

Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk
RGV 053

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/188

Client: Street Farm Development Company Ltd

Author: Kieron Heard

December 2012

Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk

RGV 053

Archaeological Evaluation Report
SCCAS Report No. 2012/188

Author: Kieron Heard

Contributions by:
Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy (graphics)

Report Date: December 2012

HER Information

Site Code: RGV 053

Site Name: Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk

Report Number 2012/188

Planning Application No: 4292/11

Date of Fieldwork: 03 December 2012

Grid Reference: TM 0435 7810

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-136496

Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Client: Street Farm Development Company Ltd

Client Reference: n/a

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

Disclaimer

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

Prepared by: Kieron Heard
Position: Project Officer
Date: December 2012

Approved by: John Craven
Position: Senior Project Officer
Date: December 2012
Signed:

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	5
6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work	13
7. Archive deposition	13
8. Acknowledgements	13
9. Bibliography	14
Appendix: Brief and specification	15

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location with trench positions, and HER entries mentioned in the text	4
Figure 2. Trench 1, sections	9
Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and sections	10

List of Tables

Table 1. Summary of deposits in Trench 1	5
Table 2. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2	6

List of Plates

Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, looking north (1m scale)	11
Plate 2. East-facing section S.1 at the south end of Trench 1 (0.5m scale)	11
Plate 3. East-facing section S.2 at the north end of Trench 1 (0.5m scale)	11
Plate 4. East-facing section S.3 at the south end of Trench 2 (0.5m scale)	12
Plate 5. Pit 0002, at the north end of Trench 2, looking north (1m scale)	12
Plate 6. General view of Trench 2, looking north	12

Summary

RGV 053, Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave: An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development on the site. Two trenches (total area 43m²) were excavated, representing approximately 5.5% of the development site and 23% of the area affected directly by the proposed building work.

The site was on gently sloping ground at an average height of 41.4m AOD. The natural stratum was glaciofluvial sand and gravel.

Trench 1 revealed a simple sequence of deposits comprising subsoil, post-medieval ploughsoil and 19th/20th-century garden soil horizons.

Trench 2 contained a large post-medieval pit of unknown function and a 19th-century wall foundation; the latter is thought to have been associated with a stable yard or adjoining cottage recorded on the Redgrave tithe map of 1846. These features were truncated and overlaid by make-up deposits for a concrete slab, constructed in the latter part of the 20th century.

In the light of these limited results no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the proposed development. This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

1. Introduction

An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development at Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave. Brooks Architects Ltd commissioned the project and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team, conducted the fieldwork.

The proposed development site is irregular in plan and has an area of approximately 780m². It is situated within the farmyard complex of Street Farm and is bounded to the west and south by neighbouring residential properties (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

Chalk bedrock is overlaid by superficial deposits of Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation and Lowestoft Formation (Undifferentiated), as shown on the British Geological Survey's on-line Geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). These superficial deposits support deep and well-drained sandy soils of the Newport 4 Series.

The site is on gently sloping ground at an average height of 41.4m OD. It is 1km to the south of Redgrave and Lopham Fen and the sources of the Rivers Little Ouse and Waveney. It is in a village setting in an area of *Ancient Plateau Claylands*, as shown in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk). The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- Flat or gently rolling arable landscape of clay soils dissected by small river valleys
- Field pattern of ancient enclosure – random patterns in the south but often co-axial in the north
- Small patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens
- Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin

- Villages often associated with medieval greens or tyes
- Farmstead buildings are predominantly timber-framed, the houses colour-washed and the barns blackened with tar. Roofs are frequently tiled, though thatched houses can be locally significant
- Scattered ancient woodland parcels containing a mix of oak, lime, cherry, hazel, hornbeam, ash and holly
- Hedges of hawthorn and elm with oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees

3. Archaeological and historical background

Street Farm lies within the Redgrave historic settlement core and in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). An excavation in 2003 at nearby Dudleys Close revealed medieval building remains and associated features (RGV 043), and medieval artefacts have been recorded at RGV 030 and RGV 041/ RGV 044, approximately 150m to the northwest of the site. These HER entries are located on Figure 1.

The farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (List ID 1261238), fronting onto The Street. It is of timber-framed construction and dates to the mid 17th century with 19th-century alterations. The farmyard complex to the rear of the farmhouse includes an early 19th-century stable range, a mid 19th-century brick-built malt house and 20th-century covered yards. The farm buildings have been the subject of a historic building survey (RGV 049; Alston 2011) and are going to be partly retained within the proposed development of the site.

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out broadly in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Tipper, 2012; see Appendix) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by John Craven of SCCAS, Field Team (Craven, 2012).

The trial trenching took place on 03 December 2012 following the demolition of two 20th-century covered yards and was conducted by SCCAS Field Team. Two trial trenches were dug using a small, 360° excavator; in both cases mechanical excavation continued to the surface of the natural stratum. Trench 1 measured 11m long x 1.8m wide and was up to 0.80m deep. Trench 2 measured 13m long x 1.8m wide and was generally about 0.70m deep. The trenches had a combined area of 43m², representing approximately 5.5% of the development site and 23% of the area most affected by the proposed building work.

All recording (written descriptions and drawings) was done on two sheets of gridded drawing film. Deposits and features were allocated unique context numbers in the range 0001–0018. Representative vertical sections in each trench were drawn (at scales of 1:10 and 1:20) and an archaeological feature in Trench 2 was planned at a scale of 1:20. Heights were calculated by reference to a temporary bench mark of 41m AOD on the road surface adjacent to the site entrance.

A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images (archived as HRX 001–008) and some of these images are reproduced in this report.

A metal detector was employed on all mechanically-excavated soil.

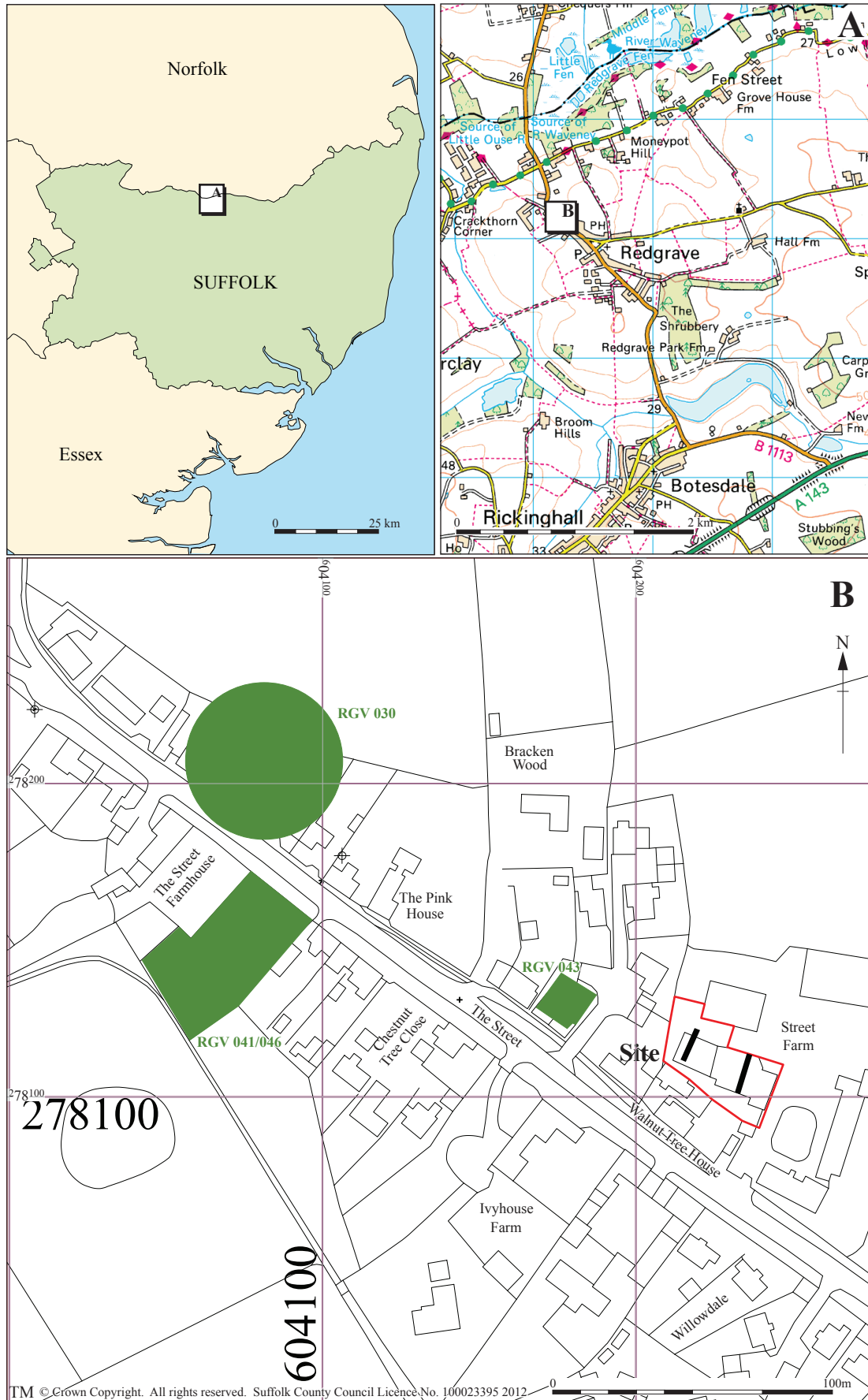


Figure 1 Site location with trench positions, and HER entries mentioned in the text

5. Results

Trench 1

Dimensions: 11m long (NNE–SSW) x 1.80m wide x up to 0.80m deep

Ground level (G.L): 41.51m AOD (NNE), 41.31m AOD (SSW)

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Current ground surface 0009	0.00m	Trench-wide
Modern dumping 0008	0.02m	Trench-wide
Modern fire horizon 0007	0.30m	Northern third of trench
Garden soil 0006	0.32m (NNE); 0.05m (SSW)	Trench-wide
Worked soil horizon 0005	0.55m (NNE); 0.25m (SSW)	Trench-wide
Subsoil 0004	0.70m (NNE); 0.47m (SSW)	Trench-wide
Natural stratum 0003	0.76m (NNE); 0.60m (SSW)	Trench-wide

Table 1. Summary of deposits in Trench 1

Trench 1 revealed a straightforward sequence of horizontal deposits, as described below and shown on Figure 2 and Plates 1–3. The only intrusive feature present was an obviously modern pit or posthole near the south-southwest end of the trench. It contained a fragment of frogged brick and was not recorded archaeologically, although it can be seen in the right foreground on Plate 1.

The natural stratum 0003 was a heterogeneous deposit of loose, light yellowish brown sand with frequent fine to medium pebbles and occasional cobbles. It had an indistinct interface with overlying subsoil 0004 due to root disturbance and animal burrowing.

Subsoil 0004 was a layer of soft, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles. There was much root disturbance throughout the deposit, which was generally about 0.15m thick and had an indistinct interface with overlying deposit 0005. No cultural material was seen in the subsoil.

The subsoil was sealed by a trench-wide deposit of compact and very dry, mid brownish grey silty sand (0005), between 0.15m and 0.25m thick. It contained moderate small fragments of chalk and buff-coloured mortar, and occasional small fragments of brick, tile and animal bone (none retained). It is interpreted as a former worked soil horizon (ploughsoil).

The ploughsoil was sealed by a layer of topsoil or garden soil (0006); this was soft, mid to dark brown loamy sand with occasional pebbles and a few small fragments of relatively modern pottery (white china and blue and white, transfer-printed pottery), none of which was retained. The garden soil layer was about 0.20m thick and extended trench-wide.

In the northern third of Trench 1 garden soil 0006 was overlaid by a thin (20mm) layer of charcoal (0007). This was apparently the result of a fire in the covered yard that stood until recently in this part of the farmyard (Digby Townshend, *pers comm*).

The fire horizon 0007 was sealed by a deposit of loose, orangey brown sand and gravel, with lenses of grey silty sand (0008) – presumably a temporary surface or levelling deposit. It was up to 0.27m thick at the north-northeast end of the trench, becoming thinner to the south-southwest. This in turn was sealed by a thin (20mm) layer of compacted leaf litter and soil (0009), forming the current ground surface.

Trench 2

Dimensions: 13m long (NNE–SSW) x 1.80m wide x 0.70m deep

Ground level (G.L): 41.41m AOD (NNE), 41.44m AOD (SSW)

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Concrete slab 0018	0.00m	Trench-wide
Foundation 0017	0.20m – 0.65m	SSW end of trench
Modern deposits 0015 & 0016	0.20 – 0.60m	SSW end of trench
Modern deposits 0011 – 0014	0.20 – 0.76m	Trench-wide
Pit 0002 and its fill 0001	0.50m – >1.15m	NNE end of trench
Subsoil 0010	0.56m – 0.60m	Intermittent at SSW end of trench
Natural stratum 0003	0.70m – 0.80m	Trench-wide

Table 2. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2

The natural stratum of loose, light yellowish brown sand with frequent fine to medium pebbles (0003) had an undulating surface at a depth of 0.70m to 0.80m below ground level. At the south-southwest end of the trench the natural sand was overlaid by an intermittent subsoil deposit of soft, mid yellowish grey silty sand (0010), up to 0.10m thick.

Two post-medieval features were recorded in Trench 2; these are described below and shown on Figure 3 and Plates 4–6.

A masonry foundation (0017) ran across the south-southwest end of the trench. It was 0.30m wide and 0.45m depth, and was built of roughly coursed red bricks and flint nodules bonded with a friable, light brown mortar.

Pit 0002, near the north-northeast end of the trench, was irregular in plan, being rounded to the north and straight sided to the south. It measured 1.76m NNE–SSW x >1.40m NNW–SSE and was in excess of 0.65m deep, with nearly vertical sides. The pit was filled with banded deposits of compact, mid greyish brown sandy silt and looser, light greyish yellow silty sand with pebbles (0001). Only two finds were recovered from the excavated portion of the pit: a 50g fragment of post-medieval roof tile (fabric msfe, medium sandy with common ferrous inclusions; Richenda Goffin, *pers comm*) and a medium-sized fragment of bone, probably from the femur of a cow (Justine Biddle, *pers comm*). Neither of the finds was retained.

On either side of foundation 0017 there were separate sequences of obviously modern, dumped deposits, as shown on section S.3 (Fig. 3) and described below.

0011: Soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt with some medium to large flint cobbles, filling a localised hollow in the surface of natural sand 0003.

0012: Compact, light yellowish grey sand and gravel.

0013: Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional brick and tile fragments and some coal and clinker.

0014: Loose, orangey brown gravel and sand with some brick fragments.

0015: Firm, light greyish brown clayey silt with brick fragments.

0016: Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate fragments of brick and tile and occasional fragments of coal and clinker.

These dumped deposits were sealed by a 0.20m thick concrete slab (0018) that formed the current ground surface.

Discussion of Trench 2

Trench 2 was located between a 19th-century stable building to the east and a late 19th-century open-sided shelter-shed to the west, in an area shown on 19th-century maps as a stable yard (Alston 2011, 5). Masonry foundation 0017 corresponded with the south side of the stable yard and might therefore have been the foundation for a surrounding wall. A brick wall that was seen but not recorded at the north-northeast end of the trench served the same purpose. Alternatively foundation 0017 might have related to a building (described as a cottage) that was shown on the 1846 tithe map abutting the south side of the stable yard (*ibid*, 3).

Pit 0002 was clearly of post-medieval date although its function is unknown. The paucity of finds from its upper fill 0001 suggests that it was not a rubbish pit or cess pit, and that it was backfilled fairly quickly.

The sequence of developed soils seen in Trench 1 was absent from Trench 2; only patches of subsoil survived and there were no worked soil / garden soil horizons. These deposits were presumably dug out so that a thick sub-base could be laid for the concrete slab.

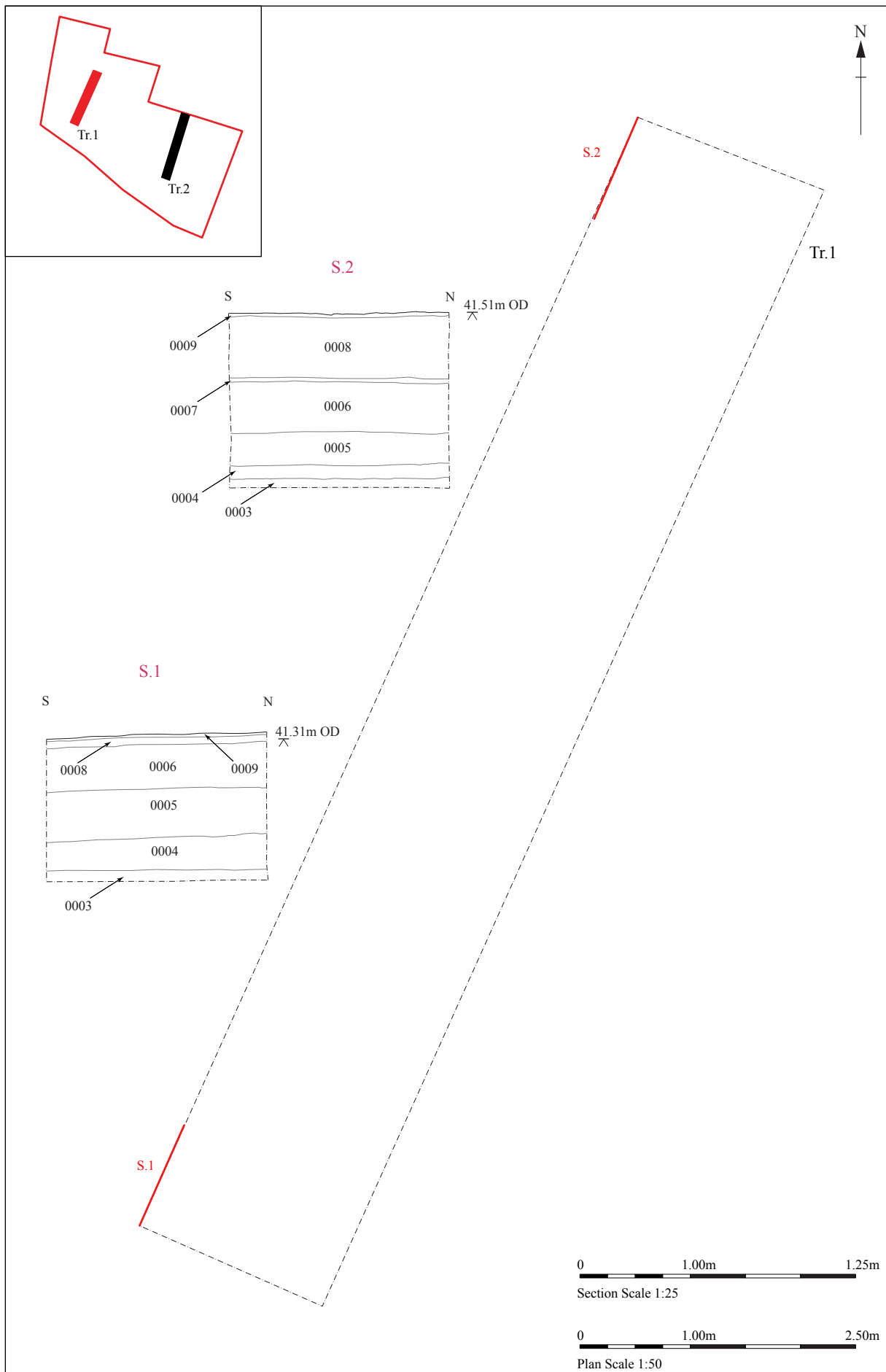


Figure 2. Trench 1, sections

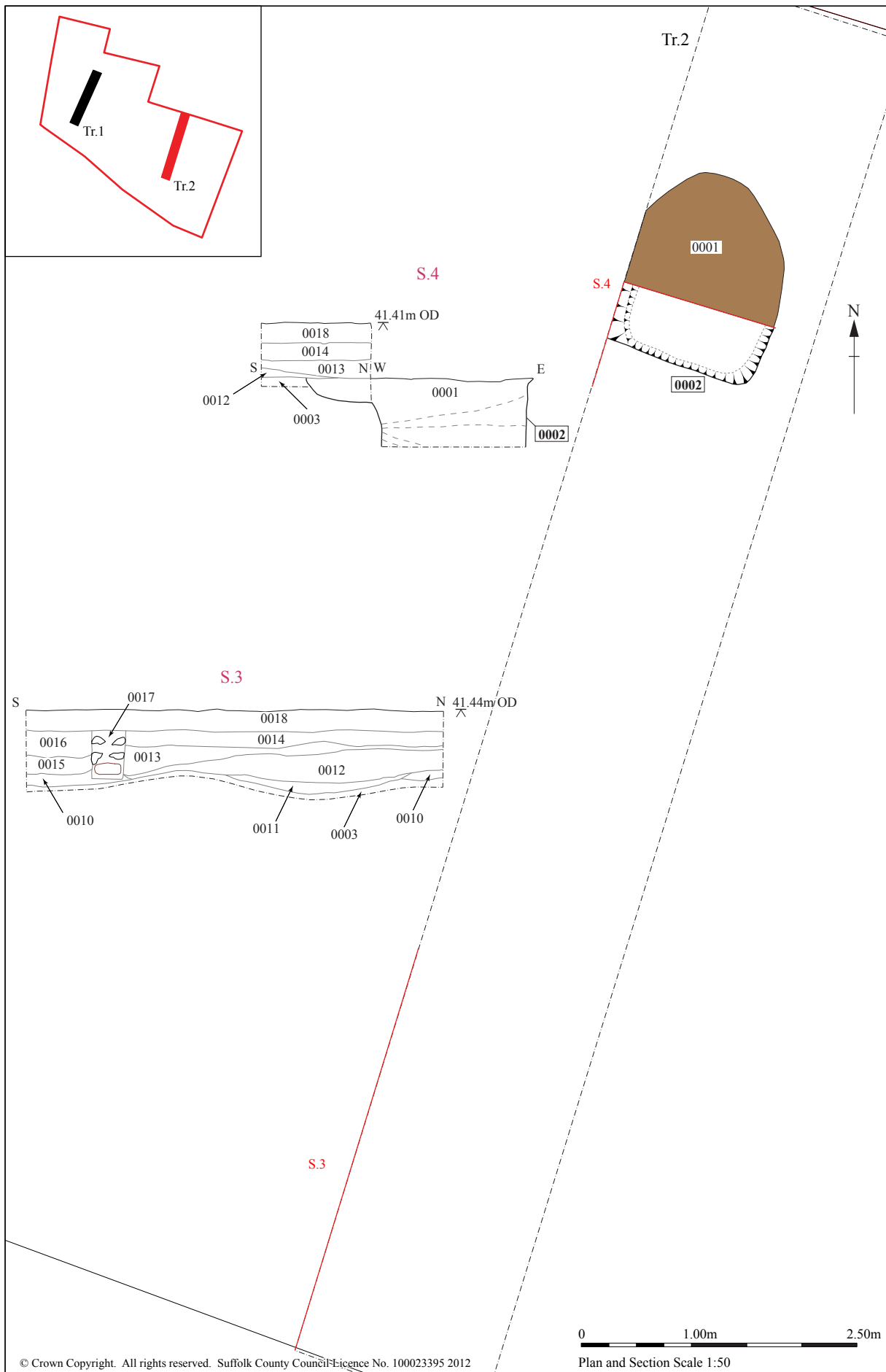


Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and sections



Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2. East-facing section S.1 at the south end of Trench 1 (0.5m scale)



Plate 3. East-facing section S.2 at the north end of Trench 1 (0.5m scale)



Plate 4. East-facing section S.3 at the south end of Trench 2 (0.5m scale)



Plate 5. Pit 0002, at the north end of Trench 2, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 6. General view of Trench 2, looking north

6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work

No significant archaeological deposits or features were found and the only artefacts recovered were of post-medieval date. Consequently no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the proposed development of the site.

This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

7. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS office, Ford House, Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\
Redgrave\RGV 053 evaluation

Digital photographic archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HRA-HRZ\HRX\001-008

8. Acknowledgements

Nick Barber of Brooks Architects Ltd commissioned the project on behalf of Street Farm Development Company Ltd.

Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification and monitored the project. John Craven managed the project and Kieron Heard carried out the fieldwork with the assistance of John Sims (SCCAS, Field Team).

Graphics are by Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy (SCCAS, Graphics Team). Richenda Goffin and Justine Biddle provided advice on the finds (SCCAS, Finds Team).

9. Bibliography

Alston, L., 2011, *Agricultural buildings at Street Farm, Redgrave, Suffolk, RGV 049: Heritage Asset Assessment*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Craven, J., 2012, *Street Farm, Redgrave: Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Tipper, J., 2012, *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at 1036 Street Farm, Redgrave*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Appendix. Brief and specification

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

1036 Street Farm, Redgrave

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Mid Suffolk District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	4292/11
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	RGV 053
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 0435 7810
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of two dwellings (conversion of existing buildings)
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	30 July 2012

Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for a Trenched 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 LPA on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1.1 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core. Archaeological excavations immediately to the north have defined medieval settlement remains (HER no. RGV 043). The buildings (early 19th century stable range) have the subject of a separate assessment by Leigh Alston in 2011 (RGV 049). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

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 Two linear trenches which add up to a total length of 12.00m (each 1.80m wide) are to be excavated to cover the areas of the new development, within the areas of the covered yards (after their demolition).
- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed

before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.

- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

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

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

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

Notes

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

Archaeological Service Field Projects Team

Delivering a full range of archaeological services

- Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 265879 Fax: 01473 216864

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/business-services/archaeological-services