

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2007/239

Farm reservoir land south east of general purpose store Loudham Lane, Pettistree PTR 025

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HER Information

Planning Application No: C/07/0229/AG

Date of Fieldwork: 10 March 2008 – 25 April 2008

Grid Reference: TM 3078 5391

Funding Body: Mr B. Warburg, Melton Lodge Farms

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-36407

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Details presented by period usually eg	
4.1 Prehistoric	
4.2 Roman	
5. The finds evidence	
Add different sub-headings as necessary.	
Order is usually eg:	
5.1 Introduction	
5.2 Pottery	
5.3 Ceramic building material	
5.4 Flint	
5.5 Other bulk categories, e.g. slag	
5.6 The small finds	
6. The environmental evidence	
Add different sub-headings as necessary.	
Order is usually eg:	
6.1 Human bone	
6.2 Faunal remains	
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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the south east of the general purpose store off Loudham Lane, Pettistree, in advance of the creation of a reservoir, which revealed evidence for limited activity in the prehistoric and a medieval occupation site adjacent the junction of two trackways.

The prehistoric evidence comprised a small number of ditches forming part of a rectilinear field system and a small group of pits or possible postholes from which Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery was recovered.

The medieval activity was represented by a possible post-built building within a rectangular enclosure situated in the angle of two probable trackways, marked by ditches, which met to form a 'T' junction. A number of other postholes and linear features relating to probable fence lines that divided space within the enclosure as well as a number of pits were also recorded. Many of these features contained pottery dating from the 12th and 13th centuries.

A very small number of abraded Roman and Saxon pottery sherds were also recovered during the excavation as residual finds in the medieval features.

1. Introduction

It was proposed to construct a farm reservoir on land to the south east of the general purpose store off Loudham Lane, Pettistree (application no. C/07/0229/AG). Prior to the commencement of works a trenched evaluation was undertaken which revealed evidence for medieval activity of sufficient significance to warrant further investigation. This was achieved through the undertaking of an open area excavation of the area liable to be damaged or destroyed by the reservoir's construction.

The archaeological excavation was carried out during March and April 2008 and was commissioned by the consulting engineers, Hawes Associates, on behalf of their client, Mr B. Warburg of Melton Lodge Farms, who ultimately funded the work. It was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

2. The excavation

2.1 Site location

The National Grid Reference for its approximate centre of the site is TM 3078 5391. It is situated in open farmland to the south of Loudham Hall, a fine country house of 1750 with a 16th century core (listed grade II*). The local area was formerly a separate parish named Loudham although it now amalgamated with the adjacent parish of Pettistree. The present village of Pettistree, and its parish church, are situated approximately 1.4km to the northwest of the site. The former Loudham parish church, which no longer stands, was situated c. 300m to the northeast of the site. Pettistree is located in the eastern half of the county of Suffolk and lies approximately 12km from the coast.

2.2 Geology and topography

The area of the site is a relatively flat plateau with a very gentle slope down towards the east. The site is located on high ground at approximately 27m OD and overlooks the Deben river valley situated some 1km to the southeast.

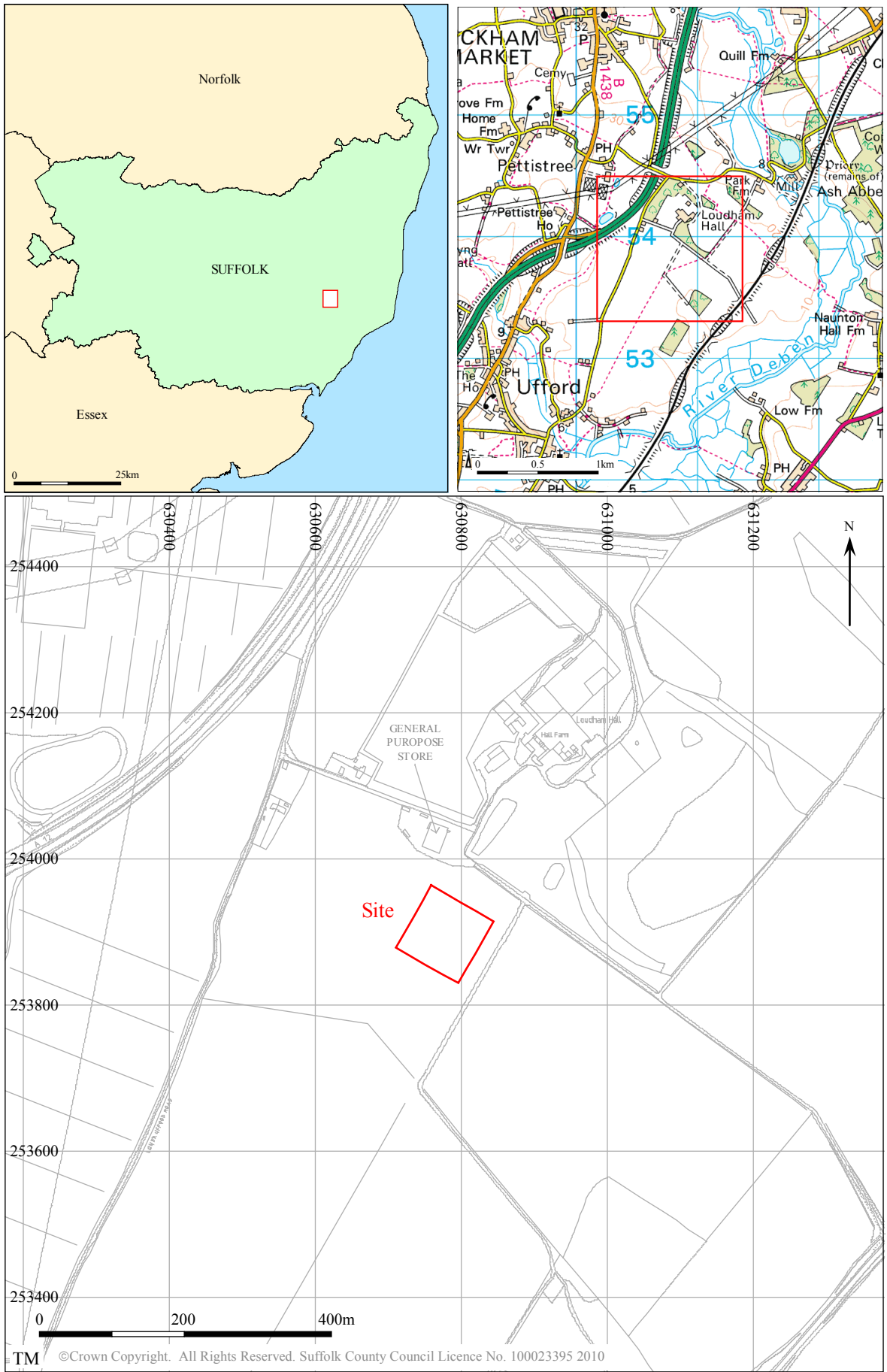


Figure 1. Site location plan

The surface geology is formed from a mixture of chalky clay tills and sandy drift deposits which have given rise to mainly free-draining loam and mineral soils. The natural subsoil present across the actual site itself was primarily pale orange chalky clay with an area of soft yellow sand along the northwest edge.

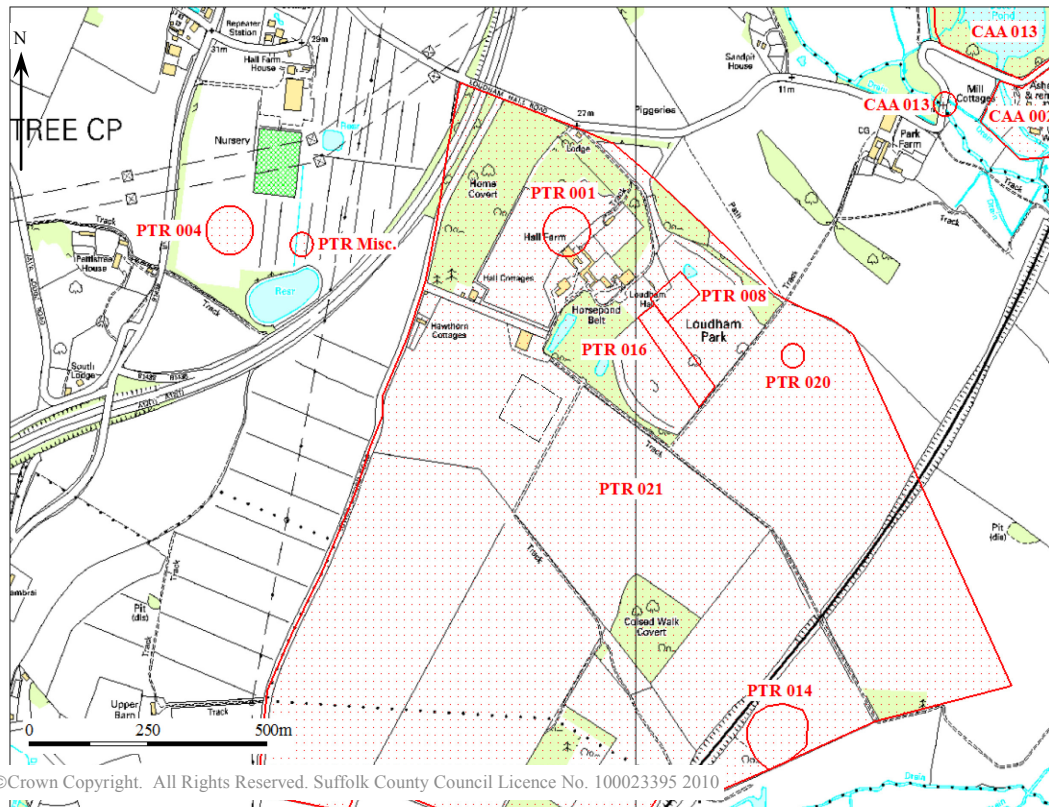


Figure 2. Known sites recorded on the County HER

ERROR PTR016 should be PTR 015!!!!

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

Initial interest in the site was due to its location within an area of archaeological importance, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It lies within the area of the 18th century Loudham Park (PTR 021) and is situated 270m southwest of Loudham Hall itself. It is also situated c. 300m to the southwest of the recorded site of Loudham parish church (PTR 008). The church was abandoned and demolished in antiquity and the parish of Loudham has since been incorporated into the parish of Pettistree. The church was likely to be the focus for a medieval settlement associated with the lost parish of Loudham and consequently there was a high potential for associated medieval, and earlier, occupation evidence to exist within the area of the proposed reservoir.

Other sites or findspots recorded on the HER in the local area are:

PTR 001: A 16th/17th Tyg (salt glazed stoneware jug) recovered from an electricity trench adjacent Loudham Hall.

PTR 004: Neolithic flint tool, a ?slug knife.

PTR Misc.: A Roman greyware rim sherd recovered during the excavation of a reservoir.

PTR 014: Collection of metal detector finds which includes a scatter of Roman metal work and pottery sherds, a Saxon brooch and pottery sherds and a medieval bronze harness pendant.

PTR 015: An avenue named 'The Walk', as shown on maps of 1738 and 1786

PTR 020:

CAA 002:

CAA 007:

CAA 013:

The proposed works would entail the complete destruction of any buried archaeological deposits or features that may be present within the area of the proposed reservoir and consequently a condition was placed upon the application requiring an agreed programme of archaeological works be put in place prior to commencement of any earthmoving.

The first stage of the programme was to undertake a non-intrusive fieldwalking and metal detecting survey of the site to be followed by a trenched evaluation to sample the archaeological potential of the site. This work was undertaken in December 2007 and revealed the presence of medieval activity. Based on these results the County Conservation Team requested a full open area excavation of the area within the reservoir that would be destroyed by its construction. To detail the level of work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (See Appendix).

3. Methodology

The first stage of the excavation was the mechanical stripping of the topsoil to expose the natural subsoil and the archaeological features that were cut into its surface. This was achieved using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket with the spoil being placed along the edge of the reservoir to form surrounding bunds. The freshly cut surface was clean and smooth which allowed for the easy identification of the archaeological features that were present. These were marked using nails, labels and plastic tags to negate the need for the re-cleaning of large areas of the site.

The archaeological features were sampled through the hand excavation of sections into the fills to reveal the profile and depth of each feature and to retrieve dating evidence from the fills. Pit type features were half sectioned. Features interpreted as structural were initially half-sectioned and recorded before the remaining half of the fill was removed to maximise the recovery of dating evidence. Sections were excavated across the widths of linear features with the aim of sampling at least 10% of their fills. The junctions of all intercutting features were sectioned in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence.

All revealed profiles and sections were recorded at scales of 1:20 or 1:10 on Permatrace and photographic record was also made using a digital camera. A surface plan of the site showing all features was created using a Total Station. This plan was then copied onto Permatrace film for use during the excavation during which all section lines and context data was added. This additional information has since been digitised for use during post-excavation. The Total Station survey also recorded the comparative heights of all recorded points. Context numbers were allocated to features cuts and their fills continuing in sequence from those allocated during the trenched evaluation. All finds recovered from the excavated feature fills were retained for analysis, the results of which can be found in [Section 5](#) below.

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

The field work commenced on the 10th March 2008 and continued until the 25th April 2008 during which time numerous features were identified, excavated and recorded within the excavation area. They were cut into the undisturbed natural subsoil which comprised a stiff pale yellow silty clay, except for a narrow strip along the northwest where the subsoil consisted of soft yellow sand. This occurred at depths of between 0.35m to 0.45m beneath an overburden of ploughsoil. An unknown degree of truncation of the natural subsoil has occurred historically which has resulted in the loss of the upper portions of the archaeological features.

The recorded features have been attributed to three main phases of activity,

4.2 Prehistoric (example of headings)

Structure S2

Hearth feature

5. The finds evidence

5.1 Introduction

For excavation reports, unless they are small the finds data should be included as appendices. Otherwise they can be presented as tables:

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	3	56
CBM	8	2345
Fired clay		
Stone		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Or,

OP	Pottery		find type		find type		find type		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
<hr/>										
<hr/>										
Total										

Table 1. Finds quantities

Tables - Table itself in Arial 9, caption in Arial 11, numerical date aligned right).

5.2 **Artefact type** The pottery

Artefact sub-type *The prehistoric pottery*

Artefact sub sub-type *The Grooved Ware*

6. The environmental evidence

6.1 Human bone

6.2 Faunal remains

Sub-type *The bird bone*

7. Discussion

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

9. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the HER reference, PTR 025. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-36407.

Paper and photographic archive: [SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\route](#)

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Tim Browne, Phil Camps, Tony Fisher, Holly Stacey, Anna West) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

The post-excavation was managed by Finds processing and the production of site plans and sections was carried out by ..., and the specialist finds report by Other specialist identification and advice was provided by The report was checked by...

11. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2007 Archaeological archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, IFA

(Single line spacing for bibliography)

Appendices (each one on new 'odd' page, never on back of report itself)

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

Appendix 2 The documentary evidence

Appendix 3 Context list

Appendix 4 Bulk finds quantities

Appendix 5 Small finds

Appendix 6 Pottery quantification

Appendix 7 CBM quantification

Appendix 8 Faunal remains

Appendix 9 Plant macrofossils