

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

THE OLD MILL, DUKE STREET, HAUGHLEY

HGH 032

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with contributions by R. Goffin
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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Suffolk County Council

Environment and Transport

The Old Mill, Duke Street, Haughley
(HGH 032)
Planning Application no. 260/03
Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report no. 2005/195
OASIS ID no. 12157

Summary

Haughley, The Old Mill, Duke Street, Haughley (TM/0260 6226; HGH 032) An evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of new dwellings at The Old Mill, Haughley, in order to sample and record any surviving archaeological deposits. The site was known to occupy a location within the outer bailey of Haughley castle. Whilst significant modern disturbance was noted throughout the site, archaeological deposits survived, particularly along the road frontage where medieval ditches and a large pit were noted. Pottery from these features dated from the 12th-14th century and comprised mostly locally produced and Essex wares, with additions from more distant parts of the region. The finds assemblage also included part of a Roman imbrex and two sherds of early medieval pottery.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and MGPS Developments Ltd.; report no. 2005/195)

1. Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of new dwellings at The Old Mill, Duke Street, Haughley, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 0260 6226 (Fig. 1), within the outer bailey of the medieval Haughley Castle, believed to be one of the earliest castles in Suffolk. The motte may be of Saxon origin and the location of an 11th century fortified hall, however the castle was destroyed by the Earl of Leicester in 1173. The site occupies a roadside location (although the age of the road line is unknown) directly south of the medieval church of St. Mary. Previous work nearby at Haughley Primary School (HGH 015) and The Folly (HGH 030) produced evidence of medieval and earlier occupation which is likely to be replicated here, subject to the level of preservation.

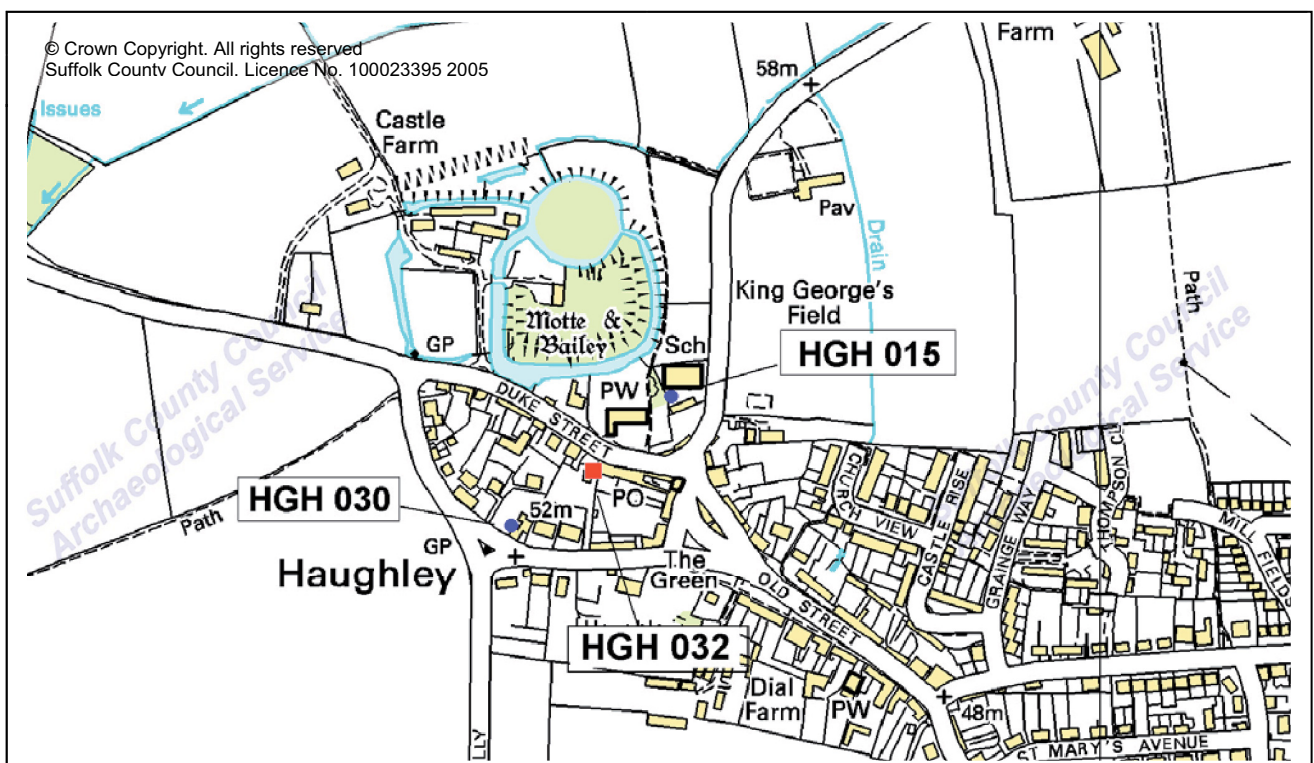


Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Bob Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. Evaluation of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team on the 6th and 7th December 2005. The archaeological work was commissioned by MGPS Developments Ltd.

2. Methodology

The development area comprises c.325 square metres on the site of a former corn mill. Following removal of the concrete slab which covered the site, two trial-trenches, measuring a total of 34.75m, were opened in locations agreed by the Conservation Team at Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Fig. 2). This was carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed from the trenches to the depth of the naturally occurring subsoil, a pale orange clay sand. Both the excavated soil and the exposed surfaces of trenches were examined visually for artefactual evidence and subjected to a metal detector survey.

Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the SMR code HGH 032 (Appendix II). Features were then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function. Trenches were planned and features digitally photographed on site to form a part of the site archive. The evaluation 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 management staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

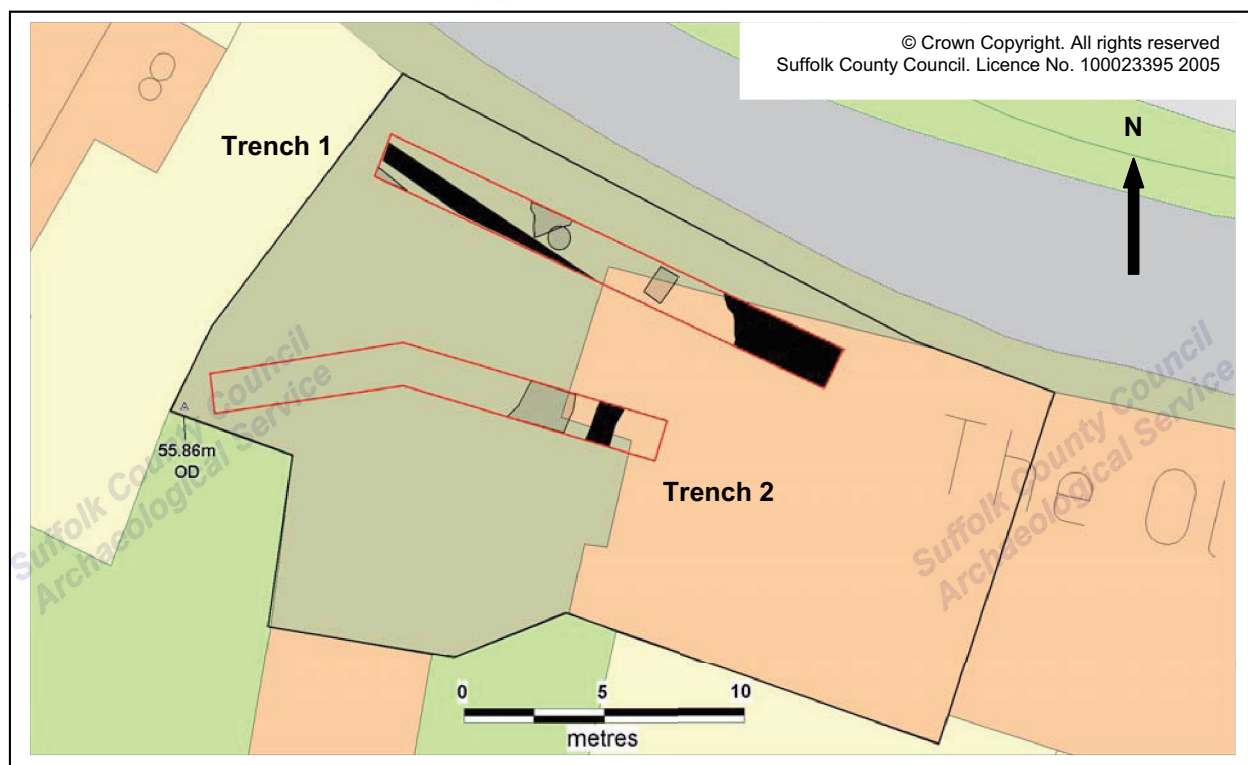


Figure 2: Trench locations. Solid features dated as medieval.

3. Results

Trench 1 was orientated NW-SE and measured a total of 18m in length. It was excavated approximately parallel to the existing road line and archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of between 500-800mm.

Six features were recorded in trench 1 (Fig. 3):

Ditches

0005 was a small NW-SE aligned ditch measuring c.700mm wide and running parallel with ditch 0007. It was filled by a mid greyish brown sandy silty clay, mottled with orange clay and including occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Medieval pottery was recovered from this fill. The base of the ditch was uneven, with a rounded 'w'-shaped profile suggesting a possible re-cut, but there was no evidence of this in the exposed sections.

0007 was a linear feature running parallel with 0005. The full width and depth of the feature are not known as the ditch was not fully revealed in plan by the trench. The feature was filled by 0008, a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and mortar fragments.

Pits

0011 was a small, shallow, sub-circular pit with a rounded base. It was filled by a pale brown clay with frequent chalk flecks and lumps. No finds were recovered.

0016 was a large pit, the dimensions of which were not possible to determine by small scale trenching. A small section was excavated into the pit from its SW edge to a depth of 500mm, revealing two distinct fills. **0017** was a mid grey brown silty sandy clay with charcoal lumps and flecks. It was rich in pottery which tended to occur in pockets. Below this layer was 0022, a mid greenish brown clay with chalk lumps and flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery was also recovered from this fill, again, often located in pockets rather than well mixed within the fill.

Other features

0010 was a shallow, amorphous spread of clay packed with stones of varying sizes. It overlay pit 0011 and possibly ditch 0005 but the presence of modern disturbance which cut both features made the relationship unclear.

0013 was a rectangular feature with sharp, vertical sides and a dark brown silty clay fill, 0014. Partial excavation exposed the articulated skeleton of a sub-adult pig. The fill contained fragments of coal and glazed china, dating the feature as modern, and the site was known to have housed pigs within living memory.

Trench 2 was excavated from SW-NE for 7m, then continued WNW-ESE for a further 9m. This revealed considerable modern disturbance in the SW corner of the site, to a depth of almost 1m. Archaeological features were encountered at a depth of 650mm.

Two features were recorded in trench 2 (Fig. 3):

Ditches

0018 was a small, shallow ditch aligned NNE-SSW with ditch 0020. It was filled by 0019, a mid greenish grey sandy silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, from which no finds were recovered.

0020 was a small, shallow ditch aligned NNE-SSW with ditch 0018. Its fill, 0021, was a mid greenish grey sandy silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, and no finds were recovered from the excavated section. Whilst 0018 and 0020 were recorded as separate features, there was no discernible difference between in the fill and no visible cut in the section; only the 'w'-shaped profile suggests that two features may be present. It seems most likely that they in fact represent a single ditch.

0023 was a NE-SW aligned ditch measuring c.1.8m wide and 600mm deep. Three distinct fills were noted in the excavated section. 0024 was the upper fill, comprising a mid brown

silty sandy clay with small pockets of orange clay and occasional flints and chalk flecks and containing 17th-19th century finds, which may be intrusive as the feature was sealed by post medieval material. The secondary fill, 0025, was a sticky mid grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional flints and charcoal flecks from which 15th- 16th century pottery and CBM was recovered. The basal fill, 0026, was a mid brown silty clay mixed with lumps of olive brown clay and containing frequent large flints and stones. Pottery and CBM of late-post medieval date were recovered from this fill.

4. The Finds

Duke Street, Haughley (HGH 032): the finds

Richenda Goffin, December 2005.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 10 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Shell		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	7	118								Unstratified
0006	3	45								L13th-14th C
0008									1 frag mortar @ 10g	
0009	4	33			1	3				L12th-14th C
0015	3	32								Unstratified
0017	35	862	5	259	2	21	1	1	1 frag fired clay @ 3g, 5 iron objects @ 96g	L13th-14th C
0022	43	326	6	222	2	12			1 frag mortar @ 31g	L13th-14th C
0024	1	22	4	956			1	8		17th-19th C
0025	3	26	3	69	2	181			1 frag fired clay @ 6g	15th-16th C
0026	2	19	1	24						15th-17th C
Total	101	1483	19	1530	7	217	2	10		

Pottery

A total of 101 fragments of pottery was recovered from the evaluation, weighing 1.483kg. Most of the ceramics are medieval, but some post-medieval wares were also present.

Medieval pottery was found in two of the fills of ditch 0005. Four sherds of medieval coarseware were present in fill 0009, including the rim of a sooted jar and a small bowl. A fragment of gritty Early medieval ware was identified in fill 0006, with a medieval coarseware and a fragment of a hard unglazed redware with reduced core, which is a medieval Colchester type ware dating from the late 13th century.

The substantial remains of a medieval jug was present in pitfill 0017, with sherds from the same vessel in fill 0022. The jug is made from a medium sandy fabric with frequent calcareous inclusions, probably chalk. It is reduced internally but has red/buff external margins with a partial splashed lead glaze. The rim is thickened with a pouring lip. The calcareous fabric is a feature typically associated with fenland areas, and it may be an Ely-type glazed ware or equivalent. The jug was associated with a fragment of unprovenanced glazed ware and three fragments of Hedingham ware. The ceramics from fill 0022 include two glazed wares, a Mill Green jug, and a small jug with strap handle made from a micaceous redware which is probably from Essex. Three fragments of fine local medieval coarsewares were also present. The presence of the Mill Green jug suggests a date of c1270-1400 for this pitfill.

Pottery of a later date was identified in three fills of the ditch 0023. The lowest fill 0026 contained two sherds of post-medieval glazed red earthenware dating to the 15th-17th century. A fragment of medieval coarseware, a sherd of a Colchester redware strap handle and a small fragment of unglazed redware of transitional late medieval and early medieval date were present in fill 0025. A single fragment of English stoneware dating to the 17th –19th century was found in fill 0024.

The remainder of the pottery consisted of ten unstratified sherds dating from the early medieval to the late medieval/early post-medieval periods.

Ceramic building material

Nineteen fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 1.530kg. Eleven fragments were found in the two fills of the pit 0016. Four rooftiles present in fill 0017 are slightly mixed in date. Two date to the 13th-15th century, whilst two others which are coarser and a darker red may be post-medieval period. Fill 0022 contained two fragments of medieval rooftile with shelly inclusions, a fragment of floortile dating to the medieval period with splashes of glaze on one of the edges, and a curved tile, probably part of a Roman imbrex (Sue Anderson, pers comm).

Small quantities of building materials were present in the three fills of ditch 0023. The lowest fill 0026 had a small abraded fragment of post-medieval rooftile, possibly re-used. Fill 0025 contained two fragments of rooftile made from fine fabrics with silty bands dating to the 15th-17th century. A fragment of a brick made from a white-firing clay of 18th-19th century date was present in fill 0024, with some abraded roof tile, and a fragment made of a fine silty fabric with clay pellets, of indeterminate date.

Fired clay

2 small fragments of fired clay weighing 10g were collected from pitfill 0017 and ditchfill 0025. Both pieces have chalk inclusions and are likely to be medieval.

Mortar

Two fragments of mortar weighing 41g were recovered. The largest piece, found in pitfill 0022 is made from a hardy sandy matrix with frequent chalk inclusions. A second fragment in ditchfill 0008 is made from a different fabric, which also contains chalk.

Metalwork

Five ferrous objects, found in pitfill 0017 are associated with medieval pottery. At least one of them is likely to be a corroded nail, and radiography may show that the others are also nails.

Shell

2 fragments of oyster shells were recovered from the evaluation.

Animal bone

Seven fragments of animal bone weighing 217g were collected from four contexts. Fragments from pitfill 0017 include a small rib, whilst a bovine phalange was present in pitfill 0022. The

distal end of a bovine tibia was found in ditchfill 0025, with a rib fragment in ditchfill 0009.

Discussion

The earliest finds recovered from the evaluation comprise a fragment of possible Roman imbrex, and two sherds of early medieval wares, which are all residual or unstratified. A number of finds of medieval date were recovered from pit 0016, including the substantial remains of a jug of Ely-type glazed ware, and a Mill Green jug dating to the second half of the 13th century into the 14th century. Medieval pottery was also present in the two fills of ditch 0005. In addition ceramics and building material dating to the transitional and post-medieval periods were identified, most notably in the fills of ditch 0023.

The presence of early medieval and medieval finds is not unexpected, given the proximity of the site to the castle and the church at Haughley. Late Saxon, early medieval and medieval pottery was recovered from the evaluation and excavation of the Primary School Playground (HGH 015), to the north-east of this site (Anderson 2000). The probable Roman imbrex from pitfill 0022 is interesting, as fragments of Roman pottery and ceramic building material were identified at the School Playground, as well as earlier, prehistoric material (Anderson 2000).

The pottery from pit 0016 provides a useful supplement to our knowledge of medieval ceramic groups from settlements in central Suffolk. In addition to locally produced coarseware and Essex wares, the presence of the Ely-type jug from the west of the region indicates that some less local wares were reaching Haughley at this time. The assemblage from the moated site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket is not dissimilar, and comprised mainly medieval coarsewares including Hollesley ware from the east of the county (Anderson 2004). In addition a number of glazed wares were recovered, including Hollesley, Ipswich, Hedingham and Colchester wares, with a small number of sherds of Grimston-type ware which also come from the west of the region.

5. Discussion

Evidence of medieval activity has survived well along the road frontage, despite considerable disturbance from recent activity on the site. The profiles and dimensions of ditches 0005 and 0018/0020 are very similar and it is very possible that they are related in some way, and could even be the same ditch. Alternatively, the ditches may be property boundaries; it is difficult to interpret the evidence with any certainty from such a small sample of the development area. The presence of the Roman imbrex fragment and sherds of early medieval pottery are significant and comparable to evidence from excavated sites nearby, namely Crawfords Primary School (HGH 015) and The Folly (HGH 030).

6. Recommendations

The depth of overburden sealing the archaeological deposits should ensure that preservation in situ is achieved over the majority of the site. However, where deeper groundworks are necessary (e.g. footings, services) a programme of archaeological monitoring should be in place to ensure adequate recording of any exposed features. This should also help to answer some of the questions posed by the evidence from the evaluation.

Linzi Everett
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Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
January 2006

References

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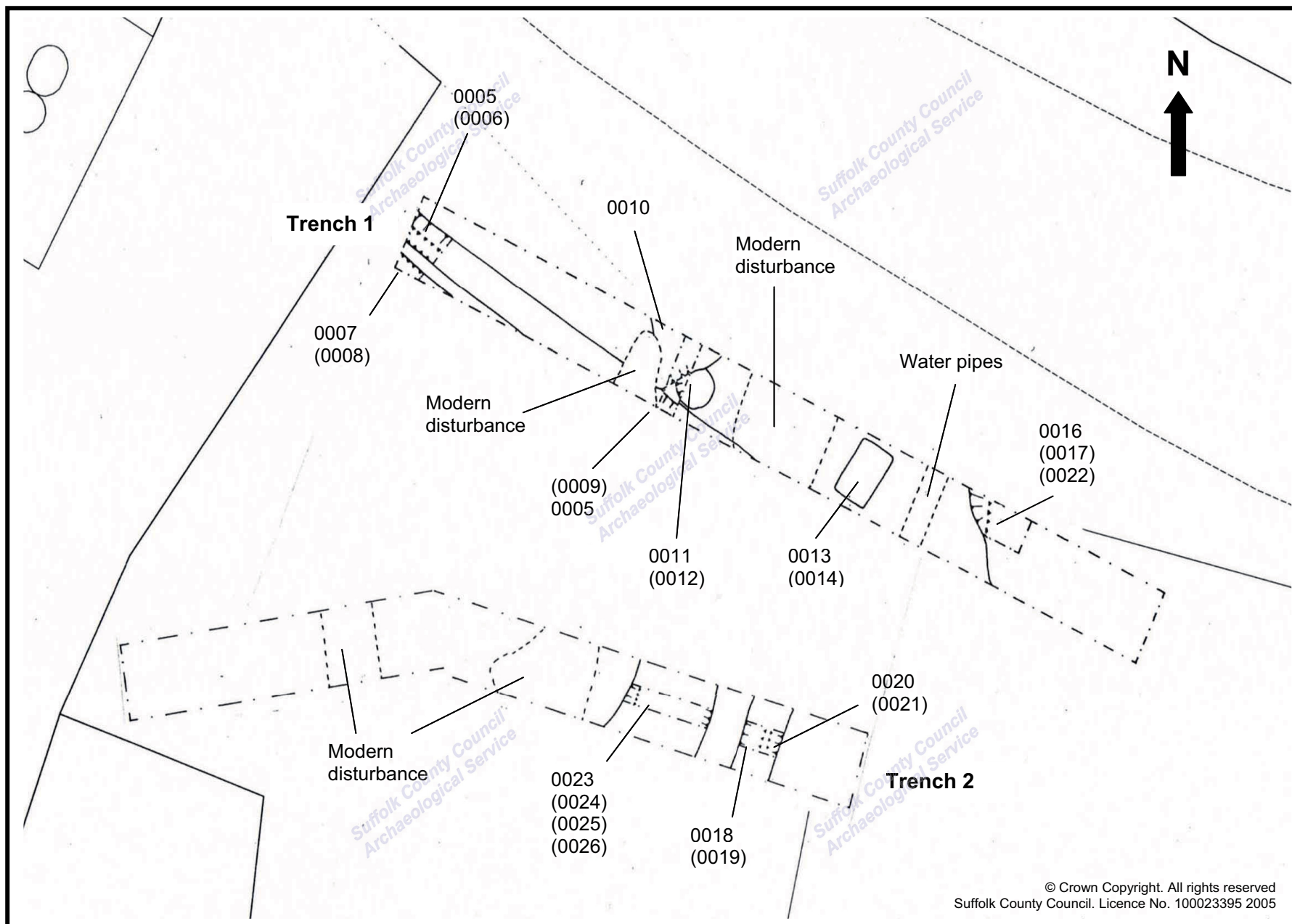


Figure 3: Trench plans, scale 1:100

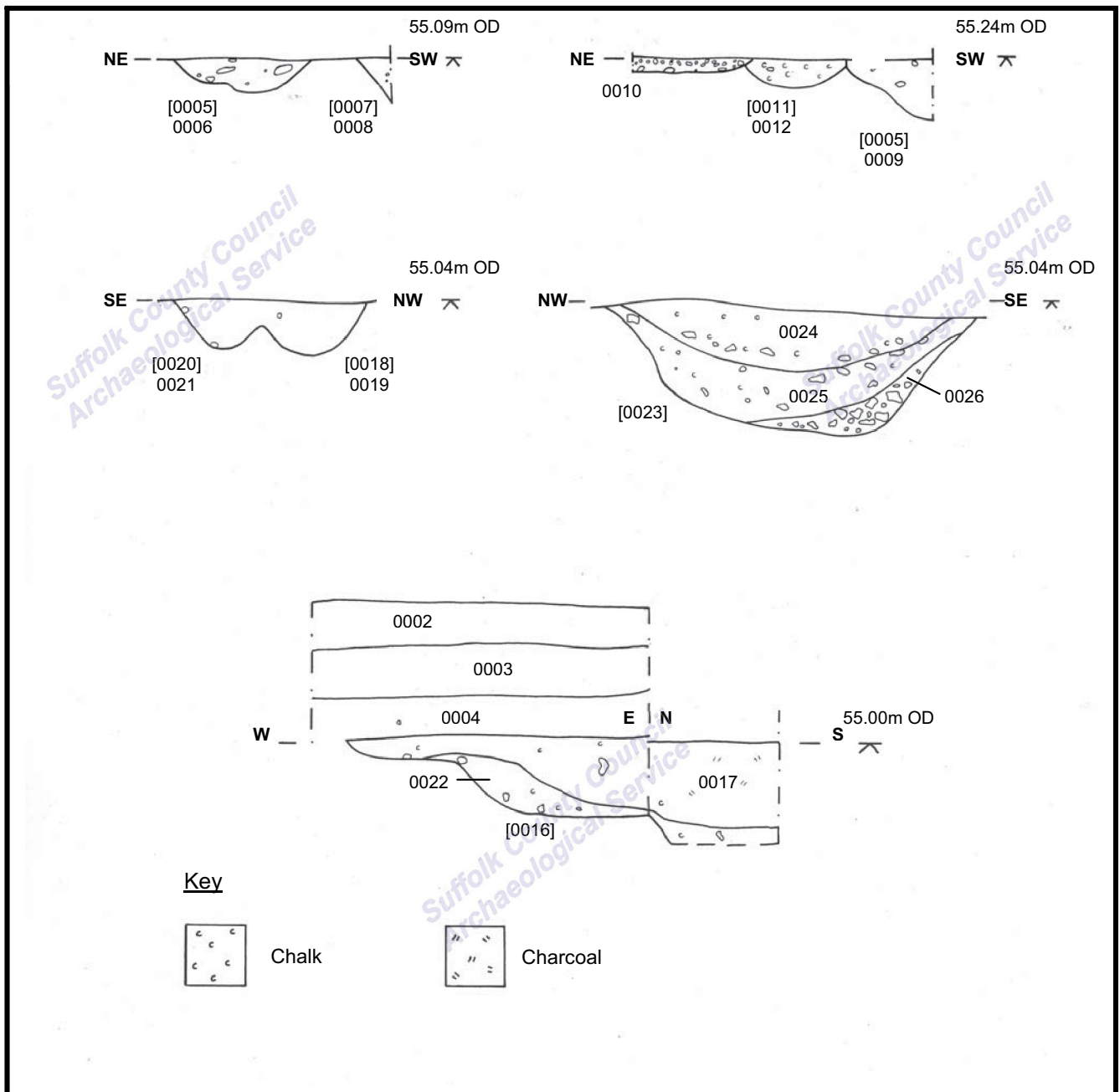


Figure 4: Section, scale 1:40

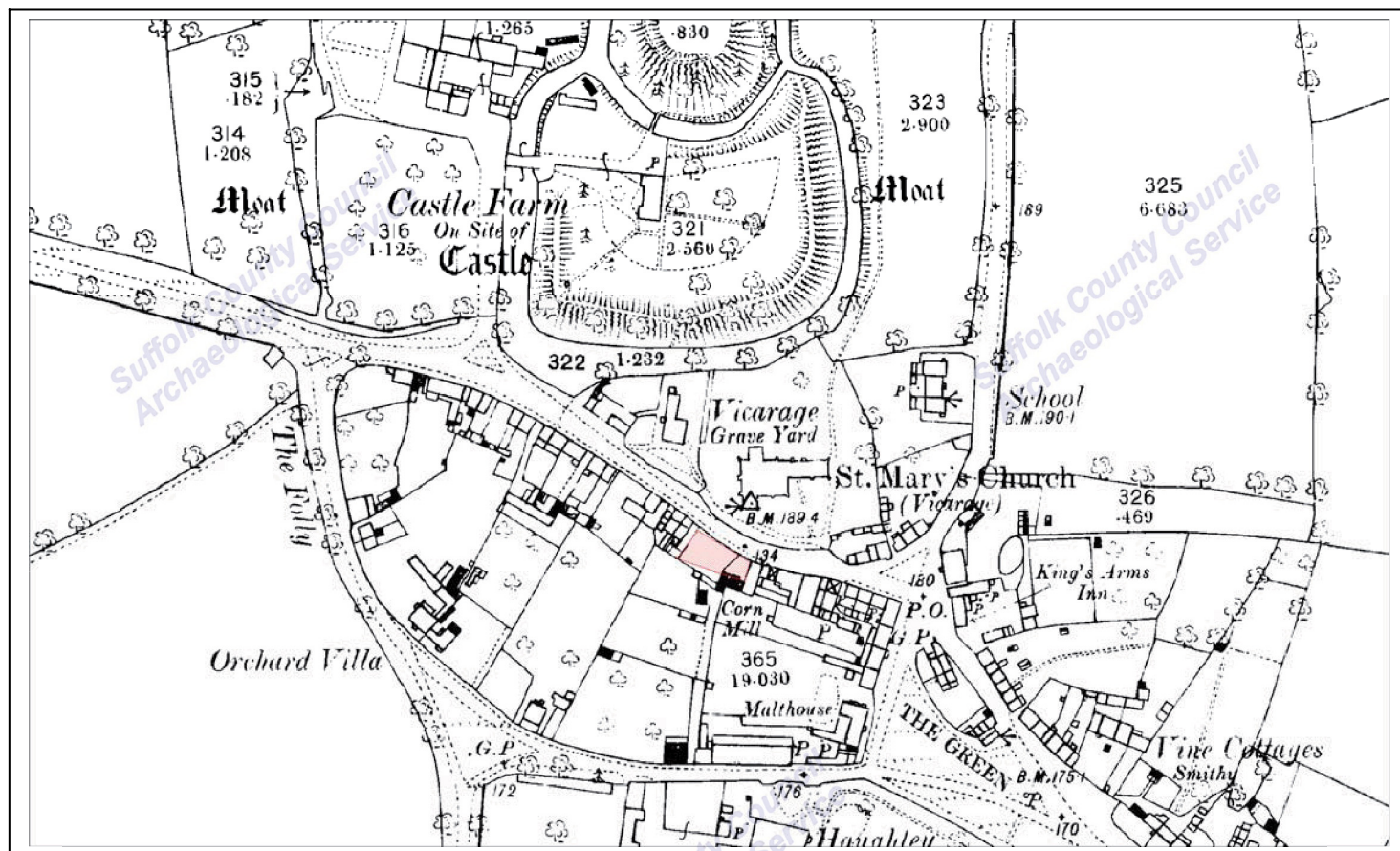
Appendix II: Context list

OPNO	CONT	IDENTI	SOIL TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	FINDS?
0001		Finds		Unstratified finds					
0002		Layer	Dark brown loamy clay	Loose, rubbly layer directly beneath concrete slab. c.250mm thick		0003			
0003		Layer	Dark blackish brown sandy clay	Compact layer, c.200mm thick. Rich in rubble (brick, tile, etc.), occasional chalk flecks. Modern		0004		0002	
0004		Layer	Mid greyish brown clay	Subsoil layer, c.200mm thick, flecked with chalk and charcoal		natural		0003	
0005		Ditch cut		Small ditch running approximately NW-SE parallel with 0007	natural				
0006	0005	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy silty clay	Mottled with pale orange clay, occasional charcoal flecks					Y
0007		Ditch cut		Small ditch running approximately NW-SE parallel with 0005. Continues beyond southern edge of trench therefore full profile not excavated	natural				
0008	0007	Ditch fill	Mid-dark grey brown sandy silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks					Y
0009	0005	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks and lumps, occasional angular flints					Y
0010		Spread	Pale brown chalky clay	Spread of small angular and rounded flints, c.300mm thick with slightly larger stones towards base	0011				N
0011		Pit cut		Sub circular pit, shallow and with rounded base					
0012	0011	Pit fill	Pale brown chalky clay	Frequent chalk lumps and flecks			0010		N
0013		Pit cut		Rectangular pit, vertical sides. Not fully excavated	natural				

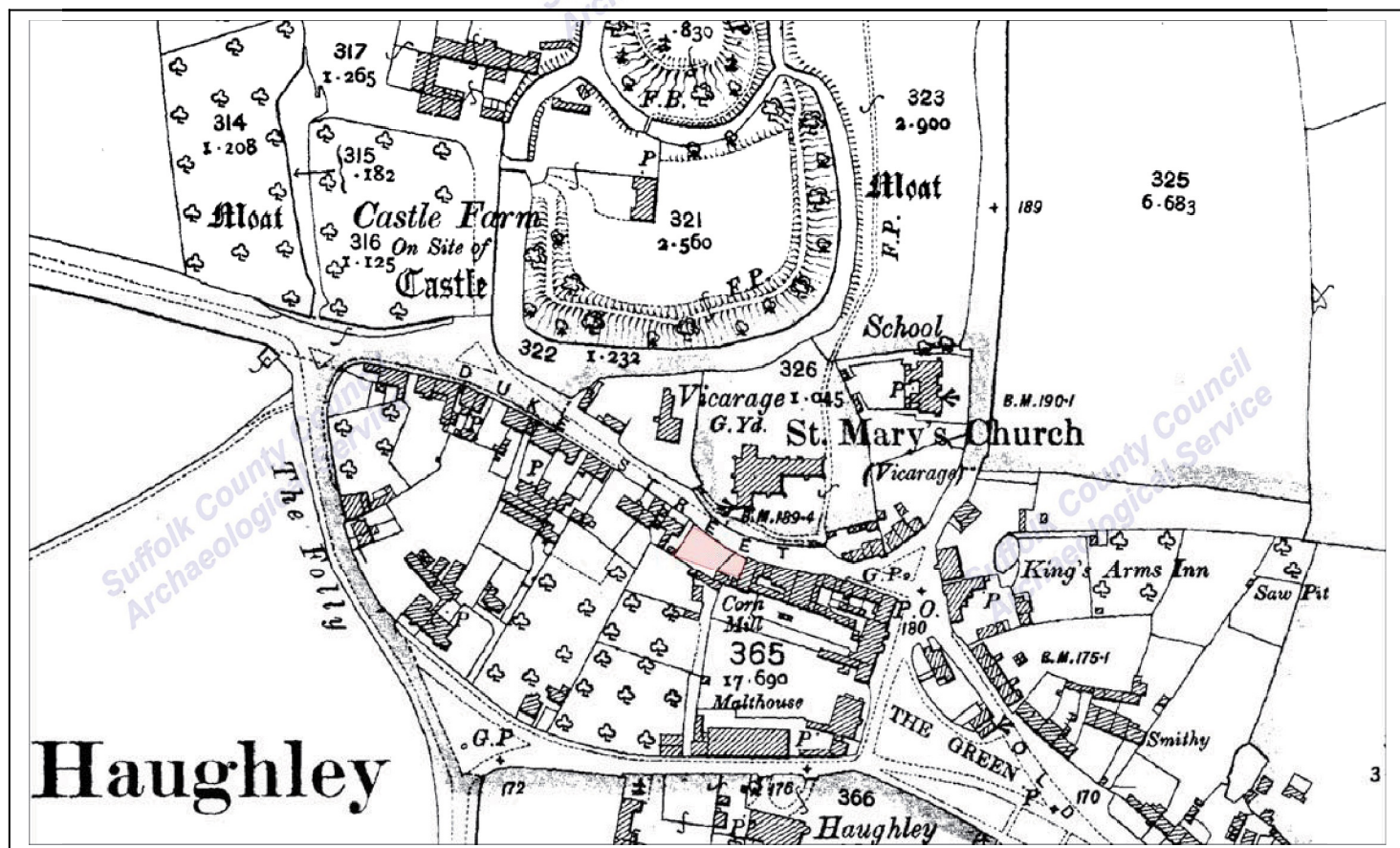
0014	0013	Pit fill	Dark brown sandy clay	Fill contains articulated skeleton of sub-adult pig. Coal and glazed china frags noted in fill. No finds recovered					
0015		Finds		Finds collected during cleaning exposed surface of ditch 0005					Y
0016		Pit cut		Large pit in SE end of trench 1. Full extent not determined, not bottomed	natural				
0017	0016	Pit fill	Mid grey-brown silty sandy clay	Frequent charcoal lumps and flecks, occasional stones, flints and chalk lumps. Pottery appears to be largely from two or three vessels and found in pockets		0022		0004	Y
0018		Ditch cut		Small shallow ditch running approximately NNE-SSW. Relationship with 0020 unclear	natural				
0019	0018	Ditch fill	Mid greenish grey sandy silty clay	Occasional chalk flecks					N
0020		Ditch cut		Small shallow ditch/re-cut running NNE-SSW. Relationship with 0018 unclear	natural				
0021	0020	Ditch fill	Mid greenish grey sandy silty clay	Occasional chalk flecks					N
0022	0016	Pit fill	Mid greenish brown clay	Friable-firm. Moderate chalk lumps, occasional charcoal				0017	Y
0023		Ditch cut		Large NE-SW ditch, 1.8m wide, 600mm deep. Rounded base	natural				
0024	0023	Ditch fill	Mid brown silty sandy clay	Small pockets of orange clay within fill. Occasional flints and chalk flecks		0025		0004	
0025	0023	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty sandy clay	Friable. Occasional flints, stones and charcoal flecks		0026		0024	
0026	0023	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty clay	Basal fill tipping from SE edge to base of feature. Mixed mid brown silty clay and lumps of olive brown clay (like natural). Frequent large stones and flints.				0025	Y



Appendix III: Extract from Hodkinson's map of Suffolk, 1783



Appendix IV: 1st edition OS map, 1885



Appendix V: 2nd edition OS map, 1904