

Three Ponds, Chickering Road, Hoxne HXN 050

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/065

Client: Julian Davies

Author: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

May 2012

© Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Three Ponds, Chickering Road, Hoxne HXN 050

Archaeological Monitoring Report
SCCAS Report No. 2012/065
Author: Andrew Vaughan Beverton
Contributions By: Richenda Goffin
Illustrator: Gemma Adams
Editor: Richenda Goffin
Report Date: May 2012

HER Information

Site Code: HXN 050
Site Name: Three ponds, Chickering Road
Report Number 2012/065
Planning Application No: 3567/10
Date of Fieldwork: 8th – 11th of May 2012
Grid Reference: TM 189 759
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-130664
Curatorial Officer: Dr Abby Antrobus
Project Officer: Andrew Vaughan Beverton
Client/Funding Body: Julian Davies

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

Date: May 2012

Approved By: Jo Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:

Contents

Summary

Drawing Conventions

1. Introduction	4
2. Geology and topography	6
3. Archaeology and historical background	6
4. Methodology	8
5. Results	8
5.1 Introduction	8
5.2 Trench results	8
Northern plot	8
Southern plot	9
6. Finds and environmental evidence	10
6.1 Introduction	10
6.2 The Pottery	10
Medieval pottery	10
6.3 Burnt flint	10
6.4 Lava quern	10
6.5 Slag	10
6.6 Discussion of material evidence	11
7. Discussion and conclusions	11
Southern Plot	11
Northern plot	11
9. Archive deposition	12
10. Acknowledgements	12
11. Bibliography	13

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location with development area (red) and footing trenches (black)	5
Figure 2. Footing trench plans and section of layer 0020.	7

List of Tables

Table 1. Finds quantities	10
---------------------------	----

List of Plates

Plate 1. Sample section of northern plot showing layer 0020. Looking north-east	App.1
Plate 2. Continuation of ditch 0019 in southern footings trench	App.1

List of Appendices

Appendix 1.	Plates
Appendix 2.	Brief and Specification
Appendix 3.	OASIS form

Summary

The excavations of two sets of footings were monitored on land at Three Ponds, Hoxne. The primary aim of the monitoring was to determine the extent of features and deposits identified during earlier programs of evaluation (SCCAS Reports 2010/063 and 2012/053).

The morphology of an elongated pit, initially interpreted as two intercutting ditches (0015 and 0017) and the continuation of a boundary ditch (0019) running east-west across the southern plot were recorded whilst the continuation and increasing depth of an occupation layer (0020) were identified within the northern plot. The occupation layer contained pottery and metalworking evidence, including a smithing hearth bottom dated to the Late Saxon/early medieval period.

1. Introduction

The excavation of footings for two dwellings were archaeologically monitored on the 8th and 10th of May 2012. The monitoring was carried out as a condition for planning application 3567/10 and followed a Brief and Specification supplied by Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Curatorial Team (SCCAS/CT).

Previous evaluations (SCCAS reports 2012/053 and 2010/163) have recorded evidence of medieval activity in both development areas comprising ditch features and shallow spreads believed to be the truncated remains of cut features.

The excavation of the footprint for a double garage was not monitored as its location was identified as being heavily truncated by the previous stable structure during the earlier evaluations.

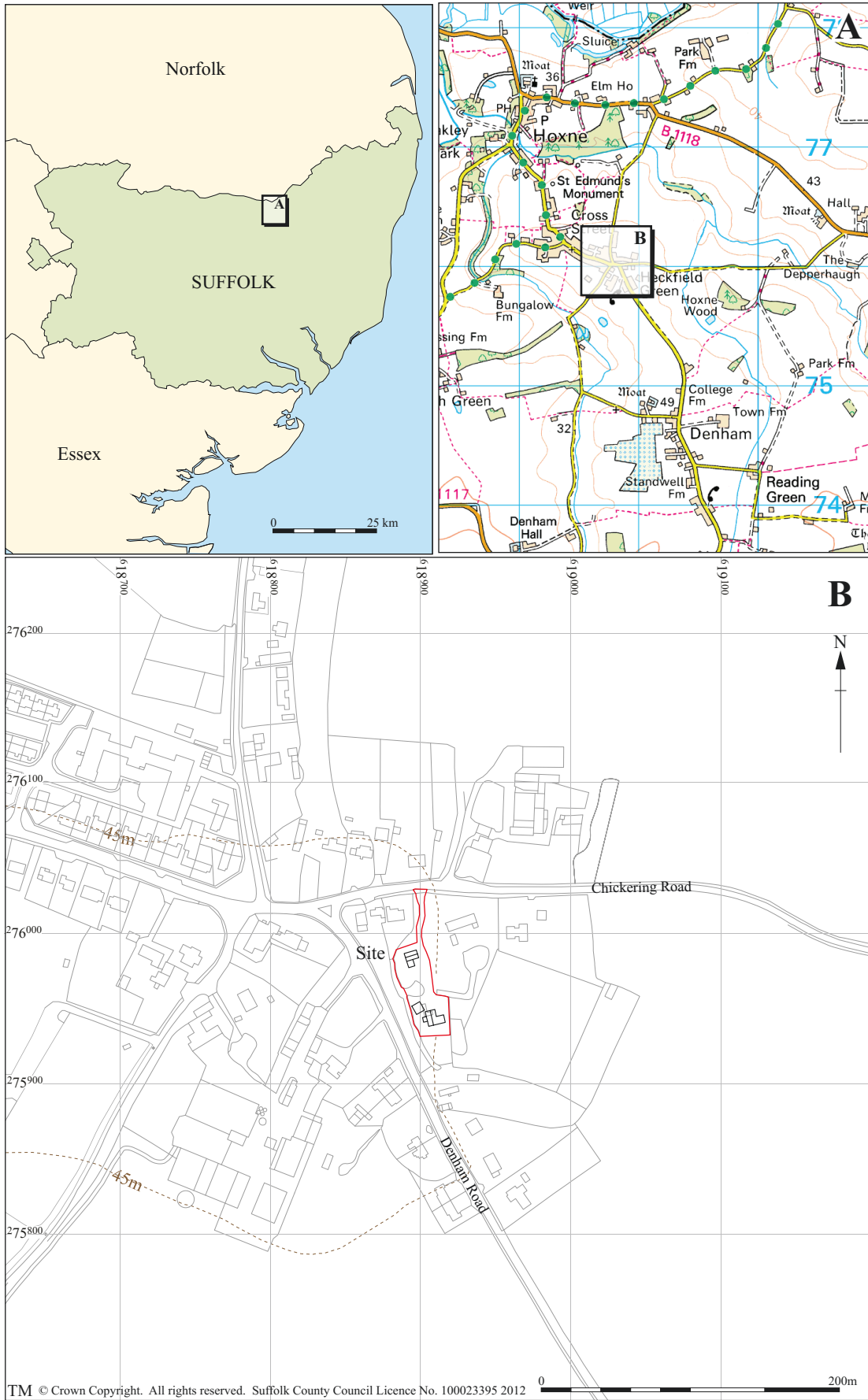


Figure 1. Location of site showing development area (red) and footing trenches (black)

2. Geology and topography

The planned development is situated within the gardens of 'Three Ponds' at Heckfield Green to the south-east of Hoxne. The site lies at c.45m AOD and overlies on a natural geology of heavily compacted loam/clay soils lying over a chalky till.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The development area is partially enclosed and bisected by a series of three pond features, from which the property takes its name. The ponds are not listed on the county Historic Environment Record but there is a strong possibility that they may be medieval in origin. A Desk Based Assessment of the site (Craven 2010) established that the site lay on the eastern edge of medieval Heckfield Green as recorded on estate maps dating to the 1757.

Given the position of the site within medieval Heckfield it could justifiably be assumed that the ponds formed an enclosure to some form of medieval settlement. The small quantities of archaeological evidence recovered from the evaluations suggest a low level activity of a medieval date.

The ponds and development area lie within the gardens of a Grade II listed 16th century farmhouse (LBS No.281038).

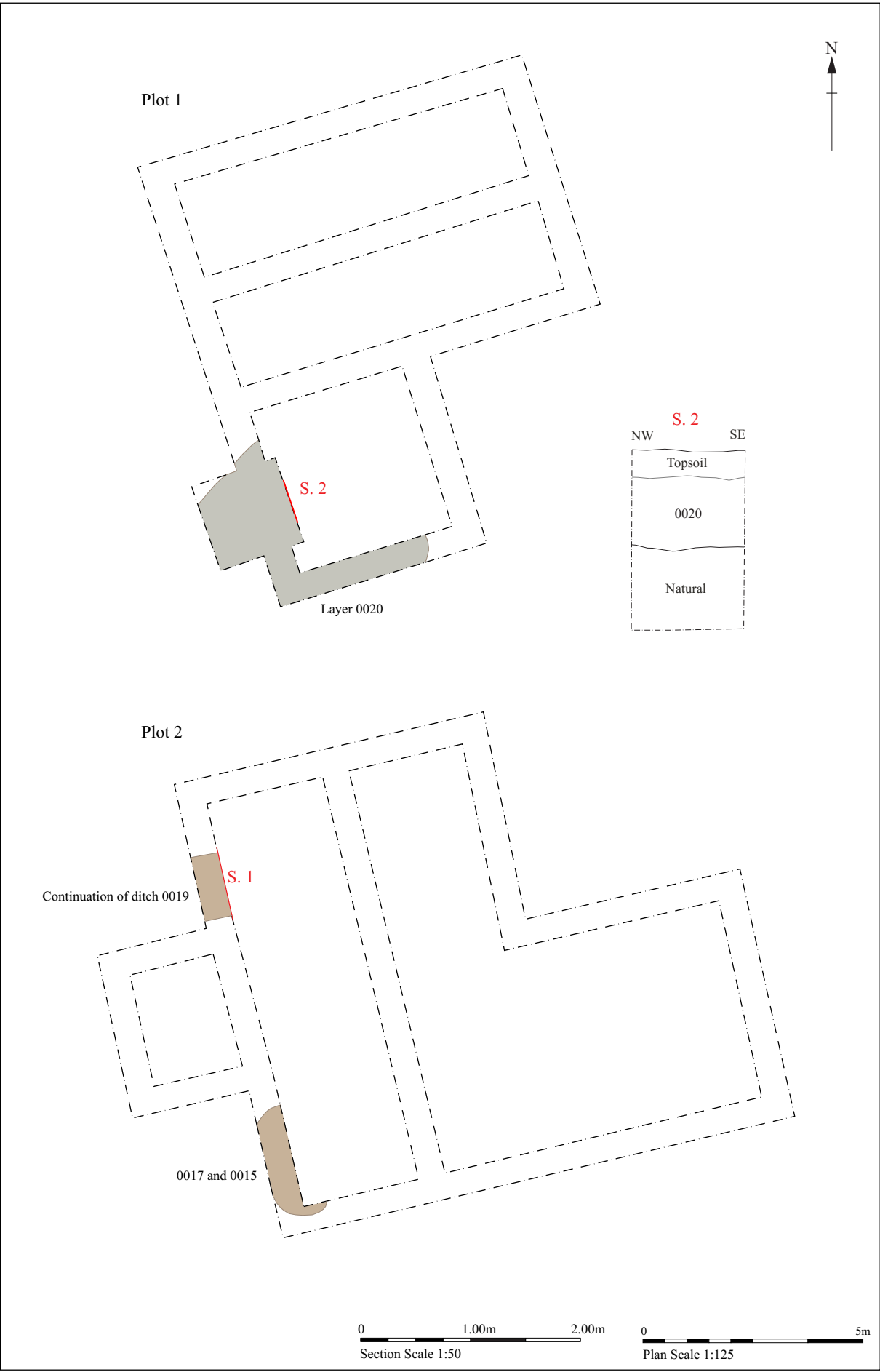


Figure 2. Footing trench plans and section of layer 0020

4. Methodology

The footings for both plots were excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a 600mm ditching bucket. The footings were excavated to uniform level that, due to site topography, varied in actual depth between 1.2m and 1.5m.

During the monitoring particular attention was paid to features identified during the previous evaluation stages in an attempt to track their presence across the site. Where the depth of the trench permitted these features were hand cleaned and digitally photographed. Significant changes in the trench profile, relative to those recorded during evaluation stages, were recorded by hand at a scale of 1:20. Previously unrecorded layers were given a unique context number and recorded following guidelines set out by Gurney (2003).

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The footing trenches for both plots were excavated over the 8th and 10th of the May. No new archaeological features were identified but the monitoring allowed clarification of the extents of known features and spreads.

5.2 Trench results

Northern plot

Excavation of the northern plot was monitored on the 10th of May 2012. As seen during the evaluation the area, most noticeably the northern and eastern sides, has been heavily truncated removing any sub-soils that may be present. This is likely to have occurred during the modern period and resulted in modern topsoil lying directly over the archaeological horizon.

Layer 0020

This layer of heavily compacted greenish-grey brown silty-clay was recorded at the south-west corner of the trench. It lay directly below the topsoil and increased in depth towards the south-east (Appendix 1, Pl. 1) to a maximum of 0.62m.

The context appeared to lie in a natural depression with smooth and gradual breaks of slope and base.

The context contained moderate inclusions of charcoal and a notable quantity of metal working slag. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this context.

Southern plot

The southern plot was excavated on the 8th of May 2012. Monitoring of the footings identified an increasing depth of subsoil towards their southern extent which was recorded during the second evaluation.

Ditch 0019

A medieval ditch with a distinctive v-shaped profile was identified during the second stage evaluation running north-east to south-west across Trench 3 (Beverton 2012). The ditch was identified in the western portion footings (Fig. 2) but was not recorded elsewhere. The ditch maintained the v-shaped profile previously recorded and measured 1.6m wide and 0.45m deep (Appendix 1, Pl. 2). No further dating evidence was recovered from the ditch.

Features 0015 and 0017

Two linear features (0015 and 0017) were recorded in Trench 4 of the second stage evaluation. Although initially interpreted as ditches, the south-west corner of the footing trench ran through their longitudinal section and identified them as elongated pits.

Unfortunately the footings at this point were considered to have too great a depth (1.8m) to enter and record the feature safely. The pit measured approximately 2.5m in length and appeared to have a u-shaped profile. No finds were recovered.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Context	Pottery		Burnt Flint		Lava quern		Slag		Overall date range
	Count	Wt (g)	Count	Wt (g)	Count	Wt (g)	Count	Wt (g)	
0020	3	25	1	12	1	43	18	1467	11th-12th C
Total	3	25	1	12	1	43	18	1467	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 The Pottery

Medieval pottery

Three fragments of pottery were recovered from the layer 0020 associated with the footings in the Northern plot. A single sherd of a nearly unglazed Stamford ware (13g) was identified, which is lightly abraded. It is a fragment of a jug (Kilmurry vessel form 6), which has a concave collared rim. Although almost completely unglazed, there is a small spot of slightly watery green glaze on the top of the rim and another one on the inside surface of the vessel. It has been catalogued as a Stamford Fabric A (Kilmurry 1980, 8), dating from the mid 10th to late 11th century.

It was accompanied by a body sherd of Early medieval ware dating to the 11th-12th century, which contained sparse calcareous inclusions (5g). A sherd of a fine Thetford ware fabric (6g) was also found in this layer, which could date from the 10th-11th century or perhaps even slightly later.

6.3 Burnt flint

A single fragment of burnt flint was present in layer 0020.

6.4 Lava quern

A small sub-rectangular fragment of quernstone which is likely to have been made from Rhenish lavastone was identified from this layer. It has no diagnostic features, apart from its height (15mm).

6.5 Slag

Eighteen fragments of slag were also recovered from this feature. Most pieces are vesicular, with some evidence of liquefaction, but there are some additional fragments

of possible hearth walling. A large plano-convex lump which is oval in plan with a flat surface is almost certainly a smithing hearth bottom (SFB) (Bayley *et al*, 2008). This could have been discarded close to a smithy or may have been used as consolidation or dumping elsewhere.

6.6 Discussion of material evidence

Small quantities of finds dating to the Late Saxon - early medieval period were identified in layer 0020. The presence of a smithing hearth bottom suggests that there may have been a smithy in the vicinity, perhaps on the edge of the green.

7. Discussion and conclusions

Southern Plot

Archaeological monitoring of the southern plot excavations established that ditch 0019 continued only as far as the western extent of the footings (Fig. 2). It is likely that the ditch then terminates within the bounds of the central cell of the footings.

Dating evidence from the second stage of evaluation (SCCAS Report No. 2012/053) dates this feature to between the late 12th and 14th century. The ditch lies perpendicular to a large boundary ditch that signifies the boundary of the property and, originally, the medieval village green (Craven 2010).

The south-west corner of the southern footings ran through ditches 0015 and 0017 from the second stage evaluation. These features were observed terminating shortly outside of the original evaluation Trench 2 (Fig. 2) resulting in a new interpretation of them forming a single elongated pit.

Northern plot

This plot displayed significant truncation across its entirety with the result that the topsoil lay directly over the archaeological horizon.

Layer 0020 was observed towards the south-east corner of these footings. The layer increased in depth steadily towards the south-east corner and lay in a natural depression in the clay. The pottery recovered from 0020 is dated to the 11th to 12th century whilst the metalworking evidence from the same layer comprising slag, possible

hearth wall and a smithing heath bottom (SHB) indicates the close proximity of a metal working site during this period. This layer is likely to be the same as 0004 recorded during the initial evaluation (Craven 2010) which was also noted to contain a smithing hearth bottom.

The monitoring observed the continuation of a low quantity of late Saxon/early medieval features that were originally identified during prior evaluations. A desk based assessment of the site (Craven 2010) determined from the development area lay on the edge of the medieval green of Heckfield and it is possible that the features observed during the project are related to medieval plots radiating from the green's boundary. Particularly, the layer (0020) recorded in the northern plot is likely to have derived from early medieval occupation activity around this portion of the green.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Hoxne\HOX 050 Monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HLI 15-42

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Beverton and John Sims. Project management was undertaken by John Craven who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Jo Caruth. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and analysis was Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Bayley, J., Dungworth, D and Sarah Paynter,. 2008, *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines Archaeometallurgy*, English Heritage

Beverton, A. V., 2012, *Three ponds (Stage 2), Hoxne, Appendix to SCCAS report 2010/163, HXN 050*, SCCAS Archaeological Evaluation Report 2012/163

Craven, J. A., 2010. *Three ponds, Chickering Road, Hoxne HXN 050*, SCCAS Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 2010/063

Craven, J. A., 2010, *Three Ponds Chickering Road, Hoxne, HXN 050*, SCCAS Desk based Assessment Report No. 2010/0149

Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards in Field archaeology in the East of England*. EAA occasional paper 14 ALGAO

Kilmurry, K., 1980, *The pottery industry of Stamford, Lincs. c.A.D. 850-1250*, BAR British Series 84

Appendix 1. Plates



Plate 1. Sample section of northern plot showing layer 0020. Facing south-east



Plate 2. Continuation of ditch 0019 in southern footing's trench. Facing east.

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

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

LAND AT THREE PONDS, HOXNE, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Mid Suffolk District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 3567/10

SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: HXN 050

GRID REFERENCE: TM 189 759

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of two dwellings/garage

AREA: 0.3ha

CURRENT LAND USE: Formerly garden/yard/stables (now demolished)

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Abby Antrobus
Assistant Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741231
E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 02 May 2012

Summary

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

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site lies on the edge of the medieval Heckfield Green in Hoxne. It has been evaluated in two stages, which revealed the truncated remains of early medieval (C11-C12th) and medieval (C12th-C14th) occupation, as well as enclosure or boundary ditches (HXN 050). The nature and date of the relationship between the site and the ponds which bound it is not fully understood.

Planning Background

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

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate

and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE*, must be provided. 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 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011).

- 6.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

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.

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

Notes

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

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-130664

Project details

Project name	HXN 050, Three Ponds, Chickering Road
Short description of the project	The excavations of two sets of footings were monitored on land at Three Ponds, Hoxne. The primary aim of the monitoring was to determine the extent of features and deposits identified during earlier programs of evaluation (SCCAS Reports 2010/063 and 2012/053). The morphology of an elongated pit, initially interpreted as two intercutting ditches (0015 and 0017) and the continuation of a boundary ditch (0019) running east-west across the southern plot were recorded whilst the continuation and increasing depth of an occupation layer (0020) were identified within the northern plot. The occupation layer contained pottery and metalworking evidence, including a smithing hearth bottom dated to the Late Saxon/early medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2012 End: 11-05-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HXN 050 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	LAYER Early Medieval
Significant Finds	HEARTH BOTTOM Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK HOXNE Three Ponds, Chickering Road
Postcode	IP21 5AB
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 189 759 52 1 52 20 12 N 001 12 48 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Jo Caruth
Project supervisor	A Beverton
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Julian Davies

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	HXN 050
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	HXN 050
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	HXN 050
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	HXN 050 Three Ponds, Chickering Road
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beverton, A. V.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 2012/065
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	Ring bound report following SCCAS templates (2012).
Entered by	Andy Beverton (Andy.Beverton@Suffolk.gov.uk)

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

Delivering a full range of archaeological services

- Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/