

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/198	Parish: Tuddenham
Land adjacent 60 High Street TDD 027	Planning Application No.: F/2012/0167/RMA
	HER Event No.: TDD 027
Address: Land adjacent to 60 High Street, Tuddenham, Suffolk, IP28 6SA	Grid Reference: TL 737 713
	Number of Site visits: 1
	Date of visits: 19/12/2012
Introduction <p>A continuous monitoring was carried out on the 19th December 2012 on the land adjacent to 60 High Street Tuddenham (Fig. 2) while the footing trenches for a single building plot were excavated. An archaeological condition was placed on the development as the proposed area was within the historic settlement core of Tuddenham (TDD 025) and immediately west of St Mary's church (TDD 005). There has also been a Roman finds scatter discovered within the area which could indicate further Roman occupation. The works were carried out to a brief issued by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT).</p>	
Groundworks: <p>The groundworks that would reach a sufficient depth to disturb archaeological deposits consisted of the excavation of footing trenches. These ran down the length of the building for 13.4m and across its full width of 8.4m three times (Fig. 2). There were also foundations for the porch and another footing trench running along the length. These trenches ranged in depth from c1.1m-1.2m and were c.0.6m wide. A large 20th century soakaway/water tank was found in the north-east corner of the development area and there were a number of service trenches and pipes that ran across the building from the south-east to north-west parallel with the High Street.</p>	

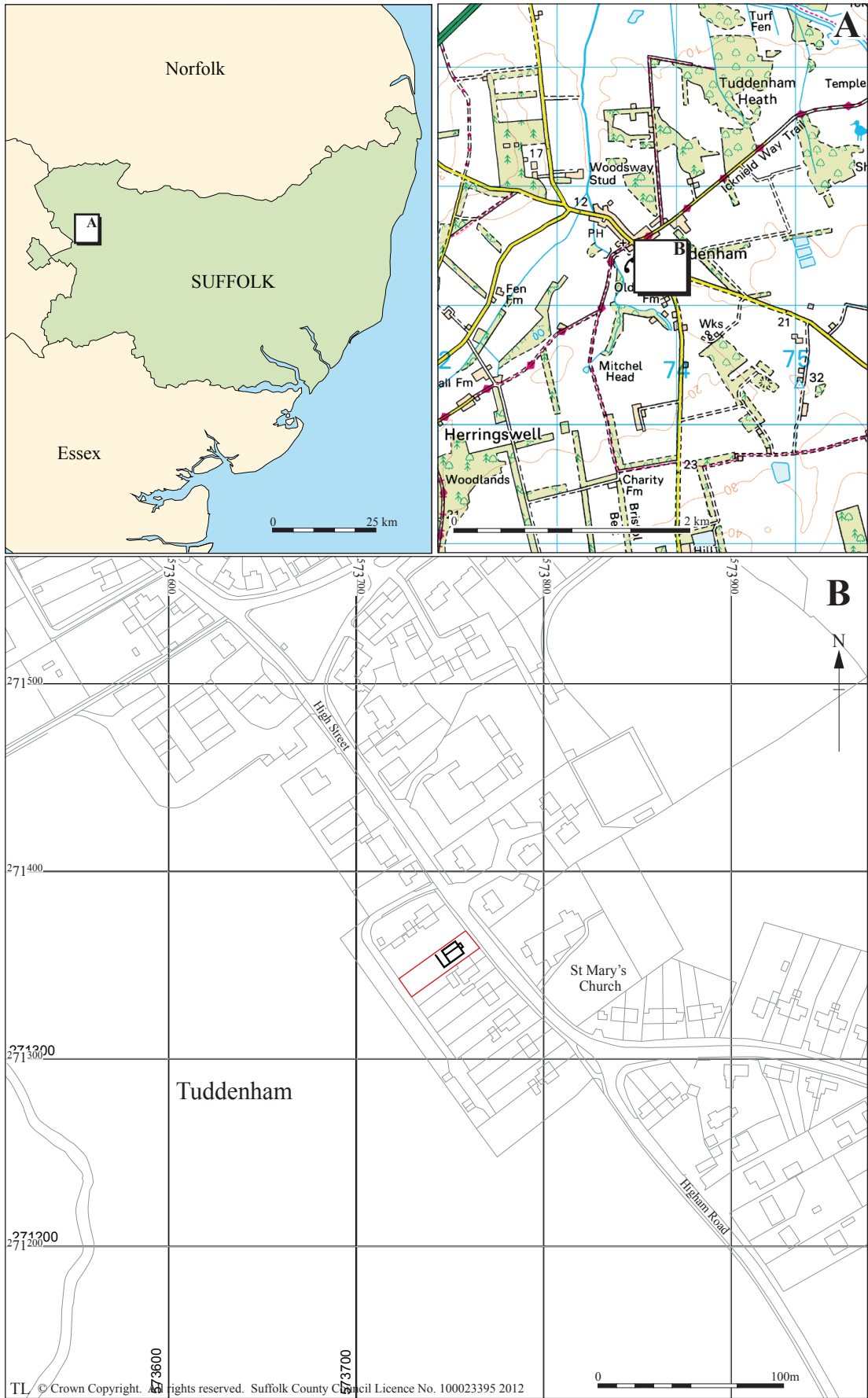


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red) and monitored areas (black)

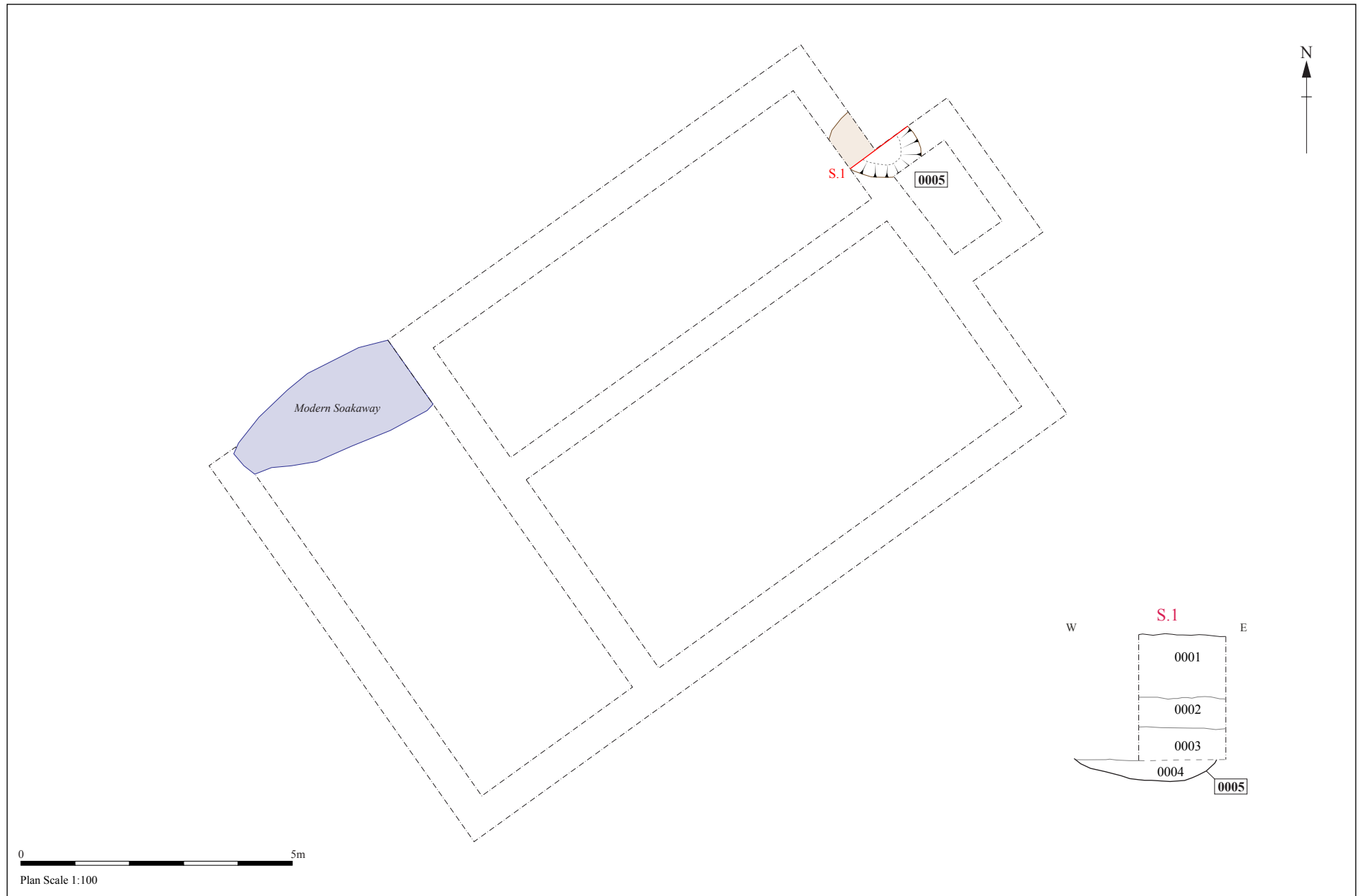


Figure 2. Monitored area plan and section

Results:

The excavation revealed a possible medieval pit towards the front of the proposed dwelling and close to the road. This feature was found at a depth of 1.16m and appeared to be sealed by three layers 0001, 0002 and 0003.

Pit 0005 was discovered towards the north-eastern extent of the building during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the porch and the front of the house. Its shape in plan was not fully uncovered due to the width of the trenches, although from the visible edges it would be reasonable to assume that it was sub-circular. The profile was shallow and concave and it appeared to be sealed by a possible levelling layer 0003, although this relationship was a little diffuse. Pit 0005 was filled by a greyish yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks (0004). Two sherds of 12th-14th century pottery and a small piece of heat altered flint were recovered.

Topsoil 0001 was a mid reddish greyish brown silty sand which covered the entire site. It ranged in thickness from 0.56m at the front of the proposed dwelling to 0.32m at the rear. This soil was reasonably consistent at c.0.32m across all but the front of the site.

Deposits 0002 and 0003 were also observed. 0002 was consistent across the site ranging in thickness from 0.22-0.34m. 0003 was only seen at the north-eastern and north-western sides of the development area and it also appeared to seal the only feature, pit 0005.

Finds: Richenda Goffin

Two fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from fill 0004 of pit 0005, weighing 11g. The medieval coarseware body sherds which are from 2 different vessels are made in a hard-fired sandy fabric and are relatively unabraded. They have an overall date of L12th-14th century.

Conclusion:

Given the presence of medieval pottery within pit 0005 it is possible that this is a

genuine medieval pit that has been truncated by later landscaping and attempts to level the ground. The difference in the thickness of the soils and the relative levels of the natural suggest that there was a natural slope descending roughly from south to north which had been levelled with topsoil and deposits 0002 and 0003. This was probably undertaken for the creation gardens for the current dwellings, as the site is shown as an open field on the 1880 OS map. This activity may have truncated any medieval or earlier features.

Recorded by: John Sims

Date: 18/01/2013