

Land at South Cove House  
South Cove  
SCV 018

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/147**

**Client: Andrew Eastaugh**

Author: Jezz Meredith

October 2012

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SCCAS Report No. 2012/147

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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.

Prepared By: Jezz Meredith

Date: October 2012

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner

Position: Head of Archaeology Contracting

Date:

Signed:



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## Summary

*South Cove*, Land at South Cove House  
(TM 4998/8084; SCV 018).

A trenched evaluation was conducted across land to the north of South Cove House. Archaeological features were encountered under deep deposits of mixed modern overburden and undisturbed sandy subsoil.

Two pits and a north to south running ditch are likely to be of medieval date with pottery of 12th to 14th century date being recovered from one of the pits and the ditch. Spelt wheat and other cultivated grains were recovered from environmental samples taken from these features and the processing of cereals was likely to have taken place within the vicinity. The site is c.35m to the south of the church of St Lawrence's which has Norman architectural features. The site is therefore likely to be within the medieval core of the parish.

Another ditch, on a different alignment to the medieval ditch, contained a pale and leached fill and a small fragment of pottery of probable Late Bronze to Early Iron Age date. Heat-altered flint and a flint scraper were residual finds in the medieval features and suggest that later prehistoric activity took place in the surrounding area.

(Jezz Meredith, S.C.C.A.S., for Andrew Eastaugh; report no. 2012/147)





Plate 1. View of Trench 2 looking east. The dark staining in the foreground belongs to the unexcavated fill of ditch 0010. In the distance Mark Sommers is excavating ditch 0008



# 1. Introduction

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A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the north of South Cove House (Fig. 1; grid reference TM 4998 8084). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consists of an area of c.0.27 hectares. A 'Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation' produced by the curatorial officer Jess Tipper asked for a 5% sample by trial trenching prior to development taking place. This would represent c.75m of linear trench. Much of the site was occupied by a large building (poultry shed) with associated concrete yards and other obstacles which included a high bank across the west end and abandoned cars parked within the north-west corner of the site. This made the location of the trenching quite restricted. The trenching however was within the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 2).

The evaluation was carried out as a planning condition for residential holiday accommodation being proposed by the landowner and was in accordance with the 'Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation'. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Rhodri Gardner detailed the archaeological methodology and risk assessment (Appendix 1).

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) on Monday the 17th of September 2012.

The site has been given the South Cove reference SCV 018 within the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER)

## 2. Geology and topography

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According to the British Geological Survey (2006), the site is located on glacial deposits of sand and gravel. The area under consideration is c.2.2km from the coast to the east.

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

- Rolling river terraces and coastal slopes
- Sandy and free draining soils with areas of heathland
- Late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges
- Landscape parklands
- A focus of settlement in the Estate Sandlands landscape
- 19thC red brick buildings with black glazed pantiles in the east
- Tree belts and plantations throughout
- Occasional and significant semi-natural woodlands and ribbons of wet woodland
- Complex and intimate landscape on valley sides

The site is fairly level and is at c.10mOD. Besides the standing buildings and other obstructions on the site the area trenched was covered in dumps of building material and demolition spreads and was thus probably at a slightly lower level in the past.

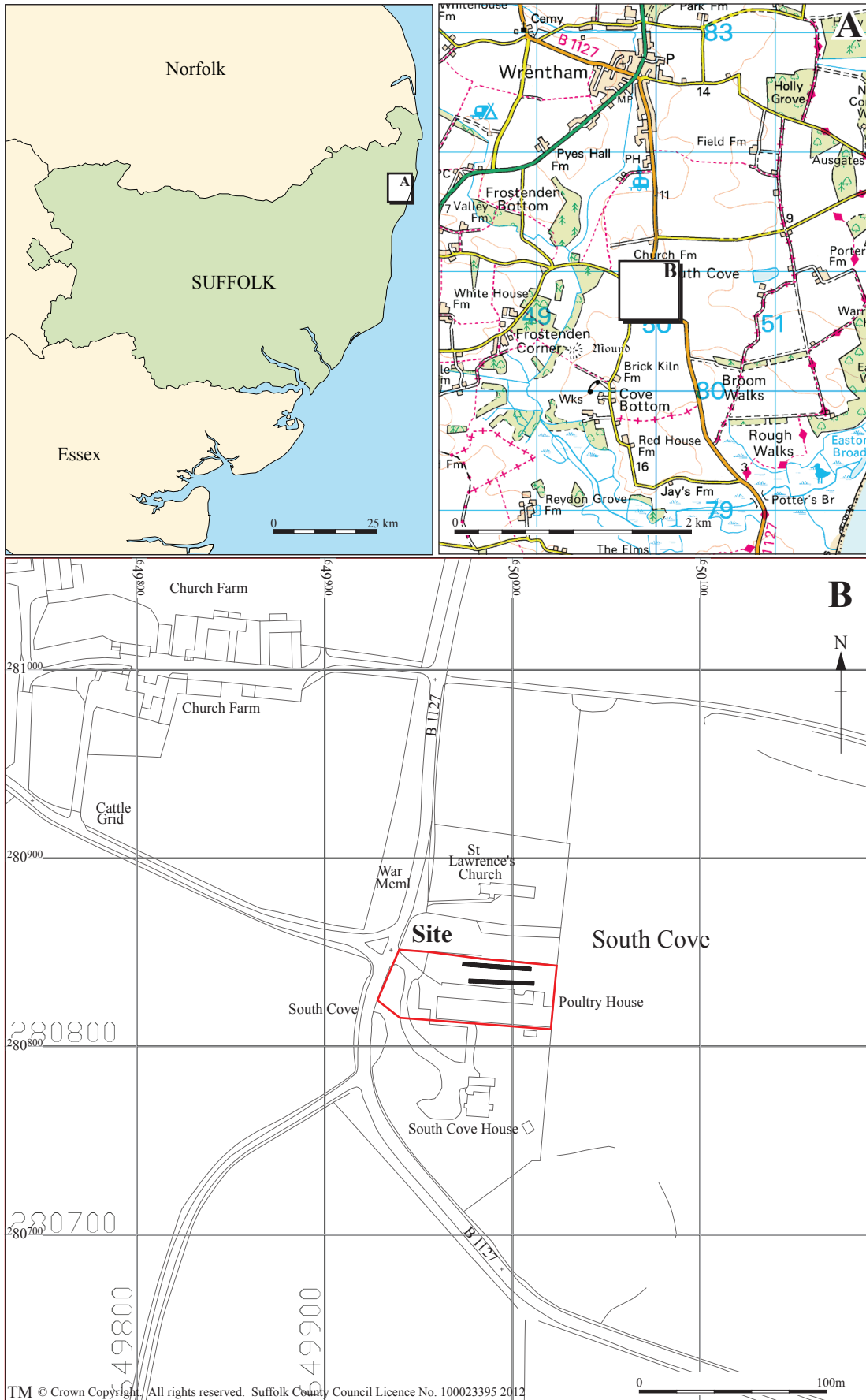


Figure 1. Location plan

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

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The site is located c.35m to the south of the medieval church of St Lawrence's (SCV 006), which has evidence for Norman construction. Being so close to the church, the site is likely to be within the medieval core of the parish and being on the south side of the church it is possible that the church cemetery could have extended into the site.

According to the Historic Environment Records (HER) of Suffolk County Council, no other sites of archaeological interest are positioned in the vicinity. Only seventeen other HER records are known for the whole parish however, indicating that little is known archaeologically about this area.

Beyond the vicinity of the site, to the south-west of the site at a distance of c.800m is a large mound surrounded by a ditch which is of unknown date (SCV 001). In the neighbouring parish of Covehithe two known sites are located c.800m to the east. Site COV 020 consisted of a scatter of Neolithic flint tools recovered during fieldwalking. Site COV 121 was recognised during excavation prior to the construction of a farm reservoir.

According to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880, South Cove House was the rectory associated with St Lawrence's church. No buildings or other structures are shown on this map within the area of the present site under investigation.



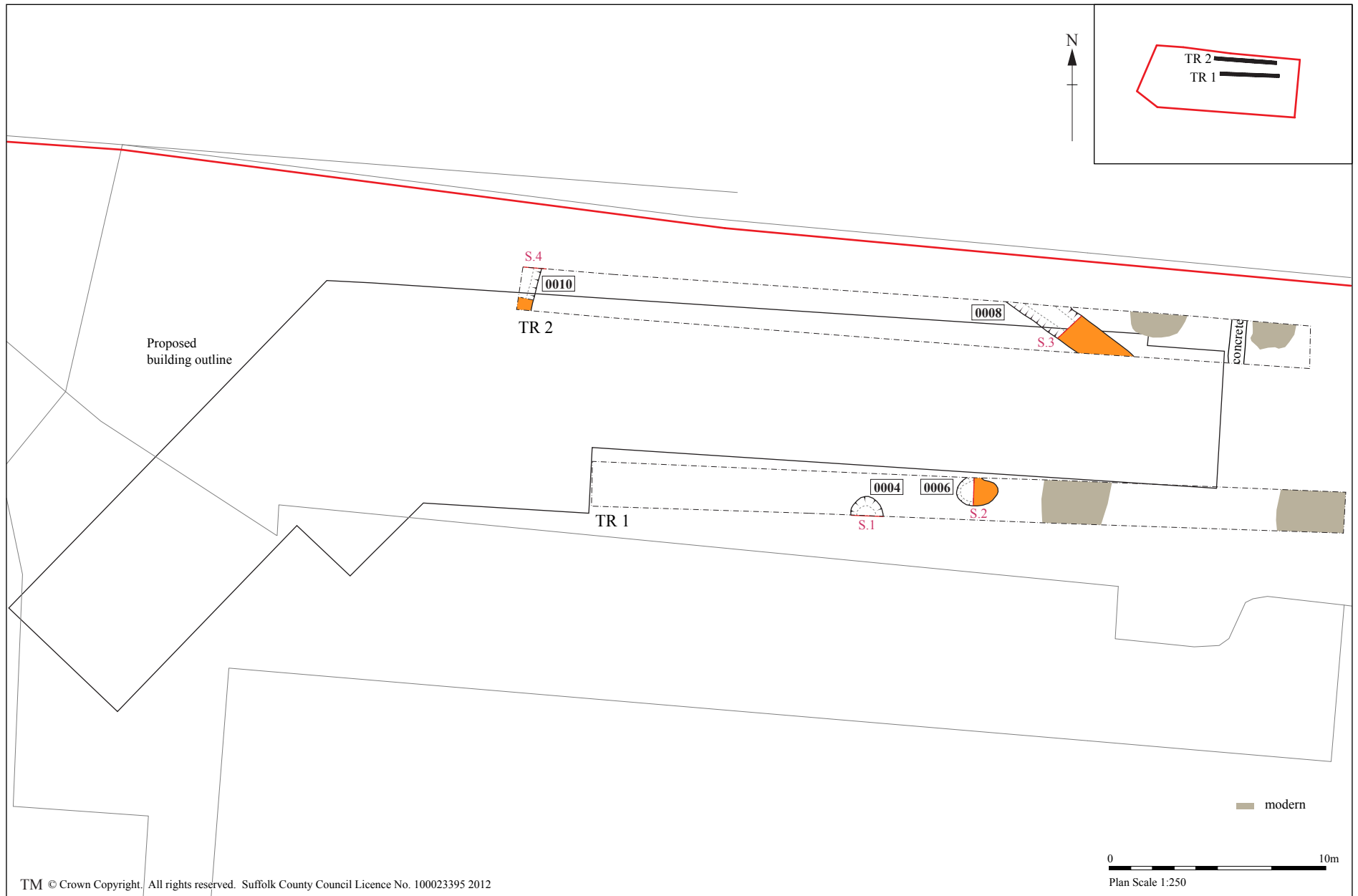


Figure 2. Trench plan with feature locations in relation to the footprint of the proposed buiding. Modern features coloured grey

## 4. Methodology

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Trenching was conducted using a rubber tracked 360° mechanical digger equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. After a walk over of the site, only one area was identified where trenches could be cut. Two parallel trenches were cut east to west in this area. The first of these (Trench 1) had to be slightly shortened to avoid a large pile of building sand. A proposed small trench at the western end of the site could not be cut as this area was occupied by a bund.

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. Topsoil, modern overburden and subsoil were removed by machine to reveal undisturbed natural sand, archaeological features or modern disturbances. 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.

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 0001–0011 (Table 1). Specimen sections from both ends of each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:20 on sheets of gridded drawing film. All features were sectioned, photographed and recorded. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and were drawn in plan at 1:50. 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 SCV 018. 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 suffolkc1-134413 has been used for this project.

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Introduction

The context numbers issued are summarised in table 1 below:

Context	Feature number	Trench	Description
0001	-		Unstratified finds (none collected)
0002	-	1 & 2	Turf / modern overburden / topsoil
0003	-	1 & 2	Subsoil
0004	0004	1	Circular pit cut
0005	0004	1	Pit fill
0006	0006	1	Elliptical pit cut
0007	0006	1	Pit fill
0008	0008	2	NW-SE running ditch
0009	0008	2	Ditch fill
0010	0010	2	N-S running ditch
0011	0010	2	Ditch fill

Table 1. List of context numbers used, with brief descriptions (see below for detail)

### 5.2 Trench results

#### Trench 1

This was the more southerly of the two parallel, east to west running trenches and was 34.5m in length. The upper layer 0002 was a very mixed deposit of between 0.3 and 0.5m thickness. This consisted of turf over disturbed deposits of rubble, sand, tarmac, gravel and topsoil loam. This layer was over and had a sharp contact with (indicating truncation) a thick subsoil deposit 0003. Layer 0003 consisted of a mid to dark orange brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small to medium rounded flints. This deposit was up to 0.5m depth with the top 0.2m containing occasional small chalk flecks. The underlying natural was pale to mid yellow and yellow brown sand with gravel patches.

Two features of archaeological interest were recorded in this trench; pits 0004 and 0006. Towards the eastern end of the trench two modern pits (containing plastic sacks) were encountered.

#### **Pit 0004**

Pit 0004 was positioned c.11m from the western end of the trench and was sealed by the subsoil deposit 0003. This was a shallow feature of c.1.2m diameter and 0.28m depth with gently sloping sides and rounded base. Fill 0005 was mid to dark grey brown sand with darker, charcoal-rich patches and areas of reddened sand, probably indicating a dump of heated sand rather than *in-situ* burning.

Finds associated with this feature (recovered from the soil sample) included burnt animal bone fragments and heat altered flint. Plant remains observed were abundant examples of spelt wheat, some bread wheat, hulled barley and segetal weeds (eg weeds of cereal cultivation). Some of the spelt showed evidence for secondary processing.

#### **Pit 0006**

At c.15m from the western end of the trench was the elliptical pit 0006. This pit was 1.4m in length (east to west), 1m across (north to south) and had a depth of 0.32m. The sides were fairly gently sloping with a rounded base. Fill 0007 was mid brown silty sand with occasional small rounded flints becoming darker and with occasional to moderate charcoal flecks towards the base.

Two small abraded pottery body sherds were retrieved from the soil samples. These are likely to be of 12th to 14th century date but an earlier, later Saxon date is possible. Small quantities of bunt animal bone, heat-altered flint and a single flint scraper were also found. Carbonised plant remains include spelt wheat, bread wheat and barley.

#### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was positioned to the north of Trench 1 and was along the northern edge of the site. This trench was 36.5m in length and had the same overlying deposits as in Trench 1 with layers 0002 and 0003 both being of c.0.5m thickness, making this a deep trench. Both deposits were the same as in Trench 1, except that the chalk flecking seen across the top of 0003 in Trench 1 was absent from the western end of Trench 2. Modern pits were encountered at the eastern end of the trench and a north to south

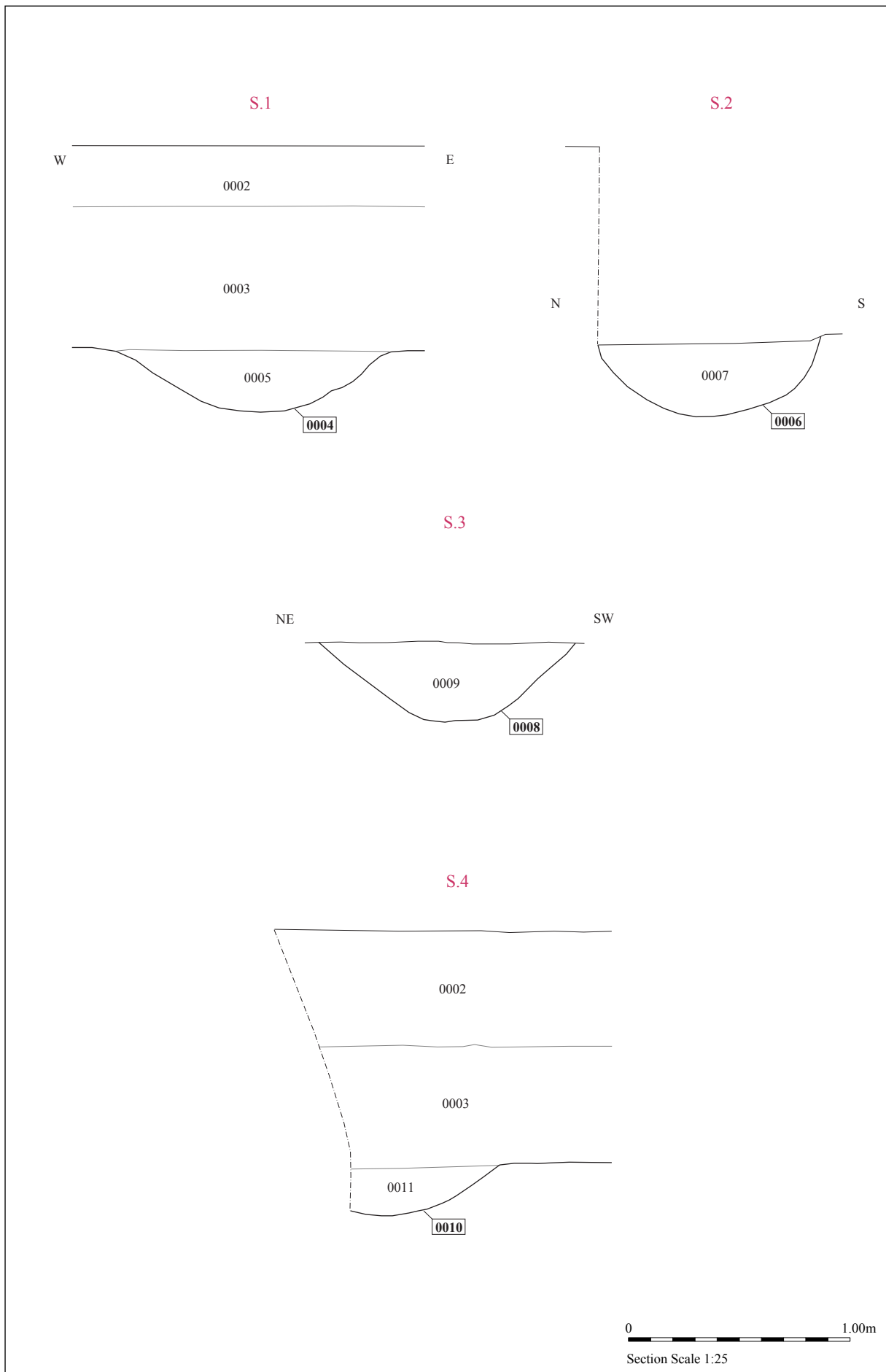


Figure 3. Feature sections

concrete footing was also at this end of the trench. Two ditches were revealed in this trench, one in the centre of the trench and the other at its western end.

### **Ditch 0008**

Ditch 0008 was positioned at c.14m from the eastern end of the trench and was orientated north-west to south-east. This ditch had a width of 1.15m and a depth 0.35m, it had moderately steep, straight sides leading to a narrow rounded base. Fill 0009 was pale grey brown sand with occasional small rounded flints.

A small sherd of abraded flint-tempered pottery was recovered from the soil sample from this feature. This pottery is likely to be of Late Bronze to Early Iron Age date. Heat-altered flint was also recovered from the soil sample, as were small quantities of plant remains.

### **Ditch 0010**

Ditch 0010 was positioned at the western end of the trench and was only partly seen in the base of the trench. This ditch was sealed by layer 0003. Ditch 0010 was north to south running and had a width of over 0.7m (the western edge was not visible) and a depth of 0.2m. The ditch had shallow gently sloping sides leading to a rounded base. Fill 0011 was mixed dark grey and black mottles within mid brown and mid yellow sand with frequent patches of charcoal and occasional small rounded flints.

Four sherds of medieval coarseware were recovered from this ditch and are dated to the 12th to 14th centuries. All sherds are joining base fragments. Small and abraded pieces of fired clay were also recovered from this feature.

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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Andy Fawcett

### 6.1 Introduction

Table 2 shows the quantities of finds recovered from the evaluation, which were virtually all retrieved as part of the sampling strategy. Finds were recorded in two trenches, which include two pit fills (Tr.1) and two ditch fills (Tr.2). A full breakdown by context of the bulk finds can be seen in Appendix 2.

Find type	No	Wgt/g
Pottery	7	87
Fired clay	5	1
Worked flint	1	7
Burnt flint/stone	260	1429
Animal bone	26	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1539</b>

Table 2. Finds quantities

### 6.2 The pottery

#### Introduction

A total of seven sherds of pottery (87g) was recorded from the evaluation. Only one of the contexts with finds (outlined in the main introduction) did not contain pottery and this was pit fill 0005 (Tr.1). The assemblage contains pottery dated to the prehistoric and medieval period. A full contextual breakdown of the assemblage forms part of the site archive.

#### 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). All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count and weight. No rims or bases are present within the assemblage

#### Prehistoric

A single very abraded body sherd of flint-tempered pottery was retrieved from Sample 3 taken from ditch fill 0009 (Tr. 2). The sherd is dated from the Late Bronze to Early Iron Age. A small quantity of burnt flint was also recorded in this context.

## Medieval

Medieval pottery was recovered from two contexts as part of the sampling strategy, in pit fill 0007 (Tr.1, Sample 2) and ditch fill 0011 (Tr.2, Sample 4). The first of these contained two small and abraded body sherds of medieval coarseware (MCW) dated from the 12th to 14th century. One of these is in a hard fired black fabric which consists of ill sorted quartz and some organic voids which are mostly visible on the surfaces. The fabric is slightly unusual and a later Saxon date for this sherd cannot be ruled out entirely. A further four body sherds of MCW were noted in context 0011. These are all joining base fragments which display only slight abrasion. The sherds are patchily reduced and consist solely of ill sorted quartz; they are dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

### **6.3 Fired clay**

All of the fired clay was recorded in Sample 4 taken from ditch fill 0011 (Tr.2). The pieces are too small and abraded to warrant analysis, other than to say they are oxidised and in a medium sandy fabric (ms).

### **6.4 Worked flint**

Identified by Justine Biddle

A single unpatinated light grey flake was recorded in pit fill 0007 (Tr.1). Both edges of the flint have been retouched and it was probably used as a scrapper. The flake also displays eight flake scars and a hinge fracture. It is dated to the later prehistoric period and within that, possibly the Iron Age.

### **6.5 Burnt flint**

All four contexts contained fragments of burnt flint which were all retrieved as part of the sampling process. The flint is of a variable size and is predominantly coloured orange to red. This indicates that the flint had been subjected to some form of fire event (natural or man-made) as opposed to being used in the 'pot boiling' process.

### **6.6 Faunal remains**

Burnt animal bone fragments were recovered as part of the sampling strategy and were retrieved from the two pit fills in Trench 1 (0005 and 0007). As the number and weight figures suggest, all of the animal bone is extremely small and worn. None of the



fragments are identifiable to species. In both cases the bone is also accompanied by burnt flint.

## **6.7 Plant macrofossils and other remains**

Anna West

### **Introduction and methods**

A total of four samples were taken from archaeological features during the evaluation South Cove House. All the 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 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 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to 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

SS No	Context No	Feature/cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot Contents
1	0005	0004	Pit		Charred cereal ###, Charred seeds #, charcoal +++, modern rootlets +
2	0007	0006	Pit	Med	Charred cereal ##, charred seeds #, charcoal +++, rootlets +
3	0009	0008	Ditch	Pre	Charred cereal #, un-charred seeds #, charcoal +++, rootlets +++
4	0011	0010	Ditch	Med	Charred cereal #, un-charred seeds #, charcoal +++, modern roots +

Table 3. Results of environmental sampling

The preservation is through charring and is generally fair to poor, some of the cereal grains are puffed and fragmented, with the honeycomb structure characteristic of combustion at high temperatures. Modern fibrous rootlets were common within all the flots and are considered intrusive.

Cereal grains of what appear to be Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.) were present in Sample 1 from pit fill 0005. Elongated droplet shaped caryopses were the most common grain within this sample, along with a couple of glume bases and a spikelet fork, leading to a tentative identification of *T. spelta*. A small number of short round caryopses also suggest the presence of a free-threshing wheat and rachis fragments, tentatively identified as being from a Hexaploid naked wheat, suggest they may be Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.).

Hulled Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) caryopses were identified and were the second most common grain within this sample. A large number of the cereal caryopses within the scanned portion of the flot were too fragmented and abraded to identify at this stage.

There were a number of charred segetal weed seeds within the flot, Polygonaceae family weeds such as Knotweeds/Knotgrasses/Docks (*Persicaria/Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), Caryophyllaceae species such as Campions (*Silene* sp.) and Legumes such as wild peas (*Lathyrus* sp.) were all present as small numbers. A single specimen of a charred thorn of indeterminate species was observed within the charcoal which formed the majority of the flot material.

Sample 2 from pit fill 0007, contained the Spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) type caryopses along with a small number of Bread wheat (*T. aestivum*) grains. Barley (*H. vulgare*) was also present along with a quantity of indeterminate grains that are too fragmented and abraded for detailed identification at this stage. A small number of charred *Poaceae sp.* seeds and a single *Presicaria sp.* achene were recovered from the scanned portion of flot. Wood charcoal makes up the majority of the flot material from Sample 2. A percentage of this appears to be Oak (*Quercus sp.*) along with fragmented stems and roots of scrub species, not identified at this stage.

Samples 3 and 4 from ditch fills 0009 and 0011 respectively, produced far less flot material. Only single cereal grains were observed within each of the samples, a lone Barley (*H. vulgare*) caryopsis in Sample 3 and a single indeterminate fragmented caryopsis in Sample 4. A small quantity of un-charred weed seeds were present in both samples, consisting of Vetch/Peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp.*), Clovers (*Trifolium sp.*), Docks (*Rumex sp.*) and Grasses (*Poaceae sp.*). All of these indicate open waste or cultivated ground, but could also be intrusive within the archaeological deposits.

### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were fair to poor in terms of identifiable material. Wheat is the dominant grain within the sample. Barley was not as numerous and was often used either as a supplementary cereal, as animal fodder or for brewing. The charred cereal remains could either represent processing/storage waste or chance loss from a domestic hearth. The presence of glume and rachis fragments, although in small quantities, suggests a secondary stage of grain processing such as parching or pounding, which would involve heating the grains in order to release them from the spiklet. It is likely that the waste material was deliberately deposited within the pits and ditches and that the activities they represent took place within the near vicinity of the features sampled.

Charcoal is common in all four samples, with charred wood making up the majority of the material in Samples 1 and 2. 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 flots material at this stage as it would offer little extra 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 investigating the nature of the possible cereal waste. The accompanying weed assemblage is likely to provide an insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural and other economic activity on 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.

## **6.7 Discussion of material evidence**

The majority of finds were recovered as part of the sampling strategy and with the exception of the pottery from ditch fill 0011, are small and considerably abraded. Despite the limited range and poor overall condition of the finds they at least represent new evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity in this part of the parish. In fact, apart from the medieval church of St Lawrence, there is no recorded archaeology around the area of the current site, the nearest locations being at least a kilometre away in all directions.

Evidence for activity in the later prehistoric occurred in both trenches, however this is scant, represented by one very abraded sherd of pottery (<1g), a flint flake and perhaps the burnt flint collection too. Other prehistoric activity (Neolithic worked flint) in the area has been recorded some distance away to the north-east and south east of the site

The site is close to the medieval church and therefore the presence of pottery dated to this period in both trenches is not unexpected. However the sherds are few in number as well as being mostly small and abraded. Only the fragments in ditch fill 0011 have not been subjected to cycles of redeposition, and suggest some form of activity around the vicinity of the current site. .

## 7. Discussion

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Trenching was restricted to a strip of land across the northern boundary of the site, the main obstacle being a large standing farm building with associated concrete yards. The location of the two trenches did correspond however to the location of the proposed holiday accommodation.

Deep deposits were encountered within the trenches. Topsoil had probably been disturbed or removed during the twentieth century. The upper deposit (layer 0002) consisted of a thin turf layer over mixed fills containing hardcore, tarmac, sand and gravel mixed with vestiges of the loamy topsoil. This layer had a sharp contact with the underlying subsoil deposit 0003, suggesting probable truncation.

Layer 0003 was up to 0.5m depth and was a remarkably thick deposit. The chalk flecking observed in the top unit of this layer could be the result of marling (spreading of chalk to increase soil fertility). The small size of the flecks probably indicates root and worm action rather than ploughing at this depth. Features encountered were well sealed by layer 0003 and are only likely to be damaged by deep excavation.

Features are well preserved at depth and show some potential for the recovery of environmental evidence. Trench 1 revealed two pits (0004 and 0006) with pit 0006 containing probable medieval pottery, although a later Saxon date is a possibility. Both pits contained similar environmental assemblages (including abundant spelt wheat) so they are likely to be contemporary. The carbonised seed assemblage also indicates that grain was being threshed and/or processed either on site or nearby.

At the western end of Trench 2, ditch 0010 was north-south running and contained medieval pottery of 12th to 14th century date. This feature was orientated at right angles to the church, which was likely to have influenced the laying out of field boundaries in the vicinity during the medieval period.

Towards the eastern end of Trench 2, ditch 0008 was aligned north-west to south-east and contained a very pale and leached fill which looked to be of some antiquity. This was confirmed by the recovery from its fill of a small abraded pottery sherd of Late Bronze to Early Iron Age date. The ditch alignment is radically different from the current

field and plot boundaries (which are influenced by the adjacent church and are predominantly east to west) confirming a likely early date for this feature.

A flint flake of later prehistoric date was recovered from pit 0006 and this is likely to be residual from an earlier period. Heat-altered flint was recovered from the fills of all the excavated features, indicating a possible prehistoric presence in the area. These flints tend to be reddened fragments rather than the bluish 'pot boiler' (water quenched) examples which are characteristic of the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Deep modern intrusions (containing plastic bags etc) were encountered towards the eastern end of the trenches but much of the rest of the area appears undisturbed and the archaeologically sensitive deposits are likely to be protected by layer 0003.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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Archaeological deposits have been found across much of the proposed area to be developed for holiday accommodation. Three of the features (two pits and a ditch) are likely to be medieval in origin and, given the proximity to St Lawrence's church, this is perhaps not too unexpected. The north to south running medieval ditch is perpendicular to the present field boundaries which are influenced by the church and could be of medieval origin themselves. One of the pottery sherds is unusual and could be of late Saxon date. The Norman architectural elements observed in the church could point to an early foundation of St Lawrence's.

A prehistoric presence has also been detected at this site. A north-east to south-west running ditch, on a completely different alignment from the medieval and later plot boundaries, contained a very pale and leached fill of probable ancient origin. This was confirmed by the presence of a small sherd of pottery of Late Bronze to Early Iron Age date. A flint scraper and heat-altered flints recovered from the fills of the other features are probably residual finds of later prehistoric date.

It is recommended that if development takes place then further archaeological work should be considered if any deep intrusions are planned. Archaeological deposits are protected under at least 0.8m depth of overburden so only deep interventions would harm sensitive features or deposits. Strip foundations, drain runs and other deep excavations would be the most damaging. There is potential for further environmental sampling if more archaeological work is required.

## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\South Cove\SCV 018 South Cove House eval

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQD 86-98

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds, Store Location: H/81/2 Parish Box

## 10. Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Jezz Meredith and Mark Sommers.

Project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Andy Fawcett with additional specialist advice provided by Justine Biddle. The specialist environmental report was produced by Anna West.

The report illustrations were created by Beata Wieczorek-Olesky.

An earlier draft of this report was checked by Linzi Everett.

## 11. Bibliography

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# **Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation**

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(Without Risk Assessment)

## **Land at South Cove House, South Cove, Suffolk**

*Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench*

*Written Scheme of Investigation*

***Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service***

***September 2012***



## **Document Control**

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Title: Land at South Cove House, South Cove, Suffolk  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Issued by: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team  
Author: Rhodri Gardner  
Checked by: N/A  
Issued to: Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation Team)

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2. Project Details
3. Archaeological Method Statement

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# 1. Background

- 1.1 The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) have been asked by the occupant of South Cove House to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers that work only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.
- 1.2 The site lies centred approximately on NGR TM 5000 8084.
- 1.3 The work is to be undertaken as a condition of planning application DC/11/1184/FUL, which has been made for the redevelopment of the site.
- 1.4 The archaeological investigation will be conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012).
- 1.5 The County Historic Environment Record shows the area to have archaeological potential, due to the proximity of the medieval church and churchyard immediately to the north (HER No. SCU 06).
- 1.6 The fieldwork and all reporting will be carried out by members of SCCAS Field Team under the supervision of a Project Officer (TBA).

## 1.1 Research aims

The research aims of this trial trench evaluation is set out in section 3.2 of the brief and specification are as follows:

- RA1: Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists within the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.*
- RA2: 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.*
- RA3: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.*
- RA4: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.*
- RA5: Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.*



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Figure 1. Site Location

## 2 Project details

<b>Site Name</b>	Land at South Cove House
<b>Site Location/Parish</b>	South Cove
<b>Grid Reference</b>	TM 5000 8084
<b>Access</b>	Off B1127
<b>Planning No</b>	DC/11/1184/FUL
<b>HER code</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>OASIS Ref</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>SCCAS Job Code</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>Type:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Area</b>	c. 0.27ha
<b>Project start date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
<b>Duration</b>	c. 2 days
<b>Number of personnel on site</b>	Up to 3

### Personnel and contact numbers

<b>Contracts Manager</b>	Rhodri Gardner	01473 265879
<b>Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)</b>	Jezz Meredith	07889 971049
<b>Finds Dept</b>	Richenda Goffin	01284 352447
<b>Sub-contractors</b>		
<b>Curatorial Officer</b>	Jess Tipper	01284 741225
<b>Consultant</b>		
<b>Developer</b>		
<b>Site landowner</b>		

### Emergency contacts

<b>Local Police</b>	Lowestoft, Old Nelson Street	01473 613500
<b>Local GP</b>		
<b>Location of nearest A&amp;E</b>	Lowestoft Hospital, Tennyson Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1PT	01502 587311
<b>Qualified First Aiders</b>	TBA	
<b>Base emergency no.</b>	N/A	

### Hire details

<b>Plant:</b>	N/A	
<b>Toilet Hire</b>	N/A	
<b>Tool hire:</b>	N/A	

### Other Contacts

<b>Suffolk Fleet Maintenance</b>		01359 270777
<b>Suffolk Press Office</b>		01473 264395
<b>SCC EMS (Jezz Meredith )</b>		01473 583288
<b>SCC H&amp;S (Stuart Boulter)</b>		01473 583290

## **3 Archaeological method statement**

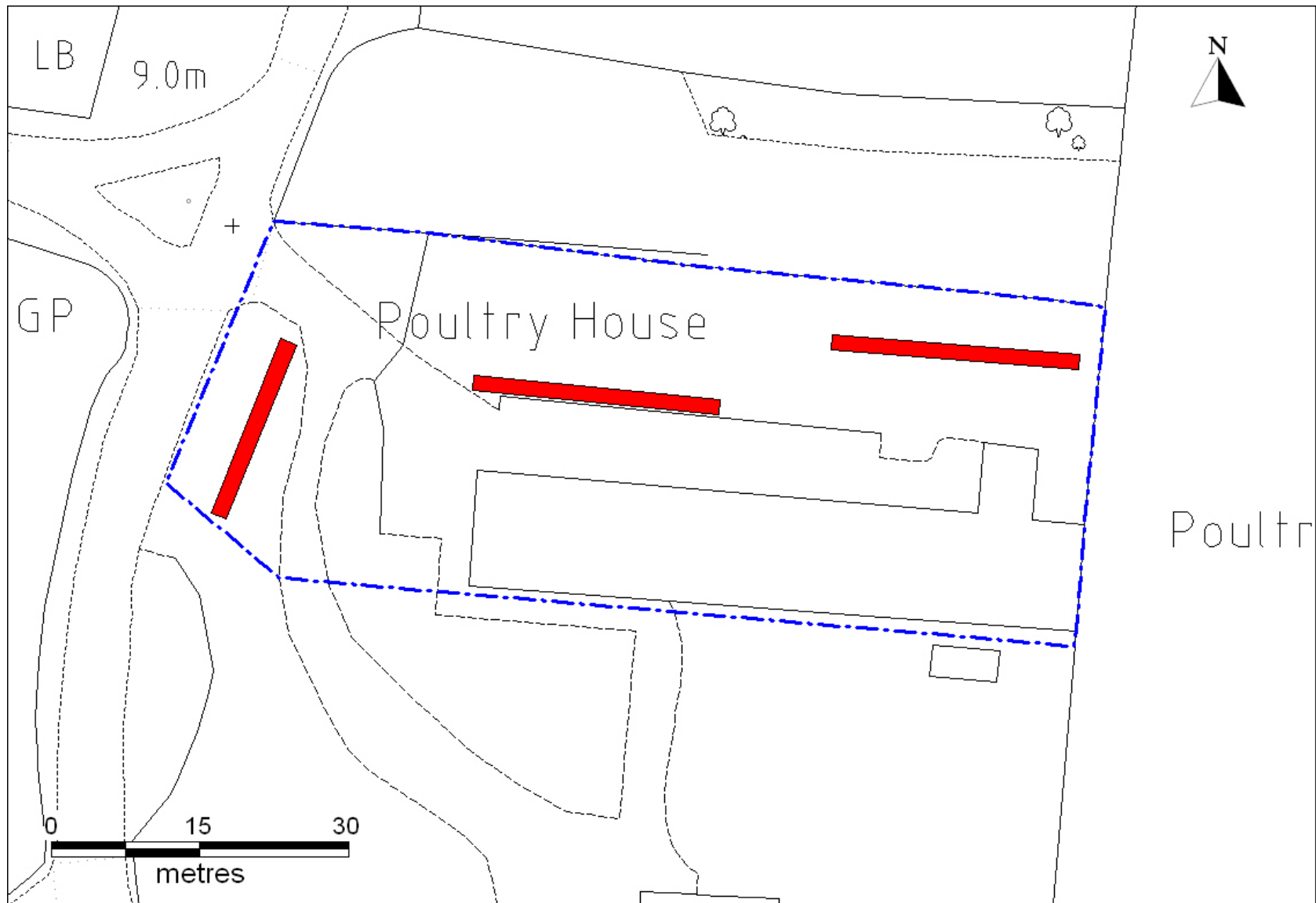
### **3.1 Evaluation by trial trench**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer Grade. The excavation team will comprise up to 3 experienced excavators and surveyors from a pool of suitable staff at SCCAS. Fieldwork standards will be guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' EAA Occasional Papers 14.
- 3.1.2 Evaluation of the development area will employ trial trenches to cover approximately 5% of the proposed development areas: in this case a total of 75m (in length) of trenching is required, to be deployed in such a way as to give as even coverage as possible. All trenching will be at least 1.8m wide. The proposed trench layout is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 The trenches have the same general goal of assessing whether archaeological deposits survive. A dispersed grid pattern is to be used to give as even coverage as possible of the site.
- 3.1.4 No service information was available at the time of writing. If services or similar restrictions are encountered during work on site then trench layout will be amended accordingly.
- 3.1.5 *General trial trench methodology*
- 3.1.6 All trenches will be cut using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil, subsoil and concrete/overburden will be kept separate for sequential backfilling.
- 3.1.7 Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims.
- 3.1.8 Trenches requiring access by staff for hand excavation and recording will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. Any trench in which this depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief and Specification will be brought to the attention of the client or their agent and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA so that further requirements can be discussed (and costed).
- 3.1.9 Deeper excavation can be undertaken provided suitable trench support is used or, where practicable, the trench sides are stepped or battered.
- 3.1.10 A site plan, which will show all trench locations, feature positions and levels AOD will be recorded using an RTK GPS or TST, depending on the specific requirements of the project. A minimum of two sections per trench will be recorded at 1:20. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:20 and trench

and feature plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording.

- 3.1.11 The site will be recorded under an HER site code acquired from the Suffolk HER Office and archaeological contexts will be recorded using standard SCCAS Context Recording sheets and associated database.
- 3.1.12 A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.
- 3.1.13 All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Metal detector searches will take place throughout the evaluation, of both trenches and spoilheaps, by an experienced SCCAS metal-detectorist. Finds on site will be treated according to 'First Aid for Finds' and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform work in progress.
- 3.1.14 All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in other parts of the country.
- 3.1.15 Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from suitable archaeological features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- 3.1.16 In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*. During the evaluation any exposed human remains will be securely covered and hidden from the public view at all times when they are not attended by staff. At the conclusion of the work backfilling will be carried out in a manner sensitive to the preservation of such remains.





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Figure 2. Proposed trench locations

### **3.3 Post-excavation**

- 3.3.1 The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be used, who are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- 3.3.2 The project's post-excavation management and site archive will be consistent with "Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)" (English Heritage, 2006).
- 3.3.3 All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on archivally stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County SMR photographic index.
- 3.3.4 All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County SMR requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.
- 3.3.5 Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- 3.3.6 Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- 3.3.7 Specialist reports will be done in-house or commissioned as necessary to meet the requisite standards at assessment level.
- 3.3.8 The site archive will meet the standards set by 'The Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels' of the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700 - 1700 (1993).
- 3.3.9 The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994).
- 3.3.10 Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.
- 3.3.11 Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- 3.3.12 An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).



## Appendix 3. OASIS summary

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-134413

### Project details

Project name	SCV 018 South Cove House, land at, South Cove
Short description of the project	An archaeological trenched evaluation was conducted across land to the north of South Cove House. Archaeological features were encountered under deep deposits of mixed modern overburden and undisturbed sandy subsoil. Two pits and a north to south running ditch are likely to be of medieval date with pottery of 12th to 14th century date being recovered from one of the pits and the ditch. Spelt wheat and other cultivated grains were recovered from environmental samples taken from these features and the processing of cereals was likely to have taken place within the vicinity. The site is c.35m to the south of the church of St Lawrence's which has Norman architectural features. The site is therefore likely to be within the medieval core of the parish. Another ditch, on a different alignment to the medieval ditch, contained a pale and leached fill and a small fragment of pottery of probable Late Bronze to Early Iron Age pottery. Heat-altered flint and a flint scraper were residual finds in the medieval features and suggest that later prehistoric activity took place in the surrounding area
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2012 End: 17-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SCV 018 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/11/1184/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Methods & techn	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY SOUTH COVE SCV 018 South Cove House, land at, South Cove
Study area	0.27 Hectares
Site coordinates	NGR - TM 4998 8084 LL - 52 1 (decimal) LL - 52 22 04 N 001 40 21 E (degrees) Point


## 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	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Jezz Meredith
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Andrew Eastaugh

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1	
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land at South Cove House, South Cove SCV 018	
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Meredith, J.	
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS rpt no 2012/147	
Date	2012	
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS	
Place of issue or publication	Ipswich	
Description	Short evaluation report with 3 figs, finds & enviro reports	



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