

Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge COW 030

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/036

Client: PB Doyle Construction Ltd

Author: Simon Cass

March 2013

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Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge

COW 030

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Report Date: April 2013

HER Information

Site Code: COW 030
Site Name: Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge
Report Number 2013/036
Planning Application No: SE/04/2778
Date of Fieldwork: 18/03/2013
Grid Reference: TL 726 563
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-145965
Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Simon Cass
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Client Reference: -

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

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

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Date: 09/04/2013

Approved By: Joanna Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:

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

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Summary

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new Stud on land now known as Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge (SE/04/2778). As part of this permission there was a requirement for an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken in advance of any ground works. Three evaluation trenches were excavated on the 18th March 2013, in the area to the north-east of the newly erected stable block. A single pit, of prehistoric date, was encountered towards the centre of the site, with pottery dating to the middle Bronze Age period and associated charcoal and charred plant remains. Previous monitoring work on the site has uncovered prehistoric features elsewhere and it is recommended that any future construction on the site would likely merit an appropriate scheme of archaeological works in order to record any further archaeological remains that may be encountered.

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 
- Archaeological Features 

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 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the construction of a new Stud on land now known as Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge. A condition placed on this permission required an appropriate scheme of archaeological works in order to mitigate against any potential damage to the historic resource in this area. In order to fulfil this condition, a small archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 18th March 2013, consisting of the mechanical excavation of three trenches to the north-east of the new stable block, hand-excavation and investigation of any features encountered and the creation of a full written, drawn and photographic record of the deposits encountered.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on a south-west facing slope, at a height of c.108m AOD, just to the north of an existing stable block within the Yard. The geology is recorded as deep clay and chalky till of the Hanslope series, and this was observed in all three trenches at an approximate depth of c. 0.25m below the existing ground level.

3. Archaeology and historical background

A small number of entries on the County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) relate to sites within approximately 1 mile of this one. These include COW 008, a (medieval?) moated site at Shardelows Farm to the south-east and a selection of Roman coins found in Lidgate parish to the north-east dating between the first and fourth centuries AD (LDG 007). In addition, archaeological monitoring was undertaken around the perimeter of Mulligan's Yard in 2009 during the development of an all-weather exercise track (COW 026). The work identified a series of ditches located at distant and irregular intervals along the east-west stretch of the exercise track (on the highest ground), a pit, a burnt spread and a colluvial layer. The colluvium was observed predominantly along the west area of the exercise track route, in Poundhouse Plantation. A small quantity of pottery recovered from one of the ditches and the pit suggests that the archaeological remains were Iron Age.

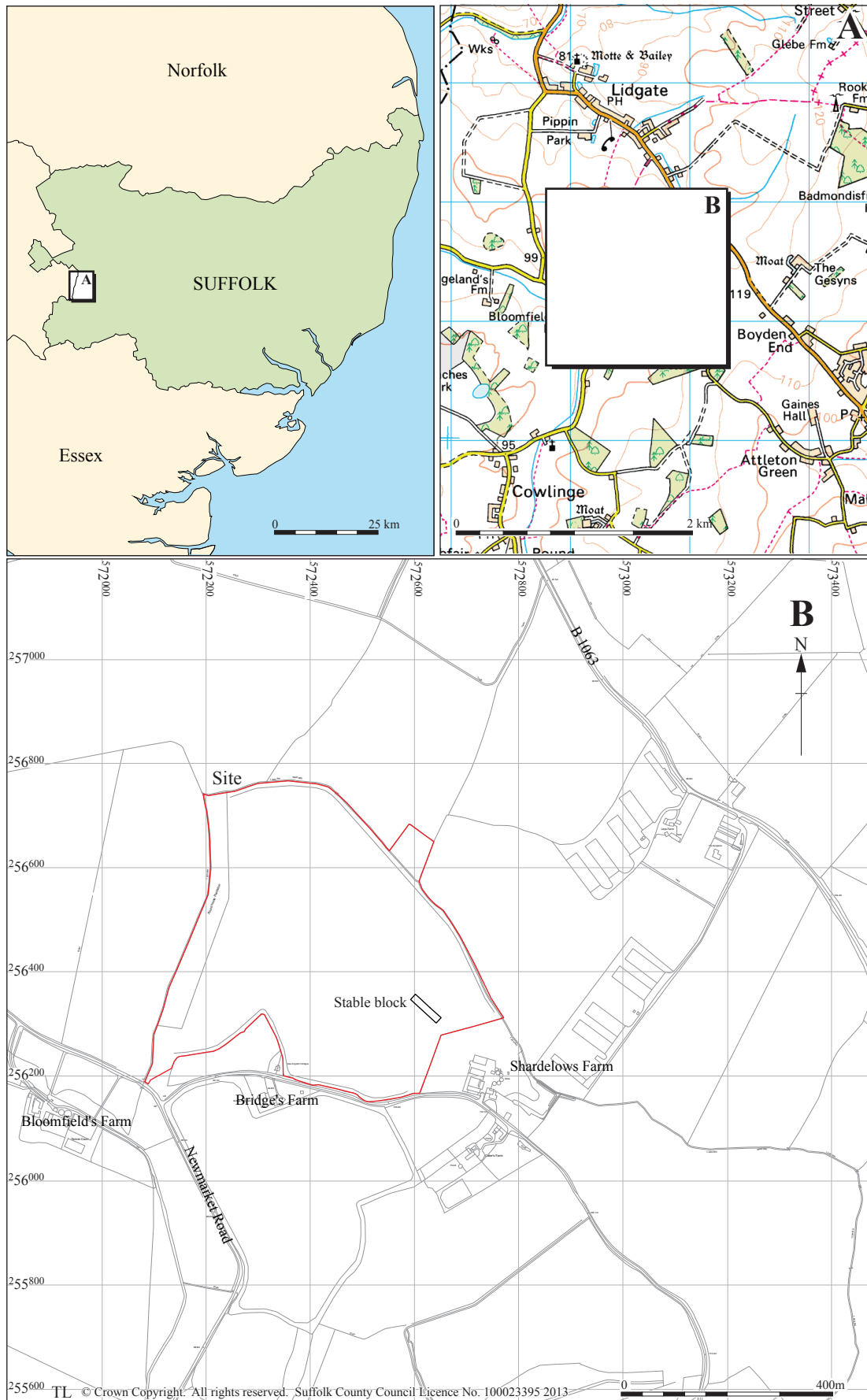


Figure 1. Location of site (red) and excavation area (black)

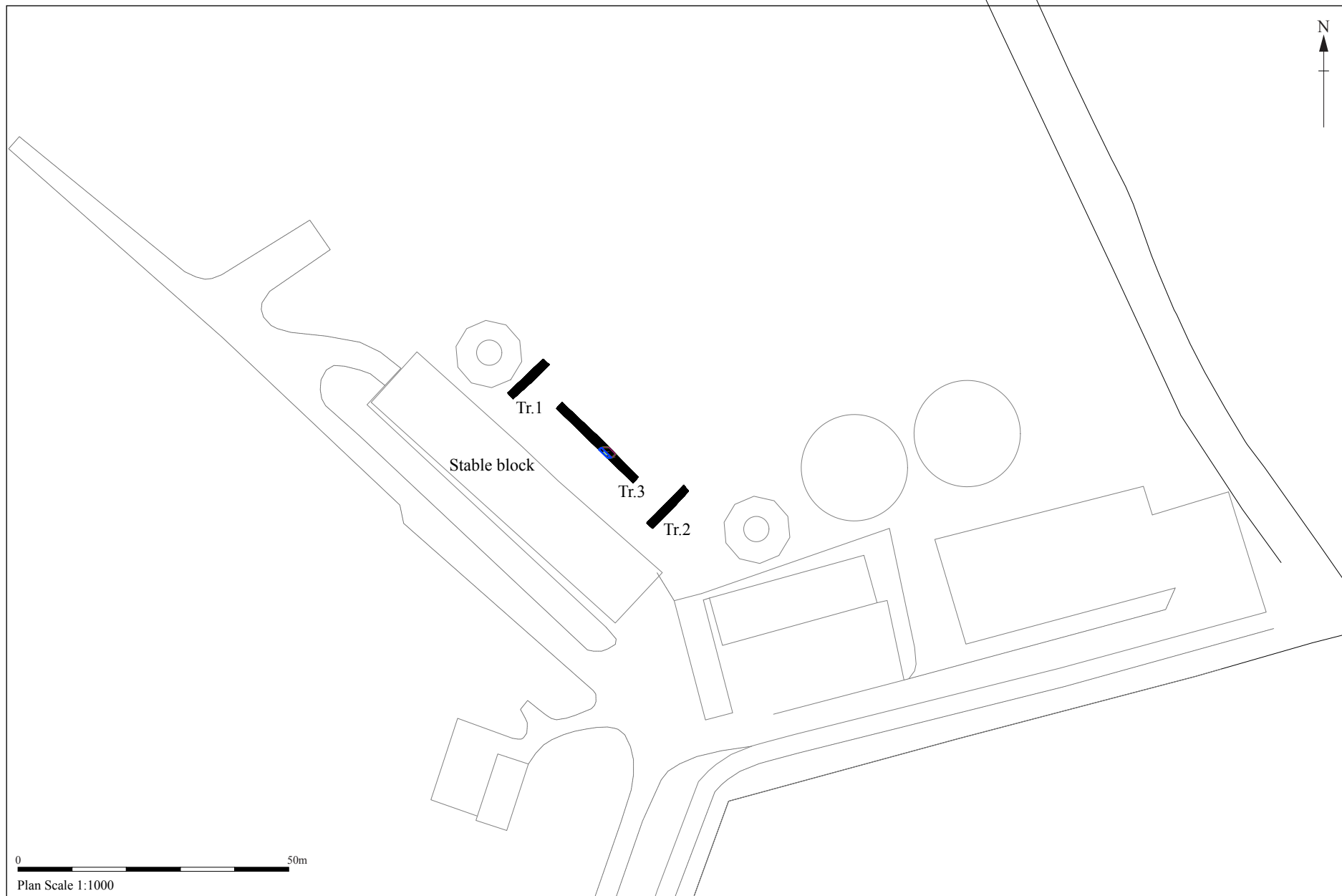


Figure 2. Trench location plan, showing trenches (black) and existing buildings (grey).

4. Methodology

Three trenches, measuring 40m in total length and 1.5m wide, were excavated just to the north-east of the new stable block by an 8-tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out by hand and then surveyed and levelled out by an RTK GPS to within 0.02m horizontal accuracy.

Where required the trench was hand-cleaned, and any potential features investigated by hand. Trench and spoil heaps were metal-detected and scanned for artefactual material although no pre-modern artefacts were located in this instance.

The trenches were recorded by RTK GPS, as were feature and section positions and site levels. Hand drawn plans at a scale of 1:50, and sections at 1:20, were recorded on A3 pro-forma pre-gridded permatrace sheets. High resolution digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form has been completed for this stage of the project (reference no. suffolkc1-145965) and a digital copy of this report has been 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 Suffolk HER No. COW 030.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Three small trenches were excavated behind the existing stable block at Mulligan's Yard. Some repositioning was required from the positions on the Written Scheme of Investigation due to the presence of horse trainers on the edges of the site, although this is not thought to have had a detrimental impact on the evaluation results.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 10m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated north-east/south-west and situated towards the south-eastern end of the proposed development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.3-0.4m of mid-light grey thick silty clay topsoil over a pale/mid yellowish brown chalky clay, interpreted as the natural geological horizon. There were several modern artefacts (wood and ceramic building material fragments) within the topsoil and it is possible that this area has been disturbed during the construction of the existing stable block just to the south of the trench. No archaeological features were encountered within this trench.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (1m scale)

Trench 2

This trench was 10m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated north-east/south-west and situated towards the north-western end of the proposed development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.2-0.35m of mid-light grey thick silty clay topsoil over a pale/mid yellowish brown chalky clay, interpreted as the natural geological horizon. The topsoil was generally thinner towards the southern end of this trench, and again it is possible that this area has been disturbed during the construction of the existing stable block just to the south or the horse trainer to the north-west of the trench. No archaeological features were encountered within this trench.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing north-east (1m scale)

Trench 3

This trench was 20m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated north-west/south-east and situated towards the centre of the proposed development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.3-0.35m of mid-light grey thick silty clay topsoil over a pale/mid yellowish brown chalky clay, interpreted as the natural geological horizon. A modern drainage trench was observed towards the south-eastern end of the trench, running from two horse trainers upslope down towards the existing stable, and presumably linking with the water drainage system from there. In addition a single pit was noted, extending outside of the trench on both sides.

Pit 0001 was approximately 2.75m wide and over 1.5m long (extending out of the trench on both sides); apparently orientated north-east/south-west and 0.7m deep below the natural horizon. It had a moderately steep stepped profile, with a gradual concave slope to a steep bowl-like depression at the centre. The primary fill was a dark to mid grey firm silty clay with mottled red/brown streaks, occasional small chalk flecks and sub-angular to angular flints as well as pottery fragments and charcoal flecks and was approximately

0.2m thick, filling the lower stepped part of the pit. The upper fill was a dark greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small-medium sized chalk flecks, flints/stones and charcoal flecks.



Plate 3. Pit 0001 in Trench 3, facing north-east (2m scale)

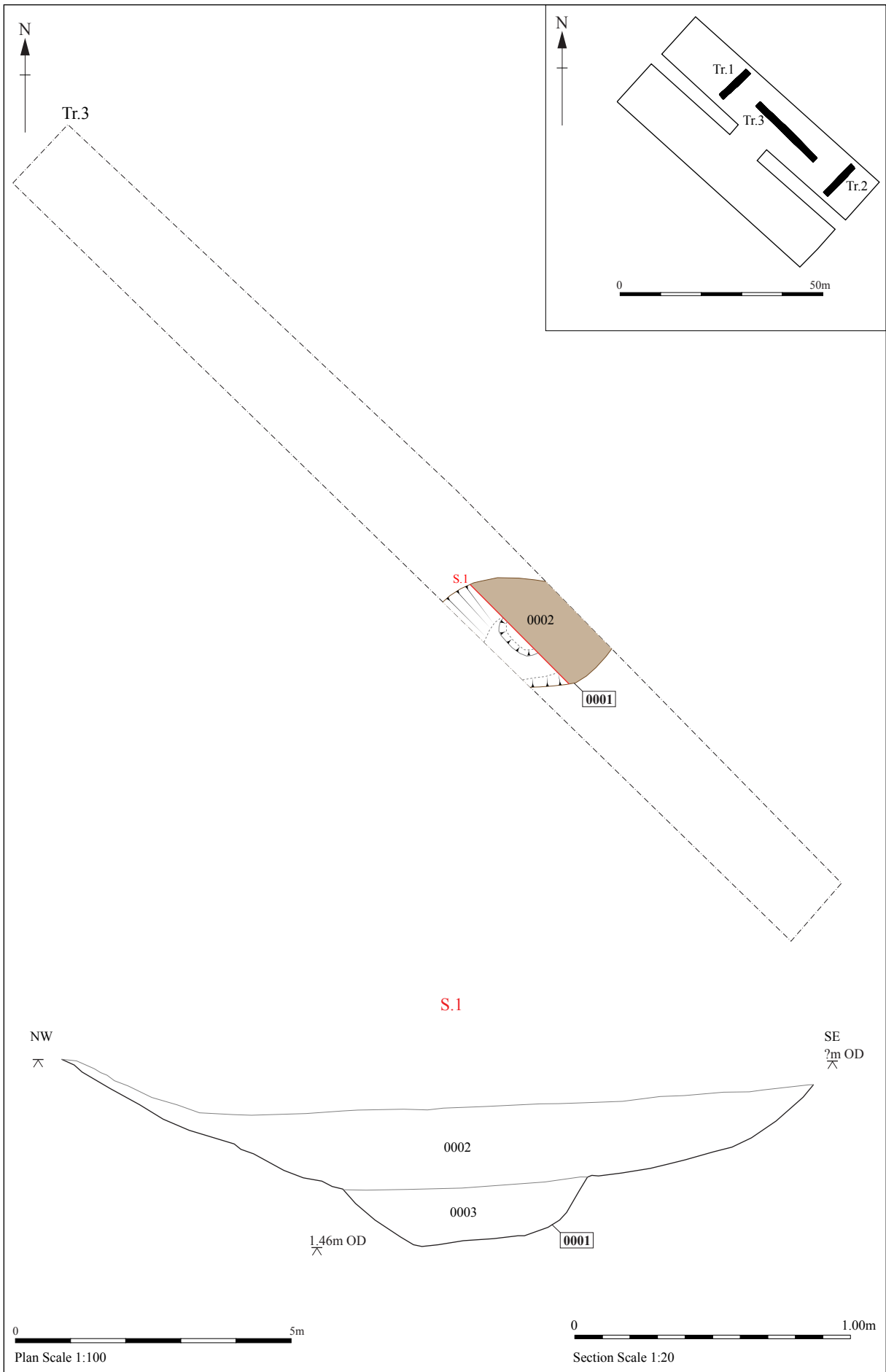


Figure 3. Trench 3 plan and section

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A small quantity of pottery and burnt flint was recovered from pit fill 0003 in Trench 3.

6.2 The Pottery

Introduction

A total of twelve sherds of pottery was recorded from the evaluation (14g) all of which are dated to the Middle Bronze Age. A full description of the sherds forms part of the site archive.

Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and allocated to a fabric group. A code has been assigned to the group using the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS). The pottery has been recorded by sherd count and weight. No rim or base fragments are present within the assemblage.

The assemblage

Although none of the sherds physically join, they all appear to have been part of the same vessel (probably a large jar). They are small, variably abraded and all hand-made in a reduced fabric that has a soapy feel. The fabric contains abundant large ill sorted grog, which is coloured grey, buff and black (HMG). The small quantity of Middle Bronze Age pottery, recovered from the lower fill of pit 0001 in Trench 3, appears to be contemporary with the ceramic group recorded in layer 0017 during previous archaeological work at the site (Tester 'Finds and environmental evidence' in Muldowney 2010).

6.3 Burnt flint

Eleven variably sized fragments of burnt flint were noted in pit fill 0003. All of the fragments are coloured light grey and could have been utilised in the pot boiling process, which is associated with the preparation and cooking of food in the prehistoric period.

6.4 Plant macrofossils and other environmental remains

A single sample was taken from the lower fill of pit 0001. Although small flecks of charcoal were noted, they degraded and disintegrated during the sampling procedure. No additional remains were identified after sieving.

7. Discussion

This evaluation has identified a middle-bronze age pit, potentially indicating that the site is within an area of direct occupation from this period – the charcoal, burnt flint and remains of a jar could suggest a more settled domestic site rather than an occasionally used site nearby. The small and fragmentary nature of the pottery may indicate that it was on the periphery of the occupied area and thus less refuse made its way into the pit. The sample taken failed to recover any charcoal, although charcoal was clearly visible in the fill – this is thought to be due to a combination of the small size of the charcoal flecks coupled with the nature of the enclosing deposit.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The prehistoric pit identified during this evaluation is further evidence of a sporadic utilisation of this area noted in the previous monitoring works (Muldowney 2010). There is no further work recommended as being necessary in order to discharge the planning condition relating to this work, though it should be noted that any future construction or ground works within the site will be likely to attract additional archaeological investigation (though that would be the subject of a new brief and specification from SCCAS Conservation Team).

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Ipswich\COW 030 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HTA 14-21

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Store Location: **H / 80 / 1**

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and Preston Boyles and directed by Joanna Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and Andy Fawcett respectively. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett and additional specialist advice was provided by Anna West.

The report illustrations were created by Ellie Hillen and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Muldowney, M., 2010, *Mulligan's Yard, Cowlinge COW 026 Archaeological Monitoring Report 2009/230*, SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

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

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification**Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

**MULLIGANS YARD, LAND NORTH OF NEW ENGLAND LANE,
COWLINGE**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	SE/12/0361/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 726 563
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of American barn, relocation of horse walkers
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	13 August 2012

Summary

- 1.1 The developer has been informed that in order to regularise the archaeological condition relating to planning permission SE/04/2778, and effect discharge, an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work should take place on the adjacent development site. In the first instance, a trenched evaluation is required to establish the archaeological potential of the proposed area; decisions on the need for any further investigation will be based on the evidence from the evaluation.
- 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.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 2.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Three linear trenches which add up to a total length of 40.00m (each 1.80m wide) are to be excavated to cover the area of the new development. In this instance, two 10.00m long and one 20.00m x 1.80m wide trenches would be satisfactory.
- 2.5 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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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*.
- 4.10 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	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001	0001		Pit Cut	Most of the cut goes beyond the NE and SW L.O.E. of Trench 3, but what is visible appears to be roughly oval, with steep concave sides down to a flattish shelf and then down again into a concave base. Contains two fills, (0002) and (0003). Possible pit?								0003	No	No			
0002	0001		Pit Fill	Dark greyish-brown, firm silty clay, containing occasional small and medium sized chalk flecks and stones, occasional small and medium sized angular and sub-angular flints and occasional flecks of charcoal. Top fill of pit [0001]. Top silty clay fill of pit [0001] - silting up/disuse of pit?							0003		No	No			
0003	0001		Pit Fill	Dark to mid grey, firm silty clay, mottled with reddish-brown streaks, containing occasional small chalk flecks and occasional small angular and sub-angular flints. Fragments of pottery and occasional small charcoal flecks in fill. Bottom fill of pit [0001]. Bottom fill of pit [0001].							0001	0002	Yes	Yes			

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- Graphics design and illustration

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www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/