

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Broadland Sands Holiday Park, Corton (COR 052)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. W/2211/21)

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© June 2007

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Broadland Sands Holiday Park, and was monitored by Bob Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

Project assistants Tim Browne, Sabra Hennessey and Steve Manthorpe, and Project Officer Clare Good, all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, carried out the excavation.

Clare Good directed the project which was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams and Richenda Goffin undertook the specialist finds report.

Summary

Corton: Broadland Sands Holiday Park, Coast Road, Corton (TM 5387 9815, COR 052)
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of an extension to the holiday park at Broadland Sands, Coast Road, Corton, in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. The site is immediately adjacent to a medieval church, and close to scatters of Prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds. Twelve trenches were excavated over the development area, and were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil. Six of the trenches, in particular the ones adjacent to the church, produced no archaeological evidence. In the trenches in the north east corner of the plot, and so furthest from the church, a number of ditches were identified, many with Thetford type ware pottery within. This Late Saxon pottery has not been found previously in this area and is probably indicative of a small settlement nearby, with the ditches forming field or property boundaries. The lost Domesday vill of Newton is known to have existed somewhere in this immediate area and these findings may be part of this settlement.

(C. Good, for SCCAS and Broadland Sands Holiday Park; 2007/104)

SMR information

Planning application no. W/2214/21
Date of fieldwork: 21/05/2007 – 25/05/2007
Grid Reference: TM 5387 9815
Funding body: Broadland Sands Holiday Park

1. Introduction

An application has been made to extend the holiday park at Broadland Sands, Coast Road, Corton. Planning consent was conditional on an archaeological evaluation being undertaken. The site is currently undeveloped grassland in use as a football pitch, centred on TM 5387 9815 (Fig. 1). The land had been deep ploughed until roughly 2000 (Ames, pers. comm.).

The total area of development covers an area of c. 26100 square metres and lies at approximately 18.5m OD. The plot is flat with an underlying drift geology of both heavy clay, and gravelly sand. It is surrounded by the existing holiday park to the north, the Coast Road to the west, St Bartholomew's Church (COR 019) and Church Lane to the south and a trackway immediately to the east, apparently medieval in origin (Soanes, pers. comm). The sea is some 200m away to the east.

The development area is close to areas of known archaeology recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Fig. 2). The plot itself includes a find spot of Roman coins (COR 022) and World War 2 features of a tank trap and trenches (COR 035 & 039). Scattered findspots of Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post medieval metalwork are recorded in adjacent areas (COR 004, 008, 010, 023, 044) and immediately to the south of the plot is the medieval church and churchyard of St Bartholomew (COR 019). The potential for medieval settlement around this church is high, as is the possibility of further finds scatters of Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post medieval date.

A large archaeological evaluation (COR 024) was undertaken in 1999 in advance of development of a water treatment centre, roughly 200m to the south east of this development area. Sixteen linear trenches were excavated which revealed a number of features dated as prehistoric through to post medieval. These features were quite widely spread over the 13 hectare site but included two slight concentrations of activity, one of which may form part of a field system. The finds from the various features indicated that the main period of activity occurred during the Bronze or Iron Age, but various artefacts may be Neolithic. In addition, a fragment of an early Anglo Saxon brooch was recovered as a stray find.

The development proposal will include significant ground disturbance for screening plantations, access roadways, caravan hard standings and services. Considering the location of the site in relation to St Bartholomew's Church, it was deemed necessary to evaluate this plot in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Bob Carr of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team and the work was carried out by Clare Good of the SCCAS Field Team, funded by Broadland Sands Holiday Park.

2. Methodology

Twelve trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in May 2007 using a 14 tonne 360° tracked machine fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. These were located across the development area in an attempt to sample as much of the plot as possible, in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). A total of 512m in length was excavated representing a sample of approximately 3.5% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' (OP) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the SMR code COR 052 then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function.

The surface of the trench and the excavated topsoil were subjected to a thorough metal detector search by a competent operative. Where deemed necessary, features were sampled for environmental analysis by a specialist. They were drawn on site at a scale of 1:20 and recorded photographically using a digital and black and white camera. The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined manually using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

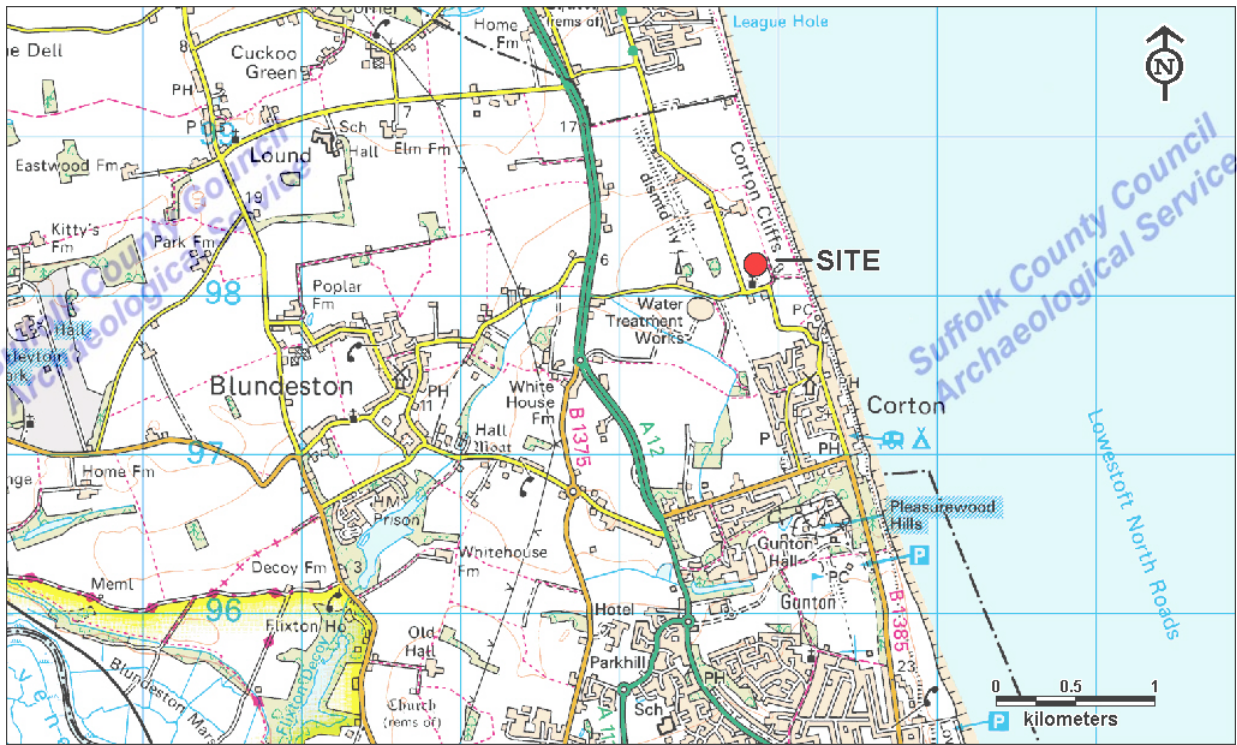
All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (see Section 4. The Finds). Broadland Sands Holiday Park funded all archaeological work.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-27227.

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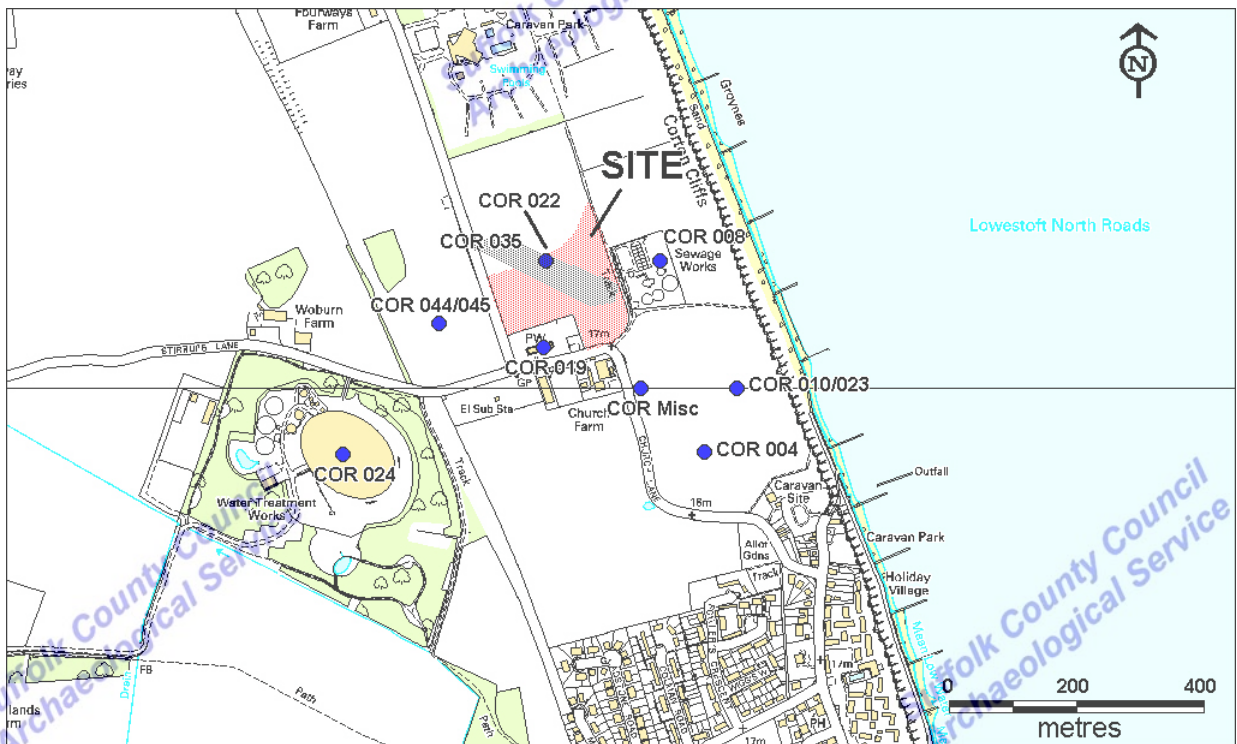
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Figure 1: Site Location

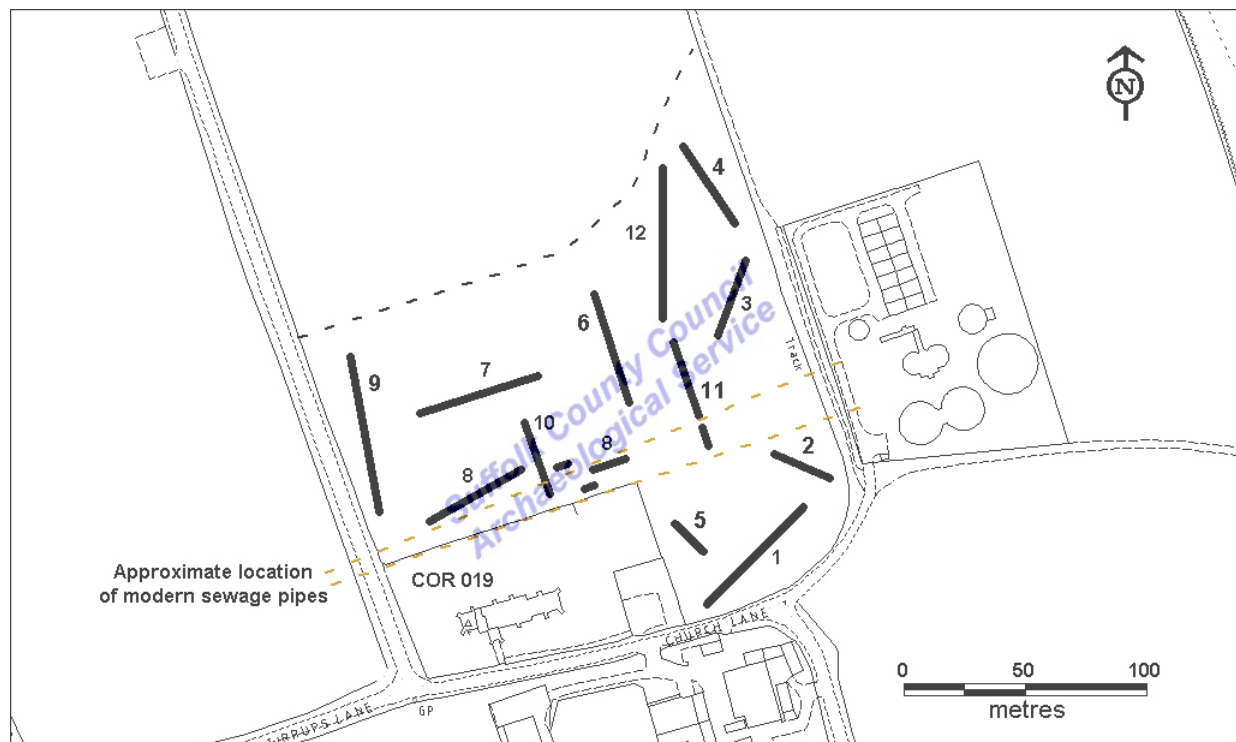


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Figure 2: Development area in relation to sites recorded on county SMR

- COR 004 – 1 sherd Roman pottery. Neolithic flint axe.
- COR 008 – Roman brooch fragment
- COR 010 – 3 Roman coins
- COR 019 – St Bartholomew’s Church
- COR 022 – 3 Roman coins
- COR 023 – Medieval pottery scatter
- COR 024 – 16 trench evaluation undertaken in 1999
- COR 035 – World War 2 tank trap
- COR 044 – 5 bronze minims (Roman coins)
- COR 045 – Post medieval metalwork scatter
- COR Misc – Possible location of Domesday vill of Newton, lost of sea.

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Figure 3: Trench location plan

3. Results

Figure 3 shows the location of the trenches and the approximate position of two modern sewage pipes that ran through the development area, between the two sewage works. These sewage pipes influenced the location of the trenches, as the area was avoided where possible. Trenches 8 and 11 were broken due these pipes and both were heavily disturbed. Trenches 1-11 were placed in an attempt to sample as much of the area as possible. Trench 12 was deliberately placed in light of the results from Trenches 3 and 4, in an attempt to further characterise features discovered within these trenches.

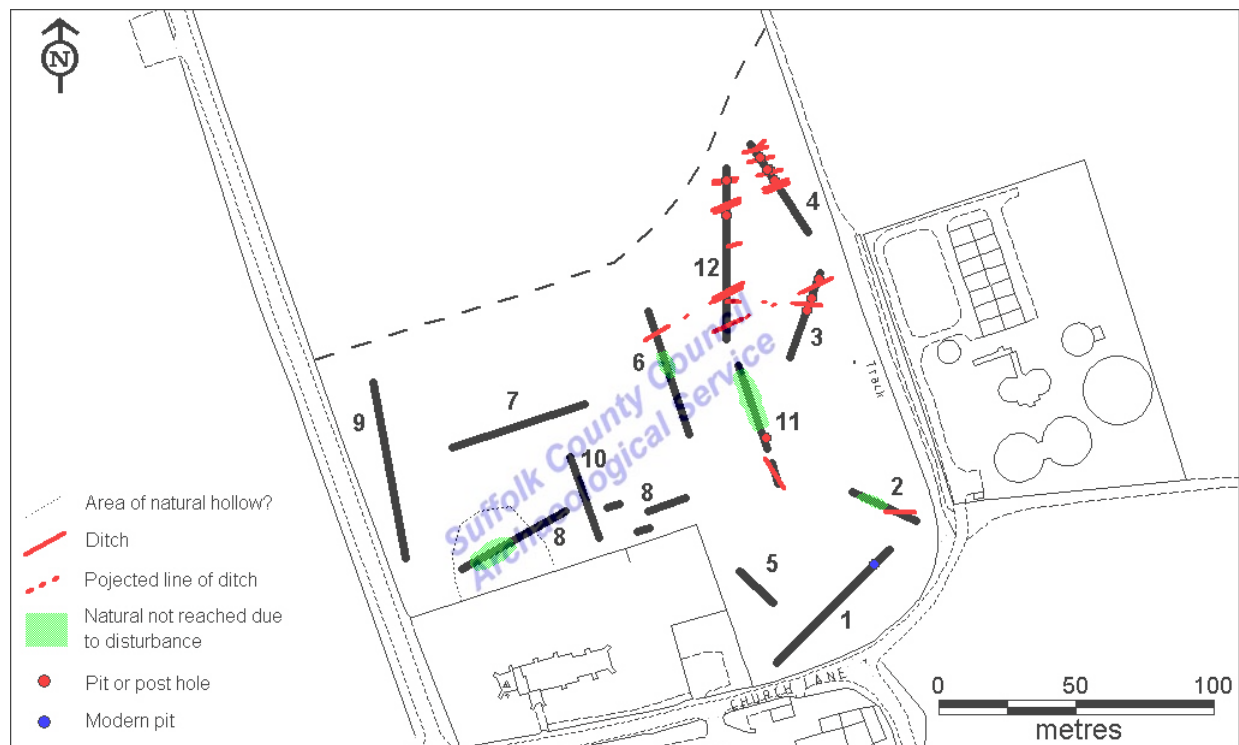
All trenches were 1.8m wide. Occasional fine silty patches were evident in most of the trenches. These had no regular shape or size, and were thought to be old ponds or similar.

0001 was assigned to unstratified finds over the whole site. 3 pieces of post medieval glass, and a small fragment of lead were found in this context.

Topsoil 0002 was similar over the whole site and comprised a dark brown clay silty sand. It was between 0.25m and 0.4m deep throughout. No finds were found within the topsoil.

Subsoil 0003 was also similar over the whole site and consisted of a mid brown clay silty sand. This was between 0.2m and 0.35m deep throughout. It was only present in Trenches 3, 4, 9 and 12. That is, the north east and far west sides of the site only.

Visibility in all the trenches was reasonably good throughout the evaluation.



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Figure 4: Trench and feature location plan

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned SW-NE and was 56.5m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.35m through topsoil 0002, down to natural bright orange clay sand. Regular and even plough scarring was evident in this trench, the shallowest of those excavated.

A modern pit was seen 50.3m from the western end. Brick fragments and modern drain pipes were protruding from its surface.

No other finds or features were seen in this trench.

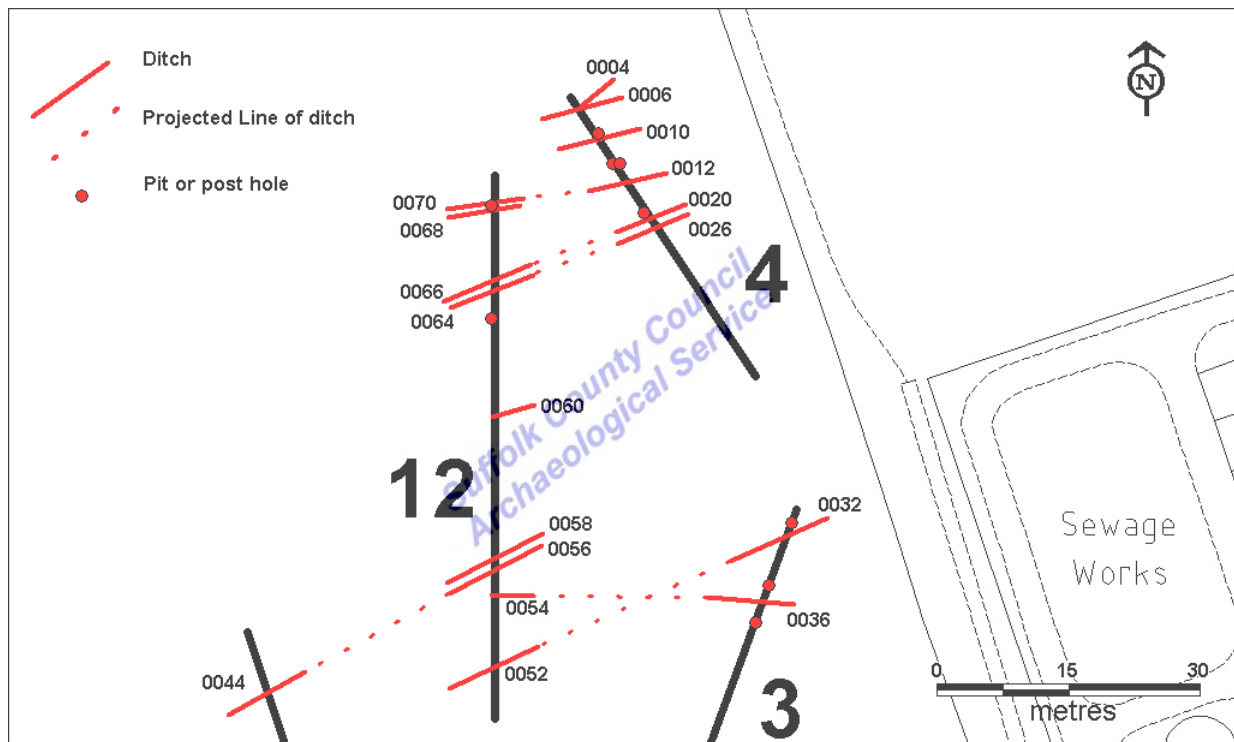
Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned NW-SE and was 25m long. It was excavated to a depth of 0.35m through topsoil 0002, down to natural bright orange gravelly clay sand.

Ditch 0040 was seen at 9m from the south end of Trench 2, and was aligned W-E. It was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. It had a steep side to the north, a gradual slope to the south and an even base. It was filled by (0041), a compacted mid brown clay sand with very frequent large stones. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

Pond feature 0042 stretched for 8.5m through Trench 2. It had uneven edges and was filled with 0043, a solid clayey silt. A sherd of medieval courseware dating to the 13th-14th century was recovered from the surface of this feature. A machine excavation did not reveal the base, but it was at least 1.2m deep. The local farmer confirmed the presence of a pond in this position within the past 10 years.

No other finds or features were seen in this trench.



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Figure 5: Close up of ditches and features within trenches 3, 4, 6 and 12.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 32.5m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.6m, through topsoil 0002 (0.25m) and subsoil 0003 (0.35m), down to natural orange gravelly clay sand.

Post hole 0030 was noted at 3m from the north end. It was c0.2m wide by c.0.1m deep, oval in shape, and despite its proximity to the adjacent ditch 0032, had no relationship with it. It was filled by 0031, a light grey brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Immediately adjacent to, and to the south of, this feature was ditch 0032. These features had no obvious relationship. 0032 was a ditch running WSW-ENE, c.1.6m wide by c0.3m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0033, a mid grey brown clay silty sand. A sherd of Thetford-type pottery (Late Saxon) was recovered from this fill.

Pit 0034 was oval in shape and shallow. It was c.0.8m wide by c.0.2m deep with a moderate slope to the sides and a flat base. It was filled with 0035, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with charcoal lumps and flecks, more frequent to the base, and fired clay lumps and flecks, again more frequent to the base. This fill was sampled should it require further analysis. Again a sherd of Thetford-type pottery was recovered from this fill.

Ditch 0036 was aligned W-E and was c.1.3m wide by c.0.4m deep. It had a moderate slope to the sides with a flat base. It was filled by 0037, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. 4 sherds of Thetford-type ware were recovered from this fill, as well as 2 small fragments of post medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and some animal bone. This ditch has been loosely dated as post-medieval due to the ceramic building material (CBM), with some residual Thetford ware.

Pit 0038 was a small oval pit, c.0.8m wide by 0.2m deep. It had a moderate slope to the sides with an uneven base. It was filled by 0039, a light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 38m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m through topsoil 0002 (0.35m) and subsoil 0003 (0.35m), down to natural orange gravelly clay sand.

Ditch 0004 was seen at the northern end of Trench 4. It was aligned NE-SW and butt ended within the trench, at the section with ditch 0006. There was no visible relationship between these two features at this section as they both had similar fills. It was c.0.5m wide by c.0.15m deep and steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0005, a light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 0006 was immediately adjacent to, and to the south of, ditch 0004. There was no obvious relationship between these two features as they both had similar fills, despite 0004 butt ending within the section. 0006 was aligned WSW-ENE and was c.0.75m wide by 0.25m deep with a gentle slope to the sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0007, a light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Probable post hole 0008 was small and shallow. It was c.0.25m wide by 0.10m deep and roughly oval in plan. It was filled by 0009, a light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 0010 was a small probable gully running WSW-ENE, similar to the adjacent 0016. It was c.0.3m wide by 0.1m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0011, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Post hole 0012 was oval in shape and only partially revealed, being in the NE side of the trench. It had almost vertical sides and was c.0.3m wide by c.0.2m deep. It was filled by 0013, a mid grey brown clay silty sand. A very abraded small body sherd of pottery was recovered from the fill that is thought to be medieval, but was so abraded that it cannot be definitely considered to be of this date.

Pit 0014 was oval in shape and c.0.5m wide by c.0.3m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0015, a light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 0016 was a probable small gully running WSW-ENE. It was similar to the adjacent 0010, being c.0.3m wide by c.0.1m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0017, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Post hole 0018 was small and oval in shape. It was adjacent to ditch 0020 but no relationship was apparent. It was c.0.3m wide by c.0.1m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with 0019, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 0020 was a large feature, immediately adjacent to possible pit 0024 although no relationship was evident between these two. 0020 was aligned WSW-ENE and was c.1.2m wide by c.0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by 0023, a mid yellow orange clay to the south side, probable slump from the side, 0022, the primary fill of light grey clay silt and 0021, the secondary fill of mid grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Feature 0024 was immediately adjacent to ditch 0020 but no relationship was evident. It was possibly a small shallow oval pit, or an area of animal disturbance. It was c.0.5m wide by c.0.1m deep. It was filled by 0025, a mid yellow orange clay with patches of light grey brown clay silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 0026 was a large feature, aligned WSW-ENE. It was roughly 2m wide by c.0.7m deep with a moderate slope to the north side and a gentle then steep slope to the south. It had just one fill, 0027, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with several light grey clay silt patches.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned NW-SE and was 16.5m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.35m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly clay sand. Regular and even plough scarring was evident at the S end, again visible in a shallower trench.

No finds or features were noted in this trench.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 46.5m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.4m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly sand.

Ditch 0044 was visible at 9m from the N end, aligned WSW-ENE. It was narrow and shallow, being c.0.4m wide by c.0.3m deep. It had an even base with a moderate slope to the sides. It was filled by 0045, a mid brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from this fill.

A large area of clayey silty fill was seen at 15m from the N end, thought to be another probable pond.

No other finds or features were seen in this trench.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 50.5m long. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly sand.

No finds or features were noted in this trench.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 43m long in total. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly sand. This trench was broken into 4 sections due to the heavy disturbance from the sewage pipes. Two small 4.5m stretches and a 14.5m stretch were begun but were heavily disturbed. The remaining section was placed where the disturbance was thought to be minimal. Regular and even plough scarring was also evident for a short span.

This trench also went through what appeared to be a natural hollow in an otherwise almost completely flat field. This had an unknown purpose but the trench was deliberately located through the centre of this, in an attempt to characterise this 'dip'.

No features were noted in this trench apart from feature 0028, which was in the centre of the hollow and appeared to be related. This feature was 15m across and at least 1.2m deep although the bottom was not reached despite machine excavation. It was filled with 0029, a mid brown clay silty sand with lumps of a clinker like substance. 3 sherds of three different 16th – 18th century red earthenware vessels were identified from this feature, implying the feature is of this date. It has an unknown function and the fill does not appear to be a typical pond type (i.e. silty) fill, despite the hollow having the appearance of a pond.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 65m long in total. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.55m through topsoil 0002 (0.3m) and subsoil 0003 (0.25m), down to natural orange gravelly sand. Regular and even plough scarring was evident at the S end of the trench.

No finds or features were found in this trench.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 31m long in total. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly sand.

No finds or features were found in this trench.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 45m long in total. It was excavated to a depth of 0.5m through topsoil 0002, down to natural orange gravelly sand.

This trench was broken at 7m from the S end for 5m due to the modern sewer running through. Disturbance was evident throughout much of the trench.

Possible ditch 0046 was seen at the S end of Trench 11. It was partially sectioned and appeared to have genuine edge but it did not look or 'feel' archaeological. It was filled by 0047, a mid

brown clay silt with occasional stones. It was only present in this short stretch of trench and ran through the whole section, at least 1.8m wide. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Pit 0048 was a large burnt area roughly 3m across, rather than a definite pit. It was visible very high within the topsoil and was very close to the disturbance of the sewer trench, and so may be related. It was filled by 0049 the secondary fill of burnt clay lumps and charcoal flecks, and 0050, the primary fill of a mid grey brown clay silty sand. The fill was soft and very different to other features on site. It has an unclear function but a possible modern brick rubble piece was seen on the surface, suggesting a modern date. No other finds were noted. This feature was sampled should it require further analysis.



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Figure 6: Trench location projected onto 1945 air photograph, showing probable anti tank ditch (COR 035) through trench 11.

A large area of what was thought to be subsoil, 0051, was visible for some 20m through trench 11, close to the N end. It had occasional burnt patches within it that were seen quite high within the topsoil. It was at least 1.2m deep but was not bottomed. 2 ceramic loom weight fragments of possible late Saxon date and an iron fragment were recovered from the surface of it. Its purpose was unknown but on inspection of the air photograph from 1945 (Fig. 5), it aligns almost exactly with an anti-tank ditch of World War 2 date, that runs through this field (COR 035). This is likely to be its purpose, and the loom weights are, in fact, residual. The small area of disturbance within Trench 6 is also probably related to this, as the anti-tank ditch continues through here.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was aligned N-S and was 62m in length. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.5m through topsoil 0002 (0.3m) and subsoil 0003 (0.2m), down to natural gravelly clay sand.

This trench was deliberately placed in the light of the results in Trenches 3 and 4, where many ditches were revealed. It was hoped that further sections of these ditches would be evident, and maybe some dating evidence could be found.

Ditch 0052 was seen at the S end of Trench 12. It was aligned E-W and was not sectioned. It was filled by 0053, a mid grey brown clay silty sand. This ditch was thought to be a continuation of ditch 0032, seen in Trench 3, as they were on the same alignment, were of comparable size and had similar fills. Ditch 0032 was dated as Late Saxon, due to the presence of Thetford-type wares.

Ditch 0054 was the butt end of a ditch, thought to be 0036, seen in Trench 3. Again the alignment, size and fills were similar. It was not sectioned but was aligned E-W and filled with 0055, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks.

Ditch 0056 was narrow and shallow and was thought to be the same as ditch 0044 in Trench 6. The alignment, size and fills were similar. 0056 aligned E-W and was filled by 0057, a mid grey brown clay silty sand. This ditch was immediately adjacent to 0058 but there was no clear relationship. It is likely that a shallow spread existed between the two and they were actually a small distance apart.

Ditch 0058 was immediately adjacent to 0056 in Trench 12 but there was no clear relationship as stated above. This ditch does not appear to align with others in adjacent trenches. It was aligned ENE-WSW and was c.1.4m wide by c.0.3m deep. It was filled by 0059, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with a moderate amount of stone included. 4 sherds of Thetford-type pottery were recovered from the fill, as well as 3 fine silty fragments of probable fired clay.

Ditch 0060 was a very small, very shallow ditch butt ending in Trench 12. It ran roughly E-W and was c.0.3m wide by c.0.05m deep and was filled by 0061, a dark grey brown silty clay sand. It had an uneven base. No finds were recovered from this feature, which did not align with others in adjacent trenches.

Layer 0062 was more like a patch of subsoil left after machining rather than a distinct feature. It had no clear shape and the machining was left at this level due to the presence of finds. It was not sectioned and was filled with 0063, a mid brown clay silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. 3 sherds of Thetford-type pottery were recovered from the surface of this feature.

Ditch 0064 was aligned WSW-ENE and is thought to be the same as ditch 0026 in Trench 4 as it was of similar size and alignment and they had similar fills. It was filled with 0065, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with several light grey clay silt patches. 5 sherds of Thetford-type pottery were recovered from this feature that was not sectioned.

Ditch 0066 was aligned WSE-ENE and is thought to be the same as ditch 0020 in Trench 4 as it was of similar size and alignment and they had similar fills. It was filled by 0067, a mid grey brown clay silty sand. 2 sherds of Thetford-type ware were recovered from this feature that was not sectioned.

Ditch 0068 was seen at the N end of Trench 12. It was immediately adjacent to ditch 0070 but again there was no clear relationship between the two. A possible post hole 0072 was also evident within the cut but again the relationship was not clear. Ditch 0068 was aligned WSW-ENE and was c.0.8m wide by c.0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 0069, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional stones. 11 small fragments of Rhenish lavastone, assumed to be the remains of a quern or similar, and 3 sherds of early

medieval pottery were recovered from this ditch. It was not convincing as a feature and may be a spread relating to the adjacent ditch 0070, which was believable. The post hole could also be part of this same feature.

Ditch 0070 was immediately to the N of ditch 0068. It was c.0.8m wide by c.0.25m deep and was aligned WSW-ENE. It is possibly the same as ditch 0016 in Trench 4 as they are on similar alignments. It had moderately sloping sides with a flat base, and was convincing as a feature in comparison to ditch 0068, which was not. It was filled by 0071, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional stones. No finds were recovered from this feature and as stated above, it could be part of the same feature as 0068 and 0072.

Possible post hole 0072 was seen between ditches 0068 and 0070, obscuring any relationship information between the two. Its own relationship with these features was unclear and it may all be one feature. It was circular with gently sloping sides and an even base. It was filled by 0073, a mid grey brown clay silty sand with occasional stones. No finds were recovered from this fill.

4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin.

Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected during the evaluation. A full quantification by context is included as Appendix 3.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	28	402
CBM	2	22
Fired clay	1	69
Glass	3	1
Lava quern	11	96
Iron	1	64
Lead	1	11
Animal bone	10	49

Table 1. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Post-Roman pottery

Twenty-eight fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 0.402kg. The assemblage is mainly Late Saxon and medieval in date, although a small number of post-medieval sherds are also present. The pottery catalogue is shown in Appendix 3.

A total of 21 fragments of Thetford-type wares were identified from eight contexts, mostly from Trenches 3 and 12. The base of a jar with wire removal marks was present in ditchfill 0037, with three joining sherds of an overfired or burnt vessel which is also likely to be Thetford-type ware. Two further, more typical sherds were found in ditchfill 0033 and pitfill 0035. The remainder of the Late Saxon ware was recovered mainly from the fills of ditches in Trench 12. These include three different Thetford-type ware jar rims from fills 0065 and 0067. Two are from medium jars with everted type AB13 rims, (Dallas 130), whilst the third jar has a more upright rim, similar to Dallas type AB2 (Dallas, 128). Three joining fragments of standard Thetford-type ware were present in pitfill 0063. They are part of a storage vessel and have applied strips with thumb impressions.

Four fragments are medieval, although one, a very abraded small body sherd from posthole 0013 has lost its surfaces and is so abraded that it cannot be definitely considered to be of this date. The remaining three sherds are medieval coarsewares, dating from the late 12th to 14th centuries. They have fine to medium sandy fabrics, and are light grey, or light grey with reddish brown external margins, and are typical in appearance of the 'East Suffolk' tradition of medieval wares.

Three sherds from three different Glazed red earthenware vessels were identified from feature 0029 in Trench 8, dating from the 16th-18th century.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay

Two small fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from ditchfill 0037. Both fragments only have one surviving surface, so it is not possible to measure their depth. They are made from sandy, oxidised fabrics, one of which has paler clay lenses, and are post-medieval in date.

Three fine silty fragments of fired clay were present in ditchfill 0059.

Stone

Eleven small fragments of Rhenish lavastone were identified in ditchfill 0069. They are almost entirely devoid of features, although two pieces show some indication of a flat external surface. It is assumed that they are the remains of a quern or other grinding stone.

Small Finds

Two fragments of a ceramic loomweight were identified in subsoil deposit 0051. The weight is made from a hard medium sandy, reduced fabric which contains occasional flint inclusions. Although the external surfaces are considerably abraded, it is possible to see that the loomweight is intermediate in shape (Walton Rogers, 2007, 300). A fragment of iron was also recovered from this deposit.

A small fragment of unstratified lead was found, and three small pieces of post-medieval glass.

Biological evidence

Animal bone

Ten pieces of animal bone were collected from two contexts. They were in a poor state of preservation and were very fragmentary. Several bovine molar fragments were present in ditchfill 0037, one of which was burnt.

Discussion of the finds evidence

The presence of small quantities of Late Saxon pottery is interesting, as there is a dearth of artefacts of this date so far recovered from the area around the site. Previous work nearby has shown evidence of prehistoric activity (COR 024), with artefacts dating to the Early Saxon and Roman periods recovered to the west and east of the area of the evaluation. The finds were recovered from the north-eastern part of the area under evaluation, close to the sewage works. Most of them were deposited into ditches and pits. It seems likely that the Late Saxon sherds may represent evidence from the Domesday settlement of Newton which is believed to have been lost to the sea. The precise location of this place is unknown, but it is thought to be to the east of the church.

Several different types of Thetford-type wares are represented amongst the assemblage. In addition to 'standard' Thetford wares which are hard, sandy and grey throughout, a number of

other fabric variants were observed. Two joining fragments from ditchfill 0059 for example are made in a much softer, finer fabric which contains sparse calcareous inclusions as well as flint, and are a dull brown orange in colour with a more reduced margin. Such a vessel seems closer in appearance to Early medieval Sandwich ware, a late variant of Thetford ware (Jennings 1981 22-23). It seems likely that these sherds, together with some of the other Thetford-type wares represent Late Saxon greywares which were made more locally and more transiently than the products of the main regional Thetford ware industries. Smaller production sites for pottery of the Thetford-type ware tradition have been found in more rural parts of Norfolk such as Kirkstead and Langhale, (Wade 1973) and it is not unexpected that there may have been other kilnsites towards the eastern side of Suffolk.

5. Conclusion

This evaluation was initially undertaken due to the presence of the medieval church to the south of the plot, and scattered finds of medieval and Roman date in the surrounding area. It was expected that some form of medieval settlement and related features may be found close to the church and possibly Roman features related to the reasonably high presence of scattered Roman finds in the area.

However, no features were found near to the church and the presence of Thetford-type ware (produced c.850-1150AD), a Late Saxon pottery type, and many related features in the north-east of the plot, was unexpected. These are the first finds of this date found in this area. The features of Late Saxon date are all of a similar alignment (WSW-ENE) and all run perpendicular to the trackway to the east, said to be at least medieval in origin (Soanes, pers. comm.). The only ditch in this complex not aligned this way, ditch 0036, has been dated to the post-medieval period. The Domesday vill of Newton is located somewhere in the immediate area of this site. Its precise location is unknown but it may be that these finds and features are part of this settlement, and form property or field boundaries originating from the trackway. The pottery recovered is of a 'local' type, probably from a small local kiln site, rather than from the main regional Thetford ware industries. There was no evidence of structures within the evaluation but the nature of the investigation, with small targeted areas, means that this remains a possibility and settlement evidence may be present.

The plot to the north of this evaluation is not currently subject to archaeological condition. Therefore it is suggested that any work undertaken in the north east of this plot, and in this adjacent area of land, should be monitored closely. The development work should not be very intrusive: service trenches to caravans and tree planting will be the most destructive element, and so monitoring of all related work is recommended in this and adjacent areas.

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Disclaimer

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.

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