

New School Hall, Rougham CEVCP School RGH 075

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/104

Client: SCC Corporate Property

Author: Simon Cass

September 2013

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HER Information

Site Code: RGH 075
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Disclaimer

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

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Date: 26/09/2013

Approved By: Andrew Tester

Position: Senior Archaeological Officer

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of the proposed new school hall on the eastern end of the existing Rougham CEVCP School, in accordance with guidance issued by Richard Hoggett of SCC Archaeological Service Conservation Team, prior to the excavation of foundations and services for the new construction but after the partial demolition of the previous building. Three late post-medieval/early modern features were noted cut into the natural geological layer at the base of the trench, with a wall footing higher in the section of the trench believed to belong to a wall visible on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map of the area (demolished in the mid twentieth century). No further work is recommended as being necessary in order to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the construction of the new hall as the remains found are of minimal significance and no traces of early occupation were found close to the parish church.

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 $\overline{\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}}$

1. Introduction

A brief and specification for investigative archaeological works was issued in relation to a planned new school hall to be built at Rougham CEVCP School, Church Lane, Rougham (Fig. 1). This required a single trench evaluation to be undertaken after the partial demolition of the old school building but before any significant ground disturbance (such as excavation of footings or services in that area) on the part of the site between the school and the parish church (some 50m to the east).

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on very gentle sloped ground, between 65m and 70m AOD, on a slight north-facing slope. The underlying geology is recorded as chalky till, and was observed in the base of the evaluation trench as well as in service runs and foundation trenches elsewhere on the site. While the parish church (RGH 003) is adjacent to the site, and the main avenue to Rougham Hall (RGH 019) led to this area from the Hall, the village of Rougham is some 800m to the south. There is no known reason for this village to be so far from its church – usually the church is at the heart of the early village as it forms, but here there is a gap of approximately 800m.

3. Archaeology and historical background

Rougham Primary School is immediately west of St Mary's Church (RGH 003), the parish church for the village. Previous archaeological monitoring works on the site in 2008 (RGH 058) noted scraps of lead being found in an undated pit to the south of the present site, though these may well have been related to the roofing/guttering of the church rather than any structures within the school grounds. A Free School is recorded as being in existence by 1865 (possibly originating as early as 1720), with a yearly endowment of £50, which is likely to be the same building that is currently standing on the site. The site of Rougham Hall is recorded as RGH 019 while RGH 047 refers to some undated earthworks and a possible platform visible in fields to the west. The miscellaneous records relate to findspots of a Neolithic polished axehead (east) and some medieval pottery sherds (west).

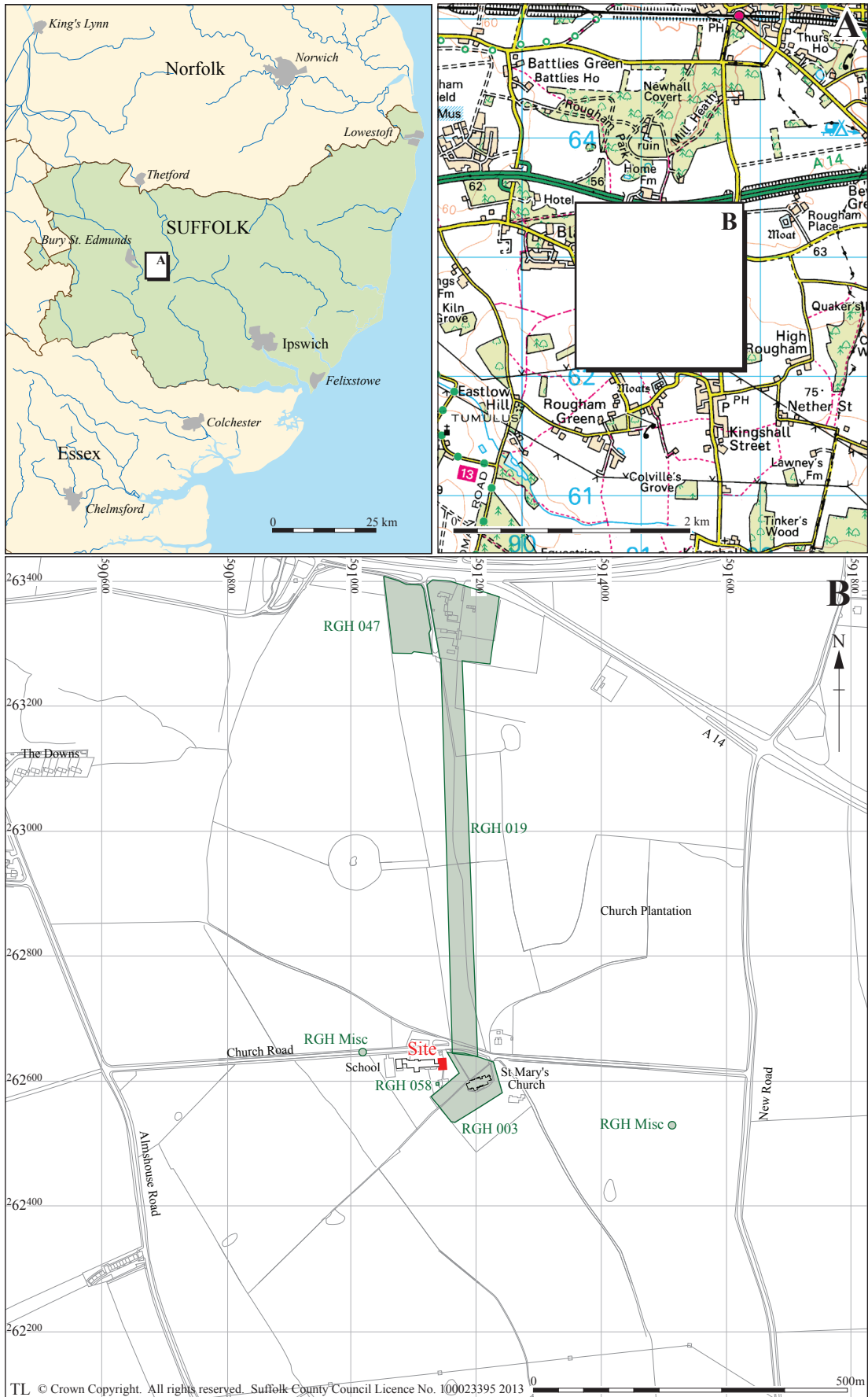


Figure 1. Site location showing development area (red) and selected HER entries (green)

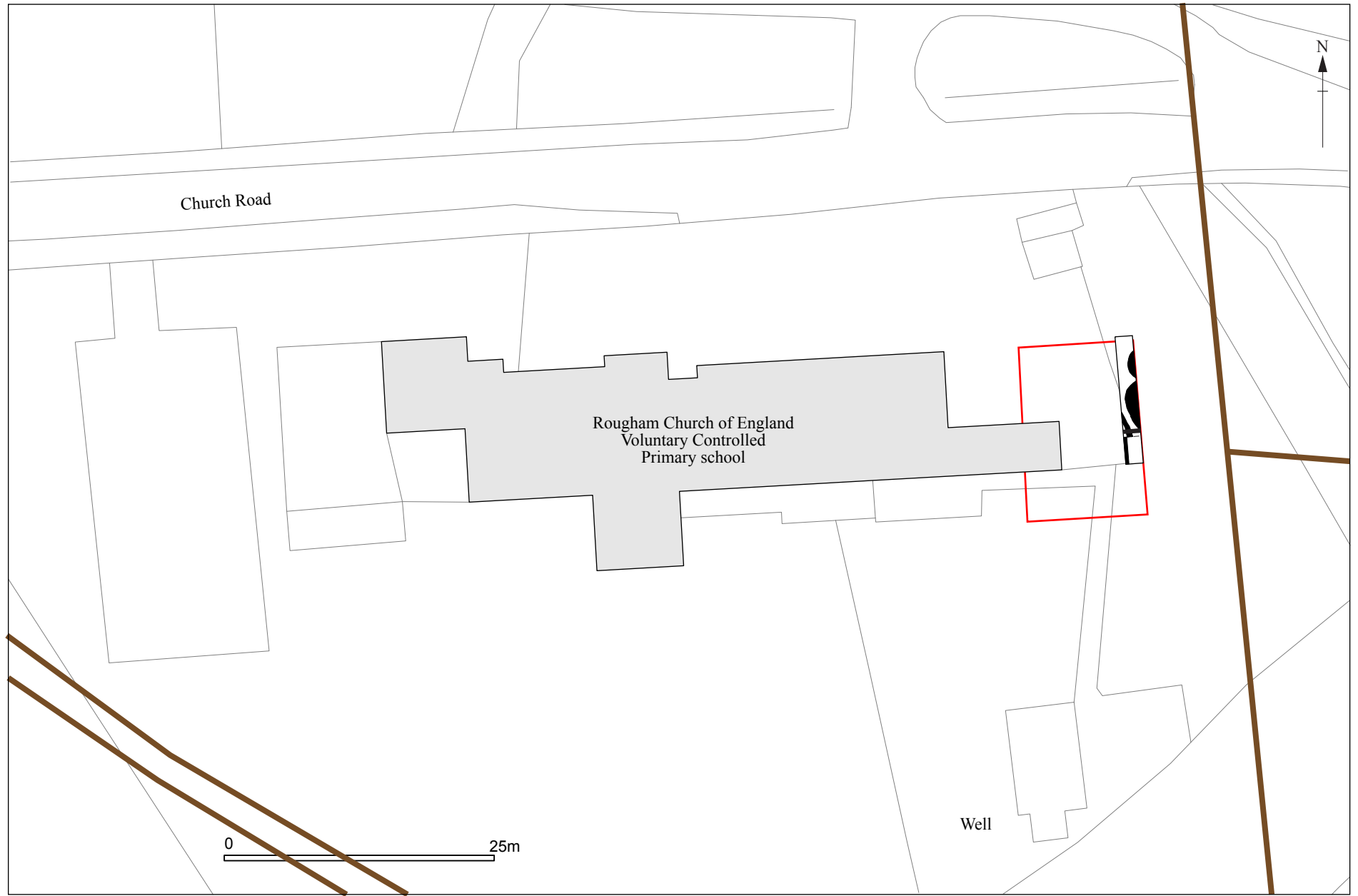


Figure 2. Trench location, showing development area (red) evaluation trench with recorded features (black) and field boundaries from the 1st Edition OS (brown)

4. Methodology

One trench, measuring 11.8m in length and 1.6m wide was excavated across the proposed development area by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels (Fig. 2).

Where required the trench was hand-cleaned, and several potential features were investigated by hand. Trench and spoil heaps were not metal-detected due to the amount of modern detritus present but were scanned for artefactual material.

The trenches were recorded by hand, based on detailed site plans supplied by the developer. Hand drawn plans at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:20 were recorded on A3 *pro-forma* pre-gridded permatrace sheets. Digital colour photographs (6.2megapixel) were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-156272) and a digital copy of the 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. RGH 075.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 11.8m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.75m deep, orientated approximately north-south and situated in the eastern edge of the proposed new footing of the school hall development (Pl. 1).

The general stratigraphy consisted of approximately 0.6m of very disturbed dark brown humic soil with frequent small/medium flints and stones, ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and modern detritus (china, plastic, metal pipe). This overlay natural chalky till – a mid/pale creamy brown stiff clay with frequent small chalk flecks and several glacial stripes filled with pale/mid yellowish brown soft sandy clays.

Three post-medieval/modern features were observed cutting into the natural geology at the base of the trench, and a wall footing was noted in section, running east-west across the trench towards the southern end which was believed to be the remains of a playground dividing wall visible on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map of the site. The wall appears to have been demolished some time between 1957 and 1973 when it ceases to be shown on maps.

The features consisted of two large pits on the eastern side of the trench and a small gully (orientated approximately north-south) passing under the wall footing at the southern end of the trench (Pl. 2). The fills of all three features were similar slightly greenish grey/brown silty clays with moderate small/medium stone and chalk flecks, occasional CBM fragments and flecks and pottery fragments, while the northernmost pit had small coal lumps in it.



Plate 1. Gully 0001 and Pit 0003, facing north (2 x 1m scales)



Plate 2. Trench 1, facing south (2 x 1m scales)

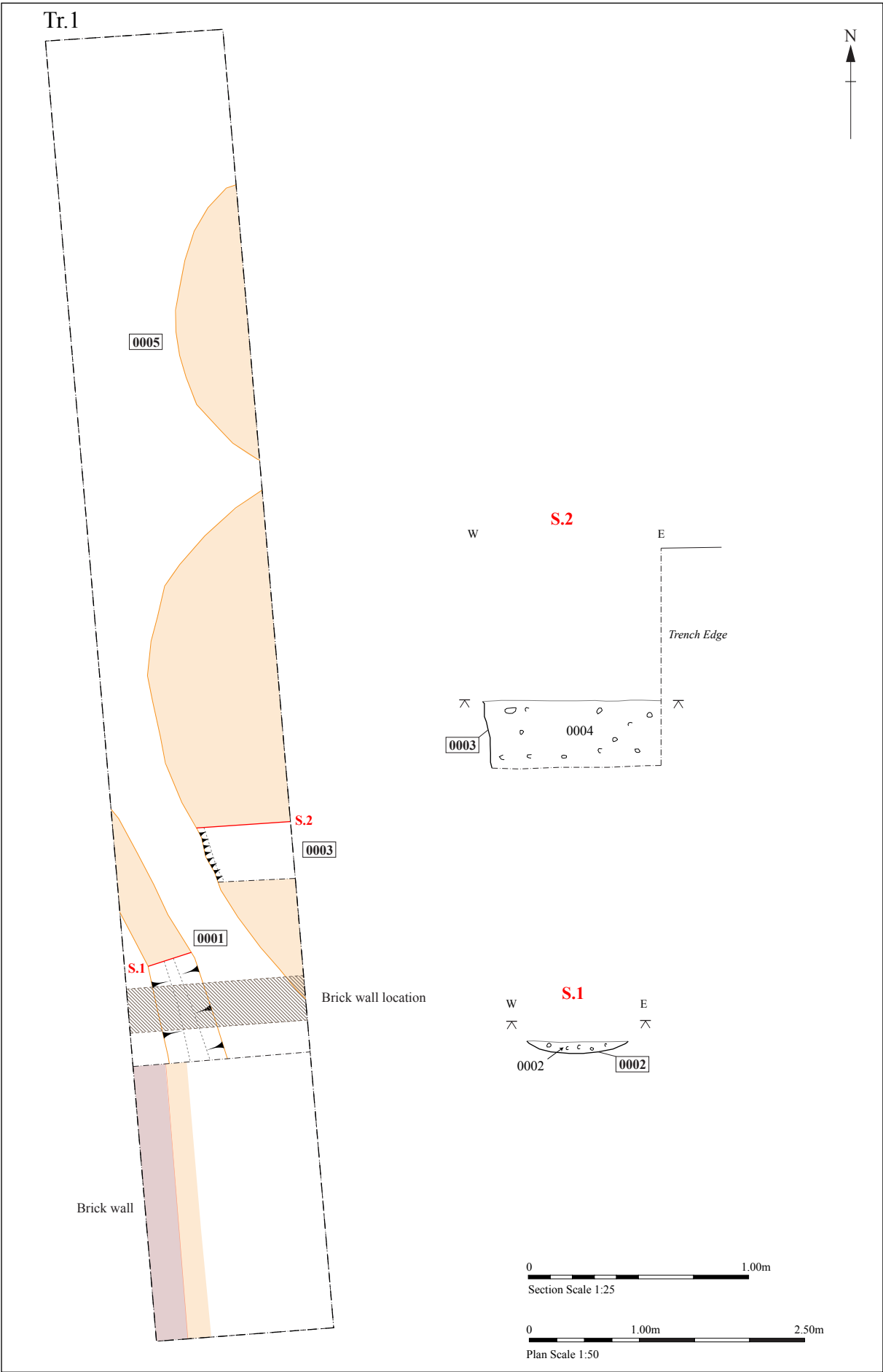


Figure 3. Trench detail and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

A small piece of undiagnostic post-medieval ceramic building material (11g) was present in the gully fill 0002 (fabric type ms). It is fragmentary and has mortar on broken edges, indicating that it has been redeposited.

Further fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material were present in the fill 0004 of pit 0003 (172g). The group consists of six fragments of fully oxidised roofing tile and three small pieces of brick (fabric types ms and msf)*.

Six fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from fill 0004 (53g). Five sherds of a Glazed red earthenware sooted vessel, probably a pipkin were identified, dating to the 16th-18th century, but a single fragment of Ironstone china with blue sponged decoration is of a 19th century date.

The same context contained the molar from a cow and a modern button with a moulded crest.

(* The cbm has been discarded)

7. Discussion

The revealed features appear to be indicative of occupation of the site in the late post-medieval/early modern period, with no evidence of any earlier surviving features. The 16th – 18th century pottery would appear to be residual in a later features (potentially originally a discarded piece in the ploughsoil) and no features were encountered that were older than late post-medieval/early modern. Although there is a suggestion that where parish churches are no longer within their respective village cores, early remains may be preserved by the absence of later development in this case there is as yet no evidence to suggest that there are earlier occupation remains near the church. The likely use of the site prior to the school construction would appear to be as arable fields,

which would suggest that the activity indicated by the pits is related to the occupation of the site by the school, possibly founded in 1720 (Hinson 2003).

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The results of this evaluation indicate that the area has undergone a significant amount of late post-medieval and modern disturbance for a mainly rural area with a minimal historic development footprint. This site appears to have had a somewhat greater level of disturbance and/or build-up of imported material than a typical rural field location or indeed of a small rural school building. The features encountered are all of late post-medieval or modern date, and at least one (the wall footing that was encountered crossing the trench) is present on early Ordnance Survey maps of the site, disappearing between 1958 and 1973. No further archaeological work is recommended as being necessary in order to record any archaeological features likely to be encountered during the remainder of the intrusive building works.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Rougham\RGH 075 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HTA-HTZ\HTS 49-53

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds or Unit 4.

Store Location: Row H, Parish Box.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass. Project management and direction was undertaken by Andrew Tester.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Johnathan Van Jennians and Richenda Goffin respectively. The specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin.

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

11. Bibliography

Hinson, C., 2003 (transcribed), *The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland* (1868), as seen at: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/SFK/Rougham/>. Website accessed 22/08/2013

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

ROUGHAM CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD,
ROUGHAM, IP30 9JJ

Planning Authority:	Suffolk County Council
Planning Application Number:	N/A
HER No. for this Project:	TBC
Grid Reference:	TL 914 626
Development Proposal:	New school hall
This Brief Issued By:	Dr Richard Hoggett, Archaeological Officer Tel. : 01284 741226 E-mail: richard.hoggett@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	17/06/2013

1 Summary

- 1.1 Following a consultation from the Development Section of Suffolk County Council, the local authority was advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.2 The applicant is required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (previously *DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16*, para. 21), in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (in conjunction with our standard *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological 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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This site of Rougham Primary School lies immediately adjacent to the medieval parish church, which is recorded in the county Historic Environment Record as RGH 003. Archaeological monitoring undertaken on the site during groundworks in April 2008 revealed evidence for metalworking on the site (recorded as RGH 058). There is, therefore, high potential for encountering further archaeological deposits at this location, which may be damaged by any groundworks associated with the present work.

3 Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Establish the suitability of the area for development.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 3.3 A single 15m north–south trench should be excavated within the footprint of the proposed school hall. This trench should be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.4 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.

4 Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

5 Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

6 Standards and Guidance

- 6.1 Detailed requirements are to be found in our *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (2011) and in *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (2010). Both documents can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/>
- 6.2 Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Gurney, D. and Bryant, S. (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/Regional%20Standards.pdf>
- 6.3 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

7 Notes

- 7.1 The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net/ro> or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Gully Cut	N-S orientated linear gully with very shallow concave profile. Runs below red-brick wall foundation. Gully, runs below red-brick wall foundation.	No		No	1
0002	0001	Gully Fill	Mid green/greyish brown silty clay with moderate small stones and chalk flecks, occasional CBM fragments. Fill of gully [0001]	No		No	1
0003	0003	Pit Cut	Large ovoid pit feature - extends out of trench to the east. Vertical side where exposed, not bottomed. Dimensions observed within trench 4m N-S, 1m E-W but likely to be larger. late post-medieval/modern pit.	No		No	1
0004	0003	Pit Fill	Dark green/greyish brown silty caly fill with moderate stone and chalk fleck inclusions. Single fill observed within pit but pit not fully excavated so may be an upper deposit. Fill of pit [0003]	No		No	1
0005	0005	Pit Cut	Ovoid pit in north end of trench, extending out of trench to east. Not excavated as frequent CBM frags and flecks present in mid yellow/brown silty clay fill (also coal lumps). Dimensions observed within trench Unexcavated pit, probably similar in function/character to 0003.	No		No	1
0006	0005	Pit Fill	Unexcavated pit fill	No		No	1

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