

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/109

**153, Chediston Street, Halesworth
HWT 034**

HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/08/0723/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: June 2011

Grid Reference: TM 1524 6017

Funding Body: The Morton Partnership

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS ID: suffolkc1- 122312

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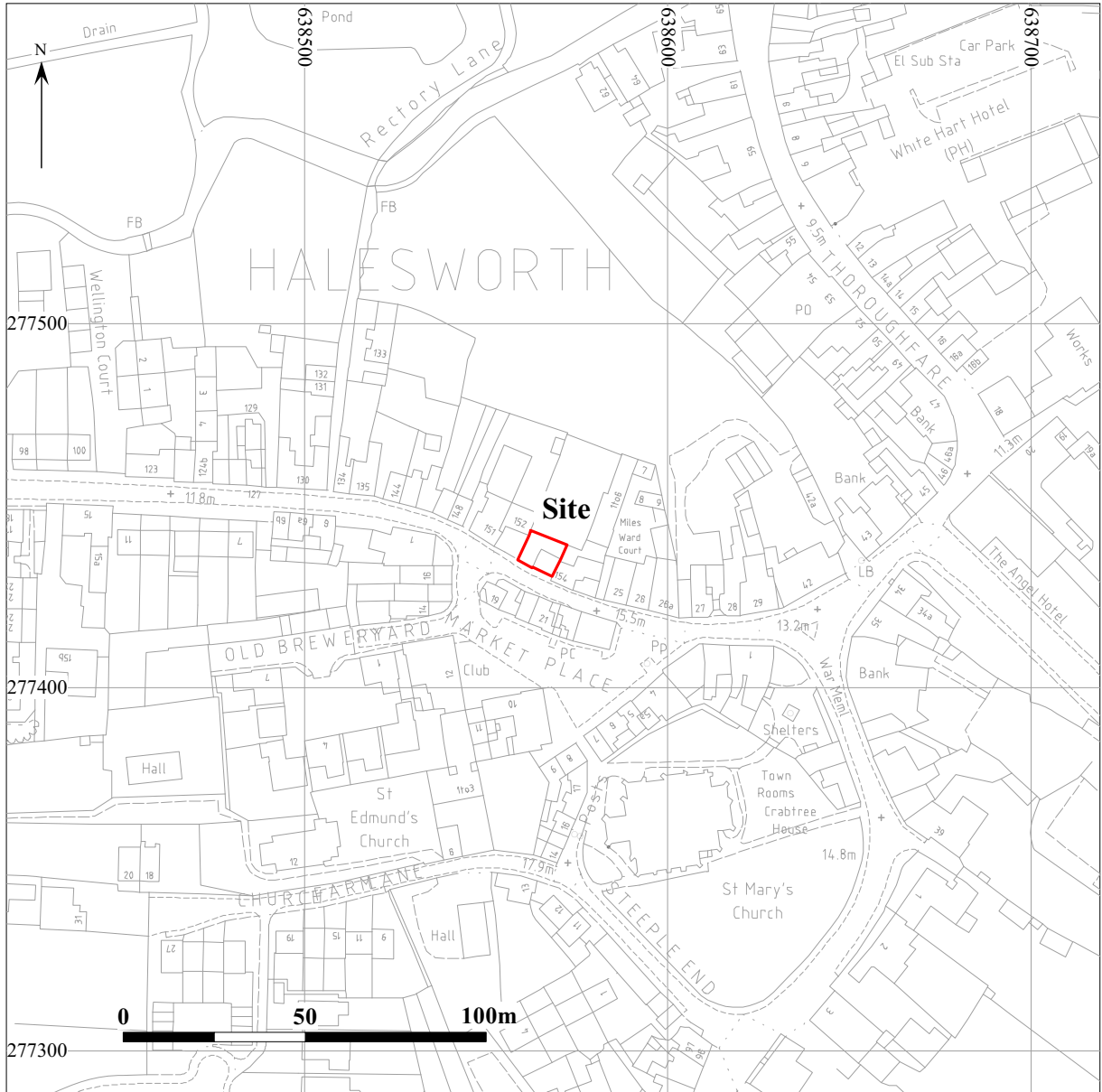
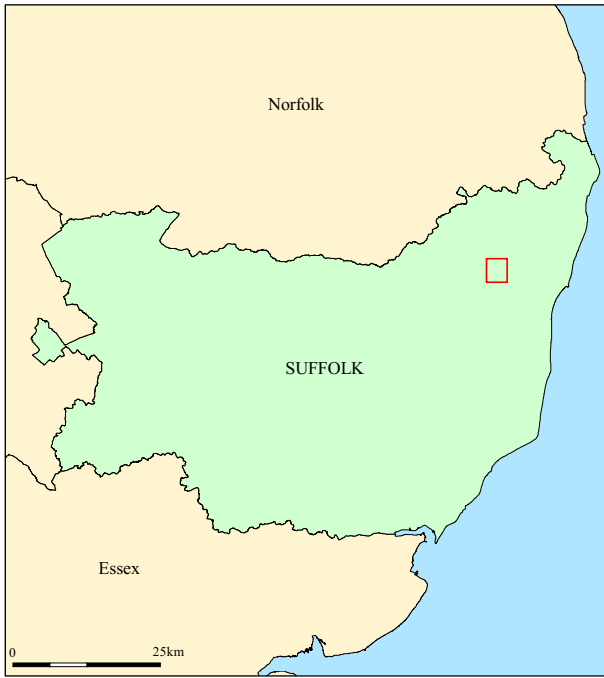
Summary

Monitoring of groundworks for a new dwelling at 153 Chediston Street, Halesworth, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence present. Strip foundations revealed made-up ground to the north of the building footprint, cut by a large post-medieval pit. Artefacts of late medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from the upcast spoil.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for building a new dwelling at 153 Chediston Street, Halesworth, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 1524 6017 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 15m OD, within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Halesworth. There was thought to be high potential for encountering medieval settlement remains in that it occupies the street frontage adjacent to the market place.

Several visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork was commissioned by The Morton Partnership. The monitoring archive is held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) in Bury St. Edmunds.



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Figure 1. Site location

2. Results

The footing trenches measured between 0.5m and 1m wide and between 0.9m and 1.5m deep, and were excavated through up to 0.4m of mixed deposits associated with previous buildings and services. In the central and southern footings, 0.4m of mid grey brown silty sand (0002) with regular gravel sealed at least 0.5m of a pale-mid yellowish brown friable slightly clayey silty sand (0003) with occasional small stones and regular worm casts (Plate 1). No finds were observed in either of these layers. The deeper footings forming the western and northern boundaries of the proposed property contained different deposits. In the northern trench, 0.3-0.4m of red brick footings, rubble and tarmac surface sealed a large pit (0004) with a rounded profile which measured c.2.5m wide and c.0.8m deep (Plate 2). It was filled by 0005, a mid greyish brown silty sand with regular flint cobbles and gravel forming at least two defined tip lines, and contained a moderate quantity of post-medieval red brick. No other finds were observed within its fill. This pit cut a homogenous dark greyish brown silty sand layer (0006) that was present to the full depth of the trench and continued throughout the western trench (Plate 3). The layer contained occasional small flints and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

A drawn section of the northern footing is shown as Figure 3.

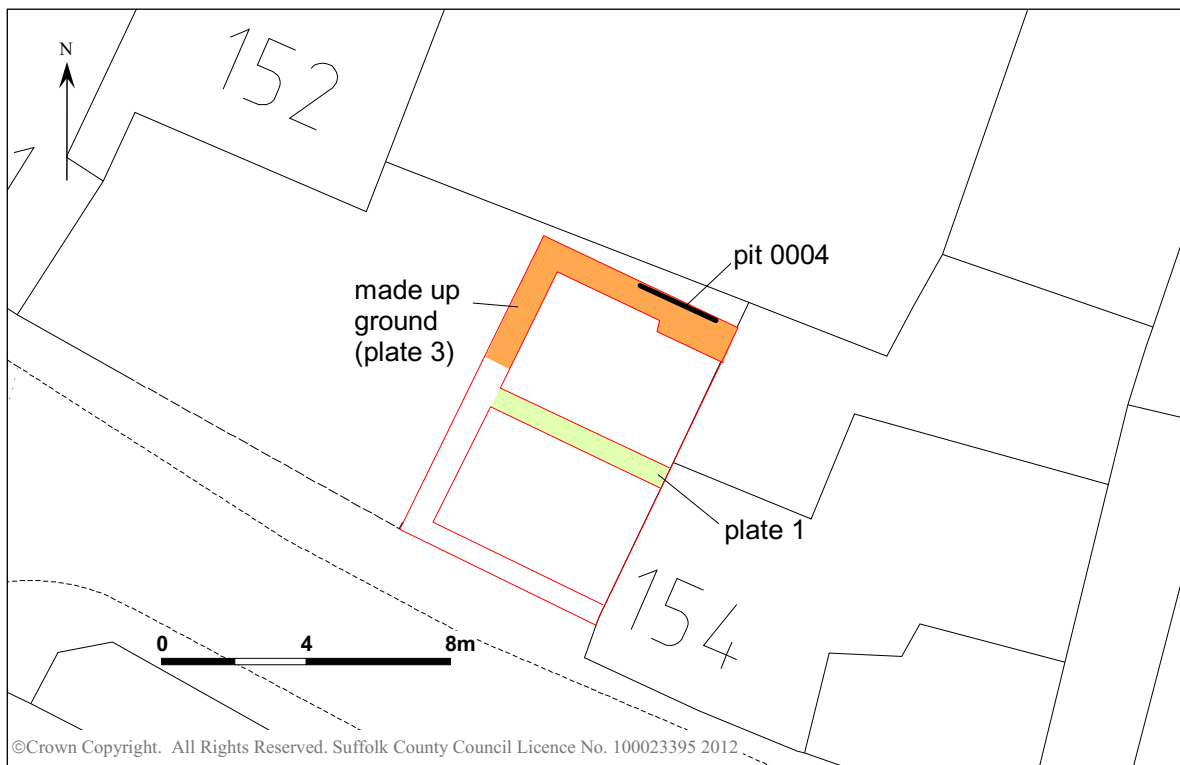


Figure 2. Location of monitored footings



Plate 1. Central footing, looking south



Plate 2. Northern footing, showing pit cut 0004 and layer 0006. Looking north.



Plate 3. Western footing, layer 0006. Looking north.

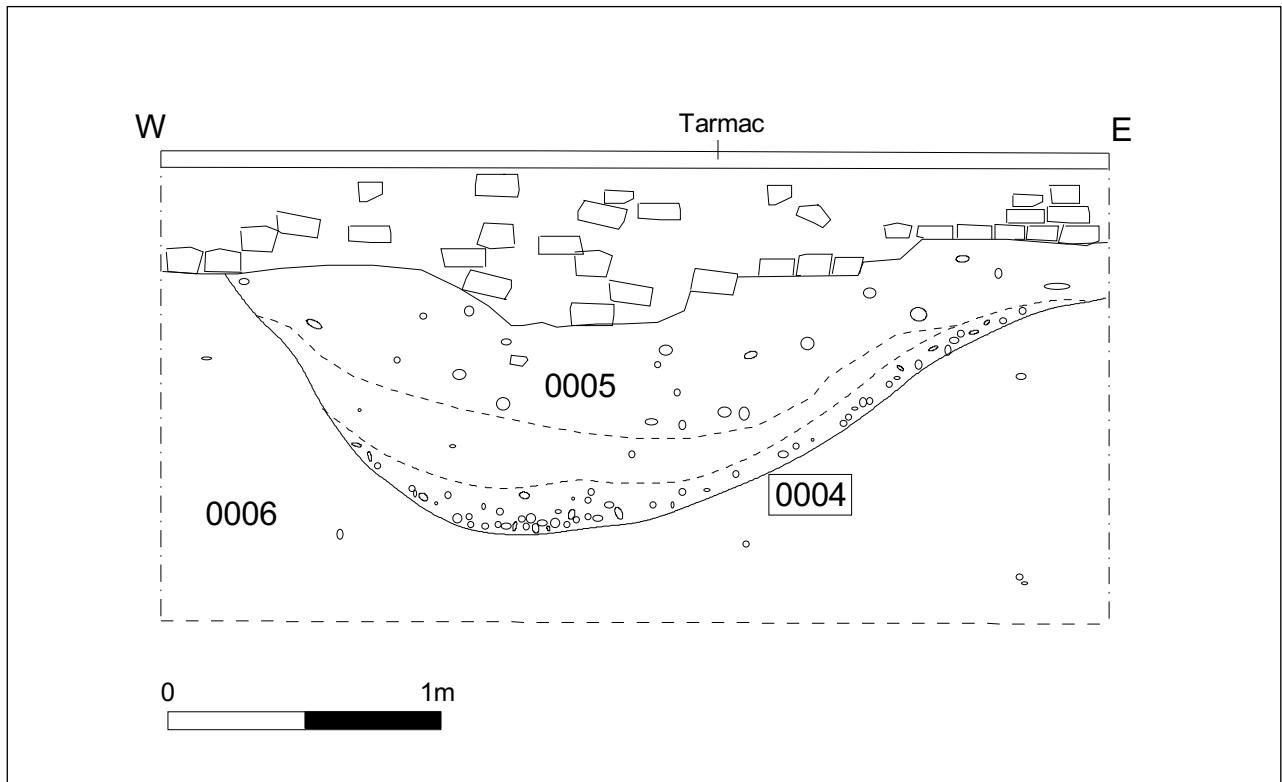


Figure 3. Section through pit 0004

3. Finds evidence

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

The only finds recovered were a small group of pottery and a single piece of metal working slag. All of these finds were recorded in the unstratified context 0001.

The Pottery

Introduction

A total of twenty-nine sherds of pottery with a weight of 838g have been recorded in one context. Two periods are represented, late medieval/transitional and early post-medieval. The condition of most of the pottery may be described as only slightly abraded. The sherds too are of a good size, as the average weight of 29g suggests. A full quantified breakdown of the pottery by fabric can be seen in Table 1.

Fabric	Code	Sherd No	Percentage	Wgt/g	Percentage
English Stoneware	ESW	2	7	34	4
Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	9	31	346	41.5
Late Medieval and Transitional	LMT	14	48	335	40
Late Essex-type Wares	LMTE	2	7	89	10.5
Local Medieval Unglazed	LMU	1	3.5	17	2
Staffordshire-type Slipware	STAF	1	3.5	17	2
		29	100	838	100

Table 1. Pottery quantification from context 0001

Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at 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 and weight. A full breakdown of the pottery by context can be seen in Appendix II.

The assemblage

All of the pottery was retrieved from the unstratified context 0001. The pottery is dated from between the 15th/16th and 17th/18th century. The earliest fabrics are sherds of late medieval and transitional ware (LMT). These fabrics are mostly oxidised, occasionally with a grey core. A number of the sherds are glazed, sometimes defined by copper speckling or a full copper glaze. Other types of decoration noted within the assemblage, are an applied strip as well as finger decoration, which occurs below the missing rim of one bowl. These fabrics are dominated by ill sorted quartz, occasionally with red iron ores. A variant on this theme is a pale orange fabric which is likely to be an Essex type ware (it is finer and has more mica within its mineral suite). A single jar rim present within the LMT assemblage has a 16th century date. It exhibits a bifid rim with a speckled copper glaze and is similar to the Jennings form type No 1271 (1981, 176; fig 74). Two sagging bases are also present within the LMT assemblage.

Apart from two sherds of English stoneware (ESW) and a burnt fragment of Staffordshire-type slipware (STAF), the remainder of the pottery assemblage is composed of Glazed red earthenwares. This fabric has a date range of 16th to 18th century. Rim fragments from a pipkin, dish and jug are present within the collection as well as several different bases.

Slag

A small irregular piece of slag was recorded in the unstratified context 0001. The piece is magnetic and probably represents waste from metal working in the vicinity of the current monitoring area.

4. Discussion

The footings revealed clean subsoil deposits along the road frontage and deep, made-up ground to the rear of the plot. This contrast between these two deposits could suggest that buildings had occupied the market place and road frontage location from an early date, whilst the rear of the plot remained open to the various processes such as waste pitting which contribute to the formation of thick deposits characteristic of town soils. As footings offer a limited window into the stratigraphy of the site and the transition between clean subsoil and made-up ground was not revealed by the excavations, so no further interpretation of the relationship between the two layers was possible.

Although the finds assemblage is unstratified and principally composed of pottery, it clearly represents domestic activity of some description in or around the area of the current site. The date range of the pottery spans four centuries, however the presence of transitional fabrics as well as early post-medieval wares, may suggest that much of this group could be contemporary with each other, rather than belonging to two distinct periods.

Bibliography

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich*, The Norwich Survey, East Anglian Report No 13

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

153 CHEDISTON STREET, HALESWORTH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to construct one dwelling at 153 Chediston Street, Halesworth, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/08/0723/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Waveney Local Plan for Halesworth and will involve extensive ground disturbance. There is a high potential for medieval settlement remains in that it is a street frontage adjacent to the market place.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

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

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works

in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this.

If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 17 September 2008

Reference: /153 Chediston Street

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix II

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0001	STAF	Body	Slip	1	0	17	Sli	Burnt	L17th-18th C	15th/16th to 17th/18th C
0001	GRE	Body	Glaze	2	0	13	Sli		16th-18th C	
0001	GRE	Base	Glaze	1	0	27	Abr	0.07. With clay pellets, finer fabric	16th/17th C	
0001	GRE	Base	Glaze	1	0	81	Abr		16th-18th C	
0001	GRE	Base	Glaze	1	0	49	Sli	0.15	16th-18th C	
0001	GRE	Base	Glaze	1	0	88	Sli	0.37	16th-18th C	
0001	GRE	Pipkin	Glaze	1	0.12	21	Sli		16th-18th C	
0001	LMT	Jar	Glaze	1	0.16	65	Sli	Like Jennings (1981 176; No 1271)	?16th C	
0001	GRE	Dish	Glaze	1	0.07	59	Abr		16th-18th C	
0001	GRE	Jug	Glaze	1	0.1	8	Sli		16th-18th C	
0001	ESW	Handle		1	0	27	Sli	Possibly from London	M17th-E20th C	
0001	ESW	Body		1	0	7	Sli		17th-19th C	
0001	LMT	Body	Glaze	8	0	72	Sli	Some smoked varying glazes/fabrics	15th-L16th C	
0001	LMT	Base	Glaze	1	0	52	Sli	0.12. Grey core	15th-L16th C	

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0001	LMT	Base	Glaze	1	0	76	Abr	0.13. Light grye core	15th-L16th C	
0001	LMT	Body	Glaze	1	0	15	Sli	Orange fabric with light grey core. Abundant ill sorted quartz. Brown streaks in olive green glaze	15th-L16th C	
0001	?LMT	Body	Glaze	1	0	17	Sli	Orange fabric with intermittent grey core with brown applied strip. Coarse ill sorted quartz with sparse calcite	15th C?+	
0001	LMT	Bowl	Glaze	1	0	38	Sli	No rim. Orange fabric with copper specks. Ill sorted quartz with rare red iron ore.	15th-L16th C	
0001	LMU	Body		1	0	17	Sli	Light grey fabric with ill sorted quartz. Smoked exterior	11th-14th C+	
0001	LMTE	Base	Glaze	2	0	89	Sli	Buff/ale orange fabric with either light grey or orange core. Mostly fine micaceous fabric with ill sorted quartz and sparse/rare calcite	15th-16th C	