

Highfields, Chippenham Road, Freckenham FRK 029

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/074

Author: J. A. Craven

April 2012

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks for three extensions to Highfields, Freckenham, identified evidence of three phases of past activity. A substantial phase of Early Iron Age occupation in the immediate vicinity was indicated by the finds assemblage although only a single feature dated to this period was identified. A less substantial phase of activity in the Roman period was also indicated by elements of the finds assemblage.

The groundworks also confirmed the presence, position, shape and size of a post-medieval smock mill known from 19th century mapping. The foundations of the octagonal structure and parts of the basal course of the brick built ground floor structure that stood upon it, were shown to survive intact. The brickwork, which in turn would have supported the wooden windmill frame, dates to the 17th-early 18th century supporting the suggestion in the Suffolk HER that the mill is one shown on 17th century mapping.

1. Introduction

Three visits were made to the site at Highfields, Chippenham Road, Freckenham on the 3rd March and 24th-25th April 2006 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for three extensions to the existing property. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2005/1028/FUL. The work was commissioned by the developers, Mr & Mrs Bone.

2. Location, topography and geology

The site is an isolated property, lying c.400m to the south of the settlement core of Freckenham amongst open farmland (Fig. 1). The Cambridgeshire/Suffolk county boundary crosses the site from east to west, directly underneath the existing house.

Situated at a height of 15m above OD the site lies on a ridge of relatively high ground, overlooking the valley of the Lee Brook/River Kennett to east and north and the Cambridgeshire fenland to the north-west. The site geology consists of sandy soils overlying chalky drift.

3. Archaeology and historical background

Interest in the site was based upon its location within an area surrounded by known Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds scatters, which indicate the probable presence of occupation deposits. The adjacent field to the north in particular has been the location of a series of multi-period metal detecting and fieldwalking finds (FRK 041, 042, 043) while Iron Age and Roman finds scatters, including Roman building material, are recorded c.140m to the south-west (Cambridgeshire HER 07620, 07629, 10238).

The western extension was also to be situated upon the known site of a post-medieval smock mill, shown on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions of the Ordnance Surveys, the latter of which dates to 1926. It is recorded in the Suffolk HER as FRK 029, which states

that it was built prior to 1781, possibly being shown on 17th century mapping, and was demolished c.1910, or dismantled between 1921 and 1924. The base of the mill apparently remained in use as a store until the 1980's , until it was finally removed to ground level, and it is presumably this which is shown on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey. The ground level of the garden had, at some point, been raised 0.3m above the level of the adjacent field, and it was thought likely that the mill foundations would survive from this depth.

The proposed development therefore had the potential to disturb multi-period archaeological deposits and so archaeological monitoring was required of the excavation of footing trenches for the three extensions.

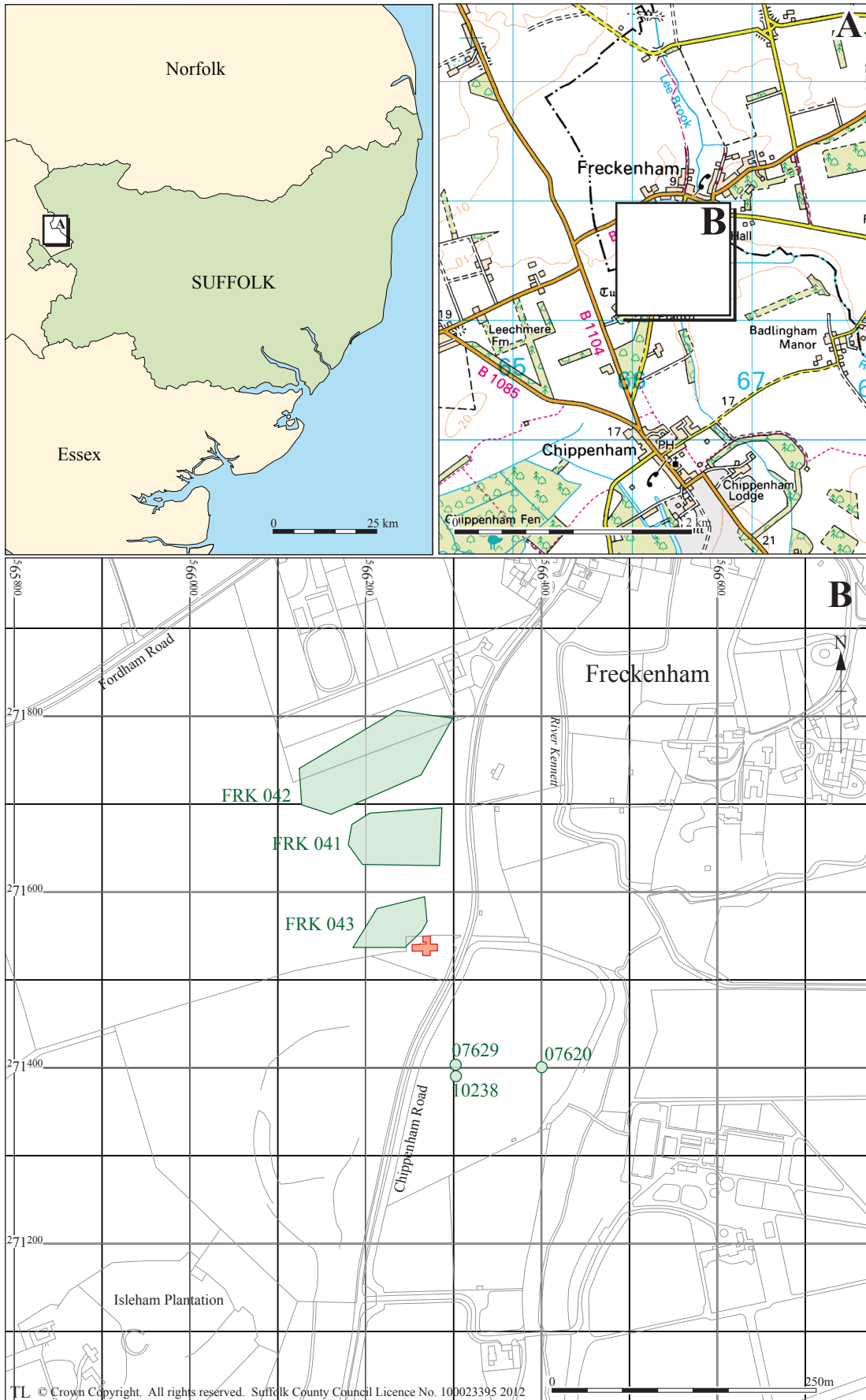


Figure 1. Site location plan

4. Methodology

The north extension, which lay upon the site of a recently demolished building, was stripped of the upper 0.3m of modern deposits prior to trenching. Similarly 0.2m-0.25m of modern deposits were removed from across the footprint of the western and southern extensions prior to trenching. The excavation of the footing trenches was then carried out by a machine equipped with a 0.8m toothed bucket to a depth of c.1.2m below original ground-level. All groundworks were continuously monitored by an archaeologist.

The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system. The trenches were planned by hand, and sections recorded, at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the site archive.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Historic Environment Record code FRK 029. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto a database. Plan and section drawings have been scanned and digitised.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-13259) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. FRK 029.

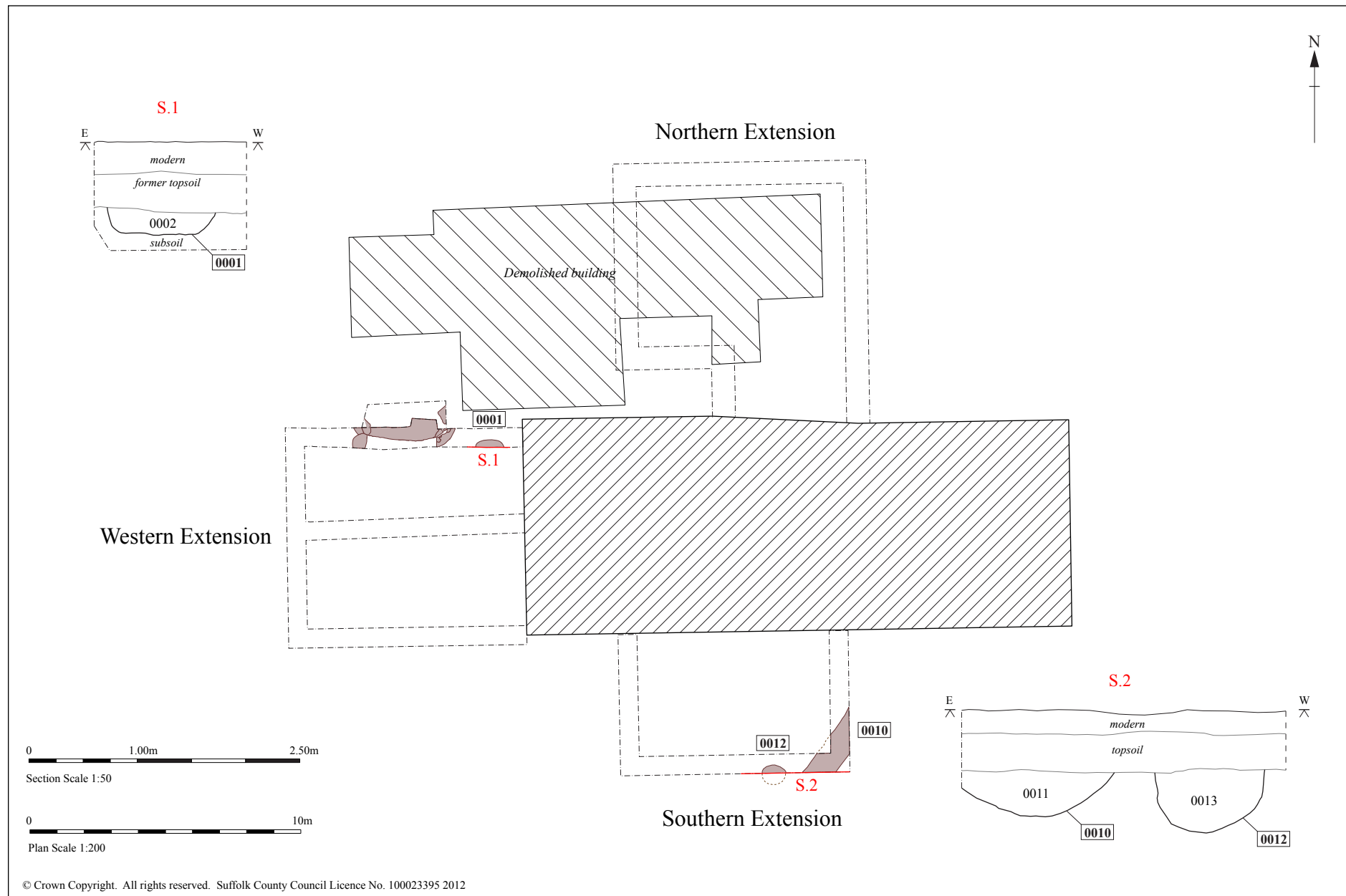


Figure 2. Site plan and Phases I and II sections

5. Results

5.1. Introduction

Archaeological deposits or material were identified in all three extensions and relate to three phases of activity in the Iron Age and post-medieval periods (Fig. 2). Full context descriptions are given in Appendix 2. Soil profiles across the extensions were fairly uniform, consisting of 0.3m of modern build-up deposits overlying a 0.3m thick former topsoil and then the natural orange/brown gravel subsoil.

5.2. Phase I. Iron Age

0001 was a probable pit in the western extension, measuring 1m wide and 0.2m deep, which was largely only identified in section. Its fill, 0002, which was a dark grey/brown sandy loam, contained some sizeable sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, which were recovered from the spoilheap. Early Iron Age pottery, 0016, was also recovered from the former topsoil surface across the western extension after the initial site strip, but was primarily concentrated to the north-east in the vicinity of pit 0001, or was mixed with modern material, 0017, in the central trench.

Further Early Iron Age pottery, 0015, was recovered from the surface of the former topsoil across the southern extension, after the initial site strip and across the north extension footprint, 0023, once the modern deposits associated with the former building had been removed. Further material, 0024, was then collected from the topsoil during excavation of the footings.

Finally sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were collected from the ground surface of where the garden bordered the adjacent ploughed field. Material from along the western garden edge was recorded as 0025 and from the north edge as 0026.

5.3. Phase II. Roman

0010 was a ditch in the south-west corner of the southern extension, sealed below the former topsoil. Aligned north-east to south-west, it measured c.1.2m wide and 0.4m deep and had moderate sloping sides and a broad concave base. Its fill, 0011, was a dark grey/black sandy organic loam from which two fragments of Roman CBM were

collected, together with sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of animal bone.

0012 was a probable pit in the southern end of the southern extension, adjacent to ditch 0010. Only partially visible within the trench, it measured 1m wide and 0.6m deep and had steep concave sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0013, was a dark grey/black sandy organic loam which was sealed by the former topsoil. No datable finds evidence was collected but the feature's similarity of fills with ditch 0010, together with its location and similar stratigraphic position to 0010, indicates that it is of contemporary date to the ditch.

5.4. Phase III. Post-medieval

(Fig. 3)

An initial length of trench, totalling 8m long, was opened on 3rd March 2006. This trench, for the foundation of the northern wall of the western extension, was thought likely to cross the site of the former smock mill and so was excavated ahead of the main development to see if it would cause any complications for the project.

The surviving footings of the smock mill were soon identified, at a depth of 0.3m, and were issued an overall component number of 0003 (Pl. 1). While the bulk of the mill clearly appeared to lie to the north of the new development, a c.3.2m long section of foundation, forming the southern side of the circular structure was exposed, cleaned and recorded. A slight widening of the excavation at one point exposed the interior edge as well as the exterior edge of the foundation and enabled a partial cross-section of the structure and its construction trench to be recorded (0009).



Plate 1. Foundation 0003, looking west, after initial excavation of trench.

The foundations were constructed within a circular foundation trench, 0004, and consisted of irregular clunch blocks, 0006, set in a rough creamy mortar. The foundation wall was c.0.5m wide and was shown to be at least 0.7m deep in section 0009. The exterior edge was left rough and the surrounding foundation trench was infilled with loose, fine yellow gravel and flecks of mortar, 0005.

While the outer edge of the foundation showed a rough curve the interior edge had a distinct corner, which measured c.135 degrees, implying that the structure which stood upon the foundation was octagonal and c.5.5m in diameter.

On top of the clunch foundation, at a depth of 0.3m were several bricks surviving *in situ*, 0007. This is presumed to be the basal course of the actual wall of the mill, which may have consisted of a brick base supporting the main wooden structure. No complete bricks were visible but a partial one was collected and is of 17th-18th century date.

The main stage of works in April 2006 saw the full excavation of the footing trench, which included a 3m section increased to 1.7m width, and involved the complete removal of the foundation where it crossed the trench. This allowed a complete cross-section of the foundation to be recorded, 0018, together with a profile across the majority of the interior (Pl. 2).

The base of the 0006 foundation was shown to sit upon the truncated natural subsoil at a depth of 1.2m, while the construction cut 0004 was seen to be a large circular flat-based pit, rather than a circular trench, meaning that the interior of the mill was also

truncated to a 1.2m depth. At some point after construction of the foundation the construction pit was then infilled with 0.6m of mid/dark brown sandy loam with fine gravel and building debris, 0019. Over this was a thin spread of broken mortar, charcoal and general debris, 0020, and then a 0.06m thick concrete floor consisting of gravel set in a creamy cement, 0021. A fragment of this floor surface was retained and is thought to be of post-medieval/modern date suggesting that the floor surface may be a later addition and that any original floor may have lain nearer the base of the construction cut.



Plate 2. Section 0018 and cross-section of 0003 foundation, facing north-east (2m scale horizontal, 1m scale vertical)

Above 0021 were several distinct layers of infilling debris, presumably relating to the 20th century demolition of the structure. 0022 was a layer of broken mortar and rubble, 0029 a mix of topsoil, rubble and charcoal and 0028 a spread of brick rubble. The modern layer of soil and rubble which had raised ground-levels across the site was here recorded as 0008 and could be seen as directly covering the uneven surface of foundation and demolition deposits.

In the north extension the excavation of footing trenches removed the shallow

foundations for a former cottage that had recently been demolished. This structure appears to be shown as a small rectilinear building on the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Surveys, or as an extended structure shown on the 3rd Edition. The majority of this material appeared quite recent but one chunk of masonry contained bricks apparently similar to 0007, and a sample brick was retained, 0027, which dates to the 17th-18th centuries.

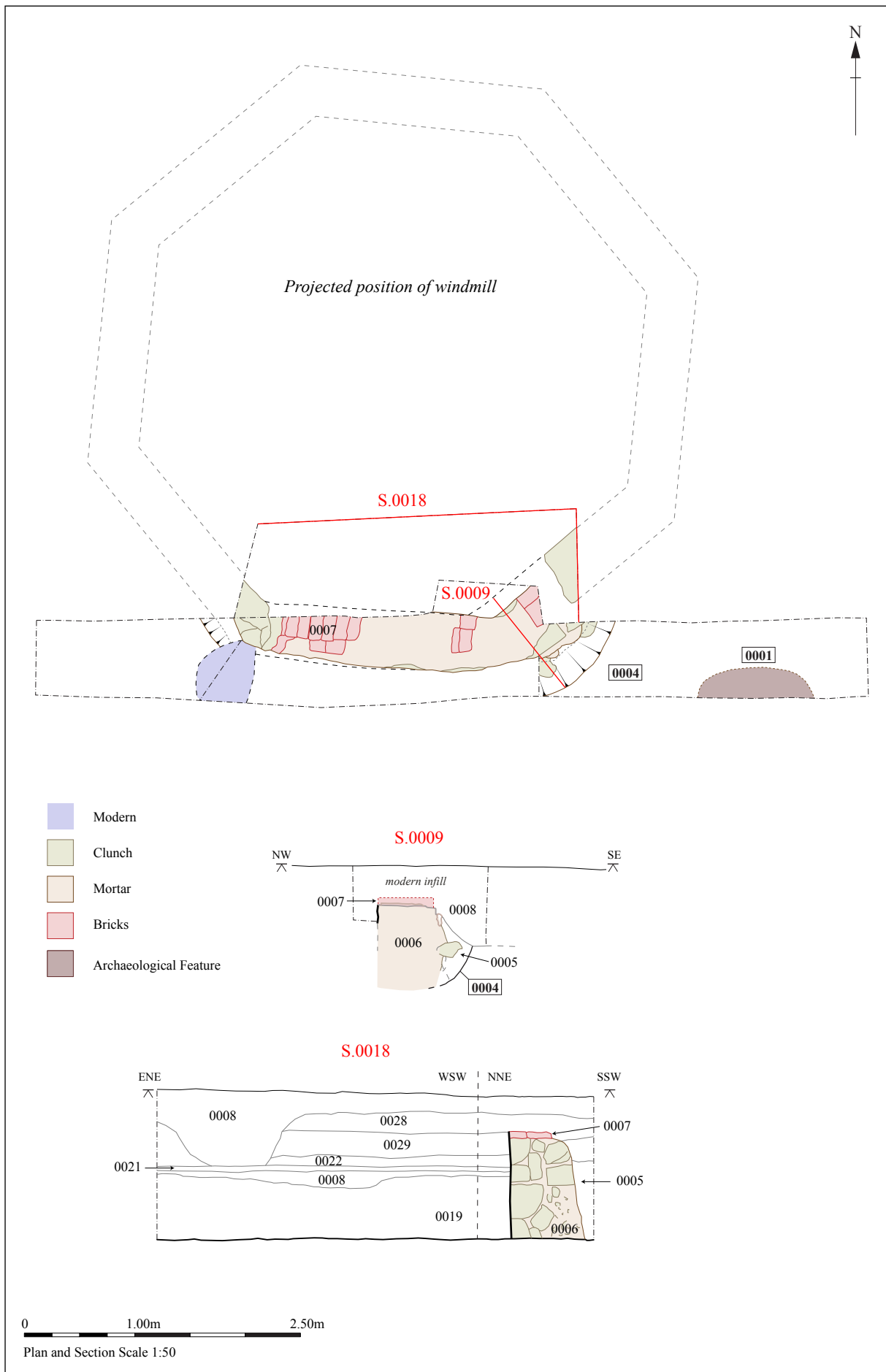


Figure 3. Phase 3: Smock Mill plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Stephen Benfield with Colin Pendleton and Mike Feider

6.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from twelve contexts. Almost all are from topsoil, spoil or from surface collection. The finds are listed by context in Table 1 below. No finds were given small find (SF) numbers and there are no environmental samples.

Ctxt	Pottery		CBM		Animal Bone		Miscellaneous	Finds spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	5	158						EIA (pot)
0007			1	1891				17-18C
0011	2	42	2	329	17	857		Rom(?) p-med(?) (res. preh)
0015	1	6			7	266		EIA (pot)
0016	32	514			8	86		EIA (pot)
0017	7	73			7	99	Glass (1@20g); Slag (1@35g); Stome 1@58g	Mod (res. preh)
0021							Mortar (1@2536g)	p-med/mod
0023	6	38			3	56		EIA (pot)
0024	11	184			9	498	W. Flint (1@74g)	EIA (pot) (res. Neo)
0025	3	20					W. Flint (1@3g); Bt flint (4@118g)	EIA (pot) Mod(?) (flint)
0026	13	102						EIA
0027			1	1989				17-18C
Total	80	1137	4	4209	54	1862		

Table 1. Bulk finds quantities

6.2. Pottery

In total eighty sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 1137g were recovered during the excavation. Almost all of this is of prehistoric (Iron Age) date with one post-medieval sherd. The condition of the pottery is good, with little or no abrasion to sherd edges or surfaces and the surfaces of burnished vessels survive very well.

6.2.1 Prehistoric pottery

There are seventy-nine sherds of prehistoric pottery with a combined weight of 1115g. The average sherd weight is 14g. The pottery was divided between ten fabrics (listed below) and the sherd count and weight was recorded by fabric for each context. The pottery is presented as a full catalogue in Appendix 3.

Pottery fabrics

The pottery is tempered with flint, sand, shell and organic material. Of these only flint is clearly a deliberately added tempering material. The sand and possibly the shell may simply be constituents of the original clay and deposits of clays with fossil shell are known to extend across central southern England. However, it is possible that the shell-tempered pottery may be imported to the site. The organic material is only visible in the surfaces of sherds and may be residue from wiping surfaces or accidental inclusions in the clay from surrounding detritus when making the pot.

The pottery sherds were divided between fabrics with flint-, sand- and shell-temper. These were further divided based on the quantity and fineness of the temper inclusions, and any combination with organic temper. These were further divided based on the surface finish of the pot, which probably relates to fineware and coarseware categories of vessel. Fabrics which can be considered to be from fineware vessels are FL4, SA1 and SA3.

The quantity of pottery by fabric type is listed in Table 2. Flint-tempered fabrics account for approximately 77% by count and 84% by weight, sand-tempered fabrics for 14% by count and 12% by weight and shell-tempered fabrics 9% by count and 4% by weight. The fineware fabrics account for approximately 10% by count and 9% by weight of the pottery.

Fabric types:

Flint

FL1 Common flint, small-large, ill-sorted; sandy fabric

FL2 Sparse fine flint, rare surface voids from bunt out from organic material

FL3 Fine-medium sand fabric with sparse-moderate fine-medium flint, occasional large flint/quartz sand

FL4 Fine-medium sand fabric with sparse fine- flint, black burnished surface

FL5 Common flint, small-medium with occasional large, ill-sorted; sandy fabric with surface voids from bunt out from organic material

Sand

SA1 Fine-medium sand fabric (oxidised)

SA2 Fine-medium sand fabric (reduced)

SA3 Fine-medium sand fabric with black, burnished surface

Shell

SH1 Moderate-common medium-large shell plates in a fine sand fabric with some voids from bunt out from organic material

SH2 Common fine shell in fine-medium sand fabric

Fabric	Count	Wt/g
Flint-tempered		
FL1	3	21
FL2	3	50
FL3	48	753
FL4	5	43
FL5	2	65
Total	61	932
Sand-tempered		
SA1	2	8
SA2	8	84
SA3	1	44
Total	11	136
Shell-tempered		
SH1	5	38
SH2	2	9
Total	7	47

Table 2. Prehistoric pottery by fabric

Discussion

Much of the pottery was collected from topsoil, from spoil, and from field or stripped surfaces, although some was recovered from features: pit 0001(0002) and residual from ditch 0010(0011). However, the condition of the pottery is very good, with little or no abrasion and the burnishing on surfaces also survives in good condition. The average sherd weight is also good at 14g. This indicates that the pottery has probably only recently been disturbed from protected contexts and that the soil conditions on the site, certainly within features or layers, are conducive to good preservation of ceramics.

While the pottery could represent an accumulation of material from several prehistoric periods, the types of fabrics and forms recorded and the consistent quality of preservation suggest it is a relatively homogeneous assemblage. However, much of the dating of the pottery rests on the fabrics and the probable association of most of the sherds. There are a few rims with one flat base (0026). None of the pottery is decorated, apart from burnishing.

All of the prehistoric pottery appears to be handmade. The dominance of flint-temper indicates that much of the pottery probably does not date later than the Early Iron Age as an increasing use of sand-temper and decline in the use of flint-temper is a feature of the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in the south east of England.

In terms of close dating the fineware sherds are probably the most useful. Several

sherds exhibit characteristics of Early Iron Age pottery styles in eastern England, although none is decorated. One simple, everted rim in a sandy fabric with an oxidised surface (SA1) is finely burnished and is almost certainly from a fineware carinated bowl (0016). These types of vessel appear in regional Early Iron Age assemblages characterised as Darmsden-Linton and Chinnor-Wandlebury (Cunliffe 2007, 101-02, figs. A:12 & A:13), found across East Anglia and the south midlands respectively (Cunliffe 2007, fig. 5.4). Several body sherds, both in flint-tempered and sand-tempered fabrics have a highly burnish black surface (0002, 0016 & 0026) which is noted on vessels of Chinnor-Wandlebury style (Cunliffe 2005, 102). These sherds appear to be from undecorated jars or bowls with rounded shoulders, possibly similar to vessels excavated at the Wandlebury ringwork (Webley 2005, fig. 2 no. 4 & fig. 3 no. 16), located approximately fifteen miles to the southwest in Cambridgeshire. Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery is broadly dated to the period c 600-400/300 BC (Cunliffe 2005, 102) and Freckenham would lie at the eastern edge of the range of this style.

Early Iron Age assemblages, characterised by their finewares, also have a coarseware component (Martin 1993, 38) and many of the coarseware rims sherds here could belong to regional Early Iron Age styles. Three are several simple everted rims (in both flint and sand-tempered fabrics) which are likely to be of Early Iron Age date (0011, 0024 & 0029). One (0029) has a small quantity of internal burnt residue. There are also two flat-topped rims in flint-tempered fabrics, which are upright or slightly everted and are probably from jar forms (0016 & 0023). However, some of the coarse pottery might date later in the Iron Age. One rim (0016) in a flint-tempered fabric (FL3) is from a rounded jar with a slightly swollen rim which is a form more common among Middle Iron Age assemblages. Also, some body sherds in sandy fabric, SA2, with lightly burnished surfaces, especially from one context (0024) could be of later Iron Age date.

The small quantity of shell-tempered sherds is also interesting. The pottery from Wandlebury ringwork also contains a small element of shell-tempered ware (Webley 2005, 39) and this fabric type is more typical of the south midlands and Lincolnshire than northern East Anglia in the Iron Age. One rim sherd which is possibly shell-tempered is probably from a necked jar with a small bead rim (0016).

Overall the small assemblage, although mostly unstratified, consists of pottery of Early Iron Age date and possibly Early-Middle Iron Age date, c 600-400/300 BC or slightly

later, which has recently been disturbed from stratified contexts. The pottery appears to have affinities with areas to the west of the site, probably with the Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery style zone, rather than to the east, which is possibly also reflected in the small quantity of shell tempered pottery among the assemblage.

6.2.2 Post-medieval pottery

There is a single base sherd (22g) in post-medieval Speckle-glazed ware (Fabric SPEC) recovered from ploughsoil (0024). This can be dated to the late 17th-18th century.

6.3. Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material (CBM) consists of two pieces of tile or brick (0011) and two whole bricks taken as samples (0007 & 0027).

Two pieces of tile or brick were recovered from the fill of the ditch 0010 (0011). Both are difficult to date with confidence. One piece of red, sandy tile is possibly thick peg tile, but might also be thin Roman tile. The other piece, which is much thicker, is probably most likely to be Roman brick. There is no chamfer suggesting a floor tile and it does not appear to be a post-medieval floor brick which are the two most likely other possibilities.

Tile (0011) (40g). Orange, fine-medium sand fabric with pale grey core. Fine sanded base. Thickness 16-17 mm. Slightly abraded.

Brick/tile (0011) (289g). Brownish red surfaces with thick grey core, occasional small stones. Fine sandy fabric. Fine sanded base and edges. Thickness 24-28 mm.

The two whole bricks are samples from the foundation of the mill (0007) and from the foundation of a former cottage on the site (0027). Neither is frogged. The nature of the fabric and the thickness of these two bricks indicate a 17th or early 18th century date (Ryan & Andrews 1993, 94).

Brick (0007) (1891g). Whole, unfrogged brick, dimensions 220 x 110 x 47 mm. Cream-pink to red surfaces. Cream lime mortar on upper and lower surfaces. Sharp arrises.

Brick (0027) (1989g). Whole, unfrosted brick, dimensions 220 x 110 x 50 mm. Cream/grey-brown surfaces. Corner chipped revealing cream pale-red fabric with cream inclusions and marbling(?). Yellowish-cream lime mortar on base, with some mortar on sides and an upper corner. Sharp arrises.

6.4. Flint

with Colin Pendleton

There are just two worked flints from the site. Both are unstratified finds from ploughsoil and field surface (0024, 0025). One, a large flake, is probably of Neolithic date with later reuse (0024). The other is either of later prehistoric date, or may possibly be post-medieval gun flint waste (0025). The descriptions below are based on notes provided by Colin Pendleton.

Flint flake 0024 (74g). Long, large flake; cortical at the distal end. Patinated on dorsal face but not on ventral face. Careful edge retouch, patinated, on one edge of ventral face. The flake scars on the dorsal face are at right angles to the ventral face. Steep retouch, not patinated, on dorsal face along part of edge. The original struck flake, represented by the patinated face is probably Neolithic. The other working has created a reused flake of later prehistoric or possibly post-medieval date.

Flint flake 0025 (3g). Patinated flake snapped at both ends. Probably hard hammer struck, with platform in centre of dorsal face. There is an element of use wear/retouch on some edges. probably Later prehistoric, but possibly post-medieval gun flint waste.

6.5. Animal bone

Mike Feider

In total fifty-four fragments of animal bone were recovered which together weigh 1862g. The quantities are listed by context in Table 3. Most was collected as unstratified pieces from ploughsoil or from soil stripping (0015, 0016, 0017, 0023 & 0024). Only seventeen fragments came from an archaeological feature, the ditch 0010 (0011). Overall the bone is in fairly good condition, with a higher degree of surface weathering seen on the unstratified contexts. Species composition is fairly typical, with the three main domesticates all being present. The bone is listed by species and context in Table 3.

Context	Feature no.	Feature type	Cow	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Unident	Total
0011	0010	Ditch	8	2	1	6	17
0015		Unstrat	3	0	0	4	7
0016		Unstrat	0	1	0	7	8
0017		Unstrat	1	2	0	4	7
0023		Unstrat	0	0	0	3	3
0024		Unstrat	2	1	0	9	12
Total			14	6	1	33	54

Table 3. Fragment count by species

Of the bone recovered from the ditch 0010, two cow mandibles could provide partial toothwear ageing. Pathology was noted in the form of some bone loss on the inner anterior joint surface of a cow astragalus and possible osteoarthritis on a cow pelvis. No butchery marks were observed.

The mandibles were from fairly young animals, but the pathology is more indicative of older ones, suggesting a wider spread of ages than is immediately apparent.

6.6. Other bulk categories

6.6.1 Heated (burnt) flints

Four pieces of heated (burnt) flint (118g) were recovered as unstratified pieces from a surface context (0025). They are not closely dated, although burnt flints are common on many prehistoric sites and a prehistoric date for these pieces appears very likely.

6.6.2 Stone

A small piece of unworked sandstone (58g) is probably broken from a large cobble as it retains one section of a rounded edge. It was recovered from ploughsoil (0017) and is probably a glacial erratic.

6.6.3 Glass

A near complete glass, screw stopper (20g) with a hollow channel for a dipper or pipette through the centre was recovered from ploughsoil (0017). This is a piece of modern glass and can be dated to the 19th-20th century.

6.6.4 Slag

A single, small piece of unidentified non-ferrous slag (35g) was recovered from ploughsoil (0017).

6.6.5 Mortar

There is a single sample (2536g) from a mortar floor located in the interior of the mill (0021). The floor sample fragment is about 40mm and 55mm thick. The surface is roughly smoothed while the underside is rough and very uneven with soil adhering to it, suggesting it was laid directly onto earth. The mortar is moderately hard and is a pale yellow in colour with fine sand and common medium size gravel stones. The hardness could indicate cement, although the colour suggests a lime mortar, however, very few white fragments of lime are visible indicating a fine powder mortar mix. It is probably of post-medieval/modern date.

7. Discussion

John Craven and Stephen Benfield

Although only three cut features were identified pre-dating the post-medieval use of the site the finds assemblage recovered during the groundwork's indicates a substantial phase of Early Iron Age occupation in the immediate vicinity. Pit 0001 is of this date and, despite being the only feature firmly datable to this phase, would appear to be a part of a wider spread of deposits, as indicated by the finds assemblage. While 0010 and 0012 have been attributed to the Roman period, due to the presence of a piece of brick and a piece of tile or brick recovered from 0010, it is possible that these are simply intrusive deposits and the features are actually contemporary with 0001. The relatively slight evidence of Roman material, particularly when compared to the finds scatters known to the north and south-east suggests that the site is not in the immediate proximity of any settlement.

Although most of the finds are unstratified the prehistoric pottery forms a small assemblage of some interest. The condition of the pottery suggests that most, if not all has been recently disturbed from features and is probably part of a broadly contemporary group. The fineware element can be dated to the Early Iron Age and is possibly associated with the Chinnor-Wandlebury style, dated c 600-400/300 BC. Freckenham lies on the eastern edge of this style zone, suggesting it is situated in a prehistoric boundary area with influences from the east midlands. A small quantity of shell-tempered sherds among this pottery may also indicate contacts to the west.

The animal bone recovered is almost entirely unstratified and, without a secure context (it might possibly date to the Iron Age, Roman or post-medieval period), is of little archaeological significance as it cannot be dated.

The trenching for the western extension has confirmed the presence, position, shape and size of the post-medieval windmill foundations and the brick built ground floor structure that stood upon it and in turn supported the wooden windmill frame. The two visible internal corners suggest that the structure measured c.5.3m wide (Fig. 3) and was octagonal in plan, presumably looking very similar to the nearby Freckenham North Mill (Suffolk HER FRK 028, TL 661 720), a photo of which is available online at the Suffolk Mills Group website.

(http://www.suffolkmills.org.uk/windmill_pix/Freckenham%20smock%202%20C9.jpg)

Brick samples from the wall foundations of the windmill and the adjacent building, although difficult to date closely, appear to be of 17th-early 18th century date which supports the suggestion in the Suffolk HER that the mill may be one shown on 17th century mapping.

The surviving structure of the mill confirms that the base existed until the 1980's before it was reduced to ground level. This appears to have been done quite neatly with the above ground structure being totally removed, apart from a few bricks, to the top of the foundation. The garden level was then raised by a foot to its present height. As a result the rest of the mill foundation probably survives largely intact to the north of the new extension.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Freckenham\FRK 029

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HPA-HPZ\HPL 54-61

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

9. Acknowledgements

The project was managed, and fieldwork was undertaken, by John Craven.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Gemma Adams and the specialists finds report was produced by Stephen Benfield, with contributions from Mike Feider and Colin Pendleton. The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

10. Bibliography

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Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

HIGHFIELDS, CHIPPENHAM ROAD, FRECKENHAM

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a [general building contractor](#) and may have financial implications, for example see [paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3](#).

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect three extensions at Highfields, Chippenham Road, Freckenham (TL 662 715) has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application F/2005/1028/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This development lies adjacent to Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval finds scatters, indicative of further occupation deposits (FRK 041 and FRK 043). Monitoring of one foundation trench defined a pit containing handmade Iron Age pottery (FRK 029). There is high potential for occupation deposits of these periods to be disturbed by development.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liase with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are 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 Iron Age, and possibly Roman, Anglo-Saxon and also Medieval, occupation of the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches (c. 75.00m in total) and the provision of services. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.

3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

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 time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. **Specification**

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must 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 and main service trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **two hours per 10 metres** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Trenches may be machined down the top of the first archaeological deposit and this must be under archaeological supervision. The trenches must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.6 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.

- 4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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 Sites and Monuments 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 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.
- 5.3 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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

Tel. : 01284 352197

Date: 6 April 2006

Reference: /HighfieldsFreckenham2006

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 2. Context list

Context	Feature	Group	Identifier	Description	Over	Under
0001	0001		Pit cut	Probable pit seen in section of initial evaluation trench. Measured 1m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Sealed beneath ploughsoil.		
0002	0001		Pit fill	Fill of pit 0001. Dark grey/brown sandy loam.		
0003	0003	0003	Smock Mill	Overall number issued to surviving foundations of the smock mill		
0004	0004	0003	Foundation trenc	The foundation trench for the smock mill was seen during excavation of the evaluation trench and was partially excavated by hand. Later demolition of part of the mill foundation showed that the trench was most likely excavated as a large, deep pit, with an estimated diameter of 6m-6.3m and a depth of c. 1.35m from current groundlevel. The trench had steep sloping sides and a flat base and the mill foundations were then built a ring within the pit		0005 0006
0005	0004	0003	Foundation trenc	The slight sloping sides of the trench cut meant that a gap was left between the edge of the cut and the foundation walling, this was infilled after the foundation construction with a mix of loose, fine yellow gravel and broken mortar.	0006	0008
0006	0006	0003	Foundation wall	The mill foundation walling was built of irregular clunch limestone blocks, upto 0.3m wide, set in a rough cream mortar. At its base the foundation measured 0.7m wide, narrowing to 0.5m wide at its top as the inner edge was faced and vertical whilst the outer edge was left rough and sloped slightly outwards to the base. The total height of the foundation, from the base of the trench was 0.9m, leaving its surface at a level probably just below the contemporary ground surface. The inner face of the walling had been faced and, at one point in the evaluation trench, was seen to turn an angle of c.135 degrees. A second corner was later seen when the wall was removed, also measuring c.135 degrees. This indicates that the foundation had 8 faces, each measuring c.1.8m long, and enclosed an octagon some 4.4m wide.	0004	0005
0007	0007	0003	Mill wall	Lying atop the level surface of the clunch foundation were the remnants of a single course of bricks, the basal course of the brick wall base of the mill. This indicates that the mill was demolished to ground level, and these last few bricks then sealed beneath the recent dump of modern material, 0008. Two bricks were retained as samples.	0006	0008
0008	0008		Modern deposits	Level of the plot is c.0.2m-0.3m above the level of the adjacent field and this layer covered the demolished mill structure and partially infilled its interior, and overlaid the surrounding ploughsoil, raising the ground level. Generally consisted of topsoil mixed with some rubble and debris.		0005 0007
0009		0003	Section	Section placed at right angle across mill foundation and trench during evaluation.		
0010	0010		Ditch cut	Probable ditch seen in SE corner of extension 3, adjacent to pit 0012. Aligned NE-SW it measured c.1.2m wide and 0.45m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.		
0011	0010		Ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0010. Dark grey/black sandy loam.		

Context	Feature	Group	Identifier	Description	Over	Under
0012	0012		Pit cut	Probable pit adjacent to ditch in extension 3. 1m wide and 0.6m deep it had steep sides and a concave base.		
0013	0012		Pit fill	Fill of pit 0012. Dark grey/black sandy loam.		
0014	0010 0012		Section	Section across ditch 0010 and pit 0012.		
0015	0015		Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from surface of ploughsoil after removal of modern deposits over footprint of extension 3.		0008
0016	0016		Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from surface of ploughsoil after removal of modern deposits over footprint of extension 2.		0008
0017	0017		Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from ploughsoil in central trench of extension 2.		0008
0018		0003	Section	Section across visible part of smock mill after full excavation of footing trench and removal of the southern section of foundation wall. Shows cross section of structure and interior.		
0019	0004	0003	Fill	Basal deposit within interior of mill, lying on floor of foundation trench 0004. Approx 0.6m thick deposit of fine, gritty, mid-dark brown sandy loam with flecks of sand, gravel, debris and pieces of wood.	0004	0020
0020	0004	0003	Fill	Layer of broken mortar, charcoal and general debris.	0019	0021
0021		0003	Floor	Concrete floor, 0.06m thick, within interior of mill, 0.7m below modern ground level. Consisted of gravel set in a creamy cement - lime? Sample collected	0020	0022
0022		0003	Fill	Layer of broken rubble lying above floor surface - probably associated with demolition of mill.	0021	0029
0023			Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from surface of ploughsoil after removal of modern deposits over footprint of extension 1.		0008
0024			Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from ploughsoil during excavation of footings for extension 1.		0008
0025			Unstratified finds	Finds recovered from edge of field surface immediately adjacent to extension 1.		
0026			Unstratified finds	Finds recovered from 4m long, 0.3m wide strip on very edge of field surface immediately adjacent to extension 2.		
0027			Wall foundation	Stripping of the extension 1 footprint involved the removal of the shallow foundations for the former cottage that stood, in some form, since at least 1880 and was recently demolished. The majority of this appeared quite recent but one chunk of masonry contained bricks apparently similar to 0007, one retained as sample.		
0028		0003	Layer	Layer of brick rubble, final infill of mill, probably debris from its demolition.	0029	0008
0029		0003	Layer	Layer of soil, rubble and charcoal, infill of mill, probably debris from its demolition.	0022	0028

Appendix 3. Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Period	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Comments	Spotdate
0002	Preh	SA3	b		1	44	fine, shoulder sherd? black burnished surface, vertical burnish on body & horizontal near rim(?)	IA
0002	Preh	FL3	b		2	84	burnt internal residue on one sherd	IA
0002	Preh	FL2	b		2	30		IA
0011	Preh	FL3	b		1	14		IA
0011	Preh	SA2	r	jar	1	28	rim from jar, simple everted rim, burnt residue inside	IA
0015	Preh	FL3	b		1	6	coarse, some burnt external residue	IA
0016	Preh	SH1	r		1	6	poss shell SH1, bead rim	IA
0016	Preh	FL4	b		3	37	fine, reduced black, burnished surface	IA
0016	Preh	SA2	b		5	45	some thickish sherds, slightly coarse	IA
0016	Preh	SA1	r		1	5	fine, upright or slightly everted simple rim, burnished oxidised exterior, smooth interior	IA
0016	Preh	FL3	r		1	31	coarse, simple defined rim with slightly flattened top	IA
0016	Preh	FL3	r		1	11	coarse, simple defined rim with slightly flattened top, might poss be part of same vessel as similar rim but not clear	IA
0016	Preh	FL3	b		20	379	misc body sherds	IA
0017	Preh	SH1	b		1	21	moderately thick sherd, sparse shell plates	IA
0017	Preh	FL3	b		5	50	misc sherds	IA
0017	Preh	FL3	r		1	2	flat-topped upright rim	IA
0023	Preh	SA2	b		1	4		IA
0023	Preh	FL3	b		3	24		IA
0023	Preh	FL3	r		1	6	everted rim with flattened top	IA
0023	Preh	SH1	b		1	4		IA
0024	Preh	FL5	b		2	65		IA
0024	Preh	FL3	b		6	86	some with burnished surfaces	IA
0024	Preh	SA2	r		1	7	simple upright or slightly everted rim, lightly burnished body	IA
0024	Med	SPEC	ba		1	22	yellow-brown speckled/pitted glaze over red, sandy fabric	L17-18C
0024	Preh	SH2	r		1	4	simple, slightly everted rim	IA
0025	Preh	FL4	r	bowl	1	2	small sherd, bowl rim, prob closed mouth, rim simple, plain	IA
0025	Preh	FL3	b		2	18		IA

Ctxt	Period	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Comments	Spotdate
0026	Preh	FL4	b		1	4	fine, reduced black, burnished surface	IA
0026	Preh	FL2	b		1	20		IA
0026	Preh	SH1	b		2	7	SV, join	IA?
0026	Preh	FL1	ba		3	21	SV, join	IA
0026	Preh	SH2	b		1	5	moderate thick, brown-grey	IA
0026	Preh	SA1	b		1	3	fine oxidised, smooth surface	IA
0026	Preh	FL3	b		4	42		IA

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