

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Proposed Farm Reservoirs, Ash Road, Rendlesham

RLM 030 and 035

OASIS ID: suffolkc1 – 12041 and 12043

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS, 2005
(Planning app. nos. PN/05/0074 and C/05/1862/AG)

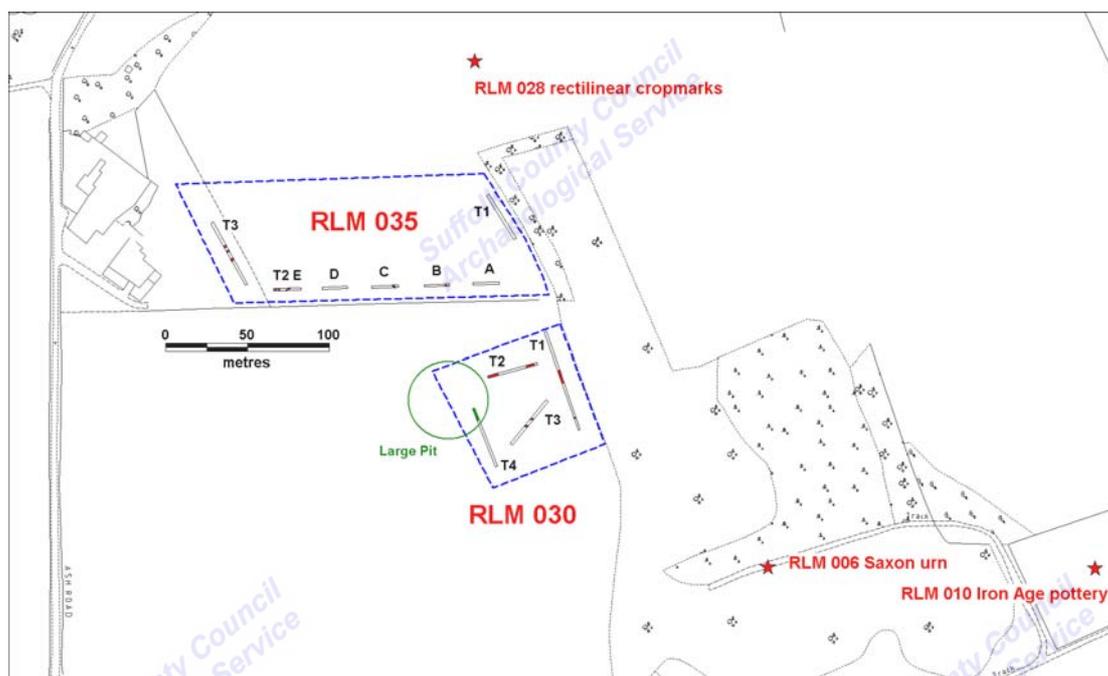


Figure 1: Showing site locations and nearby archaeological sites

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© January 2006

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Summary

Two areas off Ash road, Rendlesham have been investigated prior to the construction of a farm reservoir within the vicinity of a suspected Saxon cemetery. Iron Age pottery and an undated enclosure have also been recognised nearby. Hodkinson's map of 1783 indicates a lane running along the Eastern edge of both sites.

In the first area (RLM 030) pits were revealed of possible Roman, medieval and post-medieval / modern date. Several of the larger examples were probably for the extraction of clay; these contained both medieval and Roman pottery, but this material could be residual in later features. Medieval and post-medieval finds were found in two separate ditches; other ditches were undated.

In the second area (RLM 035), pottery of prehistoric (Later Bronze Age / Iron Age), Roman and medieval date was found in the deeply ploughed topsoil. Probable prehistoric ditches, a severely truncated Roman pit and other undated ditches were also recorded.

SMR information: RLM 030

Planning application no. PN/05/0074 (part OS 8350)
Date of fieldwork: 24th – 25th February 2005
Grid Reference: TM 3294 5360
Funding body: Naunton Hall Farms

SMR information: RLM 035

Planning application no. C/05/1862/AG (part OS 0005)
Date of fieldwork: 13th December 2005
Grid Reference: TM 3284 5369
Funding body: Naunton Hall Farms

1. Introduction

Two sites have been investigated in advance of the construction of a farm reservoir off Ash road, Rendlesham. The first reservoir site, RLM 030 (location: TM 3294 5360) was abandoned due to a large service pipe in the vicinity. A second reservoir site was proposed, RLM 035 (location: TM 3282 5369). This was in an area of standing crop and trenching had to be positioned around this. The final site for the reservoir is likely to be within the Eastern half of the RLM 035 area (according to Andy Rankin, Naunton Hall Farms).

As a condition of planning consent the site was investigated by archaeological trial trenching to establish if any archaeological deposits or finds were present (see Appendix 1: Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation).

A suspected Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies c.150m to the South-East (RLM 006), with finds of Iron Age pottery (RLM 010) and a rectilinear enclosure identified by cropmarks seen from aerial photographs (RLM 028) also identified within the area (see figure 1).

Hodkinson's map of 1783 indicates a lane running along the Eastern edge of the reservoir area (see figure 2). This might indicate the presence of a medieval lane and possible associated settlement along its line. The sites lie within c.400m of the Saxon and medieval core of Rendlesham village to the South-West.



Figure 2: Hodkinson map of 1783 showing a North to South running lane. The approximate locations of sites RLM 030 and 035 are indicated by red stars.

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2. Method

The initial, more Southerly, evaluation has been given the Sites and Monuments Record code RLM 030. The evaluation to the North was recorded as RLM 035.

Within each site the area to investigate had been marked out. In the case of site RLM 030 trenches were positioned to randomly sample the area. Trenching was more restricted for RLM 035, where trenches had to be positioned to avoid a standing crop.

Trenching was conducted using a 180° machine (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed separately by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits (sand with some clay) in the base of the trench. Any possible archaeological features could be seen at this level. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated. All separate deposits and features, archaeological or otherwise, were given O.P. (observable phenomena; sometimes referred to as context) numbers (listed in tables 2 & 5).

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

3. Reservoir Site 1: RLM 030

3.1 Excavation Results

Features of archaeological interest were encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (see figures 3, 4 and 5). Excavation appeared to indicate three separate phases of clay extraction pits, with features of Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern date targeted on clay deposits within the largely sand natural. A series of ditches were also revealed, one containing dating evidence of medieval date another belonging to the post-medieval period.

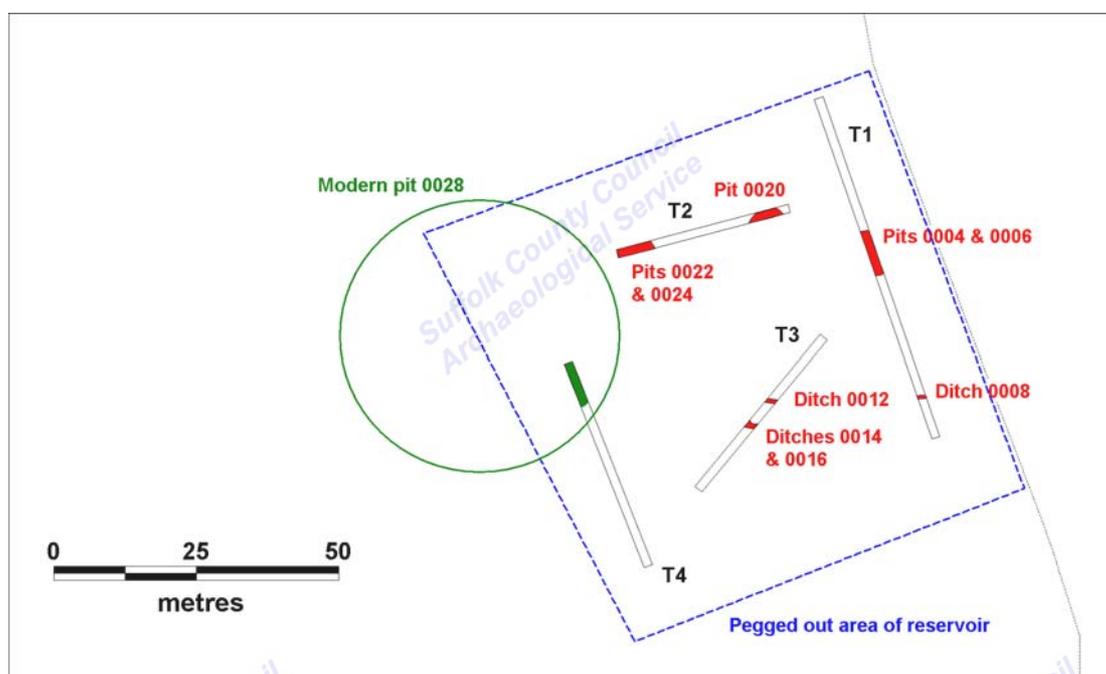


Figure 3: Site RLM 030 showing position of trenches and principal features

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In Trench 1 a small pit (0004) of possible Roman or medieval date was cut by a much larger feature (0006) containing medieval pottery. This pit was probably a quarry pit for clay extraction. At the south end of Trench 1 an East to West running ditch (0008) was of post-medieval date and probably continued as ditch 0012 in Trench 3. Two other undated ditches (0014 and 0016) appeared to form a T-junction within Trench 3 and could be contemporary with each other.

In Trench 2 two large pits (0020 and 0024) both contained Roman pottery and were probably for clay extraction. The possibly medieval North-East to South-West running ditch encountered towards the Western end of the trench could be the continuation of 0016 seen in Trench 3.

A very large feature of c.50m diameter appeared as a depression within the North-West corner of the site. This feature (0028) was partly encountered in Trench 4 and was machine excavated to a depth of 1.4m and was probably much deeper than this towards its centre. This feature is likely to be of late post-medieval or modern date. Again it appeared that an area of clay was being exploited and that this feature was a quarry.

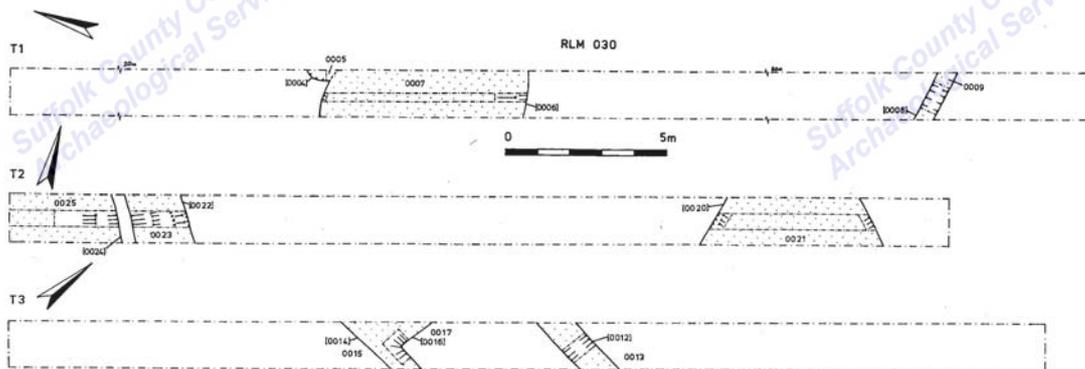


Figure 4: Site RLM 030 Trench plans

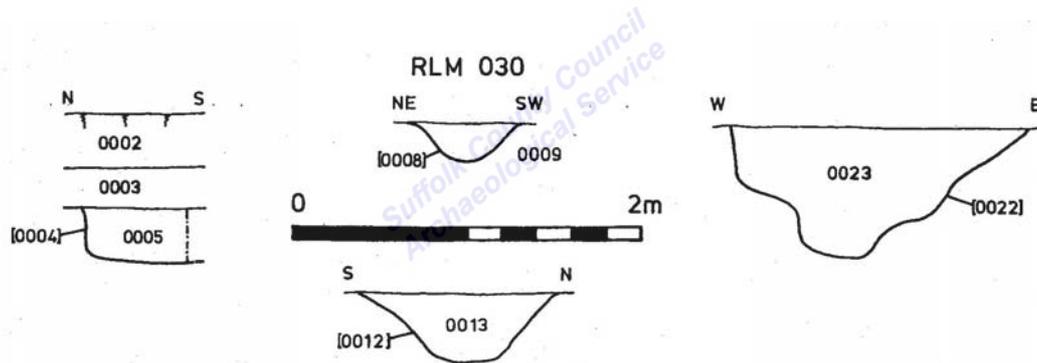


Figure 5: Site RLM 030 Feature sections

The following table summarises information on each of the four trenches, all trenches were 1.5m wide:

Trench No	Orientation	Length	Max. Depth	Notes
1	NNW-SSE	60m	700mm	Pits 0004 and 0006; ditch 0008
2	ENE-WSW	29m	500mm	Pits 0020 and 0024; ditch 0022
3	NE-SW	32m	700mm	Ditches 0012, 0014 and 0016
4	NNW-SSE	40.5m	550mm	Large pit / quarry 0028

Table 1: RLM 030 Trench descriptions.

Within each trench the following OP (observable phenomena) numbers were assigned:

Trench No.	OP	Context	Description	Finds
1	0001		Unstratified finds	
1	0002		Topsoil, dark brown sandy loam	Medieval? pottery; flint; burnt flint
1	0003		Subsoil, mid brown silty sand	
1	0004	0004	Small, steep-sided, flat-bottomed pit, partly revealed in trench cut by pit 0006. Depth 220mm, width c.1m min.	
1	0005	0004	Fill: mid brown clay sand	Roman / medieval? pottery
1	0006	0006	Large pit (?quarry) of c.6.2m width and sampled to a depth of 600mm. With vertical N edge and stepped S edge. Cuts the fill of 0004.	Medieval pottery
1	0007	0006	Fill: mid brown clay sand, occasional lumps of clay.	
1	0008	0008	E to W running ditch with open U-shaped profile with slightly convex sides. Depth 240mm and width 600mm. Same as 0012?	
1	0009	0008	Fill: mid / pale brown silty sand	Post-medieval tile, iron; flint flake
3	0010		Topsoil, dark brown loam with clay	
3	0011		Subsoil, mid brown clay sand	
3	0012	0012	E to W running ditch with open U-shaped profile, slightly convex sides and flat base. Depth 400mm and width 1.1m. Same as 0008?	
3	0013	0012	Fill: mid brown silty clay sand	
3	0014	0014	E to W running ditch, width 700mm. Forming T-junction with 0016, no cutting relationship noted.	
3	0015	0014	Fill: mid brown silty clay sand	
3	0016	0016	N to S running ditch, partly revealed in trench, forming T-junction with 0014. Min width c.1m.	
3	0017	0016	Fill: mid brown silty clay sand	
2	0018		Topsoil, dark brown sandy loam, 300mm	Medieval? pottery
2	0019		Topsoil, dark brown sandy loam, 200mm	
2	0020	0020	Large pit at least c.5.5m width, steep sides and sampled to a depth of c.600mm.	
2	0021	0020	Fill: mid brown silty clay	Roman? pottery
2	0022	0022	NW to SE running ditch with irregular stepped profile (?recut) but no obvious indication of recut in fill. Depth 760mm, width 1.7m	
2	0023	0022	Fill: mid brown orangy silty clay	Medieval? pottery
2	0024	0024	Large pit, at least 3.5m width and sampled to depth of 600mm.	
2	0025	0024	Fill: mid brown silty clay	Roman pottery

4	0026	Topsoil, clay loam, 300mm
4	0027	Subsoil, mid to pale yellow brown clay, 250 – 100mm.
4	0028	Large pit, probably ?modern quarry, machine excavated to 1.4m depth. Large depression in vicinity suggests it to be up to 50m in diameter.
4	0029	Fill: mid brown clay sand.

Table 2: Context descriptions.

3.2 The Finds: RLM 030

Richenda Goffin/Anna West 01/06 with flint identifications by Colin Pendleton

Introduction

Finds were collected from 8 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Flint		Burnt Flint		Tile		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	2	3	1	3	1	2				?Medieval
0005	2	2								Rom/med
0007	2	11								Medieval
0009			1	2			1	18	1 frag iron @ 0.009kg	P-med
0018	1	4	1	12						?Medieval
0021	3	20								?Roman
0023	1	1								?Medieval
0025	2	9								Roman
Total	13	50	3	17	1	2	1	18		

Table 3: Finds quantities

Pottery

Thirteen fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation in total (50g). The group includes some featureless and abraded coarsewares which are difficult to date, but other fragments are more diagnostic.

The rim of a Black Surfaced ware jar dating to the Roman period was present in pitfill 0025, together with a fragment of coarseware of indeterminate date. Three probable Roman sherds were present in pitfill 0021, including a flat base.

Three fragments of sandy coarseware found in topsoil deposits 0002 and 0018 are probably medieval. A sherd of an oxidised sandy ware with thumb impression from pitfill 0007 is a medieval Hollesley-type ware, accompanied by a small micaceous body sherd of indeterminate date. Three other grey coarsewares were recovered from ditchfill 0023 and pitfill 0005. The two sherds in the fill of ditch are made from fine fabrics and may be Roman.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of roof tile was recovered from ditchfill 0009. It is made from a hard dark red fabric with sparse flint and moderate small white inclusions, and is post-medieval.

Metalwork

A fragment of very corroded iron was present in ditchfill 0009.

Flint

Three fragments of worked flint were collected, two of which were found in topsoil deposits.

A slightly keeled long flake with edge retouch including a notch was present in 0018. It is unpatinated and is probably Neolithic or Bronze Age in date. A flake or blade from 0002 has slight wear on the edge, and parallel flake scars on the dorsal face. It is unpatinated, and probably dates to the Neolithic period.

The third flint is a thin but irregular flake found in ditchfill 0009. It has a hinge fracture and limited edge retouch/use wear. It is unpatinated and dates to the later prehistoric period.

Discussion

The small number of finds cover a wide date range from the Neolithic through to the medieval period. Roman pottery was present in two of the pitfills, but medieval pottery dating to the 13th-14th century was also identified. There was no indication of any finds dating to the Early Saxon period from the cemetery site nearby.

3.3 Conclusions

The site is positioned on predominantly natural sand geology containing occasional patches of clay. Intriguingly, it is these clay areas that have been so accurately targeted by quarry pits from possibly several different periods. Pottery of Roman, medieval and uncertain date was recovered from a number of features, the small number of sherds and their abraded state suggests that these finds might be residual in later features. The very large feature to the West of the site is likely to be modern in date.

One of the larger pits contained Roman sherds, with another large pit with possible Roman pottery and a smaller feature with pottery of either Roman or medieval date (0024, 0020 and 0004 respectively). It is possible, however, that the Roman material is residual in later features. A Roman feature and individual find spot have also been revealed in an adjacent area of RLM 035 to the north.

With a likely medieval lane running to the east of the site, as indicated by Hodkinson's map of 1783, clay pits might be positioned along its course, such as the 6.5m wide feature 0006. Ditch 0022 also could be of medieval date (which might continue as ditch 0014, seen in Trench 3). This ditch appears to run parallel with the present field boundary to the east, itself indicating the possible course of the Hodkinson lane. In Trench 3, the East to West running ditch 0014, although undated, could also be part of the medieval field boundary layout.

On a similar alignment and possibly superseding the earlier medieval system, the East to West running 0008 (and its probably continuation 0012) is dated by finds to the post-medieval period. The large pit 0028 could belong to this period, or more than likely to the modern era (after 1900). This feature could not be detected on the aerial photographs of 1945, but could be seen on those of 1971 and 1996. The scale and depth of this feature suggests the use of mechanical excavators.

4. Reservoir Site 2: RLM 035

4.1 Excavation Results

The arrangement of trenches was designed to avoid an area of standing crop and trenches were organised around three sides of a low hilltop (see figure 6 and Table 4 gives trench details). Trench 1 was positioned along the Eastern edge of the site. The Southern side of the area was investigated by Trench 2 which was divided into five segments each of approximately 15m each (Trench 2A – E). Trench 3 was positioned along the Western edge of the site. Trench plans and features are illustrated in figures 7 and 8, a full context description of all deposits features and finds is in Table 5.

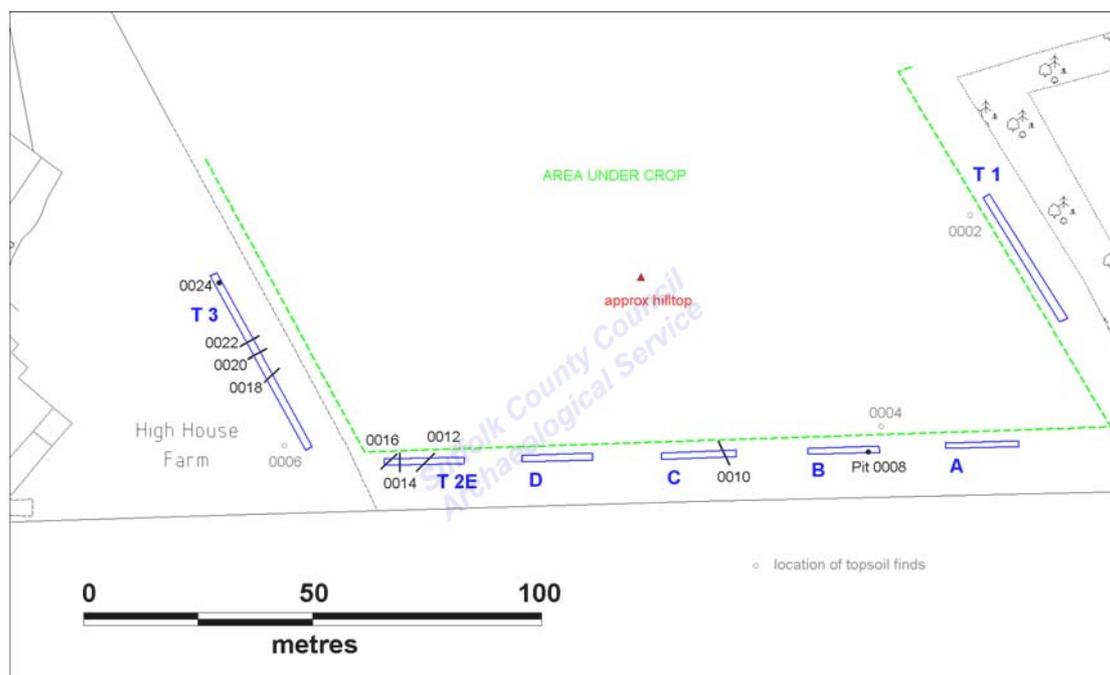


Figure 6: Site RLM 035 showing position of trenches and principal features

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Trench 1 revealed no archaeological features. A single findspot of medieval pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil adjacent to the trench (0002).

Trench 2A contained no archaeological features but 2B revealed a shallow pit of c.1.25m diameter (0008), containing Roman pottery. A nearby findspot (0004) was the location of a sherd of possible Roman pottery. Trench 2C revealed an undated North-West to South East running ditch.

No features were observed in Trench 2D, but three ditches were encountered in 2E. Ditches 0012 and 0016 were North-East to South-West running and were undated. Ditch 0014 was orientated North to South and contained a flint blade of prehistoric date.

A findspot of later prehistoric pottery was recovered from adjacent to the south end of Trench 3. This trench contained four features, three North-East to South-West running ditches (0018, 0020 and 0022) and a pit-like feature of probable natural origin (0024).

Ditch 0018 had a dark humic fill and is likely to be of fairly recent origin. On a slightly different alignment and running parallel with each other were the other two ditches, 2.5m apart. Ditch 0022 contained oyster shell fragments and ditch 0020 contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age) from its pale, leached fill.

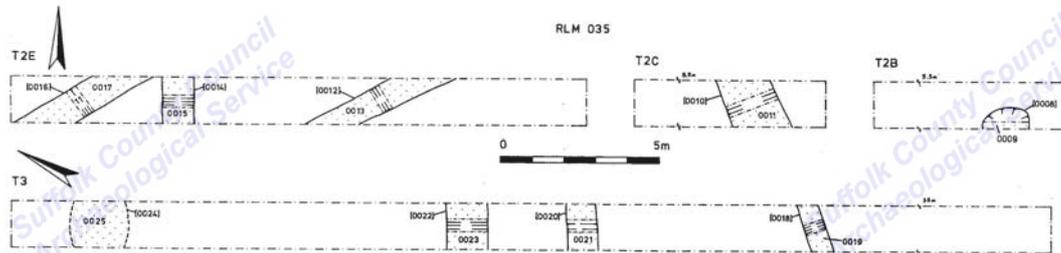


Figure 7: Site RLM 035, trench plans

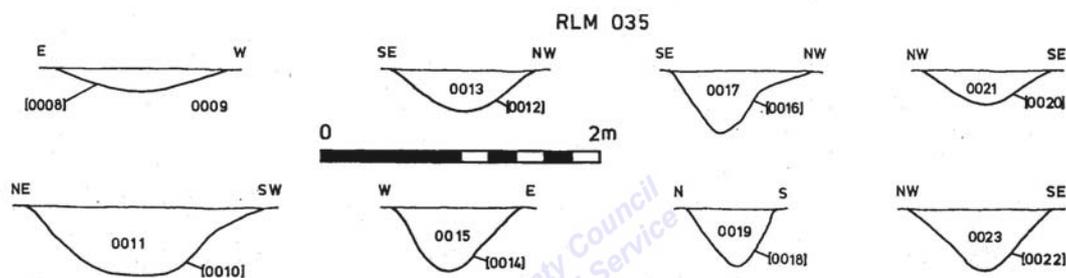


Figure 8: Site RLM 035, feature sections

The following table summarises information on each of the four trenches; all trenches were 1.5m wide:

Trench No	Orientation	Length	Max. Depth	Notes
1	NNW-SSE	31m	700mm	Find spot of medieval pottery adjacent, 0002
2	E-W	78m	650mm	Pit 0008; ditches 0010, 0012, 0014 and 0016; adjacent Roman findspot
3	NNW-SSE	39m	750mm	Ditches 0018, 0020 and 0022; natural feature 0024; adjacent BA / IA pottery findspot

Table 4: Trench descriptions.

Within each trench the following OP (observable phenomena) numbers were assigned:

Trench No.	OP	Context	Description	Finds
	0001		Unstratified finds	
1	0002		Topsoil, mid / dark brown sandy loam, 400mm	Findspot to W of trench
1	0003		Subsoil, pale / mid brown silty sand, 250mm	
2	0004		Topsoil, mid / dark brown sandy loam, 400mm	Findspot to N of trench 2B

2	0005		Subsoil, pale / mid brown silty sand, 200mm	
3	0006		Topsoil, mid / dark brown sandy loam, up to 500mm at S end	Findspot near S end of trench
3	0007		Subsoil, pale / mid brown silty sand, becoming clay sand to N, 200mm	
2B	0008	0008	Shallow pit, diameter 1.25m and 180mm depth. Much root and burrow disturbance.	
2B	0009	0008	Fill: mottled mid and pale brown silty sand.	
2C	0010	0010	NW to SE running ditch with open U profile and slightly convex sides and rounded base. Width 1.7m, depth 500mm.	
2C	0011	0010	Fill: pale / mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	
2E	0012	0012	NE to SW running ditch with open U profile. Width 1m, depth 300mm	
2E	0013	0012	Fill: pale / mid brown silty sand, occasional stones.	
2E	0014	0014	N to S running ditch with quite steep-sided V-profile. Width 900mm, depth 380mm.	
2E	0015	0014	Fill: pale / mid brown silty sand	
2E	0016	0016	NE to SW running ditch with steep V-profile but NW side stepped. Width 1m, depth 440mm.	
2E	0017	0016	Fill: mid brown silty sand.	
3	0018	0018	NE to SW running ditch with steep V-profile. Width 600mm, depth 420mm.	
3	0019	0018	Fill: mid / dark brown silty sand with occasional stones.	
3	0020	0020	NE to SW running ditch with open U-profile. Width 900mm, depth 220mm.	
3	0021	0020	Fill: pale / mid brown silty sand with occasional stones.	
3	0022	0022	NE to SW running ditch with V-shaped profile. Width 1m, depth 45mm.	
3	0023	0022	Fill: mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and oyster shell fragments.	
3	0024	0024	Pit, probably natural / tree hole?	
3	0025	0024	Fill: very mottled and root disturbed.	

Table 5: Context descriptions.

3.2 The Finds: RLM 035

Richenda Goffin 01/06 with flint identification by Colin Pendleton

Introduction

Finds were collected from 6 contexts, as shown in the table below. The artefacts were recovered from the fills of trenches, or from surface collection near the trenches.

Context	Pottery		Flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	1	15				Medieval
0004	1	2				?Roman
0006	1	9				Prehistoric
0009	1	1			Tiny frags charcoal	?Roman
0015			1	2		
0021	1	3				Prehistoric
	5	30	1	2		

Table 6: Finds quantities

Pottery

Five fragments of pottery were recovered weighing 30g. The sherds are all small and mainly abraded. A sherd of a thickwalled flint-tempered vessel was recorded under 0006, a findspot near to Trench 3, dating to the Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age. A second, much finer sherd in 0021 in Trench 3 which has moderate flint inclusions up to 2mm in length is probably Iron Age. A small and abraded rim sherd in 0004, a findspot near Trench 2 may date to the Roman period, together with a fine greyware in 0009 in Trench 2b. A highly abraded rim from a Hollesley-type ware bowl (Rim type E5) dating to the 13th-14th century was recorded as 0002, a findspot near to Trench 1.

Flint

A single fragment of worked flint was recovered from 0015 in Trench 2. It is a snapped long flake/blade with limited edge retouch on both the long edges. It is possibly patinated, and dates to the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age.

Discussion

The small quantity of finds recovered from this evaluation dates from the prehistoric period, with two sherds of pottery which are probably Roman. A single fragment of abraded medieval pottery was also found, but there was no indication of any finds dating to the Early Saxon period.

4.3 Conclusions

The site is positioned on sandy soil, near to the top of a low hill and extending over its South-facing slope. Currently carrots are being grown in this field, so that deep cultivation and ploughing has taken place and severe truncation of features is likely.

Prehistoric finds and features are located to the West of the site, with a findspot of Later Bronze Age / Iron Age pottery near to Trench 3 and a possible Iron Age ditch from the same trench. The North to South running ditch 0014 appeared on a different alignment from the other ditches, had a pale fill, contained a flint artefact and was also probably of prehistoric date.

A possible Roman feature was recorded towards the South-East corner of the site from Trench 2B. A nearby findspot of pottery from the ploughsoil was also of probable Roman date. Roman pottery was recovered from the adjacent area of site RLM 030 to the South, but as with that site, the pottery is made up of small, abraded sherds and could be residual in later features.

Despite its proximity to the likely medieval lane indicated on Hodskins map, Trench 1 revealed no archaeological features, medieval or otherwise. A single pottery findspot from near this trench was the only representative of this period.

Undated ditches were also encountered, mainly from the Western half of the site. Some of these could belong to the prehistoric system represented by ditches 0014 and 0020, although the presence of oyster shell in the fill of 0022 suggests a Roman or later date.

The dark fill of ditch 0018 suggests a more recent date for this feature and its alignment corresponds closely to a linear cropmark seen on an aerial photograph of 1945 (figure 9), but this field boundary is not indicated on any of the early editions of the Ordnance Survey map.

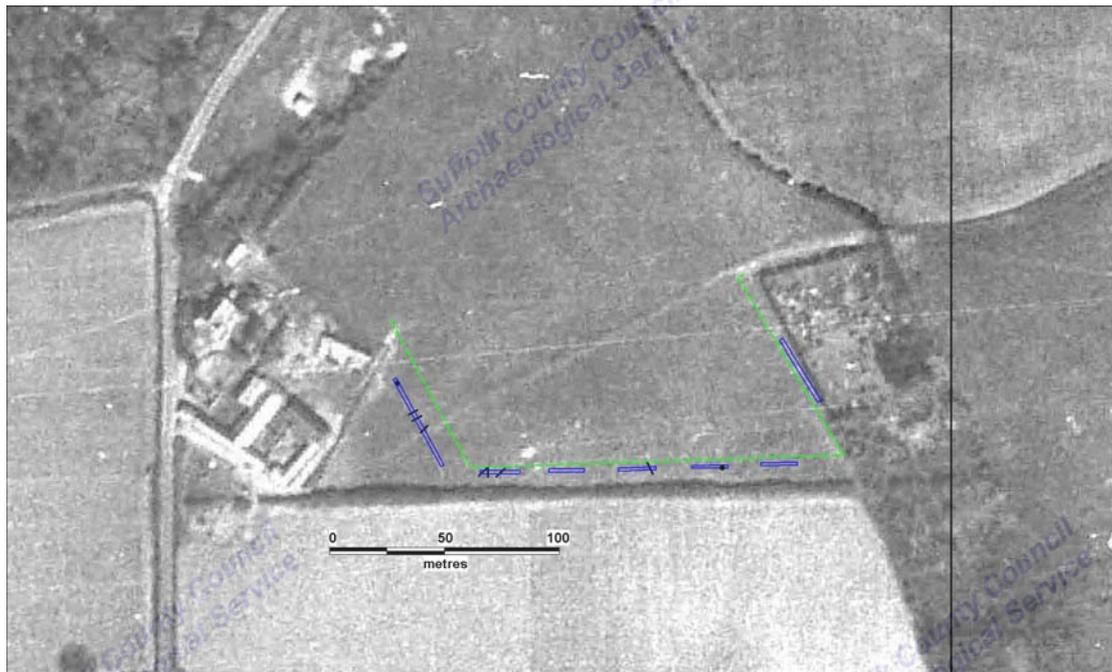


Figure 9: Site RLM 035 showing position of trenches over aerial photograph of 1945

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5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Of the two areas investigated, only RLM 035 is going to be developed as a farm reservoir. Within the trenched area of this site, the majority of the features were in the Western half of the area. The reservoir is likely to be positioned on the Eastern side (as stated by Andy Rankin, Naunton Hall Farms). Given the possibility that much of the finds assemblage may be residual, the main interest in this area is in further identifying and dating the various field systems that appear to exist. Therefore it is our recommendation that if the reservoir location remains on the Eastern side then further archaeological investigation can be confined to monitoring during the preparatory soil strip of the site.

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.

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

ASH ROAD, RENDLESHAM

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

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [PN/05/0074] has been made to construct a reservoir at part OS 8350, Ash Road, Rendlesham.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant before determination.
- 1.3 The application area is at TM 3295 5364 at around 20m OD on the south side of a spur overlooking the Deben valley to the west. It lies just north-east of Hoo Hill which has produced evidence of Iron Age (?) activity (RLM 010) and evidence for Anglo-Saxon burials (RLM 006) To the north air photographs have shown rectilinear enclosures and trackways (RLM 028) and a route is shown along the east edge of the development area on Hodkinson's map of 1783. The potential for Anglo-Saxon evidence is particularly significant given the historical association of Rendlesham with a royal palace. Given that a cemetery in this location should be preserved if possible, the primary aim of the evaluation is to determine whether burials are present as this would affect the siting of the reservoir.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

1.7 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects, 1991 (MAP2)*, all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

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

3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 3.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

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

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

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Date: 14 February 2005

Reference: /Rendlesham-AshRd02

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.