

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

The Barn, Wash Lane, South Elmham St. Margarets (SEM 024); Record of an Archaeological Evaluation

SCCAS Report No. 2006/152; Oasis No. suffolkc1-17649



Backfilling Trial-Trenches

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© September 2006

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Summary

South Elmham St. Margaret, The Barn, Wash Lane (TM 3225 8366; SEM 024) A desktop survey and trial-trenching evaluation successfully recorded the location of the house that, prior to its burning down in the later 19th century, occupied the south-west end of the moated/ditched enclosure with the SMR No. SEM 002.

Documentary sources suggested that the house burnt down during the 1870's prior to the survey for the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1880. By this time, the layout of the extant barns had already been established, although later infilling with additional structures clearly occurred during the early 20th century. These barns replaced a more extensive complex of buildings that were detailed in an earlier document and plans that probably date to the 1870's and were also shown on the tithe map of 1838 and an earlier estate map of 1705.

Test-holes within the central area of the existing barn revealed that the interior had once been excavated out to a level marginally below that of the naturally occurring subsoil. This is a common occurrence when livestock are to be kept seasonally indoors to facilitate the build up of manure and straw bedding. The floor of the small central room on the north side of the barn had subsequently been raised up to that of the outside ground level. The initial lowering of the floor levels would almost certainly have destroyed shallow in situ archaeological deposits within the interior of these barns.

The structural evidence for the house, elements of which survived at only c.0.2 metres below the current ground surface, had been constructed on a c.0.4 metre thick platform of clean boulder clay. Documentary evidence and surviving structural features recorded in the trial-trenches suggest that the building had been timber framed with a substantial central chimney stack of brick (probably 2 inch tudor-type). The sill beams of its timber frame would have rested upon dwarf brick walls, the remains of which were identified in the trenches along with a brick threshold for one of the internal doorways. While no direct dating evidence was recovered for the building it is likely to have been of later medieval or earlier post-medieval date (15th or 16th century).
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council & Roger Davis)



1. Introduction

1.1 Planning, Historical & Archaeological Background

A planning application (W/14255) has been submitted covering the conversion of existing farm buildings at Wash Lane, South Elmham St. Margaret (TM 3225 8366) (Fig. 1) to residential use. The c.0.3 hectare site, comprising a moated enclosure believed to be of medieval date, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30548) and is recorded in the Sites & Monuments Record as SEM 002. The site lies adjacent to a medieval green (Sites & Monuments Record SEM 020).

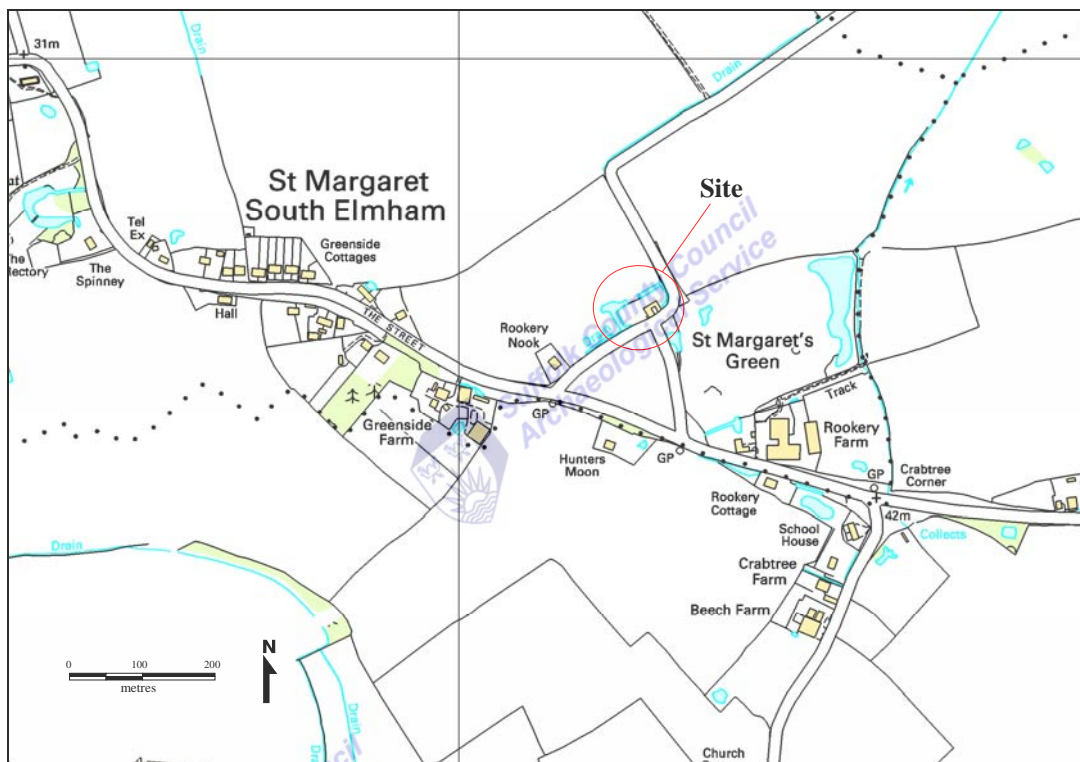


Fig. 1 1:10,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site

The planning proposals included provision for parking towards the south-western end of the enclosed area where a building was known to have stood until the later 19th century when it burnt down. As this was considered to be represent the most potentially archaeologically damaging element of the development, along with ground lowering in the central area of the barn, the applicant was informed that they would need to provide for a programme of archaeological evaluation.

A number of evaluation and recording techniques were considered including a desktop survey, trial-trenching (both covered by this report), geophysical survey and topographic survey. The information gleaned would then be used to inform future planning decisions and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent applications.

In order to facilitate the evaluation, a Brief and Specification document was prepared by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (Jess Tipper). Subsequently, the Field Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service were commissioned by the project architects (Building Plans Ltd.) to undertake the archaeological evaluation, the fieldwork for which was carried out on the 17th and 18th of August, 2006.

1.2 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

The site lies on the highest point, at approximately 42 metres OD, of an irregular shaped shallow ridge that forms part of the extensive clay plateau of central Suffolk. The underlying drift geology comprises Lowestoft Till laid down by the retreating glaciers and ice sheets of the Anglian Glaciation.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Desktop Survey

Sources held by Suffolk County Council (principally aerial photographs & maps) were examined along with the extremely informative material kindly provided by the applicant. A visit was also made to the Suffolk Records Office by Anthony Breen.

2.2 Fieldwork

A Sites and Monuments Record code (SEM 024) was allocated to the site with all features and their stratigraphic components given '*Unique Continuous Observed Phenomena*' numbers under this code.

Two trenches targeted on the proposed parking area towards the southern end of the enclosure were opened using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.3 metres wide toothless ditching bucket for a good clean cut. Trenches internal to the standing buildings were excavated manually.

Mechanical excavation stopped at the top of the uppermost archaeological deposit. Earlier archaeology may survive, but was not investigated as the upper levels would have to be completely destroyed in the process. All features located within the base of the trenches were manually cleaned to improve their definition prior to recording.

Plans of the trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections at a scale of 1:20, all in pencil on plastic drafting film.

A metal detector search was undertaken at all stages of the project.

The finds recovered, other than unstratified undiagnostic building material, were retained for dating purposes.

While significant site levels were recorded, these were not related directly to Mean Ordnance Datum as there was no established benchmark in the vicinity of the site.

A photographic record, both digital shots and monochrome prints, was made.

2.3 Post-Excavation

The information from the Desktop Survey appears as Section 3.1 of this report

All finds were processed and identified for inclusion in the finds section of this report.

Plans and sections were inked to archive standard and are included in this report as Figures 8, 9 & 10 at scales of 1:100 (plans) and 1:50 (section drawings).

Context information was input onto Microsoft Access database and appears as Appendix II.

3.0 Results

3.1 Desktop Survey (Stuart Boulter & Anthony Breen)

Sources held by Suffolk County Council were examined in-house (by Stuart Boulter), while additional material was covered by Anthony Breen in a visit to the Suffolk Record Office at Lowestoft. The owner of the site was also able to provide access to valuable documents and plans that were included in this survey. Passages written by Anthony Breen have been accredited in the text.

Aerial Photographs

The earliest aerial photograph held by Suffolk County Council that covers the study area was that taken in 1945 (Plate 1). The poor resolution means that details of the

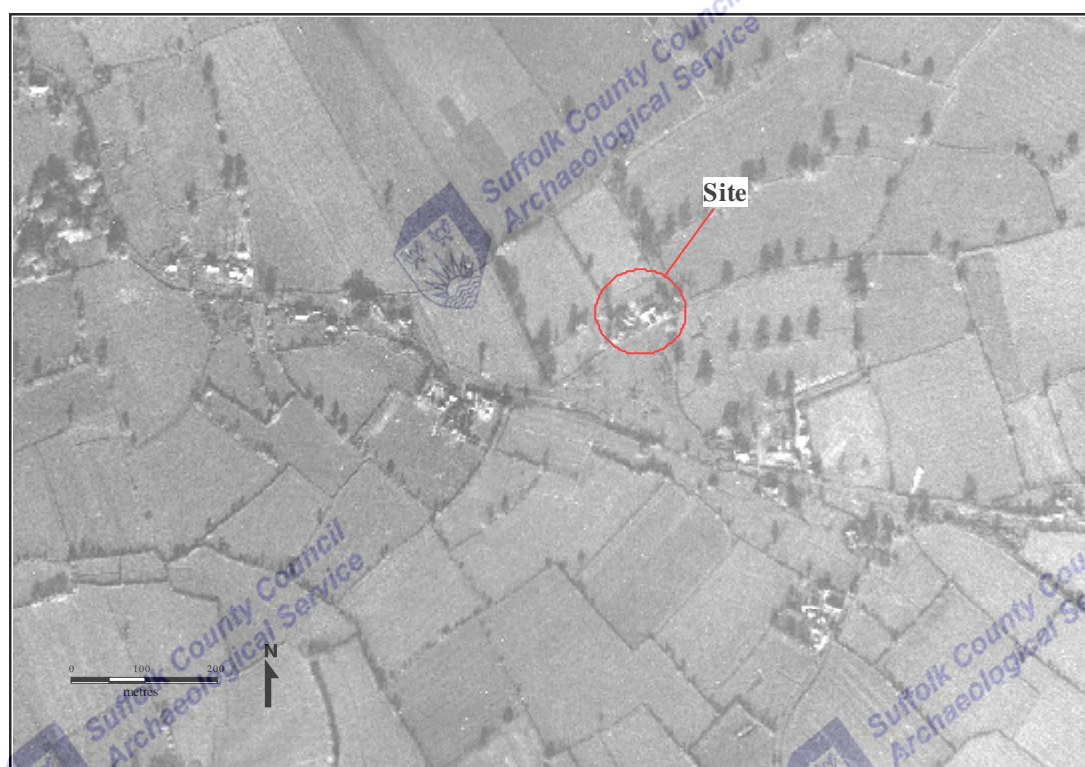


Plate. 1 Aerial Photograph (1945)
site cannot clearly be defined, but the barn buildings are visible.

The next run of photographs date to 1971 (Plate 2).

The resolution is somewhat better and the existing buildings are much more clearly defined. There is also evidence that the wider area enclosed by the moat is being utilised as part of a working farm and the entrance way is well defined and obviously is often used.

However, none of the visible features appear to relate to the earlier building on the site.

The earliest colour run dates to 1986 (Plate 3). By this time the site appears to be very much as it looks today. The standing buildings are clearly defined and the remaining area enclosed by the moat is under grass with little evidence for its continuing use as a working farmyard. The only notable difference is that the entrance route to the south-west of the barns appears to have a metallised surface rather than the grass of today.

Suffolk County Council also holds aerial photographs dating to 1991, 1996 and 1999. For the purposes of this report it was considered unnecessary to include the 1991 and 1996 photographs as so little had changed on the site and none provided evidence for an earlier building. However, the most recent, the 1999 run, has been included and clearly shows the site as it has remained to the present day.



Plate 2 Aerial Photograph No. 3,171 165 (1971)

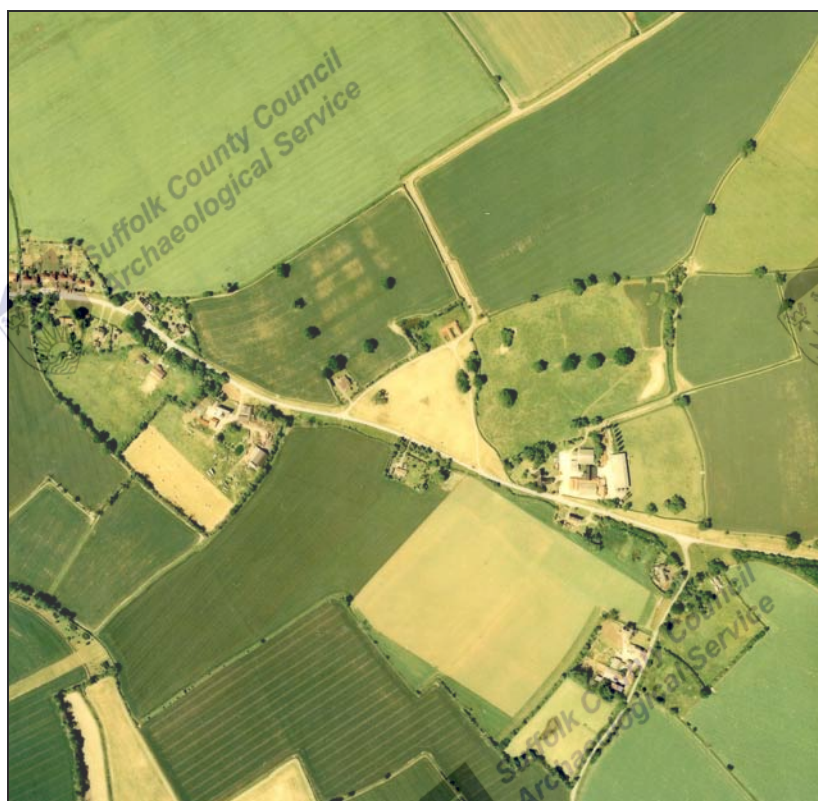


Plate 3 Aerial Photograph No. 3986025 (1986)

In summary, the aerial photograph evidence does little more than document the change that have occurred at the site during the past sixty years during which time the farm has become redundant.

There was no evidence in the form of soil-marks that would help locate earlier buildings that had been present. Particularly, there was no sign of the

house that had occupied the southernmost end of the enclosure.



Plate 4 Aerial Photograph (1999)

parchment thinned with use. Inscribed on the legend is “*A Mapp of ye lands ap’teining to Sir Edward Ward knt Barron’t lying & being in the Parish of St Margaret South Elmham 1705*” and beneath this there is a schedule of the lands. Unfortunately this schedule is very worn and part of the lettering is missing. The site of the house is numbered 15 on the map and described in the schedule as “*Homestall & Ortyards 15 meadow 1 acre 1 rood 18 pearches*”. The adjoining lands appear to be named “*Home Close 7 pasture 8 acres 22 pearches*” and “*Horiscourt ? 8 meadow 2 acres 3 roods*”. To the west of the green the field 198 on the tithe map and named “*Ale Yard*” appears here as “*Eals Yard 11 meadow 1 acre 1 rood 18 pearches*”.

The map bears a coat of arms probably that of Sir Edward Ward and this site may have been one of his main residences. The map illustrates the houses on the adjoining properties and the large house to the east of the green though carefully depicted on this map was not part of his lands.

Notably, the moat is not shown on this map, but neither are any of the

Maps

The earliest maps identified for the site were found at the Suffolk Record Office and are described by Anthony Breen.

An estate map of 1705 (ref.741/D4/8) shows the site and a digital photograph taken of part of this map appears as Fig. 2. The map is endorsed with a label written in a later hand as “*A Plan of a farm in Joshua Moore’s use jnr. in St Margarets South Elmham*”. The map is in poor condition and the



Fig. 2 Extract from estate map of 1705

other ponds or water features in the immediate vicinity that would undoubtedly have been present at that time

An estate map dated 1756 shows the farm later known as Brook Farm and its lands then in the occupation of James Denny (ref. 741/D4/11). None of his lands were in the immediate area of this site. The early 18th century map of Flixton (ref. BU 947/A/1) shows only a small area of land in the adjoining parish of South Elmham St Margaret.

A house is shown on this site on the tithe map of South Elmham St Margaret dated 1838 (ref. 150/C3/1(b)). A digital photographic copy of this section of the map has been taken for this report. The house coloured red and numbered 193 stands at a right angle to the green. The two outbuildings shaded in grey and numbered 192 are shown to the east of the house. The larger building fronting the green was probably an earlier

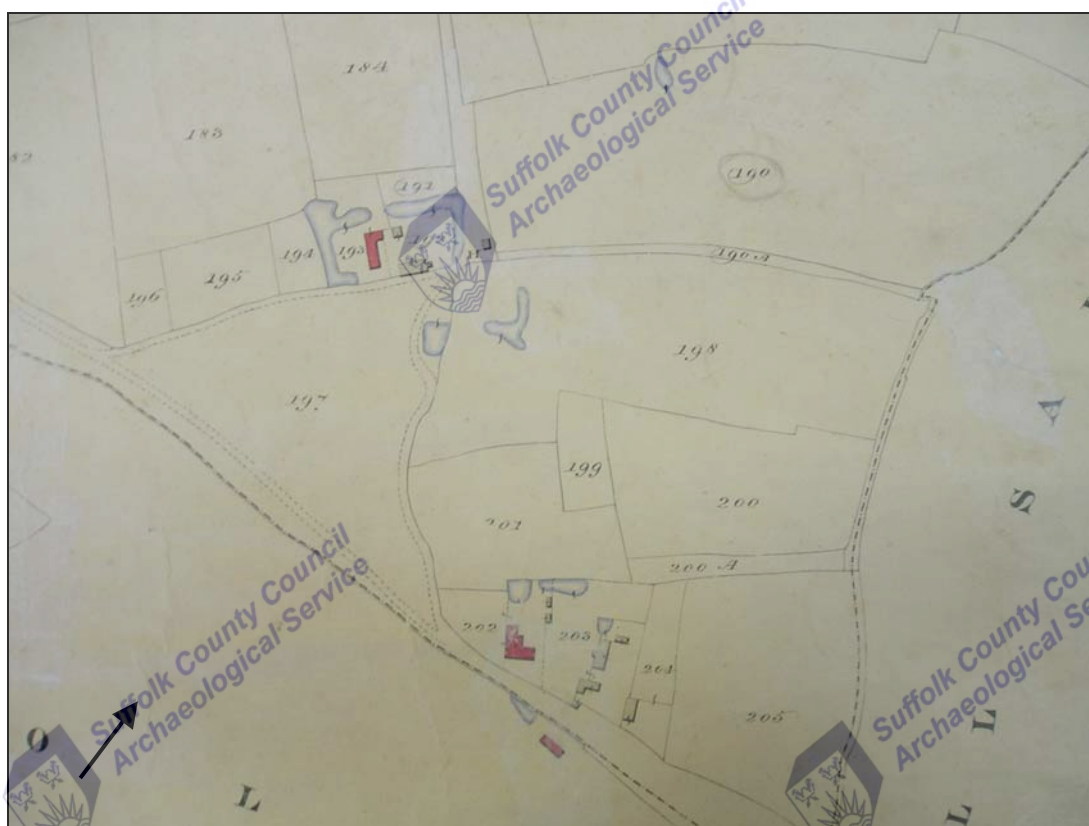


Fig. 3 Extract from the Tithe Map of 1838

barn.

The properties are described in the tithe apportionment dated according to the Tithe Commission's stamp September 1842 (ref. 150/C3/1(a)). They were the property of William Adair and in the occupation of his then tenant Francis Gibbon. The plot 193 is described as a "house and moat, pasture 2 roods 11 perches" and 192 as "Yard and Buildings, pasture 1 rood 26 perches". To the east a small plot 191 is described as "hempland" and beyond this the drift way is named as "Lokeway". To the west the adjoining plot 194 is described as a "Stackyard, pasture 1 rood 3 perches" and 195 is described as an "Orchard, pasture 2 roods 28 perches". The letter 'H' marked on the map to the east of this site is not explained in either the apportionment or on a separate legend on the map itself. The entire tenanted farm was measured as 83 acres

and 23 perches. Part of this land that formed this farm is mentioned in a lease of 1856 described later in this report.

There are later pencilled notes written on the apportionment against the lands that formed this farm that appear to be the names of later occupiers or owners. The farm was subdivided and the name "Rant" has been written in pencil against 193. Other lands had passed to "Daw" and "Robinson".

The introduction to the tithe apportionment explaining the distribution of the tithes between lay rector and parish incumbent is an interesting document in its own right. All the lands in the parish were titheable with the exception of lands described as "demesne lands". The term demesne is normally applied to land in the direct control of the lord of the manor, though in this instance its use appears to be unrelated to any former demesne. Here the demesne lands were only subjected to tithes when in arable use. When they were in arable use William Adair as impropiator of the great tithes received the income from 16 acres. The tithes from the remaining 7 acres were to be divided between the incumbent of the parish who received two thirds and the dean and chapter of Norwich Cathedral who received the remaining third. The origin of this arrangement is obscure. It is worth noting these lands as the plot numbered 190 was part of the "Demesne Lands" and described as "Great Crakes". The apportionment also mentions the payment of "Hearth Silver" an Anglo Saxon tax.

The same lands are shown on a large mid 19th century map of the estates of Lord Waveney (ref. 116/N1/1). This numbers the individual plots of land as they appear on the respective tithe maps for each parish. In relation to this site the house is not shown and the lands are numbered "196 to 191".

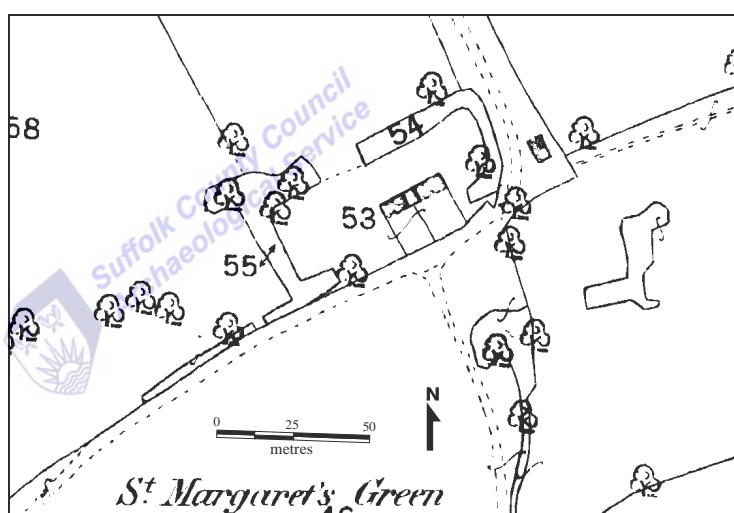


Fig. 4 1:2,500 scale Extract from the 1st Edition OS map of c.1880 test-pits opened during this evaluation.

The earliest map held by Suffolk County Council with information relating directly to the study area was the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1880 (Fig. 4). In this survey the layout of the site is fundamentally that which can be seen today. The northern barn building is present with its small central room which was to become the focus of the manually excavated

While the buildings did not extend as far to the south-east as those standing today, the footprint was already defined by boundary fences or walls. There was no indication that a building had until recently occupied the area towards the south-west end of the enclosure. This is a significant observation and will be discussed further in conjunction with the documentary evidence.

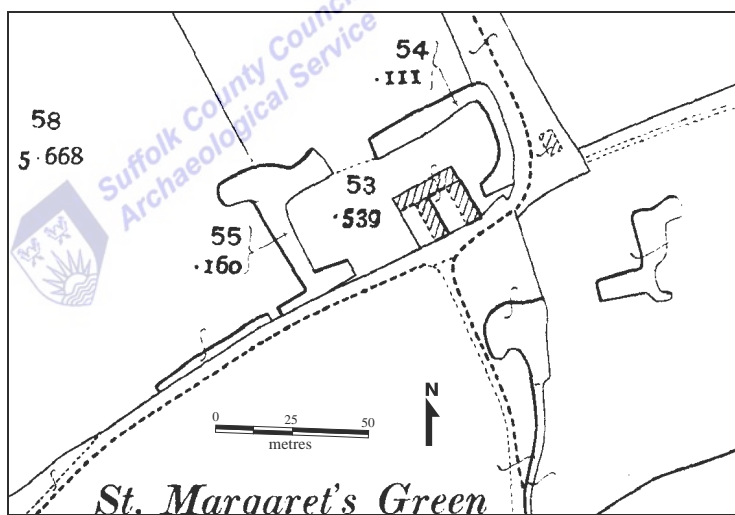


Fig. 5 1:2,500 scale Extract from the 2nd Edition OS map of c.1900 changes from that of c.1900.

The Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map of c.1900 (Fig. 5) shows that very few changes had occurred within the intervening twenty years. However, two additional barn buildings had been inserted into the existing building and yard complex.

The 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1920 (Fig. 6) shows no further

In summary, the map evidence indicates that the configuration of buildings on the site has remained fundamentally unchanged from the later 19th century, but the north range of the barn is an earlier structure than those inserted later to the south. The Tithe Map is the first map to show the earlier house in an accurately surveyed position rather than the more subjective manner of the estate map of 1705 (Fig. 2).

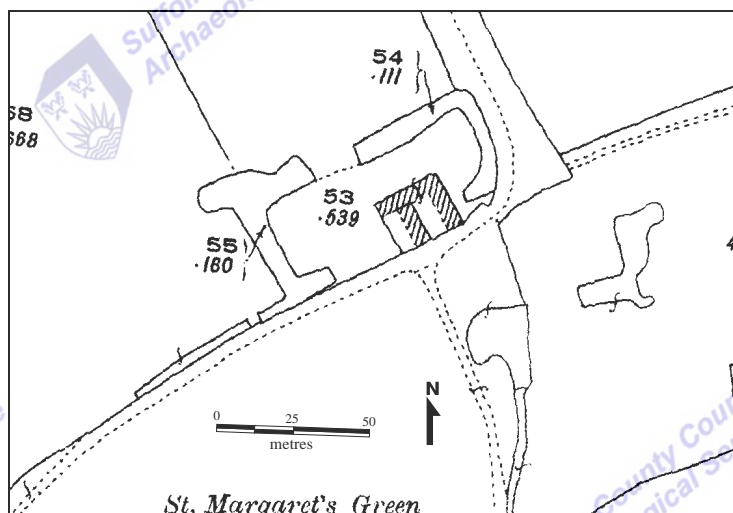


Fig. 6 1:2,500 scale Extract from the 3rd Edition OS map of c.1920

Documents

With the exception of a major piece of documentary evidence kindly provided by the present owner of the site, all of the documents relevant to this survey were examined by Anthony Breen at the Suffolk Record Office in Lowestoft.

The site is in the parish of St Margaret, South Elmham or Southelmham and was formerly part of the Adair family's Flixton Hall Estate. Copies of some documents from this collection including a survey of the buildings in the late 19th century have been given to the archaeological unit and this material has not been revisited for this report.

The catalogue for the Adair Collection has been adapted from an old Historic Manuscript Commission list prepared when the documents were still held at Flixton Hall. Several bundles of documents are described as being a numbered drawer and it was assumed at the time that there was a logical administrative reason for their arrangement in this fashion. They were originally deposited with the then East Suffolk

Record Office in Ipswich and given the catalogue number HA 12. Since October 1993 the collection has been held at the Suffolk Record Office in Lowestoft though the original catalogue has been retained a new prefix number 741 has been added. Since 1993 there have been additional depositions to this collection, these are described in separate catalogues without further cross-referencing to the original collection. A new catalogue for the entire collection is being prepared.

Farm Leases

It appears to have been the practice on parts of the estate to lease the lands on a yearly basis. Using the endorsement on the 1705 map it is possible to identify Joshua Moore as the tenant of this farm and successor to both John Meadows and another Joshua Moore in a lease dated 15th October 1856 (ref. 741/HA12/D8/4/53). As with other leases from this estate the lease is a printed form with a schedule of the lands hand written on the final page. The former tenant of the main area numbered in the schedule 1-21 and containing 119 acres had been Joshua Moore, though with the renewal of this lease additional lands formerly John Meadows were added to this holding. The numbering of these additional lands 182-188 and 190A – 196 & 198 corresponds to the lands shown on the 1838 tithe map however the pieces 192 – 194 are described as “late yard”, “late house” and “late stackyard”. Only 30 acres 2 roods and 20 perches of John Meadows’ lands were added to this farm. Though the terms and condition of the lease are printed there is an additional hand written clause.

“That if the said Joshua Moore or his executors shall at any time use or employ a Steam Thrashing Machine upon any part of the said premises, and if any fire or damage to the property of the Landlord be the result he the said Joshua Moore or his executors shall pay and make good to the said Landlord all loss, costs and damages which shall arise therefrom”

Deeds

The deeds for this farm appear to be within a bundle marked “10 No. 4 St. Margaret’s Southelmham Formerly 0 No. 8” (ref. 741/HA12/B4/24/1-44). At the time of the tithe map 1838 and apportionment 1842 the house was part of a farm consisting of 83 acres 23 perches, however at some point after that date the lands were subdivided in three parts. The deeds may have been rearranged at that date, as some of the documents in this bundle do not relate to the lands that formed the farm in 1841.

The earlier estate map of 1705 identifies the owner as Sir Edward Ward who acquired “1 messuage, 30 acres land, 15 acres meadow and 30 acres pasture in St Margaret Southelmham” from James Carsey in 1718 (ref. 741/HA12/B4/24/34 & 35). This particular type of deed was enrolled at one of courts in London and does not accurately list the lands attached to the holding.

There are two early deeds in the form of feoffments in this bundle both relating to this site. The first dated 20th April 1597 is described in the catalogue as a “Feoffment of messuage called Borys together with all rights of common on St Margaret’s Green ...”. The lands which passed from Richard Porter to Ralph Box his servant were described in detail in Latin and begin with the “First piece a messuage with a house gardens, waters and orchard lying in the parish of Saint Margaret containing by estimation four acres more or less and lying between the lands in the hands of the said Richard Porter on the west and the way called Marlespitt waye on the east and abuts

on the land of the manor of South Elmham in the hands of the said Richard on the north and the common pasture called Saint Margarete Grene towards the south” (ref. 741/HA12/ B4/24/24).

The other feoffment deed is dated 10th August 32 Elizabeth 1, that is 1590. Again in the text is written in Latin and the property is described in very similar terms as in 1597 except the adjoining lands are simply described as lands of the manor (ref. 741/HA12/B4/24/28). In the catalogue the tenement is again named ‘Borys’ and was conveyed from Nicholas Waters to Richard Porter. Both documents are written in a cursive court hand rather than in secretary hand and the initial letter of the name of the tenement might possibly be “H” rather than “B”. In another document within the same bundle there is a reference in the catalogue to a tenement named “Horis” (ref. 741/HA12/B4/24/30) and “a close called Earles”. This document has not been examined for this report.

A search of the computerised form of this catalogue using the terms “Borys” and “Horis” failed to identify any additional sources, though it is highly likely that there are earlier references to the site either in the form of deeds or within the various surveys, rentals and manorial court rolls for the area.

The shape of St Margaret’s Green as it appears of any of the maps may have been comparatively modern. There is another bundle in this collection for a house “formerly built on waste of the manor of Southelmham abutting on St Margaret’s Green” (ref. 741/HA11/B4/25/1-8). The earliest document in this bundle is dated 1752 and was an agreement “for building of a house on a piece of waste ground”.

Miscellaneous

Copies of further documents were provided by the present site owner which formed part of the Stanford Broom Records of 1870-1885 (Record Office Ref. 741 HA12/P4/25 12/203 12/35). These consisted of a “*Report*” on “*Farm No. 23 in the Parish of St Margaret South Elmham and in the occupation of John Meadows*”.

While not precisely dated, this document was probably written in the 1870’s. John Meadows was known from the census of 1871 to be in occupation at that time (Walpole, *pers. comm.*), but the building had clearly gone by 1880 (see Fig. 4).

The documents include a general description of the house, its then poor condition, a list of necessary repairs and an estimate of the cost of their being undertaken (£295..10..00). In addition, two plans were included: the first, a detailed groundplan of the house (Fig. 7) and the second showing the house in relation to the then existing farm buildings, two of which coincide with those on the tithe map (Fig. 3), and proposed alterations to the same (Fig. 8). These alterations to the farm outbuildings were never made; instead the barns as we see today were constructed sometime prior to 1880.

The description of the house is as follows:

“Description is an old building of stud and plaster, partly brick, on brick underpinning and reed thatched. Has four bedrooms, two attics, one cheese room and granary over washhouse, besides the accommodation shown on the ground plan”

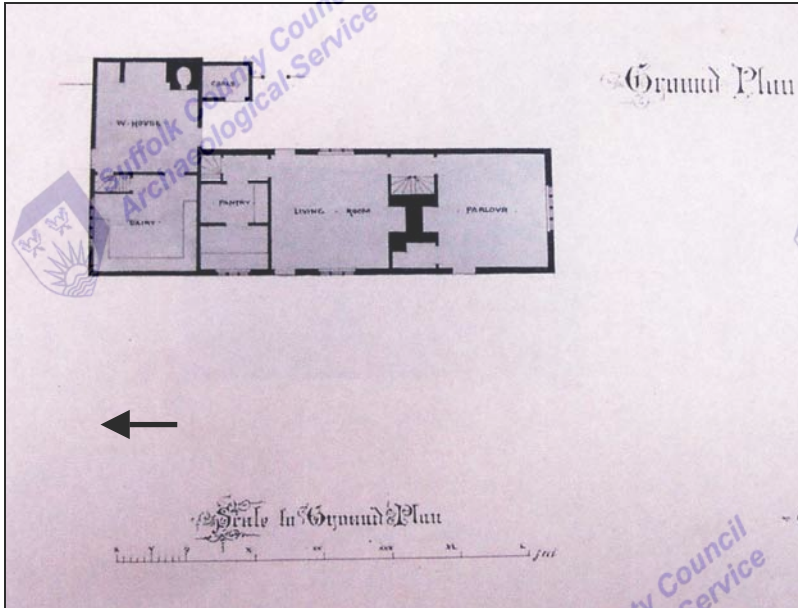


Fig. 7 Groundplan of earlier house

The overall impression is of a timber-framed building, probably constructed on dwarf walls, almost certainly of brick, with a substantial brick chimney stack separating the principal rooms (living room & parlour) in the main range (Fig. 7).

The smaller scale plan (Fig. 8) shows the location of the

house in relation to both the moat and the standing farm buildings at that time. What becomes immediately apparent is that none of the farm buildings standing at the time of the survey directly relate to those that occupied the site in 1880 (Fig. 4). However, measurements made at the site do suggest that the line of the west wall of Barn No. 2 (to the south-east of the house, Fig. 8) was maintained as the western wall of the later

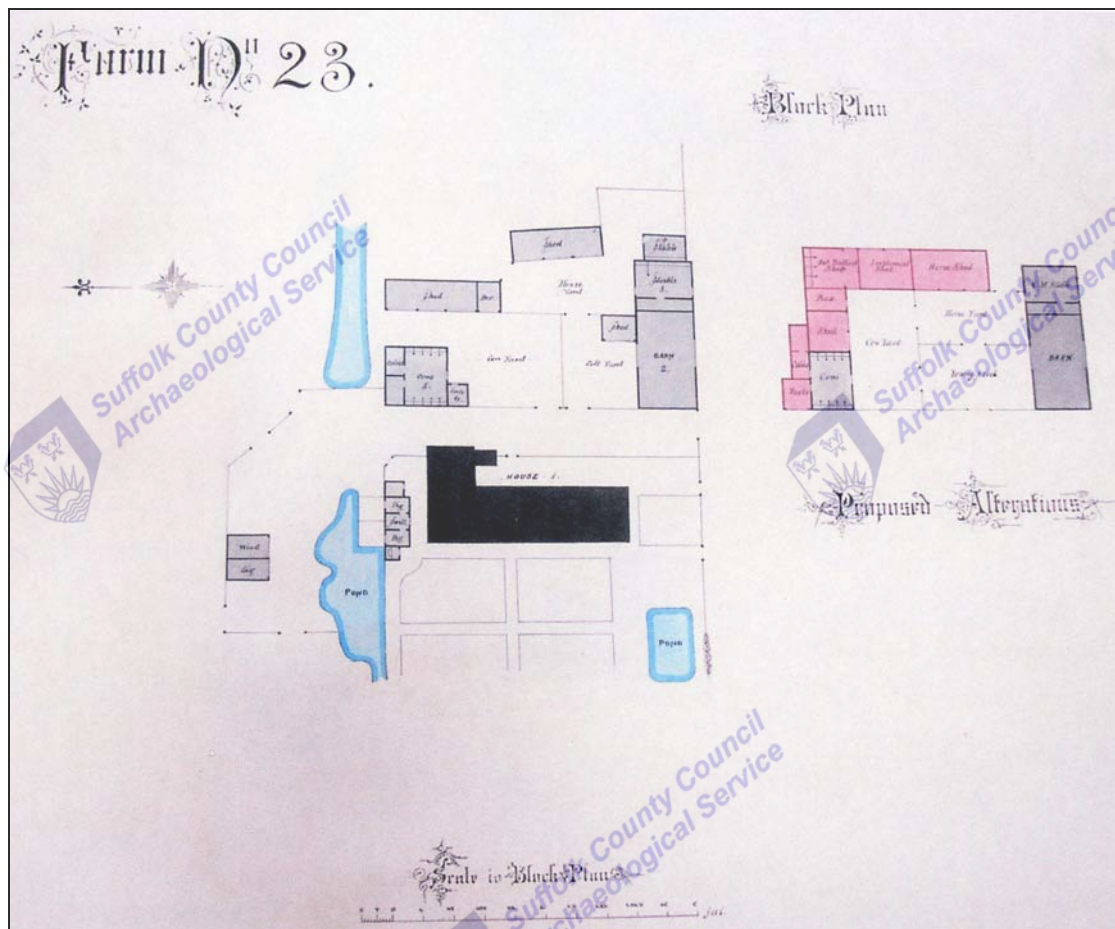


Fig. 8 Plan of house, moat & yard

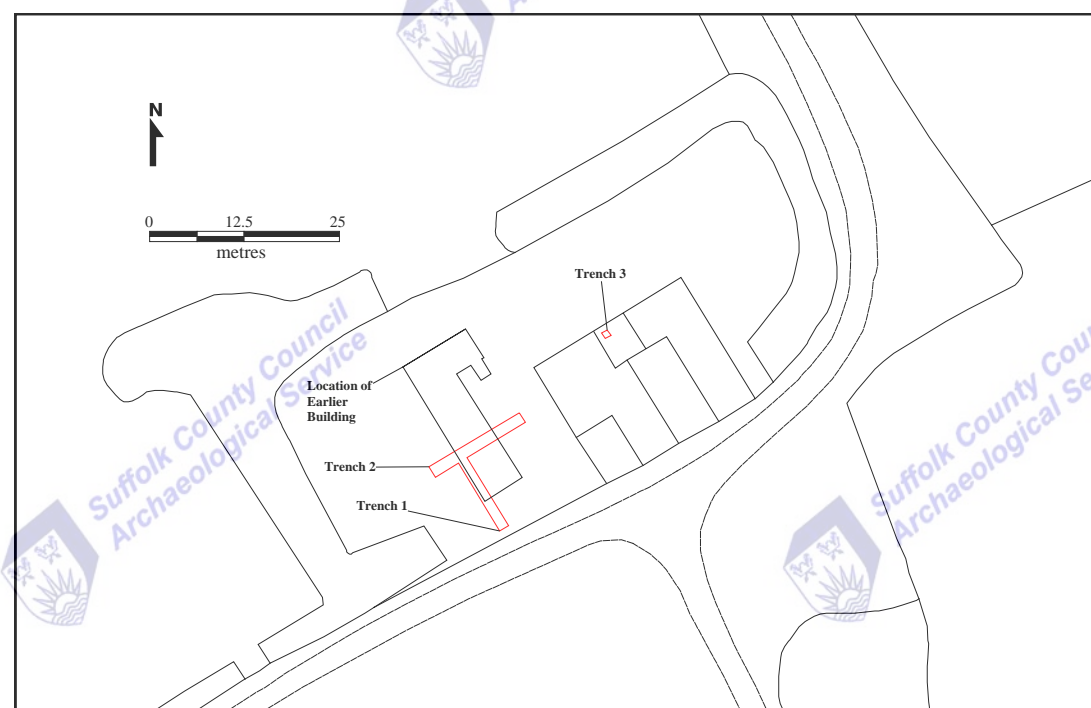
barn complex. It is also clear that none of the “*Proposed Alterations*” were ever carried out as planned.

In summary, the document provided by the owner was invaluable in that it showed in detail, the position of the earlier house within the moated enclosure. It has also provided evidence that dates the catastrophic fire that destroyed the building to the 1870’s and also suggests that none of the extant barns predate this time.

3.2 Fieldwork

An initial inspection indicated that, with the exception of the standing buildings and a large mound of soil towards the south-western end of the enclosure, that the site was entirely given over to grass. Undulations of the surface were detectable with a linear depression immediately west of the barns aligning with the site entrance and an extensive platform immediately to the west that would become the focus of the mechanically excavated trenches. In addition, there were other minor irregularities. These were not systematically recorded at the time, as it is likely that they will form part of later survey.

The mechanically excavated trenches (1 & 2) were located to the west of the standing buildings close to the road frontage (Fig. 9).



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Fig. 9 1:1000 scale OS map extract including trench & building locations

Trench 1 was 10 metres long with a width of 1.3 metres and orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and positioned perpendicular to the southernmost side of the site where it fronts Wash Lane (Fig. 9).

The existing ground level was relatively consistent for the entire length of the trench with only a shallow dip (*c.*0.13 metres deep) towards the centre. The turf and topsoil were found to be *c.*0.3 metres in depth, although the top of underlying structural

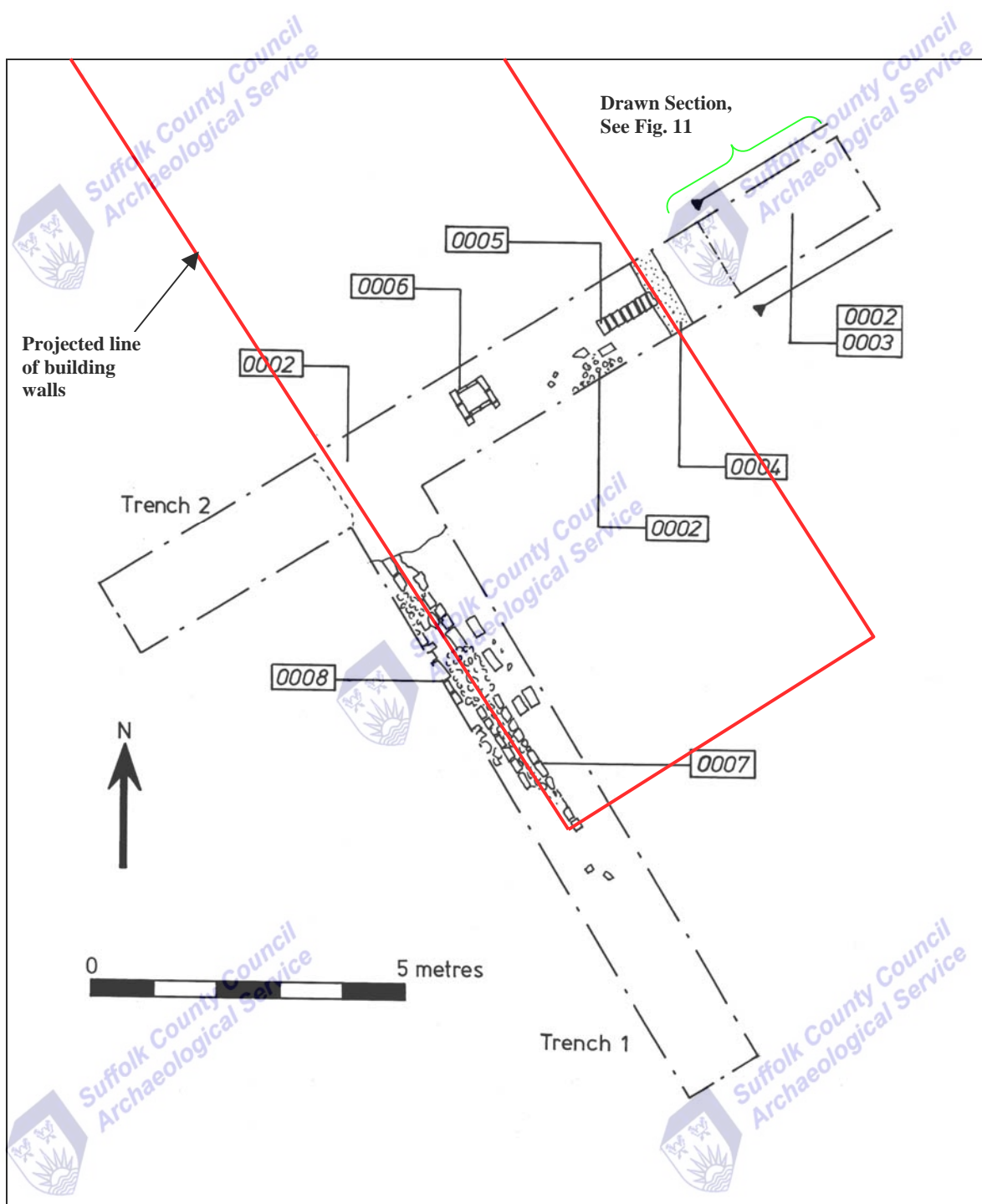


Fig. 10 1:100 scale plan of Trenches 1 & 2

features were encountered at *c.*0.2 metres. The topsoil gave way to an intermittent layer of flint pebbles (0002) and building rubble that was better developed towards the eastern end of Trench 2, where it appeared to represent a deliberately introduced surface. In Trench 1, the layer was left intact during the evaluation as structural archaeological features protruded through it.

The most significant feature recorded in Trench 1 was the formal base of a north-west to south-east orientated wall (0007) (Fig. 10 & Plate 5). The southern end of the wall corresponded exactly with the end of the earlier building as shown on the 19th century plan (Fig. 8). While it could not be traced turning towards the east to form the southern wall of the building, the distance from the barn indicated that it represented

the western wall of the earlier house. Structurally, the wall comprised unmortared part-bricks (all 2-inch thick reds), forming the external faces, with a rubble interior.



Plate 5 Trench 1, Wall base 0007

The wall was recorded for a length of c.5 metres, possibly running under 0002 cobbling/rubble layer to the north, and was c.0.45 metres wide.

On the western side of the wall, a series of flatly lain bricks (0008) may have represented a deliberately lain surface (Fig. 10). The bricks were all thin, 2 inches or less and were a mixture of red and buff in colour.

Additional excavation towards the southern edge of the trench failed to encounter any eastward continuation of the existing pond/ditch and platform layer 0002 was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.4 metres.

Trench 2 was 14.7 metres long with a width of 1.3 metres and orientated from north-east to south-west at right angles and adjoining with Trench 1 (Fig. 9).

The ground surface for the westernmost c.12 metres of the trench was relatively level (at c.0.35 metres higher than ground level north of barn), but dropped down by c.0.3 metres at its eastern end where it approached the established route/track across the site. On excavation it became clear that rather than the route/track representing an incised feature, the slope was due to the deliberate construction of a platform (0003) on which the earlier building had been constructed (Plate 6 & Fig. 11).



Plate 6 Trench 2, Clay platform 0003

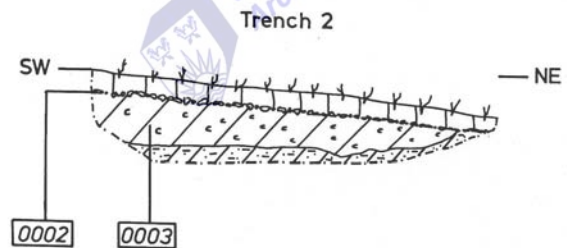


Fig. 11 Clay platform 0003, 1:50 Scale section drawing

The layer forming the platform (0003) was excavated at the easternmost end of the trench and found to comprise very clean yellow chalky clay characteristic of the local drift geology (Lowestoft Till). A thin, c.0.1 metre thick, layer of brown silty clay below 0003 was interpreted as the vestiges of an earlier, pre-platform, topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from 0003 or the underlying topsoil.

Topsoil in Trench 2 was approximately 0.2 metres thick, although again, structural features were encountered at a slightly higher level. The previously described layer of flint pebbles and occasional brick/tile fragments (0002) clearly overlay clay 0003 and appeared to continue on beyond the eastern end of the trench and was also recorded intermittently throughout Trench 2.



Plate 7 Trench 2, slot 0004 & threshold 0005

the chimney stack to the south (Fig. 7). Threshold 0005 also provides evidence for the floor level in the earlier building.

Slot 0004 was 0.45 metres wide with an indeterminate depth (remaining unexcavated) and a fill (0012) comprising loose mortar, brick & flint fragments with common charcoal inclusions (Plate 7).



Plate 8 Trench 2, structure 0006

Structural evidence within the trench comprised a north-west to south-east orientated slot (0004), a brick-built door threshold (0005) and a small rectangular structure (0006) (Fig. 10, Plates 7 & 8).

Measurements suggest that 0004 represents the eastern wall of the earlier house while 0005 corresponds with the threshold between the living room, to the north, and the stairwell beside

Immediately to the west of and abutting 0004 was a series of closely spaced bricks (0005) set in lime mortar and arranged side by side in a row of eight. These appeared to be 2 inches thick bricks, the westernmost one of which exhibited brown glaze.

Approximately 2 metres to the east of 0005, an enigmatic brick built structure (0006) was recorded. A series of 2 ½ inch thick, unmortared,

frogless red coloured bricks formed a small rectangular structure with the bricks on the north and south sides lain on their sides and those to the west and east on their faces (Fig. 10 & Plate 8). The soil infilling the structure comprised homogenous dark grey relatively uncompacted silty sand. If associated with the earlier building, this structure would have been located centrally and towards the front of the northernmost of the back to back fireplaces (Fig. 7).

Trench 3 measured 1 metre by 1 metre and was located within the small room central to the north side of the barn (Fig. 9). Initially, a second similar-sized trench was planned, but was abandoned following discussion with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team Archaeologist Jess Tipper on the basis that it would not provide any additional information.

The extant floor in the small central room was at a level only *c.*0.1 metre below that of the ground immediately outside the barn. However, this was considerably higher (by *c.*0.6 metres) than the level of the floor in the main barn buildings to the east and west.

The existing clay floor of the barn (0009) was found to be 5 to 10 centimetres thick comprising hard packed homogenous brown clay (Plate 9 & Fig. 12).

Immediately below clay floor 0009, a *c.*0.35 metres layer of mixed clay, brick rubble, mortar and charcoal (0010) was encountered which, itself, overlay a *c.*0.2 metres layer of poorly mixed sand and clay (0011) (Plate 9 & Fig. 12).



Plate 9 Trench 3, south side of trench

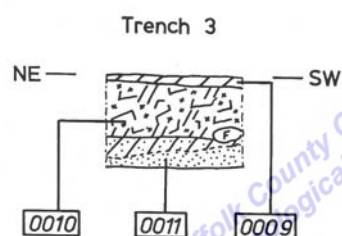


Fig. 12 Trench 3, 1:50 scale section drawing

Naturally occurring clay subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.6 metres at a level similar to that of the existing floors in the barns to the east and west.

3.3 The Finds (by Richenda Goffin)

Introduction

A total of two small finds were recovered from the evaluation, both of which were unstratified.

Metalwork

A single copper alloy half-penny from the reign of George II, dated 1750 was recovered (0101).

A small complete cast copper alloy mount is earlier in date (0102). The mount has two symmetrical lobes and a central plain band, and two spikes on the reverse which have been bent round for attachment. Although such mounts are known to have been used as belt-stiffeners, it is also possible that it was used to secure the end of a belt once it had passed through the buckle, or was attached to a strap from a horse harness. Similar examples are known from the early post-medieval period, particularly the sixteenth century (Margeson, pp40-41, Fig. 23, Nos. 287-288).

4. Archaeological Interpretation

The combined results of the desktop and field surveys have provided useful information regarding the surviving archaeology within the Wash Lane moated enclosure.

The location of the earlier building was clearly shown on the mid 19th century tithe map and later 19th century plans, the accuracy of which was confirmed in the trial-trenches. The description of the building, while not overly comprehensive, when combined with the details from the groundplan, suggests that it was most likely to be timber-framed with brick used for the central chimney stack and dwarf walls to support the frame. Given that the bricks used in the wall bases were of 2 inch tudor-type, with similar re-used bricks occurring in the earliest barn walls, it seems likely that at least one phase of the building dated to the 16th century. However, elements of earlier phases, possibly even of medieval date could have survived in the later structure. The differences in character between the east and west walls of the building may be the result of robbing or a fundamental structural variation. Certainly, the southern end of the building was not encountered and it seems likely that it had been robbed.

The building was constructed on a platform of clay, which must be contemporary or earlier than the building itself. The cleanness of the clay suggests that it was derived from a primary source, possibly even the original digging of the moat. The platform continued to the south of the building into an area where evidence for infilled ditch could be expected had the moat once been continuous. It seems likely then, providing the platform does not stratigraphically overlie ditch infill, that rather than a continuous moated enclosure, that the site represents a medieval toft or farmstead.

The surviving structural elements revealed in the trench could all be related to the 19th century building plan with the exception of the small rectangular brick structure which would have been located in one of the main fireplaces. The bricks of this structure were of 18th or 19th century type, suggesting that it had been inserted into the existing building. If not associated with the fireplace itself, one other possibility is that it was a floor-safe similar to that seen at Crows Hall, Debenham (Boulter, forthcoming).

Given that the house and a whole series of barns and farm buildings were present in the 1870's, but not present on the OS 1st Edition Map of 1880, with the latter replaced by a new barn, it is clear that the fire must have occurred during that decade. It seems that the alterations, repairs and rebuilding programme outlined in the Stanford Broom records were never actually made. The fire itself was not evidenced within the documentary survey, but by local knowledge. Indeed, the site was once locally

known as 'Burnt House Corner' (Walpole, *pers. comm.*). Some evidence for burning was recorded with charcoal in the wall slot in Trench 2 and in the overburden in Trench 3. In addition, some of the 2 inch bricks used in the barn were heat-altered, but this may simply have been due to their original position as part of a chimney stack.

It is also likely that some of the minor topographic anomalies within the enclosure relate to the earlier suite of farm buildings that were demolished during the 1870's.

The existing barns clearly do not relate to anything shown standing earlier and must, therefore, post-date the plan thought to date to the 1870's. While the small room central to the north side has 2 inches thick tudor-type bricks in its east and west walls, there is no continuity of colour or with the surface wear/deterioration between adjacent bricks and heat damaged examples are randomly spread throughout. This observation suggests that the bricks were salvaged from an earlier structure, possibly from the burnt down house.

The existing floor surface in the central barn room has clearly been raised from its original level which itself was *c.*0.7 metres below the adjacent external ground level. This lower level internal to the barns is due to their previous use as bullock sheds. Traditionally the floor is lowered to facilitate the accumulation of manure and straw while animals are housed inside. The material used to raise the floor level in the central room included brick rubble and charcoal which suggests that it may have been derived from demolition debris from the burnt down house.

Finds were limited to a coin and a mount, the latter of possible late medieval date and the former a half-penny of George II (1750). Both of these are consistent with the range of extended occupation attributed to the site.

5. Archaeological Potential of the Site

The evidence from the evaluation has helped to assess the archaeological potential of two key areas where the proposed development would have the most significant archaeological implications, these being the clay platform with its associated building and the standing barns.

The moat itself is probably earlier in date than the recorded building, the latter either developing from or replacing an earlier structure, but possibly still having elements of later medieval date. Structural evidence for the building was well preserved and encountered within *c.*0.2 metres of the existing ground surface. This must be considered to be a sensitive area of the site and not subject to any invasive processes during the development. However, the precise position of the building has been ascertained during the evaluation and may allow some leeway outside its footprint.

The manually excavated trench within the standing buildings also provided valuable information. It has become clear that the existing floor level within the small central room on the northern side of the barn was artificially raised from a similar level to that of the other sections of the barn. In addition, the main floor level in the barns is *c.*0.5 metres below that of the surface of the naturally occurring clay subsoil as seen in the eastern end of Trench 2. This suggests that any shallow in situ archaeological deposits would have been truncated and consequently, the footprint of the standing

buildings can be considered to be of lower archaeological potential as a direct result of the farming practices that have led to the existing floor level.

While essentially fulfilling its aims, the results of the evaluation indicate that other methods, principally non-invasive geophysical and topographic survey, could be usefully employed to provide a more complete record of the site as it stands prior to development.

Furthermore, the fieldwork undertaken for this evaluation targeted a known building and the existing barns. It is likely, however, that archaeological deposits and structures have survived throughout the site, the condition of which will depend on the degree of disruption caused by its more recent use as a farmyard. On that basis, when the details of the planning application are finalised, it is likely that a programme of archaeological works will be put in place with the aim of recording the archaeology in any of the areas where groundworks will occur.

6. References

Suffolk Record Office

Maps

116/N1/1 Map showing the property of Lord Waveney in South Elmham St Margaret Mid 19th century

150/C3/1(a) Tithe Apportionment (Parish Collection) South Elmham St Margaret 1842

150/C3/1(b) Tithe Map (Parish Collection) South Elmham St Margaret 1838

BU 947/A/1 Map of the Adair estate covering lands in South Elmham St Margaret (see Catalogue) n.d. 18th century (does not show area of this site)

Adair Estate (part) ES 741 Additional Papers not found in the main catalogue HA 12

ES 741/D4/11 Survey of the estate of James Denny lying South Elmham St Margaret 1759 (Brook Farm on OS Maps)

ES 741/D4/8 Map of lands belonging to Sir Edward Ward lying in South Elmham St Margaret 1705

Estate Papers: Adair Collection

Leases

741/HA12/D8/4/53 Lease Joshua Moore October 1856 741/HA12/B4/24/1-44

Deeds

741/HA12/B4/24/1-44 Bundle of Deeds relating to a Property in St Margarets South Elmham 1590 – 1718

741/HA11/B4/25/1-8 Property St Margaret's Green South Elmham 1752-1777

General References

Margeson, S., 1993, Norwich Households; The Medieval and Post-medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-1978, EAA Report No 58

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

Appendix I *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

THE BARN, WASH LANE, SOUTH ELMHAM ST MARGARET, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [W/14255] has been made to convert buildings at The Barn, Wash Lane, South Elmham St Margaret (TM 322 836) to residential use.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this proposal, the applicant has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should take place.
- 1.3 The development area lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30548), which is protected by statute. The site is a medieval moated enclosure (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record SEM 002) lying beside a medieval green (SEM 020). There is high potential for ground disturbance to affect medieval occupation deposits which are likely to represent settlement (including remains of dwellings and ancillary structures), yard surfaces, enclosure moat ditches and rubbish deposits.

The principle ground disturbance is believed to be landscaping associated with the construction of hard standing for car parking to the west of the group of farm buildings, ground lowering within the central part of the barn and also the excavation of various service and footing trenches.

In order to inform SAM consent application and planning decisions, evaluation of this principle ground disturbance is recommended. It is understood that in all other areas ground disturbance will be minimal; it is believed that evaluation trenching will not be required in these areas.

- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed 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.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination.

2. **Desk-Based Assessment**

- 2.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 2.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. earlier buildings within the moated enclosure). Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 2.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
- 2.4 Provide a transcription of archaeological features from all available air photographs held by Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport Department and its SMR, the National Monuments Record and the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs, at a scale of 1:2500.

3. **Brief for the Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 3.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 3.4 Establish whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.
- 3.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 3.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 3.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 3.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 3.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

4. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Three trial trenches are to be excavated within the area (Figure 1). One trench will be aligned NE to SW (parallel to the alignment of the enclosure), to the west of the group of buildings, a minimum of 20m long. The second will be aligned NW to SE perpendicular and to the south of the first, a minimum of 10m long to establish the location and level of the earlier house which is assumed to lie below the recent farmyard pad. Their exact locations should be informed by the documentary search. These trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. A further trial trench will be excavated within the internal area of the central, and apparently earliest, barn. This trench will be at least 2 x 1m in area. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The detailed trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Sidell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).

- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological

potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 22 May 2006
SouthElmham2006

Reference: / The Barn-

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix II SEM 024: Context List & Descriptions

OPNO	CONTEXT	COMPONENT	GRIDSQ	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	PERIOD/PHASE
0001	0001	0001	Whole Site	U/S finds	Unstratified finds from whole site					
0002	0002	0002	Trenches 1 & 2	Layer	Metalled surface, mix of flint gravel-pebbles with brick and tile frags immediately below topsoil. Continues intermittently throughout trenches 1 & 2, possibly includes demolition material		0003			C20
0003	0003	0003	Trenches 1 & 2	Layer	Raised platform of clean chalky yellow boulder clay on which earlier building was constructed. Approximately 0.3 metres thick				0002	Med?
0004	0004	0004	Trench 2	Slot (Cut)	NW-SE orientated linear feature, abutted by 0005 to the SW					Med+
0005	0005	0005	Trench 2	Brick threshold	Eight bricks forming threshold between two rooms in earlier building. The most complete one to the SW was brown glazed					Pmed
0006	0006	0006	Trenches 2	Brick structure	Unmortared 2 1/2 inch frogless red bricks forming a small rectangular structure. Enclosed area filled with dark grey silty sand, possibly a drain, floorsafe or associated with chimney					C18/19
0007	0007	0007	Trench 1	Wall base	Base of dwarf wall, SW side of building. Formed from part bricks set in clay of platform 0003 with rubble core. Bricks were all 2 inch tudor-type					Med+
0008	0008	0008	Trench 1	Brick floor	Possibly formally lain brick surface external to building, mixed whites and reds					C18/19
0009	0009	0009	Trench 3	Layer	c.10 cm thick homogenous light brown clay floor in central room on N.most side of barn. Excavated in Trench 3		0010			C19/20
0010	0010	0010	Trench 3	Layer	c.0.35 metres thick layer of mixed brick rubble, mortar & charcoal used to raised floor level in barn		0011		009	C19/20
0011	0011	0011	Trench 3	Layer	Mixed dirty clay & sand layers in barn, not formally lain surface, possible a trampled earlier floor level				0010	C19
0012	0004	0004	Trench 1	Slot (Fill)	Fill of 0004 comprising mortar, frags of brick tile + flints with common charcoal flecks					C19