

Land at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All
Saints
FAS 052

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/123

Client: Mrs J Keatch

Author: J.A. Craven

October 2013

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FAS 052

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/123

Author: J.A. Craven

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Report Date: October 2013

HER Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Site Code: | FAS 052 |
| Site Name: | Land at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All Saints |
| Report Number | 2013/123 |
| Planning Application No: | SE/10/0905 |
| Date of Fieldwork: | 08/10/2013 |
| Grid Reference: | TL 8372 6775 |
| Oasis Reference: | 160407 |
| Curatorial Officer: | Rachael Monk |
| Project Officer: | John Craven |
| Client/Funding Body: | Mrs J Keattch |

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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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk identified a buried soil horizon and pit of probable medieval date, likely relating to the past occupation of the moated enclosure (FAS 001) in which the site is situated. There was no evidence of any activity relating to the adjacent Fornham cursus (FAS 004) and its wider prehistoric monumental landscape.

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

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of residential development on land at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Rachael Monk of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT, Appendix 1). The project was funded by the landowner, Mrs J Keattch.

The proposed development consists of a single dwelling measuring c.90sqm and associated access within a c.400sqm part of the front garden of the existing property.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of c.26m AOD, on a very gentle slope overlooking the valley of the River Lark, which lies 400m to the north-east. The garden was broadly flat and was surrounded by mature hedging and trees.

The site geology consists of superficial River Terrace deposits overlying chalk bedrock of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (BGS 2012).

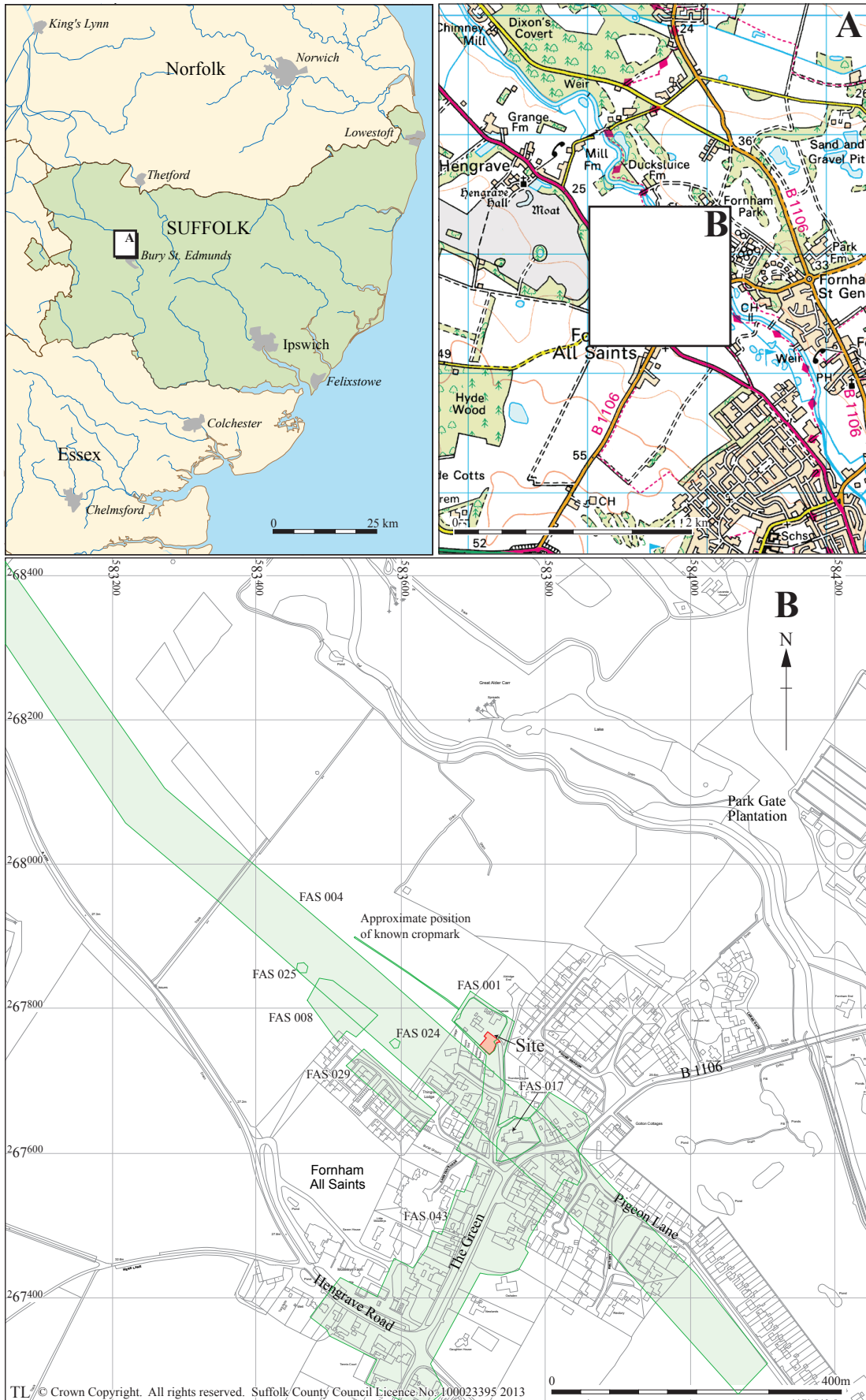


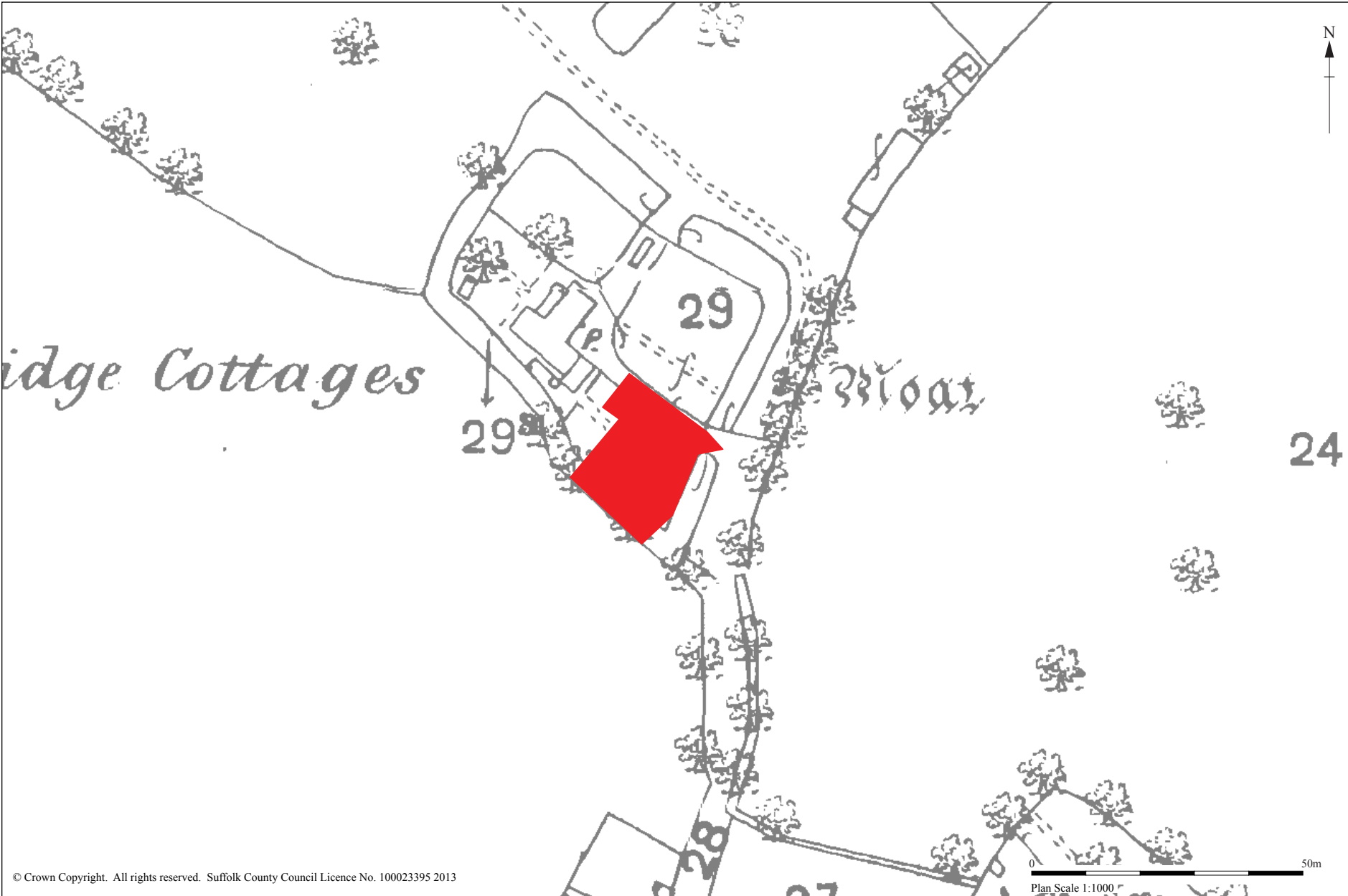
Figure 1. Location plan showing development area (red) and HER sites mentioned in the text (green).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The archaeological condition was placed as the site lies within an area of archaeological importance, as recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER, Fig. 1). The sites general location within the Lark Valley indicated broad potential for multi-period archaeological deposits but in particular the site lies immediately adjacent to the Fornham Cursus (HER No. FAS 004), a Scheduled Neolithic monument (National Heritage List for England No. 1006018) running north-west to south-east parallel to the River Lark for c.1.87km between Hengrave and Fornham All Saints.

The cursus has been clearly plotted by aerial photography for much of its length, the main exception being the c.500m long stretch as it passes through the modern village of Fornham All Saints. The cursus is the main feature of a known monumental landscape, with numerous other cropmarks along its length indicating the presence of other linear ditches, enclosures and ring ditches. Several of these lie within 250m to the west of the site, and include ring ditches FAS 024 and FAS 025, a possible parallel cursus, FAS 029, and a group of linear and ring ditches, FAS 008. Recent plotting of cropmarks (Terence O'Rourke Ltd, 2012) shows one linear ditch, broadly parallel to the cursus, to the north-west of the site on an alignment which, if continued, could pass through the proposed development. Accordingly there was thought to be high potential for prehistoric deposits of various date to be present within the site.

The site also lies within a medieval moated enclosure (FAS 001, Figs. 1 and 2) and the historic settlement core of Fornham All Saints (FAS 043), c.100m north of the parish church (FAS 017). The site was therefore also thought to have high potential for medieval occupation deposits to be present.



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Figure 2. Site shown on 1st edition OS map

4. Methodology

A single trench, measuring 12m in total length and 1.8m wide, was excavated across the footprint of the proposed development 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. 3). The trench was placed on a south-west to north-east alignment, at a right-angle to the line of the cursus, to maximise the chance of identifying parallel features. As a modern service trench was immediately seen running along the centre of the trench its position was then shifted c.1.5m to the south after the first few metres.

Where required the trench was cleaned, and potential features investigated, by hand. Trench and spoilheaps were scanned for artefactual material. Hand drawn plans at a scale of 1:50, and sections at 1:20, were recorded on A3 pro-forma pregridded permatrace sheets.

The trench position and site and trench levels were recorded by hand. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form (Appendix 2) has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-160407) 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. FAS 052.

5. Results

The trench measured from 0.75m deep (north-east end) to 0.9m deep (south-west end). As the ground level was flat this meant the natural subsoil of light yellow/orange sand and gravels sloped very slightly upwards to the north-east (Pl. 1). The natural subsoil was clearly cut by modern drains at the south-western end.

The trench profile was consistent throughout (Pl. 2), and showed a series of layers. An upper layer of modern deposits and topsoil, ranging from 0.15m to 0.3m thick, appeared to have been redeposited across the garden, levelling the site. This sealed a buried topsoil, 0002, which measured c.0.4m thick. Under 0002 was a c.0.2m thick layer of mid/dark grey silty/sand and occasional gravel, 0003, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and traces of mortar.

A single feature, pit 0004, was identified at the northern end of the trench, after the removal of layer 0003. Oval in plan and aligned north-east to south-west it measured 1m by 0.6m and 0.18m deep with shallow concave sides and base. A single pottery sherd was recovered from its fill of dark grey/black silty sand with occasional flints and frequent charcoal flecks, 0005.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

By Richenda Goffin

Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from layer 0003 (163g). Both are incomplete, but one is a metapodial bone, probably from a sheep. Both show evidence of being deliberately cut. A small fragment of undiagnostic struck flint was also present in this layer (3g).

A single fragment of a heavily sooted globular cooking vessel was present in 0005 (11g). It is a body sherd made in a fine dark grey fabric with sparse quartz, sparse calcareous and very sparse organic inclusions. The sherd is likely to be medieval, possibly dating to the earlier part of the period, c. 11th-12th century.

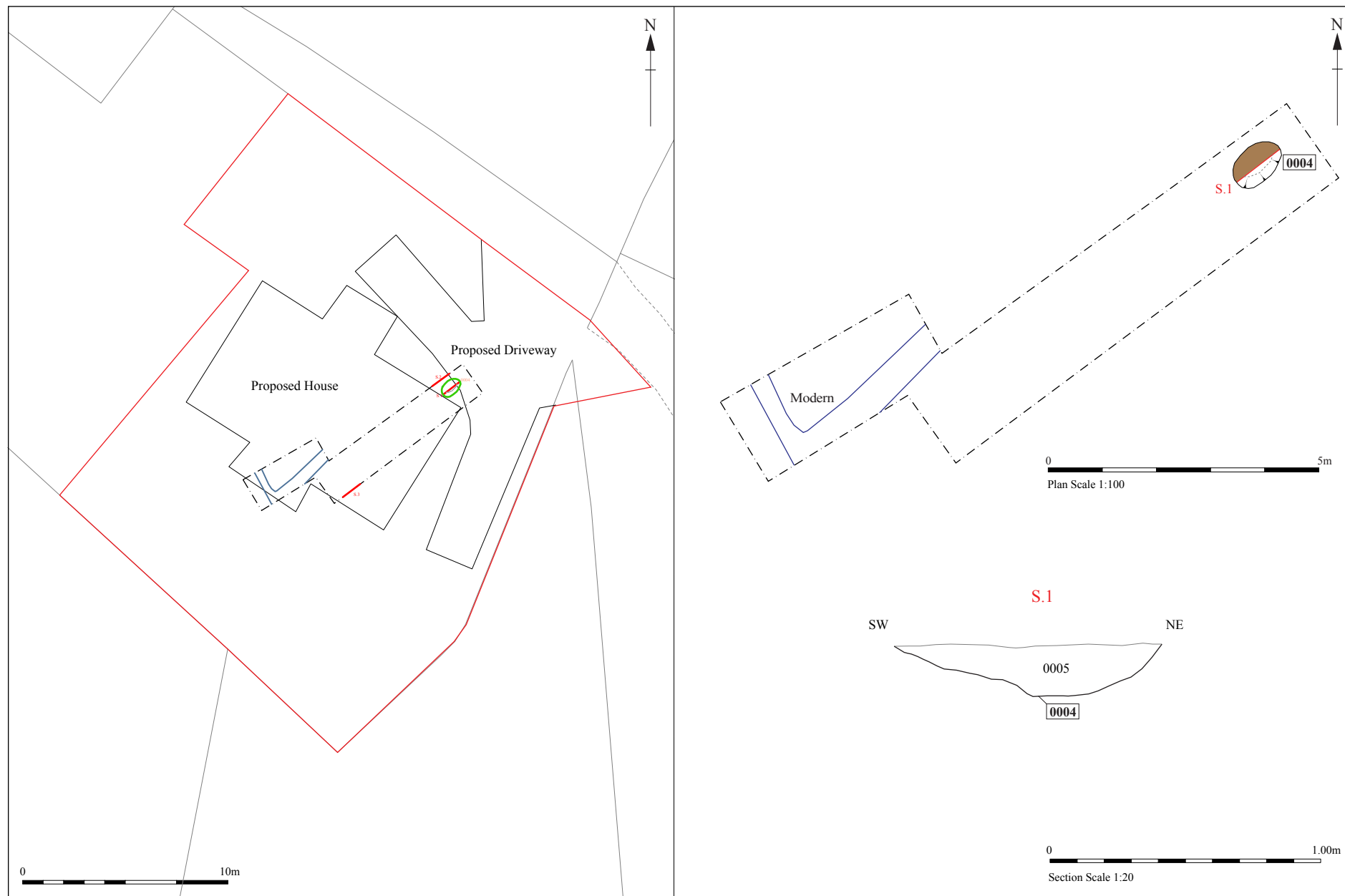


Figure 3. Trench plan, section and plan showing location of the trench within the development area



Plate 1. Trench 01 facing NE



Plate 2. Pit 0004, facing NW

7. Conclusions

The trench has shown that a buried soil horizon (0003), possibly relating to the medieval and post-medieval occupation of the site, is buried at depth below thick garden topsoil and modern deposits. This layer sealed a pit, 0004, which in turn indicates the presence of a preserved archaeological horizon. The date of the pit is probably most likely to be medieval as, although the date of the pottery sherd is somewhat uncertain, the location of the trench within a medieval moated enclosure, the well-defined nature of the pit cut and its dark soil like fill, combine to indicate a later date than the prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon periods. The presence of the pit demonstrates that other evidence relating to the medieval occupation of the site may survive elsewhere on the development plot, although the general lack of other finds material in layer 0003 suggests that this part of the enclosure was not heavily used.

The trench did not identify any evidence of prehistoric activity relating to the adjacent cursus and other monuments. The known monumental landscape however consists of widely spread features and it is quite possible that the relatively small trench is simply lying between such features, and so their presence in the rest of the plot cannot be wholly discounted. The orientation of the trench and the absence of prehistoric features however does demonstrate that there are no features parallel to the cursus passing through the plot. Therefore, bearing in mind the small-scale nature of the proposed development, it is thought to be unlikely that development groundworks will disturb prehistoric deposits.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Fornham All Saints\FAS 052 15 Aldridge Lane eval

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HUA-HUZ\HUM 026-029

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

9. Acknowledgements

The project was managed and carried out by John Craven.

Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and the specialists finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin. The report illustrations were created by Ellie Hillen.

10. Bibliography

Terence O'Rourke Ltd, 2012, *Desk Based Archaeology Assesment, North West Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.*

Websites

BGS, 2012. British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

15 Aldridge Lane,
Fornham all Saints

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/10/0905

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TL 718 829

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: House

AREA: Small

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Rachael Monk
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741230
E-mail: rachael.monk@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 25 September 2013

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition⁵ (Conditions 15) relating to archaeological investigation:

No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of 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 1.2), 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 This application lies within an area of archaeological importance, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It is within the area enclosed by a medieval moat (HER number FAS 001), and is less than 25m from the defined extent of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Neolithic cursus at Fornham (FAS 004). There is therefore high potential for Prehistoric and Medieval deposits to be encountered at this location.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is 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 has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Paragraph 141), 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.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 A 10m trial trench covering the footprint of the proposed new dwelling is to be excavated. The trench should be 1.8m wide.
- 4.5 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

- 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 (a HER code will not be issued until an OASIS record has been initiated). 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 1.2.

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. OASIS Data collection form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-160407

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All Saints |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation carried out at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fornham All Saints, identified a buried soil horizon and pit of probable medieval date, likely relating to the past occupation of the moated enclosure in which the site is situated. There was no evidence of any activity relating to the adjacent Fornham cursus and its wider prehistoric monumental landscape. |
| Project dates | Start: 08-10-2013 End: 08-10-2013 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | FAS 052 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | FAS 052 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | SE/10/0905 - Planning Application No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | PIT Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| 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 ST EDMUNDSBURY FORNHAM ALL SAINTS 15 Aldridge Lane |
| Study area | 90.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 8372 6775 52 0 52 16 36 N 000 41 35 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 25.00m Max: 27.00m |

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 | Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team |
| Project director/manager | John Craven |
| Project supervisor | John Craven |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Mrs J Keattch |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service |
| Digital Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics" |
| Digital Media available | "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service |
| Paper Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Drawing","Report" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Land at 15 Aldridge Lane, Fomham All Saints. FAS 052 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Craven, J. A. |
| Other bibliographic details | SCCAS Report No. 2013/123 |
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| Description | SCCAS Evaluation report. |
| Entered by | John Craven (john.craven@suffolk.gov.uk) |
| Entered on | 8 October 2013 |

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www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/business-services/archaeological-services