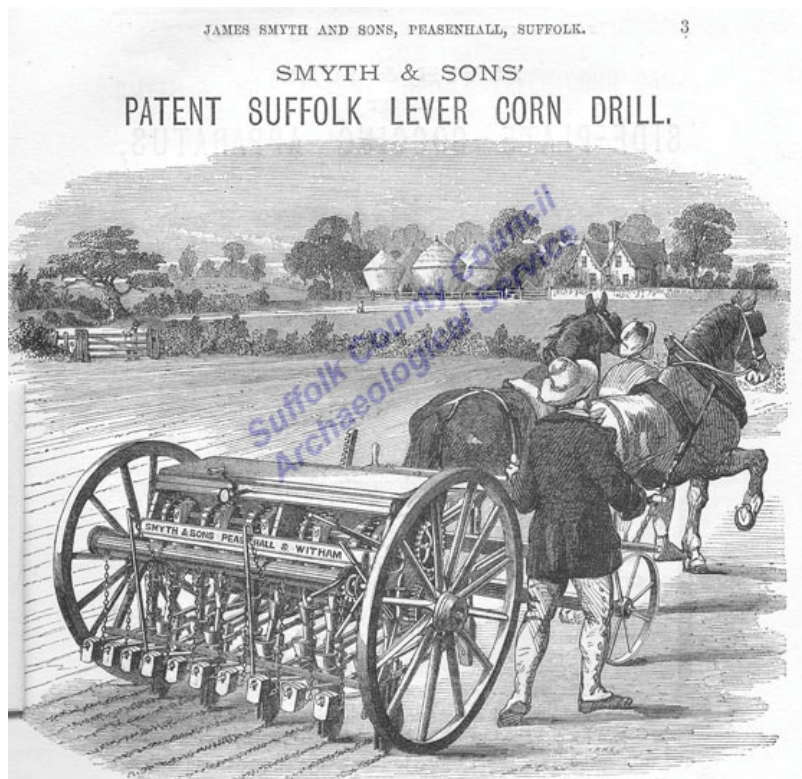


# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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## FORMER SMYTHE WORKS, CHURCH STREET, PEASENHALL PSH 012

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2004  
(Planning app. no. C/03/0727)



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Field Team  
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**SCCAS Report No. 2004/93**

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The cover image is taken from: *Illustrated Catalogue of Patent Corn, Seed, and Manure Drills, Manure Distributors, and Patent Broadcast Sowing Machines (no.32) / Issued by James Smyth & Sons, Peasenhall, Suffolk, and Witham, Essex. Published 1873*

## List of Contributors

All Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS hereafter) unless otherwise stated.

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Sue Anderson	Finds Manager
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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited and was monitored by Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Division.

The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The excavation was carried out by Rhodri Gardner and Roy Damant, both from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team.

Finds processing was carried out by Sue Anderson and Kelly Powell, who both contributed to the specialist finds report.

Thanks are due to Hopkins and Moore's Technical Manager, David Strike, for his co-operation in providing design details.

## Summary

*Peasenhall*, Former Smythe Works, Church Street (TM 3558 6915; PSH 012). A trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of residential development. Seven trenches (with a total excavated area of *c.* 225m<sup>2</sup>) were excavated. Extensive landscaping and development since the establishment of the Smythe Seed Drill Works at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century meant that truncation and disturbance was extensive throughout much of the site. However a trench close to the medieval road frontage revealed four 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century ditches, two parallel to and *c.* 15m back from, the road frontage along with two others on perpendicular alignments. These have been interpreted as tenement boundary ditches, delineating individual plots making up a high medieval ribbon development along the medieval road frontage. A pit and post-hole of similar date were also recorded indicating the site's potential for the preservation of structural evidence in addition to the boundaries. A single feature of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date in the same trench suggested the potential for continuity of settlement evidence. Little disturbance to the road frontage appeared to have been caused by the range of light 'lean-to' type buildings that had occupied it prior to recent demolition. Consequently it was recommended that an area *c.* 52m long by 15m wide along the road frontage be stripped for excavation.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS, for Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited, report no: 2004/93)

## SMR information

Planning application no.	C/03/0727
Project No.	PEAS/SMY/001
Date of fieldwork:	8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2004
Grid Reference:	TM 3558 6915
Funding body:	Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited

## Introduction

Planning consent (C/03/0727) has been sought for a residential development and associated services at the former Smythe Works, Church Street, Peasenhall. The site is centred approximately on NGR TM 3558 6915 and encompasses an area of c. 8000m<sup>2</sup>. The site was levelled following demolition at the time of the evaluation, with the land falling from c. 30m AOD at the southern end of the site to c. 24m AOD at the northern end of the site. The prevailing slope continues to the valley bottom (at c. 21m AOD) occupied by a tributary of the River Yox which runs alongside the A1120 Hackney Road that bisects the village from east to west. The site is bounded to the north by the churchyard of St Michael's Church, to the east by Church Street, to the south by gardens/allotments and to the west by open agricultural land.

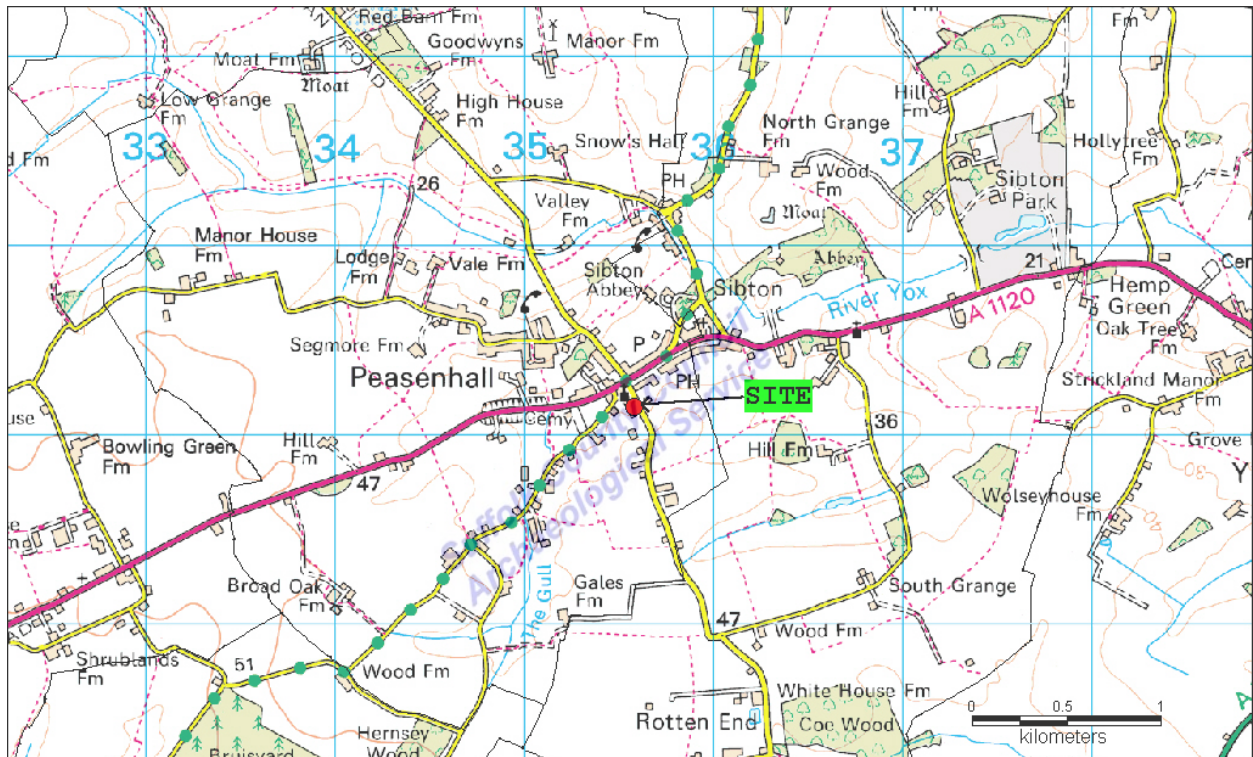


Figure 1. Site location

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Planning consent was conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological works being carried out before development commenced, as the site is directly adjacent to the medieval parish church and also lies on the main thoroughfare connecting the village to Saxmundham. As the site lies within the village core it is therefore thought to have high potential for the preservation of evidence of settlement spanning the Saxon to medieval periods.

An archaeological field evaluation was therefore recommended in the first instance by Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team, so that the results could be used to inform decisions on the need for any further archaeological work required during the course of the development. The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned by the client, Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited, to carry out the work.



## Results

Basic details of each trench are given below in Table 1. A narrative account of the findings of each trench then follows. Plans and sections are shown in Figures 4 and 5 respectively.

Trench	Dimensions	Area	Archaeological Features	Depth of Overburden
1	8.5m x 1.6m	13.6m <sup>2</sup>	None	0.3m
2	26.5m x 1.6m	42.4m <sup>2</sup>	None	0.75m
3	21m x 1.6m	33.6m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Wall footings:</b> 0005, 0006	0.45m
4	15m x 1.6m	24m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Drains:</b> 0007, 0008	0.4m
5	26m x var. (see Fig. 3)	66m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Ditches:</b> 0013, 0017, 0027, 0022 and 0029; <b>Pits:</b> 0009 and 0011; <b>Post-hole:</b> 0031; <b>Layer/?bank:</b> 0016	0.3m (SE end) to 0.75m (NW end) <sup>1</sup>
6	5m x 1.6m	8m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Bank:</b> 0033	1.8m
7	24m x 1.6m	38.4m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Bank:</b> 0033	0.7m (SE end) to 1.4m (NW end)

Table 1. Evaluation trench summary

A single description has been given to the overburden encountered in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. This context, 0002, was a soft to firm dark grey to black mottled clayey silt matrix with abundant 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish of all types, most commonly lumps of slag waste (presumably derived from the foundry known to have been on site during the tenure of the Smythe Seed Drill Works). Varying thicknesses of this deposit were recorded, from as little as 0.3m (Trench 1 and the south-eastern end of Trench 5) to 0.75m (Trench 2).

For much of the site this was seen to overlie 0003, a hillwash or colluvium deposit of soft slightly greyish brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. It was notable that the archaeological features encountered in Trenches 3 and 4 were cut into the surface of this deposit, while in Trench 5 (particularly at the north-western end) features were only visible after some of this deposit had been machine cleared. This suggests that the hillwash was accumulating contemporaneously with the occupation indicated by the features in Trench 5. In Trenches 1 and 3 further removal of deposit 0003 was undertaken, and it was found to be up to 1m thick.

Underlying 0003 in Trenches 1 and 3 and directly beneath the bank recorded in Trench 6 natural deposits (0004) were recorded. These took the form of river terrace gravels, described as loose to compact greyish brown slightly clayey silty sands with frequent small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles.

### Trench 1

This was located as close to the northern boundary of the site (abutting the churchyard) as possible, in order to ensure that the churchyard boundary had not changed at any time and that no burials were likely to be encountered within the site.

The following stratigraphy was observed throughout the trench:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.3m	0002	Undifferentiated overburden (described above).
0.3 – 1.3m	0003	Hillwash/colluvium (described above)
1.3m <sup>+</sup>	0004	Natural river terrace gravels (described above)

<sup>1</sup> Given the archaeologically sensitive nature of the deposits encountered in Trench 5 several absolute levels were recorded in order to inform mitigation in this area of the site. These levels are shown in Figure 4, Trench 5 and discussed in *Recommendations for Further Work*, below.

No graves or other archaeological features were observed and excavation was continued to the base of the hillwash deposit in order to determine its depth in this part of the site. No disarticulated human remains were encountered.

## Trench 2

This was situated at the northern end of the site in an area believed to be between two ranges of demolished buildings. The following stratigraphy was recorded throughout the trench:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.75m	0002	General description of undifferentiated overburden (described above).
0.75m <sup>+</sup>	0003	Hillwash/colluvium (described above)

Widespread modern truncation was recorded in Trench 2 (Figure 3), including a very large modern pit at the south-western end of the trench. The top of hillwash deposit 0003 was encountered at 0.75m bgl (c. 24m AOD), significantly deeper than in Trench 1 at 0.3m bgl (c. 24.5m AOD) which was less than 7m to the north. This suggests that the top of the hillwash had been disturbed/removed during the construction and occupation of the range of buildings that previously occupied this part of the site. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

## Trench 3

This was located in the centre of the site in an area thought to have been undisturbed by the recently demolished buildings. However, upon excavation it was clear that other earlier structures had occupied this part of the site (see Figure 3, inset).

Beneath a broadly uniform depth (c. 0.45m bgl) of overburden 0002 the remains of two wall footings (0005 and 0006) were recorded cutting into the surface of hillwash 0003. Both were orientated

broadly north-east to south-west across the trench and were constructed in identical fashion using red bricks (114mm broad, 72mm thick and 230mm long) which were frogged on one side only and bonded with a very hard greyish white lime mortar. Five courses of masonry survived in the case of the northernmost example, 0005, and seven courses in the case of 0006. Both footings were 0.5m wide and comprised a single row of stretchers along each face with a row of headers making up the core. The relatively large bricks were of a size (particularly in terms of thickness) consistent with a late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date and this, combined with the Ordnance Survey map shown in Figure 3, suggests that these wall footings belonged to buildings of the original Smythe Works. Although precisely locating the trenches is difficult it is likely that 0005 represents the southern wall of one structure while 0006 represents the northern wall of another.

A sondage was excavated through hillwash 0003 at the north-western end of the trench, where it was found to be 0.7m thick overlying undisturbed natural drift deposits (0004) at 1.15m bgl.

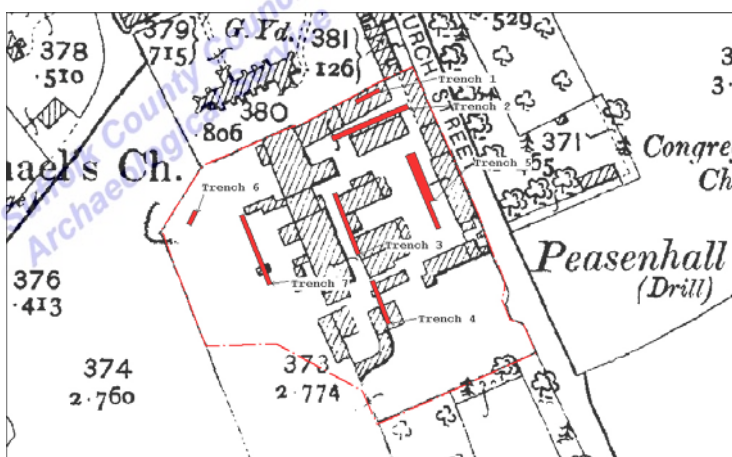


Figure 3. Trench locations with Second Edition (1904) Ordnance Survey map



A number of modern services were seen crossing the trench but no further archaeological finds or features were observed.

#### **Trench 4**

This was located in the central southern part of the site in order to examine the deposits between the area of terracing to the west and Smythe House to the east. A uniform 0.4m of overburden 0002 was recorded overlying hillwash 0003.

Two brick built box drains were recorded in the centre of the trench. The first of these, 0007, was aligned east to west across the trench and was 0.4m wide. It was constructed using red bricks, again frogged on one side only and indistinguishable from those encountered in the Trench 3 wall footings (see above). These were bonded with a soft grey sandy mortar. The sides of the drain comprised five courses of stretchers, while the base and top were made using single courses of headers. A very thin black silt residue was visible in the base but this was too sparse to sample. Drain 0008 was recorded just 1m to the south of 0007 and identically constructed but aligned north-east to south-west. Their fabric and method of construction again suggests that these were associated with the original Smythe Works.

No other archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### **Trench 5**

This was situated in the central eastern part of the site in order to examine the deposits near to the road frontage.

Undifferentiated overburden 0002 was recorded along the entire length of this trench, although its depth was notably different: at the south-eastern end of the trench some 0.3m was recorded overlying hillwash 0003, while at the north-western end *c.* 0.6m was recorded, again overlying hillwash 0003.

A number of archaeological features were recorded in Trench 5 (see below), although their stratigraphic relationship to hillwash deposit 0003 was somewhat uncertain. At the south-eastern end of the trench a feature was recorded cutting the surface of 0003 at a level of 25.64m AOD. In the centre of the trench features only became visible after the removal of the uppermost levels (*c.* 0.2m) of 0003 at a level of 24.99m AOD. At the north-western end of the trench slightly more of hillwash 0003 was removed in order to reveal features at a depth of 24.34m AOD.

Stratigraphically, the earliest feature recorded in Trench 5 was ditch 0029 which was aligned broadly north-east to south-west and was partially revealed crossing the north-western end of the trench. This was at least 3m long, at least 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep. It had gently sloping concave sides and a flattish base and contained a single fill of greyish brown silty clayey sand (0030) that yielded pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. It has been interpreted as a boundary ditch that served to delineate the north-eastern or south-western side boundary of a tenement plot extending back from the medieval road frontage.

Ditch 0029 was cut by the most significant feature recorded in Trench 5 – ditch 0013/0027. In its original incarnation this ditch was recorded as 0027, although this was only visible for *c.* 4m in the central part of the trench where only its eastern side survived. This was steeply sloping and broke sharply to a flat base. It was 0.4m deep and contained a single fill that held a single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. The ditch was then substantially recut as 0013, which could be traced for at least 21.5m along the centre of Trench 5. Straight and parallel sided, this was examined by means of three sample segments and was found to be between 0.6m and 1m wide and 0.3 to 0.4m deep with moderately sloping slightly concave sides that broke very gradually to

a rounded base. In all three of the sample segments it was found to contain two fills. The primary fill (recorded as 0014, 0020 and 0026) was soft light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent small flint pebbles. This was up to 0.18m thick and produced no dateable finds. The secondary fill (recorded as 0015, 0021 and 0025) was up to 0.25m thick and comprised soft mid brown silty clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles. It produced pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date from all three segments. Ditch 0013/0027 has been interpreted as a tenement boundary ditch; most likely marking the rear extent of plots extending back from the road frontage.

Ditch 0022 was recorded on a north-east to south-west alignment at the north-western end of the trench, where it cut ditch 0013/0027. It was at least 2.1m long, extending beyond the eastern limit of Trench 5. It was 1.05m wide and 0.45m deep with a rounded south-western terminus and a stepped south-eastern side, a steep straight north-western side and a flat base. It contained two fills. The primary fill (0023) was a soft light brown clayey silty sand that produced no dateable finds. The secondary fill (0024) was a very soft brownish grey sandy clayey silt with rare fragments of animal bone and pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. This has also been interpreted as a tenement boundary ditch.

Pit 0011 was recorded cutting ditch 0013/0027 near the centre of Trench 5. It was oval, measuring 1m (north-west to south-east) by 0.55m (north-east to south-west) and was 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (0012) of soft mid greyish brown clayey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and rare flint pebbles. Interpreted as a probable rubbish pit, it contained several sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, along with some animal bone and undated fragments of brick/tile.

A fourth ditch was recorded in Trench 5. This was 0017 and was recorded immediately to the east of ditch 0013/0027 on the same alignment. Broadly straight (with a slight turn toward its north-eastern end) and parallel sided this could be traced for some 14.5m along the trench. It was difficult to identify any north-western terminus, but it certainly did not extend as far as ditch 0022. It was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with steep slightly stepped convex sides that broke sharply to a narrow flat base. It contained two fills. The primary fill (0018) occupied the stepped lower part of the ditch to a depth of c. 0.15m and comprised a firm light brown clayey silty sand with occasional flint pebbles and rare charcoal flecks and contained a single undated struck flint. The upper fill (0019) was 0.17m deep and was a firm mid brown silty clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small flint pebbles that yielded several potsherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. This has also been interpreted as a tenement boundary ditch.

Either side of ditch 0017 layer 0016 was recorded. It was only discernible for a c. 10m long area 0.3m wide either side of 0017 and was up to 0.15m thick. Its was composed of firm light brownish yellow slightly silty clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent flint pebbles. It has been tentatively interpreted as the remains of a bank of upcast spoil from the digging of ditch 0017. It contained no dateable finds.

A single isolated post-hole (0031) was recorded just to the west of ditch 0013/0027 near the north-western end of the trench. It was 0.25m in diameter and 0.28m deep with near vertical sides and a blunt rounded base. It contained a single fill (0032) that held no dateable finds.

The final feature recorded in Trench 5 was pit 0009. This was partially revealed near the south-eastern end of the trench and was circular, being 1m in diameter and just 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides that broke gradually to a flat base. Its single fill (0010) of soft mid greyish brown silty clayey sand held two sherds of late medieval or transitional pottery of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date along with a few fragments of brick/tile of probably post-medieval date.

## **Trench 6**

This was located in the far north-western corner of the site in order to examine the deposits beneath the bank that occupied this quadrant of the site. Upon excavation it immediately became clear that this bank was very substantial, with modern dumping (0033) having accumulated for a depth of 1.8m and overlying natural terrace deposits (0004). Excavation of this trench ceased after only 5m as its depth precluded safe access. Any archaeological deposits at such a depth would be unlikely to be affected by any of the development proposals in any case.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded. This trench has not been illustrated.

## **Trench 7**

This was situated in the western part of the site in order to characterise the deposits between the bank and the terraced area. An area some 7.5m long was not excavated in the central part of the trench due to Health and Safety considerations, as at that point the trench was thought to be too close to a large bund of demolition rubble which presented a risk of collapse.

Bank deposits (0033) were recorded to a depth of 1.4m bgl at the north-western end of the trench, where they directly overlay natural terrace gravels (0004).

At the south-eastern end of the trench some 0.7m of overburden 0002 was recorded overlying hillwash 0003, suggesting that the terracing had not been so aggressive that it had reduced the ground to the level of the underlying terrace gravels. Extensive modern truncation was recorded throughout this part of the trench (see Figure 4).

No archaeological features or finds were observed in Trench 7.

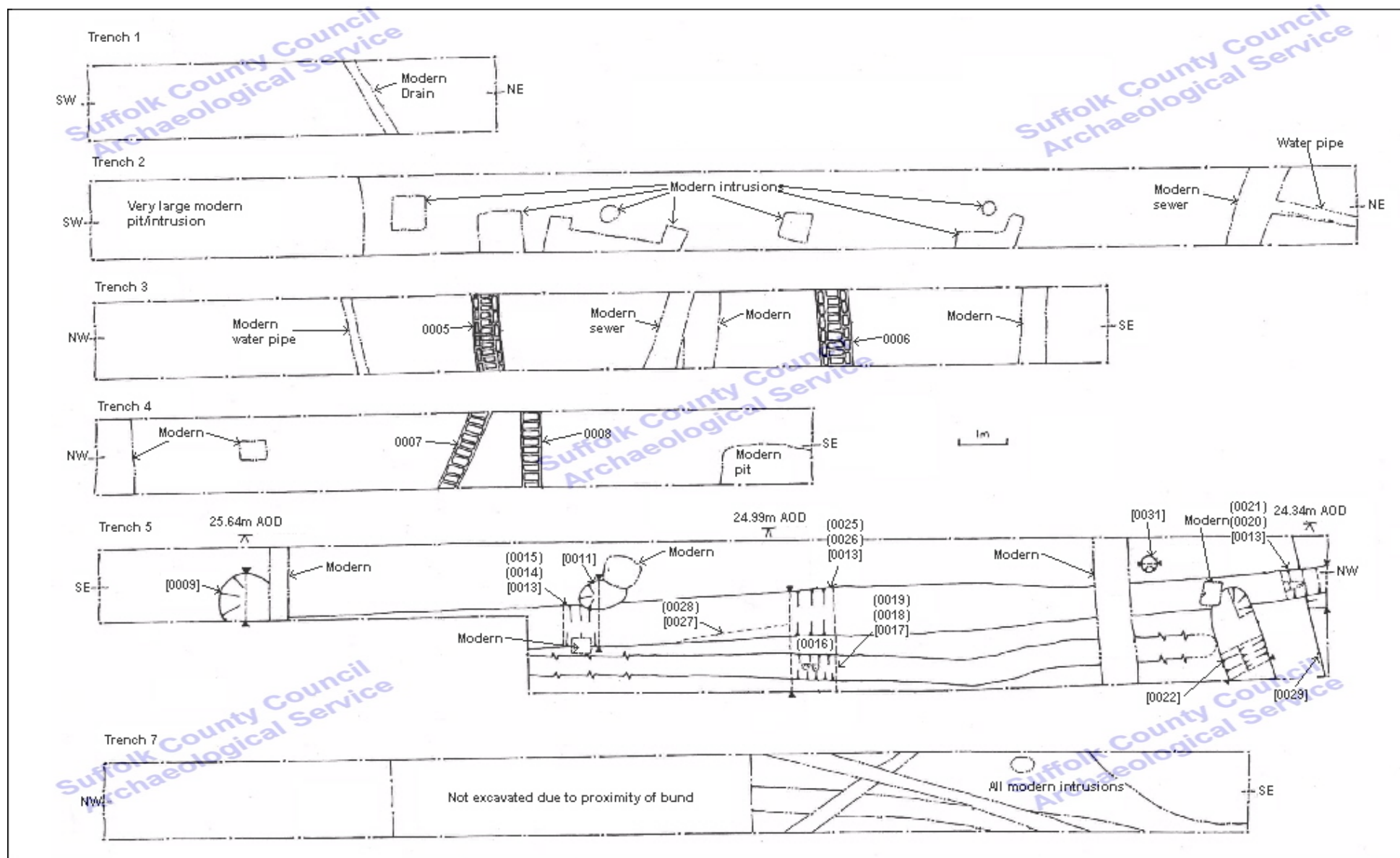


Figure 4. Trench Plans

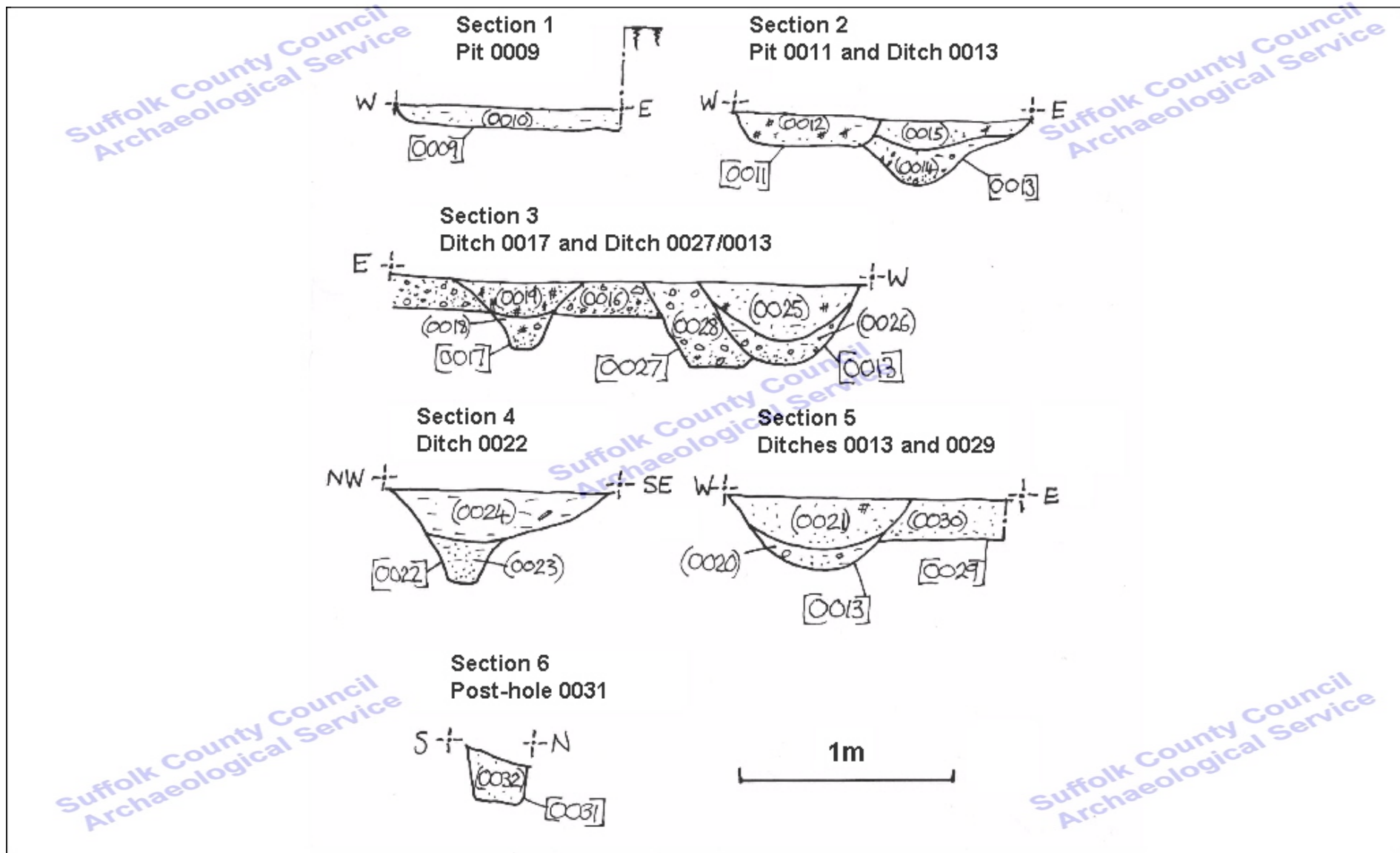


Figure 5. Section drawings

# Findings and Environmental Evidence

Sue Anderson, June 2004.

## Introduction

Findings were collected from eleven contexts, as shown in Table 2 below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	9	99	2	192				13/14+
0010	2	17	2	16				15/16
0012	6	67	2	3	2	12		13/14
0015	2	31						13/14
0018							1 flint (42g)	Undated
0019	6	33						13/14
0021	16	241			1	8	1 Fe (6g)	13/14
0024	3	43			1	11		13/14
0025	2	4						13/14
0028	1	6						13/14
0030	2	16						13/14
Total	49	557	6	211	4	31		

## Pottery

Forty-nine sherds of pottery were recovered. Apart from one small, abraded grog-tempered sherd of 'black surfaced ware' which may be early Roman (pit fill 0012) and a rim sherd (pipkin or jar) of late medieval and transitional ware (pit fill 0010), all fragments were high medieval and probably from the kilns at Hollesley (13th-14th centuries). Several rims were present, all developed forms (square beads), representing four jars and two bowls. There was also a neck sherd from a glazed vessel, probably a jug (ditch fill 0019).

## Ceramic building material

Fragments of tile were collected from three contexts. Unstratified findings (0001) included a large fragment of a nibbed roof tile in a medium sandy calcareous fabric, and a small piece of tile in a soft fine micaceous fabric, possibly Roman. Two fragments of ?tile were heavily abraded and in a medium sandy ferrous fabric which may be post-medieval (pit fill 0010). Two very small fine sandy micaceous pieces of tile from pit fill 0012 were of uncertain date.

## Metalwork

One iron nail was recovered from ditch fill 0021.

## Miscellaneous

An irregular flint core was found in ditch fill 0018. It could be of any date from the later prehistoric period onwards (C. Pendleton, *pers. comm.*).

## Animal bone

Four fragments of animal bone were collected from three contexts. These included an unidentified large mammal fragment, a sheep radius shaft and a piece of pig jaw containing a very worn molar.

## Discussion

The assemblage suggests that activity at the site was centred on the 13th-14th centuries. Pottery was being sourced from the nearby production site at Hollesley, and this is typical of contemporary sites throughout eastern Suffolk. However the assemblage is relatively large for an evaluation, and the potential for analysis of a group from excavation is high.

## Discussion and Conclusions

In order to discuss the site's archaeological potential it has been divided into three areas, based not only on the findings of this evaluation but also on observations of the site's overall topography following demolition.

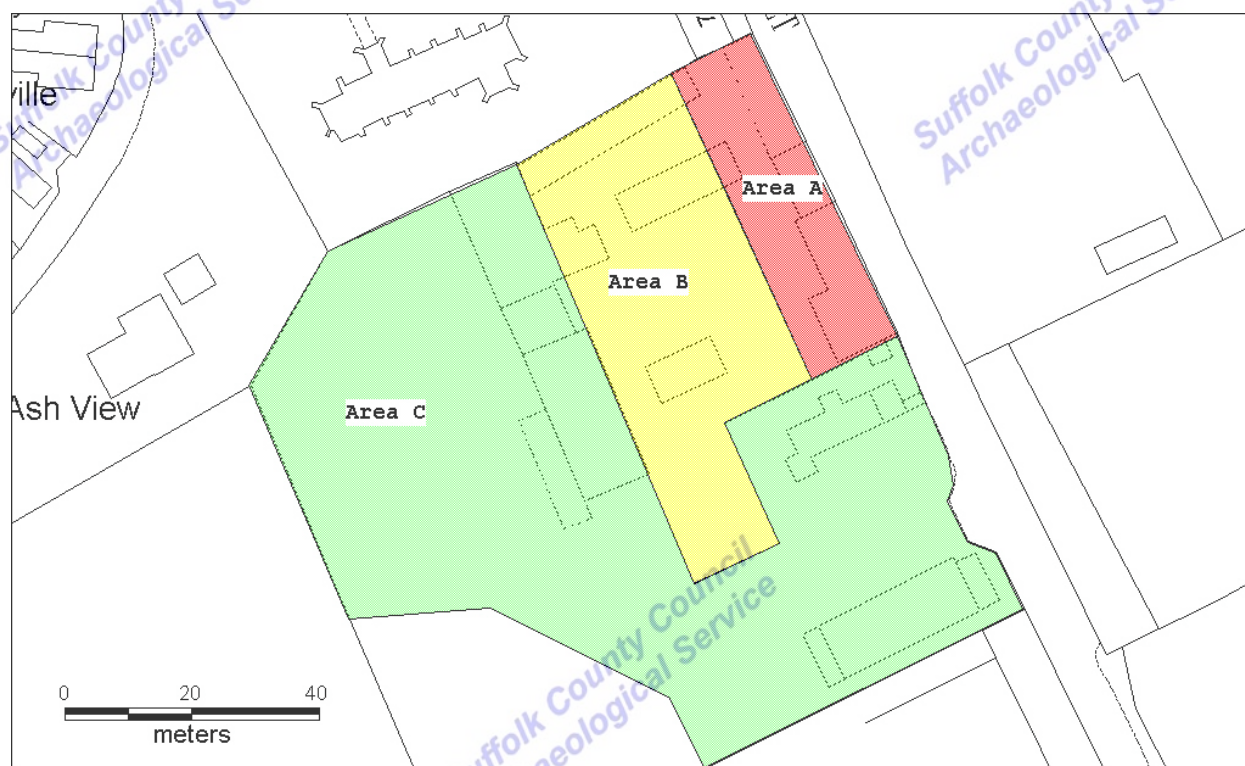


Figure 6. Areas of archaeological potential

### Area A

The principal findings of this evaluation concern the high medieval (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century) features revealed in Trench 5 close to the road frontage. Two ditches were found on a broadly parallel alignment to the road, one of which could be traced for at least 21.5m. Two further ditches of high medieval date were recorded on a perpendicular alignment to the road frontage. Clear stratigraphic relationships between these ditches were preserved and their depth suggests that they had not seen significant vertical truncation or damage during later occupation of the site. The most likely interpretation of these is that they represent a series of boundary ditches that served to mark out tenement plots fronting the medieval road in a classic pattern of ribbon development. The presence of a pit and post-hole of high medieval date also attests to the site's potential for the preservation of other less substantial features. The additional presence of a single late medieval/transitional period (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century) feature in Trench 5 indicates that evidence for continuity of occupation spanning several centuries may be preserved.

Although Ordnance Survey maps indicate a range of buildings occupying the road frontage, local knowledge (the sub-contractor's plant operator had worked on the site for more than 20 years) indicated that apart from at the far southern end these were relatively insubstantial 'lean-to' structures. These are unlikely to have caused significant truncation to the archaeological deposits in the area<sup>2</sup> and preservation is therefore likely to be good. The hillwash deposit was also recorded at appropriate levels in Trenches 1 and 2 (although some disturbance from a recent

<sup>2</sup> Observation of test pits excavated during a concurrent site investigation (11<sup>th</sup> June) demonstrated that the upper levels of the archaeologically sensitive hillwash deposit were indeed well preserved.

building more than 10m back from the road frontage was recorded in Trench 2), suggesting that there is also the potential for archaeological survival to the north of Trench 5.

The nature of the archaeological features recorded and the lack of significant damage caused by recent buildings suggests that the area between Trench 5 and the road frontage has high archaeological potential.

### **Area B**

Evidence for post-medieval buildings probably associated with the Smythe Works was recorded in the central part of the site (Trenches 3 and 4). No earlier features were observed in this part of the site and post-medieval/modern truncation was widespread. While it cannot be said with certainty that there are no archaeological deposits surviving in Area B it is likely that they would be compromised by truncation resulting from the occupation of the site since the foundation of the Smythe Works.

The site's principal potential lies in the medieval period and it should be noted that if, as seems likely, a pattern of ribbon development was established at the time then this part of the site which lies well back from the road is unlikely to have seen dense occupation. Instead more ephemeral agricultural features might be expected. Such features, particularly if compromised by recent truncation, would provide relatively low grade information in contrast to the road frontage area outlined above. It is therefore suggested that this central part of the site has low archaeological potential.

### **Area C**

The circumference of the north-western quadrant of the site is occupied by a large modern dump/bank up to 25m wide which was up to up to 1.8m deep and overlay natural terrace gravels. The depth alone would mean that any archaeological deposits beneath would be unlikely to be threatened by any of the present development proposals. However, the absence of the widespread hillwash deposit beneath the bank suggests that aggressive terracing/levelling had already taken place prior to the build up of the bank, precluding any significant archaeological survival.

The terraced area examined in the south-eastern end of Trench 7 showed that while at least some of the potentially sensitive hillwash deposit remained modern disturbance was very widespread. The prevailing level of the ground surface in this location also suggested that the upper levels of the hillwash is likely to have been removed and that therefore there is little potential for the survival of archaeological deposits.

The southern end of the site (broadly defined as the area south of Trench 4 and the extant Smythe House) had partly been occupied by workshops and was covered by a very substantial concrete slab. The ground level beneath this slab suggested that terracing/disturbance was likely. This, combined with the truncation caused by Smythe House and the modern workshops suggests that significant archaeological deposits are unlikely to have been preserved.

Overall Area C is therefore considered to have low archaeological potential.



## Recommendations for Further Work

Given their low potential no further work is recommended in Areas B or C.

The features recorded in Trench 5 and the relatively good preservation anticipated in Area A suggests that much of the evidence for a medieval ribbon development may survive along the street frontage. The preservation of the pattern of tenement plots for any significant length along such a development would be rare in such a location close to the medieval village core. However, there is also the possibility in this case that less robust structural evidence (e.g. beam slots) may even be preserved, which would be unique in Suffolk.

Indeed, as Wade (1997) points out, 'most rural settlement ... lies under present day villages. No assessment of their archaeological potential has been undertaken, and most of the vacant plots within them have now been infilled with modern development'. Most excavated evidence for medieval settlement in the region has come from dispersed/nucleated sites and there is a paucity of data (not only structural and spatial but also environmental) for the origins of existing settlements outside of the large historic towns. The definition of settlement patterns is a principal research requirement for the medieval period in the region (Wade, 2000, p 24) and the present site presents a rare opportunity to examine such evidence in a rural nucleated settlement.

The site therefore has the potential to preserve evidence of regional importance and it is recommended that an area measuring some 52m by 15m (c. 780m<sup>2</sup>) be stripped to allow examination of as much of the road frontage as possible. Adequate provision for the retention of the wall along the frontage will need to be made.

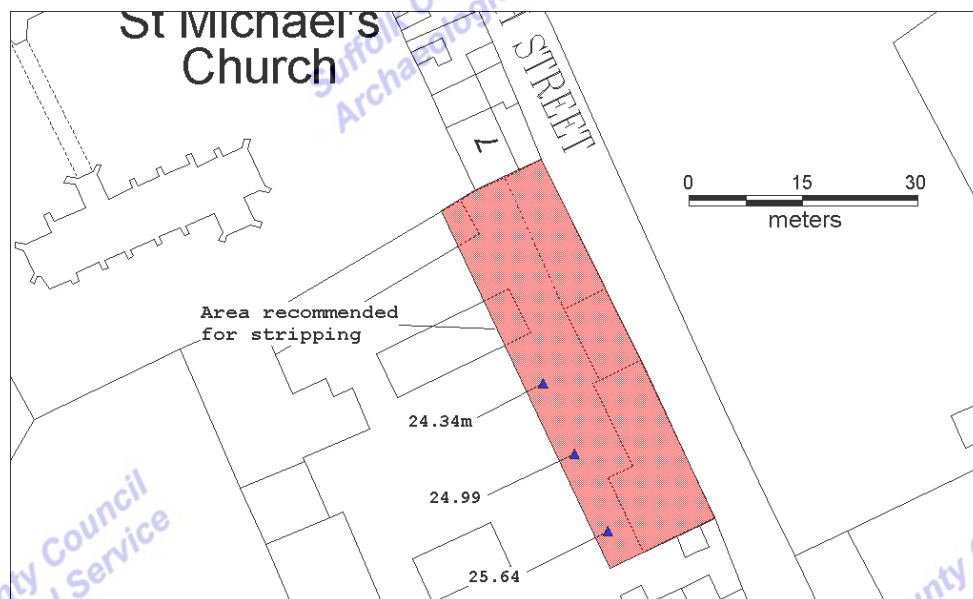


Figure 7. Area recommended for excavation, along with selected heights AOD of archaeologically sensitive deposits

This is suggested as following examination of the proposed development design provided by the client, Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited, it is apparent that 7 buildings will occupy this part of the site. The proposed slab levels (which fall from 26m AOD at the southern end of the area in Figure 7 to 24.65m AOD at the northern end) suggest that archaeologically sensitive deposits will be threatened along the whole road frontage.

Given the nature of the site is also suggested that some historical research be undertaken in order to ascertain if documentary evidence of tenements and their ownership survives.

## References

Brunskill, R W, 1990, *Brick Building in Britain*, Gollancz, London

Wade, K, 1997, 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Rural', In J Glazebrook (ed.), *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment*. EAA Occ. Paper No. 3 pp 47-55

Wade, K, 2000, 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural)', In N Brown and J Glazebrook (eds.), *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. EEA Occ. Paper No. 8 pp 23-26

Report No. **2004/93**

Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, June 2004.

### 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.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

*Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

**CHURCH STREET, PEASENHALL**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 An application [C/03/0727] has been made to construct 13 new dwellings and 4 business units on land occupied by the Smythe Works, Peasehall.
- 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). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the evaluation.
- 1.3 The development area of 0.81ha is adjacent to the medieval parish church and abuts the churchyard wall, there is also frontage on the main thoroughfare connecting the village, adjacent countryside and Saxmundham. It is regarded as being in the early village core with high potential for early settlement (Saxon to early post medieval date). The site has been extensively used for industrial purposes in the 19th and early 20th century (initially manufacturing seed drills) and retains a large number of workshop buildings of varying date. There is therefore a high probability that the development will affect archaeological deposits.
- 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 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.

**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 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 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**

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and 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. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: R D Carr

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

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 15 October 2003

Reference: /Peasenhall10

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

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

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## APPENDIX 2 Context List

Context No	Feature	Type	Identifier	Description	Dimensions (LxWxD) meters	Under	Over	Cut by	Cuts	Same as	Location	Section No
0001			Finds	Unstratified finds from whole site								
0002		Deposit	Overburden	General description for undifferentiated overburden encountered across whole site.		+	All				Whole site	
0003		Deposit	Colluvium	Hillwash deposit observed throughout site. Cut by medieval features in Trench 5.	- x - x <1	All	0004	See text			Whole site	
0004		Deposit	Natural drift	Natural terrace gravels. Observed in Trenches 1 and 3 of evaluation.		0003	NFE				Trenches 1 and 3	
0005	0005	Structure	Wall	Length of wall footing. Oriented NE-SW. 5 courses of red brick bricks, frogged on one side only (BTL=114mm x 72mm x 230mm)	>2 x 0.48 x 0.5	0002	0003				Trench 3	
0006	0006	Structure	Wall	Length of wall footing. Fabric and alignment as described for 0005 (probably opposing wall/same structure as 0005)	>2 x 0.5 x 0.65	0002	0003				Trench 3	
0007	0007	Structure	Drain	Linear masonry box-drain. Aligned E-W. Base and top formed of 1 course of headers, sides of 5 courses stretchers. Thin black silt in base. Red brick frogged one side. Soft grey sandy mortar. BTL=115mm x 70mm x 235mm.	>2 x 0.4 x 0.4	0002	0003				Trench 4	
0008	0008	Structure	Drain	Linear masonry box drain. Same description as 0007, except aligned NE-SW.	>2 x 0.4 x 0.4	0002	0003				Trench 4	
0009	0009	Cut	Pit	Partially revealed circular pit. Shallow gently sloping sides with gradual break to flat base. Possible tree hole...	1 x 1 x 0.1	0010	0003				Trench 5	1
0010	0009	Fill	Pit	Single fill of pit 0009. Soft mid greyish brown silty clayey sand.		0002	0009				Trench 5	1
0011	0011	Cut	Pit	Oval pit. Smooth steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base.	1 x 0.55 x 0.15	0012	0015		0015		Trench 5	2
0012	0011	Fill	Pit	Single fill of pit 0011. Soft mid greyish brown clayey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and rare small flint pebbles.		0002	0011				Trench 5	2
0013	0013	Cut	Ditch	Straight parallel sided ditch (probable tenement boundary) with moderately sloping slightly concave sides with a very gradual break to a rounded base. Aligned NW-SE. Slight hint of stepping toward base in some locations. Recut of 0027.	>21.5 x 0.6-1 x 0.3-0.4	0014, 0020, 0026	0030		0030		Trench 5	2, 3, 5
0014	0013	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 2. Soft light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent small flint pebbles.	x x 0.18	0015	0011			0020, 0026	Trench 5	2
0015	0013	Fill	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 2. Soft mid brown silty clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles.	x x 0.12	0011	0014	0011		0021, 0025	Trench 5	2
0016		Deposit	Layer	Possible bank, recorded either side of ditch 0017. Confined to a c. 10m area parallel to either side of	c.10 x c.0.3 x 0.15	0027	0004	0027			Trench 5	3



				0017 in the centre of the trench. Firm light brown yellow-orange clayey slightly silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small flints.									
0017	0017	Cut	Ditch	Straight parallel sided ditch aligned NW-SE. Slight 'kink' toward centre of its exposed length. Steep slightly stepped convex sides with a sharp break to a narrow flat base. Tool marks recorded in base: 0.12m wide slightly curved blade used to excavate.	>14.5 x 0.6 x 0.32	0018	0004					Trench 5	3
0018	0017	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch 0017. Firm light brown mottled clayey silty sand with occasional small flint pebbles and rare charcoal flecks. 0.15m deep.	x x 0.15	0019	0017					Trench 5	3
0019	0017	Fill	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch 0017. Firm mid brown silty clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small flint pebbles. 0.17m deep.	x x 0.17	0002	0018					Trench 5	3
0020	0013	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 5. Soft light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent small flint pebbles. 0.1m deep.	x x 0.1	0021	0013			0014, 0026		Trench 5	5
0021	0013	Fill	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 5. Soft mid brown silty clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles. 0.22m deep.	x x 0.22	0022	0020	0022		0015, 0025		Trench 5	5
0022	0022	Cut	Ditch	Tenement boundary ditch aligned NE-SW (at right angle to 0013). Straight parallel sided linear features with rounded western terminus. Steep slightly concave NW side. Stepped SE side with gently sloping convex top becoming steep. Flat base.	>2.1 x 1.05 x 0.45	0023	0021		0021			Trench 5	4
0023	0022	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch 0022. Soft light brown clayey silty sand with no notable inclusions. 0.25m deep.	x x 0.25	0024	0022					Trench 5	4
0024	0022	Fill	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch 0022. Very soft mid brownish grey sandy clayey silt with rare pottery and ANBN fragments. 0.2m deep.	x x 0.2	0002	0023					Trench 5	4
0025	0013	Fill	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 3. Soft mid brown silty clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles.	x x 0.25	0022	0026	0022		0015, 0021		Trench 5	3
0026	0013	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch 0013 in area of section 3. Soft light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent small flint pebbles.	x x 0.1	0025	0013			0014, 0020		Trench 5	3
0027	0027	Cut	Ditch	Original incarnation of main NW-SE aligned boundary ditch. Later recut for almost entire length as 0013. Only recorded in central part of trench. Original shape in plan unknown. Steep smooth E side with sharp break to flat base.	>4 x >0.3 x 0.4	0028	NFE		0004			Trench 5	3
0028	0027	Fill	Ditch	Single fill of ditch 0027. Soft mottled greyish brown clayey silty sand with moderate small rounded flint pebbles and rare pottery fragments.	x x 0.4	0013	0027	0013				Trench 5	3
0029	0029	Cut	Ditch	Tenement boundary ditch aligned NE-SW (right angle to 0013). Straight parallel sided linear feature with smooth slightly concave sides breaking gradually to a flattish base.	>3 x >0.55 x 0.15	0030	NFE		0004			Trench 5	5
0030	0029	Fill	Ditch	Single fill of ditch 0029. Soft light slightly greyish brown	x x 0.15	0013	0029	0013				Trench 5	5

0031	0031	Cut	Post-hole	silty clayey sand with rare pot fragments. Isolated post-hole recorded just to the west of ditch 0013/0027. Circular with near vertical sides and a blunt rounded base. Vertical inclination.	0.25 x 0.25 x 0.28	0032	NFE		0004		Trench 5	6
0032	0031	Fill	Post-hole	Single fill of post-hole 0031. Soft mid brownish grey clayey sandy silt with no notable inclusions.	x x 0.28	0002	0031				Trench 5	6
0033		Deposit	Layer	Very substantial artificial bank of dumped modern material around the NW quadrant of site (see fig 2). Up to 1.8m deep (bgl). Total area c. 1200 m2. Approx. 70m long (curving around circumference of site) and 24m wide.	70 x 24 x <1.8	+		0004			Trenches 6 and 7	

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