

Half Moon Pub, Lakenheath LKH 344

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/150

Client: Baker Nisbet

Author: Rob Brooks

October/2012

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HER Information

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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.

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

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Summary












Excavation of four evaluation trenches at the former Half Moon pub in Lakenheath, Suffolk, revealed well preserved medieval ditches and pits, which produced pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. These features were cut into the top of a peat layer, which spread across the whole site. A clunch and mortar built well and structure were also uncovered and are thought to possibly be post-medieval. Further finds of medieval pottery were present within the very top of the peat matrix, whilst Roman pottery, animal bone and mussel shell were found near the base of the peat in one trench.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of four houses, at the site of the former Half Moon Pub in Lakenheath, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team – Appendix 1) as a condition on planning application F/2011/0265/FUL. The developers, Baker Nisbet, funded the work that was carried out on 11th-12th September, 2012. The site is located within the area of the former car park and garden associated with the pub, at grid reference TL 7119 8317.

2. Geology and topography

The site's topography is fairly flat with a slight slope down to the north. This was indicated by a series of spot heights at ground level, which recorded a fall from 4.4m to 4m above the OD. Two further spot heights at the northern limits of the site were recorded as 3.75m and 3.87m above the OD, which were different as a result of the lower quantity of modern levelling deposits in this area.

The recorded geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of alluvium, which usually comprises silty clay, but also contains areas of silt, sand, peat and gravel. This material overlies bedrock formations of Holywell Nodular Chalk and New Pit Chalk (BGS, 2012). On site, the geology presented itself as either a very pale greyish-yellow silt-sand mix, or light greyish-orange silty-sand.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The development falls within the dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that exists along the edge of the fens and archaeological records are known within close proximity of the site (Fig. 1 and Table 1). Although previous archaeological fieldwork in the immediate area has been limited to small evaluations and monitoring projects, they have recorded features and finds scatters of prehistoric and Roman date. The evaluation also lies within the historic settlement of Lakenheath; a medieval town with possible Anglo-Saxon origins. One site of particular note close to the development is LKH 220, an Early Bronze Age to late Iron Age funerary site, consisting of several cremations, located 400m to the north on higher ground overlooking the fens. Beyond the immediate locale, intensive areas of Roman and Saxon occupation have been recorded on the RAF Lakenheath airbase to the east, along with prehistoric settlement.

HER Reference	Description
LKH 006	Roman quern and Neolithic axe
LKH 026	Roman coin (3rd century)
LKH 027	Roman coin (2nd century) and medieval pottery and building material
LKH 028	Roman coin (4th century)
LKH 050	Bronze Age beaker pot and Neolithic axe
LKH 058	Medieval pottery
LKH 086	Medieval pottery
LKH 112	Medieval Church of St Mary
LKH 129	Post-medieval windmill (site of)
LKH 130	Medieval and post-medieval coins
LKH 137	Neolithic axe
LKH 139	Roman cauldron
LKH 159	Prehistoric flint blade and pit
LKH 161	Post-medieval windmill (site of)
LKH 163	Post-medieval causeway
LKH 176	Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval metalwork
LKH 178	Medieval coins and other metalwork
LKH 179	Two Roman coins, and medieval and post-medieval metalwork
LKH 180	Roman, medieval and post-medieval metalwork
LKH 181	Bronze Age rapier blade, Iron Age coin, Roman brooch, medieval metal finds, post-medieval metal finds
LKH 182	Roman brooch, post-medieval coin and token, and undated bronze casting waste
LKH 184	Neolithic arrowheads and axes, Bronze Age arrowhead, and WWII aircraft crash debris
LKH 188	Roman door lock, Saxon brooch, and medieval pendant and buckles
LKH 189	Bronze Age axe
LKH 199	Bronze Age knife
LKH 220	Early Bronze Age to late Iron Age funerary site, consisting of several cremations
LKH 230	Post-medieval pits and ditches
LKH 236	Medieval pits, ditches and a posthole
LKH 254	Medieval town, recorded as such from c.1100, a market charter being granted in 1201, and a market fair in 1309
LKH 315	Medieval pits, postholes and building material, and a post-medieval farm (site of)
LKH 318	Medieval pits, postholes and building material, and a post-medieval farm (site of)
LKH 322	Undated ditch – possibly graveyard boundary

Table 1. Historic Environment Record (HER) listings as shown on Figure 1

A number of post-medieval clunch-built structures of note are also present close to the site, many located along the western side of the High Street. The best documented examples of these were detailed in a Historic Building Record carried out at 82 High Street, where a series of rare 19th century clunch-built farm buildings were recorded (Alston, 2008).

Early editions of the Ordnance Survey map show the Half Moon pub already occupying the site by the late 19th century, whilst the Enclosure map of 1837 recorded no development on the western side of the High Street at all. The 1854 Tithe map lists the development area as Mutford Green, which was pasture, with the surrounding apportionments also recorded as either pasture or arable land.

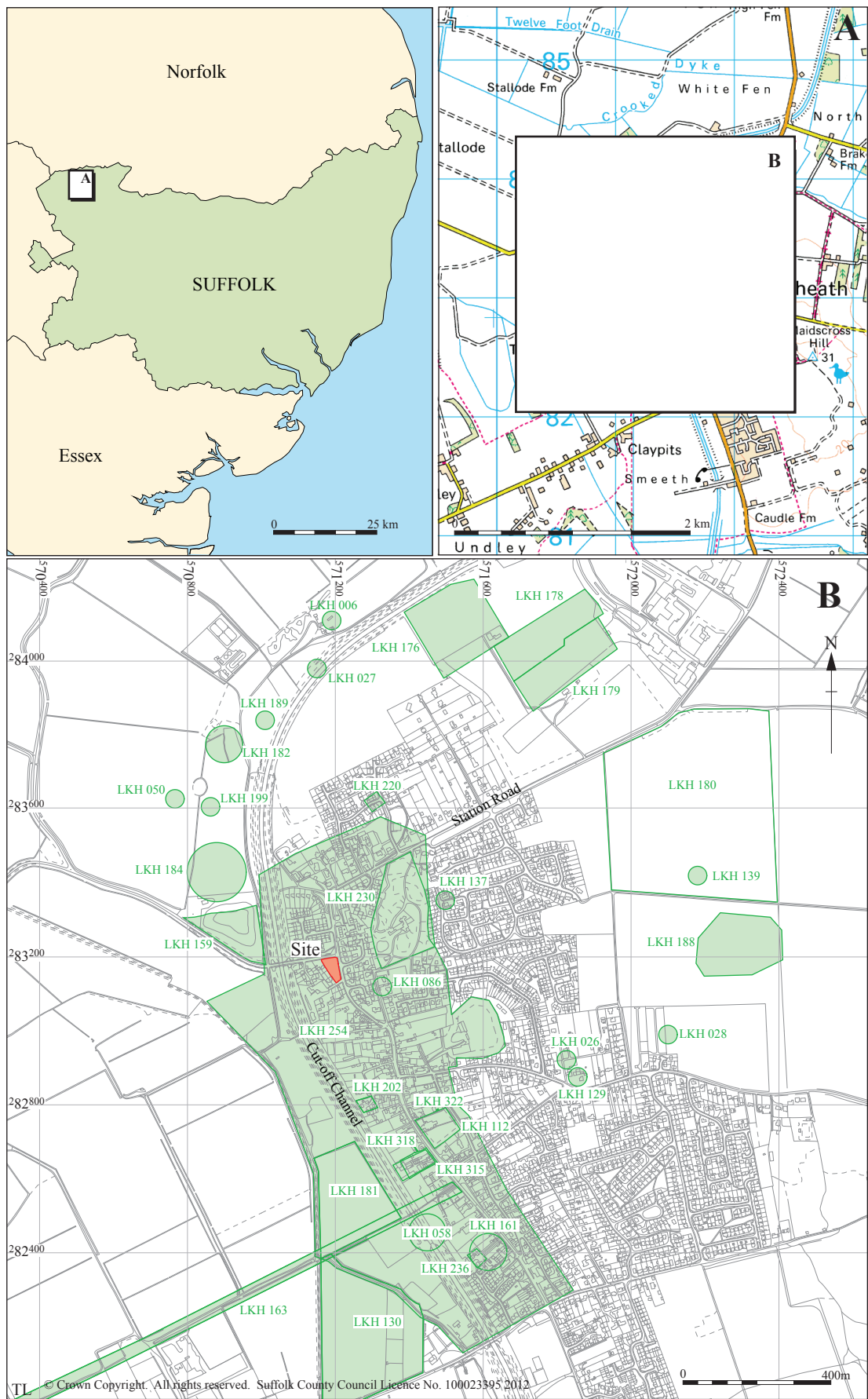


Figure 1. Location of site (red) and Historic Environment Record entries as mentioned in the text (green)

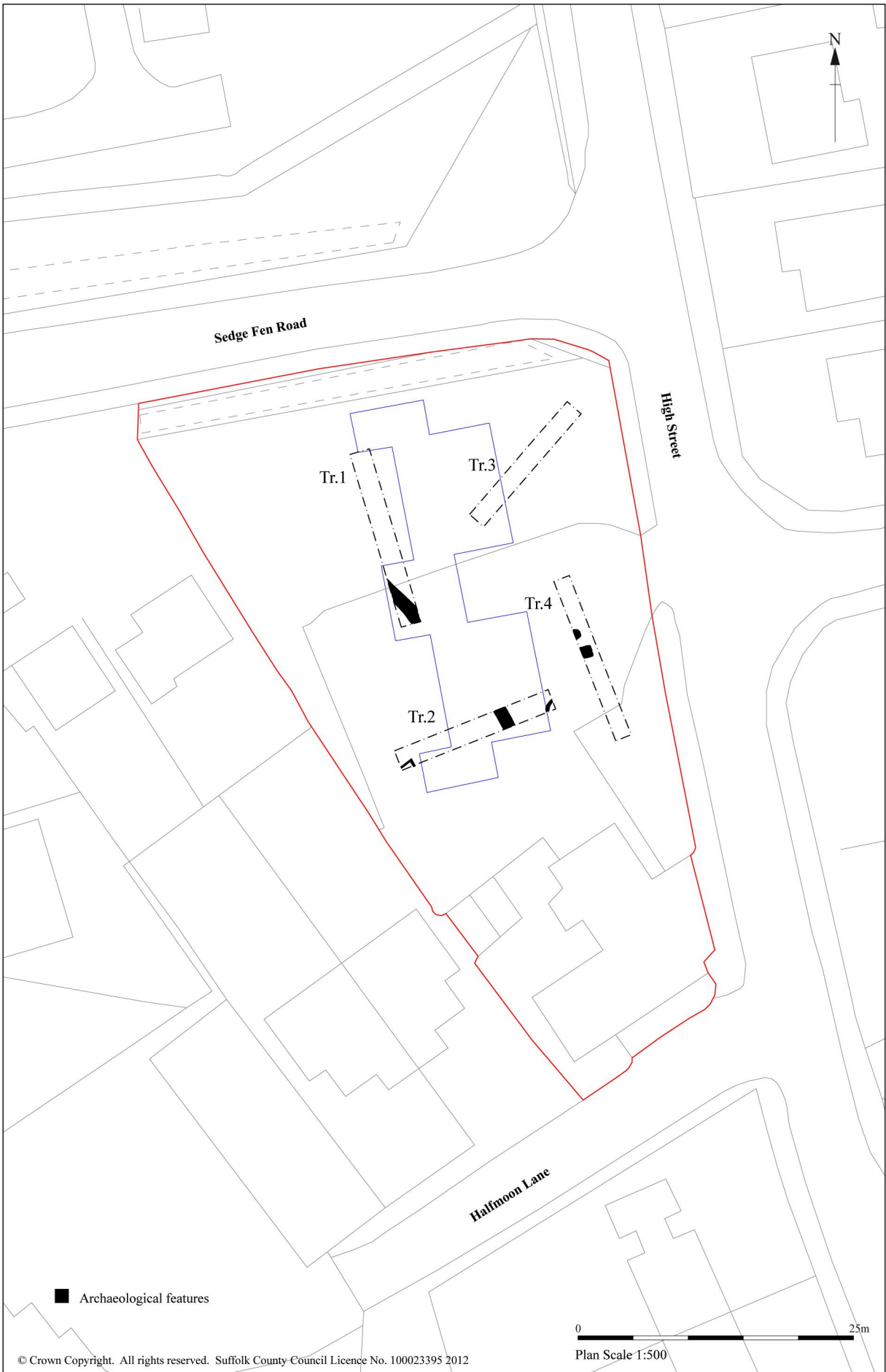


Figure 2. Trench plan with features marked (black) and development outlines (blue)

4. Methodology

The trenches were excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket and the excavation was constantly monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Modern make-up layers and any buried topsoil were removed, which then exposed a peat layer running across the site. At this level machining was halted (with the agreement of SCCAS Conservation Team), because some features were cut into the top of this layer. In the ends of each trench a sondage was cut to expose the full depth of the peat layers and the undisturbed superficial geological levels, excluding in the southern end of Trench 1, where a ditch was present. All upcast spoil was monitored for finds. The trenching was laid out in a pattern to sample all areas of the site to be affected by the development (Fig. 3). The trenches were 1.8m wide and c.15m long.

When the trench excavations were finished soil profiles were cleaned and then recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* record sheets, including descriptions and measurements. Colour digital photographs at 314 x 314 dpi resolution were taken of features, the trenches and soil profiles (Appendix 2). Plans of the site were made using an RTK GPS (working within accuracy tolerances of 0.05m), and a dumpy level was used to obtain spot heights. In order to better understand the environmental formation of the peat layer, monolith samples of the soil profile and bulk environmental samples from the peat were taken from a sondage within each trench. A sub-sample of the bulk samples has been processed for this report. This has been carried out in order to assess the potential for both the further processing of the bulk environmental and monolith samples, and also to show whether enough suitable material for C14 dating is likely to be present.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code LKH 344 (Appendix 3). An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1- 132792, Appendix 4) 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 code LKH 344.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Archaeological features consisting of pits, ditches and clunch and mortar built structures were found within Trenches 1, 2 and 4 (Figs. 2-5). The full soil profiles for the trenches are recorded in Table 2 (below). No features or finds were revealed during the excavation of Trench 3. A make-up layer of relatively recent rubble and other material had been laid across the site and was usually 0.4-0.6m deep. Below this a buried topsoil layer was usually recorded, and this measured 0.25-0.55m deep. This in turn overlaid the peat layers found across the site, recorded as 0002, 0010, 0011, 0014, 0015, 0017 and 0020. These layers are thought to be part of a long episode of fairly typical formation, with various events such as water level changes, short-term flooding, and precipitation causing natural irregularities within their formation.

Trench number & length	Soil profile
1 16.6m long	<p>North end: 0.5m of make-up layers above – 0.54m of buried topsoil above – 0.44m of peat 0002 above superficial geology</p> <p>South end: 0.38-0.5m of make-up layers above – 0.16-0.52m of buried topsoil 0008 above – Up to 0.34m of topsoil and demolition material 0007 above – >0.26m of peat 0002 above superficial geology (this peat layer was not fully excavated to natural because of the presence of ditch 0005 cutting into it)</p>
2 15.1m long	<p>0.45-0.66m of make-up layers above – 0.45m of buried topsoil 0009 above – 0.22m of desiccated peat and grey sand 0010 above – 0.33m of waterlogged peat above 0011 – 0.3m of black peaty-sand above superficial geology</p>
3 14.25m long	<p>South-west end: 0.4m of make-up layers above – 0.4m of buried topsoil 0013 above – 0.22m of grey silty-sand (natural layer not present in north-east sondage) above- 0.16m of pure peat 0014 above- 0.1m of black sandy-peat 0017 above – 0.24m of dark greenish-grey sand (natural subsoil/B-horizon, discoloured by leaching) above superficial geology</p> <p>North-east end: 0.48m of make-up layers above – 0.25m of buried topsoil 0013 above – 0.2m of pure peat 0014 above – 0.1-0.38m of brownish-grey sandy-silt 0015 above – 0.28m of peat 0017 above superficial geology</p>
4 17.2m long	<p>0.45m of make-up layers above – 0.4-0.5m of buried topsoil 0018 above – 0.2-0.3m of peat 0019 above – 0.15-0.24m of dark sandy chalky peat 0020 above – 0.15-0.32m of leached and less discoloured greyish subsoil/B-horizon above superficial geology</p>

Table 2. Soil profiles

5.2 Trench results

Peat formation

Across the site fenland peat layers were recorded in the base of each trench. This appeared to be typical fenland minerotrophic peat, meaning that it had formed with inputs of stream water and precipitation, as opposed to ombrotrophic peat lands, such as bogs, which 'are isolated from any supply of groundwater and/or stream water, and so are fed exclusively by atmospheric inputs such as rain, snow, fog, dust and ash' (Vleeschouwer, et al., 2010). This has created a somewhat variable profile, consisting of dense organic deposits overlying discoloured subsoils. The peat is also sometimes cut by what are now infilled irregular channels of incoming water that formed as natural flooding events have taken place across the fenlands. These occur as flooding rivers entered the area, were slowed down by the localised topographical and geological conditions, and were as a result split into various smaller channels. They can also form from run off caused by precipitation. Whilst they are likely to be natural, these irregular channels may have been deliberate cuts and as such they were separately recorded as deposit 0010 (Trench 2) and channel 0016 (Trench 3). It is unlikely that they functioned as either drainage or boundary ditches, being within an active peat matrix (Figs. 4 and 5). Another interpretation is that they were perhaps peat excavations, although they are not very extensive and 0010 is immediately below a heavily disturbed topsoil layer. The environmental samples from the peat indicated that the vegetation content was dominated by Bog Bean, which is typical for northern Europe (ibid.).

Across most of the site the peat matrix appears to consist of roughly 0.4-0.5m of peat layers, consisting of highly organic material, as well as slightly silty or sandy peat. This varies most clearly in the west end of Trench 2, where the matrix is up to 0.7m deep, but may be partially disturbed at the top, and at the south-west end of Trench 3, where only 0.26m of peat is present. Levels on the top of the peat vary across the site and indicate a slight rise up from the north of the site to the south (Table 3). This is probably a result of the activity associated with the disturbed buried topsoil that overlies the area. Underlying the peat was a layer of pale greyish-yellow silty-sand. This was in places heavily discoloured due to leaching from above, creating a grey subsoil B-horizon that was removed by machining. Levels taken on the clean geology, i.e. that which was not discoloured, varied from 2.28m (Tr.1) to 2.95m (Tr.4 south end), as shown on Figures 3

– 5, but this variation does not take into account the variations caused by the presence of the subsoil B-horizon (Table 3).

Trench	Levels of geology	Levels on top of peat
Trench 1	North end - 2.28m	North end – 2.85m Mid point – 2.78m South end – 3.07m
Trench 2	West end – 2.26m East end – 2.55m	West end – 3.2m Mid point – 3.3m East end – 3.43m
Trench 3	West end – 2.54m East end – 2.57m	South-west end – 3.11m Mid point – 3.06m North-east end – 2.85m
Trench 4	North end – 2.62m South end – 2.95m	North end – 3.42m Mid point – 3.37m South end – 3.6m

Table 3. Geological and peat levels

Trench 1

Ditch 0005

A north-west to south-east aligned ditch was recorded in Trench 1 and is thought to be the same feature as ditch 0026 within Trench 2. It measured 1.15m wide x 0.3m deep and the cut was fairly shallow, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The mid-dark greyish-black, clayey-silt fill, 0004, produced somewhat abraded pottery and CBM of 13th/14th-15th century date, as well as animal bone.

Peat layer 0002 and finds 0006

In this trench the densest and most organic peat layer was recorded as 0002 and was typically very dark brown/black with no inclusions. However, within the south-west corner of the trench, immediately west of ditch 0005, a concentration of medieval pottery was collected from the top 0.1m of the context. This consisted of thirteen sherds of late 12th/L13th-15th century pottery from a shouldered Ely glazed ware jug, as well as five pieces of animal bone.

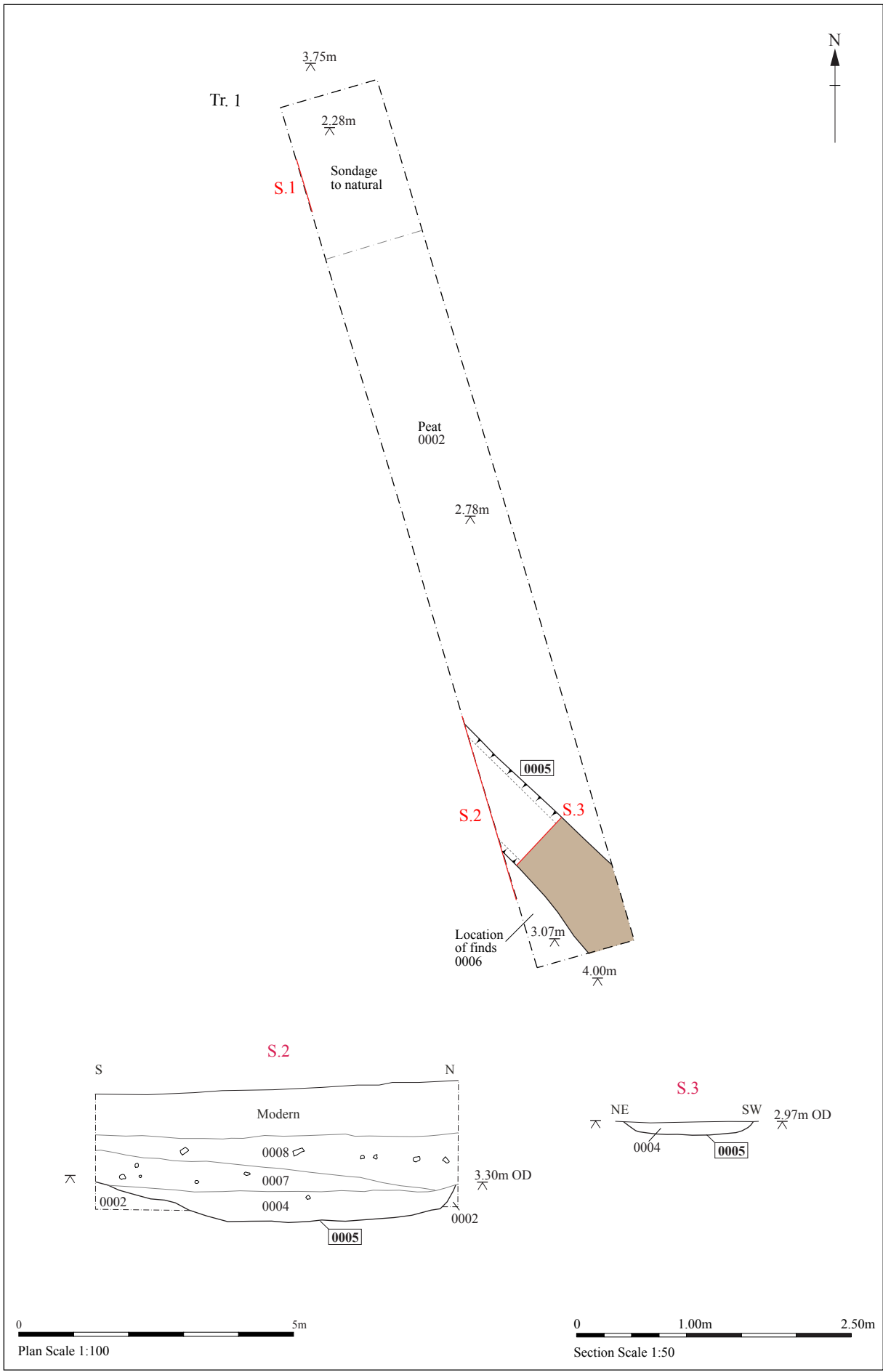


Figure 3. Trench 1 plan and sections

Trench 2

Ditch 0026 and posthole 0030

A similar cut to ditch 0005 was recorded in Trench 2, measuring 1.78m wide x 0.66m deep. It was also on a north-west to south-east alignment, but had a deeper profile. The sides sloped at 45° and were slightly irregular, and the base was flat-slightly concave. Two fills were recorded in this cut. Basal fill 0024 was yellow sandy-gravel, containing two medieval brick fragments and an abraded 18th-20th century pot fragment, thought to be intrusive. The top fill of the ditch, recorded as 0025, was mid-dark greyish-black clayey-silt that produced no finds. Ditch 0026 was partially cut through posthole 0030. This cut appeared to be round and measured 0.55m long x >0.25m wide x 0.12m deep. It contained yellowish-grey gravel and sand fill 0029, which produced no finds.

Well 0031 and Wall 0032

In the western end of Trench 2 was a curving length of wall made from clunch and pale yellow mortar. This was only partially visible within the trench and it appeared to be the corner of a well. The walls varied from 0.3-0.45m thick and cut the buried topsoil, being sealed by the modern make-up layers. It was not possible to enter this area of trenching, so a full section was not drawn. In the eastern end of the trench a clunch and pale yellow mortar wall with a 90° return was recorded as 0032. This was approximately 0.25-0.3m thick and clearly indicated the corner of a building extending to the south-west. It was not possible to further expose this foundation due to the presence of a tree in this area of the site. Lighting conditions on site meant that photographs of both features were highly over-exposed.

Deposit 0010

In the west end of Trench 2 a layer was recorded as 0010, which had a very undulating lower horizon with layer 0011 and was overlaid by disturbed buried topsoil deposit 0009 (Fig. 4). This initially looked like a possible feature cut, measuring c.1m wide x c.0.14m deep, but it was made up of grey sandy-silt that appeared to be alluvial or fluvial material, and the irregularity of the supposed cut are more likely to indicate a natural water channel within the upper surface of the fenland, or that it was related to the disturbed material above. Such natural channels are feature of fenland peat (Vleeschouwer, et al., 2010). Alternatively it may represent peat cutting for use as fuel.

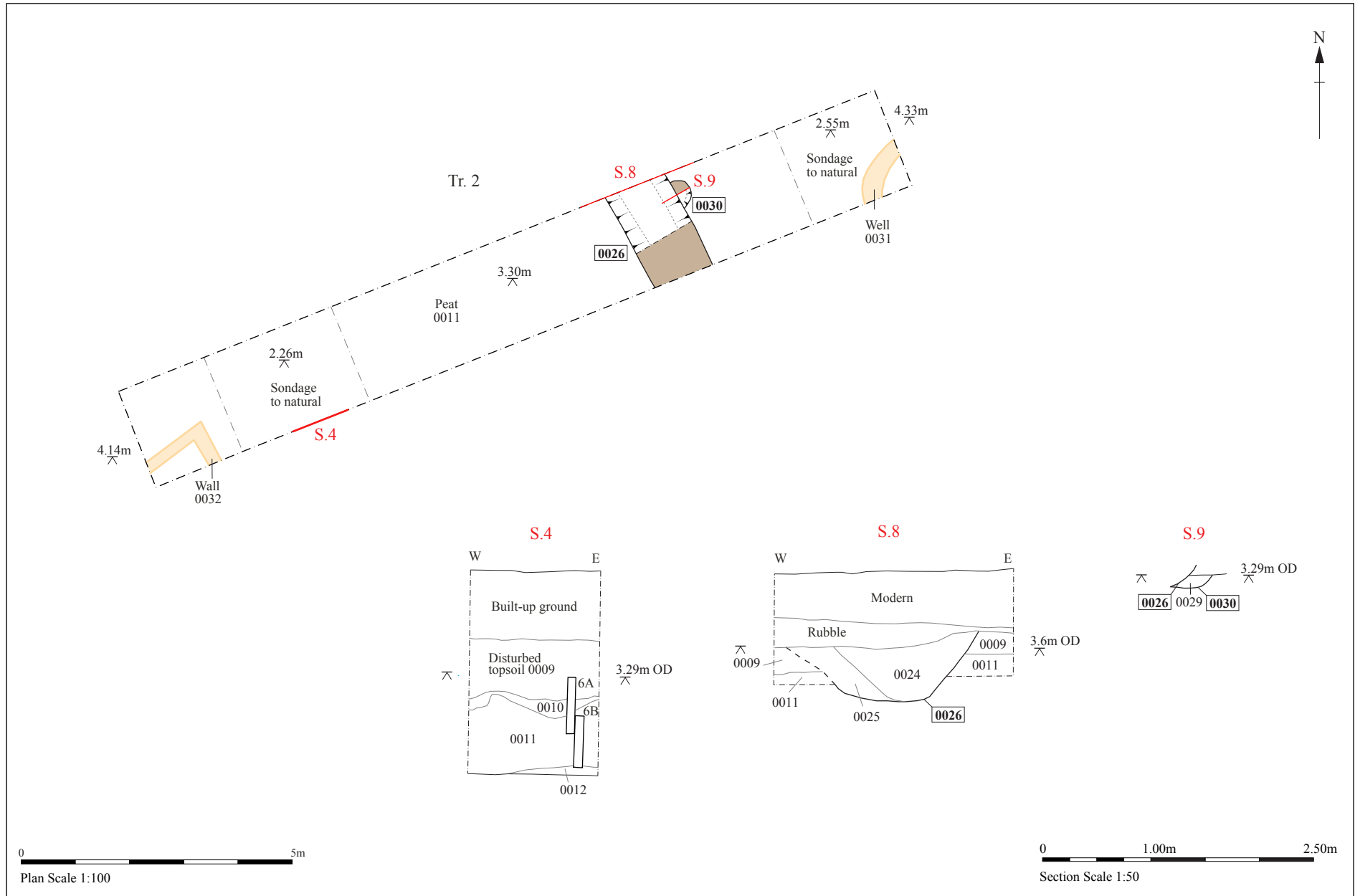


Figure 4. Trench 2 plan and sections

Trench 3

Peat layer 0017

Dense peat layer 0017 was recorded in the base of Trench 3. Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it, along with a piece of animal bone and an oyster shell. This deposit was overlaid by channel 0016, and made up the basal 0.3m of the trench soil profile.

Channel 0016

A channel was recorded as 0016 within Trench 3, measuring c.1.1m+ wide x c0.18-0.25m+ deep (Fig. 5). This was thought to be a possible ditch cut initially, but its position within the peat matrix is more likely to indicate a naturally formed small channel that was cut by faster-moving water and infilled with dark peaty-silty-sand 0015, which also extends beyond 'cut' 0016. Deposit 0015 did not develop into fully-matured peat as it was presumably submerged under rising water levels, which then continued to rise but at a slower pace, allowing peat layer 0014 to form into dense peat. Such natural channels are found fairly frequently in fenland peat deposits, forming as a result of water run off during periods of rising water levels, or due to precipitation (Vleeschouwer, et al., 2010).

Trench 4

Pit 0022

A roughly circular pit, measuring >0.56m x 0.96m x 0.2m deep, was recorded in Trench 4 as cut 0022. It was only partially exposed in the trench, and therefore could also be a ditch terminus. It had moderate-steep sloping concave sides and a flat base, and it contained mid grey clayey-silt fill 0023. One piece of roof tile that is thought to be medieval, but may be post-medieval, was retrieved from the fill.

Pit 0027

A square pit, measuring 1.1m x >1m x >0.2m deep, was partially excavated within Trench 4 and recorded as cut 0027. It was only partially visible in the trench and had steep sides, although its base was not fully exposed. It was filled with mid grey clayey-silt 0028, which produced five fragments of medieval tile.

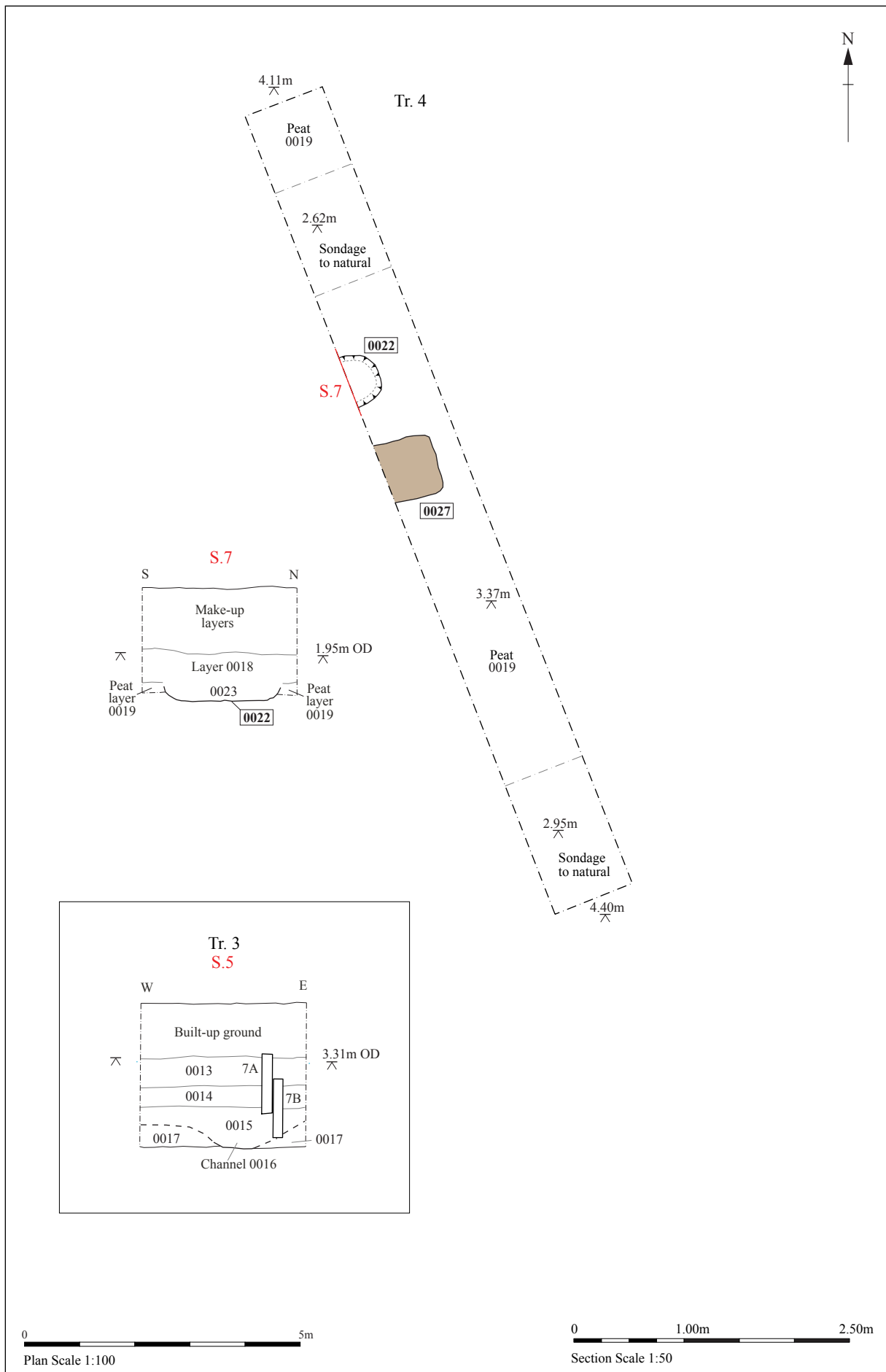


Figure 5. Trenches 3 and 4 plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

Table 4 shows the quantities of finds collected in each context from the archaeological evaluation. Finds were recorded in contexts from all four evaluation trenches. These include two peat layers, two ditch and two pit fills. A full contextual breakdown of the bulk finds can be seen in Appendix 5.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Other	Spot date
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g		
0004	1	3	10	306	2	63		13th/14th-15th C
0006	13	790			5	298		L12th/L13th-15th C
0017	3	19			1	8	Shell 1 @ 6g	Roman
0023			1	44				Med/?P-Med
0024	1	10	2	453				Medieval
0028			5	1193				Medieval
	18	822	18	1996	8	369		

Table 4. Finds quantities

6.2 The Pottery

Introduction

A total of eighteen sherds of pottery with a weight of 822g was recorded from the evaluation. Three periods are represented within the assemblage, Roman, medieval and post-medieval. A complete contextual breakdown of the assemblage can be seen in Appendix 6.

Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and allocated to fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS) and form types where possible have been catalogued using the Suffolk form series and Sperry's form guide to Ely products (2008). All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and E.V.E.

Roman

Peat layer 0017 (Tr.3) contained three joining sherds of Roman greyware pottery (GX). The sherds all form part of a lid which has a beaded rim (8.1); however it is not closely datable within the Roman period. The lid is thin-walled and contains abundant ill sorted quartz. No other datable finds were recorded within this fill or trench.

Medieval

Medieval pottery sherds were recorded in two contexts within Trench 1, ditch fill 0004 and deposit layer 0006. The first of these contains a single small body sherd of Ely glazed ware (ELYG) which is dated from the 13th/14th to 15th century, which is also accompanied by medieval roof tile. Thirteen large and joining sherds of Ely glazed ware are present in context 0006. They all belong to a shouldered jug which has a simple out-turned flat rim with a sagging base. The vessel has a strap handle that displays stabbing down its entire length and random green glazing, although this is mostly restricted to its upper half. The form falls within the Spoerry jug group C (2008, 58/9) and is dated from the late 12th/late13th to 15th century. The fabric is black with a buff outer surface and contains dense ill sorted quartz and common chalk with some red iron ore. It is similar to Spoerry's fabric types B/F (2008, 13).

Ely-type wares are mostly found towards the west of the county, and they have been previously recorded in the medieval town of Lakenheath. However, these generally amount to small and single body sherds. The pottery from this site is therefore of some importance, in particular the well preserved jug in deposit layer 0006. Lakenheath lies within the distribution area of this ceramic industry and it probably arrived in the area via the Little Ouse and Lark rivers (Goffin. pers. comm.).

Post-medieval

An abraded Refined white earthenware plate fragment (REFW), dated from the late 18th to 20th century, is present in ditch fill 0024 (Tr.2). Also present within the fill are two fragments of early brick. In comparison to the early brick, the sherd is small and abraded suggesting that it is intrusive.

6.3 Ceramic building materials (CBM)

Fragments of CBM were recorded in ditch fills 0004 (Tr.1) and 0024 (Tr. 2) as well as in pit fills 0023 and 0028 (Tr.4). The group consists of both roof tile (RT) and early brick (EB) which are almost entirely dated to the medieval period. A full breakdown by context of the CBM can be seen in Appendix 7.

Roof tile

The majority of roof tile fragments display only slight abrasion. The largest and best preserved group was recorded in pit fill 0028 and these are fairly representative of the assemblage as a whole. The fabrics are either medium sandy with calcite and other subsidiary inclusions (msc), or estuarine (est), which is densely packed with calcite and frequently pink to purple in colour. The majority of the tile is only generally dated to the medieval period, whereas the estuarine fabrics are dated from the 13th to 15th century within this period. The roof tile mostly occurs in Trenches 1 and 2, although only context 0004 contains medieval pottery. Parallels for the roof tile fabrics can be seen from many sites in Bury St Edmunds, such as the Angel Hotel (Anderson, 2005).

Early brick

Medieval early brick fragments (EB) were recorded in ditch fills 0004 (Tr.1) and 0024 (Tr.2). The first of these is abraded with an oxidised (almost brown/purple surface). The fabric contains abundant calcite with iron rich/slag type fragments and some organic voids. It has a depth of 55mm which is similar to Drury types EB 4/10. Medieval pottery is also present within the context. The two joining fragments in context 0024 are oxidised with a thick grey core. The fabric contains common (but not dense) calcite and organic voids. It has a depth of 40mm which is similar to Drury types EB 3/6. A single sherd of intrusive late post-medieval pottery is present within the fill.

6.4 Faunal remains

Justine Biddle

Three contexts contained fragments of animal bone, ditch fill 0004 (Tr.1), deposit layers 0006 (Tr. 1) and 0017 (Tr. 3).

Context 0004 contains two burnt fragments of cow tibia and humerus. The humerus exhibits several cut marks. Cow fragments are also present in context 0006, which include teeth, an unfused metacarpal and a metatarsal which had been chopped for the purpose of extracting bone marrow. A pig limb fragment is present in context 0017. All three contexts contain medieval pottery.

6.5 Shell

A single half of mussel shell was noted in deposit layer 0017. Medieval pottery is also present within this layer.

6.6 Discussion of material evidence

The finds assemblage is dominated by pottery and CBM. This has been recovered from a small number of pits and ditches, in Trenches 1-4, which are located within the medieval town core of Lakenheath.

A small quantity of Roman pottery was recorded in Trench 4, in the north-east part of the site next to the High Street. No Roman finds have previously been recorded in the immediate area of the current site, although c.500m to the north-east a Roman brooch has been found (LKH 182) and further south and south-east of the town, coins and pottery have been noted at three locations (LKH 026, 028 and 076). These finds are unsurprising as major Roman settlement activity is present to the west around RAF Lakenheath.

The medieval period is represented by both pottery and CBM (in Trenches 1, 2 and 4) which is generally in a good state of preservation, displaying only slight abrasion. Although the site is located towards the north end of the medieval core, previously there have been no recorded find spots dated to this period in this part of the town; the majority are situated around the south of the core (for instance LKH 058 and 086).

The finds represent new information, which offers dating evidence and confirms the existence of medieval activity in this area of the town. Of interest is the significant presence of Ely-type ware, which provides further insights into economy of Lakenheath during the medieval period.

6.7 Macrofossils and other remains

Anna West

Introduction and methods

A total of four bulk samples and four column samples were taken from a sealed layer of peat during the evaluation. A sub sample of ten litres from each bulk sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and the potential for radiocarbon dating of the features. The column samples have not been examined at this stage and are not discussed in this assessment.

The ten litre sub-samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted in Table 5. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles (Stace 2010).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories.

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance.

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Sample No	Context No	Approx date of deposit	Flot vol (ml)	% Flot scanned	Flot Contents
1	0002	-	1000	25	Un-charred seeds ###, fibrous roots/stems +++
2	0011	-	1000	25	Un-charred seeds ##, fibrous roots/stems +++
3	0017	-	200	50	Fibrous roots/stems +++, snail shells #
4	0019	-	800	25	Un-charred seeds ##, fibrous roots/stems +++

Table 5. Results

The preservation of the weed seeds is through anoxic or waterlogged conditions and is generally fair to good. None of the seeds observed, appear to have been subject to charring. No cereals or charcoal were present within the flot samples.

Discussion

The majority of the flot material, from all the samples, was made up of very finely fragmented fibrous roots, stems and other plant debris which formed a dense peat-like material.

Three of the flots contained un-charred seeds of the same species, which have been tentatively identified as Bog-bean (*Menyanthes trifolium L.*). Sample 3 (context 0017) contained no plant macrofossil remains at all.

Bog-bean is an emergent plant that thrives in moist, low lying places on all soil types. It is common in bogs and fens and on the edges of ponds, lakes and slow moving rivers. Its trifoliate leaves resemble those of young bean plants, giving the bog-bean its name. Bog-bean is widely used for medicinal remedies today and its alternative name of Bog-hop comes from the fact that the leaves can be used for flavouring beer. In the past the leaves and the roots may have been used as an emergency food supply, and the roots can be milled and added to flour to bulk it out, although it does have a bitter taste. However such uses as these would only utilise the vegetative parts of the plant and would not be evident in the archaeological record, and therefore it is not possible to establish if the small number of seeds recovered from this peat layer represent a utilised plant resource, or are simply a naturally occurring *in situ* phenomena.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the sample was fair in terms of identifiable material. The flots however, contained no crop or associated segetal weed seeds. No charred or un-charred cereal grains or processing waste were recovered from the samples. The Bog-bean seeds are not particularly numerous within the samples and do not suggest purposeful harvesting of a crop. It is suggested that the peat layer is a natural phenomenon within a low lying area and that there is no evidence within the contexts sampled to suggest that it was utilised as a resource.

Although the current assemblage is limited, the preservation of plant remains within the peat deposit is good. It is suggested that if further interventions are planned that samples should be taken from sealed and dated archaeological contexts in order to provide further data regarding the utilization of plant resources and the surrounding environment.

Charcoal is absent from the peat layers sampled, but it is possible however to submit organic material from the bulk or column samples for radiocarbon dating. It should be noted that bulk samples of peat can contain a mixture of different material roots, rootlets, and above ground ericaceous material which may result in C14 dates that are too young. Studies suggest however (Blaauw,, van der Plicht & van Geel 2004) that the mixture of materials, each providing a slightly different C14 date, may actually cancel each other out, giving a reasonable date in comparison to cleaned above ground growth AMS dates. It should also be noted that prolonged storage of peat samples can lead to degradation of the sample and the possibilities of errors in the results. It is therefore recommended that if it is deemed necessary to obtain a precise date from the peat layer that viable contexts are selected and C14 samples are submitted in the near future in order to prevent any unnecessary degradation of the samples.

7. Discussion

The evaluation has revealed that two or possibly three phases of archaeological deposits survive on the site, which are well preserved below various layers of overburden and fall within the development footprint of the proposed houses (Fig. 2). The formation of the peat layer across the site has not been absolutely dated, but the presence of Roman material within the base of the dense peat matrix in Trench 3 and the cutting of several medieval features into the top of it within Trenches 1, 2 and 4 suggests it might have been forming in the Roman period and drying out prior to the late 12th-14th century, although this is uncertain. With this in mind it is possible that Roman or earlier activity may still survive on this fen edge site, cut into the geological layers underlying the peat.

The most clearly defined phase of occupation appears to be medieval, consisting of a ditch, several pits and a posthole. The alignment of the ditch may indicate an earlier position for the road or a property boundary, whilst the pits contain what appears to be domestic and demolition refuse and are fairly typical of those often found associated with medieval dwellings. The presence of the single posthole, cut by the ditch, is also of note as it suggests a sub-phase to this activity as well as indicating the presence of a structure. The Ely glazed ware sherds within the top of the peat matrix are of interest. They demonstrate that the settlement was within a wider trading network that has not been recorded clearly before in this area. Very little in the way of medieval archaeological material has been found previously at this end of the village and as such this site represents an important development.

The dating of the well and the wall is not so clear, although their close proximity and identical construction materials indicate that they were contemporary with one another. The likelihood is that they are both post-medieval features because of their clunch construction, which is a common feature to many local structures, and because the well was cut through the buried topsoil layer, which is thought to be post-medieval judging by the building rubble present within it in places. Neither of the structures is present on the early Ordnance Survey maps, Enclosure map or Tithe map, suggesting a pre-19th century date. As such, these may be relatively early examples of clunch structures, which are relatively rare due to their poor survival when exposed to the elements. Whilst they are not a localised phenomenon as such, they may have been more common along the fen edge where other building materials were hard to obtain. However, only a

limited number of examples of these structures have been well recorded in Suffolk, mainly within Lakenheath, Mildenhall and other Breckland parishes (Gill, pers. comm.).

Evidence for Roman archaeology on the site is as yet only indicated by the small quantity of pottery from one vessel and the possibly associated animal bone and mussel shell found within Trench 3. Such artefacts would tend to indicate occupation, but may be the result of a single event of deposition, rather than prolonged activity. Their position, within a dense organic matrix, suggests that they are not intrusive, but this is uncertain.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Excavation of the four trenches on the site has revealed that, despite the presence of a substantial peat layer, occupation has occurred on the site and archaeological deposits are present, consisting of medieval and possibly post-medieval features with the potential for Roman and earlier activity as well. These deposits are well preserved due to the limited intrusive development that has occurred previously across the site. It is uncertain whether deposits survive underlying the peat, although there is potential for this.

Processing of the monolith samples from the peat and overlying layers has not yet been carried out and these are currently being held within the archive. Analysis of these samples is required as another stage of works and would yield further important information regarding the formation of the peat matrix. At this stage, the recorded profiles on site, as well as the processed material from the bulk environmental samples tend to indicate that the layer formed in a fairly typical minerotrophic manner for fenland peat (see discussion in 5.2). However, this does not highlight either the formation dates for the material, or any environmental changes that may have occurred during this period.

Further field work will also be required to record the site's surviving evidence for medieval settlement and to investigate the clunch built structures, but also to check that no pre-peat deposits are present. The nature of this work will vary heavily in relation to the construction methodology employed by the building contractor, it being likely that any widespread reduction in levels would require an archaeological excavation to take place first, whilst piling foundations might require less extensive intervention.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Lakenheath\LKH 344 Half Moon Pub

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HQJ 38-72

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: I/92/3

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks, Phil Camps and Preston Boyle, and directed by Rob Brooks.

Project management was undertaken by John Craven, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Andrew Tester and Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett and additional specialist advice was provided by Anna West.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

HALF MOON PUBLIC HOUSE, 4 HIGH STREET, LAKENHEATH

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. **The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
 - 1.1 A planning application has been granted by Forest Heath District Council for the construction of a four semi-detached dwellings and conversion of Half Moon Public House, 4 High Street, Lakenheath (TL 717 831). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
 - 1.2 The Planning Authority will be 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 the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
 - 1.3 The development site is located on land immediately to the west of the High Street and south of Sedge Lane at c.4.00m AOD. The geology is deep sand derived from the underlying chalky drift. The area affected by the development measures c.0.20ha. in extent.
 - 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER no. LKH 254). There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location and in this landscape setting, above the fen edge. There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location.
 - 1.5 The following archaeological evaluation work is required across the application area:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
 - 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any further archaeological investigation (full excavation prior to development and/or monitoring during development), should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
 - 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
 - 1.8 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.
 - 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (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 (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 Neither this specification nor 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 based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Forest Heath District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.10 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) 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.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the new development, which is 100.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches in a systematic grid array are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 56.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, 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.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

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

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.
- 5.12 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation 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 with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, a single hard copy of the report should be submitted to the HER officer of SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. 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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Date: 09 February 2012

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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. Trench plates



Plate 1. Left, Trench 1,
facing north, 2m scale

Plate 2. Right, Trench 2,
facing west, 2m scale



Plate 3. Left,
Trench 3,
facing north-
east, 2m scale

Plate 4. Right,
Trench 4,
facing south,
2m scale

Appendix 3. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001			Topsoil Layer	Dark greyish-brown/black silty-sand layer. Occasional small, generally rounded stones. Occasional chalk lumps throughout. Fairly loose compaction. Clear horizon clarity. Buried topsoil layer, with a degree of peat content. Contains post-medieval material.			0.56				0002		No	No			
0002			Natural Layer	Very dark brown-black peat. High surviving organic content. Void of stone and chalk. Firm compaction. Clear horizon clarity. Peat layer, which is the same as that seen across the site.			0.44				0003	0001	No	Yes			
0003			Natural Layer	Light greyish-orange silty-sand. Fairly loose compaction and very wet. Natural superficial geology.			>0.1					0002	No	No			
0004	0005		Ditch Fill	Mid-dark greyish-black, soft clayey-silt, containing frequent large and medium sized chalk flecks and stones. Lumps of yellow-brown silty-clay in fill, as well as grey chalky-gravel patches. Single fill of ditch 0005. Fairly modern/recent post-medieval?	>3.75	1.15	0.3				0005	0007	Yes	No			
0005	0005		Ditch Cut	Linear feature in plan, aligned NW-SE. Has shallow profile, with concave sides and a flat base. Single fill - 0004, and cuts peat 0006. Beneath rubble layers 0007. Ditch - fairly modern/recent post-medieval?	>3.75	1.15	0.3				0006	0004	No	No			
0006	0002		Finds Other	Finds location number for finds from 0002. Given a new number to denote the finds location of medieval pottery found in the south-west corner of the trench, south-west of ditch 0005 and within the top 50-100mm of the surface of the peat. Cut by ditch 0005. Peat layer- same as 0002 and peat layers across the site.								0005	Yes	No			
0007			Deposit Layer	Layer of loose, dark brownish-yellow silty-sand, containing lenses of chalk and occasional medium sized sub-angular stones. Found in section in south end of Trench 1. Seals ditch 0005 in section 2. Demolition layer, or built ground? Rubble material.	>4.25	>1.8	0.3				0004	0008	No	No			
0008			Deposit Layer	Similar to 0001, but contains occasional lumps of brick and rubble. Soft, dark grey clayey-silt with frequent chalk flecks. Same as 0001? Or demolition layer?							0007		No	No			
0009			Topsoil Layer	Dark greysih-brown/black silty-sand layer. Occasional small, generally rounded stones. Occasional chalk lumps throughout. Fairly loose compaction. Clear horizon clarity. Buried topsoil? Buried topsoil that is possibly the same as 0001.			0.22				0011, 0010		No	No			

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0010			Deposit Layer	Mixed slightly greyish-brown, stony, sandy-silt. Firm compaction. Diffuse horizon clarity. Irregular part of peat matrix. Looks in section like the possible fill of a feature cut, but is thought to relate to water flow/peat formation.			0.36				0011	0009	No	No			
0011			Natural Layer	Dark brown/black peat. Still retaining a lot of organic material. Peat layer. Same as peat layer in other trenches.			0.75				0012	0009, 0010, 0030	No	Yes			
0012			Natural Layer	Light greyish-orange silty-sand. Rare stone inclusions. Loose compaction. Natural geological layer.			>0.08					0011	No	No			
0013			Deposit Layer	Dark grey, firm clayey-silt containing frequent small and medium sized chalk flecks and occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Same as/related to 0001. Beneath modern built ground. Chalky layer over the top of layers in Trench 3.			0.24				0014		No	No			
0014			Deposit Layer	Dark black/grey soft peat and sandy-silt layer containing occasional small flecks of chalk. Has a lens of dessicated peat (reddish-brown) near top of layer at horizon with layer 0013. Seals irregular peat deposit 0016 in section 5. Peaty layer.	>15		0.2				0015	0013	No	No			
0015	0016		Ditch? Fill	Dark brownish-grey sandy-silt containing occasional small and medium sized fragments of chalk and sub-rounded stone. Has a lens of yellow/white sand against sides of ditch/interface. Possibly the fill of ditch 0016. However, it is probably a naturally forming fluvial and later peat deposit running through an older peat layer. The lens of yellow/white sand probably indicates a short-lived episode of fluvial deposition, with the rest of the peat forming naturally after this.		1	0.38				0016	0014	No	No			
0016	0016		Ditch? Cut	Possible ditch cut in the east end of Trench 3. May be aligned north-south, but this was not clear in section. Seen in section only. Steep concave sides and a flat base. 'Cuts' layer 0017, or is a continuation of 0017, but is more discoloured by leaching. Sealed by peat 0014. Possible small ditch cut, but more likely to be a natural water channel that formed in the top of the peat.		1	0.38				0017	0015	No	No			
0017			Deposit Layer	Dark peat - same as 0002. Finds of 1 shell, 1 animal bone and 1 pot sherd. 'Cut' by 0016. Comes down onto natural yellow sand. Peat layer.	>15	>1.8	0.28					0016	Yes	Yes			
0018			Topsoil Layer	Dark to mid grey firm clayey-silt, containing frequent chalk flecks and stones, occasional small and medium sized sub-angular stones. Buried topsoil layer, as seen in other trenches.	>15	>1.8	0.44				0019		No	No			
0019			Deposit Layer	Dark black peat layer - same as 0002, etc. Layer of peat, retaining a lot of organic material.	>15	>1.8	0.22				0020	0018, 0027	No	Yes			

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0020			Deposit Layer	Dark-mid brownish-grey soft peat/silty-sand, containing moderate amounts of small chalk flecks and small-medium sized sub-angular stones. Peaty layer with silty-sand sediments and stones - derived partially from water action?	>15	>1.8	0.26				0021	0019	No	No			
0021			Deposit Layer	Pale-mid grey leached silty-sand of a soft compaction. Occasional small sub-rounded stones. Overlies natural. Silt and sand layer in Trench 4.	>15	>1.8	0.32					0020	No	No			
0022	0022		Pit Cut	Sub-round in plan, but only partially visible. 55° concave sides, with curving break of slope to base. Flat base. Cuts 0019. Unclear relationship with layer 0018. Post-medieval pit.	0.96	>0.56	0.2					0023	No	No			
0023	0022		Pit Fill	Mid grey clayey-silt. Firm compaction. Common small chalk nodules. Occasional small-medium sub-angular flints. Clear horizon. Only fill of feature. Pit fill. Post medieval CBM within it. Unclear relationship with layer 0018.							0022		Yes	No			
0024	0026		Ditch Fill	Rubble fill of yellow sandy gravel with brick. Soft/loose compaction. Occasional large stones. Rubble fill in top of ditch 0026.							0025		Yes	No			
0025	0026		Ditch Fill	Similar to, if not the same as fill 0004 in ditch 0005, in Trench 1. Mid-dark greyish-black, soft clayey-silt, containing frequent large and medium sized chalk flecks and stones. Lumps of yellow-brown silty-clay in fill, as well as grey chalky-gravel patches. Fill of ditch 0026.							0026	0024	No	No			
0026	0026		Ditch Cut	Same as ditch 0005? Same profile of concave sides and a flat base. Linear in plan. Contains two modern looking fills - 0024 and 0025. Cuts posthole 0030. Modern/recent post-medieval ditch? Same as 0005 in Trench 1?		1.78	0.66				0029	0025	No	No			
0027	0027		Pit Cut	Sub-square in plan, but only partially visible due to trench edge. Unexcavated so profile not recorded. Cuts peat 0019. Pit. Only partially sampled in order to get dating evidence for the end of the peat sequence.	>1.1	>1	>0.2				0019	0028	No	No			
0028	0027		Pit Fill	Mid grey clayey-silt. Firm compaction. Frequent small-medium chalk flecks. Horizon clarity not recorded. Pit fill with high quantities of chalk and tile. Possibly relates to dumping of demolition material from clunch building in Trench 2.			>0.2				0027		Yes	No			
0029	0030		Posthole Fill	Loose yellowish-grey gravel and sand with frequent chalk inclusions and some flints nodules. Fill of posthole 0030.			0.12				0030	0026	No	No			
0030	0030		Posthole Cut	Small circular cut in plan with moderately sloping concave sides and base. Filled with 0029. Cut by ditch 0026. Cut into peat layer 0011. Modern/recent post-medieval posthole?							0011	0029	No	No			

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0031	0031		Well Structure	Circular? Only partially visible in plan. Clunch wall that appears in the eastern end of Trench 1. Made of clunch and pale yellow/cream mortar. Approximately 0.3-0.45m thick walls. Could not be fully recorded due to the unsafe depth of the trench. Construction material would suggest this is associated with 0032.	0.3-0.								No	No			
0032	0032		Wall Structure	Corner of a clunch and pale yellow/cream mortar structure, partially uncovered in machining of west end of Trench 2. This consists of two walls at right angles to one another, forming the corner of a building. Walls approximately 0.25m thick and uncovered at c.3.3m above the Ordnance Datum. Construction material would suggest this is associated with 0032.	0.25								No	No			

Appendix 4. OASIS form

OASIS ID: [suffolkc1-132792](#)

Project details

Project name	LKH 344 Half Moon Public House Evaluation
Short description of the project	Excavation of four evaluation trenches at the former Half Moon pub in Lakenheath, Suffolk, revealed well preserved medieval ditches and pits, which produced pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. These features were cut into the top of a peat layer, which spread across the whole site. A clunch and mortar built well and structure were also uncovered and are thought to possibly be post-medieval. Further finds of medieval pottery were present within the very top of the peat matrix, whilst Roman pottery, animal bone and mussel shell were found near the base of the peat in one trench.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2012 End: 12-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 344 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 344 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	F/2011/0265/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2012/150 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Medieval
Monument type	BUILDING Post Medieval
Monument type	BUILDING Medieval
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval

Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Roman
Significant Finds	MOLLUSCA REMAINS Roman
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
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 FOREST HEATH LAKENHEATH LKH 344 Half Moon Public House Evaluation
Postcode	IP27
Study area	2000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7119 8317 52 0 52 25 09 N 000 31 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.26m Max: 2.95m

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	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Baker Nisbet

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	I/92/3
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	LKH 344 and HQJ 38-72

Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Survey", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	LKH 344
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Half Moond Pub, Lakenheath, LKH 344, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS Report No. 2012/150
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4, comb bound, white card covers, in colour, with seven appendices (also available as a pdf)
Entered by	Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	23 October 2012

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Appendix 6. Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0004	ELYG	Body	Light green glaze	1	0	3	Sli	Oxidised, a coarse fabric composed of abundant quartz with calcitic type voids, occasional red iron ore and sparse flint. Sherd has been sheered	13th/14th-15th C	13th/14th-15th C
0006	ELYG	Jug (Spoerry type C)	Random splashed green glaze, stabbing	13	0.4	790	Gd	All of the sherds join to provide an almost complete profile of a shouldered jug (Spoerry 2008, 58/9). It has a simple flat rim that is slightly out-turned, a strap handle and sagging base. The stabbing is restricted to the handle and the green glaze is mostly on its upper half. The jug has a buff outer surface whilst the remainder of the fabric is black. It contains abundant ill sorted and dense quartz with common ill sorted chalk with some red iron ore. The fabric corresponds to Spoerry's B/F (2008, 13)	L12th/L13th-15th C	L12th/L13th-15th C
0017	GX	Lid (8.1)		3	0.1	19	Sli	A very coarse yet thin walled fabric with abundant ill sorted quartz	Roman	Roman
0024	REFW	Plate		1	0.04	10	Abr		L18th-20th C	L18th-20th C

Appendix 7. CBM catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height (mm)	Width	Re-use	Abr	Notes	Date
0004	Msc	Eb	1	138	55		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abr	Oxidised almost brown/purple surfaces. Contains abundant calcite with iron rich/slag type fragments and	Medieval
0004	Msfe	Rt	1	16	12		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abr	Oxidised with abundant quartz and common black iron ore	LMed/PMed
0004	Msf	Rt	1	17	12		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Oxidised with a light pink core and contains abundant ill sorted quartz (in medieval style) with some iron rich clay	?Medieval
0004	Est	Rt	5	123	14		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abr-sli	Oxidised surfaces with pink/purple core. Contains abundant very ill sorted calcite in streaks and lumps. One	13th-15th C
0023	Msc	Rt	1	44	14		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Oxidised with a pink core, contains abundant ill sorted calcite (some streaked) with common clay pellets	Med/PMed (looks Med)
0024	Msc	Eb	2	453	40		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Pieces join. Oxidised with thick grey core. Calcite is common (not as dense as Est fabric) with common organic	Medieval
0028	Msc	Rt	1	27	12		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Oxidised with calcite and sparse large ferrous inclusions	Med/PMed (looks Med)
0028	Est	Rt	1	477	15	155	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Oxidised/pink surfaces with intermittent grey core. Abundant sometimes densely packed calcite. One rounded	13th-15th C
0028	Msc	Rt	1	374	16		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Oxidised with a slightly lighter core. Contains common ill sorted calcite and frequent iron rich clay pellets. Mortar	Medieval
0028	Msc	Rt	2	314	17	151	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sli	Patchily oxidised with thick blue-grey core, common calcite with frequent clay pellets/chalk	Medieval
0004	Ms	Frag	2	12			<input type="checkbox"/>	Abr	Oxidised	Med/P-Med

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