

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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## Great Blakenham Waste Transfer Site, Site 2, Land off Addison Way, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham

### BLG 024

Planning App. No MS/2788/06

Oasis ID No. suffolkc129578

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© September 2007

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## SMR information

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<b>Planning application</b>	MS/2788/06
<b>SMR No.</b>	BLG 024
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	08-08-2007 to 10-08-2007
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	TM 1217 4967
<b>Funding body:</b>	David Clarke and Associates
<b>Oasis reference</b>	Suffolkc1-29578

## Summary

The evaluation of this site fulfils an initial requirement of a programme of archaeological mitigation, which is a condition of planning consent. The evaluation examined around 5% of the site area for a proposed waste transfer site off Addison Way, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham. A total of nine evaluation trenches were excavated (see Figure 4) measuring a total of 320 linear metres. The trenches were 1.5m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 0.35-0.80m. A total of sixteen archaeological features were located, along with a number of less definite deposits and probable modern disturbance. The majority of the features were located within the trenches that lie closest to Bramford Road. Over half of the features produced pottery, which has generally been dated to the early medieval period. Other finds included a single sherd of Thetford type pottery, fragments of lava quernstones; animal bone, shell, and a single unstratified worked flint object. Possibly as many as seven ditches were located, generally running in an east to west direction. Five pits were also excavated and recorded, within the same areas as the ditch complex, along the eastern area of the site. Initial indications suggest that the site area may contain part of a small early medieval settlement, which may have developed along the western edge of the road. The single sherd of Thetford type pottery may indicate that the settlement could even have been establishing during the late Saxon period, when small subsidiary occupation sites are known to have developed in similar locations. It is recommended that an area in the eastern half of the development footprint (see Figure 6) be subjected to a controlled soil strip down to the level of the archaeological features in order to allow localised excavation and recording to be carried out. This programme of work could possibly be combined with the initial ground work phase of construction in order to minimise costs and delays.

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## 1.0 Introduction

The planning authority has been advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent for the Great Blakenham Waste Transfer Site. The Brief and Specification for the evaluation was produced by Jess Tipper (Appendix 1). The site lies between the 25m and 20m OD contours, on a gentle easterly slope descending towards the River Gipping, which lies less than half a kilometre further east. Extensive flood plains lie at a similar distance to the south-east of the site. The area has archaeological importance especially in relation to the Gipping Valley, where settlement is known to have been concentrated through a wide range of periods. Archaeological excavation defined four Roman ovens to the north-west and also prehistoric settlement remains to the west (BLG 017). In addition, ring ditches are recorded by aerial reconnaissance to both the north (BLG 002) and south-west (BLG 001) of this site (see Figure 2.). Medieval sites are less commonly recorded in the Sites and Monuments record for this area, therefore, the evidence which has been recovered so far from the site suggests that the development offers a valuable opportunity to add to our knowledge. The site probably contains part of a small low-mid status medieval rural settlement, which may have been subsidiary to the main village. The pottery, which was located during the evaluation, indicates a possible late Saxon origin for the settlement, but most of the archaeological features produced fragments dating from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. Subsequently the settlement is likely to have declined or suffered abandonment. Little is known of this location from documentary sources (see Appendix 2); therefore, all knowledge of this particular settlement is dependent upon archaeological evidence.



Figure 1. Site location

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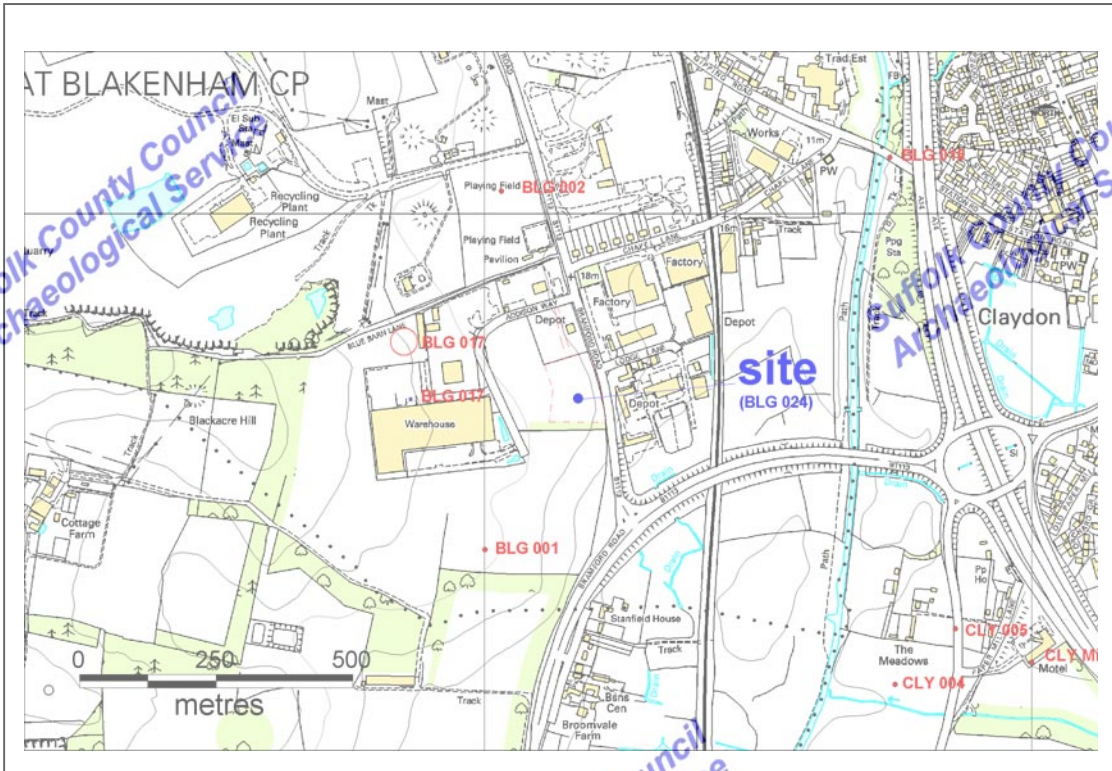


Figure 2. Nearby sites on the SMR

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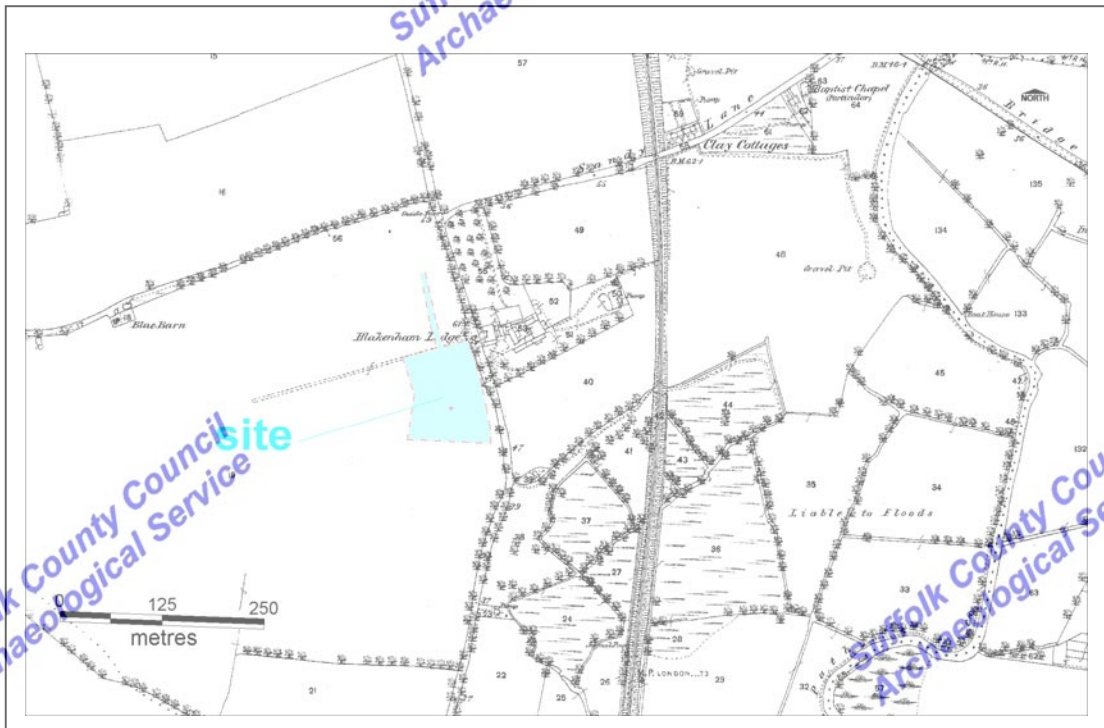


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS

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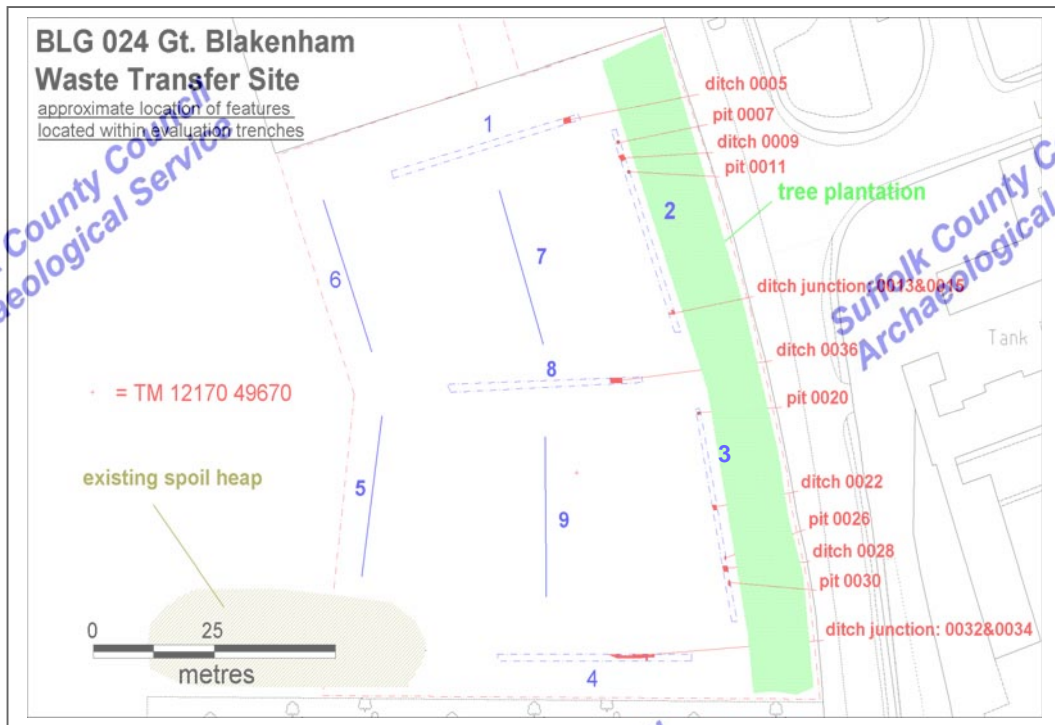


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

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## 2.0 Methodology

Nine trenches were laid out to cover all areas of the site and were orientated in order to maximise the potential of locating both localised and linear features. A wheeled 180° mechanical digger, equipped with a 1.50m ditching bucket systematically trenched the site, following the numbered order of the trench scheme (see Figure 4). The topsoil and subsoil was gradually removed until discernible archaeological levels were reached. A specialised contractor, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist carried out all of the mechanical excavation. Archaeological features were clearly visible where penetrating the underlying natural deposits and were individually cleaned and excavated by hand. Generally 50% of pits and postholes and one metre segments of ditches were excavated. Sections were also placed to investigate stratigraphic relationships.

Features were then individually planned, and sections recorded, at a scale of 1:20 (sections) and 1:50 (trench plans). A single context continuous numbering system using *pro forma* observable phenomena recording sheets was used for all areas of the excavation. Digital colour 7.1mp photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. All of the nine trenches were also recorded on trench record forms with details of specific depths, location, area and soil profiles.

A metal detector search was made of all features and upcast soil, along with some areas of undisturbed ground.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Sites and Monuments code BLG 024. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto a database. Linked copies of section and plan drawings have also been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-29578).



Figure 5. The site prior to the evaluation (looking south)

### 3.0 Results

A total of nine evaluation trenches were excavated, five of which contained archaeological features, with the remaining four only revealing natural undisturbed geological soil profiles. The total length of the trenches was 320m and all measured 1.50m in width. This represents a total area of 480m<sup>2</sup> which is just under 5% of the 1.09ha development area. The actual available ground within which the trenches could be positioned was restricted by a recently planted belt of young trees to the east and also part of an existing spoil heap, probably originating from previous ground works to the north-west of the site (see Figure 4). The Topsoil (0002) was generally of pale to mid-brown light silty sand with some variable clay content and an average depth of 0.36m. The subsoil was far more inconsistent in terms of depth and had probably been amalgamated with the topsoil to the south-west



of the site in Trench 5, possibly as a result of agricultural activity. The subsoil (0003), where present, consisted of mixed and mottled pale to mid-brown silty sand with a depth range of 0.15-0.32m. The characteristics of the subsoil suggest that the deposit had accumulated as ancient hill-wash. The trench sections indicate that all of the archaeological features cut the subsoil deposits, although the contrast between the fill of the features and the subsoil was generally very subtle.

The underlying natural deposits (0004) consisted of very mixed and banded geological sand, gravel and clay, generally arranged in west to east striations.

Table 1. summary of contexts

O.P No.	Tr. No	Feature	Component	Identifier	Description
0001	All	-	-	Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds (all trenches)
0002	All	-	0002	Topsoil	Topsoil (all trenches) mid-pale brown fine silty sand
0003	All	-	0003	Subsoil	Subsoil (all trenches) mixed pale to mid-brown silty sand
0004	All	-	0004	Underlying natural deposits	Natural orange-yellow gravel and sand with variable bands of silt and clay
0005	1	0005	0005	Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch at east end of Trench 1
0006	1	0005	0005	Fill of ditch 0005	Mid-brown silty sand
0007	2	0007	0007	Cut of pit	Cut of oval pit (north end of Trench 2)
0008	2	0007	0007	Fill of pit	Pale to mid-brown silty sand
0009	2	0009	0009	Cut of possible ditch	Cut of possible ditch (poorly defined)
0010	2	0009	0009	Fill of possible ditch	Very mixed/mottled pale-mid-brown silty sand
0011	2	0011	0011	Cut of pit	Irregular oval shaped pit
0012	2	0011	0011	Fill of pit	mid-brown clayey silty sand
0013	2	0013	0013	Ditch cut	Cut of ditch at south end of Trench 2
0014	2	0013	0013	fill of ditch	mid-grey to brown silty sand
0015	2	0015	0015	Linear feature	not excavated
0016	2	0015	0015	Fill of linear feature	Not excavated (finds collected from machined surface)
0017	2	0017	0017	Cut of ditch	Not excavated
0018	2	0017	0017	Fill of ditch	Pale to mid-brown clayey silty sand (not excavated)
0019	2	-	-	finds	Finds from lower subsoil levels
0020	3	0020	0020	Pit cut	Small sub-circular pit
0021	3	0020	0020	Pit fill	Pale to mid-brown silty sand

0022	3	0022	0022	Cut of poss. ditch	Linear feature with 'dished' profile
<b>O.P No.</b>	<b>Tr. No</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Description</b>
0023	3	0022	0022	Pit fill	mid-brown silty sand
0024	3	0024	0024	Cut of poss. ditch	Linear feature, orientated east to west. Not excavated
0025	3	0024	0024	Fill of poss. ditch	mid/dark brown slightly clayey sand
0026	3	0026	0026	Cut of probable pit	Partially revealed feature. Not excavated
0027	3	0026	0026	Fill of probable pit	mid-dark brown clayey sand
0028	3	0028	0028	Cut of possible ditch	East to west running linear feature. Not excavated.
0029	3	0028	0028	Fill of possible ditch	mid-dark brown slightly clayey sand
0030	3	0030	0030	Cut of probable pit	Partially exposed feature at eastern edge of trench
0031	3	0030	0030	Fill of probable pit	mid-brown silty sand with occas. pale clay lumps
0032	4	0032	0032	Cut of ditch	Curving ditch, orientated predominantly east to west
0033	4	0032	0032	Fill of ditch	mid-dark brown slightly clayey sand
0034	4	0034	0034	Ditch cut	East to west orientated ditch forming a 'T' junction with ditch 0032
0035	4	0034	0034	Fill of ditch	mid-dark brown slightly clayey sand with decayed oyster shell fragments
0036	8	0036	0036	Ditch cut	North to south orientated ditch with similar profile to ditch 0005 (possibly a continuation of the same feature)
0037	8	0036	0036	Fill of ditch	Pale brown/orange silty sand

### Trench 1.

This trench was excavated in a west to east direction for a total of 40.00m. The west end reached a depth of 0.70m, increasing to 0.80m at the eastern end. The only archaeological feature occurred within the final three metres of the trench where an approximately north-south orientated ditch [0005] crossed the trench.

Ditch 0005 The ditch had a distinctly open profile, with gently sloping convex sides and 'V' shaped base. However, considerable animal burrowing had disrupted the definition of the edge and base of the feature. The depth of the ditch was around 1.0m from the existing surface level and was around 2.2m wide where it met with the base of the topsoil layer. The fill of the ditch (0006) consisted of mid-brown silty sand, slightly darker than the subsoil (0003). Some small charcoal flecks were observed towards the upper levels of the fill,

but these may have entered the feature as a result of animal disturbance. The feature produced no datable archaeological finds. This ditch may be part of the same feature as that located in Trench 8 to the south, both having similar dimensions, profiles and orientation.

### **Trench 2**

Trench two ran parallel to the road in an approximately north to south direction, measuring 40m long, with a consistent depth of 0.80m. At least two further ditches, this time running east to west crossed the trench, in addition to two small pits located at the north end of the trenched area.

Pit 0007 A small shallow oval pit measuring 1.10m along the longest axis lay near to the north end of the trench. It reached a depth of 0.22m below the natural deposit levels but had almost certainly suffered vertical truncation. The profile was dished with gently sloping sides. The fill (0008) was of mottled pale to mid-brown silty sand and contained a single piece of medieval coarse-ware.

Pit 0011 A similar pit was located a further five metres south and had a surviving depth of 0.30m below the natural deposits. The outline was slightly more irregular, with a maximum width of 1.00m, but was also gently dished. The fill (0012) was of mid brown clayey silty sand and also produced a single sherd of medieval coarse-ware.

Ditch 0009 Between the two pits, an east to west running ditch was revealed, although the feature was poorly defined. However, the profile appeared to be very similar to the other ditches across the site, with gently sloping sides and a width of around 1.10m. The fill (0010) was very mixed pale to mid-brown silty sand, possibly heavily disturbed by animal activity. Unfortunately the feature failed to provide any datable finds.

Ditches 0013 and 0015 These features may represent a 'T' junction of two ditches, one [0013] running east to west, meeting another [0015] heading to the north. Alternatively, the feature may actually be a single ditch which is turning sharply at this point. The restricted view within the confines of the evaluation trench did not allow further clarification. Feature 0015 was not excavated because it was considered likely to compromise any future investigation when a wider area may be available for examination. However, a segment of 0013 was excavated, and revealed a 'V' shaped ditch with gently sloping sides, 0.45m deep, and a width of around 1.00m. The fill (0014) was mid-grey to brown silty sand, with areas of chalky clay. This deposit is indistinguishable from the fill (0016) associated with [0015]. Both features produced medieval pottery (three fragments were collected from the surface of 0016) in addition to fragments of lava quern and animal bone.

### **Trench 3**

Trench 3 continued along the same alignment as Trench 2, running for a further 40m to the south. Unusually, the depth of overburden gradually decreases further down the slope and the depth of this trench decreased from 0.60m at the north end, down to 0.35m at the south end. The trench revealed five features including two more east to west running ditches and three pits.

Pit 0020 This pit was located at the north end of Trench 3 and was quite different in profile to the other examples from the evaluation. The sides were moderately steep and the base was almost flat. In plan the feature formed an

irregular circle with a diameter of around 0.70m and a depth of 0.50m. The fill (0021) was of pale to mid-brown silty sand mixed with some pale brown clay and very occasional charcoal flecks. The feature contained five pieces of medieval coarse-ware pottery and a small quantity of oyster shell.

Ditch 0022 This feature can only be described as a possible ditch at present due to the poorly defined outline or cut. The feature appeared to lie within a shallow spread of mid-brown sand very similar to the fill of 0022 (0023) and also the overlying subsoil (0003). The spread was no more than 0.05m in depth, forming an east to west band less than 2.0m wide, but the possible ditch also followed the same orientation. After the removal of the spread, the possible ditch became slightly clearer, but the deposits were further complicated by a dense concentration of natural geological seams of similarly coloured sands, also running in a generally east to west direction. It is likely that the spread is in fact the dispersed fill of the ditch, partially amalgamated with the subsoil by animal burrowing. The ditch appeared to have a dished and open profile around 1.10m wide and a depth from the present surface of 0.76m. The fill (0023) contained two small fragments of lava quern. Two further linear features (0024 and 0028) with similar characteristics also ran east to west across Trench 3 to the south. Both were recorded in plan, but not excavated.

Pit 0026 This feature was partially revealed against the east face of the trench, but was also cut by a modern land drain running north-south along much of the southern half of the trench. The feature formed a semi-circular area, measuring 1.50m at the edge of the trench, containing mid to dark brown clayey sand (0027). It was decided that an insufficient area of the feature was available within the confines of the trench to justify excavation at this stage. No finds material was evident on the surface.

Pit 0030 This feature was similar to [0026] and was located around three metres further south. Again, the feature was only partially revealed against the eastern section of the trench, but formed slightly more than a semi-circle of around 1.80m in diameter. Excavation was carried out in the south-west quadrant of the feature, reaching a depth of 0.85m from the surface level. The feature is almost certainly a substantial pit with a bowl shaped profile and a fill (0031) of mid-brown silty sand with occasional pale brown clay lumps. The fill contained occasional charcoal flecks, regular medium to large flints and twelve pieces of medieval coarse-ware pottery.

#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 ran from east to west at the southern end of the site for a total length of forty metres. The east end had a depth of 0.55m down to the undisturbed natural deposits, with the west end reaching a depth of 0.40m. The soil profiles were similar to Trench 3, except for the extreme west end of the trench, which had suffered modern ground disturbance to a depth beyond the subsoil levels. The trench contained two conjoining ditches, which met at a junction around nine metres from the east end of the trench.

Ditch 0032 This ditch entered Trench 4 from the north and may be a continuation of ditches [0005] and [0036] seen in Trenches 1 and 8. The feature followed the line of the evaluation trench (heading west) for around eight metres before curving northwards again. The profile was however unlike those of the other north-south ditch segments across the site. The ditch had

steep sides forming a sharp 'V' shaped profile, with a width of around 0.90m and 0.50m deep. The fill (0033) was of mid-dark brown slightly clayey silty sand and contained two small fragments of baked clay, found near to the surface. This finds material may represent abraded prehistoric pottery but may equally be heat altered structural fragments such as from a hearth.

Ditch 0034 This ditch formed a branch to the south of Ditch 0032, meeting at a T junction just after Ditch 0032 curves towards the west. This feature was not excavated and produced no datable finds material; however, decayed fragments of oyster shell were observed over the surface of the fill. The fill (0035) was very similar to (0033) and as a result no obvious stratigraphic relationship could be deduced.

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was excavated for a length of 30m and was orientated approximately north to south. At the south end, natural deposits were reached at a depth of 0.35m, deepening slightly to the north to 0.40m. There was no surviving subsoil and the topsoil was of heavily compacted pale to mid-brown silty sand. No archaeological features were located.

### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 was excavated for a length of 30m and was orientated approximately north-west to south-east. At the south-east end, natural deposits were reached at a depth of 0.40m, deepening slightly to the north to 0.50m. The subsoil was shallow, at around 0.15m in depth of mixed pale to mid-brown silty sand. The topsoil was pale brown silty sand with a maximum depth of 0.35m. No archaeological features were located.

### **Trench 7**

Trench 7 was excavated for a length of 30m and was orientated approximately north-west to south-east. At the south-east end, natural deposits were reached at a depth of 0.60m, deepening slightly to the north to 0.75m. The subsoil was around 0.25m in depth of mixed pale to mid-brown silty sand. The topsoil was pale to mid-brown silty sand with a maximum depth of 0.45m. No archaeological features were located.

### **Trench 8**

Trench 8 was excavated for a length of 40m and was orientated east to west. Natural deposits were reached at a consistent depth of 0.60m along the entire length of the trench. A shallow subsoil of around 0.15m in depth consisted of orange-brown sand. The topsoil was pale to mid-brown silty sand with a maximum depth of 0.45m. A single archaeological feature was located towards the east end of the trench (Ditch 0036).

Ditch 0036 This ditch may be the same feature as those seen in Trenches 1 and 4 [0005 and 0032], as all are on a similar alignment. However, characteristically this ditch is closest to [0005], with open, gently sloping sides reaching a width of over 2.0m and a depth of 1.15m from the existing surface level. The fill (0037) was pale orange brown silty sand. No datable finds material was located.

## Trench 9

Trench 9 was excavated for a length of 30m and was orientated approximately north to south. At the south end, natural deposits were reached at a depth of 0.50m, deepening slightly to the north to 0.60m. The subsoil was around 0.25m in depth of pale orange-brown silty sand. The topsoil was pale to mid-brown silty sand with a maximum depth of 0.30m. No archaeological features were located.

## 4.0 The Finds

by John Newman

### Introduction

Finds were collected from ten contexts, as shown in the table below.

Table 2. Finds quantification

OP	Pottery		Baked Clay		Flint		Lava Quern		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	1	6			1				One <i>cu</i> buckle frag. 17/18C	Unstratified (prehist.-18C)
0008	1	4								12/13-14C
0012	1	12								12/13-14C
0014	5	17							Animal bone 1 frag @ 15g	12/13-14C
0016	3	8					3	106		12/13-14C
0019	3	44							1 frag @ 8g Thetford Type ware 9-12C	12/13-14C
0021	5	26							1 oyster shell	12/13-14C
0023							2	168		
0031	12	80								12/13-14C
0033			2	4						Poss. Prehistoric?
Total	31	197	2	4	1		5	274		

### Pottery

A total of thirty-one fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation. One of these was an unstratified sherd collected from topsoil, subsoil and spoil deposits. All of this material is dated to the medieval period. A single fragment of Thetford type ware was collected from the base of the subsoil in Trench 2. Two very abraded fragments of baked clay, from the fill of Ditch 0032 (0033), may represent the remains of prehistoric pottery, but this is far from certain.

### Lava Quern

Five fragments of lava quern are the only exotic finds among the assemblage as the quarry sites are in western Germany. However, such finds are relatively common on later Saxon and medieval sites as large quantities were imported through Ipswich.

### **Metalwork**

The lack of metal finds from the evaluation is not remarkable, as many medieval rural settlements of low to mid-status produce very few items indicative of any marked affluence. The single metal object resulting from the metal detector search was a fragment of copper alloy from a seventeenth or eighteenth century buckle.

### **Flint**

A small single flint flake with evidence of re-touching was found as an unstratified find among the upcast soil. The object dates to the Neolithic or Bronze Age period.

### **Shell**

A number of contexts had evidence of decayed shell, but only a single complete oyster shell was among the assemblage.

### **Animal Bone**

One fragment of cattle or horse long bone was recovered from the fill of Ditch 0013.

## **5.0 Discussion of the finds material**

Some evidence of prehistoric activity exists at the site, with one flint flake and two abraded fragments of baked clay; these may represent prehistoric pottery of indeterminate age.

The main evidence for activity on the site comes from the medieval period with a range of coarse-ware pottery, typical of a small low to mid-status rural settlement in east Suffolk. The date range for the pottery points to the settlement existing during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries until the fourteenth century AD, before abandonment or a reduction in size and activity. A possible origin during the late Saxon period is also a possibility, based upon the evidence of a single sherd of Thetford type ware. However, this may equally indicate activity nearer to 1100AD, rather than the pre-conquest period of the tenth or early eleventh centuries. The fragments of lava quern are the only imported items in the assemblage, but are far from exceptional; large quantities of these items were imported through the port at Ipswich during the late Saxon and medieval periods.

## **6.0 Discussion**

The possibility that the settlement may have originated during the late Saxon period may be supported by further archaeological investigation at the site. The single piece of Thetford type ware may be significant in this respect, but clearly cannot form the basis for dating the formation of the settlement. However, in comparative terms this suggestion certainly fits the pattern that

has been identified by archaeological survey in the Deben Valley in Suffolk. A series of late Saxon sites, which are apparently subsidiary to the main parish centres, were established during a period during the late ninth to eleventh centuries in peripheral locations close to parish boundaries (Newman, 2005: 483). Many of these subsidiary or 'daughter' settlements being recognisable as some of the lost villas of the Domesday Book that never achieved parish status.

The characteristics of the pottery assemblage, suggests that the settlement may have reached greatest density during the period from the twelfth to the fourteenth century. This also conforms to established knowledge of demographic patterns and decline during the latter part of this period. Population grew markedly in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but was to decline sharply during the fourteenth century, partly as a result of the Black Death. The lack of finds material from the site post-dating the fourteenth century suggests that the location was not reoccupied during the steady recovery of the fifteenth century and may have remained unpopulated, simply as agricultural land until recent times.

The configuration of the known archaeological features within the site, at this stage suggests that the present Bramford Road represents a long established route. The ditches, which were located during the evaluation, generally follow orientations that are at right angles to the road or run parallel. This structure, along with the presence of domestic pits suggests that a small settlement established, along with apportioned units of land, along the road or trackway. However, the site development area may not be sufficiently close to the road edge to reveal any evidence of the settlement buildings.

There has been a lack of opportunity to excavate rural settlement sites from this period and there is a clear need to contribute to research into patterns of occupation and the origin of such locations (Wade, 1997:52).

## 7.0 Recommendations

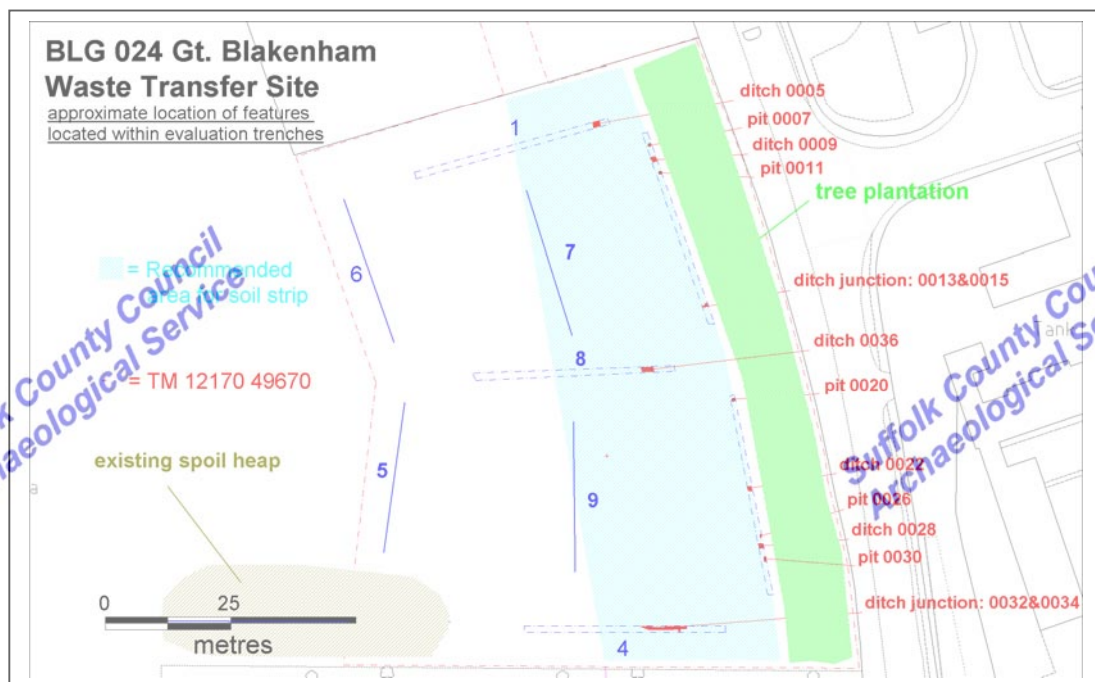




Figure 6. Recommended area for archaeological soil strip (pale blue)  
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The archaeology of the site can only be sufficiently understood with further excavation and analysis. However, the archaeological deposits appear to be confined to the eastern area of the site (close to Bramford Road). It is therefore recommended that around 40% (around 4,000m<sup>2</sup>) of the proposed development area be stripped to the optimum archaeological levels in order to allow a small programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out (see Figure 6: shaded pale blue). The depth of the soil stripping would be expected to be an average of 0.61m, this is based upon the average of the combined topsoil and subsoil depths recorded during the evaluation for this area of the site. There is little justification in recommending that the archaeological deposits be preserved *in-situ* provided that a sufficient archaeological record is produced of the site. It is likely that some damage may be done to the archaeological deposits in some areas of the site where a substantial amount of ground reduction is likely during the construction of the facility. It may be possible to a degree, to combine the mechanical stripping of the upper deposits required for the archaeological work with those of the groundworks required for the development.

## 8.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by David Clarke and Associates and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the production of the specialist finds report was by John Newman.

## 9.0 Bibliography

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## 10.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

*Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation*

## SITE 2 OFF ADDISON WAY, BRAMFORD ROAD, GREAT BLAKENHAM

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 and 1.8.*

### 1. Background

1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a waste recycling/transfer facility building at Site 2, Addison Way, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham (TM 1217 4967) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (MS/2788/06).

1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.

1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance on the western side of the Gipping Valley, recorded in the County Site and Monuments Record. Archaeological excavation defined four Roman ovens to the north-west and also prehistoric settlement remains to the west (BLG 017). In addition, ring ditches are recorded by aerial reconnaissance to both the north (BLG 002) and south-west (BLG 001) of this site. There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by development in this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

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. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.9 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT for approval.

## 2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 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].
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (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.
- 2.8 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.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. Specification: Field Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area, which is c. 545m<sup>2</sup> of the total application area that measures 1.09ha. (see accompanying plan). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 303m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Project Design and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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 show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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. Heathcote, 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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 SCCAS/CT.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### 4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than ten days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 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.

#### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 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).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the Project Design.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

- 5.4 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
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of 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).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the county SMR.
- 5.8 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 The project manager should consult the County SMR officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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).

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uk

Date: 13 March 2007  
GreatBlakenham2007

Reference: /

Site2AddisonRoad-

**This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.**

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

**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 2. Documentary report**

### **Site Bramford Road, Great Blakenham**

#### **Introduction**

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. It is impossible to carry out detailed research on this site and nearly all others in Great Blakenham using the documentary resources available within Suffolk and at other national repositories. There is a very simple explanation for this and it lies with the fact that manor of Great Blakenham was granted in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century to the Okeburne Priory in Wiltshire. This priory was a cell of the abbey of St Mary at Bec in Normandy. In the early fifteenth century the priory in common with other alien priories was suppressed and its lands and other possessions in Great Blakenham were granted in 1441 to the 'Prevost and Fellows of Eton College' (Copinger). This college in common with a number of other medieval educational establishments has continued to flourish to the present day and has retained its own records and archives. A good example of the dearth of records sources is illustrated by a search of the on-line catalogue of the National Archives. A search for records relating to Great Blakenham or Blakenham upon the Water in the period 1200 to 1780 produces a total of five references. One these references dated 1708 concerns a court case held in front of the King's Remembrancer a section of the Court of Exchequer. The dispute was between 'The Provost and Colledge Royal of the Blessed Mary of Eton near unto Windsor' who had leased their manor of 'Blakenham-upon-the-water' to a Joshua Blewett. The index reference specially mentions 'surveys or terriers of the demesne lands belonging to the manor of Great Blakenham made by Edward Clarke in the year 1681 and by John Holland in 1592' (see E 134/7Anne/East20). This suggests that the records still in the custody of Eton College are likely to be extensive and to include leases and surveys relating to this site and other areas within this parish.

#### **Maps**

This site is to the west of the B1113 Bramford Road and opposite the modern road known as Lodge Lane. The Suffolk Archaeological Unit have supplied copies of the first three editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of this area. The original sheet number LXVI.14 was surveyed in 1881. The area to the west is shown on sheet number LXVI.13. On the first and second editions of this map this site is shown as part of a large field numbered 19 and measured at 66.750 acres. On the third edition published in 1926 the site is within a field also numbered 19 but measured at 37.845 acres. This same parcel number appears on the adjoining sheet with the acreage of 37.375. The parcel numbers are important as they were used to identify the fields in sale particulars dated 9 June 1914 (ref. SC 045/1).



The site was then part of a farm known as 'Blakenham Lodge' described as an excellent stock farm 'with Farmhouse, Good Set of Buildings, Three Cottages and 167 Acres 2 Roods 26 Poles'. The farm was 'situated in the parishes of Great and Little Blakenham, Suffolk with a long frontage to the Road from Bramford to Claydon and Stowmarket and bounded on the East by the River Gipping'. The soil was described as 'a good mixed soil with some excellent low Meadows, the arable portion lying mostly on the West side of the Road and the Grass on the east side'. There is a list of field names including '19 Great Field, Arable, 66 acres 3 roods'. This was the largest field on this farm. Adjoining areas to the west included Little Blackacre partly in Great Blakenham and partly in Little Blakenham and a Chalk Pit numbered 13 and measured at 1 rood and 15 perches or poles. There is no sale plan in the sale particulars as the 'Schedule [was] from the Ordnance Survey (1904 Edition)'. There is however some interesting notes in the 'Conditions of Sale'. The property was freehold though there was a 'quit rent' of £1 12s 8d payable to the 'Manor of Balkenham upon the waters'. Another manor is mentioned again in the conditions of sale, 'Parts of Lot 1 comprising of two roods, and a piece containing seven perches in length and 10 feet in breadth ... are know to have been formerly copyhold tenure and holden of the manor of Blakenham on the Hill, but it is believed that the said parts have been enfranchised or the copyhold tenure and incidents thereof otherwise extinguished'. Blakenham on the Hill is Little Blakenham and this manor was again part of the possessions of Eton College. The purchaser of this property did not receive the deeds of their property and instead were given 'an abstract of title'. Unfortunately it appears to be the case that no copy of this abstract has been deposited at the record office.

The only earlier map of this site available at Ipswich is the Tithe Map of Great Blakenham dated 1840 (ref. P461/29). On this map this site is within the field numbered 190. This is described in the tithe apportionment (ref. FDA29/1A/1a) as '190 Front Field arable 20 acre 0 roods 25 perches'. It was part of a tenanted farm of 139 acres 2 roods and 29 perches in the ownership of John Peacock and in the occupation of his tenant John Hayward Buckingham. It should be noted that the tithe apportionment and map were prepared under the Tithe Commutation Act and the records do not give the full details of the tenure of each property. Eton College held the largest landholding in this parish consisting of two farms. One farm consisted of 280 acres 1 rood and 19 perches and was then in the occupation of Charles Cooper who was also a tenant of John Peacock, the other consisting of 32 acres 3 roods and 31 perches was in the occupation of the College's tenant John Hayward Buckingham.

The adjoining fields along the western side of the road to Bramford were also part of John Peacock's tenanted farm and are named in the apportionment as 189 'Eight Acres', 188 and 'Seven Acres'. The field to the west 184 is named 'Middle or Broom Field'. None of these field names include a personal name element that could be used to identify a previous owner.

There are no earlier manuscript maps of Great Blakenham listed in the record office's map indexes or in the Isaac Johnson Collection (ref. HD 11). There is

no enclosure map for this parish. Small areas of the parish are depicted on various railways plans all post date the tithe map of 1840. All references to Great Blakenham indexed in the place name card index have been traced in the catalogues at the record office and produce no further references to this site.

### **Conclusion**

The details of the landownership as they appear in the tithe apportionment sometimes obscure the true nature of the tenure of the property. The 1914 sale particulars show that either the entire property or a substantial part of it was freehold but subject to quit rents of the manor of Blakenham upon the Water. This manor was part of the possessions of Eton College. There is a link to another manor held by the college through the reference in the conditions of sale to former areas of copyhold held of the manor of Blakenham on the Hill. The records of these manors are still at Eton and are likely to include surveys of the manors.

An alternative source for further research existed in the form of an abstract of title prepared in conjunction with the 1914 sale of the property. This document does not appear to have been deposited at the record office in Ipswich.

Anthony M Breen August 2007

### **References**

#### Maps

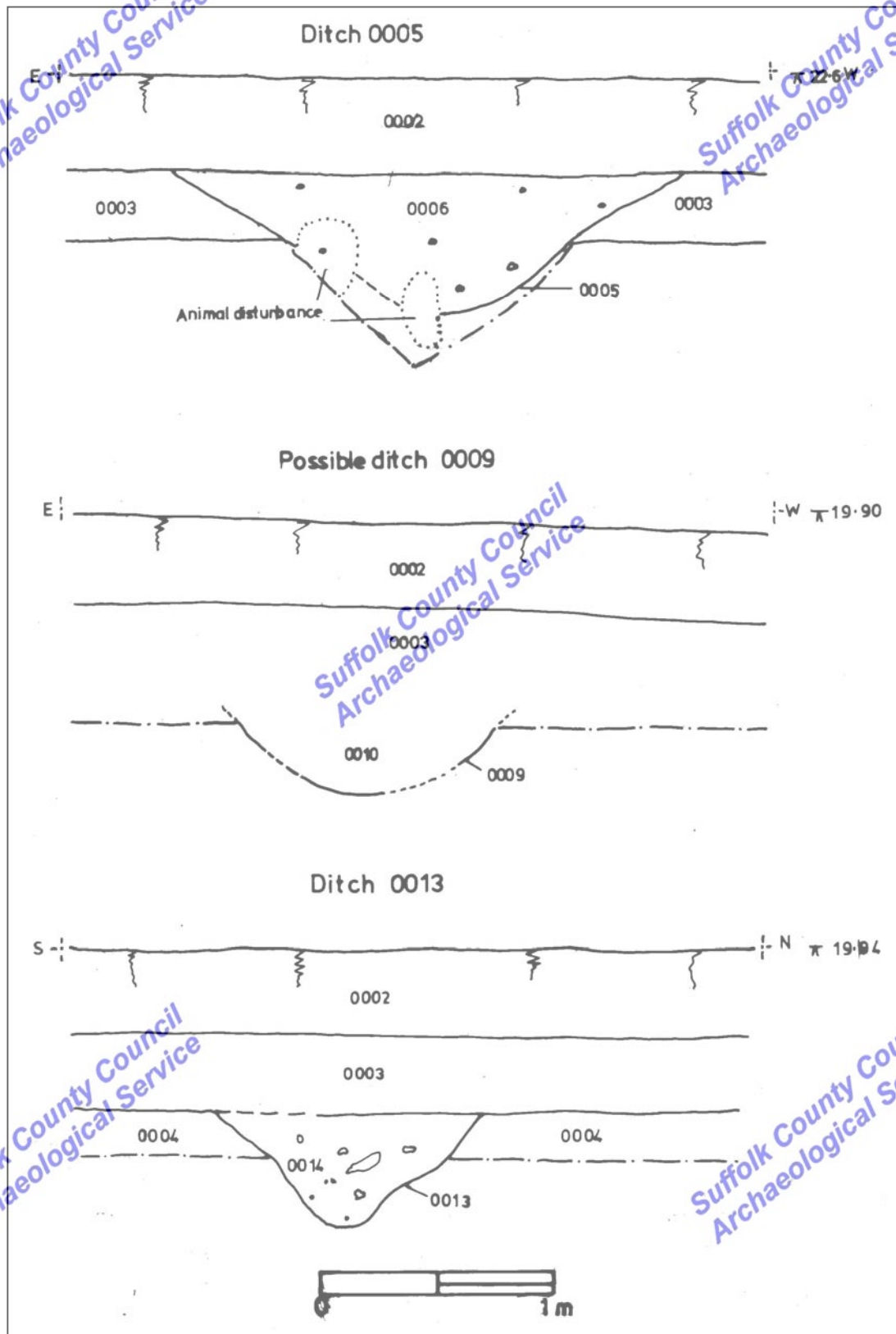
SC 045/1 "Blakenham Lodge" and "Broomvale" Farms, Great and Little Blakenham, Suffolk; For Sale by Auction at Ipswich on Tuesday 9 June, 1914

P461/29 Tithe Map Great Blakenham 1840  
FDA29/1A/1a Tithe Apportionment 1840

#### Printed Sources

W.A. Copinger 'Manors of Suffolk Notes on Their History and Devolution'  
Blything, Bosmere and Claydon Vol II Manchester 1908

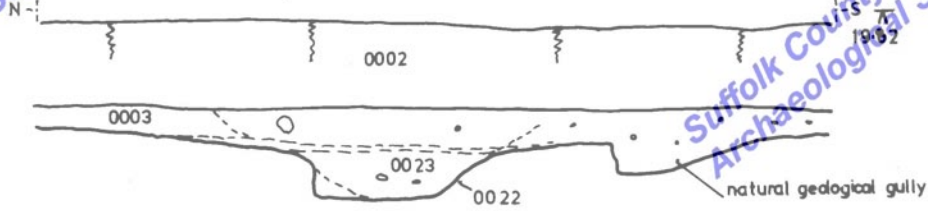
Appendix 3.  
Sections and Plans



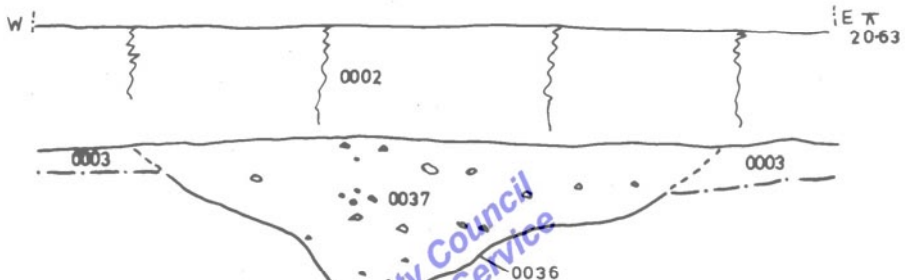
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Possible ditch 0022

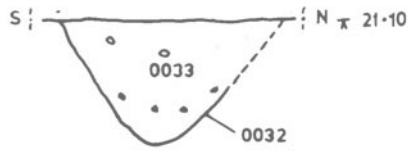


Ditch 0036



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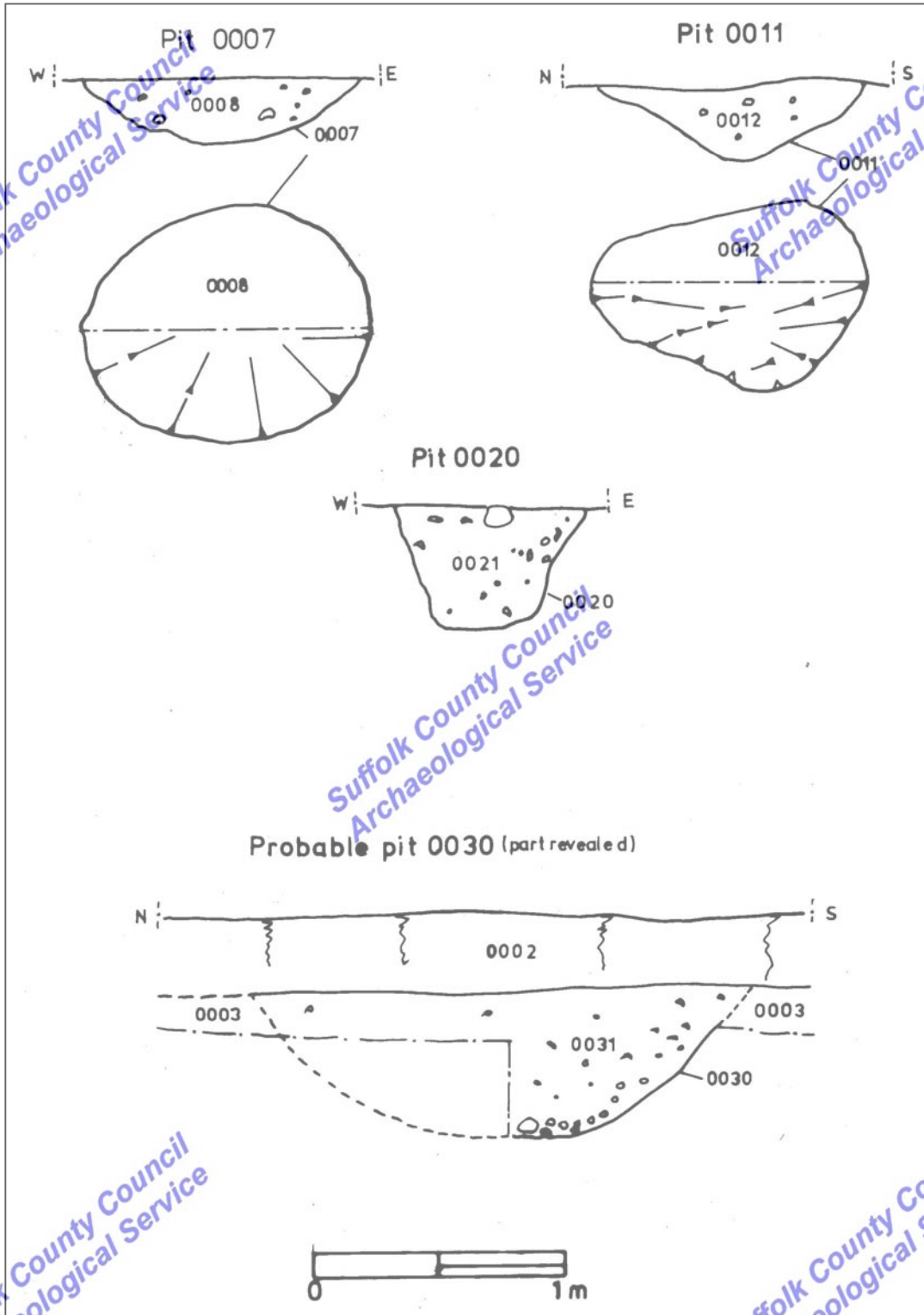
Ditch 0032



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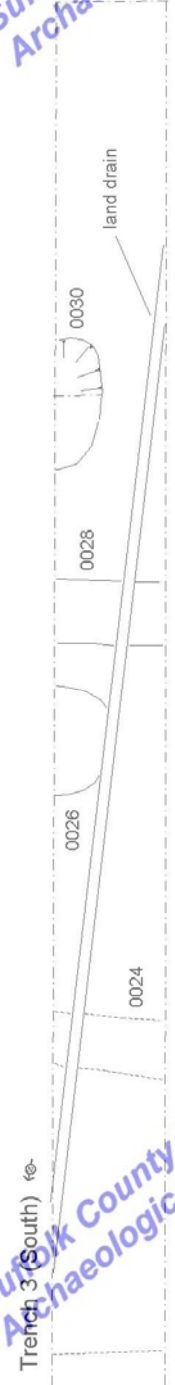
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Trench Plans (Trenches 1-3)



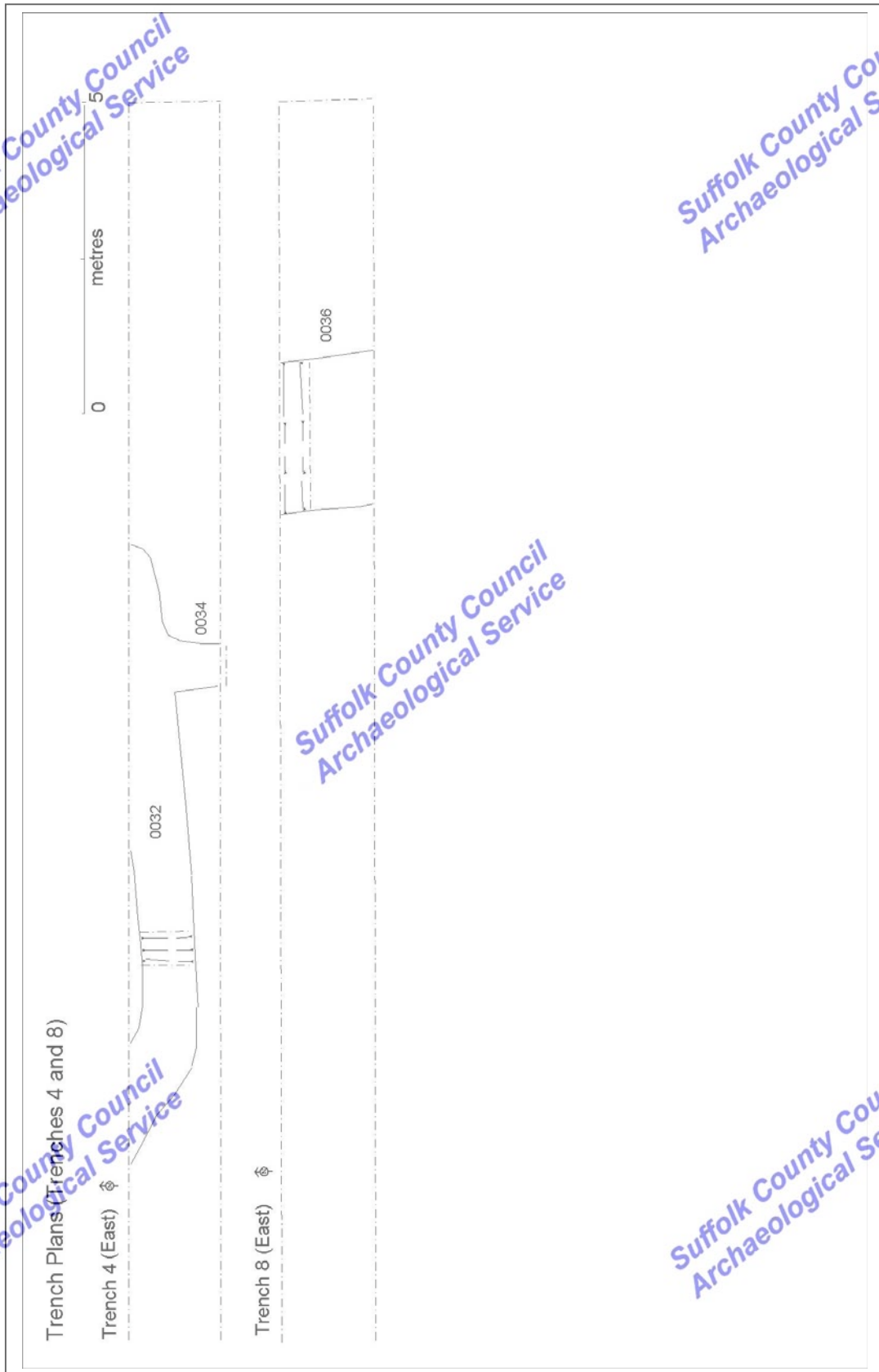
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## Appendix 4

### Context list

Context	Feature	Component	Identifier	trench	Description	Finds Y/N	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Section	Spot Date
0001	-	-	Unstratified	all	unstratified finds.	Yes						prehistoric-18 C..
0002	-	-	topsoil	all	mid-pale brown fine silty sand	Yes			0003		1	
0003	-	-	subsoil	all	mixed pale to mid-brown silty sand	Yes					1	
0004	-	-	natural deposits	all	natural orange-yellow gravel and sand, with variable bands of silt and clay	No				0003		
0005	0005	0005	ditch cut	1	north to south orientation, irregular sides, open profile	No	0003		0004	0002	1	
0006	0005	0005	ditch fill	1	mid-brown silty sand	No			0005	0002	1	
0007	0007	0007	pit cut	2	small, shallow, oval pit	No	0004		0004	0003	1	
0008	0007	0007	pit fill	2	pale to mid-brown silty sand	Yes					1	12-14C.
0009	0009	0009	poss. Ditch cut	2	poorly defined east to west orientated with dished profile	No	0004		0004	0003	1	
0010	0009	0009	fill of poss. Ditch	2	very mixed and mottled pale to mid-brown silty sand	No				0003	1	
0011	0011	0011	pit cut	2	irregular oval shaped shallow pit	No	0004			0003	1	
0012	0011	0011	pit fill	2	mid-brown clayey silty sand	Yes				0003	1	12-14C.
0013	0013	0013	ditch cut	2	east to west orientated ditch possibly forming 'T' junction with ditch 0015	No	0004				1	
0014	0013	0013	ditch fill	2	mid grey to brown silty sand	Yes					1	12-14C>
0015	0015	0015	cut of linear feature	2	possible north to south ditch forming 'T' junction with 0013 relationship not clear (not excavated)	No				0003	1	



0016	0015	0015	fill of linear feature	2	mid-grey to brown silty sand (finds collected from machined surface)	Yes			0003	1	12-14C.
0017	0017	0017	cut of linear feature	2	wide linear east to west feature (possibly modern) not excavated	No					
0018	0017	0017	fill of linear feature	2	pale to mid-brown clayey silty sand not excavated	No					
0019	-	-	finds	2	finds collected from lower subsoil level subsequent to machining	Yes					9-14C.
0020	0020	0020	pit cut	3	small sub-circular steep sided pit	No				1	
0021	0020	0020	pit fill	3	pale to mid-brown silty sand	Yes				1	12-14C.
0022	0022	0022	possible ditch cut	3	east to west linear feature with open dished profile possibly a ditch or natural gully deposit	No				1	
0023	0022	0022	fill of possible ditch	3	mid-brown silty sand (lava quern fragments found on surface of feature)	Yes				1	
0024	0024	0024	possible ditch cut	3	east to west orientated linear feature (possible ditch) not excavated	No					
0025	0024	0024	fill of possible ditch	3	mid/dark brown slightly clayey sand	No					
0026	0026	0026	cut of probable pit	3	partially revealed feature at eastern edge of Trench (not excavated)	No					
0027	0026	0026	fill of probable pit	3	mid-dark brown clayey sand	No					
0028	0028	0028	cut of possible ditch	3	east to west orientated linear feature (not excavated)	No					
0029	0028	0028	fill of possible ditch	3	mid to dark brown slightly clayey sand	No					
0030	0030	0030	cut of probable pit	3	partially exposed feature at eastern edge of trench	No		0004		1	

0031	0030	0030	fill of probable pit	3	mid-brown silty sand with occasional pale brown clay lumps	Yes					1	12-14C.
0032	0032	0032	ditch cut	4	curving ditch, predominantly orientated east to west, steep sided profile	No			0004		1	
0033	0033	0033	ditch fill	4	mid-dark brown slightly clayey sand	Yes					1	possibly prehistoric
0034	0034	0034	ditch cut	4	east to west orientated ditch forming a 'T' junction with ditch 0032 not excavated	No			0004		1	
0035	0034	0034	ditch fill	4	mid-dark brown slightly clayey sand containing decayed oyster shell fragments. (not excavated)	No						
0036	0036	0036	ditch cut	8	north to south orientated ditch with a similar profile to ditch 0005 (possibly both part of the same feature)	No	0003		0004		1	
0037	0036	0036	fill of ditch	8	pale brown/orange silty sand	No					1	

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