

Milford, Water Lane, Barnham
BNH 075

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/199

Client: Alan Copeland

Author: Andrew Tester

December 2012

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Milford Water Lane Barnham BNH 075

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HER Information

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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: Andrew Tester

Date: 09/01/2013

Approved By: *****

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Date: *****

Signed: *****

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Summary

A trench was excavated to evaluate the site where a single house plot is to be divided into two with a new house being built. The trenching revealed a ditch, perpendicular to Water Lane, which may have marked a property boundary. Two sections across a part of the ditch revealed medieval pottery and animal bone dated to the 13th century. The trench was very disturbed and the overburden was very deep at c.1.2m.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the potential of a large house plot in which a new house is to be built. A Brief for the work was provided by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team in response to planning application F/2011/0664/FUL.

2. Geology and topography

The subsoil consisted of mixed sand silt and clay drift deposits. The site lies on a gently facing slope northwards to the Little Ouse although the house and garage occupy an artificial level platform of made ground at c.17.5m OD.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies on the north side of Water Lane, which follows the line of the edge of the floodplain. There are several sites and find spots recorded in close proximity these include:

BNH 031 Prykes Cottage, restoration work on a fireplace uncovered an alabaster Head of John the Baptist considered to date from c.AD1420.

BNH 056 An Anglo-Saxon disc brooch manufactured in lead is recorded, the method of finding is unknown.

BNH 065 An evaluation and subsequent excavation revealed evidence of late medieval and post-medieval occupation including structural features and ceramics.

Other significant features include the medieval church of St Gregory (BNH 046) to the south of the site and the, now ruined, church of St Martin (BNH 003) beyond the mapped area to the west, off Water Lane to the north.



Figure 1. Site location

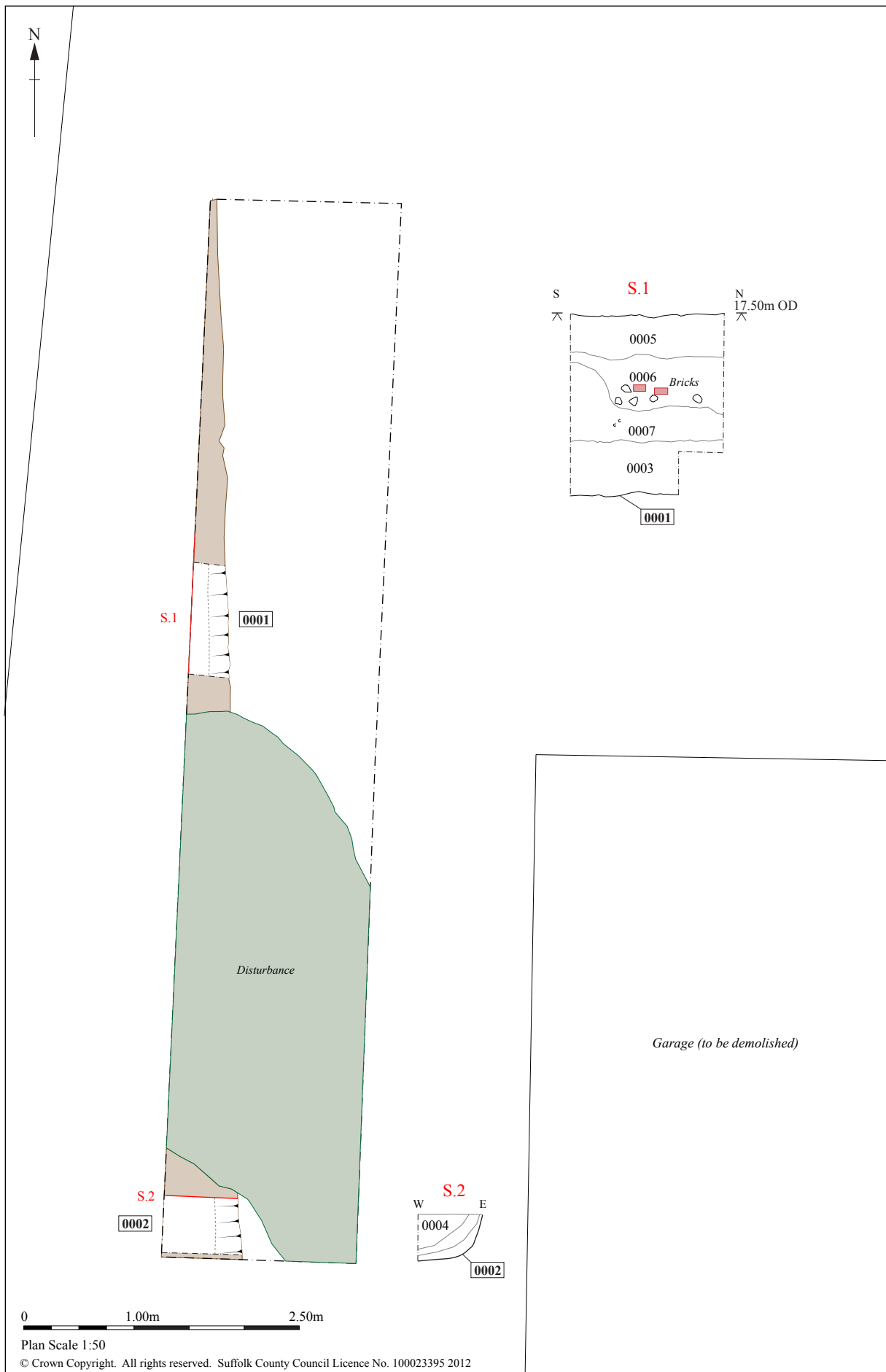


Figure 2. Trench plan and sections

4. Methodology

A single trench was excavated in the gap between an existing garage and the neighbouring property to the west. The trench was excavated with a JCB using a flat bladed bucket and was planned at a scale of 1:20. Two sections were excavated across a single ditch at the same scale. All finds were brought back from the site with the exception of unstratified animal bone. A single sequence continuous numbering system was used for site recording and a high resolution digital photographic record was made of the features. All finds are held in archive in Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

5. Results

5.1 Trench

The trench was c.9.8m in length and 1.65m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. Within the centre of the trench was a large disturbance likely to date from the construction of the standing garage and earlier house built in the 20th century. The soil profile (section 1) comprised a topsoil of mixed dark silt with modern inclusions of brick (0005). Over the southern third of the trench there was a layer of dark silt mixed with large flints with odd brick rubble c. 0.5m deep (0006). Below this was a layer of lighter brown silt with chalk inclusions c.0.45m deep (0007). This layer extended to the base of the trench except where it overlay ditch 0001/0002 or the trench was disturbed; at a depth of 1.1m there was a clear horizon separating the sealing layer from the ditch below.

Ditch 0001/0002

This ditch ran approximately north to south (perpendicular to Water Lane); it was aligned at a slight angle to the trench just appearing in the north west corner and widening to 0.65m at approximately 9.6m from the north end (where it was recorded as 0002). It was c.0.4m deep and was steep sided with a flattish base and was filled with grey silt/sand (0003 and 0004). Finds included occasional animal bone, an oyster shell, a fragment of quern stone and medieval pottery.



Plate 1. Section 2 ditch 0001 west facing, scale at 1m.



Plate 2. Facing north, ditch 0001 is visible to the right of the trench. Scale is 1m.



Plate 3. Trench facing south with large disturbance, ditch 0002 appears at the south end; scale bars at 0.5m

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected from the evaluation. The finds were recovered from two ditch fills (separated by a modern disturbance) that were probably part of the same feature.

Context	Pottery		Lava quern stone		Animal bone		Spot dates
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	
0003	14	163	1	665	3	31	c 12th C
0004	1	19			3	164	c Mid 12th-13th C
Total	15	182	1	665	6	195	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 The pottery

Introduction and methodology

Medieval pottery was recorded in both ditch contexts. The assemblage has been examined at x20 vision and allocated to fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to the pottery of the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS). The group has been recorded by sherd count, weight and EVE.

The assemblage

The largest pottery assemblage was noted in ditch fill, context 0003 (fifteen sherds). This group is composed solely of body sherds, all of which display only slight abrasion. Two fabrics are present; the first consists of four sherds of medieval coarseware (MCW), dated from the late 12th to 14th century. The fabric is composed of abundant ill sorted quartz with occasional calcite and larger flint fragments and bears some resemblance to Ely type ware (ELCW). The second fabric is made up of ten sherds of medieval coarseware (EMW, which is thin-walled and has some similarities with Early medieval ware dated from the 11th to 12th century. The sherds all belong to the same vessel (a cooking pot) and exhibit sooting on their external surfaces. The fabric contains dense ill sorted quartz. The deposition of this material within the context fabric combination within the context suggests a 12th century date for the ditch fill.

A single cooking pot rim was noted in ditch fill 0004. The rim has a thickened flat top and an internal bead (Cotter type Ba 2000, 50), and is dated from the around the mid 12th to 13th century. The fabric is made up of abundant ill-sorted quartz with sparse calcite like streaks.

6.3 Lava quernstone

A slightly abraded fragment of lava quernstone was noted in ditch fill 0003. A partial area of an exterior surface survives, however no striation marks (associated with the grinding surface) were noted. The piece has a minimum depth of 69mm. The fragment is probably Rhenish, a type of stone imported to East Anglia in the Roman period and then from the Middle Saxon through to the post-medieval period.

6.4 Faunal remains

Large mammal bones were noted in both of the ditch fills. Of the three fragments in ditch fill 0003, one is unidentifiable and the other two are joining pieces of a sheep radius. A further three pieces are present in context 0004, of which only two could be identified (although not to species) as ulna and femur fragments.

6.5 Plant macrofossils

Anna West

Introduction and methods

A single sample, 0003 was taken from an archaeological feature from the evaluation. The sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The context sampled came from a ditch containing medieval pottery.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. The presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace 2010).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

SS No	Context no	Feature/cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot contents
1	0003	0002	Ditch	medieval	Charred cereal ##, charred seeds #, charcoal +, roots and stems +++, un-charred seeds +++, animal bone fragments #

Table 2 plant macrofossils and other residues

The quantity of flot material recovered was relatively small at less than 100ml. Fibrous roots and stem fragments were common and made up the majority of the material along with the un-charred seeds of the Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.)

The preservation is through charring and is generally good although many of the cereal grains are puffed and distorted with the honeycomb structure characteristic of combustion at high temperatures. There were also a small number of charred weeds seeds, but wood charcoal fragments were not present in large quantities. Barley (*Hordeum sp.*) caryopses were the most common cereal grains identified along with small numbers of Wheat (*Triticum sp.*). The majority of the cereal caryopses present were too charred and fragmented to identify at this stage. There were no accompanying chaff elements present within the flot which would have assisted more detailed identification.

A small number of charred Grass family (*Poaceae sp.*) caryopses and a few charred Goosefoot family (*Chenopodium sp.*) were present along with a couple of un-charred possible Field Gromwell (*Lithospermum sp.*). These may all represent wayside weeds or crop contaminants cleaned from cereal grains during the final stages of processing.

By far the most common plant remains present were the un-charred seeds of Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.). These could represent the localized vegetation of the ditch environment incorporated into the archaeological deposit or they may suggest the presence of foraged food and resources.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the sample was relatively good in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal was present in small quantities, the majority of which is made up of fragmented cereal grains and charred wood, root and stem fragments. It may be possible in the future to obtain radiocarbon dates from charcoal for those deposits that remain undated.

The charred grains could either represent processing waste or chance loss from a domestic hearth. The activities they represent may have taken place within the near vicinity of the feature sampled and the material may have been deliberately deposited within the ditch. However as the charred material was not present in large quantities it is also possible that it represents windblown or re-deposited material that has been incorporated into the ditch fill. The weed seeds recovered were all reasonably well preserved and identifiable to an archaeobotanist.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flot material at this stage as they would offer little extra information of value to the results of the evaluation, however if further intervention is planned on this site, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out with a view to investigation the nature of the possible cereal waste. The accompanying weed assemblage is likely to provide an insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site. It is recommended that any further samples taken are combined with the flots from the samples taken during this evaluation and submitted to an archaeobotanist for full species identification and interpretation.

7. Discussion

The trenching has revealed a large disturbance related to 20th century building over most of the trench; this was dug into an existing soil and it appears that there had been a considerable build-up of ground prior to the 20th century house construction. Although

separated by a modern disturbance and incomplete within the excavation ditch 0001 and 0002 are almost certainly the same ditch and this is suggested to be an open boundary between two properties that was also an open drain and possibly infilled in the 13th century. It is possible that the present site, with a substantial build-up of soil represents a degree of land reclamation to allow building on the edge of the Little Ouse floodplain, which is indicated by the course of Water Lane. There were no features, from the areas of natural soil that were visible within the trench, to indicate that the site was built on during the medieval period although the pottery and animal bone confirm the presence of occupation close by, which is unsurprising as it is located within the medieval settlement core. While the macrofossil samples have produced charred grain and weed seeds (with some as yet unidentified) the open context from which they were recovered can only provide very general information on the site. The fragment of quernstone is of note given the potential for a mill site within the floodplain although the known mill was c.180m to the north and fell out of use after 1880.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has demonstrated a substantial build-up of soil since the medieval period with the single medieval feature occurring over 1m below the present ground surface. It is uncertain whether structural settlement evidence from this early period survived on the site due to a large disturbance restricting the size of the sample but no finds were recovered excepting those retrieved from ditch 0001/0002. The macrofossil evidence of burnt grain from a probable open ditch suggests there may be potential for sampling elsewhere on the sites but the finds are not extraordinary given the location of the feature within the core of the settlement.

From these results it is suggested that although there is some potential for the site to yield medieval features these are likely to be at a depth of c.1m from the surface. In this instance it is suggested that a monitoring condition is placed on ground works, which may reach this depth (probably just strip footing trenches).

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\I Barnham\BNH 075.

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Parish boxes.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Tester who also managed the project and wrote the report with Andy Fawcett providing the finds report. Richenda Goffin also gave finds advice and edited the report. The detailed graphics were prepared by Crane Begg.

11. Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1 Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Millford, Water Lane, Barnham IP24 2NA

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/11/0664

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TL 871 792

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of dwelling and associated works

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Jess Tipper
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Conservation Team
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E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 14 November 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 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, within the historic settlement core and close to a medieval church (County Historic Environment Record BNH 046). It is close to an Anglo-Saxon find spot (BNH 056), which is indicative of further occupation deposits in this vicinity. There is high potential for medieval and possibly earlier occupation deposits to be located in this area. 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 A single linear trial trench, 10.00m long x 1.80m wide, is to be excavated to cover the area of the new development
- 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 before fieldwork commences. 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.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Ditch Cut	one side of ditch running almost parallel to trench run of 4.5m recorded, interrupted by disturbance and continues as 0002 North south boundary ditch probably continues as 0002.	No		No	
0002	0002	Ditch Cut	continuation (?) of ditch 0001 south of modern disturbance. Because of the angle of the trench this is the widest segment at 0.6m but no evidence for the total width. North south ditch probably same as 0001, wider in this segment	No		No	
0003	0001	Ditch Fill	Grey silt/sand fill from possibly open wet ditch similar to 0004	Yes	c12th C	Yes	
0004	0002	Ditch Fill	Grey silt sand fill from probable open wet ditch, similar to 0003	Yes	cMid 12th-13t	No	
0005		Layer	Modern topsoil with modern brick inclusions	No		No	
0006		Layer	dark silt mixed with large flints and odd brick rubble	No		No	
0007		Layer	Light brown silt with chalk inclusions	No		No	

BNH 075 Appendix 3 Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0003	MCW	Body	4	0	82	Sli	Some are fumed. The fabric exhibits some traits similar to Ely ware. Brown inner and buff outer surfaces. Abundant ill sorted quartz with occasional calcite	L12th-14th C	c 12th C
0003	EMW	Body	10	0	80	Sli	All same vessel, heavily sooted thin walled. Contains abundant dense quartz.	11th-12th C	
0004	MCW	Cooking pot	1	0.03	19	Sli	The rim has a thickened flat top with an internal bead, similar to Cotter's B2a (2000). Contains abundant quartz with calcite like streak	c M12th-13th C	c M12th-13th C

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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