

Land adjacent Nunns Yard/Rear 20 Camps Road, Haverhill HVH 051

**Application No. SE/03/3581/P
TL 6694 4550**

**Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-4077
Report No. 2004/123**

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for residential development at land adjacent Nunns Yard/Rear 20 Camps Road, Haverhill, located a large ditch and a possible pit, both of a post-medieval or later date.

Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site (Fig. 1) from 21st September to 4th October 2004 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of a block of flats. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/03/3581/P. The work was funded by the developer, Broomfield Developers Limited.

Interest in the site was based upon its location within the towns Anglo-Saxon and medieval Area of Archaeological Interest as defined in the County Sites and Monument Record. Therefore there was potential for evidence of these periods to be disturbed by the groundworks.

Methodology and Results

The footing trenches, which measured 0.8-1m wide and up to 1.8m deep, were observed while fully open. They showed a 0.6m thick layer of modern material, primarily a topsoil of dark grey/brown loam, built up across the site. This overlaid a layer, of variable thickness, of orange/red stoney silt/clay, which overlaid the natural chalk subsoil. Modern disturbance to the subsoil was limited and two features were observed within the footing trenches,

0002 was a substantial ditch, aligned east-west through the centre of the plot and observed in several sections, of which one was recorded, 0004 (Fig. 2). This ditch was sealed beneath the modern topsoil and measured from 1.3-1.8m wide and up to 1.6m deep. It had a steep sided, 'V' shaped, profile with a fill, 0003, of a homogenous dark brown loam with occasional small stones and flecks of brick. In places the fill was slightly damp. No material dating evidence was recovered. To the west it appeared to finish in a butt end.

0005 was a possible pit in the south-west corner of the plot. The topsoil at this point had largely been removed and the pit measured approximately 1.5m wide and a further 1.6m deep. Two modern posts were set into the top of the feature. It had a homogenous brown loam fill, 0006, from which no dating material was recovered.

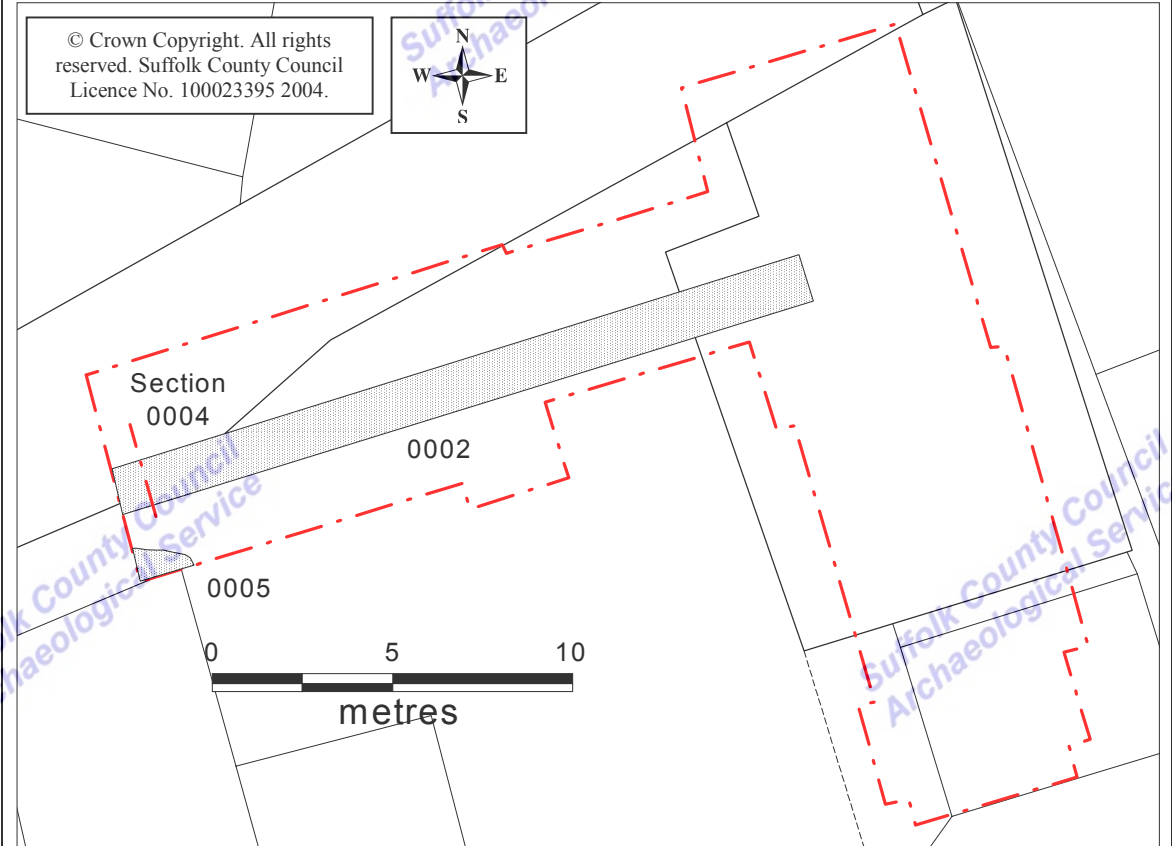
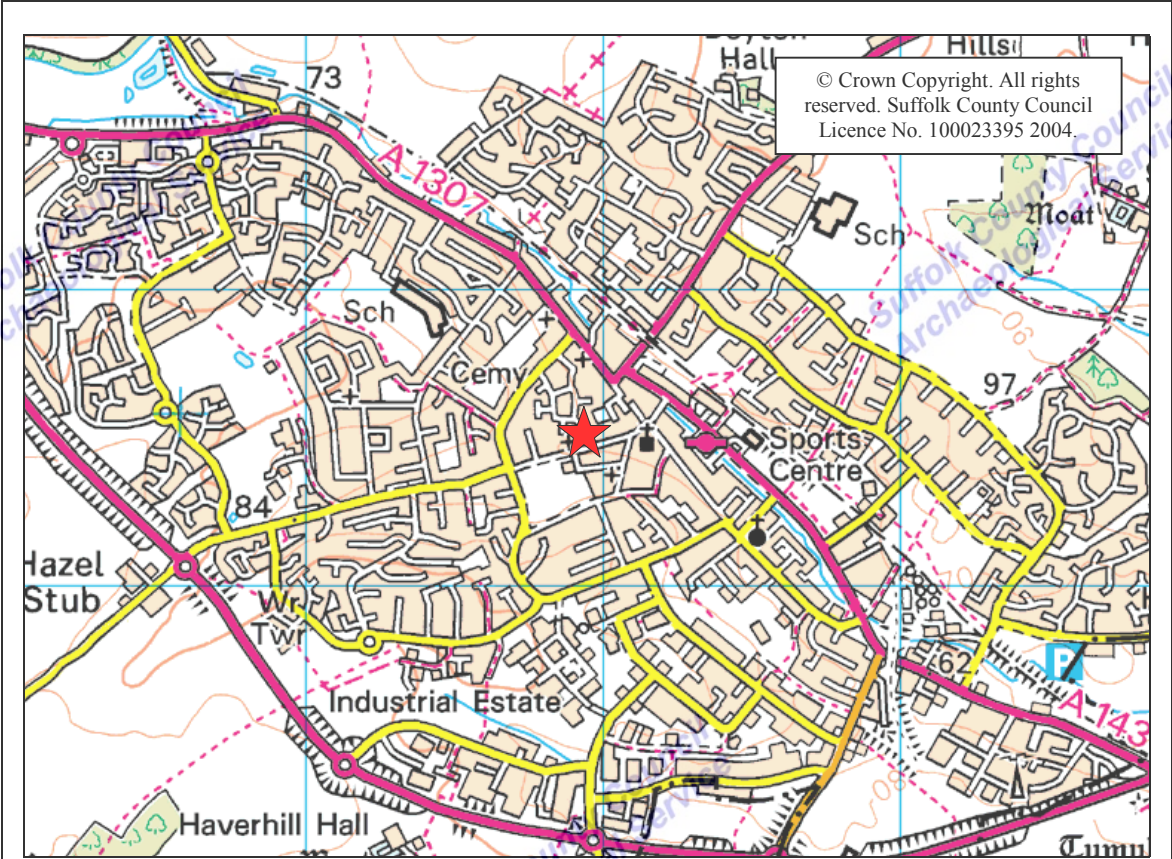


Figure 1. Site location plan

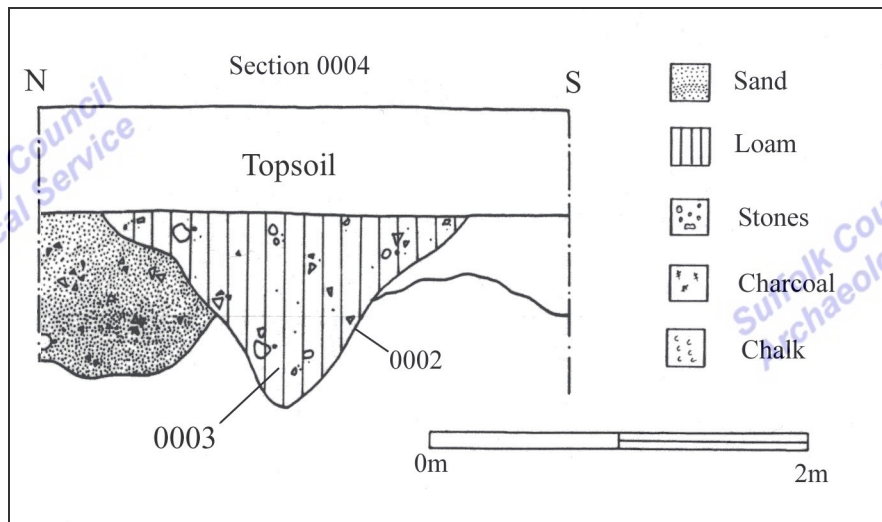


Figure 2. Section 0004

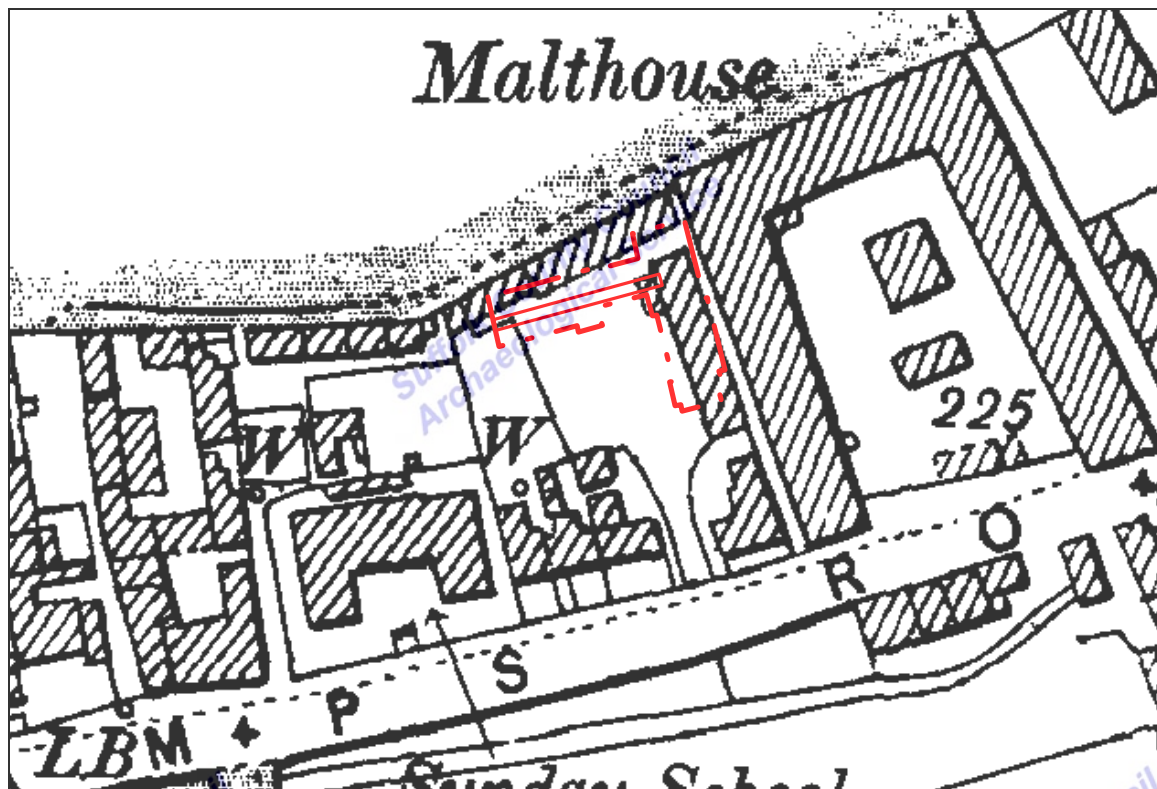


Figure 3. Site on the OS map of c.1904

Discussion

The footing trenches showed that the site was covered in a deep layer of modern topsoil and debris lying on top of the natural subsoil, which appeared to be well preserved. No evidence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval occupation was seen in the trenches and the two features, in particular pit 0005, appear to be of a post-medieval or later date. However the OS map of c.1904 (Fig. 3) shows the centre of the development area to be an open yard and there is no boundary to which 0002 obviously relates and this indicates that the two features are 19th century or earlier.

John Craven, October 2004