

Glue Pot Farm,
Edwards Lane,
Bramfield,
Suffolk.
BMF 024

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/107

Client: Keith Frost Architectural Design Services

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August 2013

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HER Information

Report Number: 2013/107
Site Name: Glue Pot Farm, Edwards Lane, Bramfield
Planning Application No: C/11/1424
Date of Fieldwork: 27th August 2013
Grid Reference: TM 3938 7416
Commissioned by: Keith Frost Architectural Design Services
Curatorial Officer: Richard Hoggett
Project Officer: Linzi Everett
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1- 157944
Site Code: BMF 024

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: August 2013

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological work was carried out at Glue Pot Farm as a condition of planning permission to build two cattle sheds. A total area of 249 square metres was stripped to archaeological levels, covering the footprint of the two planned buildings. A single ditch was recorded, the fill of which contained mixed finds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. Re-cutting of the ditch may explain the mixed finds assemblage recovered from its fill.

1. Introduction

A trial trench evaluation was specified on land at Glue Pot Farm, Bramfield (BMF 024; TM 3938 7416). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') covered an area of c.550 square metres.

The evaluation was carried out prior to submission of a planning application for development, according to a brief issued by Richard Hoggett, which outlined the required fieldwork.

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) on the 27th August 2013.

The site has been recorded with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) code BMF 024.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located on glacial chalky clay deposits on the southern valley side of a tributary of the River Blyth, at a height of approximately 20m OD. It is bounded by a garden to the east and agricultural land elsewhere.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site's potential was based on its location within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER and close to a scatter of Roman building material and pottery (BMF 016).

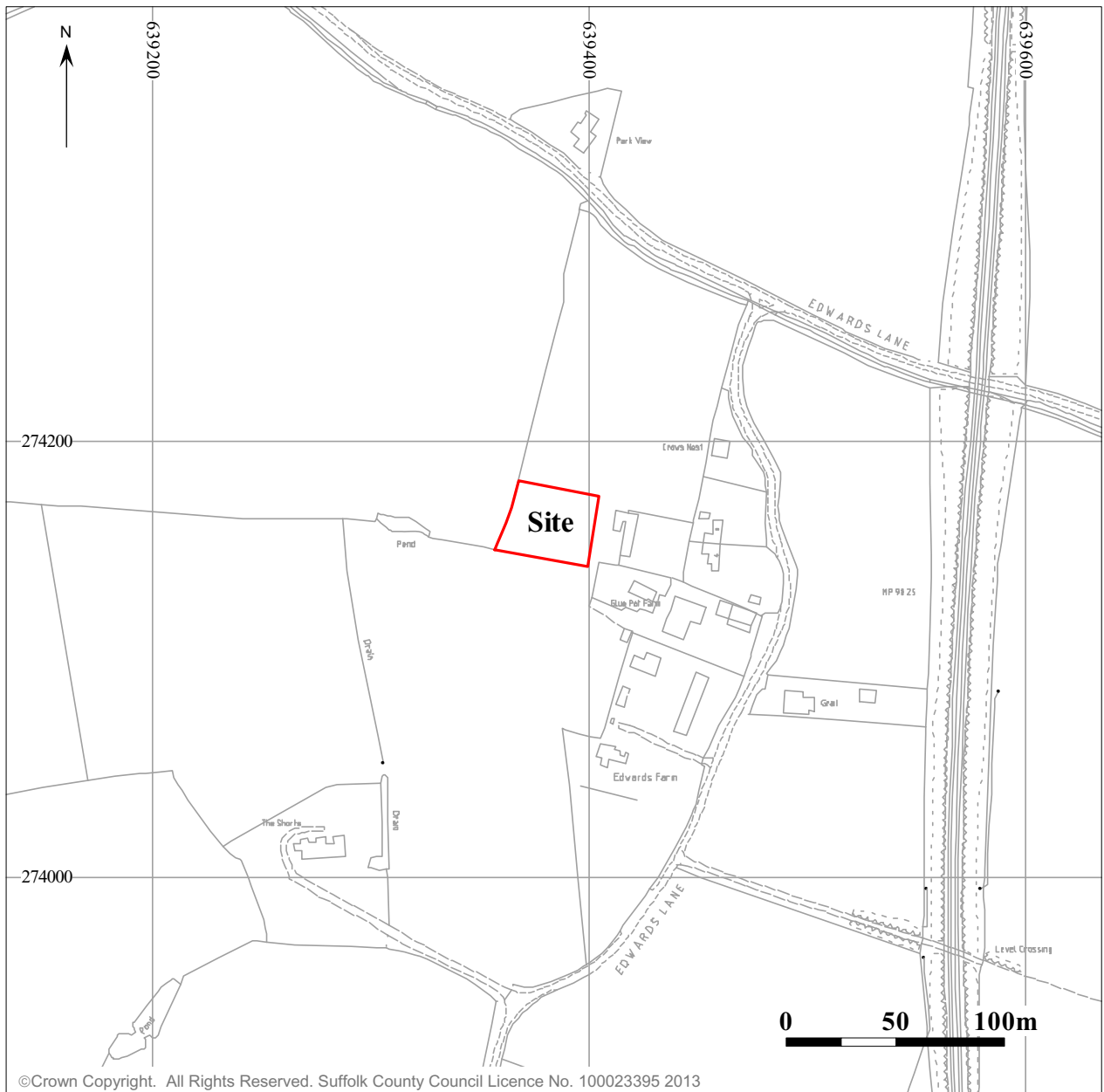
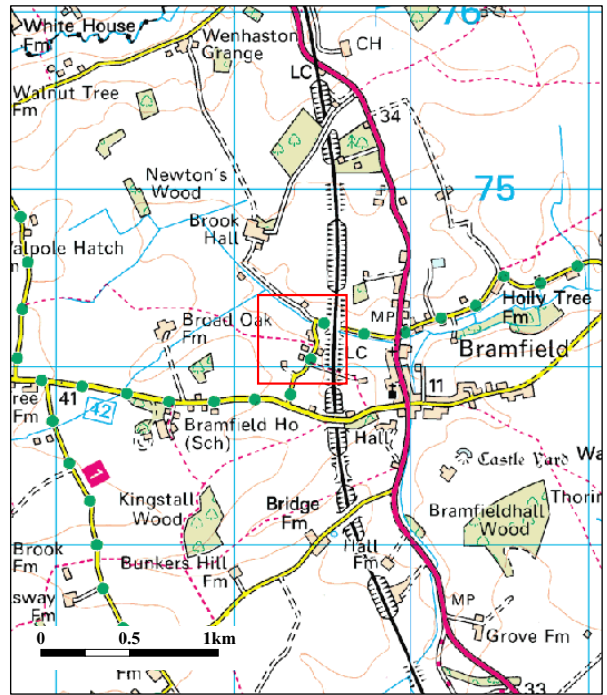


Figure 1. Site location

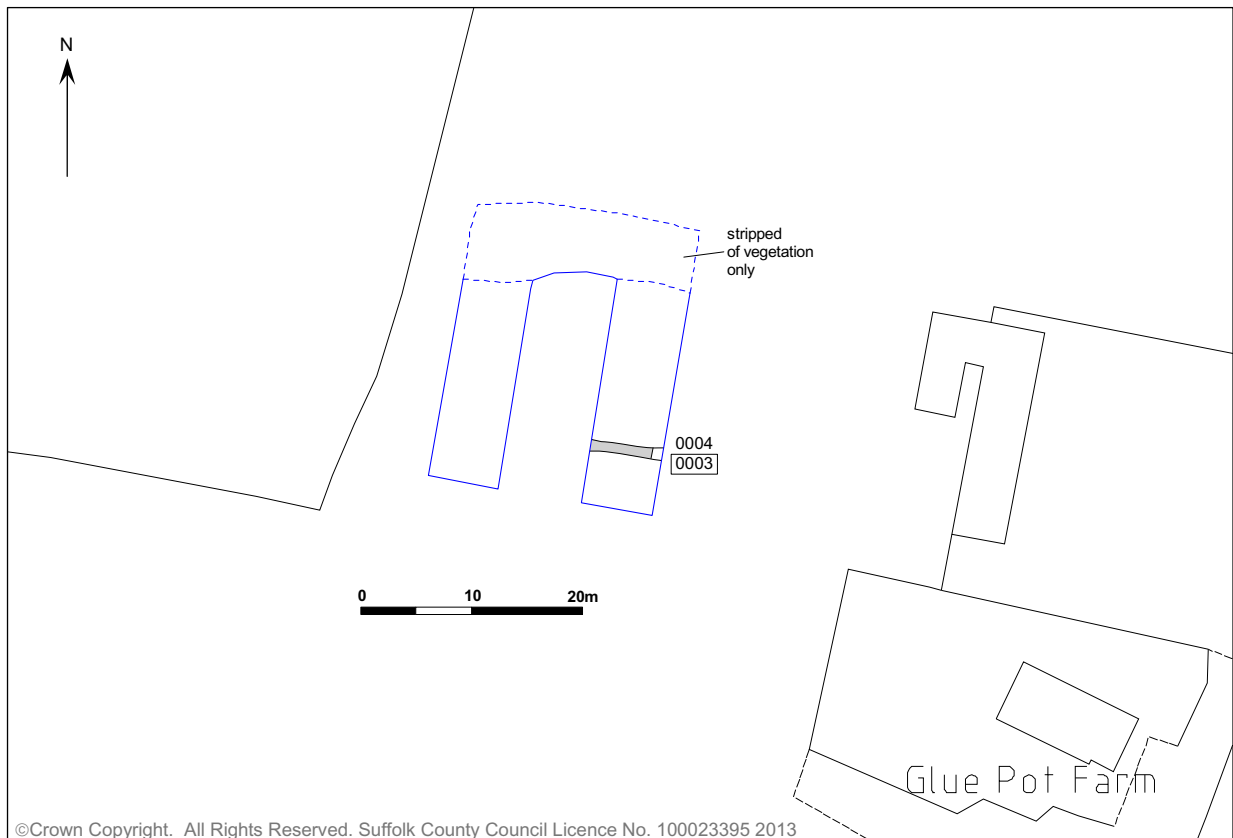


Figure 2. Location of monitored area

4. Methodology

Whilst the brief issued specified the controlled excavation of two linear 16m trenches, the footprint of each of the proposed buildings had already been stripped of topsoil to the top of the natural subsoil on arrival at the site. The stripped surface was examined for features or finds of archaeological interest. The upcast soil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of the stripped areas and the depths of deposit encountered.

The site has been given the Suffolk HER code BMF 024, under which all elements of the site archive are identified. An OASIS record (for the Archaeological Data Service) has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1- 157944 has been used for this project.

5. Results

The exposed sections around the stripped footprint revealed broadly the same soil sequence:

- *Topsoil* (0001) 0.4m of dark brown clay loam with regular chalk lumps and medium sized angular flints and occasional coal flecks and CBM fragments
- *Subsoil* (0002) 0.1m of mid yellowy brown sandy clay with regular chalk flecks and small angular flints

This sealed the natural subsoil, a mixed pale yellow and orangey brown chalky boulder clay with regular large and medium angular flints.

A single east to west aligned ditch was observed in the stripped surface. 0003 had steeply sloping sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. Two fills were observed. 0004 was a mid-dark greyish brown sandy clay, very similar to the topsoil which sealed it, with regular chalk lumps and flecks, occasional CBM and coal flecks and regular small-medium angular flints. Occasional snail shells were noted and a small quantity of finds recovered, ranging from sherds of medieval coarseware to glazed white china. 0005 was not visible on the stripped surface and may represent the fill of an earlier ditch re-cut by 0004. It consisted of a mid yellowy brown sandy clay with regular chalk flecks and small angular flints and occasional snail shells and charcoal flecks. It was almost identical to subsoil 0002 and it was not possible to identify any definition between these two deposits in the excavated section. None of the finds could be confidently attributed to fill 0005.



Plate 1. General view of the western part of the stripped area, looking east



Plate 2. General view of the eastern part of the stripped area, looking north with ditch 0003 visible through the centre



Plate 3. N-S section through ditch 0003

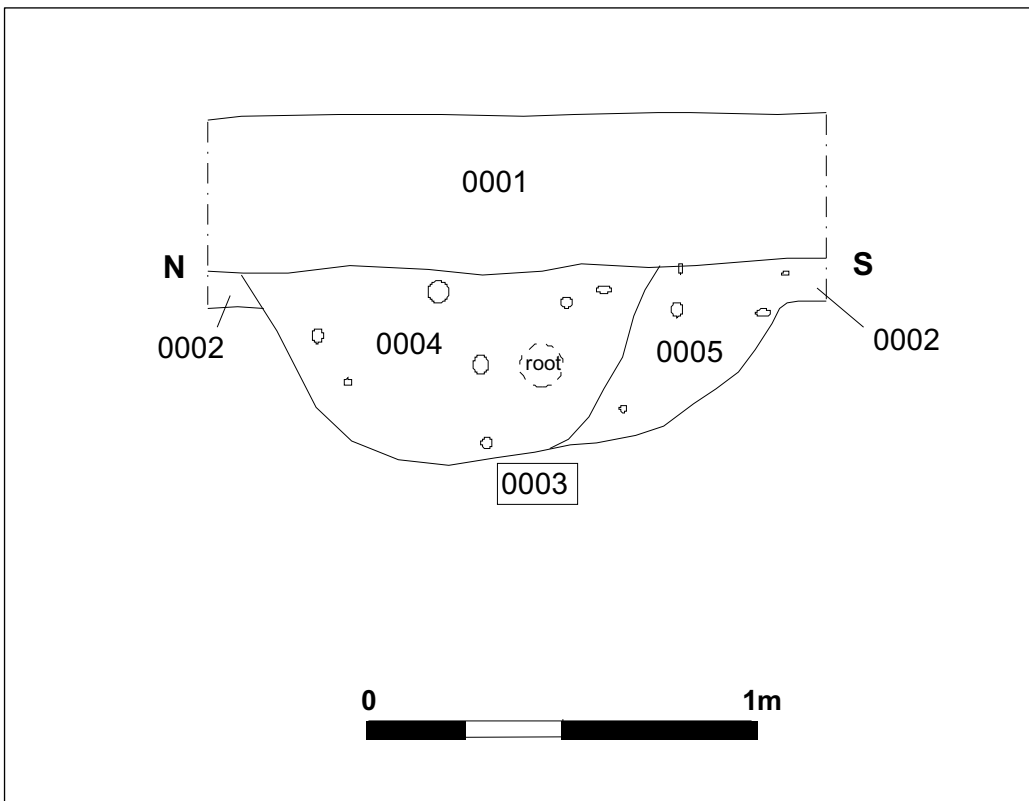


Figure 3. Section through ditch 0003

6. Finds evidence

Richenda Goffin

Pottery

Seven fragments of pottery were recovered from the fill 0004 of the ditch (82g). The flat base of a heavily abraded wheelthrown greyware vessel was present (44g) which is likely to be Roman.

Two joining fragments of medieval coarseware were identified (17g). Both are sooted and are likely to be from a cooking vessel dating from the late 12th-14th century.

Another small medieval coarseware of the same date has an oxidised margin. A small early post-medieval sherd, a LMT variant, dates from the 15th-16th century. Two late post-medieval wares were also present, a fragment of a creamware dish (1740-1880) and a sherd of Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware with scratch blue decoration (1740-1780).

CBM

Five small fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the ditch fill 0004 (46g). They are all abraded and too fragmentary to be assigned a particular form with any confidence. Two fragments are made in early post-medieval fabrics, whilst the other three are likely to be fully post-medieval (16th-18th C).

Other finds

The shaft of a small iron nail still attached to a fragment of wood was also present in the fill (1g).

7. Discussion

A very low density of archaeology was recorded during the fieldwork with just one feature observed within the stripped area. Excavation of this feature suggested an earlier ditch had been re-cut but this was only evident in section. The mixed finds might suggest that 0005 was the fill of a medieval ditch, re-cut and subsequently filled by 0004

in the post-medieval period. The abraded Roman sherd could have been incorporated during either of these events. No field boundaries are shown on the 1st-3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps which tie in with the excavated ditch, suggesting it was no longer extant by the 1880's.

Given the lack of known Roman or medieval activity in the direct vicinity of the site, the evidence revealed by this fieldwork is noteworthy.

8. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference BMF 024. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1- 157944.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\
Bramfield\BMF 024 Glue Pot Farm

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-157944

Project details

Project name	BMF 024 Glue Pot Farm, Bramfield
Short description of the project	Monitoring of an area at Glue Pot Farm as a condition of planning permission to build two cattle sheds.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2013 End: 25-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	C/11/1424 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BMF 024 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL BRAMFIELD BMF 024 Glue Pot Farm
Study area	550.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3938 7416 52 1 52 18 45 N 001 30 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.00m Max: 21.00m

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	Richard Hoggett
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Linzi Everett
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architect on behalf of client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Keith Frost Architectural Design Services

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	BMF 024
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	AHDS
Digital Archive ID	BMF 024
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	BMF 024
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Photograph","Unpublished Text"

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