

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING REPORT

UMHLANGA, THE FOLLY,
HAUGHLEY

HGH 030

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with contributions by R. Goffin
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2004/106
OASIS ID No. 3514

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Suffolk County Council

Environment and Transport

Umhlanga, The Folly, Haughley
(HGH 030)
Planning Application no. 1437/02
Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report no. 2004/106
OASIS ID no. 3514

Summary

Haughley, Umhlanga, The Folly, Haughley (TM/0251 6222; HGH 030) An evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of five new dwellings at Umhlanga, Haughley, in order to sample and record any surviving archaeological deposits. The site was known to occupy a location within the outer bailey of Haughley castle and overlay the ditch and assumed bank of the castle defences. The profile of the defensive ditch, including an internal bank, was recorded and features of 12th-14th century date were excavated within the bailey area. These medieval features were sealed by a metre of overburden.
(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Jaxmead Properties Ltd.; report no. 2004/106)

1. Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of dwellings and garages at Umhlanga, The Folly, Haughley, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 0251 6222 (Fig. 1), and overlies an area of the outer bailey of the medieval Haughley Castle, including the slope and ditch of the castle defences. The castle is believed to be one of the earliest in Suffolk; the motte may be of Saxon origin and the location of an 11th century fortified hall. The site has high potential for evidence of occupation and activity within the ward area, as well as evidence of the earthen bank assumed to have existed above the castle ditch.

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Bob Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. Evaluation of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team on the 2nd and 3rd July 2004 and was followed by monitoring of footings at the rear of the site. The archaeological work was commissioned by Webster Associates and funded by Jaxmead Properties Ltd.

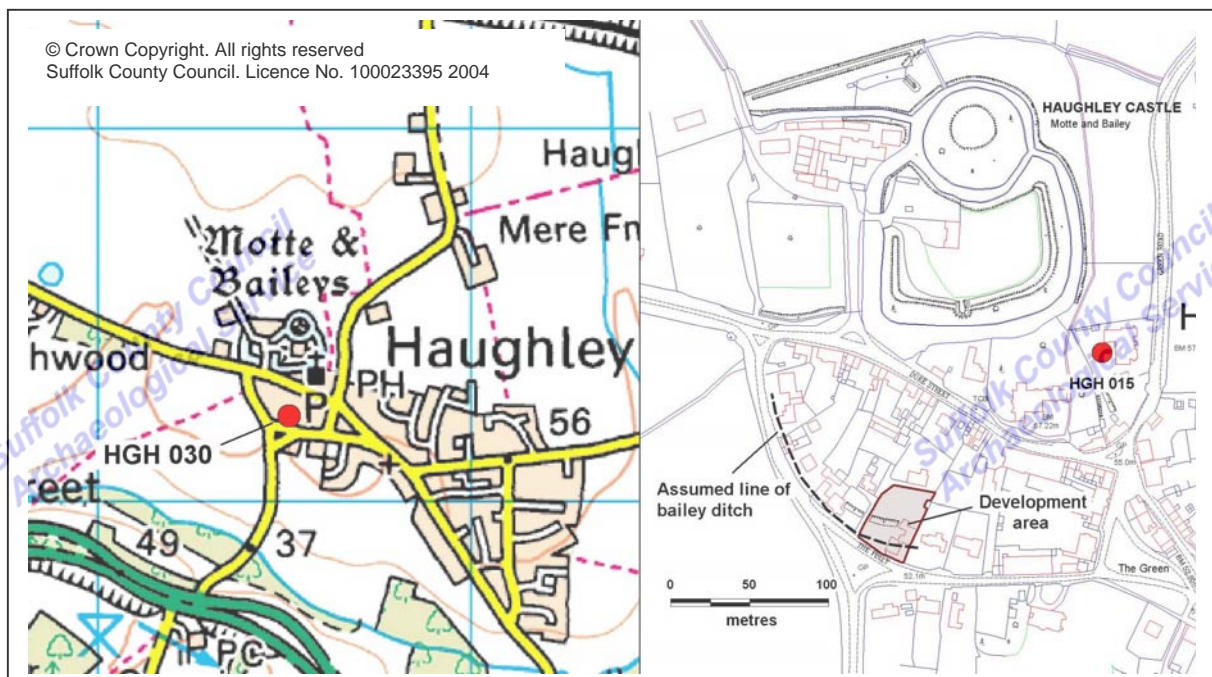


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

The development area comprises c.1,350 square metres within a former garden. Four trial-trenches, measuring a total of 52.6m, were opened in locations agreed by the Conservation Team at Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Fig. 2). This was carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed from the trenches to the depth of the naturally occurring subsoil, a pale orange clay sand. Both the excavated soil and the exposed surfaces of trenches were examined visually for artefactual evidence.

Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the SMR code HGH 030 (Appendix II). Features were then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function. Trenches were planned and features digitally photographed on site to form a part of the site archive. The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds. After completion of the evaluation, monitoring of the footings for a bungalow in the northern part of the site was required in order to fulfil the conditions of the planning consent. During a single visit, the sections and bases of the machine excavated trenches were studied for archaeological evidence.

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds management staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

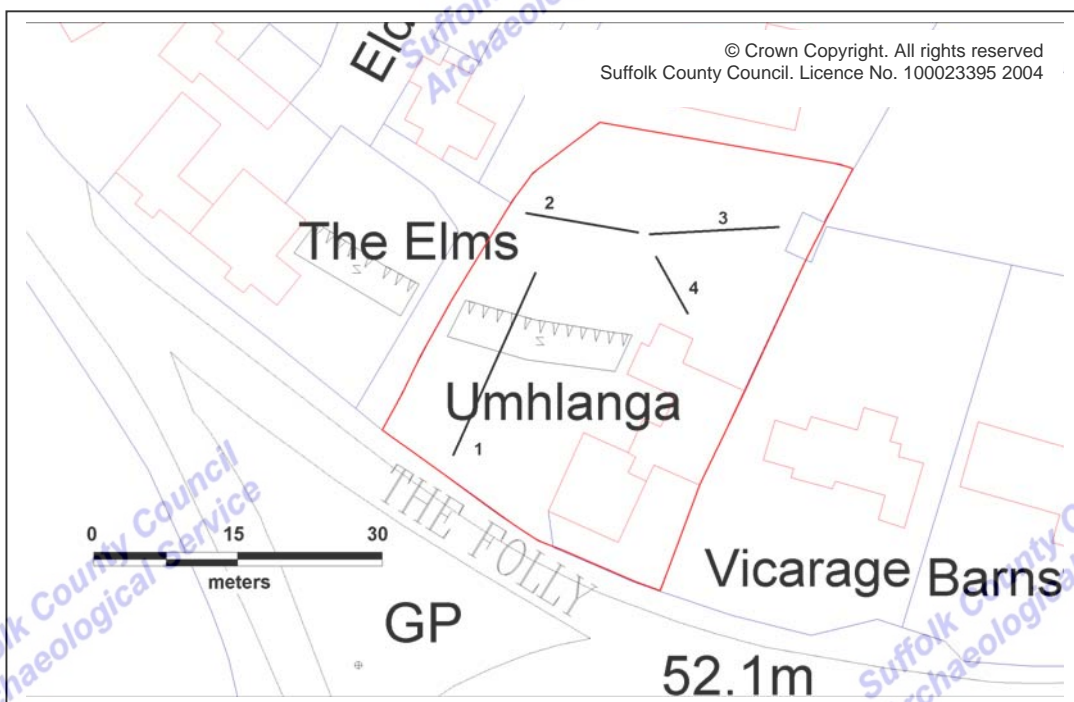


Figure 2: Trench locations

3. Results

3.1 Evaluation results

Trench 1 was orientated NNE-SSW and measured a total of 20.8m in length. It was excavated through the assumed bank and ditch of the outer bailey, both of which showed up in the trench section (Fig. 4). The bank survived on the surface as a low earthwork but the ditch had been completely backfilled, either naturally or deliberately, leaving no trace of its presence on the surface. The ditch, 0003, was c.2m deep at a point 2m from the southernmost end of the trench and was filled by 0005, a mid greyish brown sandy clay with chalk flecks. This lay over 0006, a pale yellow brown silty sandy clay with several chalk flecks. This in turn sealed 0007, a comparatively thin pale orangey brown clay sandy silt layer overlying the natural subsoil, an orangey brown sandy clay, which forms the base of the ditch.

The bank, 0030, is made up of clean, but re-deposited chalky clay overlying the natural sandy clay, and comprises layers 0015 and 0029. 0015 was a mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk lumps and flecks. It sealed 0029, a very similar deposit but noticeably cleaner and more compacted than 0015. 0026 was a mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent chalk lumps. It was quite loose and dirty in appearance, and may represent material eroded off the bank. There was no evidence of such erosion in the ditch fills on the south side of the bank.

Trench 2 was orientated WNW-ESE, measured a total of 11.8m in length and was excavated to expose natural at a depth of 1m. 2m at the western end of the trench were left high in order to avoid a cable of uncertain function.

Five features were recorded in trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 4):

Post-holes

0008 was a small, circular post-hole, 220mm in diameter and 140mm deep. It was filled by 0009, a dark brown silty clay with chalk flecks and frequent charcoal inclusions. Lumps of a chalky daub or burnt clay material were noted and recovered from the fill.

Ditches

0016 was a ditch aligned approximately SSW-NNE, 1.5m wide and 250mm deep, steep sided but quite shallow and with a flattish base. Its fill, 0017, was a compact mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal, from which bone and pottery were recovered. A section was excavated through ditch 0016 and adjoining pit 0018 but no relationship could be determined.

Pits

0010 was an oval pit, 600mm long, 380mm wide and 180mm deep. The sides showed a gradual break of slope onto a flattish base. The pit fill, 0011, was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and lumps of a chalky daub or burnt clay material. A quantity of animal bone was recovered from 0011, which may have been articulated but was disturbed.

0012 was a sub-circular pit, approximately 490mm in diameter and 230mm deep with a rounded base. It was filled by 0013, a pale, greyish brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks and lumps of a chalky daub or burnt clay material

0018 was a shallow pit, approximately 1m wide and 100mm deep and adjoined ditch 0016. It was filled by 0019, a compact mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal, from which bone and pottery were recovered. A section was excavated through the pit and adjoining ditch but the relationship was unclear.

Trench 3 was orientated E –W, measured a total of 13.3m in length and was excavated to expose natural at a depth of 1.1m.

Three features were recorded in trench 3 (Figs. 3 & 4):

Ditches

0020 was a NNE - SSW aligned ditch, 770mm wide and 240mm deep with a rounded base. It was filled by 0021, a mid to dark brown silty sandy clay in which a small lens of charcoal was noted. Animal bone and oyster shell were recovered from this fill. The ditch ran parallel with ditch 0022 and also cuts 0024.

0022 was a NNE - SSW aligned ditch, 540mm wide and 240mm deep with quite steep sides and a rounded base. The ditch ran parallel with ditch 0020. Its fill, 0023, was a dark brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks from which pottery and animal bone were recovered.

0024 was a SE - NW aligned ditch, 250mm wide and 160mm deep. Its fill, 0025, was a mid orangey brown silty clay sand from which no finds were recovered. Very little of this narrow feature was seen as it was located in the very SE corner of the trench. However, it was possible to excavate a section which determined that it was cut by ditch 0020.

Trench 4 was orientated NW - SE and measured a total of 6.7m in length. It was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. No archaeological features were recorded, although a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil spoil.

3.2 Monitoring results

One visit was made to view the footings excavated for a bungalow situated in the northern half of the site. No interventions were observed in any of the exposed sections.

4. The Finds

Umhlanga, Haughley (HGH 030): the finds

Richenda Goffin, January, 2005.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 11 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Fired clay		CBM		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	3	41	6	55	1	33				16th-18th C
0004	2	46							Ae, 1 @ 1g	16th-18th C
0006	2	9							Ae, 1 @ 2g	16th-18th C
0007	1	2			2	16				Medieval
0009			3	40						
0011			8	27			2	5		
0013			1	1			89	34		
0017	7	63					4	32	Fe, 1 @ 27g, Flint 1 @ 6g, Shell 2 @ 20g	L12th-14th C
0019	7	18	1	7					Shell 1 @ 9g	L12th-14th C
0021							13	60	Shell 8 @ 110 g	
0023	2	8					10	598	Flint 2 @ 106 g	12th-13th C
Total	24	187	19	131	3	49	249	729		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 33 fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 0.262kg. The ceramics were quantified and recorded by context on a spreadsheet, Appendix III. Fabric codes are those used by the Suffolk Archaeological Service.

Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g
Hand-made flint-tempered	HMF	1	3
Thetford ware	THET	1	2
Medieval coarseware	MCW	19	124
Medieval coarseware gritty	MCWG	5	45
Bury Medieval coarseware	BMCW	1	2
Medieval shelly ware	MSHW	2	8
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	2	69
Post-medieval redware	PMRW	2	9

Table 2. Pottery quantities by fabric

Most of the pottery recovered from the site is medieval in date, but small quantities of an earlier and later date were also identified. A small and abraded sandy body sherd with moderate flint inclusions up to 2mm in length found in pit fill 0019 in Trench 2 is probably Iron Age in date. The fragment is residual and found with a number of sherds of medieval coarseware. A single sherd of a miscellaneous wheel-thrown greyware may be a sherd of Thetford ware was found in 0007 with two fragments of medieval roof tile.

Two fragments of unglazed calcareous coarsewares were recovered from the ditch fill 0023 in Trench 3. A small range of medieval coarsewares, including a cooking vessel or jar with a flat-topped but everted rim was present in the ditch fill 0017 in Trench 2. Similar sherds were present in 0029, and included two rim sherds of 12th-14th century date, and a possible sherd of Bury Medieval coarseware of L12th-14th century date. No medieval glazed wares were recorded.

A small quantity of post-medieval wares were identified, (4 sherds weighing 0.078kg). Two fragments of Glazed red earthenware dating to the 16th to 18th century were present, one sherd of which was unstratified in Trench 2 and a second fragment which was found in ditch fill 0004. Two joining unglazed sherds with very laminated external surfaces in ditch fill 0006 have been given the generic term of 'post-medieval redware'.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of glazed tile of post-medieval date was recovered amongst the unstratified finds from Trench 2. In addition two small joining fragments of abraded roof-tile were identified from silty sand 0007 in Trench 1. The fragments are made from a sandy fabric which has a reduced core and contains frequent chalk inclusions up to 2mm in length. It is likely that these are medieval in date.

Fired clay

Fragments of fired clay were recovered from five contexts, mainly the fills of pits in Trench 2. All the fragments are made from the same fabric type, a fine sandy matrix containing occasional chalk inclusions up to 6mm in length. The largest fragment, which was found in pit fill 0009, has a smoothed surface. There is no evidence of structural impressions on the fragments.

Metalwork

A fragment of a copper alloy penannular finger-ring with tapering terminals was identified from the ditch fill 0006 in Trench 1. Similar undecorated finger-rings are known in Late Saxon contexts at Thetford (Goodall, fig. 110 Nos 17, 19-21) and from topsoil deposits at East Harling (Margeson Nos 26-32 56-57). The fragment was found with two sherds of later pottery. In addition a small thin fragment of copper alloy wire was found in 0004, the fill of a

ditch in Trench 1. A corroded piece of iron, probably a nail, was present in ditch fill 0017 in Trench 2.

Miscellaneous

Worked flint (identifications by Colin Pendleton)

Two fragments of worked flint were recovered from the ditch fill 0023 in Trench 3. These consist of a blade with light patination, which is likely to be Mesolithic in date. A fragment of a flint hammerstone was also identified, which showed some indications of secondary usage as a core (Colin Pendleton, pers comm). In addition a flint blade with retouch from ditch fill 0017 is Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

Shell

Fragments of oyster shell were present in three contexts (0017, 0019 and 0021).

Animal bone

Fragments of animal bone were recovered from 5 contexts, mainly the fills of pits in Trench 2, and also from ditch fills in Trench 3.

A number of small mammal bones were identified from Trenches 2 and 3. These include fragments of a pig mandible from ditch fill 0021, an almost complete cattle humerus and a small horn core from a sheep or goat in ditch fill 0023.

Many small and desiccated small mammal bone fragments were found in the pit fill 0013. These are extremely fragmentary but include some vertebrae, rib and teeth.

5. Discussion

The full width of the bailey ditch was not determined as its southern edge appeared to lay outside of the evaluation area. However, much of its profile was revealed and the presence of a bank inside the ditch was suggested. Two finds within the ditch fill are of an early date- a single sherd of possible Thetford ware dates to no later than the 12th century and a fragment of a copper alloy ring of probable late Saxon date were both found within the lower fills of the ditch (006 and 007). Although fragments of later material are recorded as from the same contexts, these finds are still noteworthy. Some activity inside the bailey was identified but this was not dense and was difficult to interpret within a small amount of trenching. Similarly, the finds assemblage was neither large or specific enough to aid any meaningful interpretation of the features. The single sherd of Iron Age pottery is of note; whilst this is a residual find, it does represent further evidence of an Iron Age presence around Haughley. Iron Age material was also found during excavations at the village primary school to the north of this site (HGH 015; Meredith, 2000) and there is a possibility that the castle itself re-used an existing Iron Age enclosure within its defences (Davies and Gregory, 1991).

Where deposits within the area of the bailey were present, they were sealed by up to a metre of overburden and will thus remain largely undamaged by the proposed development.

Linzi Everett

Field Team

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

March 2005

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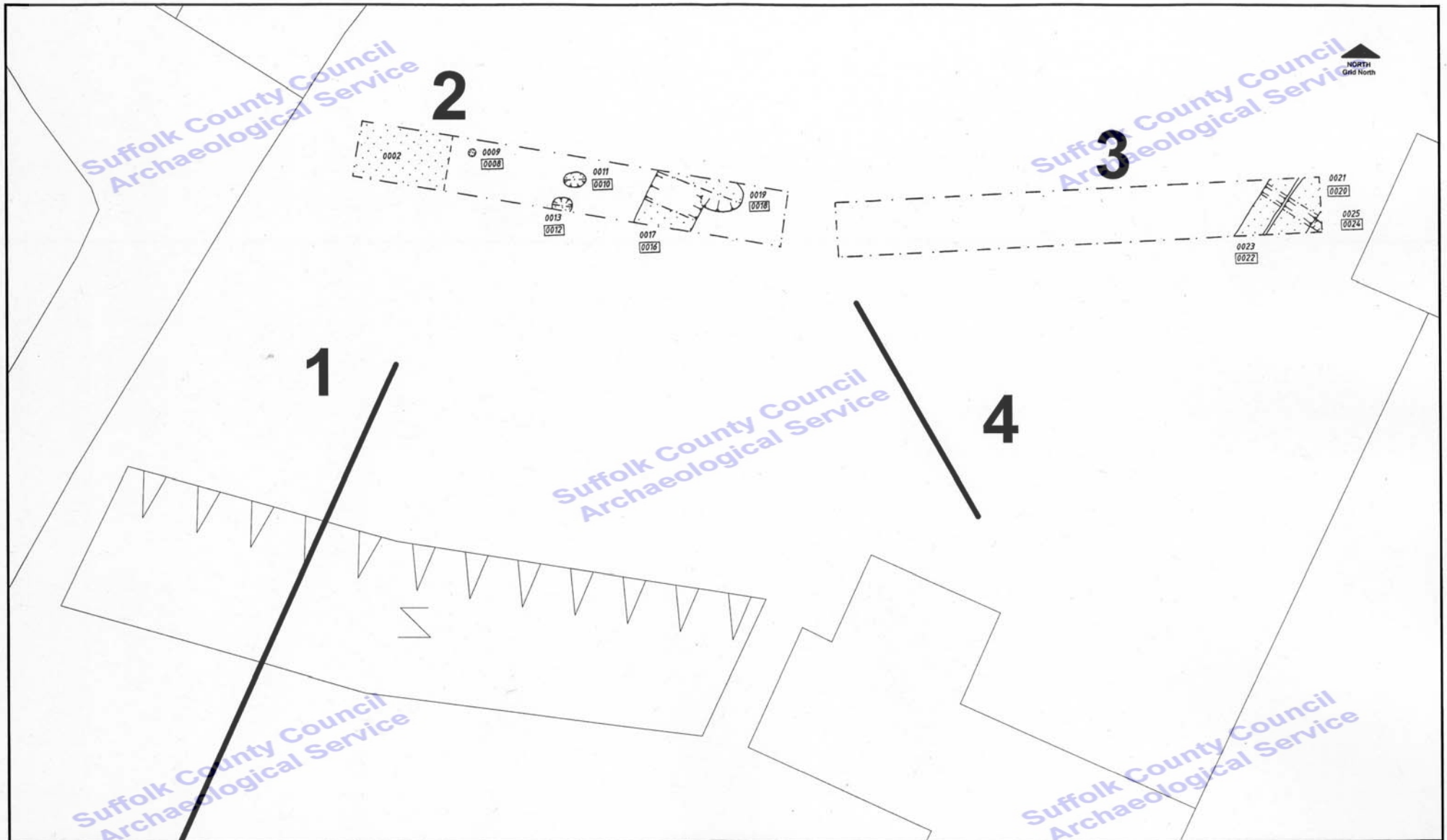


Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 2 and 3
 scale 1:200

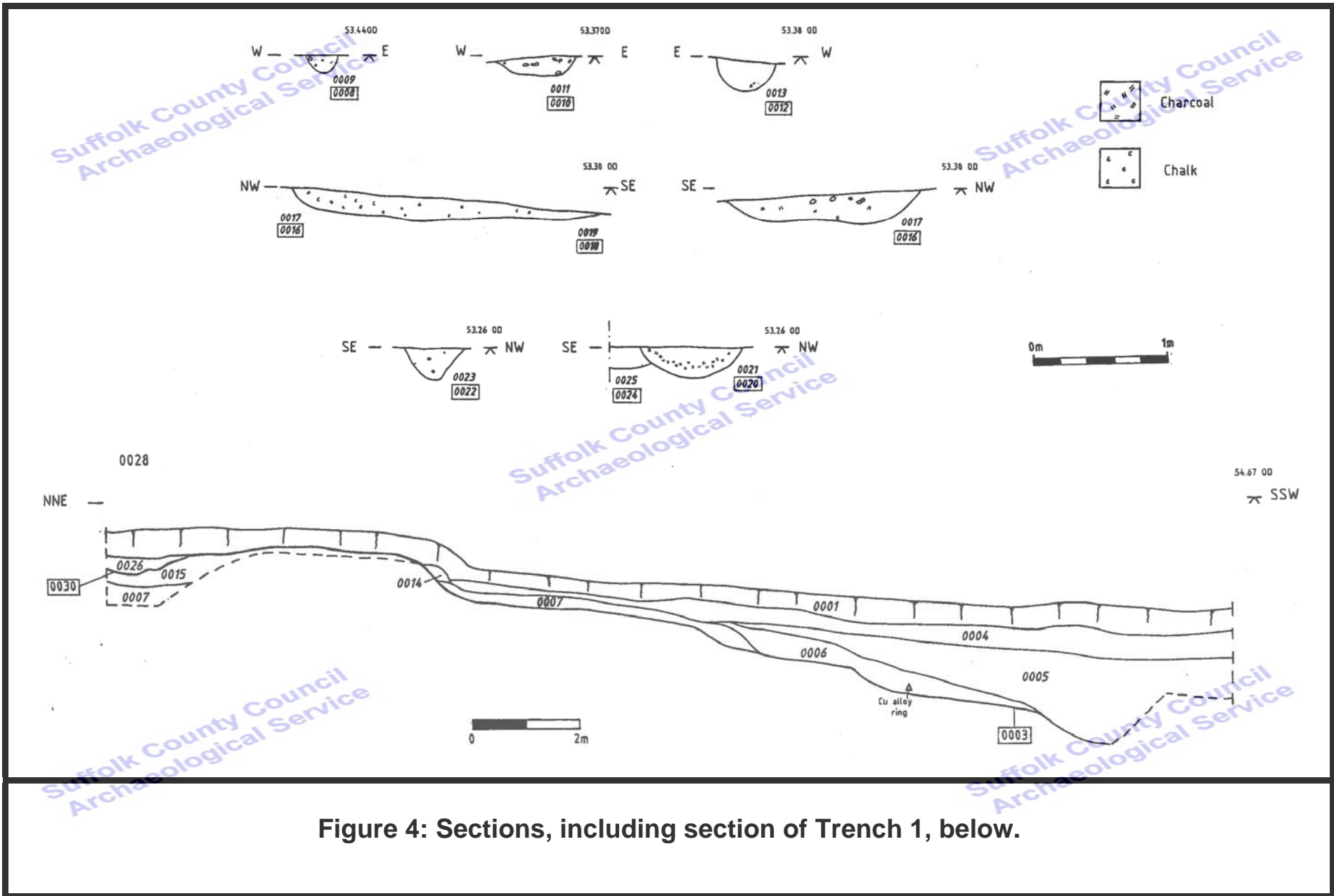


Figure 4: Sections, including section of Trench 1, below.

Appendix II: Context list

OP NO	Feature	Comp	Grid	Identifier	Description	Cuts	Over	Cut by	Under
0001				Topsoil					
0002			Tr. 2	Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 2				
0003	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Ditch cut	Large deep ditch running ESE-WNW.				
0004	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Ditch fill	Dark grey clayey sandy silt, with few charcoal flecks.		0007, 0005		
0005	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with moderate chalk flecks.		0006		
0006	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Ditch fill	Light yellow/brown silty sandy clay with several chalk flecks.		0007		
0007	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Natural	Light orange/brown clayey sand silt.				0006, 0014, 0004
0008	0008		Tr. 2	Pit cut	Small circular post hole at east end of Trench 2				
0009	0008		Tr. 2	Pit fill	Dark brown silty clay fill with chalk flecks & frequent charcoal. Contains lumps of chalky burnt clay/daub material				
0010	0010		Tr. 2	Pit cut	Oval pit, flattish base with gradual break of slope				
0011	0010		Tr. 2	Pit fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay fill with occasional chalk flecks & lumps of chalky burnt clay/daub material. Contains a quantity of animal bone, possibly articulated but disturbed				
0012	0012		Tr. 2	Pit cut	Sub-circular pit, rounded base				
0013	0012		Tr. 2	Pit fill	Pale greyish brown sandy clay fill with occasional chalk flecks & lumps of chalky burnt clay / daub material				
0014	0003	0028	Tr. 1	Ditch fill	Light brown/yellow sandy clay with several chalk flecks.				
0015	0030	0028	Tr. 1	Bank make-up	Mid brown silty clay with pale yellow/brown mottles, and several chalk lumps up to 5cm oval & several chalk flecks.				0001
0016	0016		Tr. 2	Ditch cut	Ditch running SSW-NNE across Tr. 2 towards E end. Fairly shallow with flat bottom & steep sides.				
0017	0016		Tr. 2	Ditch fill	Hard compaction. Reasonably frequent charcoal flecks & some chalk. Mid grey brown silty clay. Relationship with pit 0018 not known. Very few stones, varying sizes but less than 10cm diameter				
0018	0018		Tr. 2	Pit cut	Shallow roughly circular pit in Tr. 2 on side of ditch 0016. Relationship not known.				
0019	0018		Tr. 2	Pit fill	A few charcoal flecks & chalk, hard compaction, mid grey/brown silty clay, a few small stones				
0020	0020		Tr. 3	Ditch cut	Ditch running NE-SW at E end of trench	0024			
0021	0020		Tr. 3	Ditch fill	Mid to dark brown silty, clayey sand with a small lens of charcoal				

OP NO	Feature	Comp	Grid	Identifier	Description	Cuts	Over	Cut by	Under
0022	0022		Tr. 3	Ditch cut	Ditch running NE-SW at E end of trench. Runs parallel with ditch 0020				
0023	0022		Tr. 3	Ditch fill	Dark brown silty clayey sand with occasional fleck of charcoal				
0024	0024		Tr. 3	Ditch cut	Ditch at far E corner of trench			0020	
0025	0024		Tr. 3	Ditch fill	Mid brown/orange silty clayey sand				
0026		0028	Tr. 1	Fill	Mid grey brown clayey, sandy silt with lumps up to 8cm oval & flecks of chalk. Possibly eroded bank material				0001
0027					NOT USED				
0028		0028	Tr. 1	Earthworks	Component number for outer bailey defences observed in Trench 1				
0029	0030	0028	Tr. 1	Bank make-up	Mid greyish brown chalky clay. Clean but re-deposited to form bank inside outer bailey ditch.				0015
0030		0028	Tr. 1	Bank					

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