

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/59**

**Marshside, St. James Street, Dunwich  
DUN 106**

### **HER Information**

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**Planning Application No:** C/09/1506  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 26th April 2012  
**Grid Reference:** TM 4783 7059  
**Funding Body:** Mr. S. Strickland  
**Curatorial Officer:** Keith Wade  
**Project Officer:** Linzi Everett  
**OASIS ID:** suffolkc1- 125752



## Summary

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Monitoring of groundworks for an extension to Marshside, Dunwich, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence present. Strip foundations revealed made-up ground throughout, up to a depth of 2.2m in the centre of the extension footprint. No discrete incised features were identified within the exposed trench sections, however artefacts of medieval date were recovered from the upcast spoil.

### 1. Introduction and methodology

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Planning permission for an extension to the rear of Marshside, St. James Street, Dunwich, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 4783 7059 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 6m OD, within the area of archaeological interest for Dunwich, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). There was believed to be high potential for encountering medieval settlement evidence in this location.

One visit was made to the site by a member of 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 Mr. S. Strickland. The monitoring archive is held in the HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

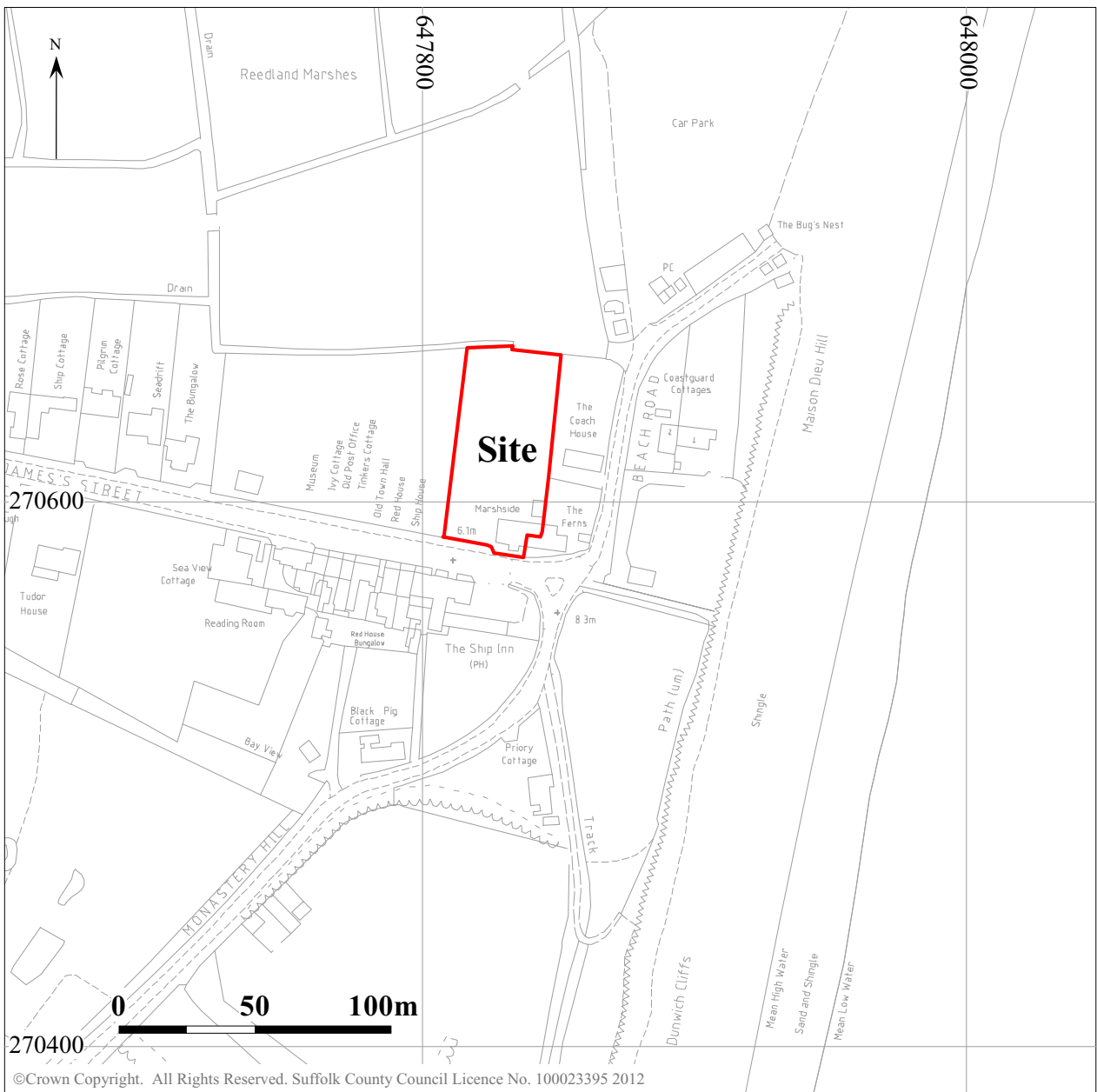
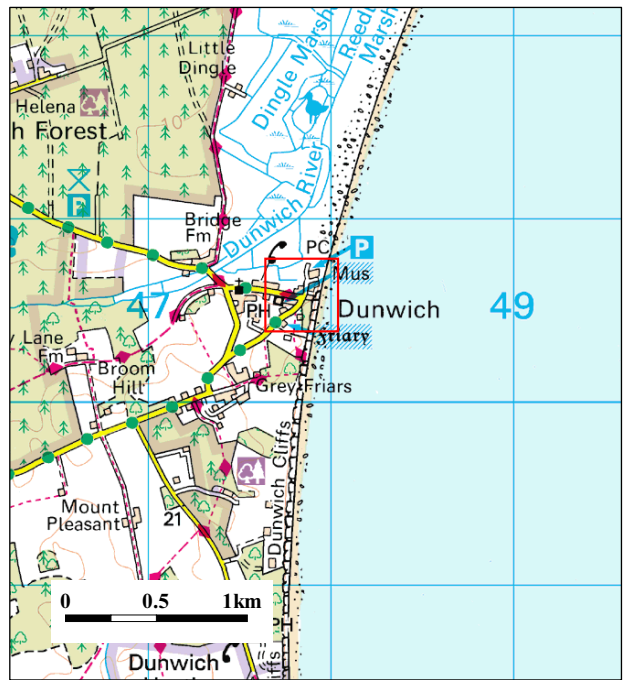
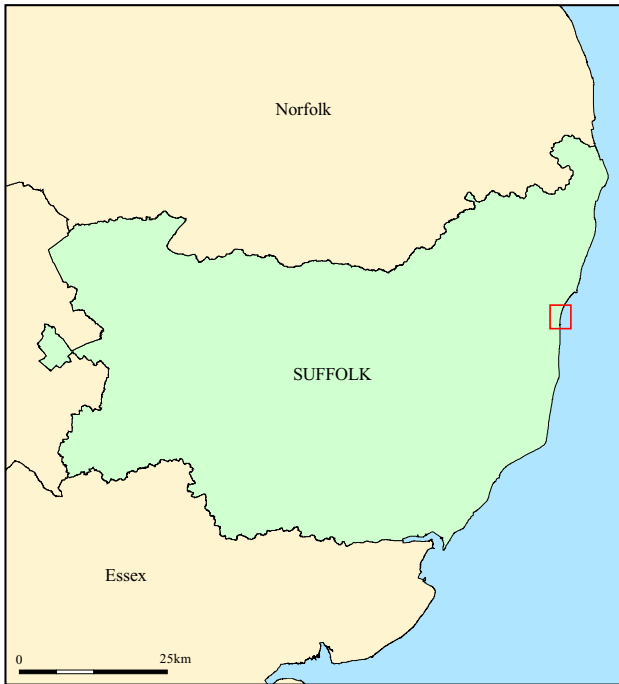


Figure 1. Site location

## 2. Results

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Demolition of a former extension and removal of floors etc. had been carried out to create a new formation level. This exposed the footings of the rear wall of the existing building, which appeared to incorporate blocks of worked limestone masonry (Plate 1), likely recovered from redundant buildings associated with the medieval town of Dunwich.

Footings measuring 0.5m wide and up to 2.2m deep had been excavated from the new formation level. On the eastern side of the footprint, c.1m of mixed made up ground sealed a clean, pale yellowish brown silty sand which may have been natural subsoil but as concrete had already been poured in this end of the footings, it was not possible to be certain. Elsewhere, the footings exposed the following soil sequence:

- mixed topsoil and construction/demolition material, c.0.2m thick
- homogenous mid-pale greyish brown silty sand, very occasional small stone and CBM inclusions. Mixed colluvial/alluvial layer? c.1.5m thick
- dark brown silty sand layer, rich in charcoal. Extent and form hard to determine, c.0.3m thick
- clean yellow silty sand, probably natural subsoil

The deposits exposed were all soft and unstable given the depth of the footings and heavy rain experienced before and during excavation. With the footings at risk of collapse, observations were made from a safe distance from the trench edges.

A possible pit was noted (Figure 2; Plate 2), but the trench corner had collapsed and without access the trench, the area could not be cleaned for definition. No other interventions were visible but the difficult conditions meant that the presence of discrete features cannot be dismissed.

Whilst little information could be gained from the sections, the upcast spoil contained evidence of activity on the site or its immediate vicinity. Sherds of medieval pottery were recovered whilst fish and animal bone, charcoal and oyster shell were noted throughout, but not collected as they were not datable artefacts and were from an unstratified context.

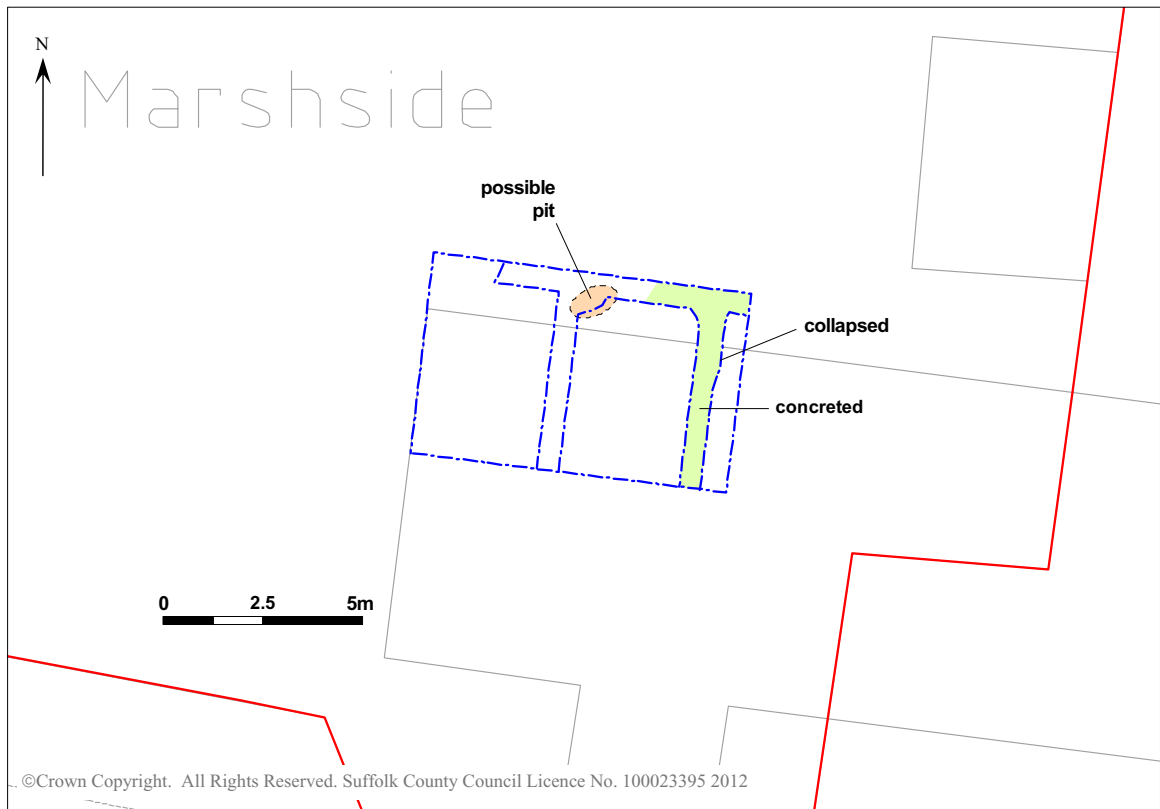


Figure 2. Location of monitored footings



Plate 1. General view showing the eastern excavated footing, and the footings of the existing building





Plate 2. Oblique view of the central footing, looking south west

### 3. Finds evidence

Andy Fawcett

#### Introduction

Table 1 shows the finds recovered from the spoil (0001) during the monitoring.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Slag		Date range
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	
0001	15	327	2	120	1	21	11th to 14th C

Table 1. Finds quantities

#### The Pottery

##### Introduction

A total of sixteen sherds with a weight of 383g was retrieved from the spoil heap context 0001. The entire assemblage is dated to the medieval period. The condition of the pottery may be described as suffering from only slight abrasion. The average sherd weight is a good 23.93g. The diagnostic element (rims and bases) is low.

## **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, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE's). A full breakdown of the pottery can be seen in Appendix II.

## **The assemblage**

The earliest fabric within the assemblage are two sherds of Early medieval ware (EMW) dated from the 11th to 12th century. The sherds are thin walled, reduced and composed of ill sorted quartz.

Three sherds of Unprovenanced glazed ware (UPG) are present which are dated from the late 12th to 14th century. The first of these is a fragment of a handle which has an oxidised surface and a light grey core. The remaining two sherds within the UPG category, although from different vessels, are variably oxidised with grey cores. The UPG sherds have fabrics that are composed of ill sorted quartz and all are likely to be local products.

A possible sherd of Hollesley ware (HOLL) is present within the assemblage. This is oxidised with clay pellets and is dated from the late 13th to 14th century.

The remainder of the assemblage is made up of Medieval coarse wares (MCW) dated from the late 12th to 14th century. These are mostly reduced and composed of ill sorted quartz. Two cooking pot forms are present within this collection. The first has an everted rim and is similar to Cotter's A1 type (2000, 50) which is dated from the 11th to 13th century. The second type has a squared off rim (Jennings 1981, 46; fig 15) a style typical of the 13th and 14th centuries.

## **Ceramic building materials (CBM)**

Two slightly abraded fragments of roof tile were recovered from the spoil. The first is the tapered end fragment of a curved/ridge tile. It is in a medium sandy fabric (ms) with reduced surfaces (which are slightly burnt) and has a thick oxidised core. The fabric also contains rare grog/clay pellets as well as organic voids. Traces of mortar can be seen on the old breaks of the tile indicating its reuse. The tile is dated between the late medieval



and post-medieval period. The second fragment is also dated to the same period. It is medium sandy with ferrous inclusions (msfe) and is fully oxidised. This too has mortar over the breaks demonstrating its reuse.

## **Slag**

The single slag fragment retrieved from the spoil has an irregular shape and is slightly magnetic.

## **4. Discussion**

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Atrocious weather at the time of the monitoring visit and deep, unstable trenches limited what information could be gleaned from the exposed sections. No incised features were visible, nor was any meaningful interpretation of the deep deposits observed possible. However, the upcast spoil did contain material indicative of medieval activity within the building footprint or its immediate vicinity.

The finds assemblage collected is dominated by the medieval pottery recovered from the spoil of the footings. Oyster shell, animal bone, fish bone and charcoal were also found in association with the ceramics but were not recovered as they were unstratified. The good condition of the sherds collected suggests that they have not gone through several cycles of redeposition, rather they were found close to where they were originally discarded. The vessels represented and associated material are indicative of domestic waste which along with the overall date range of the group is wholly compatible with those already recorded at different locations on St James Street (DUN 017, 018, 019 and 099).

## **Bibliography**

Cotter, J., 2000, *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*. Colchester Archaeological Report No 7, Colchester Archaeological Trust

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich*, The Norwich Survey/Norfolk Museums Service



## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### MARSH SIDE, ST JAMES STREET, DUNWICH

##### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the demolition of an existing lean to and erection of a new two storey and single storey extension to Marsh Side, St James Street, Dunwich has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/09/1506). 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 interest for Dunwich town, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 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 occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast 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.
- 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 the 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: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

Reference:/Marsh Side

**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	EMW	Body		2	0	14	Sli	Thin walled with ill sorted quartz, both reduced	11th-12th C	11th-14th C
0001	UPG	Handle	Green glaze	1	0	96	Sli	Oxidised with a grey core, with ill sorted quartz	L12th-14th C	
0001	UPG	Body	Green glaze	2	0	35	Sli	Both variably oxidised, faint traces of glaze present, with ill sorted quartz	L12th-14th C	
0001	?HOLL	Body		1	0	16	Sli	Oxidised with iron rich red ?clay pellets	?L13th-14th C	
0001	MCW	Body		6	0	75	Sli	Reduced with ill sorted quartz	L12th-14th C	
0001	MCW	Base		1	0	32	Sli	0.07. Reduced with ill sorted quartz and rare chalk	L12th-14th C	
0001	MCW	Cpot		1	0.1	31	Sli	Reduced with a squared off rim an ill sorted quartz	13th-14th C	
0001	MCW	Cpot		1	0.22	23	Sli	Variably oxidised with ill sorted quartz. Like Cotter's A1 beaded and everted rim (2000, 50)	11th-13th C	