

The Swan Hotel, Lavenham LVM 080

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/021

Client: TA Hotel Collection

Author: Rob Brooks

March/2013

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Summary

Two evaluation trenches were dug within land associated with the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, in Suffolk. Prior to this a desk-based assessment had highlighted the site's potential for revealing archaeological deposits relating to the medieval town's development, particularly its role within the woollen cloth trade that had made it such a wealthy settlement.

On site a series of medieval and early post-medieval pits and layers were recorded, producing pottery, roof tile, brick and animal bone. The layers are thought to represent both occupation and demolition episodes. Several medieval/post-medieval postholes and walls were also recorded on the site, which indicated at least four separate structures from various phases. The deposits found within the evaluation point to a complex archaeological site, well preserved beneath topsoil and a later post-medieval layer. The development has extremely high potential to produce a well stratified site sequence, with evidence for domestic, commercial and industrial activity during the height of Lavenham's economic success.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Features - - - - -
- Break of Slope
- Features - Conjectured - - - - -
- Natural Features
- Sondages/Machine Strip - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Illustrated Section — S.14
- Cut Number 0008
- Archaeological Features
- Tile
- Flint
- Mortar

Sections

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Cut - - - - -
- Modern Cut - - - - -
- Cut - Conjectured - - - - -
- Deposit Horizon - - - - -
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Top of Natural - - - - -
- Top Surface - - - - -
- Break in Section - - - - -
- Cut Number 0008
- Deposit Number *0007*
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45m}{\times} OD$

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a spa with a basement, as well as garden landscaping on land to the rear of the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, in Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr. Abby Antrobus (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team – Appendix 1) as a condition of planning application B/11/00738/FUL. TA Hotel Collection funded the work that was carried out from 6th-13th February, 2013. The trenches were located within two small areas of garden, within the existing Swan premises and to the rear of the former Wildlife Art Gallery, at grid reference TL 91550 49225. Prior to the evaluation a desk-based assessment was written examining the site. This included a collation of the surrounding Historic Environment Record (HER) listings for the local area, as well as a documentary and cartographic search and report (Craven, 2013).

2. Geology and topography

The village's topography undulates quite significantly as it lies on the western bank of the River Brett valley. On site there was a noticeable slope from the north-east to the south-west, with ground levels close to Trench 1 recorded between 63.25m and 63.94m above the OD. The recorded geology for the immediate area consists of superficial deposits of Head clay, silt, sand and gravel, overlying a bedrock formation of Crag Group sand (BGS, 2013). On site, the geology presented itself as a mid orange silt-sand mixture, which was interpreted as a fluvial deposit that had formed due to the site's position near to the valley base.

3. Archaeology and historical background

Lavenham is well known as an important medieval and post-medieval town that thrived from the 15th-17th centuries as a result of its successful manufacturing of woollen cloth, with a particular specialisation in broad cloths. By 1524 Lavenham had seventy-two clothiers, which was the most in Suffolk at that time. As a result of this many large timber-framed properties, including several guildhalls were built and many still survive today as does the large church near the southern end of the medieval village limits.

The site itself lies within the grounds of the Swan Hotel in the heart of the medieval town, the area of which is recorded in the HER as LVM 053 (Fig. 1). Other HER listings within 150m of the site are shown on Figure 1 and listed in Table 1, below. The hotel comprises several medieval plots along the eastern street frontage of the High Street, backing onto Lady Street. The evaluation works were carried out to the rear of No. 97, a Grade II* listed 15th-16th century house, as well as Nos. 98-99 that are part of a divided early 15th century house, which is also Grade II* listed. Immediately north of these is the Greyhound Inn, which is a Grade II listed 15th century house. Other buildings within the Swan Hotel complex include a 14th-15th century jettied house and a 16th century jettied house, as well as a 15th-16th century timber-framed house, all listed at Grade II*, as well as two further 16th century Grade II listed houses. Most notable though is the 15th century Guildhall, which is Grade I listed and was also used in the late 17th century as a wool staple and later as a house. The documentary and cartographic research on the site was somewhat limited by the relative lack of surviving records for the town. However it does suggest that the plot being evaluated may have been used as part of the cloth industry for a 'teyntor' [tenter] frame, as used in the drying of dyed cloth. Several properties along the High Street were listed in the will of a clothier and these included garden plots with tenter frames present. These structures measured from approximately 28 yards up to 30 yards long and subsequently would have fitted within the long plots shown on the Tithe map of the site (Breen, in Craven, 2013).

HER listing	Description
LVM 003	Medieval floor tiles with traces of green glaze, found running under present 16th century house, 1 foot 7 inches below present floor level.
LVM 004	Market cross, consisting of a well weathered stone octagonal shaft on a three tier square base, with a ball being substituted for a cross in the 17th century. Grade II listed building.
LVM 005	Guildhall of Corpus Christi. Also used in the 19th century as a prison. Grade I listed building.
LVM 010	The major part of a medieval tenter frame was found "buried in the fabric" of 80 Church Street, Lavenham.
LVM 018	A Roman tessellated pavement was recorded here by Basil Brown.
LVM 035	Monitoring of a site located a post-medieval flint/mortar well, pit, pottery etc.
LVM 036	Evaluation of part of the site and excavation in the garden revealed late medieval/post-medieval post hole building.
LVM 046	Monitoring of groundworks revealed an assemblage of medieval and post-medieval finds and a thin burnt lens possibly associated with a former smithy.
LVM 050	Monitoring of footing trenches revealed a single pit of medieval date, also the remains of a mullion window was observed after a wall plate was removed.
LVM 051	Heavily altered culvert, with possibly 16th century origins.
LVM 053	Medieval town core.
LVM 055	Monitoring of footing trenches revealed a single post-medieval ditch.
LVM 065	14th-16th century aisled hall.
LVM 070	A 19th century steam corn mill.
LVM 074	A 14th century timber-framed house.
LVM 077	Monitoring identified two large pits of 15th/16th century date.

Table 1. HER listings within 150m of the site

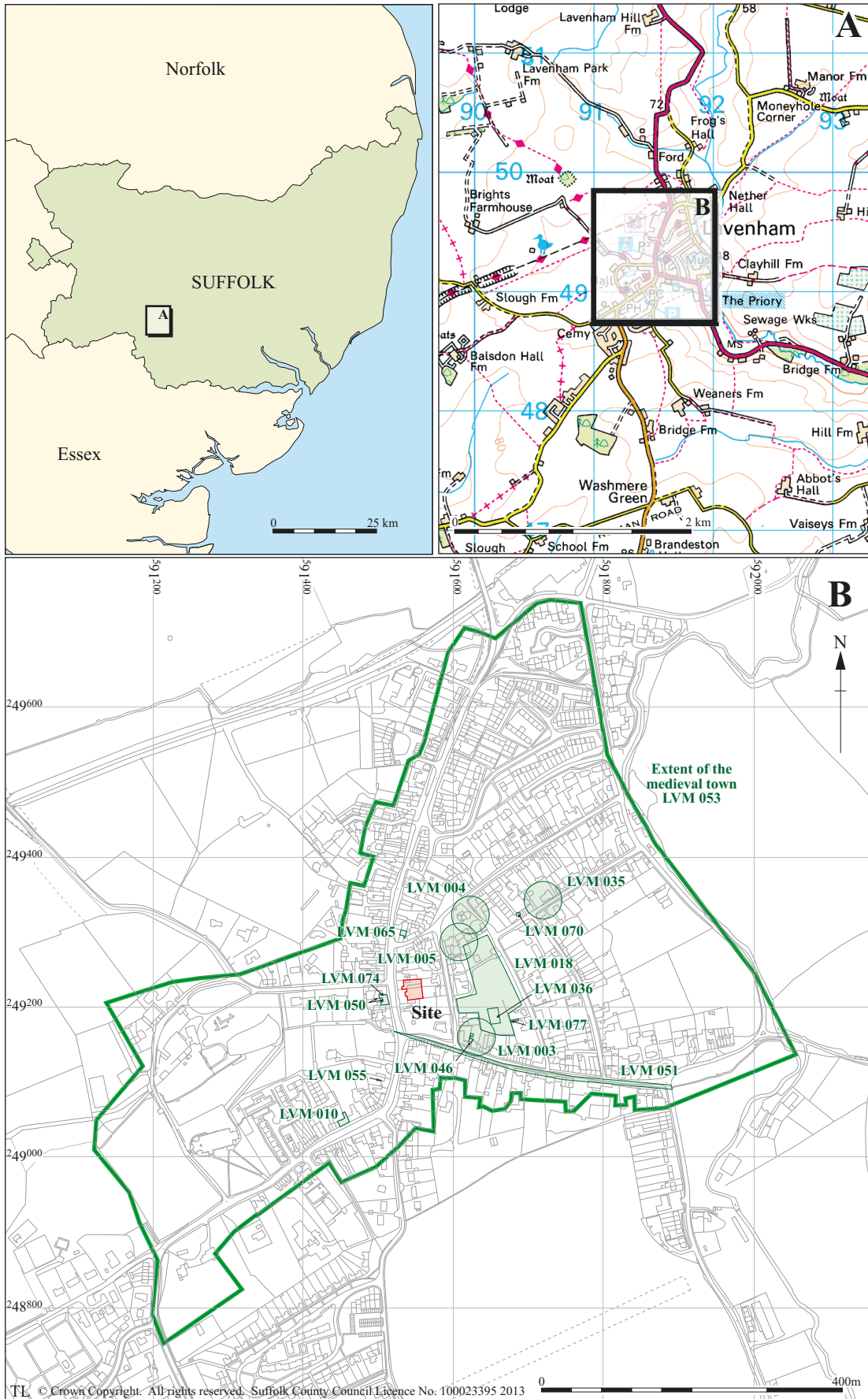


Figure 1. Site location (red) with HER listings (green)



Figure 2. Location of evaluation trenches and development outline (blue)

4. Methodology

Trench 1 was excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket, with the work being constantly monitored and directed by an experienced archaeologist. The topsoil was removed, followed by layer 0001, to expose the uppermost cut features and archaeological layers. It was not possible to get machine access for the area of Trench 2, which was hand excavated in order to test for the presence of similar stratigraphy to that seen in Trench 1. All of the upcast spoil was monitored for finds. The first trench was excavated running across part of the area to be built on and landscaped, whilst Trench 2 fell in an area that was entirely within the building footprint (Fig. 2). In total Trench 1 covered 23.9sqm and was 1.8m wide x 14.4m long, whilst Trench 2 was 0.75sqm and measured 0.5m wide x 1.5m long.

When the trench excavations were finished soil profiles were cleaned and then recorded in conjunction with the recording of the contexts. The hand cleaning of Trench 1 revealed that the whole area was a series of cut features and layers and as such it was not possible to fully excavate the entire trench at this stage due to the complexity of the stratigraphy. However all of the pits and postholes uncovered after the initial machining of the site were excavated, excluding a partially visible large pit at the eastern end of the trench and a post hole that cut wall 0041. Colour digital photographs at 4288 x 3216 pixel resolution were taken of the contexts, the trenches and the site. Plans of the site were hand drawn at 1:20 and 1:50, and located and levelled using an RTK GPS in conjunction with a dumpy level. Following this two sondages were cut into the archaeological layers in order to measure the depth and complexity of the archaeological deposits. Two pit cuts found at the base of the sondages were not fully dug, because it was not possible to properly contextualise them in relationship to other features and layers at this point. Sections were drawn at 1:20, and then photographed and recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* context sheets.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code LVM 080 (Appendix 2). An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-140432, Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code LVM 080.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

At this stage it has not been possible to phase the site fully, due to the complexity of the archaeology, but densely layered contexts consisting of pits, post holes, walls and layers were found in both trenches (Figs. 3-5 and Appendix 2). In Trench 1 a layer of topsoil, 0.16-0.24m deep, overlaid later post-medieval layer 0001 which was c.0.16-0.24m deep and consisted of dark grey/black sandy-clay. This produced 16th-19th century pottery, as well as post-medieval CBM and was the same as layer 0052 in Trench 2. When layer 0001 was removed various archaeological layers were present, into which some features were cut. Three sondages were excavated into these layers in order to sample some of the site. These sondages revealed further pit and posthole cuts, some of which survived up to and beyond 1.16m below ground level. The results of these excavations are described below by sondage in stratigraphic order (Fig. 3). Following this, the later features and wall that were overlaid by 0001 are summarised (Fig. 4). The upmost archaeological levels in Trench 1 were encountered at between 0.3 and 0.44m below the existing ground level.

Within Trench 2 up to 0.08m of topsoil overlaid a concreted layer, 0051. This in turn was over layer 0052, which was very similar to layer 0001. Underlying this was layer 0053 and layer 0054, which were comparable with the late medieval/post-medieval layers in Trench 1 (Table 1). In this trench the archaeological levels were encountered at 0.2m below ground level.

5.2 Trench 1 – contexts by sondage (medieval)

The following descriptions include the features within the sondages recorded in Sections 2, 7 and 9 that were stratigraphically earlier than layers 0002/0017, 0003/0035 and 0006, and deposit 0019 (Fig. 3).

Section 2

Layer 0009

The earliest context recorded within this sondage was a layer of firm orangish-brown silty-sandy-clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional chalk flecks, recorded as 0009. This was only very partially investigated to avoid undercutting wall 0008.

Layers 0006 and 0007, and wall 0008

A small stub of flint and broken tile wall bonded with soft, yellow sandy mortar was recorded as 0008, measuring c.0.4m long x c.0.12m wide. It was of noticeably similar construction to walls 0028 and 0029 in Section 7 and wall 0041. Overlying/abutting wall 0008 was layer 0007; a pale yellowish-brown compact slightly silty-clay, with chalk flecks and small flints, and occasional charcoal flecks and CBM, dated as medieval/post-medieval. It was interpreted as an occupation layer, or redeposited natural, but may have been the remnants of a surface. These two contexts are interpreted as a building deposit with an associated occupation layer or surface and they were overlaid by layer 0006, which is probably 16th century.

Above layer 0007 was another deposit that was possibly the same as layer 0003/0035 recorded elsewhere in the eastern end of the trench. Layer 0006 was described as greyish-brown compact silty-clay with moderate levels of chalk flecks and CBM, and occasional flints, and produced two sherds of 15th-late 16th and 16th-18th century pottery, and four fragments of medieval to late-medieval/post-medieval CBM. This was overlaid by layer 0001 and is probably a 16th century deposit.

Section 7

Subsoil 0032

The earliest context recorded on the site was subsoil layer 0032, into which pits 0024 and 0026 were cut. The layer was 0.31m deep, consisted of orangish-brown sandy-silt, had a diffuse horizon with the natural geology and was the same as layer 0040 recorded in Section 9. It contained common charcoal flecks and was interpreted as a fluvial layer that had subsequently been somewhat disturbed, hence the level of charcoal inclusions.

Pits 0024 and 0026

Truncating subsoil 0032 were two pits. Cut 0024 was only partially visible in plan and had a slightly curved west edge, which sloped at 35-40° and was irregular. It was not fully excavated, but measured >0.9m x >0.8m x >0.26m. It had a single fill, 0025, which was dark grey clayey-silt, with occasional charcoal, mortar and chalk flecks. One dense layer of tiles was present at the base of the fill, along with a clay lens. The finds consisted of five sherds of late 14th to 15th century pottery and ten fragments of CBM, as well as animal bone, oyster shell and an iron nail. The pit fill was cut wall 0029.

To the south-west of cut 0024 was pit 0026 that was only partially visible, forming a semi-circle, with 45-75° slightly concave sides. It was not fully excavated and measured >0.86m x >0.5m x >0.3m deep. The fill, 0027, was mid brownish-grey clayey-silt, with one mortar lens at the top of the fill, and was overlaid by 16th-17th century layer 0018. A charcoal lens was also present in places around the outside of the feature, as were common chalk flecks and flints throughout the context. Finds recovered from the fill comprised eight sherds of 13th-14th century pottery, and two fragments of medieval CBM, as well as fired clay.

Posthole 0030

Cutting pit 0026 was posthole 0030. This was sub-rectangular in plan, with 75° slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled with pale yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small flints. A single piece of abraded medieval tile was retrieved from the very top of the fill. Its fill and shape in plan were reminiscent of the later postholes that were sealed by layer 0001, but this posthole was under layer 0018.

Walls 0029 and 0028

At the north-east end of the sondage were two walls that had cut into pit 0024, which was probably 14th-15th century. The earliest of the walls was 0029 and was a roughly lain deposit of sandy yellow soft mortar, flints and tiles that was >0.8m long x >0.3m wide x c.0.16m deep. It appeared to be on a north-west to south-east alignment, but was somewhat damaged, possibly indicating that it may have been a splayed foundation or surface associated with wall 0028.

Overlying structure 0029 was wall 0028. It was similarly built to wall 0028, comprising soft yellow sandy mortar, flints and tiles, but it was more neatly laid, with the tiles forming sporadic courses. The structure was aligned north to south, measured >0.7m long x 0.3m wide x 0.18m deep, and three slightly abraded late medieval/post-medieval tiles were sampled from it. In section wall 0028 was overlaid by layer 0018, which was thought to be 16th-17th century.

Layers 0018 and 0002/0017

Layer 0018 was a dark grey sandy-clay, with common CBM fragments and occasional mortar and chalk nodules. Four pottery sherds, with a probably 16th-17th century date range, as well as a sample of five CBM fragments were recovered. The layer was up to 0.2m thick and was interpreted as a mixed demolition and occupation layer.

Overlying layer 0018 was 0002/0017; a 0.4m thick deposit that was uncovered in the south-west end of Trench 1. It consisted of pale-mid grey silty-clay, with lenses of dense tile and orange sand, common flints and chalk nodules. Seven fragments of late medieval/post-medieval CBM were recovered, as well as five 16th-18th century pot sherds from the surface of the layer (0002) and ten early 14th-late 16th century pot sherds from its excavation (0017). It is interpreted as a 16th century occupation layer.

Deposit 0019

Cut within the top of layer 0002/0017 was a substantial pale-mid yellowish-grey silty-clay, with common chalk nodules, occasional mortar flecks and small stones, and rare charcoal flecks. Its extent in plan was not very clear, but it was thought to measure at least 2.4m long x 0.52m deep. On site this was interpreted as a deposit, but it may also have been a pit fill or a substantial surface. Alternatively it could also have been the back filling of a hole left after the robbing out of wall 0028. It produced two sherds of late 12th-14th century pottery and four fragments of late medieval/post-medieval CBM.

Section 9

Subsoil 0040

The basal layer recorded within Section 9 was subsoil 0040, which was mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay, with occasional flints. It was very similar to subsoil 0032, although it did not appear to contain the same density of charcoal flecks.

Layers 0039 and 0038

Overlying subsoil 0040 was layer 0039. This consisted of dark orangish-greyish-brown silty-sandy-clay, with moderate levels of charcoal flecks, occasional clay patches, chalk flecks and small flints. It was 0.3m deep and produced six sherds of mid 12th-14th century pottery. This was interpreted as a medieval soil/occupation layer.

Above layer 0039 was a mid greyish-brown silty-sandy-clay, with moderate levels of charcoal flecks, and occasional small flints, recorded as layer 0038. It was interpreted as either a soil layer or possibly as the fill of an undefined feature and it contained six sherds of mid 12th-14th century pottery.

Layer 0037

An unusual deposit of mid brownish-red clayey-silt, with moderate levels of charcoal and occasional chalk flecks was recorded as layer 0037. It was up to 0.12m deep and became thicker and more distinct towards the eastern side of the sondage. It was interpreted as a burnt surface or as a deposit of burnt refuse, rather than an oven or kiln, because it appeared to consist of loose material. However, it could possibly have been a rather disturbed oven similar to those seen on Prentice Street (Gill, pers. comm.).

Layers 0036 and 0003/0035

Layer 0036 was pale-mid yellowish-brown silty-clay, which was up to 0.08m deep and overlaid layer 0037. It contained a moderate level of chalk flecks and occasional flints, but produced no finds.

The uppermost layer in the Section 9 sequence was recorded as 0035 and is the same as layer 0003, and probably also layer 0006 in Section 2. It was recorded as mid brownish-grey silty-clay, with frequent tiles, moderate levels of charcoal flecks and small to medium flints, and occasional chalk flecks and oyster shell. The layer was 0.26m deep and was cut by pit 0034 and wall construction cut 0043. Two late 13th-early 14th century pot sherds were found, as were six fragments of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile. Layer 0006, which is probably the same as layer 0003/0035 is likely to be 16th century.

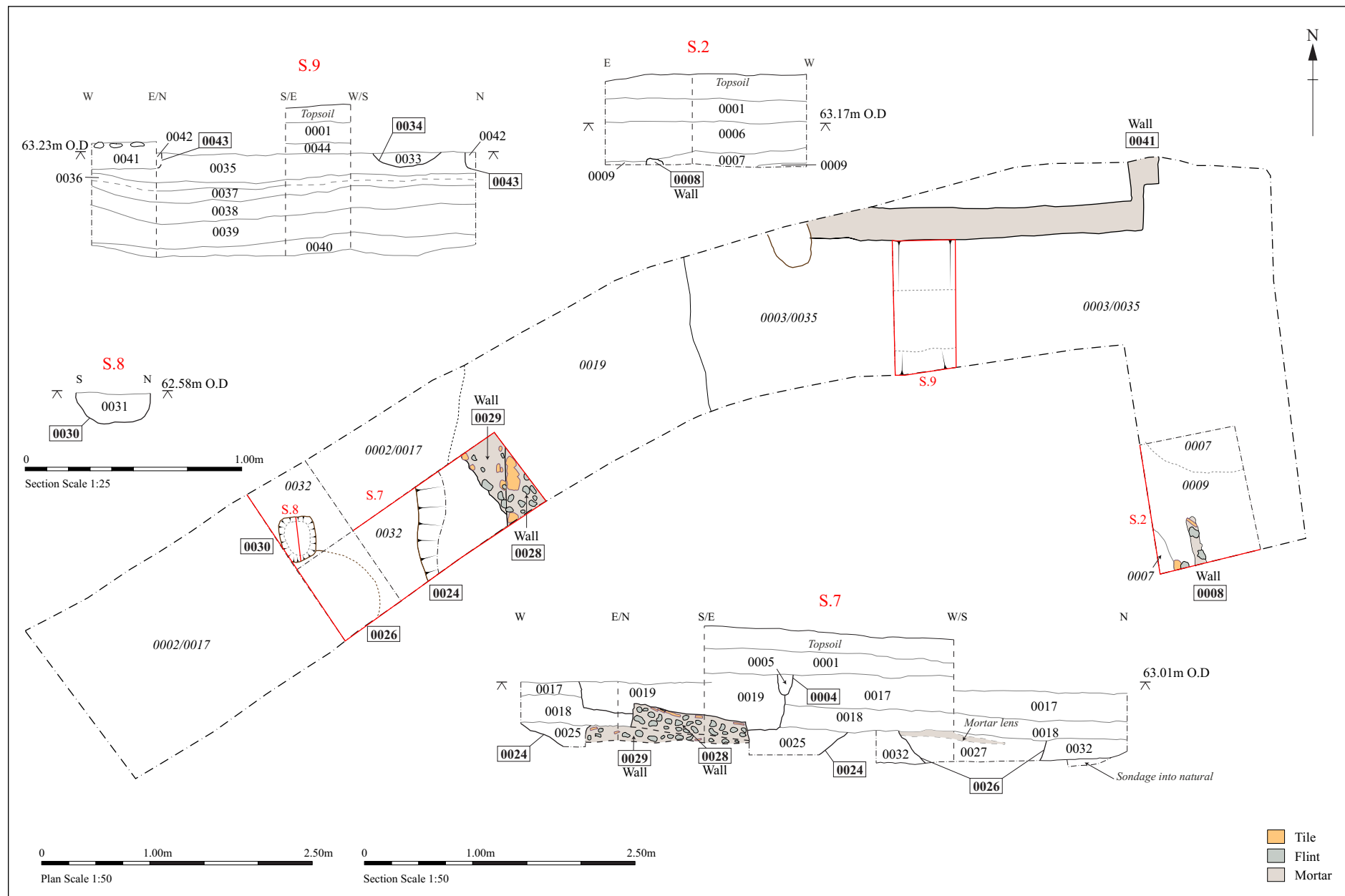


Figure 3. Trench 1, earlier features plan and sections



Plate 1. Walls 0028 and 0029, facing north-east, 0.3m scale



Plate 2. Example of a sub-square post hole – cut 0023, facing south, 0.3m scale

5.3 Trench 1 – later features (post 16th-19th century)

The following descriptions include the features and the wall that cut layers 0002/0017 and 0003/0006/0035, and deposit 0019, but which were sealed by layer 0001 (Fig. 4).

Sub-square cuts

Postholes 0011, 0015 and 0023

Posthole 0011 was sub-square cut in plan, measuring 0.32m x 0.3m x 0.16m deep. It had near vertical sides, with a sharp break of slope to a flat/slightly concave base and was filled with 0010, a pale yellowish-brown silty-clay with moderate levels of small chalk nodules and flecks and patches of grey-brown silty-clay that produced no finds.

Posthole 0015 cut layer 0002/0017 and appeared to be sub-square in plan, measuring 0.62m x >0.32m x 0.48m deep, with a 'U' shaped profile. It contained three distinct fills, including post-pipe fill 0014, which was mid brownish-grey silty-clay, with frequent CBM and flints, and occasional chalk flecks. Five retrieved CBM fragments from the fill had a late medieval-19th century date range. Fill 0012 was interpreted as post-packing of mid-pale yellowish-brown compacted silty-clay with no finds, whilst fill 0013 was a dark brownish-grey silty-clay of a similar function.

In plan posthole 0023 was sub-square cut in plan, with steep sides and a flat base in section (Pl. 2). It measured 0.44m x 0.4m x 0.2m deep and contained a single fill of mid yellowish-brown silty-clay, 0022, which contained frequent chalk flecks, and eight fragments of late medieval/post-medieval CBM.

Pit 0034

Pit 0034 was sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, measuring 0.8m x 0.64m x 0.14m deep. It had a dished profile with 45° concave sides and a concave base. Its single fill, 0033, produced no finds and was recorded as mid brownish-orange silty-clay with moderate levels of chalk flecks and occasional small flints.

Other features

Posthole 0021

Although not fully visible, posthole 0021 had a curving/oval shape in plan, measuring 0.38m x >0.28m x 0.16m deep and cut layer 0002/0017. In profile it had 60° concave sides and was filled with 0020, which was dark brownish-grey silty-clay containing one sherd of late 18th-20th century pottery and one tobacco pipe stem fragment.

Postholes 0004 and 0046, and pit 0050

An irregular oval posthole cut the upper horizon of deposit 0019 and was recorded as 0004. It had straight/slightly concave sides and a flat base, and measured >0.65m x 0.47m x 0.17m deep. Initially thought to be a pit, it was later interpreted as a posthole due to the similarity of the fill, 0005, to those of other postholes. The single fill was pale greyish-yellow clay, with frequent chalk flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and one ashy lens, which contained three late medieval/post-medieval CBM fragments.

A further posthole and a pit were also cut into deposit 0019. Pit 0050 was truncated by posthole 0046, and was possibly circular in plan, with concave sides and base (Pl. 3). Its single fill, 0049, was mid brownish-orange silty-clay, with occasional small-medium flints and charcoal flecks, moderate levels of chalk flecks and one late medieval/post-medieval CBM fragment. The cut measured 0.76m x >0.46m x 0.24m deep.

Posthole 0046 was an irregular circular shape in plan, with straight/slightly concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.58m x 0.55m x 0.2m deep. It was filled with pale yellowish-brown clay 0045, with some patches of greyish-brown silty-clay, occasional charcoal flecks and flints, and frequent chalk flecks. One late 15th-16th century pot sherd was recovered, with two late medieval/post-medieval CBM fragments.

Posthole 0047

A shallow posthole or small pit cutting into layer 0003/0035 was recorded as 0047, with a single fill 0048. It was oval in plan, with 20-40° irregularly sloping sides and a concave base. The fill was dark brownish-grey sandy-clay, with frequent chalk flecks, occasional CBM and charcoal flecks, and rare flints. It produced one medieval CBM fragment and one late 12th-14th century pot sherd.

Wall 0041 and construction cut 0043

An east-west aligned wall with a 90° return that ran north at its eastern end, was positioned with construction cut 0043 (Pl. 4). The wall was >3.2m long x 0.28m wide and survived to a depth of 0.27m, having been partially demolished. It was constructed from soft yellow sandy mortar, similar to walls 0008, 0028 and 0029, as well as flints and sporadic courses of late medieval/post-medieval tiles.

A thin construction cut had been dug in order to build wall 0041. On the southern side of the wall it was up to 0.08m wide x 0.18m and had steep sides. It was filled with grey compacted clay 0042 that was presumably packed into the cut.



Plate 3. Posthole 0046 (right) cutting pit 0050, facing south-east, 1m scale



Plate 4. Wall 0041, facing north, 1m scale

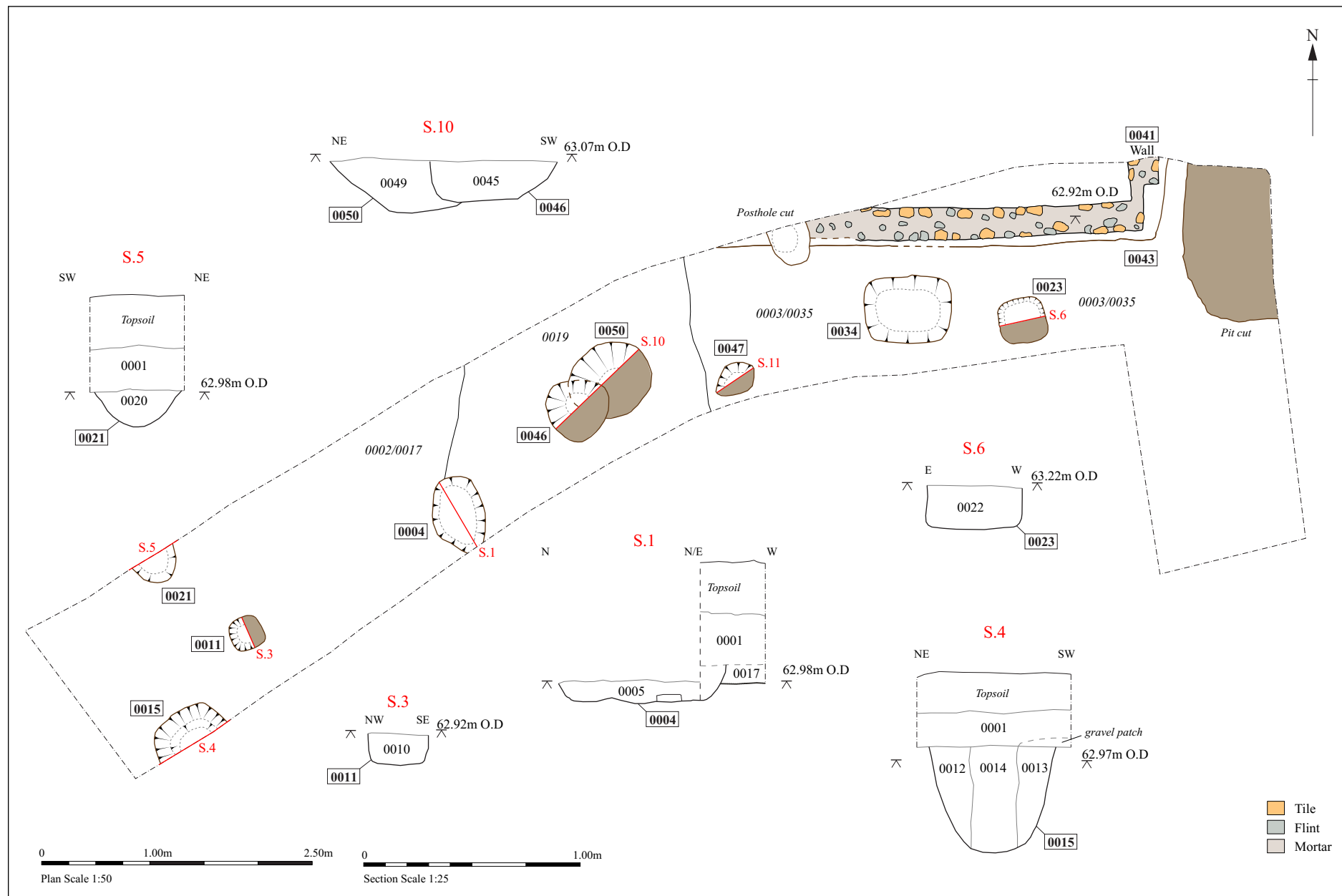


Figure 4. Trench 1, later features plan and sections

Unexcavated features

Pit cut

At the eastern end of the trench was the edge of what was interpreted as a large pit, cut into the top of layer 0003/0035. This measured >1.8m long x > 0.84m wide, had curving sides and appeared to have at least two fills.

Posthole cut

Cutting the western end of wall 0041 was a possibly oval posthole. This measured >0.36m long x 0.36m wide and seemed to contain an outer packing of clay and an inner post pipe fill.

5.4 Trench 2

Layers 0051-0054 (Fig. 5 and Pl. 5)

The basal layer in Trench 2, 0054, was not excavated, but was recorded as mid orangish-grey silty-clay with common small stones and chalk flecks, and frequent charcoal flecks. This was interpreted as an archaeological horizon rather than a natural deposit.

Overlying 0054 was layer 0053, which was 0.2m deep and made up of mid grey silty-clay, with common chalk and charcoal flecks and small stones. This deposit was similar to layers 0002/0017 and 0003/0035 and was partially truncated by the footings of the building to be demolished by a maximum of 0.08m-0.1m.

Layer 0052 was underneath 0051 and is interpreted as being the same as layer 0001. It was a dark grey firm silty-clay, with common CBM fragments, chalk flecks, small stones and charcoal flecks. The context produced two 16th-20th century pot sherds.

Above layer 0052 was a concreted orange sandy mortar later post-medieval/modern yard surface with frequent stones recorded as 0051. This had a thin covering of turf/topsoil over it and produced two fragments of 18th-19th century pottery and one piece of post-medieval roof tile.



Plate 5. Section 12, facing west, 0.3m and 1m scale

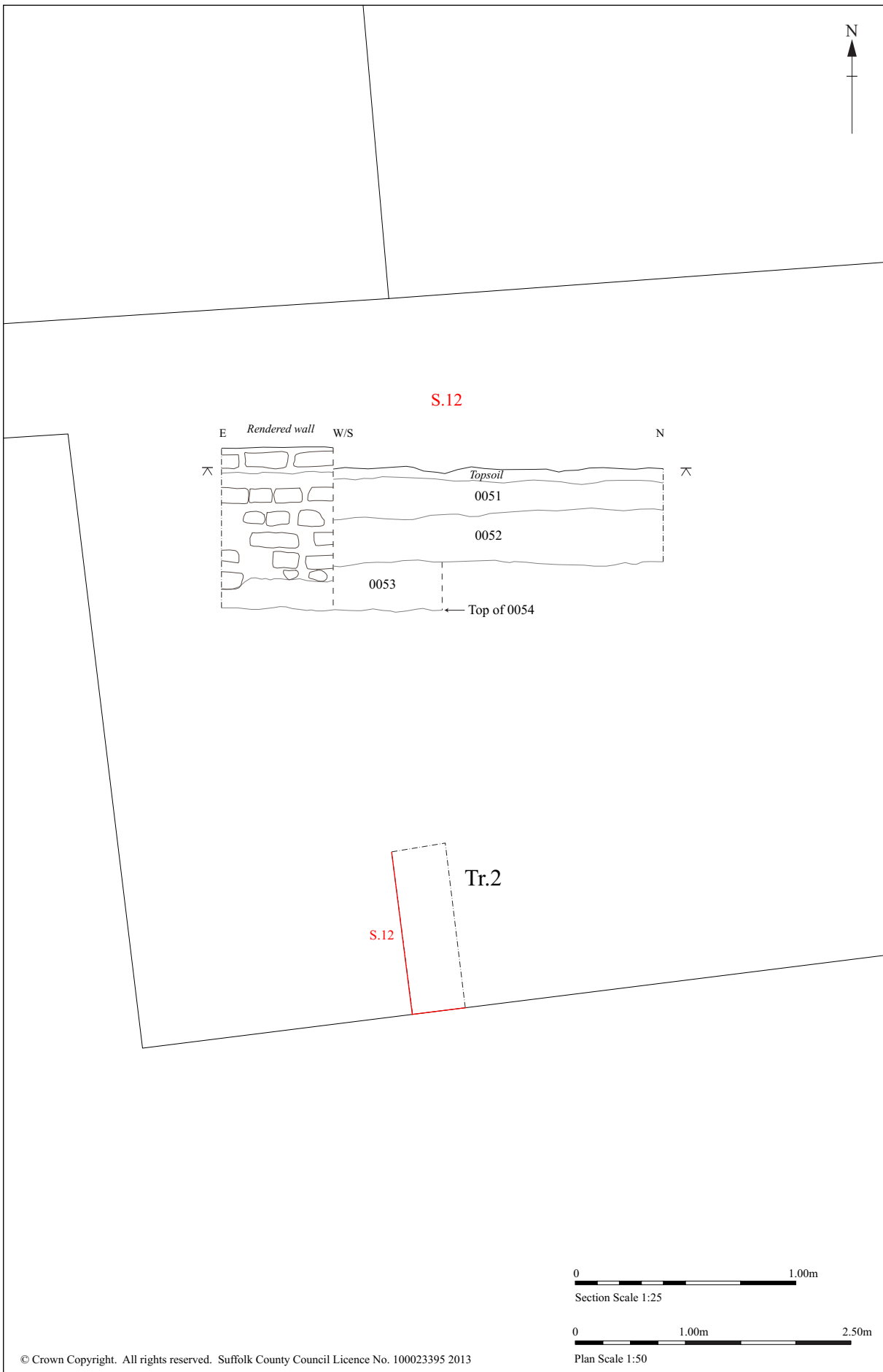


Figure 5. Trench 2, plan and section

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

Table 2 shows the quantities of finds collected in each context from the archaeological evaluation. Finds were recorded in twenty-five contexts which includes thirteen layers (0001, 0002, 0003, 0006, 0007, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0035, 0038, 0039, 0051 and 0052), two walls (0028 and 0041), four pits (0005, 0025, 0027 and 0049), five post-holes (0020, 0022, 0031, 0045 and 0048) and one post-pipe fill (0014). A full contextual breakdown of the finds can be seen in Appendix 5. A single small find (SF1001) was recorded and this has been reported on separately.

Find type	No	Wgt/g
Pottery	64	1080
CBM	75	10704
Fired clay	2	48
Clay tobacco pipe	1	1
Iron nails	3	53
Animal bone	7	83
Shell	3	24
Totals	155	11993

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2 The pottery

With Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Sixty-four sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recorded. These were predominantly noted in contexts (0001, 0002, 0003, 0006, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0035, 0038, 0039, 0025, 0027, 0051 and 0052) with further small numbers of sherds recorded in three postholes (0020, 0045 and 0048) and two pit fills (0025 and 0027). The condition of the pottery may be described as suffering only from slight abrasion.

Methodology

All of the pottery was examined at x20 vision and allocated to fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS). The

pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and EVE and a full contextual breakdown of this information can be seen in Appendix 6.

Medieval/late medieval

The medieval pottery assemblage has chiefly been recorded within the various layers identified across the site (most of which contain post-medieval finds too). However the two pit fills 0025 and 0027, as well as posthole 0048 are dated this period.

The majority of the medieval assemblage is dated from the late 12th to 14th century, with smaller amounts that are late medieval/transitional and dated from the 15th to late 16th century.

A number of glazed wares were present, recorded in layers 0003 and 0039 as well pit fills 0025 and 0027. These include five sherds of Mill Green ware (MGW) and six fragments of a highly decorated jug made in a red micaceous fabric which has provisionally been identified as an Essex redware (ESSX). It has a clear glaze and applied white slip in dots and lines. In addition the base of a Scarborough-type ware jug was identified. The remainder of this assemblage is made up coarsewares (MCW) mainly in reduced fabrics which contain ill sorted quartz. Within these are two examples of cooking pots, one displaying a neckless rim (typical of the Essex area and dated from late 13th to 14th century) and the other a beaded/rolled over rim similar to Cotter's C1 style (2000, 50).

Of particular interest within the later medieval/transitional group are three types of German stoneware (GSW 1, 2 and 3) from Siegburg, Langerwehe and Raeran/Aachen. These were all recorded in layer 0017. Most of the Raeran/Aachen sherds form part of a drinking jug, which is dated from the 15th to the mid 16th century (Hurst, 1986, fig. 94, no.3 op). The drinking jug rim fragment from Siegburg displays an unusual green glaze and is dated from the early 14th to 15th century.

The remainder of wares dated to this period are a small quantity of coarsewares (LMT) which are both reduced and oxidised.

Post-medieval

This assemblage is dominated by Glazed red earthenwares (GRE) which are dated from the 16th to 18th century. Thereafter a small number of Refined white earthenwares (REFW) and a single late slipped redware are present (LSRW).

6.3 Ceramic building materials (CBM)

The ceramic building material (CBM) assemblage has principally been recovered from a series of layers and a small number of posthole and pit fills. A full contextual breakdown of the CBM can be seen in Appendix 7. The assemblage contains both medieval and post-medieval material; however, a large percentage of the CBM, due to the type of fully oxidised fabric it occurs in, can only be broadly dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period. The condition of the CBM assemblage is between abraded and slightly abraded although the majority only suffers from slight abrasion.

Medieval

The medieval CBM assemblage is entirely made up of roof tile fragments of which only thirteen are clearly dated to this period. These were recorded in two layers (0006 and 0007), two pit fills (0025 and 0027) and two posthole fills (0031 and 0048). Only within the two posthole fills are the fragments unaccompanied by post-medieval material, however in both of these cases only single pieces are present. The roof tile fragments are virtually all medium sandy (ms), the exception being one fragment in layer 0007 which also contains calcite (msc), and another in pit fill 0025 that contains grog (msg). All of the fragments have grey cores with a variety of oxidised/brown surfaces and sometimes with organic voids on one surface. A single glazed example was recorded in pit fill 0025.

Post-medieval

This period accounts for the largest group of CBM (84% by fragment number) and, as already stated, some of these are possibly dated from the late medieval period onwards. The assemblage is chiefly made up of roof tile fragments. These are fully oxidised either in a plain medium sandy fabric (ms) or with ferrous inclusions (msfe) or clay pellets (mscp). The group was predominantly recorded from within the various

layers on the site and these also contain pottery and CBM that is dated to the medieval period, as well as sherds of post-medieval pottery too.

A number of roof tiles were taken as samples from a wall feature (0028 and 0048). These are mostly in the msfe fabric and are heavily mortared as a result of their inclusion within the wall. Their fabric indicates that they are more likely to be dated to the post-medieval period.

Only four late brick (LB) fragments were noted, all of which were recorded in layer features. Their fabrics are fully oxidised and mostly medium sandy with ferrous inclusions (msfe). The few measurements that could be taken (mostly depth) indicates that they are within Drury's LB1 or 2 range (1993, 165) and dated from the around the mid 16th to 17th century.

6.4 Fired clay

Two fragments of fired clay were recorded in pit fill 0027. The fragments are oxidised with two buff flat/irregular surfaces and in a medium sandy fabric with chalk (msch). Neither of the pieces exhibit diagnostic features and as a result it is not possible to ascertain if the fragments are the remnants of an oven, hearth or walling. Pottery and CBM dated to the post-medieval period are also present within this context.

6.5 Clay tobacco pipe

A small fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was noted in posthole fill 0020. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery is also present within the fill.

6.6 Iron nails

Iron nail fragments were recorded in two contexts; post-pipe fill 0014 and pit fill 0025. The examples in context 0014 are well preserved. The additional presence of post-medieval roof tile within the fill suggests that these nails are not of a great age. The fragment in pit fill 0025 on the other hand is heavily corroded and accompanied by both medieval pottery and CBM. The nail head is flat and sub-rounded. The surviving top

part of the shaft has fragments of both mortar and CBM attached to it suggesting that it had been used in walling or roofing.

6.7 Small finds

1. A snapped fragment of an iron lever/latch. It is flat, rectangular shaped and rounded at one end. The object retains the larger part of its original metal and few corrosion products are present suggesting that it probably dates from the later post-medieval period onwards. The fragment was recorded in layer 0018 which also contains other finds dated to the post-medieval period. SF1001 (0018).

6.8 Faunal remains

Animal bone was recorded in two layers (0002 and 0018), one pit (0025) and one post-hole fill (0022). The assemblage is very fragmented and none of the pieces are identifiable to species other than being from large mammals. Only pit fill 0025 is dated to the medieval period, the remaining contexts contained mixed medieval and post-medieval finds.

6.9 Shell

Single small and worn oyster shell halves were recorded in layers 0017 and 0019 as well as in pit fill 00025. Of these, pit fill 0025 contained medieval pottery and CBM, whereas the two layers contained both medieval and post-medieval finds.

6.10 Discussion of material evidence

The finds assemblage is predominantly made up of pottery and CBM which has primarily been recovered from a series of layers which contain both medieval and post-medieval finds. Only the pit fills 0025 and 0027 contained solely medieval pottery and CBM.

The number of glazed wares by comparison to coarsewares in the medieval assemblage is quite high and this may be indicative of a higher status artefactual assemblage.

7. Discussion

Despite the small size of the evaluation, it has revealed a dense accumulation of features, layers and finds dating from the medieval to the post-medieval period, highlighting Lavenham's economic peak. Notably there are also the remains of at least four structures on the site that are made up of wall foundations and postholes. The uppermost archaeological levels were recorded at 0.2m and 0.44m below the existing ground levels with the excavated sondages demonstrating that the various deposits are in places >0.86m deep. The contexts are well preserved and sealed beneath later post-medieval layer 0001/0052 that was present in both of the trenches.

The earliest contexts within the sequence, consisting of pits, layers and a posthole, appear to indicate the intensive occupation of the site starting in the 13th-14th century. This would be typical for the backyards of house plots fronting the street, but is something that has rarely been investigated within Lavenham. The pits were probably being used for a mixture of cess and refuse, whilst the layers show further build-up of domestic waste and episodes of demolition. Posthole 0030 is also obviously from some type of structure, although it is currently unclear what this was. From this phase onwards the usage of the site seems to become quite intensive into the early post-medieval period, corresponding with Lavenham's major period of growth.

The next phase of activity consists of the walls and possible surface found within Sections 2 and 7, which are quite closely aligned and may well be the remains of a fairly substantial later medieval/post-medieval building, which is not present on any of the available cartographic sources and may date from around the 14th century, being demolished in the 16th century. Layers relating to demolition and occupation of the buildings have built up across the site, with the presence of possible oven/kiln debris or a burnt surface recorded in the sequence in Section 9, potentially indicating either another phase of domestic or industrial activity.

It appears that the layers and associated finds partially indicate domestic activity, but the documentary evidence shows that local cottage industry was very common within the town. The various phases of later posthole structures, as well as wall 0041 may therefore corroborate this, demonstrating the presence of backyard buildings and/or the

possibility of textile tenter frames. This would obviously merit further investigation, being a fundamental element of Lavenham's rise to prominence and wealth.

The excavation of Trench 2 confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits similar to those seen in Trench 1, with layers 0053 and 0054 representing demolition and occupation soil layers. Although no walls or cut features were found, this was probably indicative of the small area of the trench rather than the absence of such contexts.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Evaluation of land to the rear of The Swan Hotel has clearly demonstrated the presence of a complex and rarely explored example of a medieval town's domestic occupation and economic development. It provides an unusual opportunity to investigate this period of Lavenham's past, making it an important site on both regional and national levels. The site is highly likely to provide information on town layouts and densities, the changes in plot/backyard layouts and uses over time, industrial and commercial land use, and the role of towns as centres of supply and demand. These are some of the key themes identified in the East Anglian research framework (Medlycott, 2011). The site has an extremely well preserved stratigraphic sequence, with high potential to produce a well-dated sequence.

Whilst preservation of the archaeological features *in situ* is not merited, further fieldwork will be necessary to record the site's surviving evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation, which are well preserved, even underlying the existing building on the site. The cut features, layers and walls will be totally destroyed within the footprint of the spa development and are also likely to be substantially damaged by some of the landscaping of the site. Further fieldwork will therefore be required in order to preserve these deposits by record, which are likely to survive as deep stratigraphic sequences across the site. Ultimately the nature and scale of this work will be decided upon by SCCAS Conservation Team, dependent on the specifications of the building and landscaping works.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Lavenham\LVM 080 The Swan Hotel

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HSX 18-50

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: H/87/2

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks and John Sims and directed by Rob Brooks. Project management was undertaken by David Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett with additional specialist advice provided by Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

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Brief for Desk-Based and Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

SWAN HOTEL, HIGH STREET, LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Babergh District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	B/11/00738/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 915 492
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of extensions to create spa, with associated landscaping.
AREA:	c530 sq m.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Courtyard garden
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Assistant Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	07 December 2012

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition **) relating to archaeological investigation:

'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'
- 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 Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (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. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the

discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 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 The above proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance for medieval Lavenham defined in the County Historic Environment Record (LVM 053). It spans three plots behind C15th/C16th buildings (LB 276735 and 276736). Historic maps show relatively little change in the layouts of the buildings since 1886, and there is good potential for early remains relating to medieval occupation and activity to survive. Backyard activity could be particularly important to understanding how the economy of this medieval wool town worked. Construction and landscaping will involve significant ground disturbance. Evaluation is required to inform assessments of the level of impact of development and to enable strategies to be designed to record archaeological evidence prior to any disturbance (either through set-piece excavation prior to development, or monitoring as groundworks proceed, or a combination of both). It is anticipated the evaluation will be carried out prior to any demolition on the site

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 To inform field investigation, desk-based assessment is required, involving:
 - Consultation of the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
 - Examination of all readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those in the County Records Office) to record evidence for historic or archaeological sites and history of previous landuses. Where permitted, photographs, photocopies or traced copies should be presented in the report.
 - Assessment of the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site
 - Walkover and photography of the site to determine any constraints to archaeological survival, as well as to provide a rapid record of existing structures to put evaluation results into context.

- 4.2 Evaluation should proceed sequentially, with desk-based work informing trench design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 4.3 A trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Trial trenches at least 1.2m wide and to a total length of 20m are to be excavated to characterise archaeological deposits in all areas to be affected by groundworks, including the outdoor pools and landscaping (three x 5m long and one x10m long are suggested). Alternatively, schemes involving test pits (at least six at 2m x 2m) or a combination of test pits and trenches (to an equivalent area) may be put forward. Contingency should be made for excavation of deeper deposits.
- 4.7 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

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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*.
- 6.10 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) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (revised 2008) 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.

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate	
0008	0008		Wall	Flint and tile wall recorded in slot at east end of trench. Tiles are red and all are broken. Only one flint visible (100mm x 70mm). Bonded with soft, yellow sandy mortar. Wall is aligned approximately N-S and extends out from under the southern baulk of the trench c.0.4m and is c.0.12m wide. Possibly traces of the wall also survive to the west, but this is unclear. Bottom course of wall. Probably under layer 0007. 1 tile collected.	>0.4	0.12						0007	No	No				
0009	0009		Layer	Mid slightly orangish-brown silty-sandy-clay of a firm compaction. Contains frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small chalk flecks. Only the top of the layer exposed/not properly excavated. Unexcavated layer?								0007	No	No				
0010	0011		Posthole Fill	Pale yellowish-brown compacted silty-clay with moderate levels of small rounded chalk nodules and flecks and patches of mid grey-brown silty-clay. Clear horizon clarity. Single fill of feature. Fill of posthole.			0.16				0011	0001	No	No				
0011	0011		Posthole Cut	Sub-square cut in plan, with slightly rounded corners. Profile squared - near vertical sides, with sharp break of slope to a flat/slightly concave base. Cut through layer 0002 and sealed by layer 0001. Cut of posthole.	0.32	0.3	0.16					0002, 0017	0010	No	No			
0012	0015		Posthole Fill	Mid-pale yellowish-brown compacted silty-clay, with moderate levels of chalk flecks and occasional small rounded and angular flints. Clear horizon clarity. Post packing in posthole.			0.46				0015	0014	No	No				
0013	0015		Posthole Fill	Dark brownish-grey silty-clay of a firm compaction. Contains rare very small flints and no other inclusions. Clear horizon clarity. Post-packing? Unusual material to use.			0.46				0015	0014	No	No				
0014	0015		Post pipe Fill	Mid brownish-grey compacted silty-clay, with frequent CBM and medium-large angular and rounded flints, and occasional chalk flecks. Runs vertically down the centre of posthole 0015. Post-pipe within posthole. The large stones may represent packing of the post?			0.48				0012, 0013	0001	Yes	No				
0015	0015		Posthole Cut	Shape in plan unclear as the cut runs under the southern baulk of the trench, but it appears to be a sub-square shape. 'U' shaped profile, with steep c.80° concave sides and a slightly concave base. Sealed by 0001 and cut through 0002/0017. Cut of posthole.	0.62	>0.32	0.48					0002, 0017	0012, 0013	No	No			
0016	0041		Wall	Wall which is later recorded as 0041. However, it was photographed as 0016. Wall - see 0041.									No	No				
0017	0017		Demolition Layer	Same as layer 0002. Pale/mid grey silty-clay of a firm compaction. Lenses of dense tile, common medium rounded flints and chalk nodules. Orange sand lens towards base. Diffuse horizon clarity. Post-medieval demolition layer. Same as 0002.			Up to				0018	0011, 0015, 0019, 0021	Yes	No				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate	
0018	0018		Layer	Dark grey sandy-clay of a friable to firm compaction, with common CBM fragments and occasional mortar and chalk nodules. Diffuse horizon clarity. Demolition and buried topsoil layer mixture.			0.2	SF1001			0025, 0027, 0031	0002, 0017	Yes	No				
0019	0019		Surface? Layer	Pale-mid yellowish-grey silty-clay, of a firm compaction, with common small chalk nodules, occasional mortar flecks and small stones, and rare charcoal flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Extent in plan is not very clear. Pit fill?? Or an unconvincing clay surface? Possibly a dump of old cob construction clay?			0.52				0002, 0017, 0028	0004, 0047, 0050	Yes	No				
0020	0021		Posthole Fill	Dark brownish-grey compacted silty-clay, with occasional chalk flecks and small sub-angular flints. Clear horizon clarity. Single fill of feature. Contained one piece of china and 2 tobacco pipe stem fragment Fill of relatively recent post-medieval posthole.			0.16				0021	0001	Yes	No				
0021	0021		Posthole Cut	Semi-circular cut in plan - runs under the northern limit of excavation. 60° concave sides and a curving break of slope to the base. Sealed by layer 0001 and cut through 0002/0017. Cut of posthole.	0.38	>0.28	0.16					0002, 0017	0020	No	No			
0022	0023		Posthole Fill	Mid yellowish-brown compacted silty-clay, with frequent chalk flecks, and occasional small broken tiles. Clear horizon clarity. Single fill of feature. Fill of posthole.			0.2				0023	0001	Yes	No				
0023	0023		Posthole Cut	Sub-square cut in plan with rounded corners. Squared profile - steep, near vertical sides, with rapidly curving break of slope to the flat base. Cuts through layer 0003/0035 probably. Cut of posthole.	0.44	0.4	0.2					0003, 0035	0022	No	No			
0024	0024		Pit? Cut	Only partially visible in plan - slightly curved west edge. Edge slopes at 35-40° and is irregular. Base not uncovered. Large pit?	>0.9	>0.8	>0.26				0032	0025	No	No				
0025	0024		Pit? Fill	Dark grey clayey-silt of a firm compaction, with occasional charcoal, mortar and chalk flecks. One dense layer of tiles at base of fill. Not fully excavated. Pit fill. Consists of demolition material.			>0.26				0024	0018, 0029	Yes	No				
0026	0026		Pit Cut	Cut only partially visible in plan and section - semi-circular shape. 45-75° slightly concave sides - not fully excavated to base. Cuts 0032 and is under layer 0017. Pit cut.	>0.86	>0.5	>0.3				0032	0027	No	No				
0027	0026		Pit Fill	Mid brownish-grey clayey-silt of a friable compaction. One mortar lens at the top of the fill. A charcoal lens is present roughly around the outside of the feature - lining it? Common chalk flecks and small-medium flints present. Pit fill - domestic refuse and demolition waste.			>0.3				0026	0018, 0030	Yes	No				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0028	0028		Wall	NNE-SSW aligned wall constructed of soft yellow sandy mortar and flint nodules, and also occasional courses of tiles. On top of possible wall 0029, under clay deposit 0019. Wall - similar construction style and materials to 0008, 0029 and 0041.	>0.7	0.3	0.18				0029	0019	Yes	No			
0029	0029		Wall	N-S aligned possible wall remnants/base. Loosely constructed of yellow sandy mortar, frequent flint nodules and occasional tile fragments. Cuts pit 0024, under wall 0028. Possibly the remnants of a wall, but may have just been a splayed base of wall 0028.	>0.8		0.16?				0025	0028	No	No			
0030	0030		Posthole Cut	Sub-square cut in plan, with 75° slightly concave sides, with a curving break of slope to the slightly concave base. Cuts pit 0026 and is under layer 0018. Posthole cut. Similar to those that cut the upper layers 0002/0017 and 0003/0035, but this cut is sealed under earlier layers.	0.37	0.35	0.14				0027	0031	No	No			
0031	0030		Posthole Fill	Firm pale yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional small flints. Clear horizon clarity with 0027 and 0032. The only find was a piece of tile found at the very top of the fill - this may have been from layer 0018 above, but probably not. Posthole fill.			0.14				0030	0018	Yes	No			
0032	0032		Subsoil Layer	Orangish-brown sandy-silt of a friable-firm compaction. Diffuse horizon clarity with the natural superficial geology. Contained common charcoal flecks. Slightly root disturbed or fluvial layer mixed with low levels of occupation material. Same as 0040?			0.31					0024, 0026	No	No			
0033	0034		Pit Fill	Mid brownish-orange compacted slightly silty-clay. Contains moderate levels of chalk flecks and occasional small angular flints. Single feature fill. Clear horizon clarity. Fill of pit/possible post-pad.			0.14				0034	0044	No	No			
0034	0034		Pit Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners. Dished profile with 45° concave sides and gradually curving break of slope to the concave base. Cut through layer 0003/0035. Aligned approximately E-W. Filled with 0033. Cut of pit or post-pad.	0.8	0.64	0.14				0003, 0035	0033	No	No			
0035	0035		Layer	Same as 0003. Mid brownish-grey compacted silty-clay, with frequent CBM (tiles), moderate levels of charcoal flecks and small to medium rounded and angular flints, and occasional chalk flecks and oyster shell. Clear horizon clarity. Cut by pit 0034 and wall construction cut 0043. Demolition/occupation layer. Probably the same as 0003.			0.26				0036	0023, 0034, 0043	Yes	No			
0036	0036		Layer	Pale-mid yellowish-brown compacted silty-clay. Contains moderate levels of chalk flecks. Occasional rounded and angular flints. Possible floor surface or dump or material. Related to layer 0037 - possibly part of the same event - repairs of a burnt floor.			0.08				0037	0003, 0035	No	No			

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0037	0037		Burnt Layer	Mid brownish-red compacted clayey-silt, with moderate levels of charcoal and occasional chalk flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Layer becomes thicker and more distinct towards the eastern side of the sondage. Possible burnt floor?? Or burnt deposit? Didn't appear to have the structure of an oven. Seals medieval layers.			0.12				0038	0036	No	No			
0038	0038		Layer	Mid greyish-brown firm silty-sandy-clay, with moderate levels of charcoal flecks, and occasional small-moderate angular and rounded flints. Diffuse horizon clarity. Possibly feature fill, or a layer. Contains medieval pottery.			0.2				0039	0037	Yes	No			
0039	0039		Layer	Dark orangish-greyish-brown firm silty-sandy-clay, with moderate levels of charcoal flecks, occasional clay patches, chalk flecks and small-medium angular and rounded flints. Clear horizon clarity. Medieval soil layer.			0.3				0040	0038	Yes	No			
0040	0040		Layer	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay, with occasional small angular and rounded flints. Clear horizon clarity. Mixed natural and a soil layer or a feature fill. Possibly a disturbed subsoil layer, the same as 0032.			0.18					0039	No	No			
0041	0041		Wall	Wall made up of flint nodules, rough tile courses and occasional chalk fragments, bonded with a yellow, soft, sandy mortar. Tiles are all broken and the flints are rounded and measure up to 120mm x 70mm x 50mm approximately. Wall is aligned E-W, with a return at the eastern end, running N. Sat within construction cut 0043. Photographed under 0016 initially. Wall of a similar construction technique and materials to 0008, 0028 and 0029.	>3.2	0.28	0.27				0043	0042	Yes	No			
0042	0043		Construction Fill	Dark greyish-brown compacted silty-clay, with moderate levels of chalk flecks and frequent yellowish-brown clay. Diffuse horizon clarity. Fill of construction cut for wall 0041.			0.16				0041	0001	No	No			
0043	0043		Construction Cut	Construction cut for wall 0041 - seen in section 9. Runs along the length of the wall - no full profile seen. Cuts layer 0003/0035. Filled by 0042 and 0041. Construction cut for wall 0041.			0.16				0003, 0035	0041	No	No			
0044	0044		Layer	Mid-dark greyish-brown compact silty-clay, with moderate levels of small angular and rounded flints, and occasional CBM. Clear horizon clarity. Layer under 0001. Possibly over 0033.			0.1				0033	0001	No	No			
0045	0046		Posthole Fill	Pale yellowish-brown compacted clay, with some patches of mid greyish-brown silty-clay, occasional charcoal flecks, CBM and angular and rounded flints, moderate levels of rounded chalk nodules, and frequent chalk flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Fill of posthole.			0.2				0046	0001	Yes	No			
0046	0046		Posthole Cut	Sub-square/rectangular in plan with rounded corners. Slightly squared profile - with a sharp break of slope and straight to slightly concave 60-90° sides and a flat base. Filled with 0045, cut through 0019. Cuts 0050. Cut of posthole.	0.58	0.55	0.2				0049	0045	No	No			

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0047	0047		Posthole Cut	Oval in plan, aligned NE-SW. 20-40° irregularly sloping sides, with an imperceptible break of slope to the concave base. Shallow post-medieval posthole.	0.35	0.25	0.08				0019	0048	No	No			
0048	0047		Posthole Fill	Dark brownish-grey firm sandy-clay, with frequent chalk flecks, occasional CBM and charcoal flecks, and rare small-medium flints. Clear horizon clarity. Posthole fill.			0.08				0047	0001	Yes	No			
0049	0050		Pit Fill	Mid brownish-orange compacted silty-clay, with occasional small-medium angular and rounded flints and charcoal flecks, and moderate levels of chalk flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Fill of pit.			0.24				0050	0046	Yes	No			
0050	0050		Pit Cut	Possibly circular cut in plan - cut by pit 0046. Profile unclear due to cut of 0046, but has a sharp break of slope, and concave sides and base. Cuts layer 0019. Cut of pit.	0.76	>0.46	0.24				0019	0049	No	No			
0051	0051		Yard Layer	Orange mortar/concrete with frequent flints and CBM fragments (brick and tile). Concreted, with clear horizon clarity. Post-medieval yard/garden surface. Quite recent.			0.17				0052		No	No			
0052	0052		Layer	Dark grey firm silty-clay, with common CBM fragments, chalk flecks, small stones and charcoal flecks. Clear horizon clarity. Topsoil/demolition mix layer. Later post-medieval - same as 0001?			0.26				0053	0051	Yes	No			
0053	0053		Layer	Mid grey silty-clay of a firm compaction, with common chalk and charcoal flecks and small stones. Diffuse horizon clarity. Demolition/occupation layer similar to those on the southern side of the building to be demolished? Or a buried topsoil/occupation layer?			0.2				0054	0052	Yes	No			
0054	0054		Layer	Mid orangish-grey silty-clay. Not excavated - revealed at bottom of sondage. Common small stones and chalk flecks, and frequent charcoal flecks. Archaeological soil layer - definitely not a natural horizon.								0053	No	No			

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-140432

Project details

Project name	LVM 080 Spa at the Swan Hotel Evaluation, Lavenham
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were dug within land associated with the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, in Suffolk. Prior to this a desk-based assessment had highlighted the site's potential for revealing archaeological deposits relating to the medieval town's development, particularly its role within the woollen cloth trade that had made it such a wealthy settlement. On site a series of medieval and early post-medieval pits and layers were recorded, producing pottery, roof tile, brick and animal bone. The layers are thought to represent both occupation and demolition episodes. Several medieval/post-medieval postholes and walls were also recorded on the site, which indicated at least four separate structures from various phases. The deposits found within the evaluation point to a complex archaeological site, well preserved beneath topsoil and a later post-medieval layer. The development has extremely high potential to produce a well stratified site sequence, with evidence for domestic, commercial and industrial activity during the height of Lavenham's economic success.
Project dates	Start: 07-02-2013 End: 13-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	LVM 080 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	LVM 080 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	B/11/00738/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2013/021 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	LAYERS Medieval
Monument type	LAYERS Post Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLES Post Medieval

Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	WALLS Medieval
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	MOLLUSCA REMAINS Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH LAVENHAM LVM 080 Swan Hotel Spa Evaluation
Postcode	CO10 9QA
Study area	530.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 91565 49200 52 0 52 06 26 N 000 47 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 62.00m Max: 62.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dr Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	David Gill
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	TA Hotel Collection

Project archives

Physical Archive	Suffolk County SMR
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recipient	
Physical Archive ID	H/87/2
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	LVM 080
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	LVM 080
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

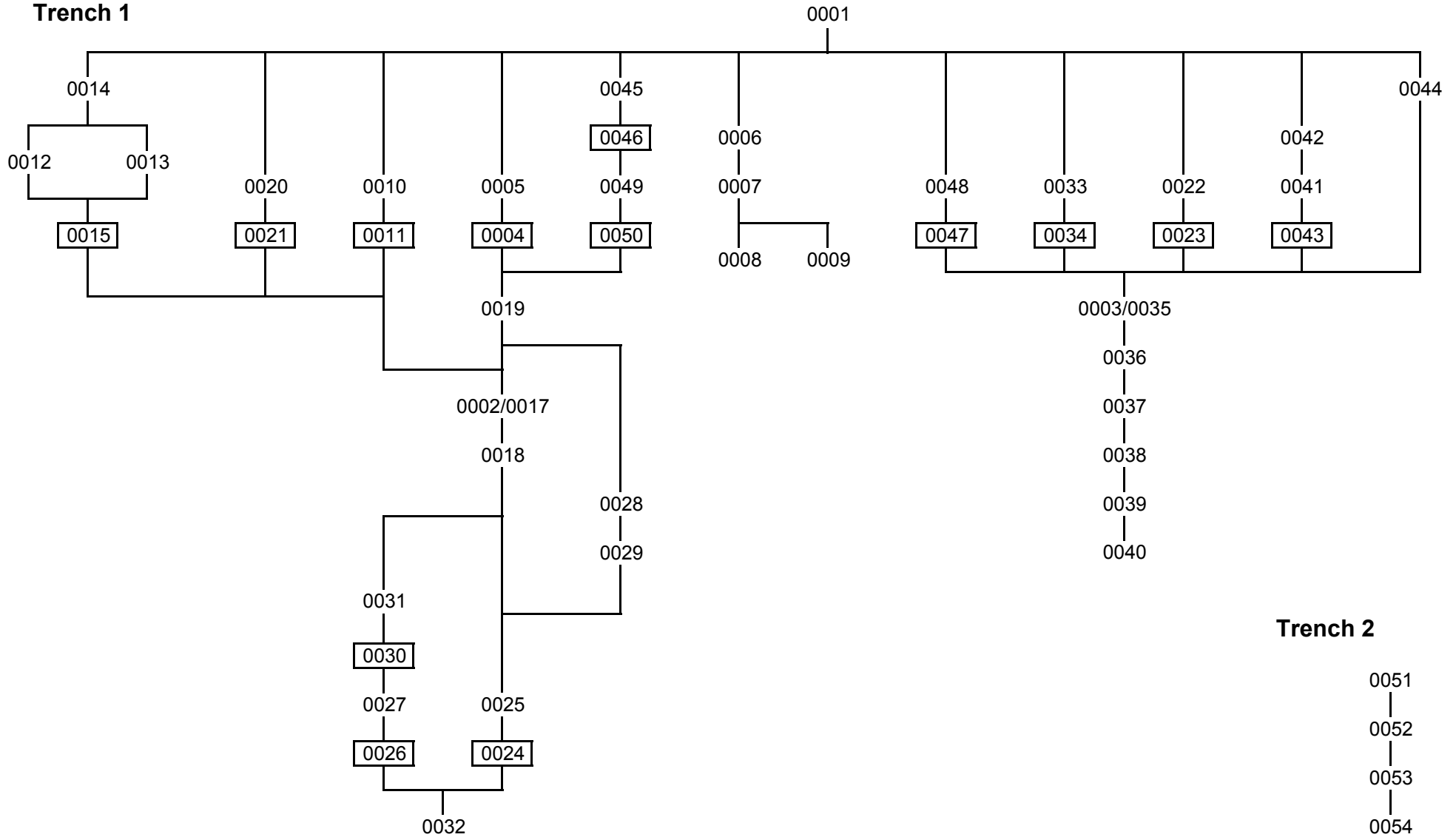
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Swan Hotel, Lavenham, LVM 080, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS Report No. 2013/021
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4, comb bound, white card covers, in colours. With 7 appendices. Also available as a pdf.
Entered by	Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	4 March 2013

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Appendix 4. Matrix

Trench 1



Appendix 6. Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0001	REFW	Lid		1	1	98	Sli	Stamped 'Singer, Vauxhall, London Registered No ... Dec 1858	1858-65	
0001	GRE	Jar	Glaze	1	0.21	340	Sli	Clear glaze below the rim	16th-18th C	
0001	LPME	Jar		1	0.06	22	Sli		18th-20th C	16th-20th C
0002	GRE	Body	Glaze	4	0	90	Sli		16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0002	GRE	Bowl		1	0.06	28	Sli	Like Jennings No 1213	16th-18th C	
0003	MGW	Body	Green glaze	2	0	4	Sli		L13th-E14th C	L13th-E14th C
0006	LMT	Body		1	0	16	Sli	Wheel thrown/finished with illsorted quartz, oxidised surface grey body	15th-L16th C	
0006	GRE	Base	Clear glaze	1	0	14	Abr	0.07. Close to LMT	16th-18th C	15th-18th C
0017	LMT	Body	Clear glaze	2	0	14	Sli		15th-L16th C	
0017	GSW 1	Drinking jug	Green glaze	1	0.13	4	Sli		E14th-15th C	
0017	GSW 3	Body		2	0	10	Sli		L14th-E16th C	
0017	GSW 3	Drinking jug		2	0.05	25	Sli	Like No 300 (Hurst et al 1986), join	L15th-E16th C	E14th-L16th C

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0017	GSW 2	Body		3	0	14	Sli	Join	L14th-15th C	
0018	MCW	Body		2	0	5	Sli	Reduced with ill sorted quartz, could be later medieval	L12th-14th C	L12th-18th C
0018	PSSW	Body	Clear glaze	1	0	3	Sli		17th-18th C	
0018	LMT	?Jar	Clear glaze	1	0.05	12	Abr		15th-L16th C	
0018	LMT	Body		3	0	15	Abr-sli	Three different fabrics	15th-L16th C	
0019	MCW	Body		2	0	12	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0020	REFW	Body		1	0	1	Sli		L18th-20th C	L18th-20th C
0025	MGW	Jug	Green glaze	3	0.07	15	Sli	Plus two body sherds	L13th-E14th C	L13th-E14th C
0025	MCW	Cooking pot		2	0.11	39	Sli	Neckless Essex style	L13th-14th C	
0027	MCW	Body		2	0	20	Sli	Reduced ill sorted quartz	L12th-14th C	13th-14th C
0027	ESSX	Body		6	0	61	Sli	All same vessel, clear glaze on white decorative slip	13th-14th C	
0038	MCW	Body		6	0	26	Sli		L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0039	MCW	Cooking pot		2	0.16	45	Sli	Loke Cotter C1	L12th-14th C	M12th-14th C

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0039	MCW	Body		3	0	22	Sli		L12th-14th C	
0039	SCAR	Base	Green glaze	1	0	33	Abr	0.22, thumbing on base rim	M12th-M14th C	
0045	LMT	Body		1	0	8	Abr	Oxidised	L15th-16th C	L15th-16th C
0048	MCW	Body		1	0	4	Abr	Reduced	L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0051	LSRW	Body		2	0	19	Sli	Oxidised thick green glaze white slip	18th-19th C	18th-19th C
0052	REFW	Plate		1	0.04	9	Abr		L18th-20th C	16th-20th C
0052	GRE	?Jug	Green glaze	1	0.05	17	Sli		16th-18th C	

Appendix 7. CBM catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0002	Msfe	RT	1	71	12		Sli		Fully oxidised	PMed
0002	Msfe	?LB	1	787	c 45		Abr		Fully oxidised, depth not complete	LMed/PMed
0005	Msg	RT	1	71	10		Sli		Fully oxidised	LMed/PMed
0005	Mscp	RT	1	49	11		Sli	On three sides	Buff/orange	LMed/PMed
0005	Msfe	LB	1	1428	c 52	105	Sli	Traces on two sides	Fully oxidised, like Drury LB1	PMed
0006	Ms	RT	2	100	10		Sli	Traces on one	Fully oxidised one with reduced surfaces	LMed/PMed
0006	Ms	RT	2	99	c 11		Sli		Oxidised with grey or partial grey cores	Med
0007	Msc	RT	1	49	11		Sli		Thick grey core with oxidised surface, some organic voids on one surface, high fired	Med

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0007	Ms	RT	4	248	c 11		Sli	Some mortar traces	Oxidised with partially reduced surfaces, high fired	LMed/PMed
0007	Msfe	RT	3	557	c 11		Sli	Some with mortar traces	Fully oxidised, one partial peg hole	LMed/PMed
0014	Mscp	RT	1	20	c 11		Sli	On two sides	Oxidised with buf surfaces	LMed/PMed
0014	Msfe	RT	1	23	11		Abr		Fully oxidised, one complete peghole and one partial	LMed/PMed
0014	Ws	FB	1	603	c 37		Abr		In the Suffolk white style	18th-19th C
0014	Ms+	FRAG	2	41			Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0017	Mscp	RT	1	66	12		Sli		Oxidised with buff surface	LMed/PMed
0017	Ms	RT	1	289	12		Sli		Fully oxidised with one complete peghole	LMed/PMed
0017	Msf	LB	1	937	c 45	110	Abr		Fully oxidised and slightly sunken, like Drury's LB2	16th-17th C

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0017	Wsg	RT	2	635	11	172	Sli		The grog looke ferrous, pieces join	PMed
0018	Msfe	RT	3	371	14		Sli	On one surface	Oxidised with pink core and buff surfaces	LMed/PMed
0018	Msfe	RT	1	49	14		Sli		Fully oxidised	LMed/PMed
0018	Msfe	RT	1	43	15		Abr		Reduced with one partial peg hole	LMed/PMed
0018	Ms	RT	1	51	11		Sli		Intermittent reduced core otherwise oxidised, high fired, two partial peg holes	LMed/PMed
0018	Msfe	LB	1	999	45	120	Sli	On four surfaces	Oxidised (orange), patchily so on surfaces	16th-17th C
0019	Ms	RT	1	104	14		Sli	On two sides	Oxidised with brown/purple core	LMed/PMed
0019	Ms	RT	2	327	c 11		Sli		Fully oxidised one with a reduced surface, one peg hole	LMed/PMed
0019	Ms+	FRAG	1	288			Abr		Possibly an LB fragment, oxidised	?PMed

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0022	Ms+	FRAG	3	42			Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0022	Ms	RT	2	62	11		Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0022	Msfe	RT	3	52	c 14		Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0025	Ms	RT	1	27	11		Sli		Reduced/burnt with some organic voids on one surface	Med/PMed
0025	Ms	RT	1	172	11		Sli	Trace on one side	Oxidised/pink core with partial peg hole	LMed/PMed
0025	Ms	RT	3	541	10-13		Sli	One heavily mortared, ?reused	Oxidised with grey intermittent core, one peg hole	Med?+
0025	Ms	RT	3	298	10		Sli		Grey core with oxidised margins and purple/brown surfaces, one with peg hole	Med
0025	Msg	RT	1	38	11		Sli		Ill sorted quartz and grog	Med
0027	Cs	RT	1	22	14		Sli		Patchily reduced/burnt with organics on one surface, quartz is coarse and ill sorted	?Med

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0027	Ms	RT	1	51	13		Sli	Traces on two sides and break	Oxidised, possibly reused	LMed/PMed
0028	Msfe	RT	1	208	12		Sli	On three sides and one break	Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0028	Ms	RT	2	395	12		Sli	On two sides and one break	Oxidised (orange), join	LMed/PMed
0031	Ms	RT	1	21	10		Abr		Light grey core with orange/brown surfaces	Med
0035	Ms	RT	2	234	12		Sli	Traces on one side	Oxidised with patchy brown surfaces	LMed/PMed
0035	Msfe	RT	4	293	14		Sli		Oxidised, one burnt	LMed/PMed likely PMed
0041	Msfe	RT	3	491	14		Sli	Traces on three sides plus break	Oxidised two tiles present, reused	LMed/PMed likely PMed
0045	Msc	RT	1	11	11		Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed
0045	Msfe	RT	1	13	11		Abr		Oxidised	LMed/PMed

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Height	Width	Abr	Mortar	Notes	Date
0048	Ms	RT	1	5	11		Sli		Oxidised with grey core, shattered	Med
0049	Ms+	FRAG	1	1			Abr		Oxidised, shattered	LMed/PMed
0051	Msc	RT	1	78	12		Sli		Oxidised with buff surfaces, pan tile	PMed

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