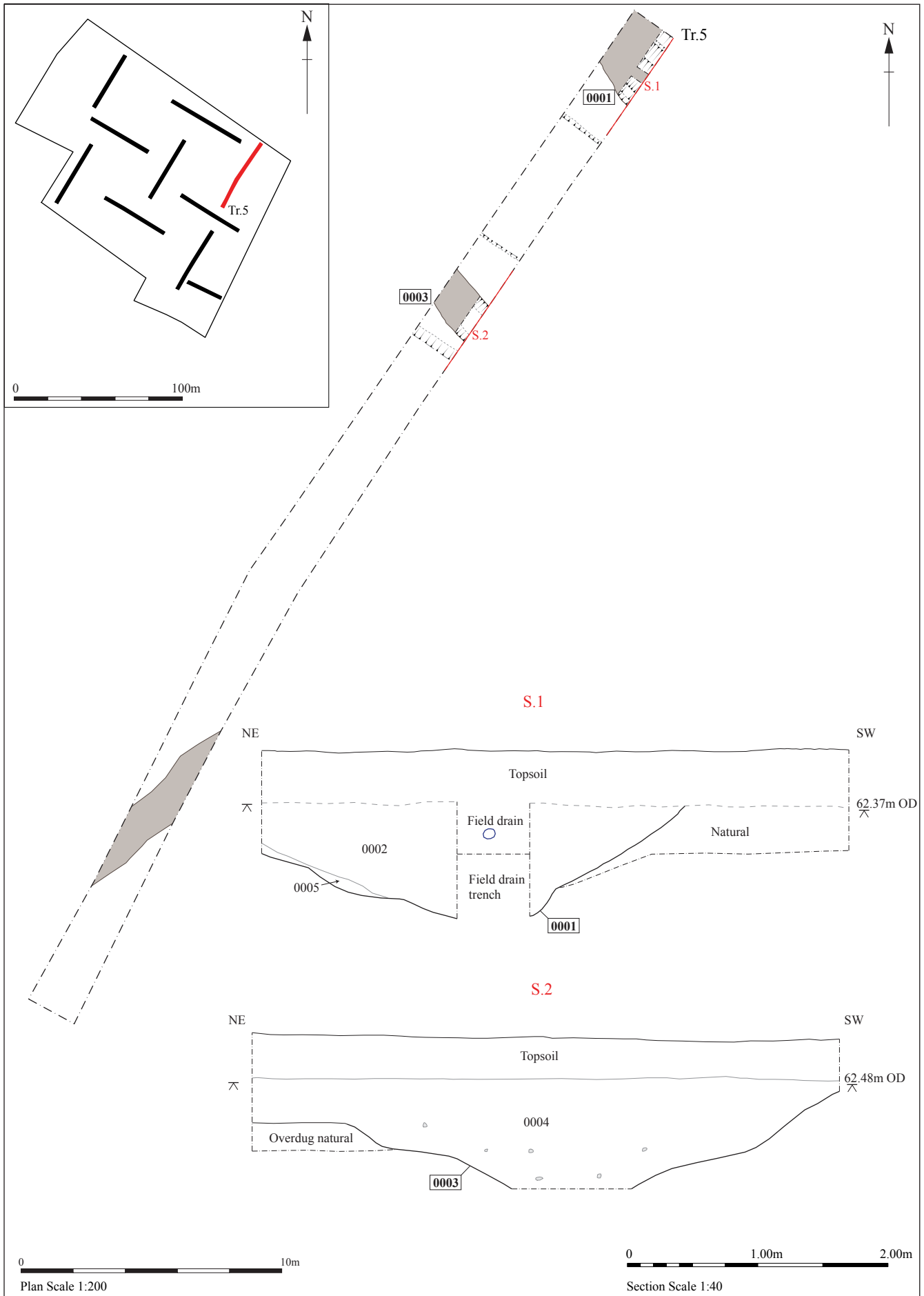


Figure 3. Trench 5, plan and sections

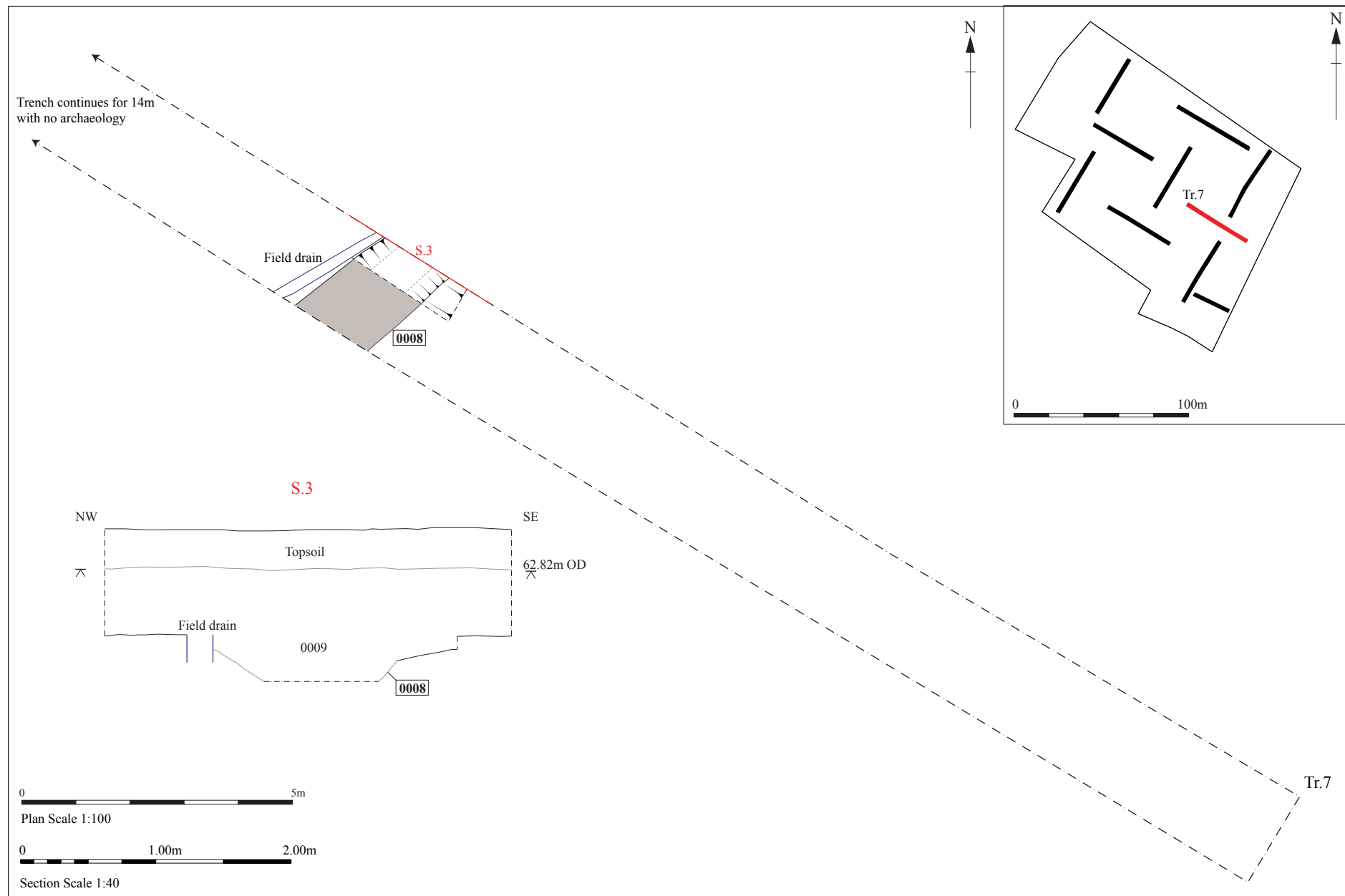


Figure 4. Trench 7, plan and section

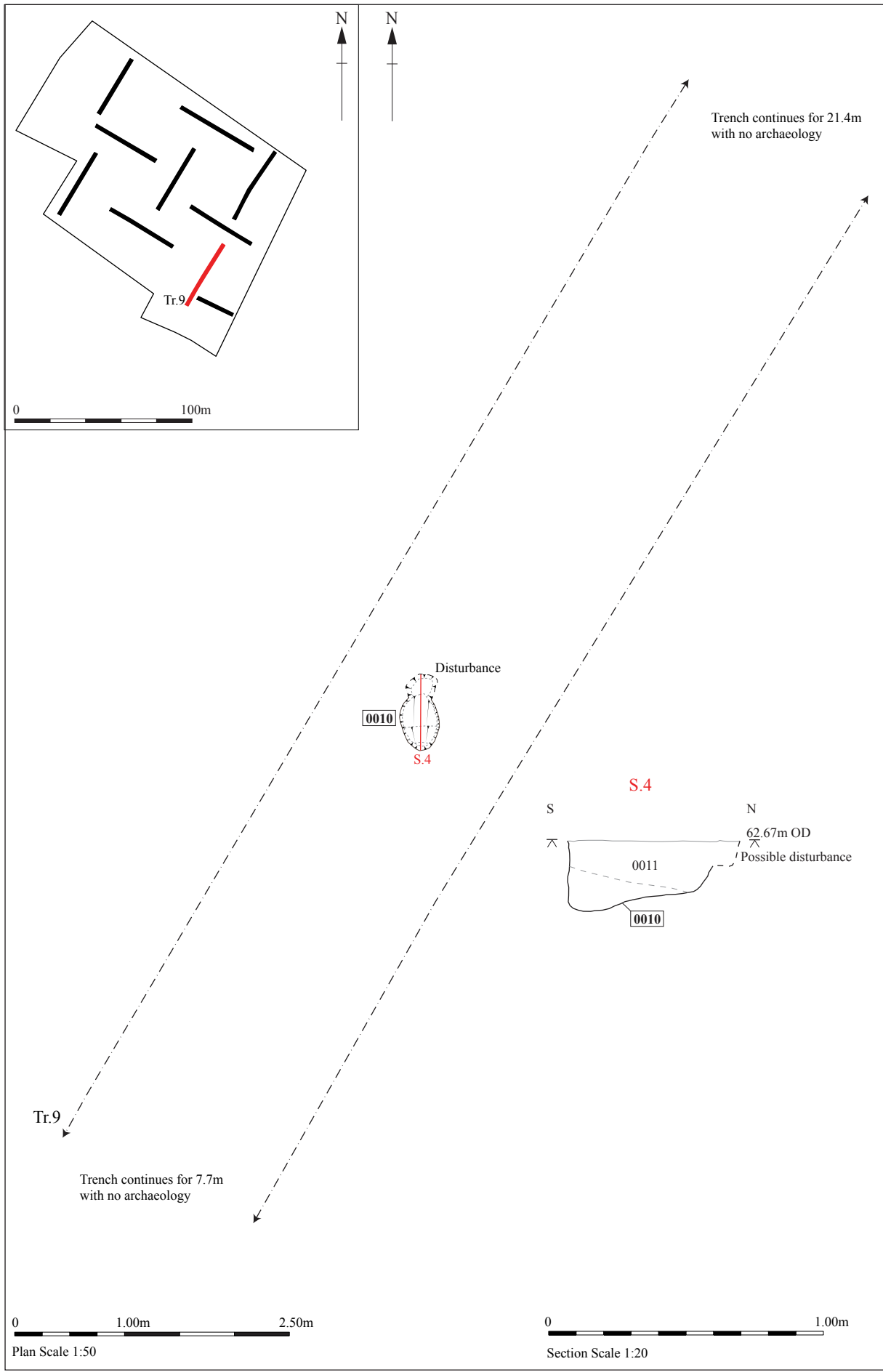


Figure 5. Trench 9, plan and section

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1. Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected from the evaluation. The finds were retrieved from four ditch fills and one pit fill.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Worked flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0002 (Tr.5)			6	26					Iron 1 @ 1509g, A bone 3 @ 34g	Post-med
0004 (Tr.5)	2	25								
0007 (Tr.5)			2	13					Burnt flint 31 @ 63g, Crem bone 8g	L12th- 14th C ?Post- med Roman 5th-7th C
0009 (Tr.6)	1	3	1	72						
0011 (Tr.9)	169	379			6	11	2	18		
Total	172	407	9	111	6	11	2	18		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2. The Pottery

6.2.1 Introduction

As Table 1 indicates 172 sherds of pottery with a weight of 407g were recorded in three separate contexts in three different trenches. Four periods are represented, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval. The condition of the pottery may be described as variable. The sherds from ditch fills 0004 and 0009 are abraded whereas those recorded in pit fill 0011, although fragmented, are in a good state of preservation.

6.2.2 Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined x20 vision and divided into fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the SCCAS fabric series. All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

6.2.3 Roman

A single abraded body sherd of Roman pottery was noted in ditch fill 0009 (Tr.6). This

is a grey micaceous ware (GMG) in a finer version of the fabric. It consists of abundant fairly well-sorted quartz alongside silver mica and common black iron ore. The fabric is long-lived in Suffolk and without the presence of a rim, the sherd can only be dated to the Roman period as whole.

6.2.4 Early Anglo-Saxon

Sue Anderson

Twenty-four sherds of pottery weighing 218g were collected during fieldwork from pit fill 0011 (Tr.9). The sherds appear to form part of a single vessel in a coarsely tempered reduced fabric which contains large lumps of granite and possibly schist. The vessel is incomplete and only a few sherds join, but the profile appears to be that of a shallow bowl or dish with a plain upright rim and flat base. The base diameter is c.120mm. The external surfaces are pale grey and crazed, suggesting that the vessel has been subjected to higher temperatures than would normally be expected in preliminary firing. However it is not vitrified and there are no traces of an internal deposit which might indicate its use as a metal crucible – whilst it may have been used for this purpose, there is no residue evidence which can be used to confirm it.

The use of coarse tempering does suggest that the vessel was intended to be subjected to higher than usual temperatures, as the inclusion of large pieces of stone can aid in preventing the vessel from cracking due to thermal shock.

The use of granite as a pottery temper is a wholly Early Anglo-Saxon practice in East Anglia, although in other parts of the country it was used in the prehistoric and later periods (particularly in Scotland, Cornwall and other areas with naturally occurring granite). It is debatable whether the granite was sourced from the local boulder clay, or whether the vessels themselves were traded from the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire, but the former appears more likely from recent work on other Early Anglo-Saxon assemblages. Assuming that the vessel is not an import, the fabric, if not the form, indicates a date in the 5th–7th centuries.

Pottery from Sample 1

A further 145 sherds (161g) of pottery were retrieved from Sample 1, after completion of

the pottery report above. Fifty-eight of these sherds (90g) belong to the same Early Anglo-Saxon vessel, with the assemblage including several more rim and base sherds. The remaining eighty-seven sherds (71g) belong to at least one other vessel. The condition of these pieces is very different to that of the granite-tempered pottery. They are very small and display varying degrees of abrasion. No diagnostic pieces such as rims or bases are present within the assemblage. It should also be noted that some of the smaller elements may well be fragments of fired clay, but nevertheless the larger sherds clearly demonstrate the presence of hand-made pottery in a medium sandy fabric (HMS). In the absence of any rim sherds, the fabric alone indicates either an Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon date. The granite-tempered fabric (present within the same context) is dated from the 5th to 7th century but in view of the condition and size of the hand-made sandy ware, an Iron Age date for this pottery cannot be completely ruled out.

6.2.5 Medieval

Two joining and slightly abraded body sherds of Hedingham ware were recorded in ditch fill 0004 (Tr.5). The sherds are covered in an olive green glaze and exhibit three ring and dot motifs. The fabric is grey with a thin orange interior. The mineral suite is dominated by dense quartz alongside, common pin size voids and sparse red iron rich ?clay pellets. The fabric is dated from the mid 12th to mid 13th century.

6.3. Ceramic building materials (CBM)

Fragments of CBM were noted in three contexts. Ditch fill 0002 (Tr.5) contained six small fragments (26g). Five of these are fragments of post-medieval roof tile in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe). The remaining piece is a very degraded fragment of Roman roof tile. It is oxidised with a thin grey core and is in a fine fabric with clay pellets (fscp). None of the surfaces are intact.

Two considerably abraded roof tile fragments were recorded in ditch fill 0007. They are both oxidised and in a medium sandy fabric (ms) one of which contains clay pellets (mscp). Their condition makes them difficult to date accurately, however both are possibly post-medieval.

A single fragment of Roman roof tile was retrieved from ditch fill 0009. The tile is bright

orange and has a thin grey core with pink margins. Its fabric is medium sandy with abundant clay pellets and smaller common black iron ore (mscp). The tile fragment has a depth of 14mm. A single abraded Roman pottery sherd is also present within the context.

6.4. Fired clay

All of the fired clay fragments were recorded in pit fill 0011, which is dated from the 5th to 7th century. The pieces are very small (with an average weight of 1.83g) and highly abraded. They are all medium sandy (ms), however one contains brown grog (msg) inclusions and two flint (msf). The fragments are too small and abraded to provide any information on their possible function.

6.5. Worked flint

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Two fragments of residual worked flint were recorded in pit fill 0010 (dated from the 5th to 7th century). The first flint is an unpatinated thin flake with limited edge retouch/use wear. It also exhibits parallel flake scars on the dorsal face and it is hard hammer struck. The second piece is also unpatinated and is a thin squat flake. It has a hinge fracture, parallel flake scars on the dorsal face and is hard hammer struck. Both of the flints are dated from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age, but are possibly no later than the Early Bronze Age.

6.6. Burnt flint

A small quantity of burnt flint was retrieved from Sample 1, from pit fill 0011 (31 frags @ 63g). The colour of the flint ranges from orange to pink and red and is likely to represent a fire event of some kind, either natural or by human design.

6.7. Iron

A large fragment of an iron plough blade was recorded in ditch fill 0002. The iron is still in a reasonable state of preservation. The surfaces display only a thin layer of corrosion products, which indicates a relatively later post-medieval or modern date. Post-

medieval roof tile is also present within the fill.

6.8. Faunal Remains

Two degraded cow molars were recorded in ditch fill 0002 (Tr.5). Other finds within the context are dated to the post-medieval period.

6.9. Cremated bone

A very small quantity of calcined bone was recovered from Sample 1 (pit fill 0011), which is likely to be cremated human bone. The bone will need to be formally identified and if there are fragments of an adequate size these will require radiocarbon dating at the next stage of analysis. Pottery dated from the 5th to 7th century is also present within the fill.

6.10. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

6.10.1 Introduction and methods

A single sample was taken for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages from pit 0010 (context 0011).

Initially thirty litres of the forty litre sample were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts were noted in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to A New Illustrated British Flora (Butcher 1961) and the author's own reference collection.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

6.10.2 Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

6.10.3 Results

SS No	Ctxt No	Feature no	Feature type	Approximate date of deposit	Flot Contents
SS 1	0011	0010	Pit	5th – 7th Century	Charcoal ++, charred seeds # and un-charred weed seeds #, fragmented insect remains #, snail shells #

Table 2. Sample processing results

The presence of charred and uncharred seeds within this sample is very rare. The preservation of the seeds is by charring and is generally fair to poor. Charred weed seeds were very rare but consist of *Leguminosae (Fabaceae)* and *Gramineae (Poaceae)* species. Uncharred weed seeds were equally rare and consisted of *Caryophyllaceae* and *Chenopodiaceae* endocarps. Charcoal was frequent at 0-5 mm and common at 5-10mm. A high density of modern fibrous roots was also present in the flot material. No cereals or chaff were identified within this sample.

6.10.4 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the quantity of plant macrofossils from this single sample are relatively low. However the presence of the 5th-7th century pottery from within this pit fill, especially in conjunction with the cremated bone recovered from the sample residue, makes further analysis of the plant macrofossils from this sample of interest. Charcoal is common in

the sample and it may be possible in the future to obtain radiocarbon dates from charcoal for any deposits that remain undated.

If further excavation is planned, it is recommended that the remaining material from this evaluation is processed to include with any further samples taken during the excavation. It is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples are taken from dated contexts during the excavation, particularly with a view to identify any industrial activity that may be suggested by the presence of a possible crucible type vessel in context 0011. It is recommended that any further samples taken along with the flot remains from the evaluation are processed and submitted to an archaeobotanist for full species identification and interpretation.

7. Discussion

John Craven and Andy Fawcett

The majority of the trenching showed a complete absence of archaeological deposits, implying the site lies beyond the edge of the settlement associated with the CHT 009/015 prehistoric enclosure, or the medieval settlement centered around St Martin's Church.

With ploughsoil directly overlying the clay natural subsoil there has clearly been some truncation, although the level of this is unclear, which may have removed any shallow archaeological deposits. However similar soil profiles at CHT 009 and CHT 015 sealed numerous shallow features of prehistoric date, indicating that the lack of features on the site is due to a genuine absence of activity. As a result the occasional deeper areas of modern disturbance caused by the County Farm buildings on the western side of the site are unlikely to have had any effect on archaeological deposits.

The few prehistoric and Roman finds all appear to be residual within later features. The Roman finds, which are in a poor state of preservation may have originated from the known areas of activity to the east.

The probable early Anglo-Saxon pit, 0010, is of particular interest. The ceramic vessel at least in terms of its fabric, is an unusual find. Its construction and subsequent heat-affected nature all suggest some form of industrial activity on this area of the site in the early Anglo-Saxon period and three of the four sample buckets taken from the pit fill, revealed a high level of charcoal within the feature. However a small quantity of cremated bone (which is possibly human), burnt flint as well as the fragmented remains of another vessel was also identified in the sample and complicate the interpretation of the pit. The condition of the second vessel and the very small quantity of bone may indicate the presence of a redeposited cremation urn but it is undated and could be early Anglo-Saxon, or contemporary with the CHT 009/015 Iron Age enclosure.

The pit, if early Anglo-Saxon, is an isolated feature, there being no evidence for contemporary activity in the wider area, and so questions concerning the reason for its presence and extent of any other contemporary deposits remain unexplained.

Ditches 0001 and 0003, allowing for a slight error margin in the plotting from aerial photographs which corresponds to the situation seen at CHT 009, clearly relate to the medieval CHT 010 trackway, and 0006/0008 the ditch extending south-west from it (Fig. 3). All of these ditches are assumed to have originated in the medieval period, although the medieval pottery is again in a state of poor preservation. Ditches 0001 and 0003 are shown on a 1597 survey of the Manor of Chilton (British Library Ref: Add MS 70953) which clearly shows the trackway running south-east to north-west from Grange Farm, past St Mary's Church and across to Waldringfield Road, while 0006/0008 also appears to be shown as a substantial boundary. All of these ditches probably remained in use into the post-medieval period and, although not shown on the 1st or 2nd Edition Ordnance survey maps, ditch 0001 at least may have been partially open into the modern period, as a boundary in roughly the same position is again shown on Ordnance Survey maps in the early 20th century (Thompson 2011).

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Archaeological deposits have been identified at a relatively shallow depth, c.0.3m-0.4m below groundlevel, and it is thought that they will be heavily disturbed or destroyed by the proposed development.

However of the five features, four are ditches which clearly relate to the medieval/post-medieval track and field system which has already been identified. As the evaluation has confirmed the presence, exact position and date of these features no further work is thought necessary to mitigate the impact of development.

The final feature, pit 0010 in Trench 09 is of interest however and further work to clarify whether it is indeed an isolated feature or part of a hitherto unknown area of early Anglo-Saxon industrial activity is recommended, perhaps by a small-scale excavation or 'strip and map' exercise of a c.40m² area centered upon it (Fig. 6) or perhaps as monitoring of groundworks for the site access roads in this area.

Several outstanding issues relating to pit fill 0011 will also need to be addressed at a further stage of analysis with a view to establishing its date and function. These include a more detailed investigation of the early Anglo-Saxon pottery, in terms of form, and a search for parallels in Anglo-Saxon and other pottery assemblages to identify the function of the vessel. It is also recommended that the vessel should be drawn and, if possible, further analysis of the vessel fabric should be undertaken through thin-sectioning or ICP-MS analysis to establish a likely source for the inclusions. Exact dating of the pottery using the new rehydroxylation method may also be of value when this service becomes commercially available.

The remaining sample bucket taken from pit fill 0011 needs to be processed, and any subsequent finds recorded and identified. Equally a more detailed analysis of the plant macrofossils will also need to be undertaken. A formal identification of the cremated bone, as well as radiocarbon dates from both the charcoal, and if possible the cremated bone, will also be required.

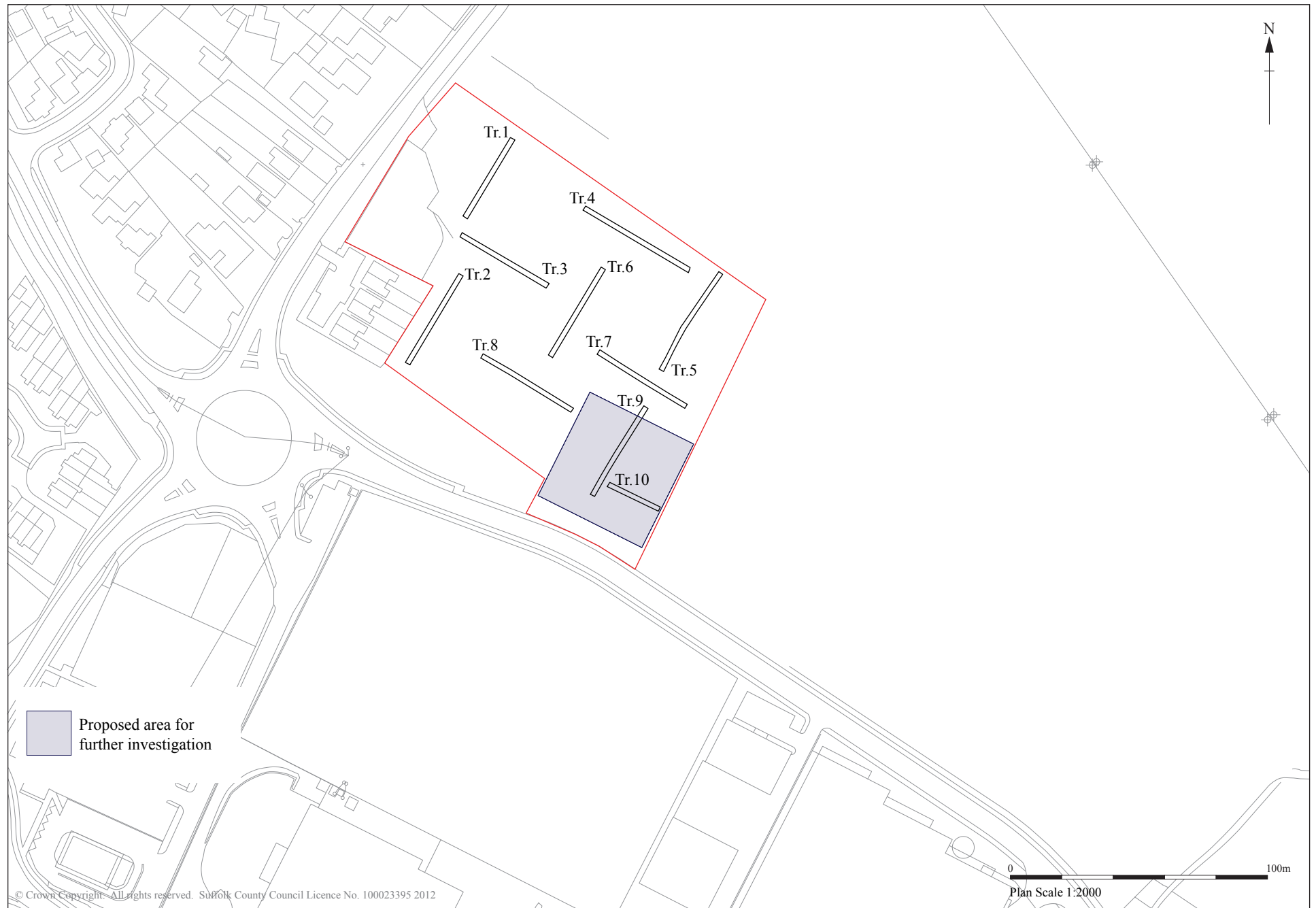


Figure 6. Plan showing the proposed area for further excavation

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Archive store, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Digital archive: SCCAS archive. Chilton parish folder.

Finds Archive: SCCAS Archive store. Parish box H/80/1

10. Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks, Simon Cass and John Craven. The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and environmental sample processing by Anna West. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett with contributions from Sue Anderson (CFA Archaeology Ltd), Colin Pendleton (SCCAS/CT) and Anna West. The report was produced by John Craven and edited by Richenda Goffin.

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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification



The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

LAND AT COUNTY FARM, CHURCH FIELD ROAD/WALDINGFIELD ROAD, CHILTON

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Babergh District Council
PLANNING CONSENT NUMBER:	B/11/00830/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 886 424
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of a new community health centre
AREA:	1.42 ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Undeveloped semi managed grassland
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Edward Martin Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741229 E-mail: edward.martin@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	6 January 2012

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 14) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place within the area indicated (the whole site) until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched

Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (**including the need for any further work following this evaluation**), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (dated June 2011) has shown that there is a high potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval deposits and features in the development area. In particular, the site lies approximately 150m to the north-west of an important ditched enclosure of later bronze Age/early Iron Age date (Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. CHT 009). A trackway from this enclosure heads in the direction of the development site. The site also lies approximately 400m to the west of the medieval and Tudor manorial complex of Chilton Hall (Suffolk HER no. CHT 001). A medieval trackway heads from this towards the development site.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - **Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.**
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.1.42 ha. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this

should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.

- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1.

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.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Appendix 2. Trench list

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Topsoil Depth	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary
01	36m	NE-SW	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Trench across area of former County Farm buildings. Mix of modern soil and intensive demolition rubble directly overlaid natural subsoil. Southern 8m disturbed to a greater depth and modern deposits left in situ.	None.
02	40m	NE-SW	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil.	None.
03	39m	NW-SE	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.4m-0.5m	0.4m-0.5m	Modern soil and demolition rubble directly over natural subsoil through majority of trench. In eastern 7m the modern material ends and subsoil rises to lie under 0.3m-0.4m of ploughsoil.	None.
04	47m	NW-SE	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Western 25m heavily modern disturbance. Natural subsoil occasionally seen at 0.4m depth. In eastern 20m the subsoil lay under 0.3m-0.4m of ploughsoil.	None.
05	45m	NE-SW	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil apart from where crossed by the three ditches, each of which appeared to widen considerably at top and may have merged into a general intermediate silt/clay layer.	Ditches 0001, 0003 and 0006.
06	40m	NE-SW	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Modern topsoil over natural subsoil, mixed with demolition rubble in northern 4m.	None.
07	40m	NW-SE	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m-0.4m	0.3m-0.4m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil.	Ditch 0008
08	41m	NW-SE	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m	0.3m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil.	None.
09	40m	NE-SW	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m	0.3m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil.	Pit 0010
10	22m	NW-SE	Mid orange/brown clay.	0.3m	0.3m	Ploughsoil directly over natural subsoil.	None.

Appendix 3. Context List

Context No	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Period
0001	0001	05	Ditch cut	Linear ditch, aligned SE-NW. Moderate concave sides and base.		2.85m	0.75m		
0002	0001	05	Ditch fill	Mid slightly orange grey silt/sand clay. Firm with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Upper fill.				Main ditch fill, disturbed by two field drains.	P/Med
0003	0003	05	Ditch cut	Linear ditch, aligned NW-SE. Gently sloping stepped sides. Base not seen.		3.5m+	1.2m+	Part of trackway with 0001?	
0004	0003	05	Ditch fill	Mid orange/brown silty clay with intermittent chalk flecks and rare stones.					Med-P/Med
0005	0001	05	Ditch cut	Pale grey/orange sandy clay. Firm with common charcoal flecks. Basal fill.					
0006	0006	05	Ditch cut	Ditch aligned SW-NE.		1.6m		Same as 0008.	
0007	0006	05	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0006. Surface finds collected?					P/Med
0008	0008	07	Ditch cut	Ditch, aligned SW-NE. Moderate sloping sides, base not seen.		1.8m	0.4m+	Same as 0006.	
0009	0008	07	Ditch fill						P/Med
0010	0010	09	Pit cut	Oval pit, aligned N-S. Vertical side to south, north side possibly disturbed or irregular/stepped. Irregular base.	0.67m	0.34m	0.26m	Possibly a posthole but irregular base and burnt fill suggests a pit. Possibly disturbed on northern edge.	
0011	0010	09	Pit fill	Mid/dark brown/grey firm clay, becoming darker/black at base. Abundant charcoal especially towards base. Occasional CBM/burnt clay, rare chalk nodules and flecks.					Early A/S

Appendix 4: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-119449

Project details

Project name	CHT 021 Land at County Farm, Churchfield Road, Chilton
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation on land at the former County Farm, Church Field Road, Chilton confirmed the position of three medieval/post-medieval ditches, previously known from aerial photography and earlier programmes of evaluation and excavation in the adjacent fields. A single pit containing fragments of an early Anglo-Saxon ceramic vessel, possibly a crucible, was an isolated feature but suggests a phase of industrial activity in the vicinity. There was no indication for any activity extending this far westwards from the substantial Late Bronze/Early Iron Age ditched enclosure (CHT 009/015) c.200m to the east.
Project dates	Start: 27-02-2012 End: 15-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CHT 010 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHT 021 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CHT 021 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	B/11/00830/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH CHILTON CHT 021 Land at County Farm, Churchfield Road, Chilton
Study area	1.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 886 424 52.0473646833 0.750677301251 52 02 50 N 000 45 02 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 62.00m Max: 64.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	John Craven
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	NHS Suffolk

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones'
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Human Bones'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at County Farm, Church Field Road, Chilton, CHT 021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Craven, J. A.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS Report No. 2012/029
Date	2012

Issuer or publisher SCCAS
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Description SCCAS evaluation reprot

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