Land at Office Farm, Mutton Lane, Brandeston, Suffolk. BRN 013

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/108

Client: Landex Property

Author: Linzi Everett

September 2012

HER Information

Report Number:	**2012/108**
Site Name:	**Land at Office Farm, Mutton Lane, Brandeston**
Planning Application No:	**C/11/1144**
Date of Fieldwork:	**5th-6th July 2012**
Grid Reference:	**TM 2495 6078**
Commissioned by:	**Landex Property**
Curatorial Officer:	**Sarah Poppy**
Project Officer:	**Linzi Everett**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1- 133743**
Site Code:	**BRN 013**

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Linzi Everett
Date: September 2012

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner
Position: Acting Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

An area of 0.5 hectares was evaluated by trial trenching as a condition of planning permission to develop the site. Three trenches were excavated, one of which produced a discrete area containing features and artefacts of Roman date. The finds were suggestive of moderate to low status settlement in the vicinity and represents the first Roman evidence in the parish.

1. Introduction

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Office Farm, Mutton Lane, Brandeston (BRN 013; TM 2495 6078). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consisted of an area of c.0.5 hectares.

The evaluation was carried out prior to submission of a planning application for development, according to a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy (Appendix I), which outlined the manner of the fieldwork, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the archaeological methodology (Gardner 2012).

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) on the 5th-6th July 2012.

The site has been recorded with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) code BRN 013.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located on glacial chalky clay deposits on the western valley side of a tributary of the River Deben, at a height of approximately 31m OD. It is bounded by Mutton Lane on the west, houses to the south, farm buildings to the north and agricultural land to the east.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The sites potential was based on its location within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER, within the historic settlement core of Brandeston and south of two 16th century listed buildings.

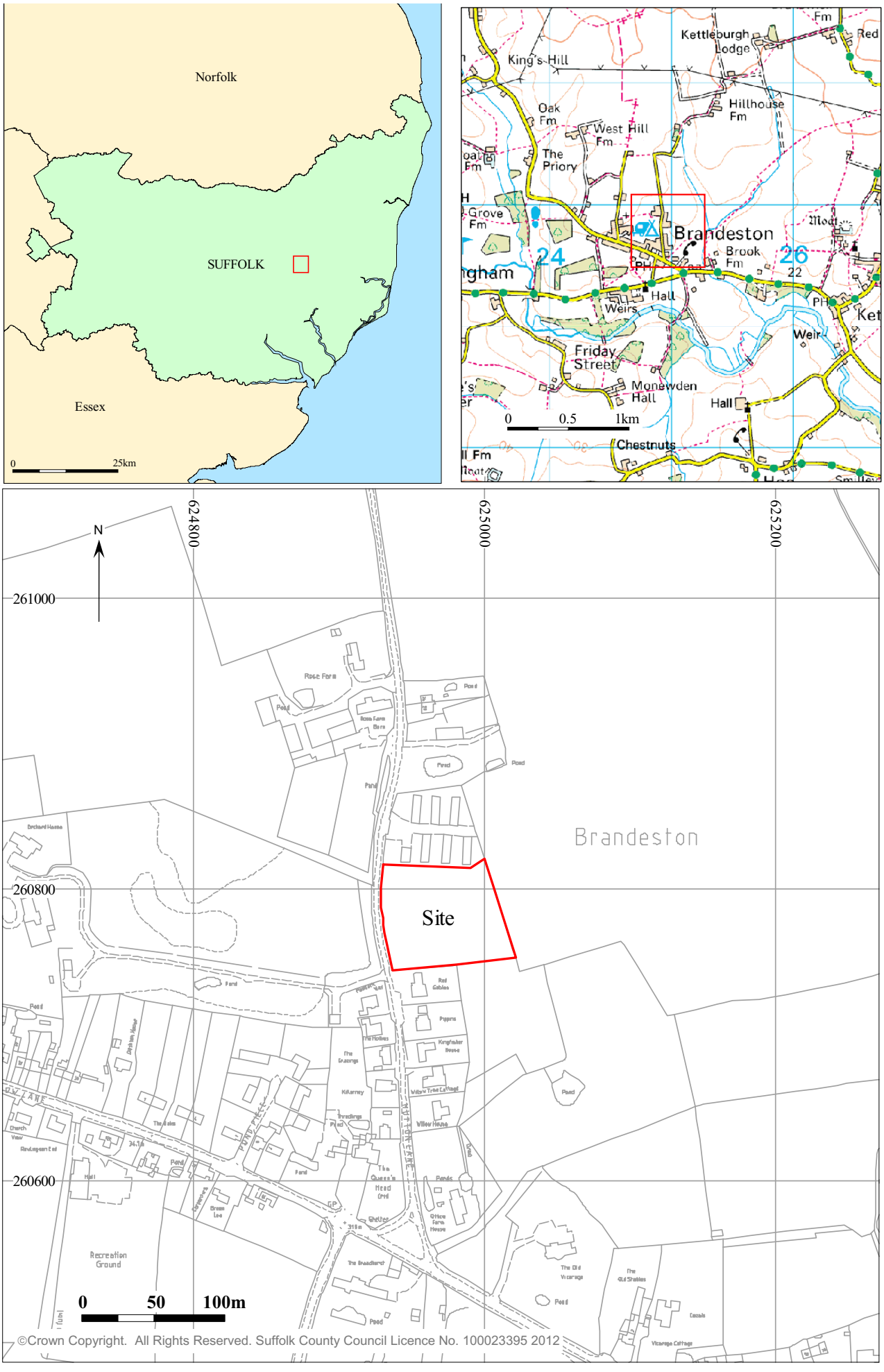

Figure 1. Site location

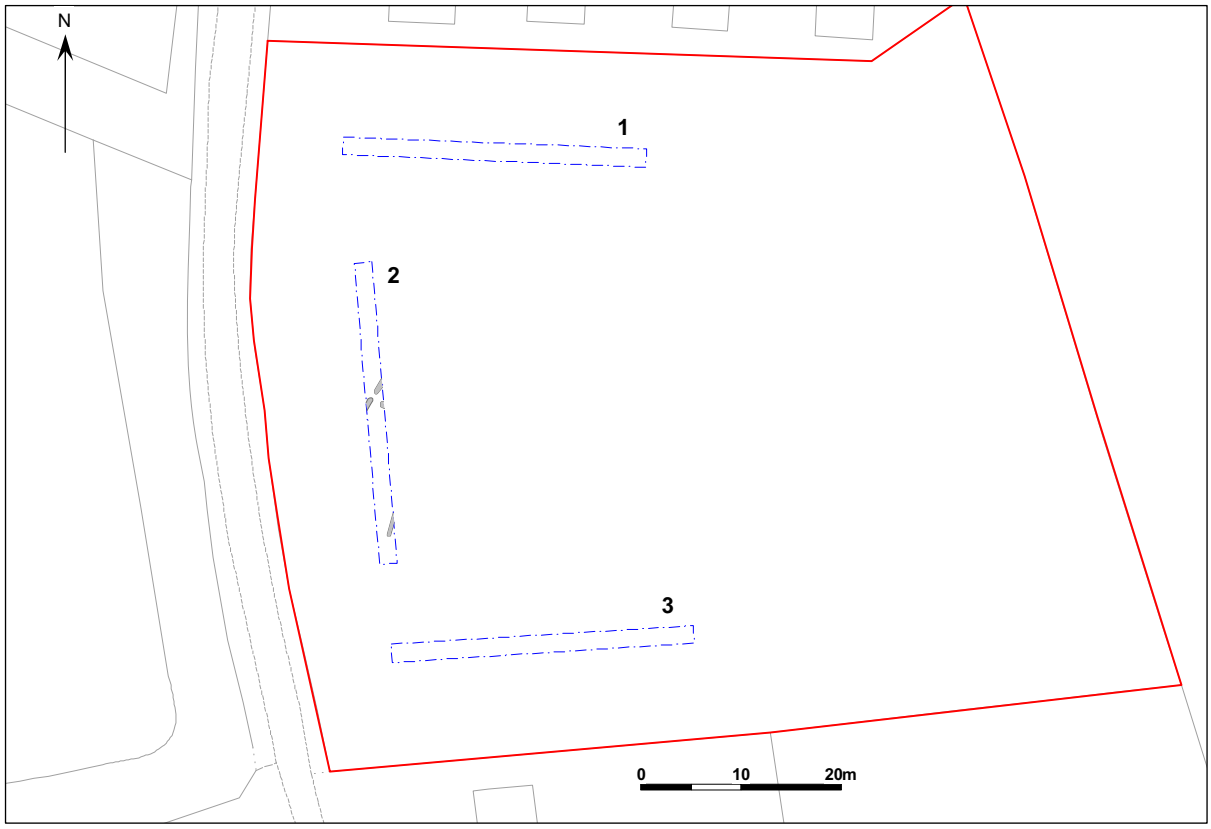

Figure 2. Location of trenches and features in Trench 2

4. Methodology

Trenching was conducted using a tracked mechanical digger equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. Topsoil was removed by machine to reveal undisturbed natural subsoil and/or archaeological deposits.

The base of each trench was examined for features or finds of archaeological interest. The upcast soil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

The site has been given the Suffolk HER code BRN 013. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record (for the Archaeological Data Service) has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1- 133743 has been used for this project.

5. Results

Three trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2) through 0.3m of dark brown silty loamy clay topsoil with regular pebbles and occasional chalk flecks. This sealed the natural subsoil, a pale yellowish brown chalky boulder clay with patches of sandy clay, except in trench 2 where context 0002 was present immediately below the topsoil. Deposit 0002 was a 0.15m thick layer of mid-pale brown silty clay subsoil with regular charcoal flecks.

A total area of 157.5 square metres was excavated. Trench dimensions are recorded in the table below:

Trench	Length	Area	Depth	Features
1	30m	52.5m²	0.3m	-
2	30m	52.5m²	0.4m	0002, 0003, 0004, 0006, 0008, 0010
3	30m	52.5m²	0.3m	-

Table 1. Trench dimensions

No incised features were observed in Trenches 1 and 3, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the upcast spoil. In Trench 2, four incised features were recorded, all of which were sealed by context 0002:

0004 was a NNE-SSW aligned narrow, shallow ditch with rounded sides breaking to a flattish base. It butt ends in the centre of the trench *c.*0.5m from the butt end of 0006 with which it may be associated. Its fill, 0005, was a mid greyish brown clay with occasional chalk and regular charcoal flecks and pebbles.

0006 as a NNE-SSW aligned very shallow ditch with a flat base. It was filled by 0007, a mid greyish brown clay with occasional chalk and regular charcoal flecks and pebbles.

0008 was only partially exposed in the eastern edge of Trench 2, but may represent a pit or butt end of a ditch. What was exposed was quite shallow with rounded sides gradually breaking to a flattish base. It was filled by 0009, a mid brown clay mottled with orange flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles.

0010 was a narrow but relatively deep NNE-SSW aligned gully with steep sides breaking gradually to a rounded base. Its fill, 0011, was a mid-pale greyish brown silty

clay with regular charcoal flecks which gradually became paler towards the features base.

In addition to these incised features, various finds were collected from the subsoil layer in Trench 2. These were recovered from a discrete area in the centre of the trench, around the features and allocated the context number 0003.

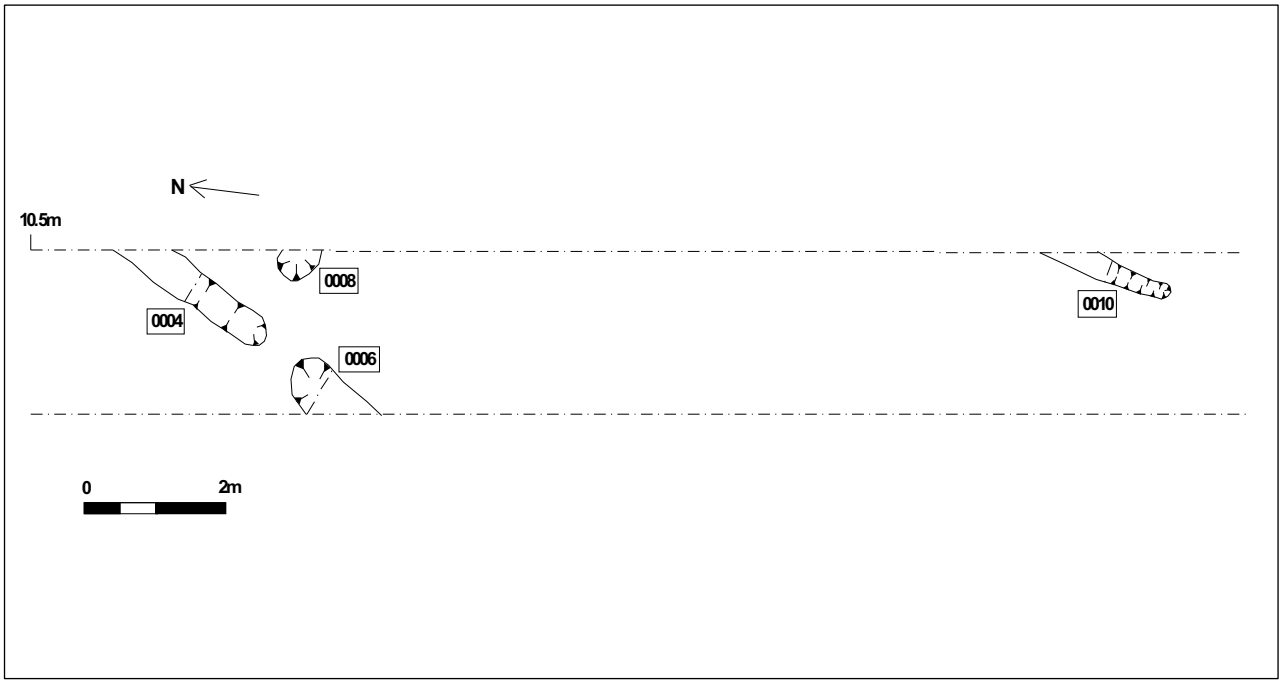

Figure 3. Plan of Trench 2

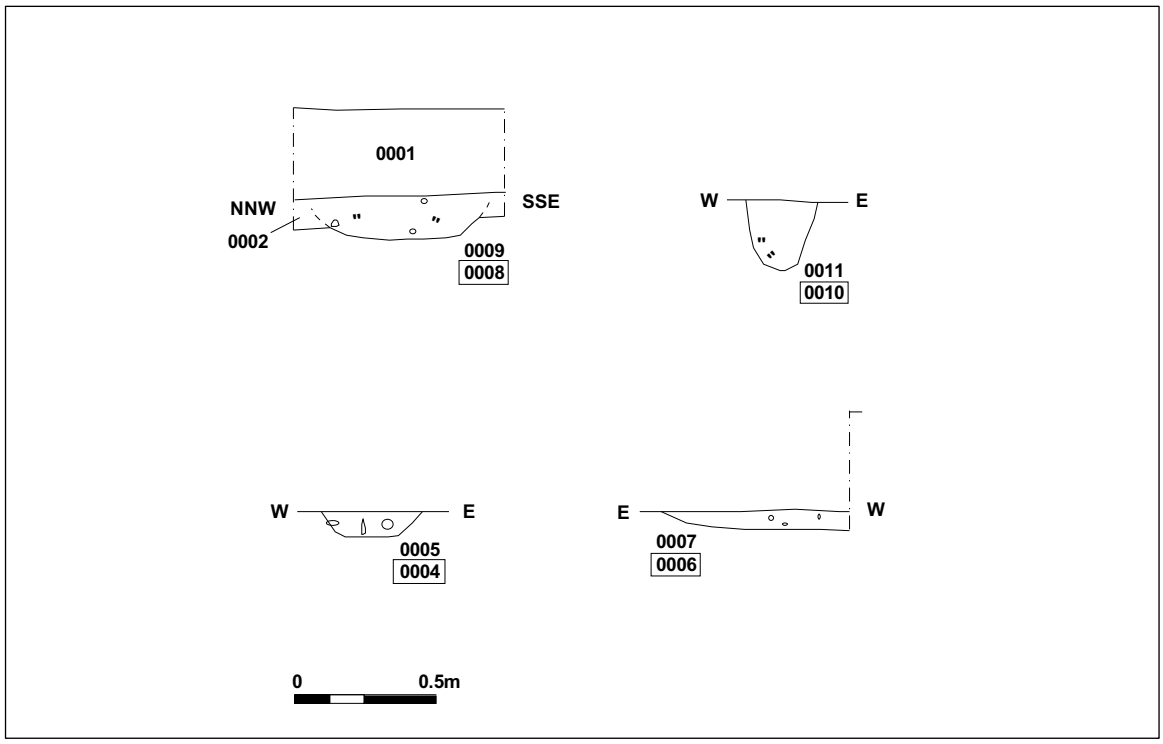

Figure 4. Sections

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The bulk finds recovered are listed in Table 2. These consist of small quantities of pottery, fired clay, animal bone and charcoal. There are no individually recorded small finds.

Context	Pottery		Fired clay		Animal bone		Charcoal		Date Range
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	56	313	6	22					Roman (M1-M2C/2C)
0005	25	128			12	52			Roman (M2-M4C?)
0007	16	62	2	3			1	1	Roman
0009	1	5							Roman (M1-2C?)
0011	2	11							Roman (M1-2C?)
Total	**100**	**519**	**8**	**25**	**12**	**52**	**1**	**1**	

Table 2. Finds quantities by context

The Pottery

Roman Pottery

Introduction

There are one hundred sherds of Roman pottery with a combined weight of 519g. The average sherd weight is 5.2g and the total Eve (estimated vessel equivalence) is 1.67. The pottery is listed by fabric in Table 3. The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk Roman pottery fabric series and Suffolk Roman form type series (unpublished). Samian vessels were recorded using common form types following Webster (1996).

Fabric name	Fabric	No	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt	Eve
Imported fine wares:						
South Gaulish samian	SASG	1	1	1	0.2	
Local and regional coarse wares:						
Grey micaceous wares (black-surfaced)	GMB	31	31	195	37.5	0.80
Grey micaceous wares	GMG	23	23	124	24.1	0.54
Grey fine wares	GRF	2	2	9	1.7	
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	40	40	182	35.0	0.31
Romanising coarse ware	RCW	1	1	7	1.3	
Miscellaneous sandy red coarse wares	RX	2	2	1	0.2	0.02
Total		**100**	**100**	**519**	**100**	**1.67**

Table 3. Roman pottery by fabric

Discussion

Roman pottery was recovered from five contexts. The largest quantity (56 sherds, 313g) is from a discrete spread located in the centre of Trench 2 (0003) with smaller, but still significant quantities from contexts in two ditches, ditch 0004 (0005) and ditch 0006 (0007). Two contexts, the pit or ditch 0008 (0009) and gully 0011 produced just one or two sherds.

The closely dated pottery indicates an assemblage dating to the period of the mid 1st-2nd century. There does not appear to be any Late Iron Age component and the pottery can be regarded as entirely post-conquest. While much of this pottery consists of coarse grey wares, many of which are difficult to date closely within the Roman period, mid 1st-2nd century date is supported by the absence of any typologically mid and late Roman vessel forms or fabric types. There is a significant proportion of miscellaneous Sandy greywares (Fabric GX) in the assemblage which could be due, at least in part, to the appearance of the sherd surfaces following abrasion.

There is only one import within the assemblage, a sherd of 1st century (South Gaulish) samian which is from the base of a cup (form Dr 27g). The remainder of the pottery is of local or regional origin consisting of micaceous fabrics (Fabric GMB & Fabric GMG) typical of pottery among Roman assemblages in East Anglia. Together they account for between 54% by count and 61% by weight of the total assemblage. A major source of these micaceous wares is the kilns located around the Wattisfield area in north Suffolk (Moore 1988, 60). The main vessel forms among the assemblage are jars and bowls, with the carinated flat rimmed bowl form 6.3, shouldered jar form 4.1 and a narrow mouthed jar identified. One dish, with a slightly inturned rim (form 6.21.2), is also present. While most of these can be dated to the period of the 1st-early/mid 2nd century, the bowl form 6.3 is dated at Hacheston to the late1st-2nd century (Blagg et al, 2004, 171 type 47), although similar bowls are dated at Chelmsford to the mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century (Going 1987, 18 types C16 & C20). A bowl or jar with a globular profile, from the ditch 0004 (0005), also probably dates to the mid 2nd century or later and this is the latest closely dated vessel recovered. The dominance of local and regional coarsewares with an emphasis on jar and bowl forms suggests the assemblage originates from a settlement, or area of a settlement, of relatively moderate or low status.

Fired clay

Eight pieces of fired clay with a combined weight of 25g were recovered from two contexts. There are six pieces (22g) from 0003 and two pieces (3g) from 0007. The fabrics are quite sandy and red to pale orange-brown in colour with small inclusions or streaks of pale fired clay within them (Fabric msfc). All of the pieces are small, the average weight being 3g and all appear abraded. There are no distinguishing features on any of these although some small areas of surface appear to be present. They most likely come from unlocated oven or hearth features.

Miscellaneous

A single small fragment of charcoal (<1g) was recovered from one context (0007).

Faunal Remains

There is a small quantity of animal bone (12 pieces weighing 52g) which comes from the ditch 0004 (0005). This was found in association with Roman pottery. Overall the condition of the bone is poor-fair. Most of the pieces are quite small and weigh less than 3g. Also, surfaces of the bone are degraded which suggests corrosive soil conditions. All the bone is medium or large size mammal and several of the pieces (possibly all) are probably part of the same bone. There is a single tooth from a cow. All of the roots of the tooth are broken but the crown is intact.

Plant macrofossils

Anna West

Introduction and methods

A total of two samples were taken from archaeological features. Both samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The contexts sampled are ditch fill (0005) (Sample 1) and fill of a possible pit or butt end of a ditch (0009) (Sample 2).

The 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 on Table 4 (below). Identification of plant remains is with reference to Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al 2012).

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 by quantity 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	Context	Feature	Context spot date	Flot contents
1	0005	Ditch 0004	LC1-C2	Charred cereal #, un-charred seeds #, charcoal +, modern rootlets +++ snail shells +
2	0009	Pit or ditch 0008	Roman	Un-charred seeds #, charcoal +, modern roots +++

Table 4. Flot contents by context

The preservation of a single possible grain of caryopsis is through charring and is generally poor. The fragment recovered from context 0005 is too small and abraded to identify at this stage, no chaff or processing materials were present that would aid the identification. Un-charred weed seeds were rare in both samples. Context 0005 contained a single seed of goosefoot (*Chenopodium sp. achene*). Whilst there was a single specimen each of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) in context 0009, along with eleven specimens of grasses (*Poaceae sp. caryopsis*) and what appear to be six seeds of potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).

Discussion

Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets were abundant in both of the flots and represent the majority of the material. The weed seeds are representative of modern agricultural and wasteland weeds and are likely to be intrusive.

The charred plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by charcoal in the form of wood charcoal. Both the samples processed produced moderate to small quantities of charcoal although this may be due to sampling bias (sampling of productive-looking deposits). The single cereal grain fragment recovered was charred and abraded and was unidentifiable, no chaff elements were present.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal is common in both the samples in small quantities. It may be possible in the future to obtain radiocarbon dates from charcoal for those deposits that remain undated. The weed seeds recovered were all reasonably well preserved and identifiable to an archaeobotanist.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material at this stage as this would offer little information of value to the results of the evaluation, however if further intervention is planned on this site, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out with a view to investigation the nature of the possible cereal waste. The accompanying weed assemblage is likely to provide an insight into to the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site. It is recommended that any further samples taken are combined with the flots from the samples taken during this evaluation and submitted to an archaeobotanist for full species identification and interpretation.

7. Discussion

A small number of features were recorded in Trench 2, associated with a moderate quantity of Roman pottery of mid 1st-2nd century date. These included three linear features sharing the same NNE-SSW alignment. All three features were quite shallow and sealed by up to 0.4m of overburden. It is quite possible that they have been truncated by agricultural activity which could have also destroyed any shallower features once present. If that is the case, it could account, at least in part, for the number of sherds recovered from the subsoil in the vicinity of the exposed features.

The finds recovered suggest the area of the site is part of, or is adjacent to, a Roman settlement of moderate or fairly low status. This is particularly interesting as previous to this archaeological work, no Roman evidence had been identified nearby nor in the parish of Brandeston.

Owing to the shallow nature of the archaeological evidence and the fact that it represents the first evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity, further work may be recommended along the road frontage (in the vicinity of trench 2) if the proposed development threatens to further disturb the features that have been identified in that area during this evaluation.

8. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference BRN 013. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1- 133743.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\ Brandeston\BRN 013 Office Farm Mutton Lane

Bibliography

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Moore, I., 1998, *The archaeology of Roman Suffolk*

Webster, P., 1996, *Roman samian pottery in Britain, CBA practical handbook in archaeology 13*

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

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

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Land at Office Farm, Mutton Lane, Brandeston, Suffolk

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk Coastal District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	C/11/1144
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 249 607
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of 6 dwellings
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Sarah Poppy Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741226 E-mail: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	22 May 2012

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 4) relating to archaeological investigation:

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

1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not 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 (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

2.1 This application is located in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core of Brandeston and immediately to the south of two 16th century listed buildings (LBUIDs 285787 & 285788). There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological significance to be disturbed and damaged by this development.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

3.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.

3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is *c.*166m^2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in *c.*93.00 of trenching at 1.80m in width..

3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.

5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.

5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.

5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.

5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.

5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.

5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

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

Notes

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