

Land North of Pesthouse Lane  
Barham  
Suffolk  
BRH 054

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/142**

**Client: Barham Parish Council**

Author: Jezz Meredith

September 2012

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# HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2012/142

**Site Name:** Land North of Pesthouse Lane, Barham, Suffolk

**Planning Application No:** N/A

**Date of Fieldwork:** 20th to 24th August 2012

**Grid Reference:** TM 1233 5118

**Commissioned by:** Barham Parish Council

**Client Reference:** N/A

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Jezz Meredith

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-134129

**Site Code:** BRH 054

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## 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: Jezz Meredith  
Date: September 2012

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



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## Summary

An area of 2.9 hectares to the north of Pesthouse Lane was evaluated by trial trenching to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. This was the second phase of archaeological examination as a desk-based assessment had been produced previously (Rolfe 2012). This document had indicated that the site had been the location of the Bosmere and Claydon workhouse from 1766 and that there was likely to be an associated cemetery. Earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey maps clearly showed a burial ground located towards the south-western corner of the present site under consideration.

Trenching revealed that the majority of the site had been severely disturbed and truncated during the 20th century and this was probably due to this area being used as a compound for works being undertaken on the A45 trunk road adjacent. The area of the 18th and 19th century cemetery had been left mainly undisturbed however and the locations of the burials were probably either marked or known about and were avoided during the modern earthmoving works. Part of a red-brick wall footing, believed to belong to the workhouse chapel, appeared to define the northern edge of the cemetery. Within the six trenches excavated to the south of the chapel the outlines of at least 76 graves were identified. Five of these burials were excavated to reveal either human remains and/or coffin stains and these examples indicated that the burials were located at least 1m below the present ground surface and that bone preservation was extremely good.

No archaeological remains of earlier periods were identified. It is likely that the disturbance caused by intensive post-medieval grave digging coupled with the severe truncation caused by 20th century earth-moving beyond the cemetery area would have removed most if not all traces of previous occupation.





Plate 1. View of Trench 16, showing grave cuts outlined with sand

# 1. Introduction

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A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the North of Pesthouse Lane, the former picnic site at Barham (Fig. 1; grid reference TM 1233 5118). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consisted of an area of c.2.9 hectares. The northern end of the site (containing an adventure playground, buildings and a heavily wooded area) was not trenched so that only c.2.2 hectares of the site was investigated. It was proposed to trench a 3.5% sample of the site; with a contingency of an extra 1.5% as specified by the curatorial officer Jess Tipper (Appendix 1). Approximately 900m<sup>2</sup> of trench was cut representing just over 3% of the whole 2.9 hectare site or 4% of the 2.2 hectare area that could be trenched.

The evaluation was carried out in advance of a planning condition being sought by Barham Parish Council for a proposed change of use from a wooded picnic site to create new football pitches. A Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Appendix 1) outlined the manner of the fieldwork and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailed the archaeological methodology and risk assessment (Gardner 2012).

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS), between Monday the 20th and Friday the 24th of August 2012.

The site has been given the Barham reference BRH 054 within the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). The OASIS reference (the online archaeological database) for this project is suffolkc1-134129 (see Appendix 2).



Plates 2 & 3. Views of the workhouse c.1906

## 2. Geology and topography

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According to the British Geological Survey (2006), the site is located on river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The area under consideration is close to the River Gipping, which runs c.200m to the south.

The site is within an area of Rolling Estate Farmlands, according to Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment* ([www.suffolklandscape.org.uk](http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk)) and consists of:

- Gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes
- Generally deep loamy soils
- An organic pattern of fields modified by later realignment
- Important foci for early settlement
- Coverts and plantations with some ancient woodlands
- Landscape parks with a core of wood pasture
- Location for mineral workings and related activity, especially in the Gipping valley

The site has been heavily landscaped with frequent tree planted banks subdividing the site. This was probably the result of preparing the site to be a picnic area but might also show evidence of when the site was used as a compound for construction of the A14 (then A45). It is likely that the site was quarried in places and used to store dumps of material in others.

In general, the western half of the site is higher and is fairly level (except for bunds) at c.14mOD. The sunken, eastern half is higher at its northern end (c.12.5mOD), dipping slightly to the south (c.12.0mOD).

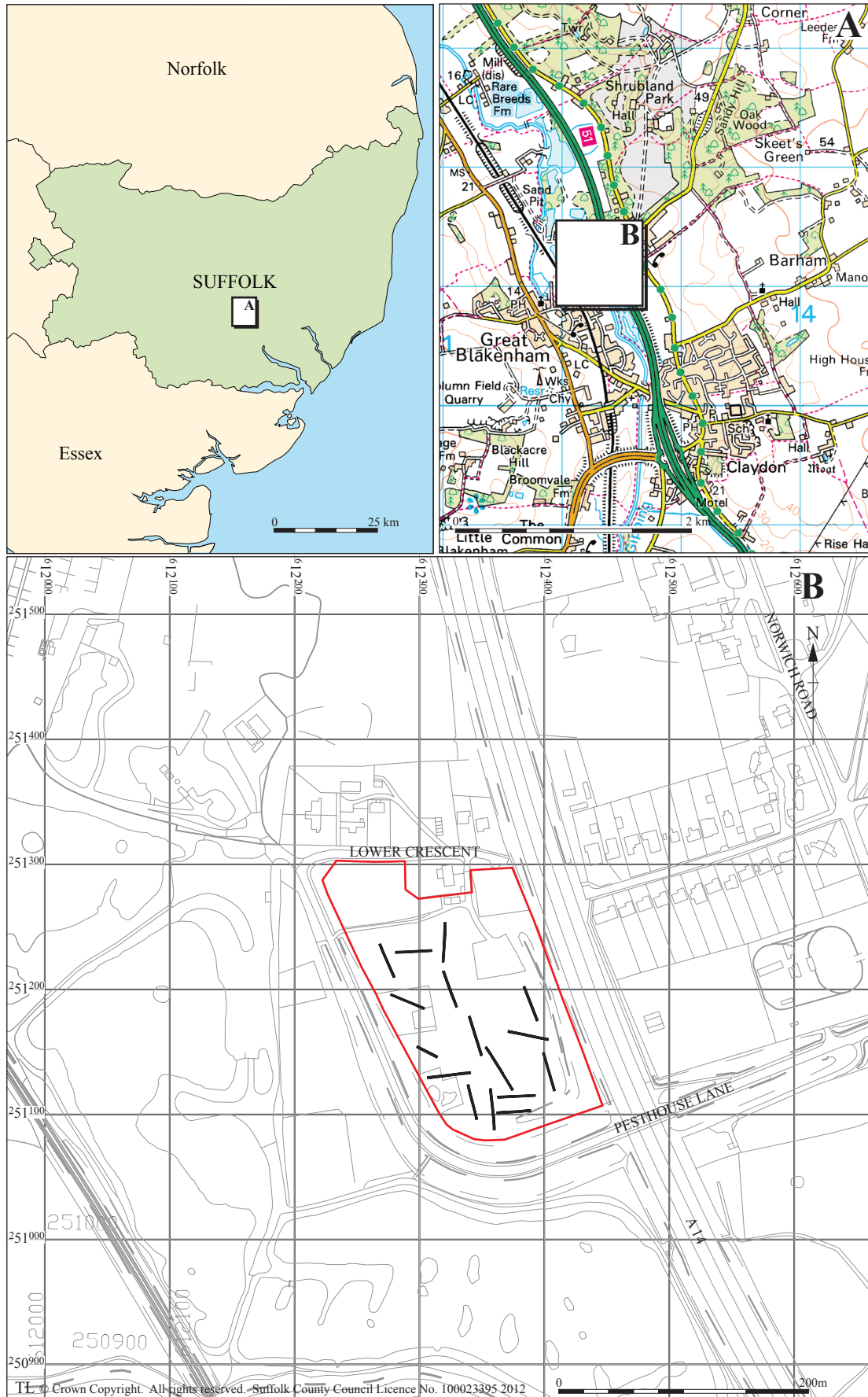


Figure 1. Location of site

### **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The archaeological potential of the site has already been examined elsewhere in detail (Rolfe 2012). To summarise this desk-based assessment, the site is located on a raised gravel terrace on the eastern bank of the River Gipping which might have been favourable to past activity and settlement. Assessing the archaeological records for the surrounding 1km radius, there would be low to moderate potential for encountering evidence of the later prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, with a higher likelihood of finding remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Post-medieval origin.

From 1766 the site was occupied by the Bosmere and Claydon workhouse and an associated burial ground was used to the south of the site. The workhouse survived into the 20th century (Plates 2 & 3) but from the First World War onwards the buildings were used for a variety of different functions. The workhouse was finally demolished in 1963. After this time the site was used as a compound for the construction of the adjacent A45 and this was combined with a high degree of ground disturbance and subsequent landscaping (Breen 2012, Rolfe 2012)

Due to the severe threat of truncation and 20th century ground disturbance, the likelihood of finding significant early archaeological remains was slight (other than Palaeolithic), although the survival of the Post-medieval burials was probable if they had been buried deep enough to avoid modern disturbance.



## 4. Methodology

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In places the site was heavily wooded and landscaped so trenches had to be laid out wherever possible to obtain maximum coverage. Trenching was conducted using a rubber tracked 360° (8-tonne) mechanical digger equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Originally 14 trenches were proposed, but an extra two trenches were cut to investigate the full extent of the cemetery (Fig. 2). Once trenches had been cut, their positions were recorded using a TST (Total Station Theodolite) using stations located by GPS (Global Positioning System) survey equipment. The GPS equipment would not function across much of the site due to the abundant tree cover.

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. Topsoil was removed by machine to reveal undisturbed natural sand and gravel geology, modern disturbances and/or grave 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. A metal detector survey was conducted of the base of all trenches and of spoil heaps. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

Archaeological deposits, topsoil and the natural stratum (hereafter referred to as 'the natural') were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0023 (Table 1). Specimen sections from both ends of each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:20 on sheets of gridded drawing film. A small number of graves were investigated to examine depths of burials and to assess the degree of preservation of human remains. Grave plans and, where appropriate, grave sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was made of each trench (a view from each end) and of the sections at each end of the trench. Digital photographs consisted of high-resolution .jpg images.

The site has been given the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) code BRH 054. 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 suffolkc1-134129 has been used for this project.

## 5. Results

Sixteen trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). Table 1 lists the context numbers assigned. The details for each trench will be summarised below in sections 5.1 to 5.16.

Context	Feature number	Trench	Description
0001	0001	5	Red brick wall with concrete footing
0002	0002	5	Red brick wall with concrete footing
0003	0003	8	West to east grave cut; excavated to reveal coffin stain
0004	0003	8	Coffin stain within 0003, occasional nails along margins of stain
0005	0005	8	West to east grave cut; excavated to partly reveal skeleton
0006	0005	8	Fill of grave 0005
0007	0005	8	Skeleton within grave 0005
0008	0008	9	West to east grave cut; excavated to reveal top of skull
0009	0008	9	Fill of grave 0008
0010	0008	9	Skeleton within grave 0008, only revealed to show skull
0011	0005	8	Coffin stain within grave 0005
0012	0012	9	West to east grave cut; excavated to reveal coffin stain
0013	0012	9	Fill of grave 0012
0014	0012	9	Coffin stain within grave 0012
0015	-	all	Turf and topsoil – whole site
0016	-	all	Subsoil (where present) – whole site
0017	-	all	Natural (sand and gravel) – whole site
0018	-	all	Modern fill (with concrete and/or plastic) – whole site
0019	-	8-11, 15-16	Component number for cemetery
0020	0020	8	Grave cut, seen in section only; not excavated
0021	0020	8	Fill of grave 0020
0022	0022	11	West to east grave cut; only partly excavated to reveal skull
0023	0022	11	Skull (articulated) within grave 0022

Table 1. List of context numbers used with descriptions

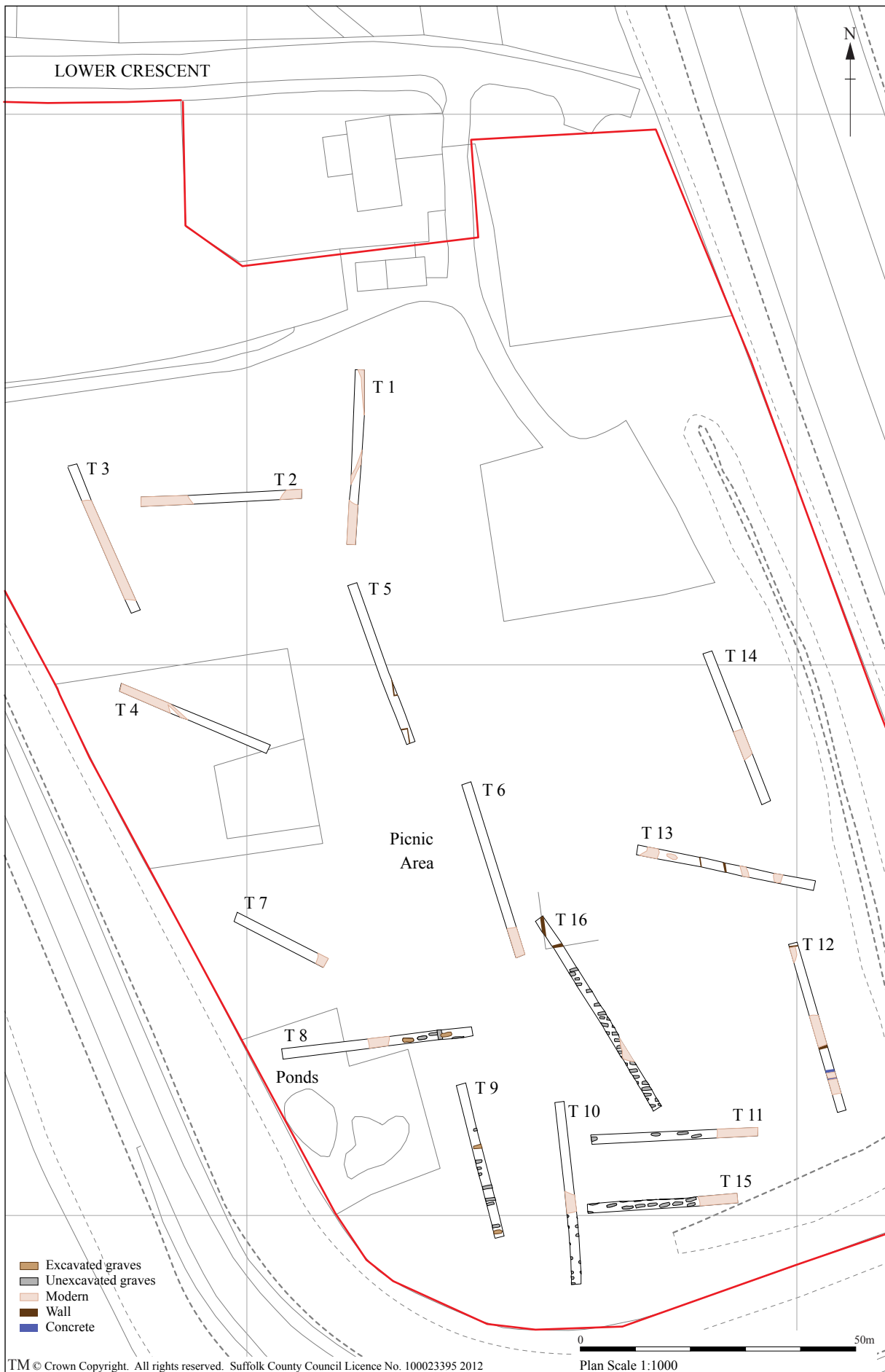


Figure 2. Trench plan

## **5.1 Trench 1**

This trench was located towards the northern end of the site and it was orientated north to south and was 32m in length. The topsoil was of 0.2m thickness and consisted of dark brown humic silty sand. The topsoil lay directly over the natural consisting of light yellow sand and gravel. Modern disturbances (containing plastic and concrete fragments) were encountered at both ends of the trench. No archaeological features were observed or finds collected.

## **5.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located to the west of Trench 1. This trench was aligned east to west and was 30m in length. The topsoil was of 0.3m to 0.4m in thickness and was similar to that in Trench 1. The topsoil lay directly over the natural which was the same as that encountered in Trench 1. Modern pits were encountered at both ends of the trench. No archaeological features were observed or finds collected from this trench.

## **5.3 Trench 3**

Trench 3 was located to the west of Trench 2 towards the north-west corner of the site. This trench was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was 30m in length. The topsoil was of 0.2m thickness and lay directly over the gravel and sand natural at either end of the trench. A large modern pit (containing concrete and paint tins) extended for c.20m across the middle of the trench. This was likely to be the same modern pit encountered at the western end of Trench 2. No archaeological features were observed or finds collected from this trench.

## **5.4 Trench 4**

Trench 4 was located along the western edge of the site to the south of Trench 3. This trench was within a wooded area and was aligned north-west to south-east to avoid trees. This trench was 30m in length. The disturbed topsoil was of 0.4m to 0.5m thickness and was mixed with modern hardcore. The north-western end of the trench the topsoil covered a modern pit and a linear feature (containing plastic bags). At the other end the topsoil lay directly over truncated natural of very clean sand and gravel. No archaeological features were observed or finds collected from this trench.

## **5.5 Trench 5**

Trench 5 was located south of Trench 1 and was north of centre of the site. This trench was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was 31m in length. The topsoil, containing abundant modern hardcore, was of 0.3m thickness and was over a paler mid brown silty sand subsoil with abundant small flints of 0.35m depth.

Two brick walls were encountered in this trench. Mid trench, wall 0001 was north to south running with a right-angle return running to the east. At the southern end of the trench, wall 0002 was north to south running with a right-angle return running to the west. Both these walls had concrete foundations and were likely to be of 20th century date.

## **5.6 Trench 6**

Trench 6 was to the south of Trench 5 and was on a similar alignment. This trench was 32m in length and contained a very shallow turf layer (0.1m) which lay directly over truncated natural; except at the southern end where a modern pit was encountered.

## **5.7 Trench 7**

Trench 7 was located to the south of Trench 4, along the western edge of the site. Like Trench 4, this trench was placed in a fairly wooded area and was orientated north-west to south-east to avoid the larger trees. This trench was 20m in length. The topsoil was between 0.3m and 0.4m thickness, and was over modern overburden of between 0.3m and 0.8m depth with a sharp contact over truncated sand natural. A modern pit was located at the south-east end of this trench.

## **5.8 Trench 8**

Trench 8 was the first trench to reveal graves and human remains. This trench was positioned on the western edge of the site, to the south of Trench 7 and to the north of a fenced-off wildlife area containing ponds. Trench 8 was 36m in length and had a topsoil of 0.3m to 0.4m thickness containing abundant modern hardcore, particularly towards the western end. Modern overburden was under the topsoil and was deepest at the western end (0.5m); trailing off towards the east (0.2m), where it sealed the grave fills (Section 03). A large, probably modern, feature containing hardcore occupied the centre of the trench. The graves were located to the east of this feature.

### **Grave 0003** (*Figs 3 & 4*)

Grave 0003 was partly excavated and was a west to east running rectangular cut and contained a clear coffin stain with iron nails along its edge. The level of the coffin stain above sea-level was 11.40mOD. Once the coffin stain was revealed excavation was halted at this level. To the east of this grave, two further graves were left unexcavated until Grave 0005 was encountered.

### **Grave 0005** (*Figs 3 & 4*)

Grave 0005 was excavated to partly reveal the skeleton in order to assess the state of bone preservation in the cemetery. A modern feature (north to south trench containing a plastic hose) was removed from the western end of the grave to allow excavation.

Grave 0005 was a west to east running sub-rectangular cut with rounded ends.

Skeleton 0007 was very well preserved with no indications of loss or damage to bone.

An organic staining, probably indicating the remains of a coffin, surrounded the skeleton. The levels on the skull, pelvis and feet were 11.62mOD, 11.46mOD and 11.48mOD respectively.

### **Grave 0020** (*Figs 3 & 4*)

Grave 0020 was towards the eastern end of the trench and was not hand excavated.

The grave cut could be seen in the edge of the trench and was recorded in Section 03 (Fig. 4). The top of the grave cut could be seen under the topsoil and the modern make-up layer at a height of 12.52mOD.

## **5.9 Trench 9**

Graves were encountered in Trench 9; except at its northern end. This trench was orientated approximately north to south and was 29m in length. The topsoil was of 0.25m thickness and under this was a subsoil deposit of mid to pale yellow brown slightly silty sand. This deposit was of 0.15m depth at the southern end of the trench but was of over 0.5m depth at midway along the trench; the two graves partly excavated in this trench cut this layer. Grave 0008 was situated approximately midway along the trench and was one of the most northerly graves encountered in this trench. Grave 0012 was at the southern end of the trench.

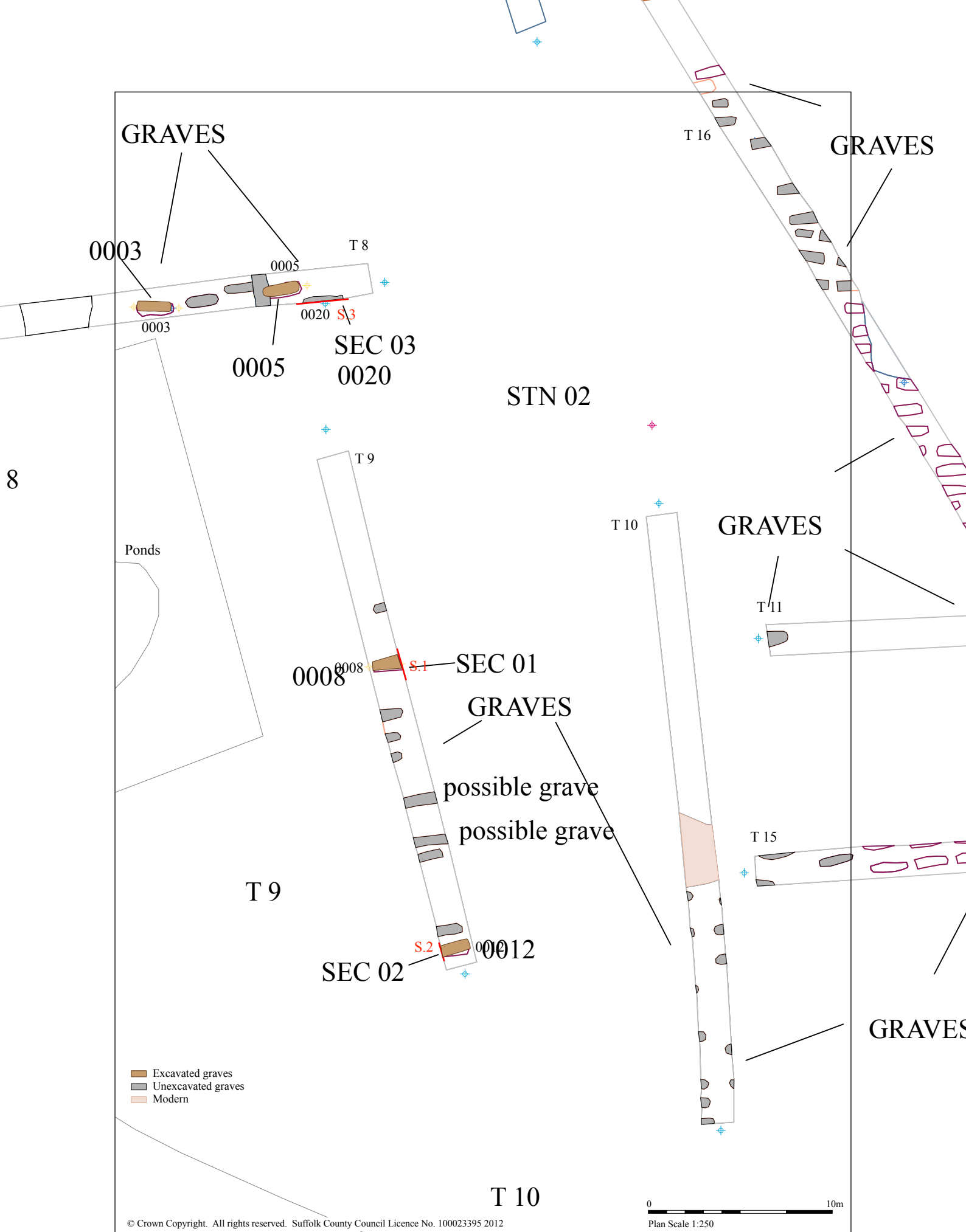


Figure 3. Detail of trench plan showing excavated graves

### **Grave 0008** (*Figs 3 & 4*)

The eastern end of Grave 0008 was not revealed within the trench. A coffin stain was present with a number of iron nails positioned along the edge of the stain. The top of the skull was uncovered at the western end of the grave. The height on the skull was 11.29mOD. In Section 01 (Fig. 4) the grave could be seen cutting from below the topsoil layer and the cut could be seen at a height of c.12.00mOD.

### **Grave 0012** (*Figs 3 & 4*)

Grave 0012 was positioned at the southern end of the trench. The cut for the grave could be seen below the topsoil at a height of c.12.0mOD and a coffin stain was revealed at a height of c.10.8mOD. The western end of the grave was beyond the limit of the trench. What could be seen of the cut was rectangular in plan, 1.6m in length revealed and with a width of c.0.6m. The coffin stain consisted of a narrow organic staining with occasional iron nails along this line. Excavation was halted at the level of the coffin stain.

## **5.10 Trench 10**

Trench 10 was a north to south running trench, positioned to the west of Trench 9 and situated near the southern boundary of the site. This trench was of 33m length. The topsoil was of 0.3m thickness and was over 0.15m of mid to pale brown stony sand. This deposit was cut by the graves, which were encountered within the southern half of the trench (none were excavated). The northern half of the trench appeared to be damaged by modern disturbance and truncation.

## **5.11 Trench 11**

Trench 11 was an east to west running trench of 30m length positioned to the east of Trench 10 and to the north of trench 15. A thin deposit of turf and topsoil (0.15m) was over mixed bands of sand, hardcore and loam (0.35m in total). Under this was a deposit of mid orange brown sand with gravel (0.25m) which could have been redeposited natural. A large modern intrusion was recorded at the western end of the trench.

### **Grave 0022**

Four graves were seen in this trench with only one of these being partly excavated. Grave 0022, west of trench centre was, only partly excavated to reveal the skull. Levels were taken on the top of the grave cut and on the skull, which were 12.55mOD and



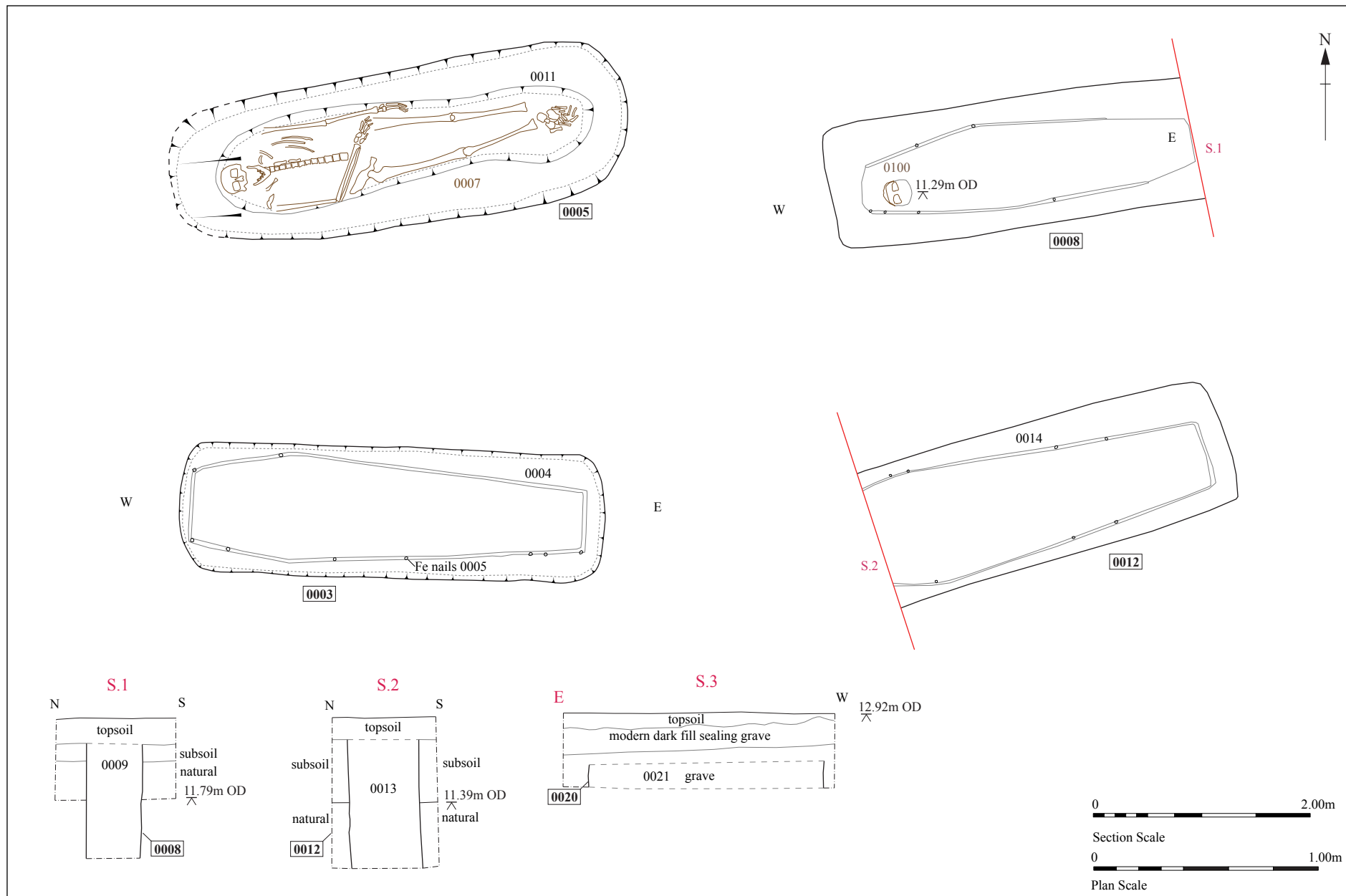


Figure 4. Grave plans and sections

11.62mOD respectively. As this grave was only partly excavated it was not fully recorded

### **5.12 Trench 12**

Trench 12 was positioned to the east of Trench 11, south of Trench 13 and within the south-eastern corner of the site. This trench was 32m in length and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It had a topsoil of 0.25m, which was over a mixed overburden of hardcore, sand and topsoil. This deposit varied in depth from 1m at southern end (where the ground sloped up towards a bank in the corner of the site) to only 0.2m at the north of the trench. Several large pits of probable modern origin were encountered across the trench. Near the southern end, two parallel east to west concrete footings were recorded. A red brick footing crossed the trench near its mid point and a yellow brick footing was located at the northern end of the trench. Both these footings ran approximately east to west and, although not matching any of the walls seen on the early edition O.S. maps, were on the same alignment as the workhouse buildings.

### **5.13 Trench 13**

Trench 13 was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and was located along the eastern edge of the site between Trenches 12 and 14. This trench was of 33m length, had a topsoil of 0.2m depth and a mixed overburden of 0.3m depth over much of the trench except towards the western end where the trench became shallower. A number of probable modern pits containing demolition deposits were encountered in this trench. Near the middle of the trench was a pair of parallel red brick footings, running approximately north to south (Fig. 2). These are likely to be associated with the original workhouse.

### **5.14 Trench 14**

Trench 14 was positioned along the eastern edge of the site, to the north of Trench 13. This trench was of 30m length and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. The topsoil was of c.0.3m thickness, which was directly over natural at the southern end but for most of the trench was over a deep, mixed overburden of up to a depth of 0.8m. A modern plastic service duct crossed the trench just north of centre at a depth of c.13.0mOD.

### **5.15 Trench 15**

Trench 15 was an additional trench positioned to try to confirm the eastern limit of the burials seen in Trench 11 to the north. This trench was orientated east to west and was of 28m in length. The shallow topsoil of 0.2m depth was over an upper overburden of mixed modern deposits (0.3m) and a lower deposit of possible redeposited natural (0.25m). A large modern intrusion occupied the eastern quarter of the trench. Across the rest of the trench at least fifteen west to east grave cuts were revealed. The levels at which the graves were exposed were within the range of 11.75mOD (west end) to 12.37mOD (east end). None of these graves were excavated.

### **5.16 Trench 16 (*Plates 1 & 4*)**

Trench 16 was the last trench to be cut and was positioned to define the northern edge of the cemetery. Obstacles – in the form of trees and bunds – demanded that this trench be orientated north-west to south-east and filled the gap between Trenches 6 and 11. This trench was of 41m length, it had a thick topsoil of c.0.4m, under which was a deep subsoil of c.0.5m depth which consisted of mid brown mixed sand and gravel. Graves probably cut this deposit but could not be clearly seen until this deposit was removed. A large rectangular modern pit containing concrete was recorded near the centre of the trench.

In total, at least 29 west to east graves (or part graves) were seen in the base of the trench. No graves were excavated but in two cases parts of the skull were revealed during machining. The skull in the north-western half of the trench had a level of 12.60mOD, whereas that from the south-eastern half had a height of 12.09mOD.

At the north-western end of the trench a substantial, cornering red-brick footing was encountered (Plate 4). This wall was encountered at c.0.15m below the present ground surface and the footing continued downwards for a further c.0.75m. This was likely to be the corner of the chapel associated with the workhouse and might therefore probably represent the northern boundary of the cemetery.



Plate 4. Brick footing at north-west end of Trench 16

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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No finds were recovered from the site and no environmental samples were taken.

## 7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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Despite the archaeological potential of the site (Rolfe 2012), no evidence was found for deposits, features or structures earlier than the workhouse. Due to the degree of modern truncation across so much of the site and to the amount of disturbance caused by the digging of the post-medieval graves, it is perhaps unlikely that anything earlier would have survived. Palaeolithic evidence might still be present within the natural geological deposits below the level at which the trenches were cut.

The majority of the site has been badly truncated and reworked during the 20th century. The bulk of the western half of the site was lower than the eastern half. Much of this area appears to have been quarried with truncated natural appearing in the trenches and then later filled with mixed deposits containing concrete and plastic. No archaeological features (pre-twentieth century) were observed here and were unlikely to survive at this depth. Such damage was likely to have happened while the site was being used as a compound for the construction of the A45 in the 1970s and 1980s. The topsoil could have been imported from elsewhere, possibly from Sproughton sugar beet refinery (Breen 2012).

Against the eastern boundary of the site there was still evidence of truncation of natural (e.g. sharp contact between topsoil and natural sands) but, as the ground level was higher here, it was probably less severe than that across the western half of the site. Demolition evidence for the original workhouse was seen in a number of places, with the brick footings for buildings surviving in Trenches 13 and 16 (Fig. 2, Plate 4). Footings on a similar alignment were also seen in Trenches 5 and 12 and could relate to outbuildings or later additions (Fig. 5). Those footings seen in Trench 5 were partly made of concrete and were therefore of probable twentieth century date.

The area with the least amount of damage was in the vicinity of the cemetery in the south-west corner of the site (Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16), although large modern interventions were observed in all these trenches except Trench 9. The substantial brick footing encountered at the northern end of Trench 16 appears to coincide with the chapel marked on earlier Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 5). This structure is likely to represent the northern limit of the cemetery. The southern boundary of the burial ground

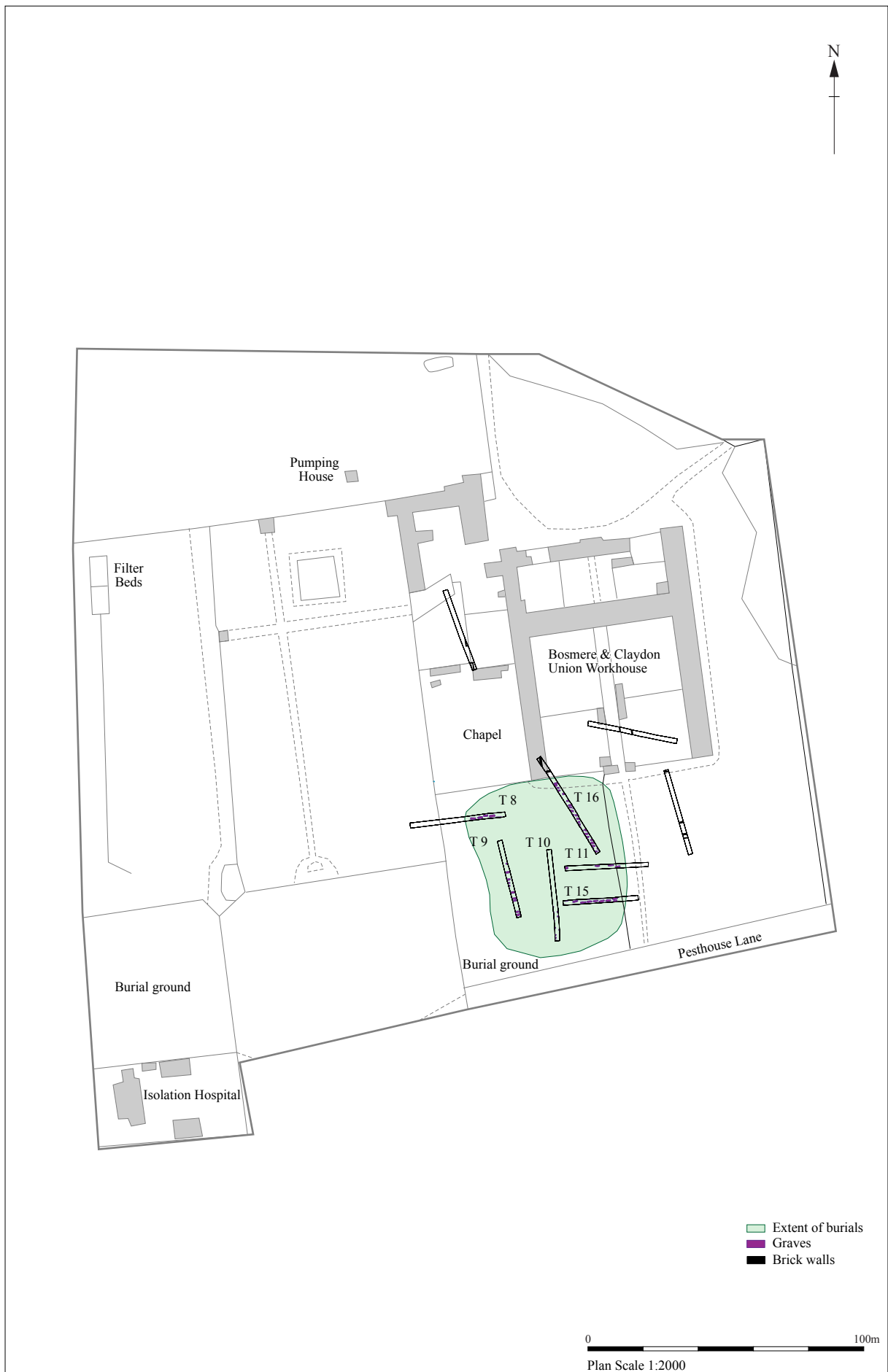


Figure 5. Historic plan (2nd ed OS) showing extent of burials revealed in excavation

is likely to extend to the edge of the site. The western edge is likely to be within the wildlife area containing ponds and trees which could not be trenched. Burials were not encountered within the western half of Trench 8 and this could represent the western limit of the cemetery. As there was severe modern truncation at this end of the trench, the western boundary is inconclusive.

The eastern boundary of the cemetery is slightly problematic as in both Trenches 11 and 15 the extent of grave cuts appeared to come to an abrupt end just before the modern pits at the eastern end of the trenches were encountered; although the modern pits did not appear to cut the graves. As the eastern edge of the graves corresponds approximately to that shown on the Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5), it is possible that the eastern boundary of the cemetery could have been still visible until the 1970s and was thus avoided while so much of the rest of the site was being damaged. The position of individual burial mounds were still visible in 1952 (Breen 2012).

In some places the graves were seen to be regularly spaced and tightly packed (Trenches 15 and 16, the east end of Trench 8 and the southern ends of Trenches 9 and 10). In other places burials were sparse (Trench 11) or completely absent (the northern ends of Trenches 9 and 10). Such gaps might have been due to modern truncation, unused areas within the cemetery or lack of recognition during excavation. At least 76 individual graves were surveyed within the six trenches associated with burials. If these trenches represent approximately 8% of the probable cemetery within the site then over 900 burials are possible across the area.

In most cases the human remains were encountered at quite some considerable depth. In Trench 8 the excavated skeleton (grave 0005) was encountered at c.1m below the top of the grave cut and c.1.4m below the present ground level. In Trench 16 human remains were encountered at a slightly shallower depth at c.1m from the present ground surface. As these individuals were near to the chapel they could have been early burials, interred before 1847 after which burials were required to be deeper (see below).

The introduction of the Town Improvement Clauses Act of 1847 ensured that the top of the coffin was buried at least 2'6" below ground level (Rolfe 2012). It appears that most of the cemetery beyond Trench 16 adhered to these deeper burial practices and were

therefore probably interred after 1847. No evidence for the burial of more one than one coffin within a grave (e.g. one above another) was observed. In all cases where the majority of the grave was excavated (graves 0003 and 0005 in Trench 8; graves 0008 and 0012 in Trench 9) a coffin stain was apparent, often with traces of iron nails. It seems likely that placing the dead within a wooden coffin was the usual burial rite within this cemetery.

The area of the cemetery in the south-western corner of the site is lower than the surrounding areas and it might be possible during the proposed levelling of the site for football pitches to build up the ground height to protect the graves from any further damage. The depths of the human remains and of the heights at which grave cuts were seen are summarised in the following table:

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Highest level at which human remains / coffin stain recorded</b>	<b>Highest level at which grave cut recorded</b>
8	c.11.6mOD	c.12.7mOD
9	c.11.3mOD	c.12.3mOD
10	no human remains uncovered	c.11.6mOD
11	c.11.6mOD	c.12.6mOD
15	no human remains uncovered	c.12.4mOD
16	c.12.6mOD	c.12.9mOD

Table 2. Heights of human remains and top of grave cuts expressed as *metres above Ordnance Datum* (mOD)

It is recommended that the level of the ground surface would have to be built up to above 12.6mOD if any damage to human remains and/or coffins was to be avoided (and to above 12.9mOD to avoid any interference with the upper fills of the graves).

Great care must be taken if the topsoil is to be removed by machine and deep excavation must be avoided in the cemetery area (see Helen Chappell's advice below).

Removal of the trees within the burial area might be problematic if disturbance is to be avoided. The controlled monitoring of burials around the tree stumps, the recovery of any human remains and the reburial of these could be undertaken in an archaeologically controlled way if this was required.



Helen Chappell, English Heritage Science Advisor, has offered the following guidance:

- A 'buffer zone' of c.0.5m depth should be kept above the burials to avoid any disturbance.
- Reduce vehicle impact over the cemetery by placing the backfill material in front of any plant, to build it up before it is driven over.
- The backfill / overburden material (if required to build up over the cemetery area) could be any topsoil similar (chemically) to that found on site and does not require inert sand etc.
- A layer of geotextile membrane such as 'Terram' would act as both a marker and barrier layer and would also help to spread any point loading associated with subsequent vehicle movements.
- Deep drainage or other intrusions must be avoided to protect the integrity of the burials.

## **8. Archive deposition**

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The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference BRH 054. Digital photographs have been given the codes HQB 1-98. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-134129.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Barham\BRH 054 Pesthouse Lane eval

## **9. Acknowledgements**

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Dr Jess Tipper produced the Brief and Specification and Jude Plouviez made a curatorial monitoring visit. The project was managed by Dr Rhodri Gardner, who produced the Written Scheme of Investigation. The fieldwork was carried out by Jezz Meredith, Phil Camps and Tony Fisher. Andy Beverton conducted the GPS and TST surveys of the trenches. The figures were prepared by Crane Begg. Stuart Boulter and Jess Tipper commented on earlier drafts of this report. Dr Helen Chappell (English Heritage Science Advisor) provided guidance on the future protection of the cemetery.

## 10. Bibliography

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Breen, A., 2012, 'Appendix 2. Documentary study' in Rolfe, J., *Pesthouse Lane, Barham: Desk-Based Assessment*, SCCAS report no. 2012/050, Bury St Edmund's, Suffolk

British Geological Survey, 2006, *Ipswich, England and Wales Sheet 207, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits, 1:50 000 Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: BGS

Gardner, R., 2012, *Written Scheme of Investigation, Safety Statement and Risk Assessment for Land North of Pesthouse Lane, Barham, Suffolk: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench*, SCCAS Ipswich

Rolfe, J., 2012, *Pesthouse Lane, Barham: Desk-Based Assessment*, SCCAS report no. 2012/050, Bury St Edmund's, Suffolk

**Appendix 1. Brief and specification****Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

Pesthouse Lane, Barham

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	Suffolk County Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	To be arranged
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TM 123 511
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Sports facilities
<b>AREA:</b>	2.90 ha.
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	27 May 2012

**Summary**

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that the location of the proposed development could affect important below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance.
- 1.2 The applicant is required to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework, in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief 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 The site of the proposed football pitches has high potential for the discovery of important heritage assets of archaeological interest in view of its location on the site of the Bosmere and Claydon Workhouse and burial ground. There is also high potential for earlier archaeological remains given the proximity of known sites and also given the landscape setting immediately above the floodplain of the River Gipping, which is topographically favourable for occupation of all periods. The DBA (SCCAS report 2012/050) suggests that large parts of the site have been disturbed, but to an unknown degree and the site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation.

### **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 3.5% by area, which is c.1,015.00m<sup>2</sup>. 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.564.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. In addition, there should be a contingency of a further 1.5% (242.00m), to be used only if required to clarify the degree of preservation and depth of any surviving archaeological features across the site.

- 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](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

## Appendix 2. OASIS summary

<b>OASIS ID: suffolkc1-134129</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	BRH 054 Pesthouse Lane
Short description of the project	<p>An area to the north of Pesthouse Lane of 2.9 hectares was evaluated by trial trenching to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. This was the second phase of archaeological examination as a desk-based assessment had been produced previously (Rolfe 2012). This document had indicated that the site had been the location of the Bosmere and Claydon workhouse from 1766 and that there was likely to be an associated cemetery. Earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey maps clearly showed a burial ground located towards the south-western corner of the present site under consideration. Trenching revealed that the majority of the site had been severely disturbed and truncated during the 20th century and this was probably due to this area being used as a compound for works being undertaken on the A45 trunk road adjacent. The area of the 18th and 19th century cemetery had however been left mainly undisturbed and the location of the burials were probably either marked or known about and were avoided during the modern earthmoving works. Part of a red-brick wall footing, believed to belong to the workhouse chapel, appeared to define the northern edge of the cemetery. Within the six trenches excavated to the south of the chapel the outlines of at least 76 graves were identified. Five of these burials were excavated to reveal either human remains and/or coffin stains and these examples indicated that the burials were located at least 1m below the present ground surface and that bone preservation was extremely good. No archaeological remains of earlier periods were identified. It is likely that the disturbance caused by intensive post-medieval grave digging coupled with the severe truncation caused by 20th century earth-moving beyond the cemetery area would have removed most if not all traces of previous occupation.</p>
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2012 End: 24-08-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRH 054 - HER event no.



Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	GRAVE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BARHAM BRH 054 Pesthouse Lane
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 1233 5118 52 1 52 07 03 N 001 06 06 E Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
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	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Jezz Meredith
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body	Barham Parish Council
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	BRH 054 Pesthouse Lane, Barham Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Meredith, J.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS rpt no 2012/142
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Ipswich
Description	Medium sized evaluation report - with short grave catalogue



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