

**55 Church Street, Orford
ORF 128**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/141

Client: Mr. R. Keal

Author: Simon Picard

October 2012

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HER Information

Site Code: ORF 128
Site Name: 55, Church Street, Orford
Report Number 2012/141
Planning Application No: C/120906
Date of Fieldwork: 5th-13th September 2012
Grid Reference: TM 4229 4985
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-137036
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Supervisor: Simon Picard
Client/Funding Body: Mr. R. Keal

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

Prepared By: Simon Picard
Date: October 2012
Approved By:
Position:
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of footing trenches and the footprint of a new extension to the rear of 55, Church Street, Orford identified a series of intercutting pits dating from the medieval period. The finds assemblage recovered from the pits indicates activity on the site sometime in the 12th to the 14th century.

1. Introduction

A series of visits were made to 55 Church Street Orford, from the 5th to the 13th September 2012, to monitor the digging of footings and the stripping of the footprint of a new extension, after demolition of the existing extension, to the rear of the house. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

2. Geology and topography

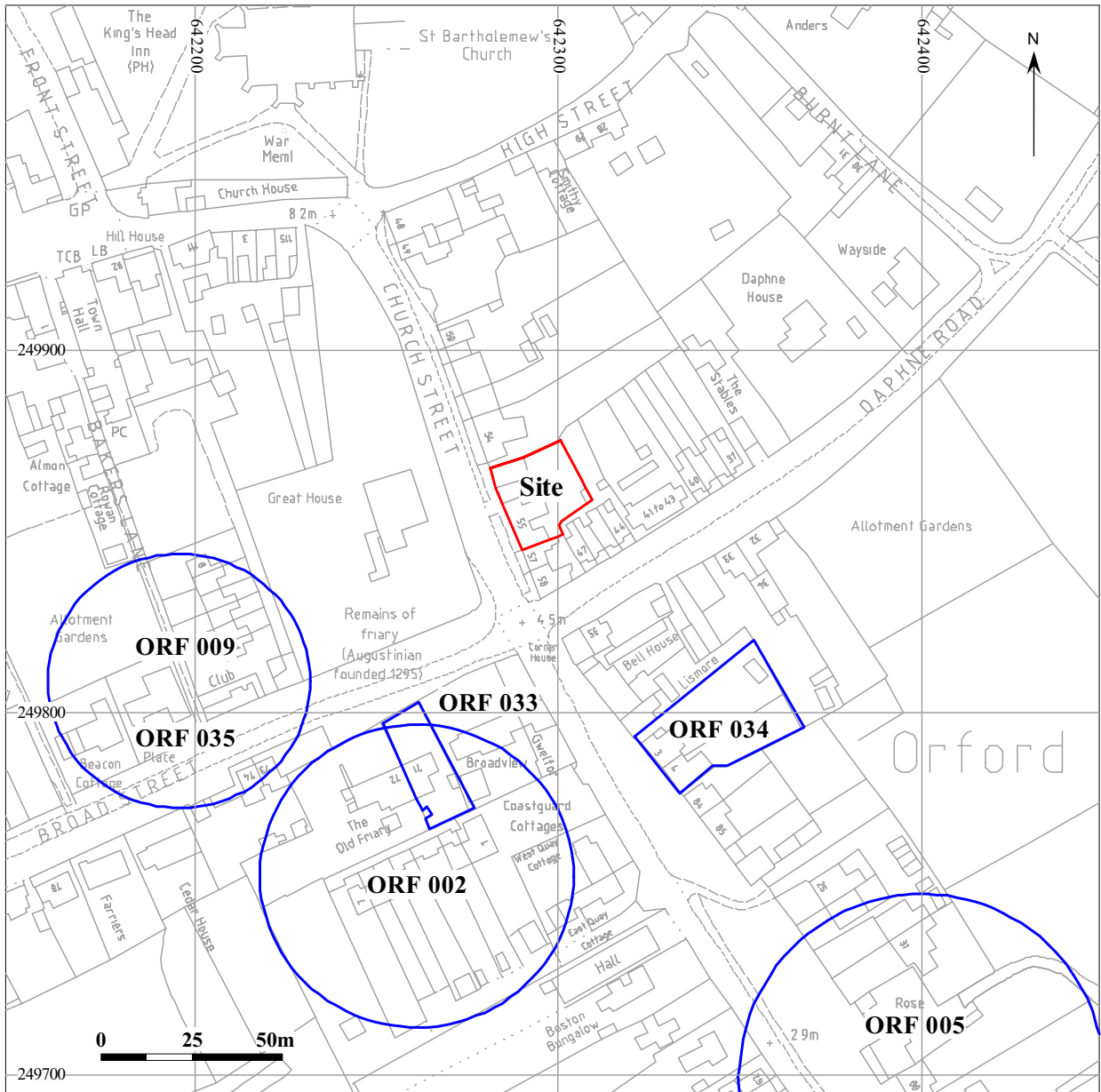
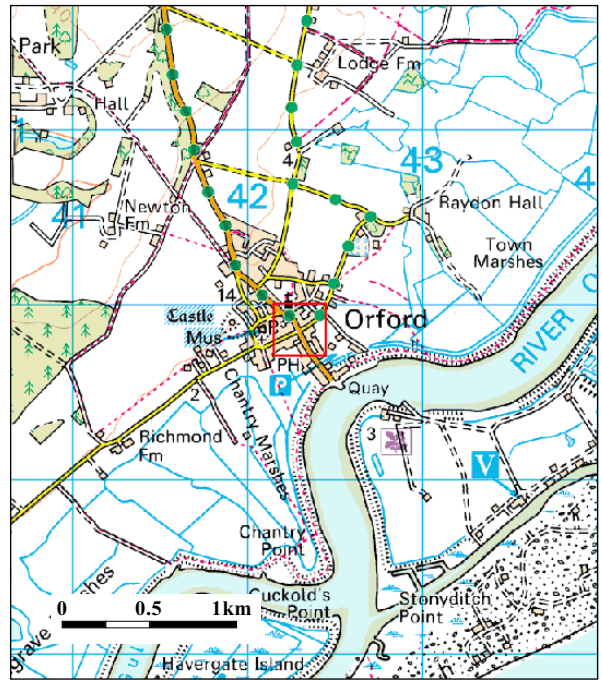
The site lies approximately 120 metres to the south east of the church just outside the centre of the village on a gentle slope heading down towards the sea. The geology of the area consists of Coralline Crag Formations and presented itself on site as mid orange coarse sand.

3. Archaeology and historical background

Church Street runs down from the medieval church of St Bartholomew (ORF 003) towards the sea in the medieval town of Orford. Approximately 350m to the west is Orford castle (ORF 001) and directly to the south is the site of an Augustinian Priory, founded in 1295 (ORF 002). Previous archaeological work nearby has identified medieval activity including ovens (ORF 032 and ORF 110) and an assemblage of medieval pottery (ORF 126). Metal detectorists have found various medieval items within 750m of the site as well as two Roman coins. There have also been some prehistoric finds within 800m of the site.

4. Methodology

The footing trenches, which were approximately 0.6m wide and c.1m deep, and the footprint of the new extension, which was reduced by 0.6m, were excavated under the observation of an archaeologist with all available upcast spoil examined for finds.



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Figure 1. Site location and HER information

All features were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets with sections and plans drawn at a scale of 1:20. A digital record was made with a high resolution digital camera. The excavations were located using the architect's plans and transferred to a GIS-compatible digital plan.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project. The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under Suffolk HER No. ORF 128.

5. Results

Two archaeological features were uncovered during the excavations for the new extension, a single pit in a small trench dug for a metal support, and a sequence of 5 intercutting pits in the strip of the footprint.



Figure 2. Plan of extension footprint, monitored footings and excavated pits



Plate 1. Pits 0004, 0007, 0012 and 0021

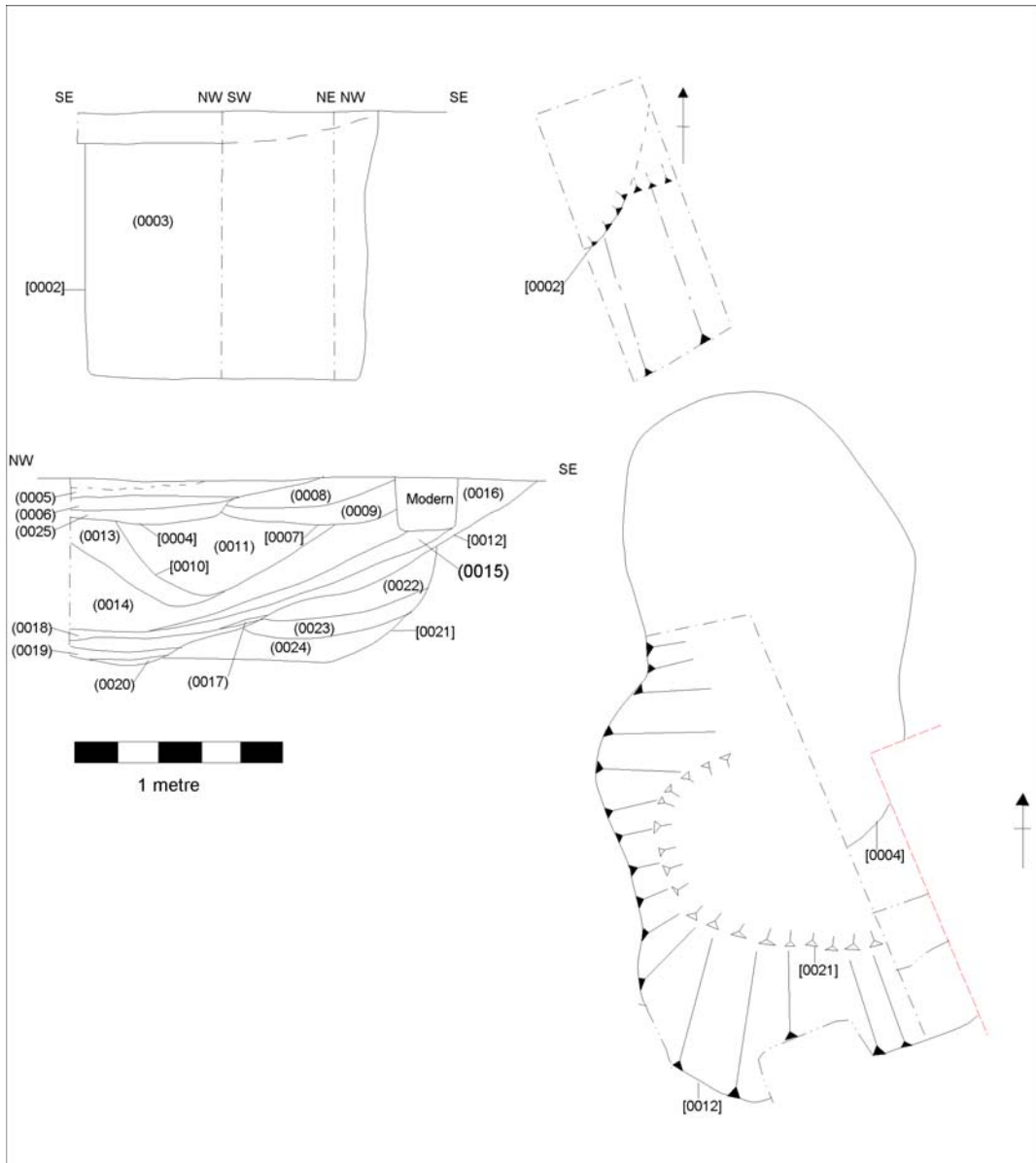


Figure 3. Plans and sections

Pit 0002

Machine excavation of a small footing trench approximately 1.4m by 0.6m revealed the corner of a pit. It had steep, almost vertical, straight sides and a flat base and was 1.3m deep. It was filled with mid brown silty sand with lenses of mid brownish grey sandy silt with some small sub-angular pebbles. The pit produced an assemblage of 17 pottery sherds from the 12th to 14th century (0003).

Pit 0004

This pit was the latest in the series of intercutting pits uncovered during the strip of the footprint of the new extension. It had gradually sloping straight sides which became steeper and a flat base and was 2.2m long, 1.3m wide and 0.24m deep. It had three fills, the uppermost being two layers of pinkish red heat altered clay with a thin layer of dark brownish grey silt in between, showing a period of burning, a laying down of more clay and then another period of burning (0005). Below this fill was a layer of sterile clay (0006), probably to provide a base for the burning above. At the base of the cut there was a layer of redeposited natural sand (0006).

Pit 0007

This pit was cut by pit 0004 and also by a modern feature so its extent was unclear. It had gradually sloping sides and a flat base and two fills, both showing in situ burning. The upper fill (0008) was mid grey ash and mid burnt sand and was soft with few inclusions. The fill below (0009) was black silty clayey sand with some charcoal and produced a single sherd of 12th to 14th century pottery.

Pit 0010

Cut by pit 0007, pit 0010 was the only pit in this section that did not show any evidence of either in situ burning or waste from fire. It had concave sides and base and a single fill of mid brown silty sand (0011).

Pit 0012

The largest pit in this sequence at 2.4m long by 1.4m wide and 0.92m deep 0012 was cut by pit 0010 and a modern feature. It had eight fills, only one of which produced any finds. At the base of the pit there was a thin layer of dark red burnt sand (0020), this was overlain by a layer of redeposited natural sand (0019), the top of which was dark red from burning above. Over this deposit was a layer of very dark brownish grey silty sand with charcoal and pinkish red heat altered clay showing more in situ burning

(0018). Above these episodes of burning the pit had filled with alternating layers of mid greyish brown silty sand (0016), the upper of which (0014) produced an assemblage of 14 12th to 14th century pottery sherds, and yellow or orange sand (0013 and 0015). The pit cut pit 0021 and was cut by pit 0010.

Pit 0021

This was the earliest pit in the sequence, being cut by pit 0012. It had steep straight sides and a flat base and had three fills, all of which produced finds. Its upper fill (0022) was mid brownish grey silty sand with lenses of mid orangey brown silty sand with some pottery sherds. The central fill (0023) was a very dark brownish grey silty sand with ashy lenses and produced both 12th to 14th century pottery sherds and fragments of bone. The lower fill (0024) was pale yellow slightly silty sand and was probably slumping from when the pit was originally dug. This fill produced one sherd of 12th to 14th century cooking pot.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected from the monitoring. The finds were retrieved from six pit fills and one unstratified context. A full contextual breakdown of the finds can be seen in Appendix 3.

Find type	No	Wgt/g
Pottery	54	1238
Mortar	1	20
Clay tobacco pipe	8	28
Animal bone	12	111
Totals	75	1397

Table 1. Finds quantities

The Pottery

Introduction

A total of fifty-four sherds of pottery weighing 1238g was recorded from the monitoring. The pottery was recovered from all seven of the contexts with finds. The assemblage is predominantly dated to the medieval period. A complete breakdown of the pottery by context can be seen in Appendix 4.

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, weight and EVE.

Medieval

Pits 0002 and 0012 contained the largest groups of medieval pottery. These assemblages are chiefly composed of general coarsewares (MCW) dated from the late 12th to 14th century. Context 0014 contains one jar and two jug rims. Only one sherd (context 0003) displays decoration, the remnants of an applied strip. Of note in context 0003 is a coarse whiteware which is possibly a Yorkshire white ware, which are not uncommon around the East Anglian coastline. Only one unprovenanced glazed ware (UPG) was recorded in these two contexts (0003). Both of the fills are dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

Medieval pottery dated from the 12th to 14th century is also present within the unstratified assemblage and the three fills of pit 0021 (0022, 0023 and 0024) are dated from the late 12th to 14th century. Context 0023 contains a small sherd of glazed ware (UPG) that also exhibits rouletting, which is similar in style to Aardenberg ware. Only one rim is present in the three contexts of pit 0021 (0024), and this belongs to a cooking pot.

Post-medieval

Four sherds of post-medieval pottery (220g) was recorded in the unstratified context 0001. These include a sherd of porcelain (PORC), English stoneware (ESW) and two sherds of Westerwald stoneware (GSW 5). As a whole the post-medieval sherds are dated from the 17th to 20th century.

Mortar

A single slightly abraded fragment of lime based mortar was noted in the unstratified context 0001.

Clay tobacco pipe

Eight fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded in the unstratified context 0001. The assemblage is made up of stems except for one bowl fragment. This displays a stylised oak leaf design at its base and is dated to the second half of the nineteenth century.

Faunal remains

Identified by Justine Biddle

Fragments of animal bone were noted within two fills of pit 0021 (0022 and 0023). These include a fragment of fish spinal column in 0022 and several small pieces of burnt sheep (metapodial, long bone and phalanx) as well as a pig mandible. Both of these fills contain medieval pottery.

An sample for the retrieval of plant macrofossils was taken from the fill of pit 0021 and processed by Val Fryer. A summary of the findings is included in the discussion below and the full report is attached as Appendix 5.

7. Discussion

The monitoring identified five intercutting pits with the corner of one pit nearby. Four of the five intercutting pits show evidence of either in situ burning or ashy deposits and have finds associated with them within the same date range, 12th to 14th century. The proximity of the cuts, the same date range and seemingly similar use of the pits suggests a short period of use and re-use, possibly as cooking pits or ovens.

The environmental sample contained material most likely to have been partly or wholly derived from a small deposit of hearth or oven rake-out waste. Heather and bracken were both highly favoured as fuel for both hearths and ovens during the medieval period, as they ignited easily and maintained an even, high temperature throughout combustion. The other remains present within the assemblage are probably derived from a mixture of cereal processing/cleaning waste and dried plant materials, all of which may have been used as tinder or kindling. That weeds particular to clay soils and arid, sandy soils are both present alongside heathland plants probably indicates that materials from a wide area were being imported for various uses within the medieval settlement area.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Orford\ORF 128 Monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQH 1-15

9. Bibliography

Cotter, J. P., 2000, *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1975-85*. Colchester Archaeological Report No 7

Ordnance Survey, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales: Soil survey of England and Wales*, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000. Harpenden

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

55 CHURCH STREET, ORFORD

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a new rear extension (following demolition of existing) at 55 Church Street, Orford, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/12/0906). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval town of Orford in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and service trenches. These, and the up-cast soil,

are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RX. Telephone: 01284 741230; Fax: 01284 741257) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.

3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must submit a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), based on be the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable. The WSI must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Reporting Requirements

5.1 Reporting should be commensurate with results.

If significant archaeological features or finds are found:

- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This

must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.

- 5.3 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 HER 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.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report)
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

When no significant features or finds are found

5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:

- Location (Grid Ref, Parish, Address)
- Planning Application number
- Date(s) of visit(s) and Methodology
- Plan showing areas observed/proposed development (a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
- Depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area
- Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
- Recorder, Organisation and date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment Department
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP33 1RX

Date: 17 August 2012

Reference: 55 Church Street, Orford

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.

Appendix 2

Context No	Feature	Feature	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall	Env. Sample
0001		Finds Other	Unstratified finds	Yes	L12th-19th C	No
0002	0002	Pit Cut	Rounded edge of pit seen in building excavations Steep straight sides with a sharp beak of slope to a flat base	No		No
0003	0002	Pit Fill	Mid brown silty sand with lenses of mid brownish grey sandy silt Friable V. occa small sub-ang pebbles, occa pot sherds Clear horizons Single fill of pit	Yes	L12th-14th C	No
0004	0004	Pit Cut	Oval pit Gradually sloping straight sides with a gradual break of slope to become steep and straight. Sharp break of slope to a flat base. Highest in sequence of pits which show evidence of in situ burning. Cuts pit 0007	No		No
0005	0004	Pit Fill	2 layers of mid pinkish red hard heat altered clay separated by a thin layer of dark brownish grey silt Clear horizons upper fill of pit	No		No
0006	0004	Pit Fill	In situ burnug Mid grey soft clay No inclusions Clear horizons Middle fill of pit	No		No
0007	0007	Pit Cut	Clay laid down as a base for burning above Shape is unclear as pit is cut by a modern pit to the south and the footings trench to the east and pit 0004 to the north. Visible western edge was slightly curved. Gradually sloping concave sides with an imperceptible break of slope to a flat base.	No		No
0008	0007	Pit Fill	Pit with in situ burning, cut by pit 0004 and cuts pit 0010 Mid grey ash and mid red burnt sand Soft Few inclusions Clear horizons Upper fill	No		No
0009	0007	Pit Fill	In situ burning Black soft silty clayey sand Mod charcoal flecks, occa charcoal lumps, 1 pot sherd Clear horizons Lower fill of pit	Yes	L12th-14th C	No

Context No	Feature	Feature	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall	Env. Sample
0010	0010	Pit Cut	Oval pit with gradually sloping concave sides, a gradual break of slope with a concave base	No		No
0011	0010	Pit Fill	Pit cuts pit 0012 and cut by 0007 Mid brown silty sand Friable Occa oyster shell, few inclusions Clear horizons Single fill	No		No
0012	0012	Pit Cut	Single fill of pit Large oval pit with gradually sloping slightly concave sides with a gradual break of slope to concave base			No No
0013	0012	Pit Fill	Pit with 2 phases of in situ burning Mid orangey brown silty sand Friable Few inclusions Clear horizons Upper fill in pit	No		No
0014	0012	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sand Friable Occa charcoal flecks, occa oyster shell, occa pot sherds Clear horizons	Yes	L12th-14th C	No
0015	0012	Pit Fill	Pale yellow soft sand Few inclusions Clear horizons	No		No
0016	0012	Pit Fill	Redeposited natural Mid greyish brown silty sand Friable occa charcoal flecks, no finds Clear horizons	No		No
0017	0012	Pit Fill	Mid grey chalky clay Firm Clear horizons	No		No
0018	0012	Pit Fill	Small thin layer of clay over the edge of burning in 0018 Very dark brownish grey silty sand with mod firm pinkish red heat altered clay over dark red burnt sand Friable Few inclusions and no finds Clear horizons In situ burning	No		No

Context No	Feature	Feature	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall	Env. Sample
0019		0012 Pit Fill	Pale to mid orangey yellow slightly silty soft sand Few inclusions, no finds Clear horizons	No	No	
0020	0012	Pit Fill	Dark red burnt soft sand No inclusions Clear horizons	No		No
0021	0021	Pit Cut	In situ burning, base of pit Oval pit with steep straight sides, a gradual break of slope to a flat base	No		No
0022	0021	Pit Fill	Pit with in situ burning cut by pit 0012 Mid brownish grey silty sand with lenses of mid orangey brown silty sand Friable Occa pot sherds Clear horizons Upper fill	Yes	L12th-14th C	No
0023	0021	Pit Fill	Very dark brownish grey sandy silt Friable Occa ashy lenses, occa pot sherds, occa bone frags Clear horizons Small sample collected	Yes	L12th-14th C	No
0024	0021	Pit Fill	In situ burning Pale to mid brownish yellow slightly silty sand Soft Few inclusions, 1 pot sherd Clear horizons	Yes	L12th-14th C	No
0025	0004	Pit Fill	Mid brownish orange soft slightly silty sand No inclusions Clear horizons Lower fill of pit Redeposited natural	No		No

Appendix 4

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0001	MCW	Jug		1	0.09	35	Sli	White fabric with calcite and mica	L12th-14th C	
0001	MCW	Jug		1	0.06	7	Sli	Reduced	L12th-14th c	L12th-19th C
0001	LMT	Body		1	0	4	Sli	Oxidised with thin reduced surface	15th-L16th C	
0001	PORC	Body		1	0	10	Sli		18th-20th C	
0001	ESW	Body		1	0	35	Sli		17th-19th C	
0001	GSW 5	Body		1	0	7	Sli		E17th-19th C	
0001	GSW 5	Chamber		1	0.21	168	Sli		E17th-19th C	
0001	MCW	Body		8	0	137	Sli	All with ill sorted quartz	12th-14th C	
0003	UPG	Body	Green glaze	1	0	14	Sli	Reduced with oxidised surface	L12th-14th C	
0003	?YORK	Body		1	0	8	Sli		12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0003	MCW	Body	1 x Applied	10	0	166	Sli		M/L12th-14th C	
0003	?MCW	Body		2	0	48	Sli		12th-14th C	
0003	MCW	Base		3	0	71	Sli	Three types	L12th-14th C	

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0009	MCW	Cooking		1	0.12	31	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0014	MCW	Body		10	0	246	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0014	MCW	Jar		1	0.07	29	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0014	MCW	Jug		1	0.06	12	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0014	MCW	Jug		1	0.07	16	Sli		?L13th-14th C	
0014	MCW	Base		1	0	9	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0023	UPG	Body	rouletting	1	0	7	Sli	Like Aardenberg style	L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0023	MCW	Body		1	0	3	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0022	MCW	Body		4	0	82	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0022	MCW	Base		1	0	9	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0024	MCW	Cooking		1	0.06	20	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM ORFORD, SUFFOLK (ORF128)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF

October 2012

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Orford, undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), recorded a small number of features of probable medieval date. A sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the fill of pit [0021].

The sample was bulk floated by SCCAS and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common segetal weeds and grassland herbs were recorded, but the assemblage was largely composed of charred root or stem fragments, including a large number of pieces of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem. Preservation of the remains was moderately good, although some grains and seeds were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at a very high temperature.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) grains were recorded, with oats occurring most frequently. Although oat floret bases were also recovered, none retained their diagnostic basal abscission scars, and it was not possible to state whether wild or cultivated varieties were represented.

Seeds of common segetal weeds and grassland herbs were moderately abundant. The taxa noted most frequently included stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), a common weed of heavy clay soils, small legumes (*Fabaceae*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), grasses (*Poaceae*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), with the latter being indicative of light, sandy soils. Small pieces of

charcoal/charred wood were recorded, but most were probably fragments from the larger pieces of charred root or stem. Ling (*Calluna* sp.) capsules were also present along with heather florets and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule fragments. The presence of silica skeletons (largely of culm/stem fragments) and siliceous globules almost certainly indicated that the material had been burnt at a very high temperature within a well-oxygenated fire.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, it would appear most likely that this material is partly or wholly derived from a small deposit of hearth or oven rake-out waste. Heather and bracken were both highly favoured as fuel for both hearths and ovens during the medieval period, as they ignited easily and maintained an even, high temperature throughout combustion. The other remains present within the assemblage are probably derived from a mixture of cereal processing/cleaning waste and dried plant materials, all of which may have been used as tinder or kindling. That weeds particular to clay soils and arid, sandy soils are both present alongside heathland plants probably indicates that materials from a wide area were being imported for various uses within the medieval settlement area.

Although the current assemblage is both quantifiably viable (i.e. containing 100+ specimens) and of some interest, containing a moderately comprehensive list of plant species, analysis of a single sample in isolation would probably be of little benefit to the overall interpretation of the site and its component features. Therefore, no further work is recommended at present. However, if further interventions are planned within the immediate vicinity, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation.

Table 1

Context No.	0024
Feature No.	0021
Cereals	
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	xx
(awn frags.)	x
(floret base)	x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)	xcf
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
(detached embryos)	x
Herbs	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	xcffg
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	xxx
<i>A. arvensis</i> L.	xcf
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	x
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	xcf
<i>Euphrasia/Odontites</i> sp.	x
Fabaceae indet.	xx
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	x
Lamiaceae indet.	x
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	x
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	x
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	x
Small Poaceae indet.	x
Large Poaceae indet.	x
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>	xcf
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	x
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	x
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (siliqua)	x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x
<i>R. acetosella</i> L.	xx
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.	x
<i>Silene</i> sp.	x

Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal <2mm	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x
Charred root/stem	xxxx
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xxxx
(florets)	xx
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> L. (capsules)	x
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.)Kuhn (pinnule frags.)	xx
Indet.seeds	x
Indet.inflorescence frags.	xxx
Silica skeletons - ?stem	xx
Other remains	
Siliceous globules	xxxx
Sample volume (litres)	
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens
 xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare fg = fragment