

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land at Shrubbery Farm, Hubbards Lane, Hesselton HTT 020

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. 1087/05)

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr B. Mitcham and monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Tester, Joanna Caruth, David Gill and John Duffy from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. Digital site plans were produced by John Duffy and the finds were processed and drawings inked by Gemma Adams.

Summary

The evaluation identified a ditch suggested to be the eastern edge to Hessett Green and a range of shallow features, some of which are medieval. The site is thought to be truncated but a significant collection of pottery recovered from beneath the topsoil is dated to the Late Saxon and medieval periods and is probably evidence of settlement in the area.

SMR information

Planning application no. 1087/05
Date of fieldwork: 27th May 2008
Grid Reference: TL 9368 6116
Funding body: Mr B Mitcham
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-44906

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of 14 dwellings at Shrubbery Farm, Hubbards Lane, Hessest. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, (Appendix 3) and was funded by the owner Mr B. Mitcham.

The proposed development lies at TL 9368 6116 at a height of c.67m OD (Fig. 1). The site is towards the southern edge of the modern village in an area where the precise course of the green edge is uncertain. Interest in the site is centred on the potential to resolve this issue and to identify evidence for the medieval settlement. At the time of carrying out the fieldwork, farm outbuildings had recently been cleared from part of the site, including a concrete slab (the demolished buildings appear on Fig. 1 below, where they overlap with excavated trenches) and some rough de-turfing had taken place.

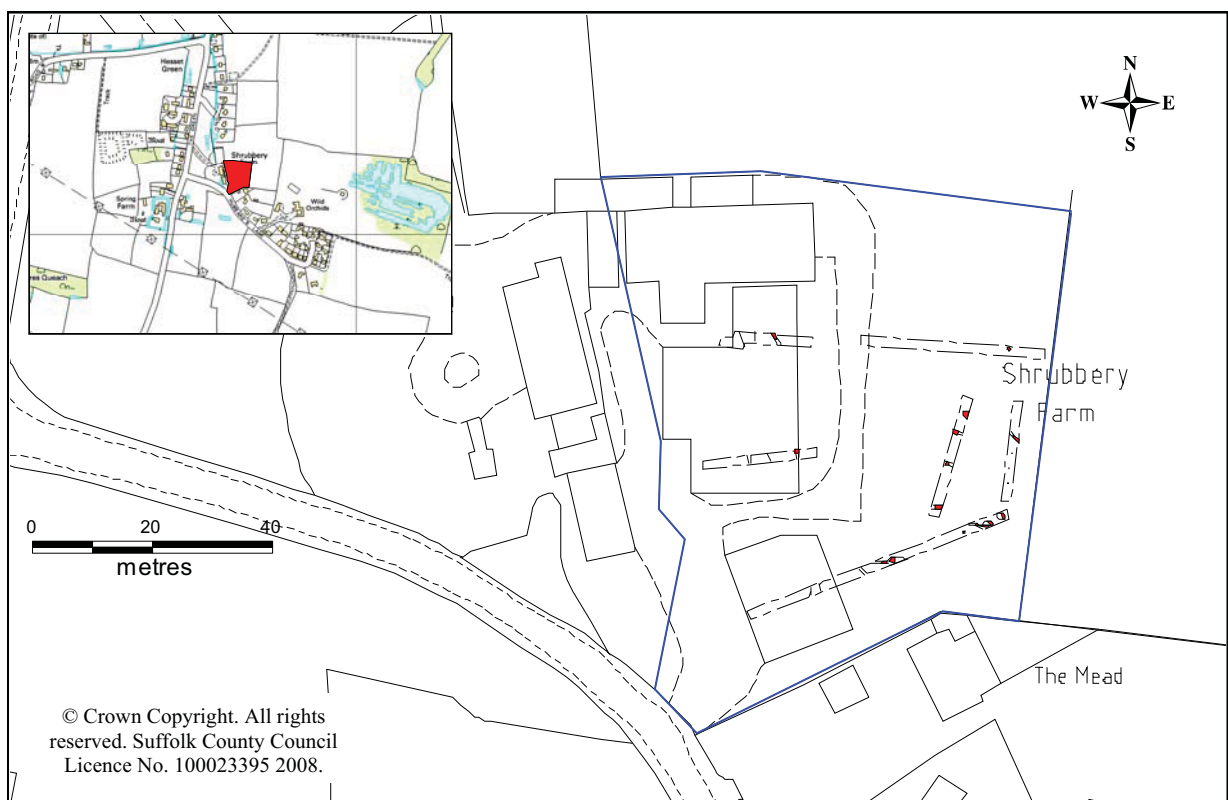


Figure 1. Site location plan, approximate area of development marked

2. Methodology

A pattern of 6 trenches was laid out to sample all accessible areas of the site (Fig.1). Two large farm buildings had previously been demolished and concrete slabs broken up (these can be identified in Fig.1 as they appear below three of the marked trenches). Broken concrete limited access to the northern end of the site and some allowance was made to avoid a gravel road access to the rear of the site and planning markers that had been set out for buildings. The trenches were excavated using a JCB type excavator fitted with a 1.6m-ditching bucket. The site was located using a TST and feature profiles were recorded at a scale of 1:20. Context numbers were issued starting at 0001, which is reserved for unstratified finds. Digital colour photographs were taken during the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. Soil samples were collected from interpretable, datable features. Inked copies of section drawings have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-44906) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. HTT 020.

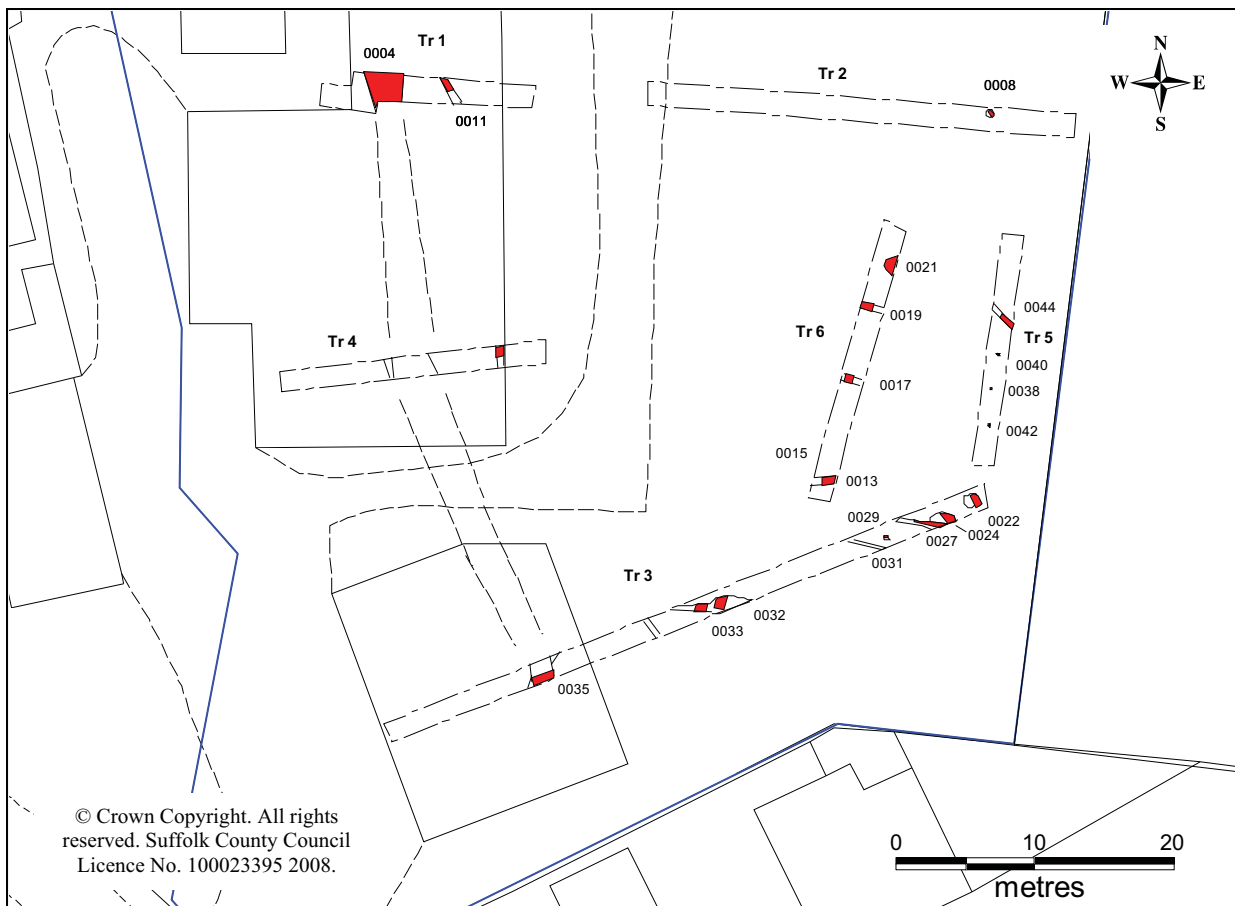


Figure 2. Site plan

3. Results

The Trench plan is shown above with excavated sections marked in red. In the area between and around Trenches 5 and 6 the turf had been removed to a depth of c.0.2m. Pottery was collected, as seen, from the exposed surface under context number 0037 although this was not systematically field-walked. Several post-medieval field drains were located and these are not shown on the plan. The full context descriptions are included as Appendix 1.

Trench 1 was c.15m in length and aligned east-west (Fig.2). It was positioned to the west of the existing track over the site of a recently demolished barn building. A dog-leg was excavated into the trench where a large ditch 0004 was excavated. It was 3.5m wide and 1.4m deep and filled with a fine blue-grey silt and beige silt. This section was machine excavated. Ditch 0011 was parallel to 0004 3m to the east. It was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep and filled with fine silt. Fragments of burnt clay from the fill may have been medieval in date but this was uncertain.

Trench 2 was 31m in length and aligned east west. The only feature was a single large posthole 0008 that was 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep. It was filled with orange-brown silt-clay. There were no finds.

Trench 3 was 45m in length and aligned east west. This trench is described from east to west. At the eastern end was a shallow pit with sloping sides 0022 that measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep that contained fragmentary animal bone. West of this was pit 0024, c.0.4m deep and c.1.4m wide which had a fill of grey silt with iron pan and no finds. 0024 was cut by a gully 0027 that was also filled with grey silt. About 1m to the west was a small posthole 0029 which contained a dark brown silty fill. It was thought, on site, that this was a post-medieval rather than medieval feature. Ditch 0031 was approximately parallel to ditch 0027 but has been interpreted

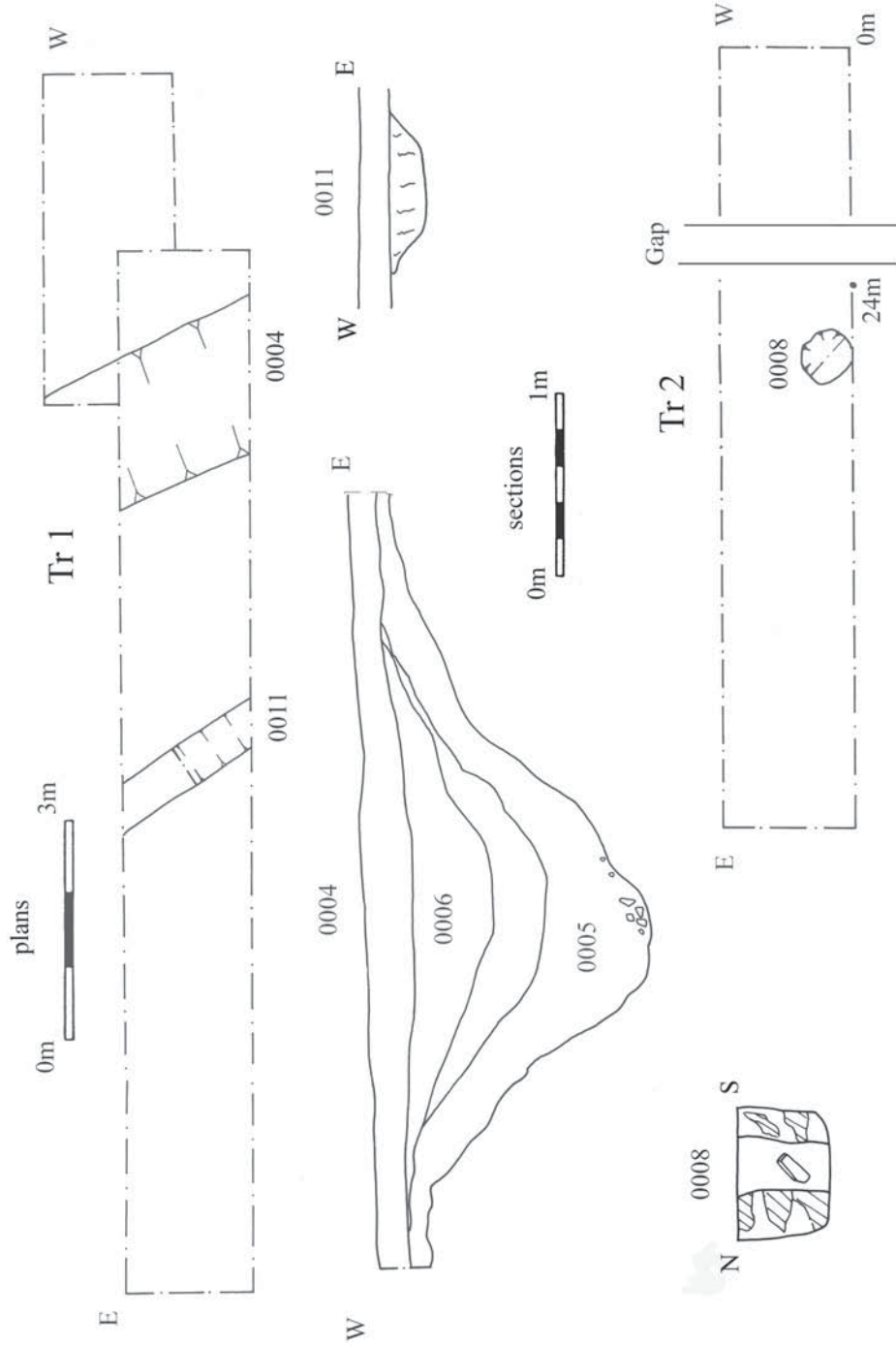


Figure 3. Trenches 1 and 2, plans and sections

as a plough line. 7.5m to the west was a larger brown silt spread 0032. It was cut by a ditch 0033 which is suggested to be a deep plough mark. West of this lay ditch 0035 that is considered to be the continuation of ditch 0004 from Trench 1 to the north. A section was hand dug across the ditch that produced 6 sherds of medieval pottery c. 12th – 13th centuries and a fragment of post-medieval brick. This ditch was cut by a sequence of modern pits associated with a recently demolished building (indicated on the drawn section).

Trench 4 was 18.75m in length and aligned east-west. It contained the continuation of ditch 0004 (not excavated) and a narrower north –south ditch, 0046 that was c.0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained grey clay with iron pan.

Trench 5 was aligned north-south and was 16.25m long. From the north end of the trench was a ditch 0044 that was 0.3m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a mottled orange clay. To the south were three postholes 0040, 0038 and 0042 in a rough alignment 2.5m apart; they were all circular and approximately 0.2m wide by 0.3m deep and filled with a brown loam. It was suggested that these were contemporary and probably fairly recent in date although they produced no finds.

Trench 6 was aligned north-south and was 20m long. It was crossed by a number of east-west ditches. From the north the features comprised a shallow spread 0.1m deep, 0021, that was at least 2m wide and extended for over 2m, it contained a grey silt fill, and was probably archaeological, although it produced no finds. To the south, ditch 0019 was 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep and filled with orange-grey silt-clay. A post-medieval field drain is unnumbered on the plan. Ditch 0017, which was parallel to 0019, was 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with a brown loam. It was suggested that this feature may have been recent in date based on the fill type. Ditch 0013 was on a slightly different east-west alignment. It was 0.7m wide and 0.14m deep and produced a single sherd of medieval pottery dating to the 12th-13th century.

Finds were collected from the surface of the stripped topsoil in the area of Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6 and recorded under the context number 0037. This collection was a response to the visible concentration of pottery at the base of the topsoil over a wide area and produced 49 sherds with significant groups dating from the 12th early 13th centuries and 13th to 14th centuries as well as Late Saxon material.

4. The finds

Introduction

Finds were collected from 12 contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Animal Bone		Flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0003			2	43						P-med
0005									1 fired clay @ 2g, 1 stone @ 11g	?Med
0010			1	1062						18th-19th C
0012					1	1			7 fired clay @ 3g	?Medieval
0014	1	23								12th-E13th C
0016					51	77				
0018							1	21		
0021	1	12								13th-14th C
0023					3	67				
0032	1	4			6	65				L12th-14th C
0036	5	134	1	207						12th-Early 13th C/ Post-med cbm
0037	49	263								M13th-14th C
Total	57	436	4	1312	61	210	1	21		

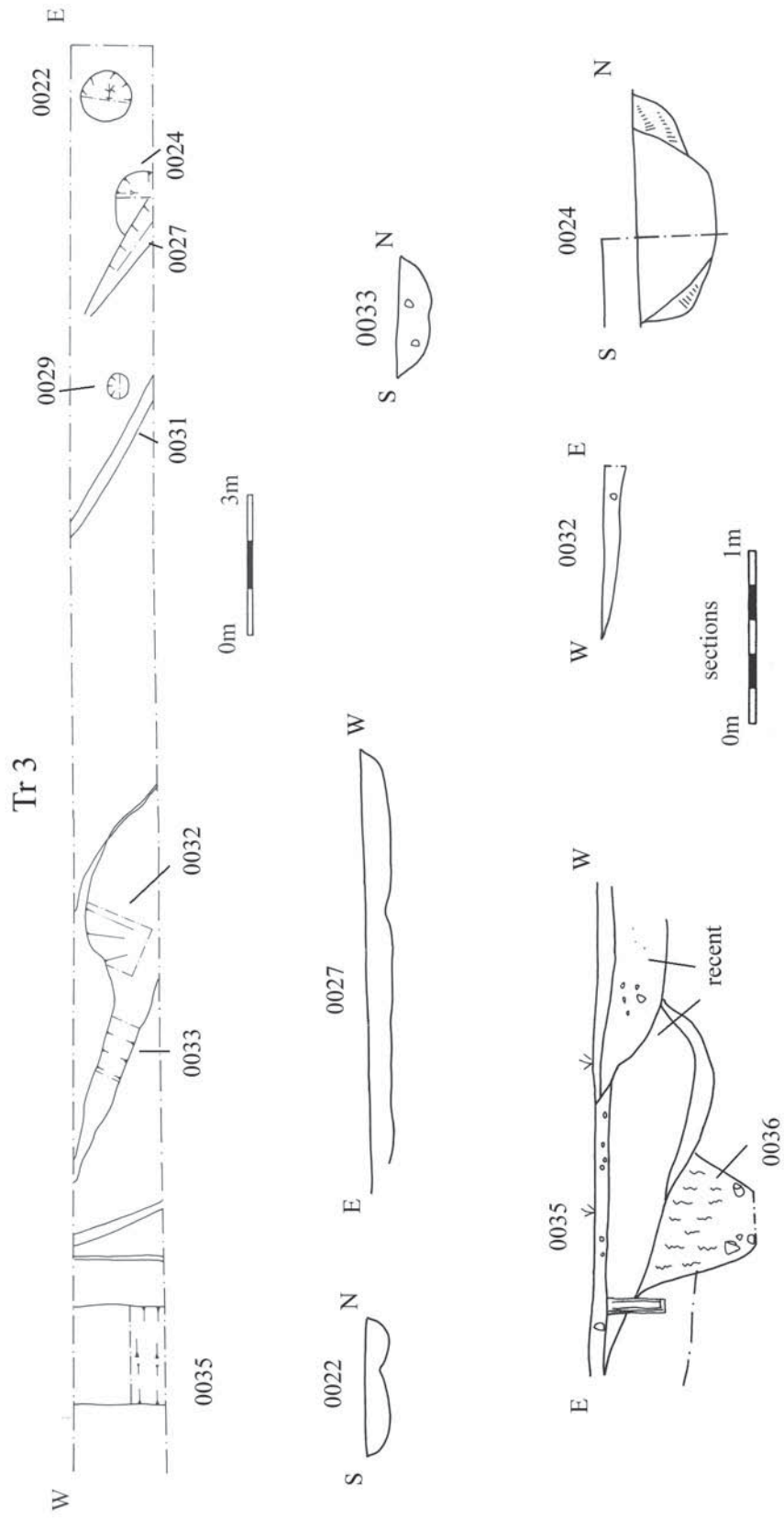


Figure 4. Trench 3 plan and sections

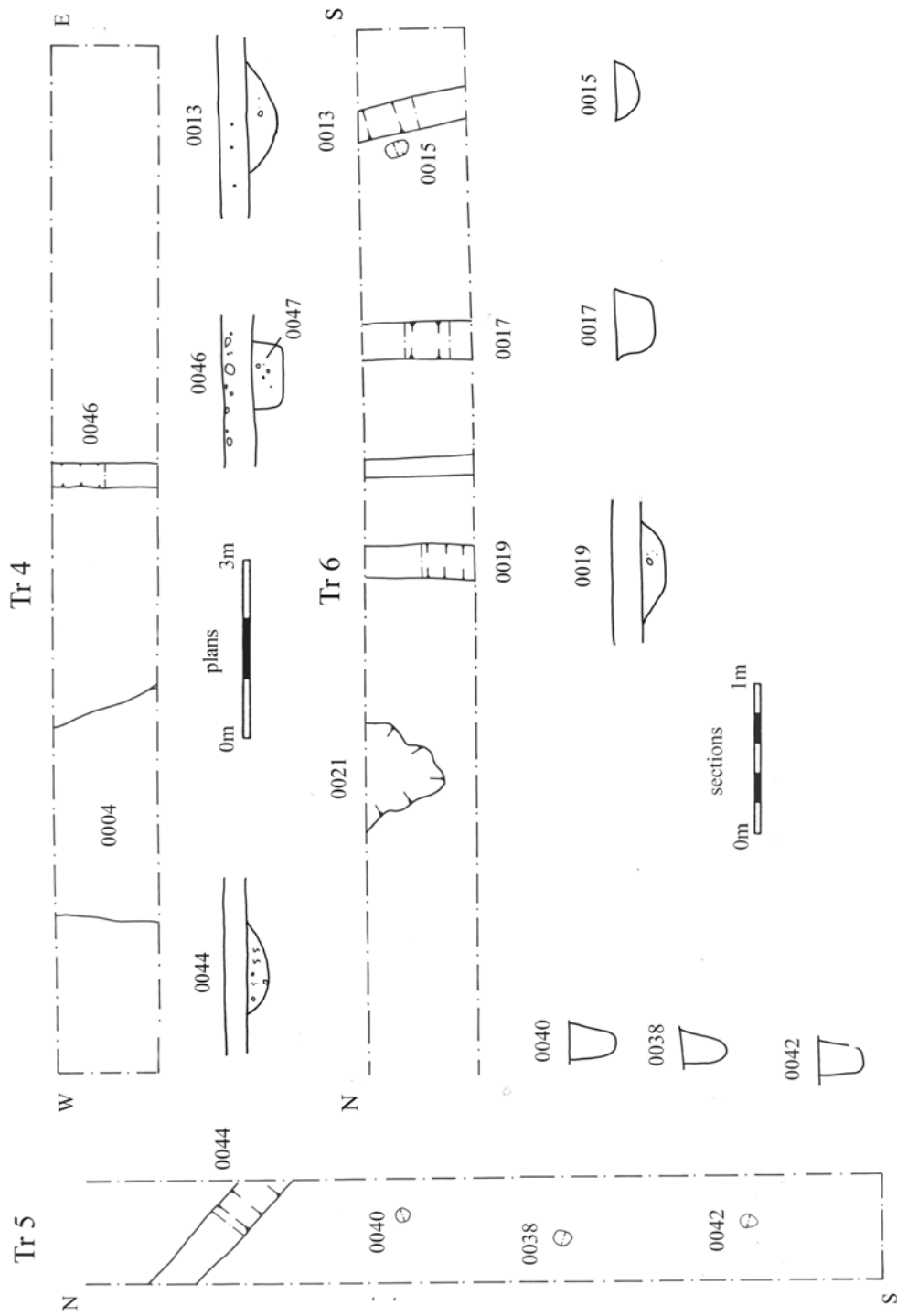


Figure 5. Trenches 4, 5 and 6 plans and sections

Pottery

A total of 57 fragments of pottery was recovered from the evaluation (0.436kg). The assemblage is mostly medieval, with a small quantity of earlier material. Most of the pottery consists of small and medium-sized body sherds, but some rims are also present. There are no complete vessel profiles or substantial remnants of vessels, although some of the coarseware rims are worthy of illustration. The pottery has been fully catalogued (Appendix 2).

A very abraded, small fragment of flint-tempered pottery was present in the ditchfill 0036 in Trench 3, with larger quantities of medieval pottery. The fabric is sandy with sparse flint and grog, and it appears to have been burnt.

Small quantities of pottery of Late Saxon date were provisionally identified amongst the general recovery of pottery from field-walking the base of the topsoil 0037. A small jar with a rim similar to a common Thetford ware form (Dallas Type AB13, everted, sides expanded to wedge shape) in a reduced sandy fabric was present, and a smaller rim fragment of a vessel with a triangular section (Dallas type AB7). Three bowl sherds made in a corky fabric containing organic inclusions, many of which have leached out were also present amongst the fieldwalked material. These also date to the Late Saxon/early medieval period, although their precise fabric identification has yet to be established.

The remainder of the pottery is made up almost entirely of medieval coarsewares. These were made in several different fabrics, ranging from coarse to fine variants. A number of Medieval Coarseware Gritty ware vessels were identified, many of which had red-brown external margins with grey cores. Such fabrics have been identified at production centres at Mile End and Great Horksley near Colchester, but are likely to have been produced at other kilns also (Drury and Petchey 1975). Other fine buff and greywares were also present, some of which are similar to Hollesley wares but could be other products from the eastern side of the region. The majority of the pottery from 0037 consists of body sherds, but a buff neckless jar dates to the Mid 13th-14th century.

An abraded fragment of a Heddingham fineware jug in 0037 was one of two glazed wares present in the assemblage (Mid 12th-Mid 13th C). The second sherd is even more abraded and laminated and has a fine grey core and pale orange margin with the faint remains of a lead glaze still adhering. It is likely to be a local product and is similar to Hollesley Glazed ware.

Ceramic building material

Four pieces of ceramic building material were collected (1.312kg). A small fragment of abraded brick made in a hard, dark red fabric with ferrous inclusions is post-medieval. It was found with another very small fragment of a similar date. A corner of post-medieval brick was recovered from ditchfill 0036, together with medieval pottery. It is made from a pale orange fabric with cream streaks and orange grog lumps, with a height of 65mm. The brick is closest to Drury Type LB2 in fabric type, but the increased height suggests that it dates to the late 17th-18th century (Drury 1993 165). Part of a white-firing clay brick likely to be a floor brick or 'paviour' was found in the fill of the posthole 0008. The brick is made from a fine fabric with occasional grog inclusions. It measures 40mm in height and is 123mm in width, and is slightly worn on one surface. Such tiles were commonly used as flooring during the 18th and 19th centuries in East Anglia.

Fired clay

Eight very small fragments of fired clay were recovered from two contexts (0.005kg). The largest fragment, which was found in the ditchfill 0005 contained chalk inclusions and is likely

to be medieval. None had any features which would provide some indication of function, such as structural impressions from wattling.

Flint (identified by Colin Pendleton)

A single fragment of flint was recovered from ditchfill 0018 in Trench 6. It is an unpatinated end scraper on a thick fairly squat flake with some added edge retouch. It has a natural striking platform and may date to the Later Prehistoric period or be more recent.

Animal bone

Animal bone was recovered from 4 contexts, mainly in small quantities (0.210kg). The largest amount was found in the fill 0014 of a posthole in Trench 6. The majority of the bone comes from one animal, but other bones are also present. The group includes a number of pig bones including two fragments of a scapula, rib fragments, and some unfused limb bones.

Discussion of the finds evidence

A small, abraded fragment of pottery dating to the prehistoric period was found at the southern end of the ditch on the western side of the site. A fragment of struck flint found in one of the ditches further to the east may be later prehistoric or could be even later.

Small quantities of Late Saxon pottery were present amongst the ceramic material recovered from fieldwalking under the topsoil in the area of Trenches 5 and 6 on the eastern side of the site. The majority of the rest of the pottery is made up of a range of coarsewares dating for the most part to the 13th to 14th century, with few glazed wares. Pottery dating to the 12th-Early 13th century was present in the fill 0036 of the ditch running north south on the western side of the site. No medieval ceramic building material was identified, but a small quantity of fired clay found in two ditchfills may derive from medieval dwellings in the vicinity. The ceramic assemblage is of interest as there is little quantified information about the types of pottery which were being used at Hessett during this period. Initial work indicates that it is not dissimilar to other medieval assemblages in Mid Suffolk such as the site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket (Anderson 2004).

5. General Discussion

The trial trenching has uncovered a range of features, across the site, most of which are shallow. The most significant feature was probably ditch 0004 which appears in Trenches 1, 3 (as ditch 0035) and 4. It is possible that this represents the early course of the medieval green ditch marking the edge of common grazing land. East of the ditch there was a greater concentration of potentially early features within Trenches 3 and 6, consisting of ditches, spreads and pits (it is felt that the three postholes identified in Trench 5 may be ignored as they are probably recent in origin). Structural evidence of habitation was limited to postholes 0008, 0029 and pits 0022 and 0024. This evidence is supported, however, by a significant collection of medieval and Late Saxon pottery. Only 8 sherds of pottery were recovered from features, the remainder was found towards the base of the topsoil. This evidence would be consistent with a site where the occupation horizon and the tops of the structural features have been truncated. This is supported by the identification of a network of post-medieval ceramic field drains that suggest the area had been ploughed. The lack of finds within the excavated features (mostly ditches) is to be expected; finds tend to accumulate after features have been abandoned with a greater concentration in the upper fills which are often slower to infill than the base of the feature. The numerous finds from the topsoil may also represent debris from the heaping of manure prior to its dispersal over the fields during the medieval period. The majority of the pottery was medieval but there was a notable Late Saxon element within this collection which may be evidence that this site was close to the early centre of the village.

Although feature 0008 in Trench 2 may be of medieval origin no features were identified in the remainder of the trench. It is therefore suggested that this area may be of lower potential than the area to the south. The area to the north of Trench 2 was not available for evaluation, however, as it was buried beneath concrete.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evidence from the evaluation demonstrates the presence of settlement on the site during the medieval and probably Late Saxon periods. It is also clear that the site has been truncated probably as a result of ploughing in the post medieval period. It is recommended therefore that the site should be subject to open area excavation.

Andrew Tester
July 2008

References

- Anderson, S., 2004, 'A medieval moated site at Cedars field, Stowmarket, Suffolk', EAA Occasional Paper No 15.
- Dallas, C., 1984, 'The pottery', in Rogerson, A. and Dallas, C., *Excavations in Thetford 1948-59 and 1973-80*. EAA 22, pp. 117-166. Norfolk Archaeological Unit, NMS.
- Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic Building Materials', in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*. East Anglian Archaeology 58, Norwich Survey.
- Drury, P.J. and Petchey, M.R., 1975, 'Medieval potteries at Mile End and Great Horkesley, near Colchester', *Essex Archaeol. and Hist.* 7, 33-60.

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

HTT 020 summary context list

<i>conte</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>width in m</i>	<i>depth in m</i>	<i>finds</i>
0001		unstartified	Unstratified finds			
0002	1	mole Drain	Dark brown silt fill, post-med			
0003	1	mole Drain	Dark brown silt fill post-med			yes
0004	1	ditch	Substantial ditch running esat-west. Filled with various grey and orange silts.	3.5	1.4	
0005	1	ditch fill	Lower fill of mixed grey and beige silt towards base of ditch. Charcoal more frequent in next layer up but has some- no organic			
0006	1	ditch fill	Upper fill of 0004 dense blue silt-clay, mixed with 0007 infrequent charcoal throughout			
0007	1	ditch fill	Dark- Brown silt mixed in in with 0006			
0008	2	posthole	Cut ofl quite large and subsquare			
0009	2	posthole fill	Outer fill of mixed orange and brown silty clay.			
0010	2	posthole fill	Central fill, Post pipe of soft loambrick recovered from within post-pipe probably got in after the post had rotted. Could have been xxxx originally but definitely from within post pipe.			yes
0011	1	ditch	East -west aligned ditch in Trench 1. Flat bottom roughly parallel with 0004			
0012	1	ditch fill	Fill of grey silt, even with faint vertiac l lines?xxxxxxx and frequent medium-large flints (8-15cm). Small frag of brick tile	0.60	0.22	yes
0013	6	ditch cut	N-S ditch shallow rounded basin profile.	0.7	0.12	
0014	6	ditch fill	Fill of grey clay isherd of med pot within 'looks old'			yes
0015	6	Posthole cut	Small posthole. Adjoining 0013	0.37	0.14	
0016	6	Posthole fill	soft brown siltmore organic than 0014, lots of animal bone looks like one animal but not articulated. (dousn't look that old? But could be because of high organic content.			yes
0017	6	ditch cut	Vertical sided, flat based cut-north south	0.35	0.25	
0018	6	ditch fill	Fill of soft grey silt. Doesn't look very old			yes
0019	6	ditch cut	Shallow, rounded profile, north south aligned	0.60 (lengt	0.16	
0020	6	ditch fill	Sandy silt, orange-grey with occasional iron pan fleck,s no finds. Looks old			
0021	6	spread	Shallow maximum 0.1m deep of grey-orange silt. Same as subsoil hollow rather than cut feature? Looks old.	up tp 1.5	0.10	yes
0022	3	Pit cut	Shallow pit two small depressions in base. Sloping sides			
0023	3	Pit fill	Dense grey silt fill, even fill and stoneless xxxxx south end of T3, wet			yes
0024	3	Pit cut	Steep sided sloped base.			
0025	3	pit fill	Dense fine grey silt fill with iron pan. Fill quite stony compared to other 0026.			
0026	3	pit fill	Dark organic? Fill with charcoal band in west side , Cut by 0027			
0027	3	Ditch cut	Shallow irregular base of ditch SE-NW aligned. plough line?			
0028	3	ditch fill	Grey silt fill			
0029	3	Posthole cut	Circular small pit/posthole, flat base steep side.			
0030	3	Posthole fill	Dark grey brown, silty loam fill, prob not very old?			
0031	3	ditch cut	Similar to 0027, plough line?			
0032	3	spread	Spread of brown silt, slightly topsoil like, cut by 0033			yes
0033	3	ditch cut	Gully, same as 0027 + 003. Agricultural All run with slope?			
0034	3	dDitch fill	Grey silt			
0035	3	section	Ditch appearing in Trench 3			
0036	3	ditch fill	Same as fill from segment of ditch within 0004			yes
0037		Finds	Fieldwalking finds (collected from base of topsoil. South of yard (Trenches 5 and 6 south of 3 and 2?))			yes
0038	5	Posthole cut	Small deep circular posthole			
0039	5	Posthole fill	Brown silt fill			
0040	5	Posthole cut	Posthole same as 0038 but to west.			

<i>conte</i>	<i>trench</i>	<i>identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>width in m</i>	<i>depth in m</i>	<i>finds</i>
0041	5	Posthole cut and	same as 0038 but further west			
0042	5	posthole cut and f	same as 0038 but further west			
0043	5	posthole cut and f	same as 0038 but further west			
0044	5	ditch cut	SE-NW aligned gully			
0045	5	ditch fill	mottled orange grey silty clay			
0046	4	dith	flat bottomwd straight sided ditch			
0047	4	ditch fill	grey clay with frequent iron pan			

Appendix 2

HTT 020 Ceramic spotdates

Context	Ceramic period	Fabric	Form	No of sherds	Weight	Abrasion	Sooting	Comments	Fabric spotdate	Overall spotdate
14	M	MCWG	BOWL	1	22			Could be jar. Gritty fabric, reddish brn, sim to Essex wares	12th-E13th C	12th/E13th C
21	M	MCW	CP/JAR	1	12			Dev rim	13th-14th C	13th-14th C
36	M	MCWG	CP/JAR	1	20			Flat topped,	12th/E13th C	12th/E13th C
36	M	MCW	CP/JAR	1	37			Flat topped, silver mica		
36	M	MCW/EM	BOWL?	1	70	A	S	Large sandy bowl, earlier sandy fab	12th C?	
36	M	MCW	BODY	1	2			Fine, could be Hedingham coarseware		
36	PRE	FLIN	BODY	1	3	AA	S	Flint and ?grog		Prehistoric
32	M	MCW	BODY	1	4					L12th-14th C
37	M	MCWG	BODY	9	47					
37	M	MCW	BODY	27	74					
37	M	HFW1	BODY	1	5	A				
37	M	MCW	CP/JAR	2	49			Neckless jar, could be Holl type		M/L13th-14th C
37	M	HOLG?	BODY	1	1	A		Fine fabric with abr faint lead glaze		
37	M	MCWG	JAR	1	12	A				
37	LS?	THET?	JAR	1	20	A		Could be med		
37	LS	THET	JAR	1	10	A		Small Lsaxon rim sherd, poss 11th-12th C		

Context	Ceramic period	Fabric	Form	No of sherds	Weight	Abrasion	Sooting	Comments	Fabric spotdate	Overall spotdate
37	LS	UNID	BOWL	3	11	A		Corky LS fab, poss Lincs/Maxey etc, not SNTE		
37	M	MCW	CP/JAR	1	16	A		Oxidised, gritty, flat-topped		
37	LS	THET	CP/JAR	1	14	A		Everted, wedge shaped sides (Dallas AB13)		
37	LS	THET	CP/JAR	1	3			Dallas Type AB7, triangular section		

Appendix 3

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

LAND AT SHRUBBERY FARM, HUBBARDS LANE, HESSETT

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

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 Outline consent [1087/05] has been given for residential development and access.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no 3) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is 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 results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.3 The development area lies on the east side of Hessel Green. For the most part it lies back from the early green frontage, but may include areas to the rear of medieval and post-medieval crofts. The access route from 'Hubbards Lane', however lies on probable early frontage, with high archaeological potential.

Approximately half the site is covered by 20th century agricultural buildings and concrete hard standing. This is thought to be an area which has suffered high impact and is now of low potential.

To the east of the farm buildings is arable land, this is thought to have moderate to low potential.

Evaluation is required at the access and (at a low level) on the arable land.
- 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 this office 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.

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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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 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.

4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to sample the access area and a single north-south trench in the arable land to the rear 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' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 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.
 - 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 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 J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
 - 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 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).
 - 3.9 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.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
 - 3.10 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.
 - 3.11 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
 - 3.12 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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.

- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 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.

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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 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. 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 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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).

Specification by: R D Carr

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Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 22 February 2008

Reference: /Land at Shrubbery Farm

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.