

Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, to Mutford
village underground electricity cable
MUD 024

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/036

Client: IDEEMASUN Energy

Author: M. Sommers

March 2014

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Editor: Dr. R. Gardner

Report Date: March 2014

HER Information

Site Code: MUD 024

Site Name: Priory farm, Carlton Colville, to Mutford village underground electricity cable

Report Number 2014/036

Planning Application No: DC/12/1362/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 10th February 2013 to 13th March 2014

Grid Reference: TM 4984 8950 to TM 4835 8847

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-175169

Curatorial Officer: R. Monk

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Client/Funding Body: IDEEMASUN Energy

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.

Prepared By: M. Sommers

Date: 20th March 2014

Approved By: Dr. R. Gardner

Position: Contracts Manger

Date: 20th March 2014

Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of the installation of 2.38km of underground electricity cable from Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, to Mutford village was undertaken during February and March 2014. A single undated ditch, running parallel with Church Road, was noted during the work and two unstratified sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the present land surface in the vicinity of Mutford's medieval parish church (dedicated to St Andrew). (Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, for IDEEMASUN Energy)

1. Introduction

To connect a newly constructed solar energy farm to the main power grid the installation of a new underground cable was required. The solar energy farm, which is located on land adjacent Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, was to be connected to an existing electrical power box situated close to the centre of the nearby village of Mutford (see Fig. 1), a distance of c.2.5km. To mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological evidence the groundwork associated with this project was to be archaeologically monitored.

The archaeological work was undertaken in response to a Brief produced by R. Monk of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced detailing the methods to be employed to fulfil the Brief (Appendix 1).

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, who were commissioned and funded by IDEEMASUN Energy.

2. Geology and topography

The underlying geology of the chosen cable route, as recorded by the British Geological Society, varies between the Lowestoft Formation, which forms an extensive sheet of chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays, and the Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation of sands, gravels, laminated silts and clays.

The eastern section of the route lies site is at an approximate height of c. 15.0m OD although at a roughly halfway point the route slopes down into a tributary valley of the Hundred River where it continues at a height of approximately 10m OD (see Fig. 2 for contour data).

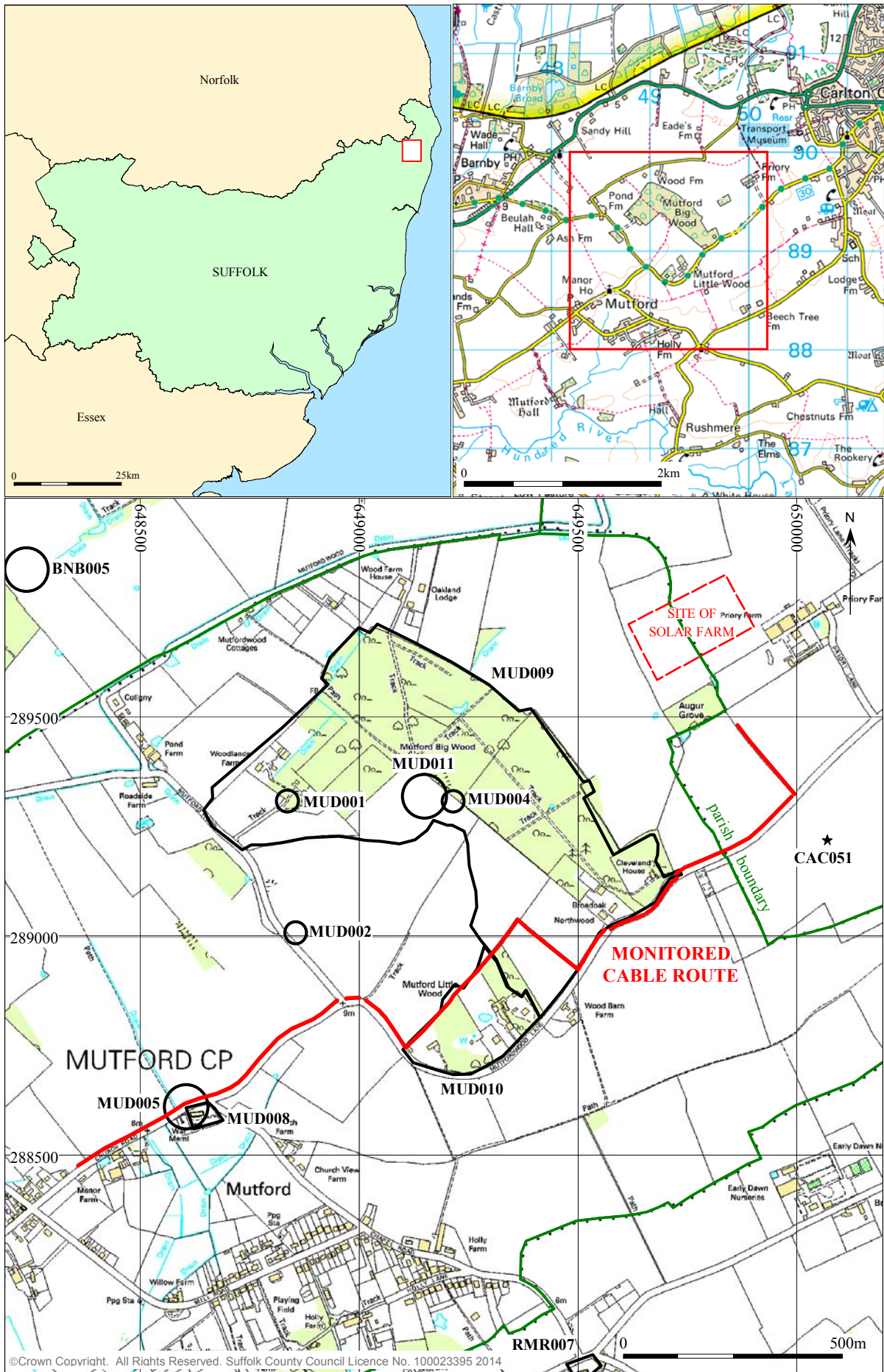


Figure 1. Location map (HER data in black)

3. Archaeology and historical background

The cable route passes through two areas recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) as sites of potential interest; these are MUD 009 and MUD 010, both of which are woods designated as ancient woodland.

A number of other sites in the vicinity are also recorded in the HER, the locations of which are marked in Figure 1; the following table (Table 1) provides a summary of each entry.

HER Ref	Period	Summary
BNB 005	Anglo-Saxon	Findspot of an Anglo Saxon tongue-shaped strap end, fragmentary with stylised bird decoration in debased Winchester style.
CAC 051	Roman & medieval	Findspot of Roman material from Carlton Colville. Consists of three greyware sherds, nine 2nd-4th century coins, a trumpet brooch, one other bow brooch and two hair pins. Also one medieval coin and one medieval strapend.
MUD 001	Mesolithic	Findspot of a tranchet axe, found on perimeter of Mutford Big Wood.
MUD 002	Anglo-Saxon/early medieval	Findspot of potsherds in hard red and grey ware, ?sagger, bones, charcoal. Pit at least six feet deep with burning. Late Saxon or Early medieval. Found on edge of sandpit, Pond Farm Road. Reported by A Cross and B Baker, 1957.
MUD 004	Neolithic	Findspot of the butt of a Neolithic chipped axe with re-chipped end in dark brown flint.
MUD 005	Neolithic	Findspot of a large Neolithic flaked axe. 19.7cm long. Cited grid reference appears to fall on boundary of road and churchyard - approximate?
MUD 008	Medieval	Standing structure: Church of St Andrew. Round Norman tower & later octagonal top. C14 Galilee porch and other Norman & C14 works. A church is recorded at Mutford in the Domesday survey. Medieval cross base in churchyard.
MUD 009	Ancient woodland	Mutford Big Wood: Ancient woodland as defined by The Suffolk Wildlife Trust, English Nature, the County Council Countryside section and various Oliver Rackham works. Recorded on Hodskinson's map of 1783.
MUD 010	Ancient woodland	Mutford Little Wood: Ancient woodland as defined by The Suffolk Wildlife Trust, English Nature, the County Council Countryside section and various Oliver Rackham works. Recorded on Hodskinson's map of 1783.
MUD 011	Neolithic	Findspot of a flint axe, 14.5cm long, 5.7cm wide and 3.0cm thick, weighing 311 cms. Brown flint, unpatinated and unpolished. Fairly straight blade. Pointed butt.
RMR 007	Medieval	Standing structure: Church of St Michael. Small Norman round tower & nave. Recorded as derelict & disused in 1975. A church is recorded at Rushmere in the Domesday survey.

Table 1. Historic Environment Record entry summaries

Given the presence of known archaeological sites in the vicinity to the cable route and the extent of probable ground disturbance there was deemed a potential for previously unknown archaeological sites to be encountered.

4. Methodology

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the excavated cable trench during and after its excavation by machine in order to identify any significant archaeological features and/or deposits. The location of any significant phenomenon identified would then be plotted and stratigraphy recorded. The spoil was also examined in an attempt to recover datable finds.

In areas where the cable trench ran through ploughed fields the route was walked in an attempt to recover surface finds.

Digital photographs were taken as part of the record.

5. Results

A total length of 2.4km of the cable trench, excavated for the installation of a cable duct, was archaeological monitored. It ran from the southern edge of the construction site of a solar electricity generating farm (NGR TM 4984 8950) to a pole mounted electrical power box close to the centre of the village of Mutford (NGR TM 4835 8847).

The cable trench measured c. 0.45m in width and was cut to a depth of approximately 1.3m. It was in general excavated directly through the existing ground surface although in a limited number of areas a 1m wide area was stripped of topsoil prior to the excavation of the cable trench in order to reduce the chance of the trench collapsing.

The majority of the route ran along the edge of agricultural fields although one stretch was cut along a roadside verge. Figure 2 illustrates the route of the cable trench. The route marked in red is the lengths of trench subject to some form of archaeological investigation whilst the lengths marked in the black dashed line are those that were unfortunately missed due to the mistiming of monitoring visits. The reference numbers in Figure 2 (1 to 13) refer to each of the monitoring visits made during the installation of the cable, the results of which are summarised in Table 2 below.

Ref. No. (as per Fig. 2)	Detail
1	Trench along the eastern edge of grass meadow. Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand (date of visit 18/2/14).
2	Length of trench in the southwest corner of a large ploughed field (plate 1). Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand (date of visit 13/2/14).
3	Route of cable trench along the southern edge of ploughed field systematically walked but no significant artefacts recovered (date of visit 13/2/14).
4	Length of trench running along the southern edge of Mutfordwood Lane within the roadside grass verge. Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand (date of visits 18 & 20/2/2014)
5 & 6	Two lengths of trench along edges of a grassed meadow. Natural subsoil consisted of yellow silty clay (date of visit 26/2/2014)
7	Trench within grassed trackway along edge of ploughed field (plate 2). Natural subsoil consisted of stiff yellow clay with silt and some chalk (date of visit 4/3/2014)
8	Trench within grassed trackway along edge of ploughed field. Natural subsoil consisted of yellow brown silt, possibly a hillwash (date of visit 26/2/2014).
9	Length of trench on edge of ploughed field Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand (date of visit 28/2/2014).
10	Length of trench in the southwest corner of a large ploughed field (plate 3). Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand (date of visit 6/3/14).
11 & 12	Route of cable trench along the southern edge of ploughed field systematically walked. Two sherds of pottery recovered from surface of field at location 12 (date of visit 6/3/14).
13	Length of trench along southern edge of field. Natural subsoil consisted of yellow sand. A single linear feature, interpreted as a ditch, was noted in the initial topsoil strip running along length of trench (plate 4). It ran parallel with the road edge but set back into field by c. 3.5m. It measured approximately 0.65m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.4m with a single fill of mid brown silty sand. An approximate 10m length of the feature was seen excavated but no artefacts were recovered. (date of visit 10/3/2014).

Table 2. Monitoring results

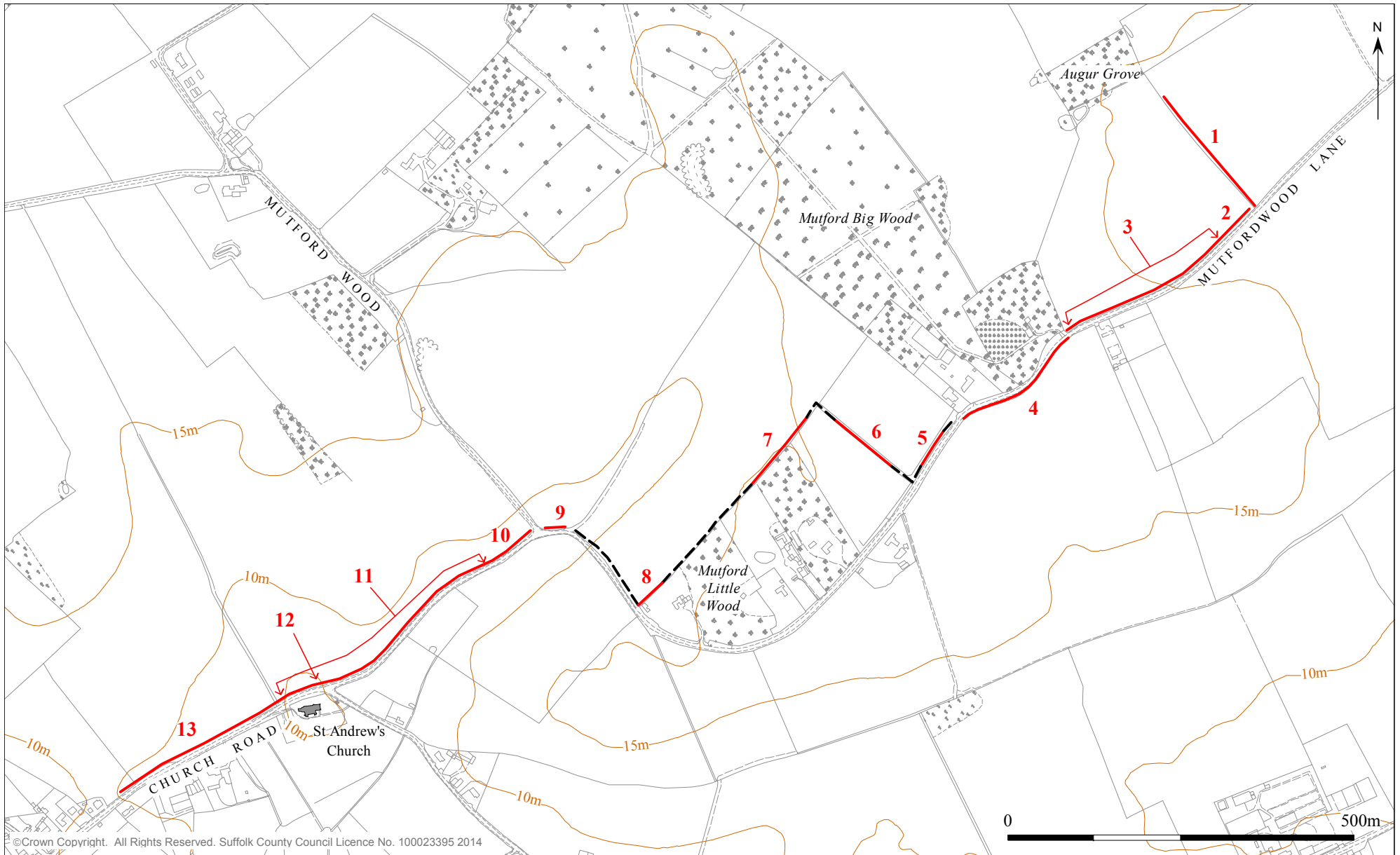


Figure 2. The monitored cable route (with 5m contours)

6. Finds

Richenda Goffin

Two sherds of pottery weighing 8g were recovered during the monitoring. These are as follows:

A single abraded fragment of medieval coarseware (3g) made in a sandy fabric with orange/brown external margins was found dating from the Late 12th-14th century;

A single fragment of the rim of a medieval greyware jug (5g). It has an external triangular beaded rim and is of the same date.

7. Discussion

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from an area opposite the medieval parish church in Mutford (dedicated to St Andrew). As a Norman structure that has been in use through to the present day, the building itself is evidence of activity during 12th to 14th century and the discovery of medieval pottery in the vicinity should not be unexpected. The finds do not necessarily confirm the presence of a medieval house plot in the recorded findspot. Given the limited number and the abraded nature of the sherds casual discard or medieval manuring of agricultural land would seem more likely explanation for their presence.

The single undated ditch maybe an earlier roadside ditch and would suggest the roadway was originally wider than it is at present or that it has moved slightly to the south. The road at this point is not sunken but is at a similar level to the adjacent field.

7. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: MUD 024.

The digital archive will be stored on the SCC secure servers at the location:

R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Mutford\MUD024 Monitoring (Priory Farm PV cable)

Digital photographs are held under the references: HWU 83 to HWU 86

A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolkc1-175169

9. Plates



Plate 1. general view of cable trench at location 2 in Fig. 2, camera facing east (ref. HWU 83)



Plate 2. general view of cable trench at location 7 in Fig. 2, camera facing northeast (ref. HWU 84)



Plate 3. general view of cable trench at location 10 in Fig. 2, camera facing east (ref. HWU 85)



Plate 4. view of probable ditch at location 13 in Fig. 2, camera facing northwest (ref. HWU 86)

Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation



WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Priory Farm, Carlton Colville to Mutford village, Suffolk, underground electricity cable

PLANNING STATUS: By condition (DC/12/1362/FUL)

GRID REF: TM 4984 8950 to TM 4835 8847

Suffolk HER No: MUD 024

SCCAS JOB CODE: TBA

- The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) has been asked to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological monitoring and recording of groundwork associated with the installation of an electrical cable duct between a newly constructed solar power generating farm at Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, and an electrical box in the village of Mutford.
- The project design has been requested by Freedom Group (on behalf of a client) and follows a Brief and Specification from Rachael Monk of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.
- An allowance has been made to cover the projected cost of this work and the relevant estimate has been sent to the client.

1 Project Aims

- To produce a permanent record of the site (in this case the route of the cable duct) in an archive that will be deposited with Suffolk HER.
- The site will be recorded under a new HER site code. An OASIS form will be initiated prior to the start of fieldwork and a .pdf version of the report uploaded on to the website <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit> for immediate release

2 Monitoring of Ground works: method statement

- An experienced field archaeologist from SCCAS Field Team will be in constant attendance whilst all groundworks excavations are completed.
- Any archaeological features exposed during the work will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Deposits will be sampled for environmental material as appropriate (and as suggested by EAA Occ. Paper Research Agenda-

Environmental Archaeology). If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.

- Site records will be made on SCCAS pro forma context sheets under a continuous and unique numbering system and conventions compatible with the county Historic Environment Record will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to the OS map cover. A photographic record of the site and any archaeological features will be kept using digital images, and monochrome images where appropriate. The site will be registered within the OASIS system as is normal for the county, if the monitoring results merit it.
- A Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained if necessary (any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been recorded/removed). However this is unlikely to happen on this site.

i. Report/Archive

- All site and finds records will be entered onto Microsoft Access databases and will be archived in paper and electronic form. Site plans and sections will be inked up or digitised for report and archive purposes.
- All finds will be processed at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, to minimum standards laid down by the relevant finds groups (e.g. Roman Pottery Research Group) and stored in archive stable bags/boxes. Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and stabilised as necessary to ICON standards. Environmental samples will be processed and assessed by a recognised regional contractor. It is anticipated that finds will be deposited in the County Store for future reference.
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced and copies submitted to the client, the Conservation Team at Suffolk CC and the county HER. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The monitoring report will contain a recommendation for further analysis and publication of the results as appropriate and in accordance with regional research agendas and strategies (EAA Occ. Papers 3&8). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition
- A full project archive will be submitted to the County Store and every effort will be made to ensure that the landowner agrees to the deposit of all the finds (the Field Team will take responsibility to report any finds which might qualify under the Treasure Act 1996). The archive will be in paper and electronic form. A summary of the project findings will also be produced. The landowner/developer will receive copies of the report with all finds fully listed

4 On completion of the work

- Hard copies and a single pdf file on CD of the report will be submitted to SCC Conservation Team.
- The project archive will be submitted to Suffolk HER (a fixed charge for the deposition of the archive is included in the costing).

- The oasis record will be completed and a pdf version of the report uploaded for immediate release.

5 Risk Assessment

Work in a rural location close to operating mechanical plant-medium risk:

- For single person working Suffolk County Council operates a 'reporting-in' procedure at the middle and end of each day.
- Site staff will wear protective clothing at all times on site (hard hat, high visibility vest, steel-toe cap boots). The PO will report to the main contractor/developer at the beginning of each site visit. All staff hold CSCS cards
- Vehicles will be parked in a safe location
- A fully charged mobile phone will be on site at all times.
- Site staff will be aware of the location of the nearest A&E unit and a vehicle will be on site at all times. It is likely that the relevant PO will be a qualified First Aider.
- Suffolk County Council holds full insurance policies for field work (details on request).

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-175169	
Project details	
Project name	MUD024 - Priory Farm, Carlton Colville to Mutford underground cable route
Short description of the project	Monitoring of the installation of an underground electricity cable from Priory Farm to Mutford village revealed a single undated ditch. Two unstratified sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the present land surface close to Mutford parish church.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2014 End: 03-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MUD024 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Salvage Record"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY MUTFORD MUD024 - Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, to Mutford village
Study area	1100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4984 8590 52.4133333471 1.6742471654 52 24 48 N 001 40 27 E Point
Site coordinates	TM 4835 8847 52.4370764517 1.65429199605 52 26 13 N 001 39 15 E Point

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	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Archive ID	MUD024
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	MUD024
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	MUD024
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report"
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Priory Farm, Carlton Colville, to Mutford village underground electricity cable
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