

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

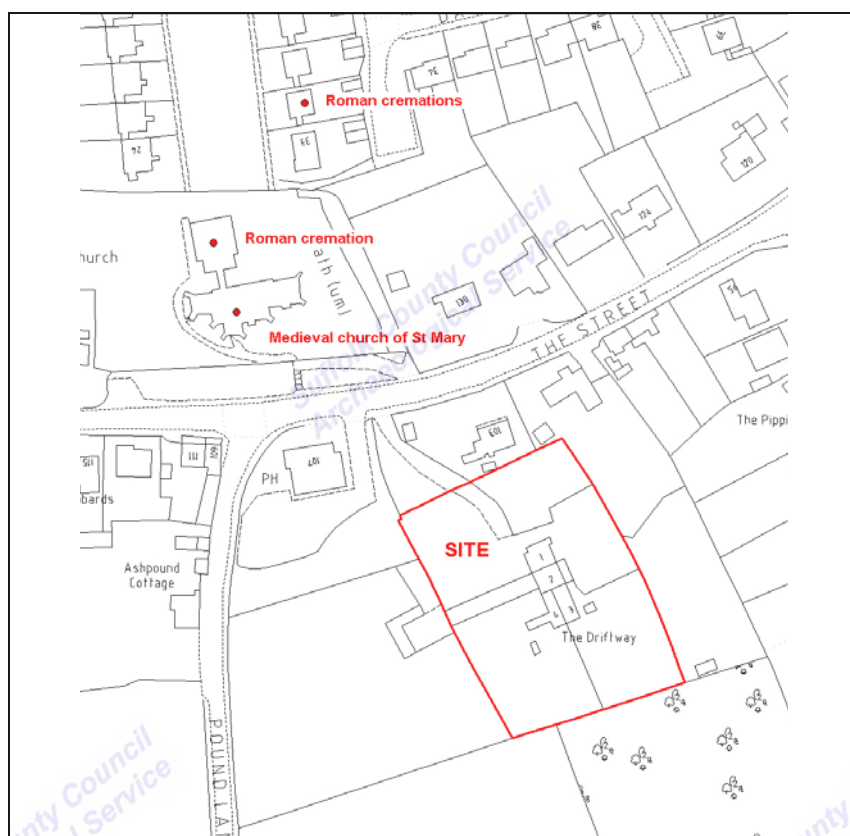
## The Driftway, Capel St Mary

CSM 027

OASIS ID: suffolkc1 – 13590

A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006

(Planning app. no B/03/01723/OUT)



**Figure 1: Showing site location and nearby archaeological sites**

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Jezz Meredith

Field Team

Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© March 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
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## Summary

A small evaluation revealed evidence for prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval use of the site. The prehistoric system of ditches were likely to be of Iron Age date and were on a separate alignment from those of the Roman period. The Roman phase of use was represented by another series of parallel ditches, perhaps indicating expansion or contraction of fields or other boundaries. Between the laying down of the prehistoric and Roman features a thick deposit of silty subsoil had accumulated within the south-western corner of the site. This was probably due to down-slope soil-creep filling a slight dip or depression. A small concentration of post-holes within the north-eastern corner of the site were likely to be of post-medieval date.

## SMR information: CSM 027

Planning application no. B/03/01723/ out  
Date of fieldwork: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Grid Reference: TM 0866 3816  
Funding body: Planbuild Services

## List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Jezz Meredith	Project Officer
Cathy Tester	Finds Officer
Anna West	Finds supervisor
Colin Pendleton	County SMR officer

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Planbuild Services and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was completed by members of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The excavation was carried out by Roy Damant and Jezz Meredith. Finds processing was carried out by Anna West and the specialist finds report by Cathy Tester. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Dr Colin Pendleton SCCAS Conservation Team. The project was managed by John Newman

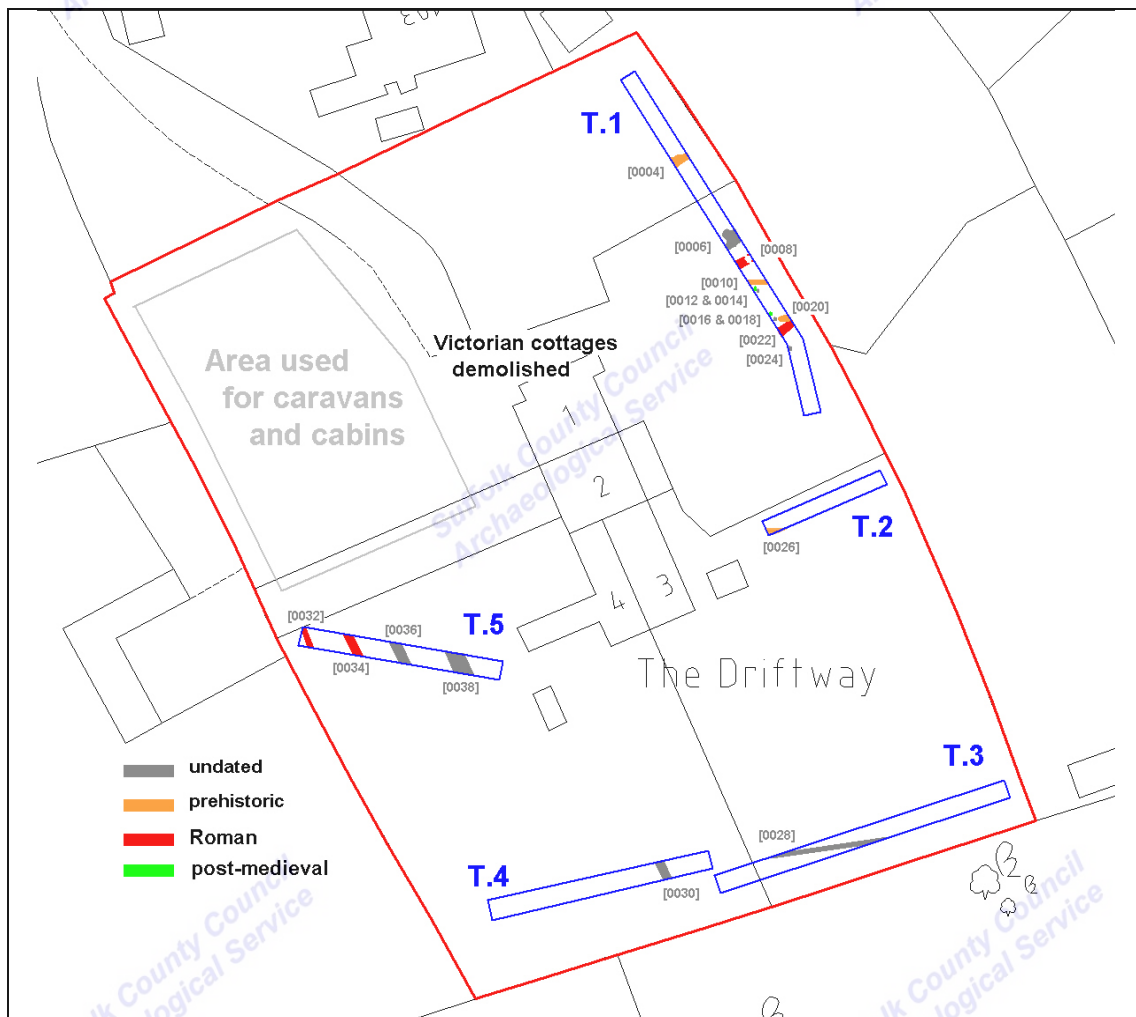
## Introduction

The Driftway is a site of approximately 50m by 75m and is located above the 40m contour on a gentle north-facing slope, becoming steeper towards its north-western boundary. At this end the site backs on to properties, terraced into the hillside, that line the medieval and later thoroughfare of the village (see Figure 2).

The site is within 80m of the medieval church of St Mary and is therefore likely to be within the medieval core of the village. Roman cremations have been encountered 100m to the north-west and 125m to the north (see Figure 1). Archaeological features of this period could extend into the site.

Four Victorian cottages, now demolished, stood within the central area of the site. The area is covered in a thick layer of humic garden soil and accumulations of hillwash (colluvium) are present down-slope, along the north-western edge of the site. The underlying drift geology is stiff chalky clay with sandy patches.

As a condition of planning consent the site was investigated by archaeological trial trenching to establish if any archaeological deposits or finds were present (see Appendix 1: Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation). A 5% sample by area was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006 by members of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.



**Figure 2: Trench locations and archaeological features (north to the top).**

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## Method

Trenching was conducted using a 180° machine (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. The topsoil, subsoil and hillwash overburden were removed by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits (chalky clay) in the base of the trench. Any possible archaeological features could be seen at this level but in Trench 4 one feature was detected within the subsoil and was left on a pedestal. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated. All separate deposits and features, archaeological or otherwise, were given O.P. (observable phenomena; sometimes referred to as context) numbers (listed in tables 1 to 5).

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

## Excavation Results

Trenches revealed a thick humic topsoil (0002), a developed silty clay subsoil (0003) and areas of thicker subsoil and hillwash in various locations across the site. To the north, where the site begins to slope down towards the houses on the road frontage, the hillwash deposits could be as much as 800mm thick (0040). Table 1 summarises the general contexts for the whole site.

OP	Trench	Description	Finds
0001	1-5	Unstratified finds from whole site	
0002	1-5	Topsoil. Dark brown humic clay loam. c.400mm thick	
0003	1-5	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay, 100 – 200mm thick, continuous with thick hillwash deposits N end of Trench 1 and trenches 3 and 4 (0040, 0041 and 0042).	Medieval pottery and prehistoric flint from Trench 1
0040	1	Hillwash / colluvium. Mid brown sandy clay silt, thick accumulation N end of Trench 1 where up to 800mm thick	
0041	3	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy clay silt, accumulation sealed ditch 0028.	
0042	4	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy clay silt, accumulation sealed ditch 0030.	
0043	4	Deep subsoil. Pale orange brown sandy clay silt, accumulation cut by ditch 0030.	

**Table 1. Summary of general contexts and major deposits across site.**

Plans of trenches are shown in Figure 3 and sections of individual features are shown in Figure 4.

### Trench 1

This trench was positioned against the north-eastern edge of the site. Orientated north-west to south-east, it was 33m in length. Under the topsoil, a thick accumulation of hillwash (colluvium) was situated at the northern end, making the trench at this point 1.3m deep. The hillwash was confined to the trench north of ditch [0004] with the majority of the trench c.500mm deep. The trench took a slight kink at its south-eastern end to avoid a tree.

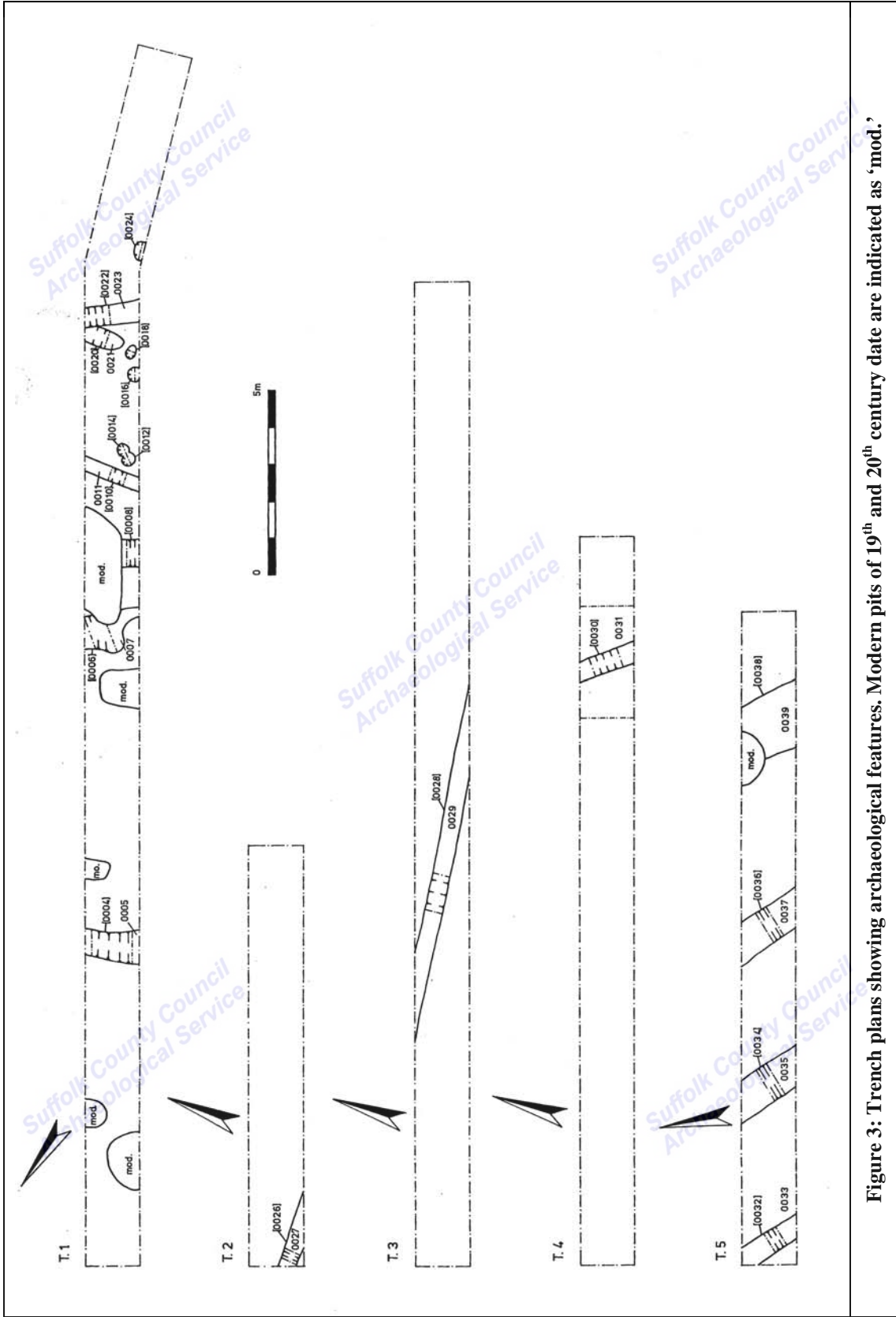


Figure 3: Trench plans showing archaeological features. Modern pits of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date are indicated as 'mod.'

A series of modern pits of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date were located along the length of the trench and probably relate to rubbish disposal along the property boundaries when this area was the back garden of one of the original Victorian cottages (on Figure 3 these pits are indicated as 'mod' = 'modern').

Earlier features of archaeological interest were encountered along the full length of this trench. Ditches of prehistoric and Roman date were revealed, as were post-holes of post-medieval date. Details of features are summarised in Table 2.

OP	Feature	Description	Finds
0004	0004	Ditch cut. Slightly curving NE to SW ditch of 850mm width and 200mm depth with concave sides and rounded base.	
0005	0004	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal lumps and flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Flints of possible Middle Bronze / Iron Age date
0006	0006	Feature cut. Irregular shaped feature, possibly a ditch, of 80mm depth max.	
0007	0006	Feature fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Bone
0008	0008	Ditch cut. Truncated NE to SW running ditch of 900mm width and 240mm depth. Sealed by subsoil 0003.	
0009	0008	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks, moderate medium stones line fill.	Fired clay and Roman tile
0010	0010	Ditch cut. ENE to WSW running feature, width of 380mm and depth of 60mm with shallow flat-bottomed base.	
0011	0010	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Burnt flint: prehistoric
0012	0012	Post-hole cut. Diameter 340mm, depth 180mm with steep sides and flat base. No obvious cutting relationship with 0014.	
0013	0012	Post-hole fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Post-medieval tile
0014	0014	Post-hole cut. Diameter 250mm, depth 110mm with steep-sided U-profile.	
0015	0014	Post-hole fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	
0016	0016	Post-hole cut. Diameter 350mm, depth 160mm with U-profile.	
0017	0016	Post-hole fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Post-medieval tile
0018	0018	Post-hole cut. Diameter 260mm and depth of 140mm with steep sides and flat base.	
0019	0018	Post-hole fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	
0020	0020	Ditch cut. ENE to WSW running ditch with butt end to W, shallow feature of 60mm max depth.	
0021	0020	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired	Iron Age pottery and flints

0022	0022	clay flecks. Cut by ditch 0022. Ditch cut. NE to SW running ditch, shallow feature of 80mm depth max. Cuts fill 0021.	
0023	0022	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Early Roman / Later Iron Age pottery and CBM
0024	0024	Post-hole cut. Diameter 400mm and depth 80mm with an shallow curving base.	
0025	0024	Post-hole fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	

**Table 2. Details of features encountered in Trench 1**

### Trench 2

This trench was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west and was 11m in length. This trench contained a single ditch, details of which are summarised in table 3.

OP	Feature	Description	Finds
0026	0026	Ditch cut. Straight-sided E to W running feature, width 500mm depth 80mm.	
0027	0026	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Burnt flint: prehistoric

**Table 3. Details of feature [0026] encountered in Trench 2**

### Trench 3

This trench ran parallel with and close to the southern boundary of the site, occupying the south-eastern corner, and was 26m long. Except for its eastern end, this trench contained a deposit of c.300mm thickness of deep silty clay subsoil 0041. This deposit sealed the single feature encountered in this trench, the east to west running ditch [0028]. Details of this feature are summarised in Table 4.

OP	Feature	Description	Finds
0028	0028	Ditch cut. Straight-sided E to W running ditch, width of 500mm and depth of 80mm with shallow flat-bottomed base. Feature sealed by c.200mm of hillwash, 0041.	
0029	0028	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	

**Table 4. Details of feature [0028] encountered in Trench 3**

### Trench 4

Trench 4 was on a similar alignment to Trench 3, was in the south-western corner of the site and was 19.5m long. This trench contained subsoil deposits of over 700mm depth and due to the depth of these layers this trench was not bottomed to natural at its western end.

In contrast to Trench 3, where the subsoil sealed a feature, ditch [0030] cut the deep subsoil layer 0043 (although a thin accumulation of c.100mm, 0042, covered this feature). Within the trench ditch [0030] was left high on a pedestal. Details of ditch [0030] are summarised in Table 5. None of the Trench 5 ditches could be detected running through Trench 4 but these could have been obscured by the masking thick subsoil layer.

OP	Feature	Description	Finds
0030	0030	Ditch cut. NW to SE running ditch, 500mm wide and 220mm deep with a rounded V-shaped profile. Sealed by c.200mm of hillwash 0042, cutting c.300mm of hillwash below 0043.	
0031	0030	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	

**Table 5. Details of feature [0030] encountered in Trench 4**

### Trench 5

This trench was positioned along the western edge of the site and was aligned approximately east-west. This trench was 17.5m in length and c.550mm in depth; no deep subsoil or hillwash deposits were encountered in this area. A modern pit or disturbance was noted towards the eastern trench end.

Four features of archaeological interest were encountered in this trench, all parallel ditches of differing sizes, running north-west to south-east. Details of these features are summarised in Table 6.

Ditches [0036] and [0038] were undated, ditch [0034] contained Roman pottery and ditch [0032] contained possible medieval or Roman pottery. Given their similarity in orientation and that they could be running at right-angles to the Roman ditches in Trench 1, it is possible that all these ditches are Roman in date.

OP	Feature	Description	Finds
0032	0032	Ditch cut. NW to SE running ditch, 600mm wide and 160mm deep with an open U-shaped profile.	
0033	0032	Ditch fill. Pale / mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	?medieval pottery – but likely to be Roman given date of 0035
0034	0034	Ditch cut. NW to SE running ditch, 1m wide and 400mm deep with fairly steep sides and flat base.	
0035	0034	Ditch fill. Mid / dark brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	Roman pottery
0036	0036	Ditch cut. NW to SE running ditch, 850mm wide and 180mm deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base.	
0037	0036	Ditch fill. Pale brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	
0038	0038	Ditch cut. NW to SE running ditch, c.1.7m in width, sampled to a depth of 200mm but not fully excavated.	
0039	0038	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional red fired clay flecks.	

**Table 6. Details of features encountered in Trench 5**



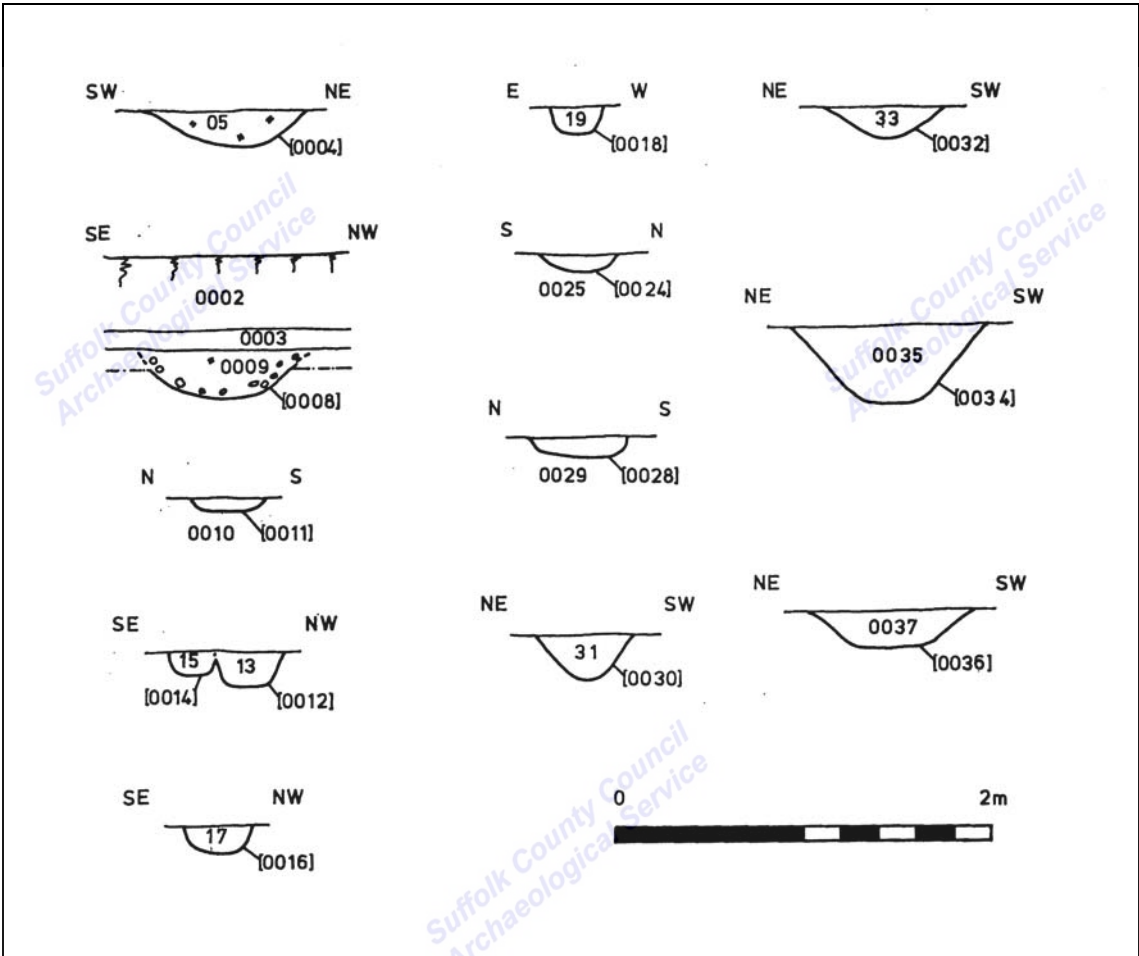


Figure 4: Sections of archaeological features

## Finds and environmental evidence.

Cathy Tester, March 2006.

### Introduction

Finds were collected from twelve contexts in three of the evaluation trenches as shown in the table below.

Tr No	OP	Pottery		CBM		Flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
		No	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
1-5	0003	1	6			1	47		Med, PAL-NEO
1	0005					6	64		MBA-IA
	0007							A bone 5-38g	
	0009			1	89			Fired clay 1-10g	Rom
	0011							Burnt flint 1-20g	Preh
	0013			1	7	1	9		PMed, MBA-IA
	0017			1	33				PMed
	0021	1	6			3	46		IA, MBA-IA
	0023	3	30	2	14	1	1		ERom, LIA, L. preh
2	0027							Burnt flint 2-29g	Preh
5	0033	1	1						Med?
	0035	2	4						Rom
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>167</b>		

Table 7. Finds quantities

### Pottery

Eight sherds of pottery were collected from Trenches 1 and 5. The earliest is prehistoric. A single sand and organic tempered bodysherd from a hand-made vessel of probable Iron Age date was found in ditch 0020 (0021).

Five sherds of wheel-made Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were collected from two contexts. A black-surfaced ware (BSW) jar base and a rim from an uncertain open form were found in ditch 0022 (0023). Both pieces are Late Iron Age or Early Roman. Two small abraded bodysherds, one sandy greyware (GX) and one grey micaceous ware in the black-surfaced variant (GMB) which were found in ditch 0034 (0035) are Roman, but not closely datable.

Two possible medieval coarseware bodysherds found in subsoil layer 0003 and ditch 0032 (0033) are small and abraded. The possibility that they are Roman cannot be ruled out entirely.

### Ceramic building material and fired clay

Five fragments of CBM were collected from four contexts in Trench 1. A fragment of Roman tile in a sandy orange fabric was found in ditch 0008 (0009) and small fragments of sandy red-orange fired post-medieval peg tile were found in posthole 0012 (0013) and ditches 0020 (0021) and 0022 (0023).

A fragment of fired clay was found in the fill of ditch 0008 (0009). The piece, which is abraded, has buff exterior surfaces and an orange core and a sandy fabric with few inclusions but some voids.

## Miscellaneous

### *Flint*

identified by Colin Pendleton

Twelve pieces of struck flint were collected from five contexts in Trench 1 and the details by context are shown below.

OP No	Type	Notes
0003	flake	Very large thin patinated flake, snapped at both ends. Some unpatinated damage to one pat. end as well as side on one edge. Some slight original retouch around edges
0005	flake	Large flake made from coarse flint obtuse striking platform. Hinge-fractured
	flake	Fairly square flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face. Two bulbs of percussion
	flake	Squat flake
	flake	Small flake
	flake	Small snapped flake, thin
	flake	Small snapped flake/spall, thin
0013	flake	Crude small flake.
0021	core	Possible core, largely natural, flakes crudely removed
	flake	Natural flake, has been retouched on one edge
	flake	Small flake, snapped
0023	flake	Small flake could be natural. Thick w slight edge retouch

Table 8. Worked flint

Apart from the patinated flake from 0003 which may date from Palaeolithic to Neolithic, all of the flint is unpatinated and fairly crude, and belongs to the later prehistoric period — that is, the later Bronze Age or even the Iron Age.

Three fragments of burnt flint ‘pot boilers’ were collected from ditches 0010 (0011) in Trench 1 and 0026 (0027) in Trench 2. They are not datable but are a broad indicator of prehistoric occupation.

### *Animal bone*

Fragments of a large mammal vertebrae were collected from feature 0006 (0007). The bone was in fairly good condition but the feature was undated.

## Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The evaluation finds assemblage contains material mainly from Trench 1 that indicates activity on this site during the earlier and later Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Apart from one piece that is earlier (Palaeolithic-Neolithic) the flint assemblage is dominated by late Bronze Age or even Iron Age material. The pottery is not particularly diagnostic but can be broadly dated to the later Iron Age, Early Roman and Roman and possible medieval periods. CBM includes Roman and post-medieval material as well.

## Discussion

All areas of the site have been sampled by excavation except for the north-west corner where caravans, site office and toilets were situated. Trenches were located to miss the central area of demolished Victorian cottages.

Of the five trenches excavated all produced features of archaeological interest, with the greatest concentrations of features in Trenches 1 and 5. The thick accumulation of deep subsoil deposits along the southern boundary of the site could have obscured archaeological features, such as the ditches seen in Trench 5 and running towards Trench 4.

Of the eighteen features sampled by excavation, eight of these were undated, four prehistoric, four Roman and two post-medieval. It is likely that the three undated post-holes adjacent to the post-medieval post-holes are probably also of this date.

Three of the linear features dated to the prehistoric period, [0010], [0020] and [0026], were aligned east to west, as could be the more irregular sided [0004]. Ditch [0020] contained pottery of probable Iron Age date. The thick subsoil-sealed ditch [0028] was on a similar east to west alignment and could also be part of this prehistoric ditch system.

Dated Roman ditches, including those north-east to south-west orientated in Trench 1 and those north-west to south-east aligned in Trench 2, are probably all part of a later ditch system. The undated ditches [0030], [0036] and [0038], on a similar alignment to the Roman dated ditches, are also likely to be of this date. The Roman-phased ditches in Trench 5 could not be traced through to Trench 4 either because they turn or are concealed within the thick subsoil deposits in the more southerly trench.

The series of parallel ditches in Trench 5 might indicate the expansion or contraction of field boundaries or enclosures in the past. The consistent red flecking produced by particles of fired red clay were found in all four ditch fills in Trench 5 (and within many of the other feature fills in other trenches) and suggests these features might be broadly contemporary. Pottery recovered from ditch [0032] in Trench 5, although possibly medieval, could be of Roman date similar to that of [0034].

Interestingly the (?Roman) ditch [0030] in trench 4 cut the thick subsoil layer that appeared to seal the prehistoric ditch [0028] in trench 3. This suggests that the subsoil in this area of the site developed between these two periods, possibly as a result of soil-creep down-slope due to ploughing or forest clearance. It is likely that in the earlier period this area contained a hollow that has subsequently filled.

The small concentration of post-holes in Trench 1 are all likely to be of the same age. As post-holes [0012] and [0016] contain post-medieval tile fragments, this probably dates the whole group. These features are probably associated with the backs of earlier properties that faced onto The Street to the north.

## Conclusions

The site has revealed three separate phases of past use. An east to west series of prehistoric ditches, probably dating to the Iron Age, was replaced by a series of ditches on a different alignment in the Roman period. A thick deposit of subsoil, filling an earlier hollow, accumulated within the south-western corner of the site between these two periods. A small concentration of post-holes towards the southern end of Trench 1 indicates a presence on site during the post-medieval period, probably belonging to the backyards of properties associated with The Street, the original medieval thoroughfare of the village.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that all footings, the strip for the road and any service trenches be monitored by an archaeologist, with time allowed for investigation and recording of exposed archaeological features.

## Disclaimer

**Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.**

# APPENDIX 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### THE DRIFTWAY, THE STREET, CAPEL ST MARY

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent [B/03/01723/OUT] has been given for the erection of nine dwellings at the Driftway, The Street, Capel St Mary.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant [before determination].

The planning consent contains a condition (no.14) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**

- 1.3 The application affects an area of 0.44ha at TL 086 381 at about 40m OD overlooking a valley to the west and at the head of a minor tributary. The site is within 100m of the medieval church (CSM 013) and so within the historic core of the settlement but off the medieval road frontages. There is also evidence for Roman cremation burials both from the church (CSM 013) and from just to the north of it (CSM 010). These probably relate to a substantial villa, possibly of early Roman date, lying c.500m to the north-west; neither the extent of the cremation cemetery nor of other aspects of the villa complex have been defined. There is, therefore, the potential for activity from at least the late Iron Age onwards in this area and a possibility of Roman cremation burials being affected by the development.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

## 2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. The results of the desk-based work are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.



#### 4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 4.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any

archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. **General Management**

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 20 June 2005

Reference: /CapelStMary- TheDriftway06

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**