

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LAND NORTH OF 7-14 NARROW WAY, WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET, SUFFOLK

WMH033

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2009



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© March 2009

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the Hastoe Housing Association Ltd., and was monitored by Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Duncan Stirk carried out the evaluation.

Summary

Wenhaston with Wells Hamlet, Land North of 7-14 Narrow Way (NGR TM 4290 7544)
An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the above site in advance of the proposed construction of 6 houses. This followed an assessment of aerial photographic evidence, a phase of fieldwalking and a metal detector survey. Six trial trenches were excavated within the proposed area for development. A number of features of archaeological interest were recorded during the evaluation. At least three ditches and a number of scattered pit and post-hole features were excavated, and finds dating to the Roman and Medieval periods were recovered during the work. A suitable programme of archaeological mitigation to ensure the preservation or recording of archaeological deposits to be impacted by the proposed development is recommended.
(Duncan Stirk, SCCAS for Hastoe Housing Association Ltd., report no 2009/059)

SMR information

Planning application no. C/07/2050
Date of fieldwork: 14th to 19th of January 2009
Grid Reference: TM 4290 7544
Funding body: Hastoe Housing Association Ltd.

1 Introduction

A planning application was made for the construction of 6 houses on land to the North of 7-14 Narrow Way Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, Suffolk (application C07/2050). The development area is centred on National Grid Reference TM 4290 7544, and comprises a plot of approximately 0.177 ha.

The development area is on gently sloping arable land on glaciofluvial drift and chalky till geology. The site is bounded to the west by a hedge boundary for a residential property, and to the south by Narrow Way. To the East and North is open arable land.

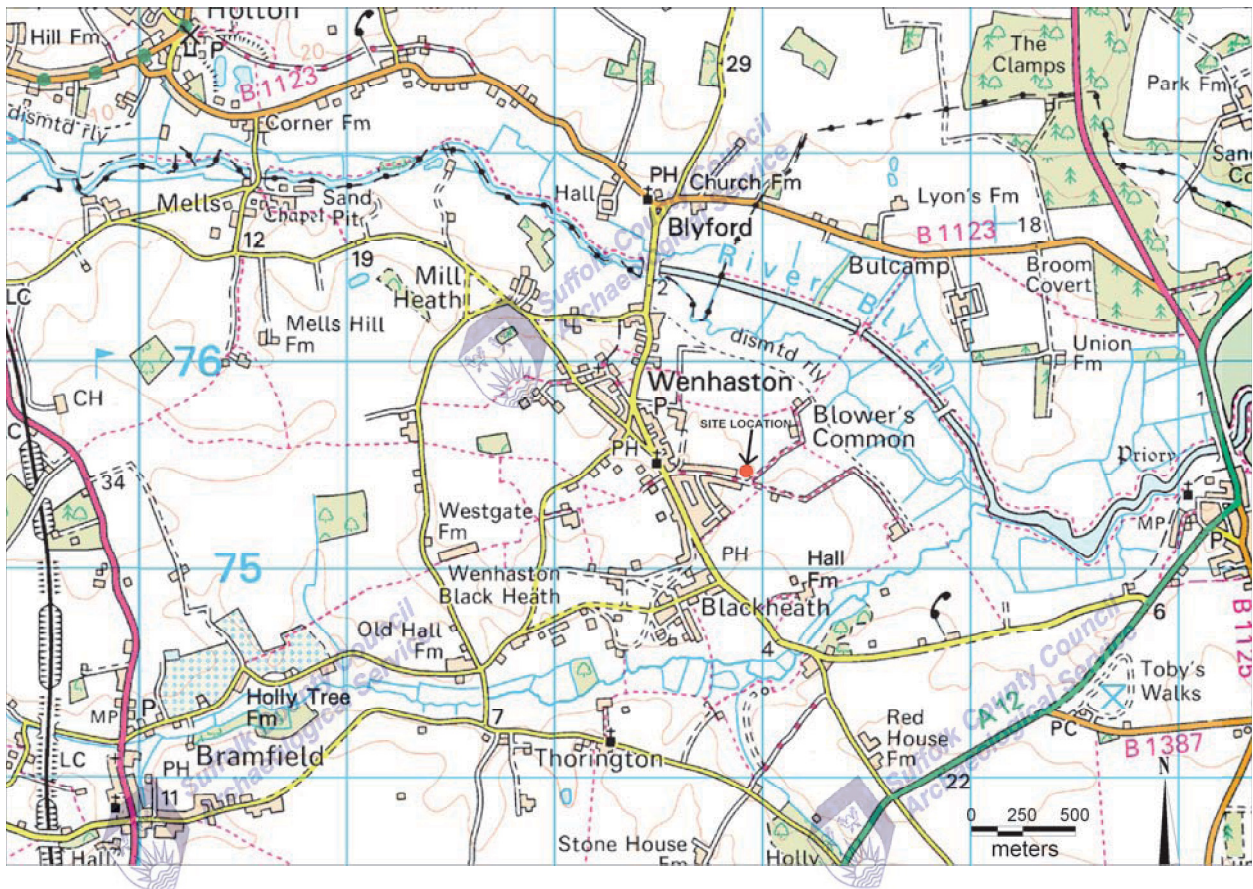


Figure 1. Site location

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The site lies in an area of high Archaeological Importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It is situated between two known areas of archaeology recorded in the Historic Environment Record as WMH 004 and WMH 005. The HER records relate to enclosures and field systems indicated by cropmarks seen in aerial photographs, and a wealth of surface finds of Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Medieval date. A small evaluation was undertaken at 14 Narrow Way in 1998 by SCC Archaeology Service, which revealed archaeological activity of Roman date in the form of a pit and a ditch. (Boulter, 1998) This work demonstrated that archaeological remains were present between areas WMH 004 and WMH 005, within which is the application site.

It was thought therefore, that there was high potential for the preservation of occupation deposits within the site. As any development on the site was thought likely to impact upon surviving occupation deposits a requirement was made to conduct an archaeological evaluation of the site to assess the level of survival of archaeological deposits. This is outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 3/07/08, Appendix 1). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by Mr. N. Halls of Hastoe Housing Association Ltd.

2 Methodology

Prior to the trial trenching evaluation an aerial photographic assessment was undertaken (Report 2008/16) by Rog Palmer of Air Photo Services. (Palmer, 2008) This identified the likely presence of field system ditches within the development area. A metal detector and fieldwalking survey was also undertaken on 24th September 2008 by Roy Damant, which produced an assemblage of Roman and Medieval period finds.

Trial trenching was carried out between the 14th and 19th of January 2009. The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision down to the top of the first archaeological deposit or natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. The spoil was examined for finds and also subjected to a metal detector search. The exposed surfaces within the trenches were also searched in this way.

Archaeological features and elevations were then cleaned by hand to further clarify the nature of the archaeological deposits. Hand excavation of a sample of the archaeological features was undertaken as specified in the Brief and Specification prepared by SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix 1), to determine their character, form and date. Typically this was 10% or 1 metre of all linear features and at least 50% of all discrete features. The trenches were then located using RTK GPS surveying equipment.

The evaluated area covered approximately 1770 square metres, of which 224 square metres was covered by trenches, resulting in 12.67% sample.

The site was allocated the HER number WMH 033. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service Archaeological Service. All archaeological deposits were also drawn in plan at 1:20 scale and in section at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, and photographed. This interim report has produced preliminary trench plans using MapInfo mapping software.

3 Results

The basic trench dimensions were as follows:

	Length (m)	Area (m ²)
Trench 1	30.2	48.32
Trench 2	29.9	47.84
Trench 3	29.5	47.2
Trench 4	15.2	24.32
Trench 5	15.1	24.16
Trench 6	20	32
Totals	139.9m	223.84m ²

Table 1. Trench dimensions

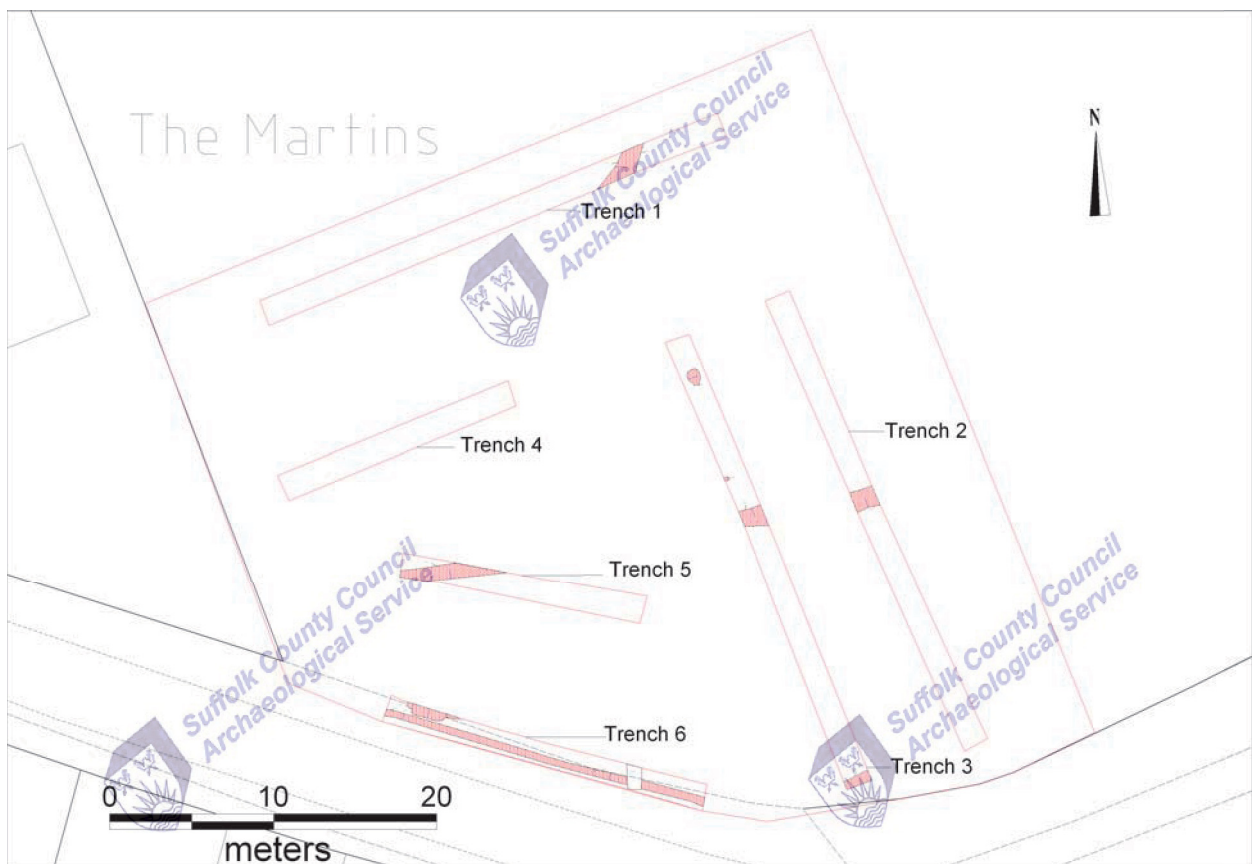


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench locations.

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3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned along the northern most boundary to the plot, and was located to pick up the feature beneath a cropmark identified in the aerial photo assessment. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural subsoil (0009), that was located at a depth of 0.42m below the ground surface (BGS) (15.99m AOD) at the SW end of the trench and 0.31m BGS (14.22m AOD) at the NE end of the trench. The Natural subsoil (0009) was a variable pale to mid yellow brown silty sand, orange brown sand with dark brown manganese mottles, and mid grey gravelly sand. Above the subsoil was a mixed light orange sand mottled with light grey sand (0033)=(0008) that was evident across the trench to a thickness of 0.19m. Finds recovered during the machining of the trench and assigned to context (0001) generally were from this deposit.

Towards the north-eastern end of the trench a linear feature cut deposit (0033). This cut [0010] was 0.91m wide by over 2.4m long and 0.32m deep and was aligned NE-SW. It had moderate to straight concave sides and a concave base. It was filled by (0011), a light to mid orangy brown sand, from which a small assemblage of finds was recovered. This comprised 4 sherds of greyware, grey micaceous wares and Samian and a single Roman CBM fragment, all dating probably to the 2nd to mid 3rd century. This feature was re-cut by similarly aligned linear feature [0012], that was 1.04m wide by over 2.9m long and 0.23m deep. It had moderate concave sides and a flat base. Linear [0012] held a light to mid orangy brown sand fill (0013) from which finds were recovered. These were 5 sherds of greyware and grey micaceous ware and 3 fragments of Roman CBM including *Imbrex* probably dating from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century. The top of these features was at a depth of circa 0.35m BGS (14.47m AOD)

Trench 1 features were sealed by the mid grey brown silty sand topsoil (0007) that was present across the site.



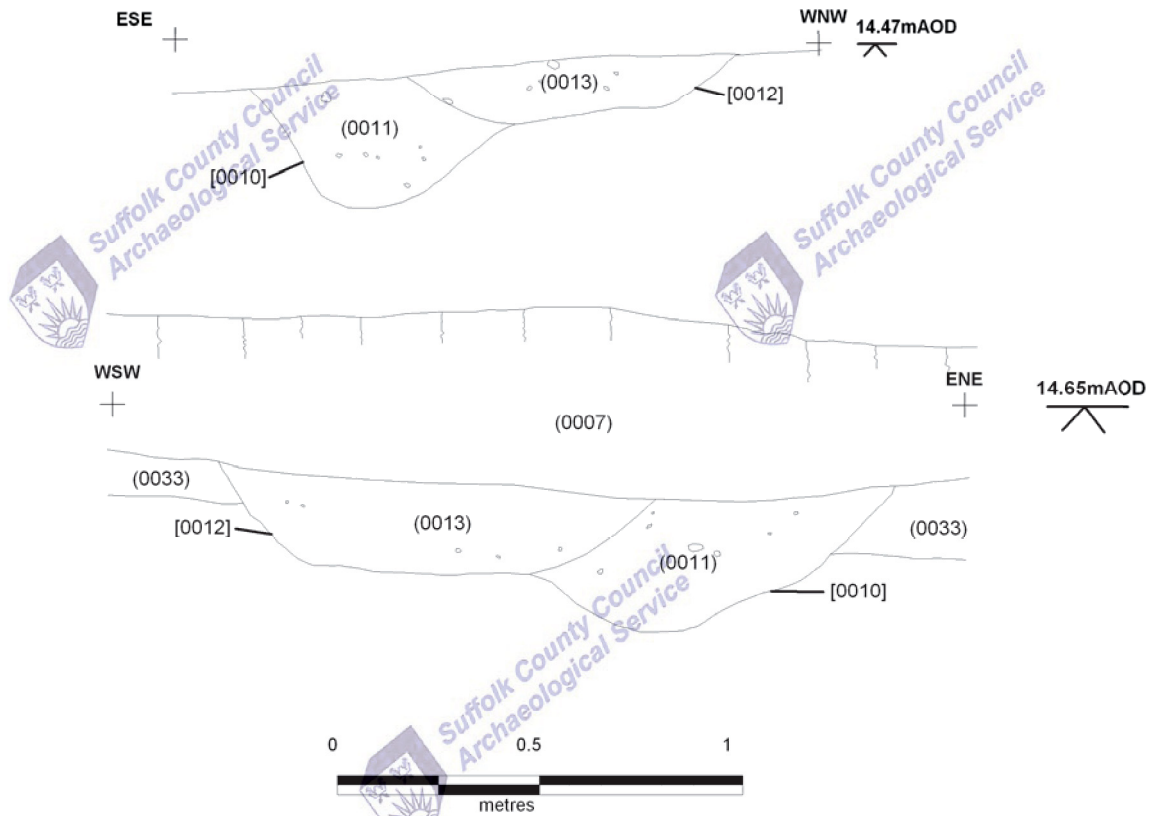


Figure 3. Ditch [0010] and Re-cut [0012] Sections



Plate 1. Ditch [0010] & Re-cut [0012] Looking NW. Scale 2m.

3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned along the eastern-most boundary of the plot. It was located to reveal the features related to a couple of cropmarks.

The trench was excavated to the top of the natural subsoil deposit (0009) which was present at a depth of 0.73m BGS (13.97m AOD) at the NW end of the trench and 0.38m BGS (14.6m AOD) at the SE end.

A single linear feature [0025] was seen aligned SW-NE across the trench, measuring 0.96m wide by over 1.52m long by 0.62m deep. Linear [0025] had steep convex sides and a flat base. Its primary fill was a light orange sand trending to light brown at base of fill (0027), that was 0.2m thick. Over this was a light to mid brownish grey sand mottled with light orangy brown sand fill (0026) that was 0.5m thick. A single sherd of greyware, a sherd of grey micaceous ware, and a fragment of Roman CBM were recovered from fill (0026). The top of this feature was at a depth of 0.6m BGS (14.26m AOD).

Sealing the linear feature and present trench-wide was a 0.35m thick light to mid greyish brown sand with mid grey sand mottles deposit (0034). Over this was topsoil deposit (0007).

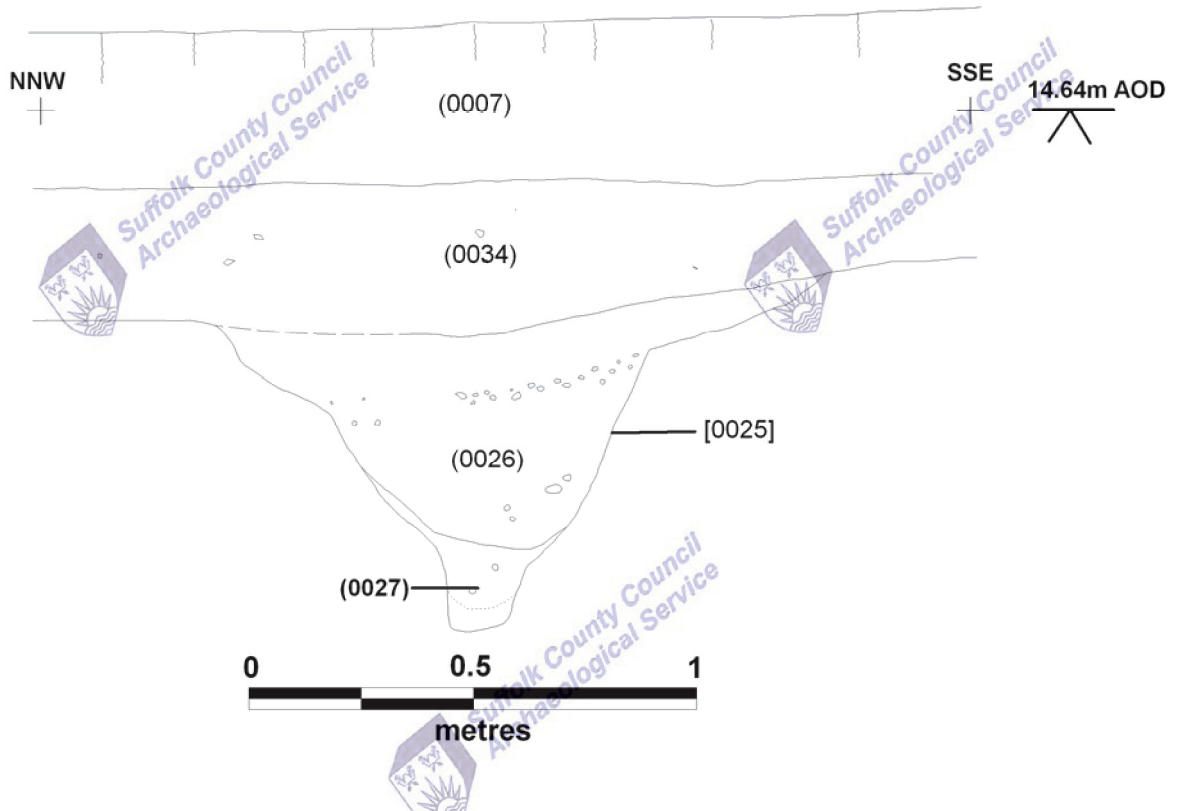


Figure 4. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0028] Section.



Plate 2. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0025] Looking ENE. Scale 2m & 1m

3.3 Trench 3

This trench was located to the west of and parallel to Trench 2. Like trench 2 it was placed to reveal features causing cropmarks visible on the aerial photographs.

The geological natural (0009) was encountered at a depth of 0.61m BGS (14.47m AOD) at the NW end of the trench, while at the SE end it was 0.44m BGS (15.00m AOD). Cutting this was a single linear feature in the centre of the trench and two discrete features to the NW. The linear feature [0030] was almost certainly a continuation of the one seen in Trench 2, and was on the same NE-SW alignment. Here it was 0.8m wide by over 1.52m long, and 0.75m deep. It had steep to vertical convex sides and a flat base. It held an orange brown sand mottled with light grey sand primary fill (0029), that was 0.23m thick. Over this was a banded mid to dark grey silt sand and mid grey brown silt sand and light grey brown sand secondary fill (0028) that was 0.62m thick. Three sherds of Roman CBM were recovered from this fill. The top of this feature was at a depth of 0.47m BGS (14.68m AOD).

Approximately 2 metres to the north of feature [0030] was a small sub-rectangular feature [0032] measuring 0.37m wide by over 0.22m long and 0.23m deep. It had steep to vertical straight sides and a concave base. This feature was largely seen in section with only a portion visible in plan. The top of this feature was at 0.48m BGL (14.79m AOD).

At the NW end of the trench a sub-oval shaped feature [0024] measuring 0.70m by 1.01m by 0.58m deep was recorded. This had steep straight sides and a concave base. It held a mottled mid brown and orangy brown sand primary fill (0023) that was 0.58m thick. Also within the feature was a mottled brownish grey and mid brown silty sand fill (0022) with a moderate quantity of charcoal, that was 0.50m thick. Cutting the top of this fill was a smaller square-ish feature that was left un-excavated as it was only seen later in photographs. The top of this feature was circa 0.51m BGL (14.57m AOD).

Sealing features [0030] and [0032] was a mid to dark brown silty sand that varied between 0.15m to 0.36m thick. This deposit was cut at the SE end of the trench by a possible linear feature [0042] measuring over 0.96m wide by over 1.52m long by 0.4m deep. It had moderate concave sides and a concave base. Only one side of this feature was seen at the end of the trench so its full shape and dimensions are unknown. It held a light grey silty sand primary fill (0044) that was 0.2m thick and a dark brown mottled with black silty sand secondary fill (0043), that was also 0.2m thick. A single sherd of grey micaceous ware came from this fill. The top of this feature was at 0.4m BGL (15.17m AOD). The trench was sealed by the topsoil deposit (0007).

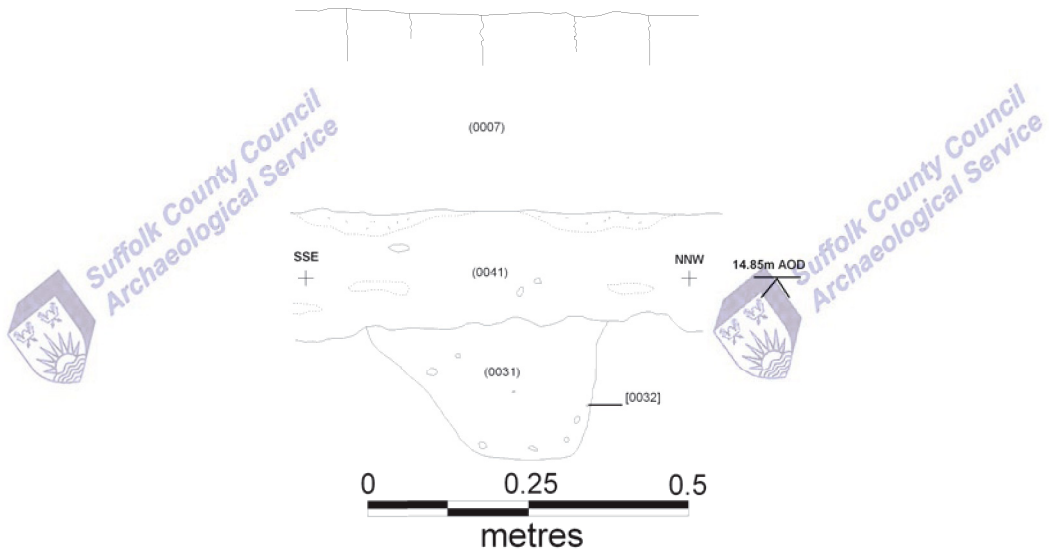


Figure 5. Post-hole [0032] Section.

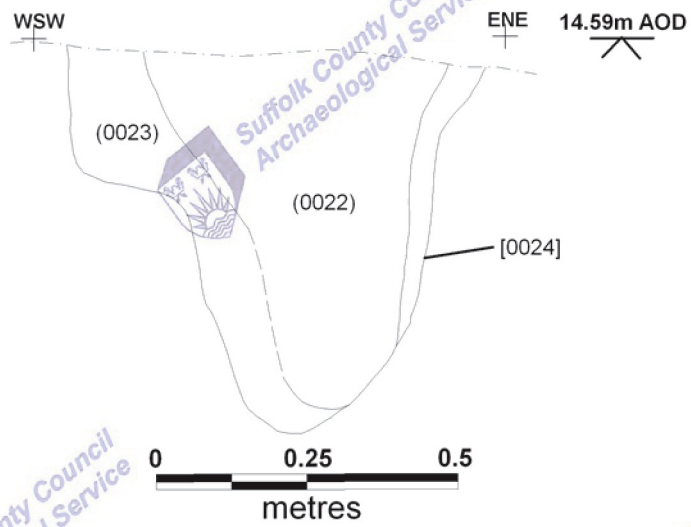


Figure 6. Post-hole [0024] Section.

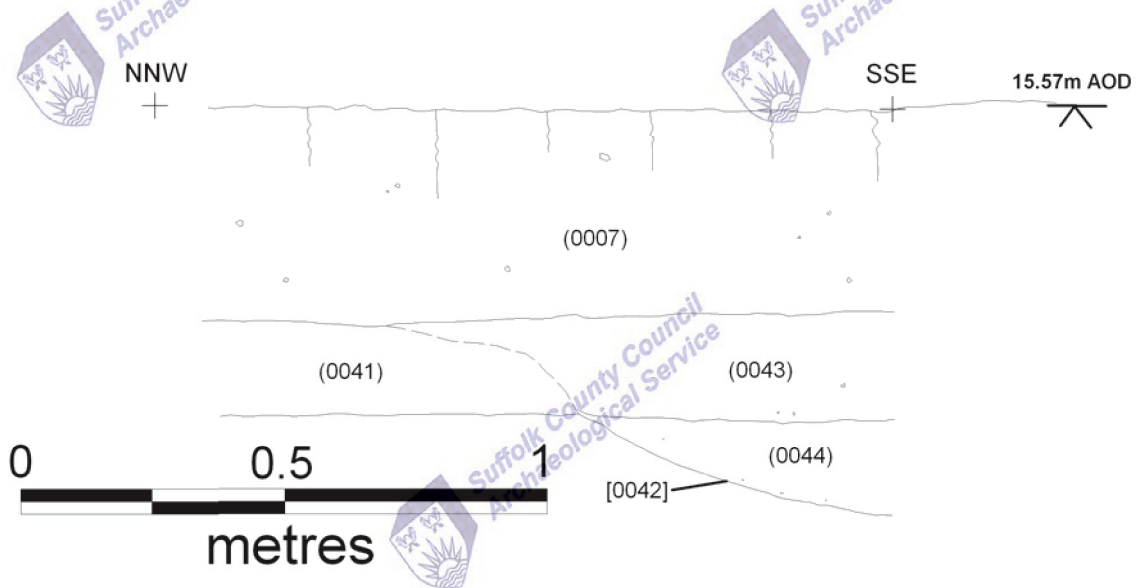


Figure 7. Ditch? [0042] Section.

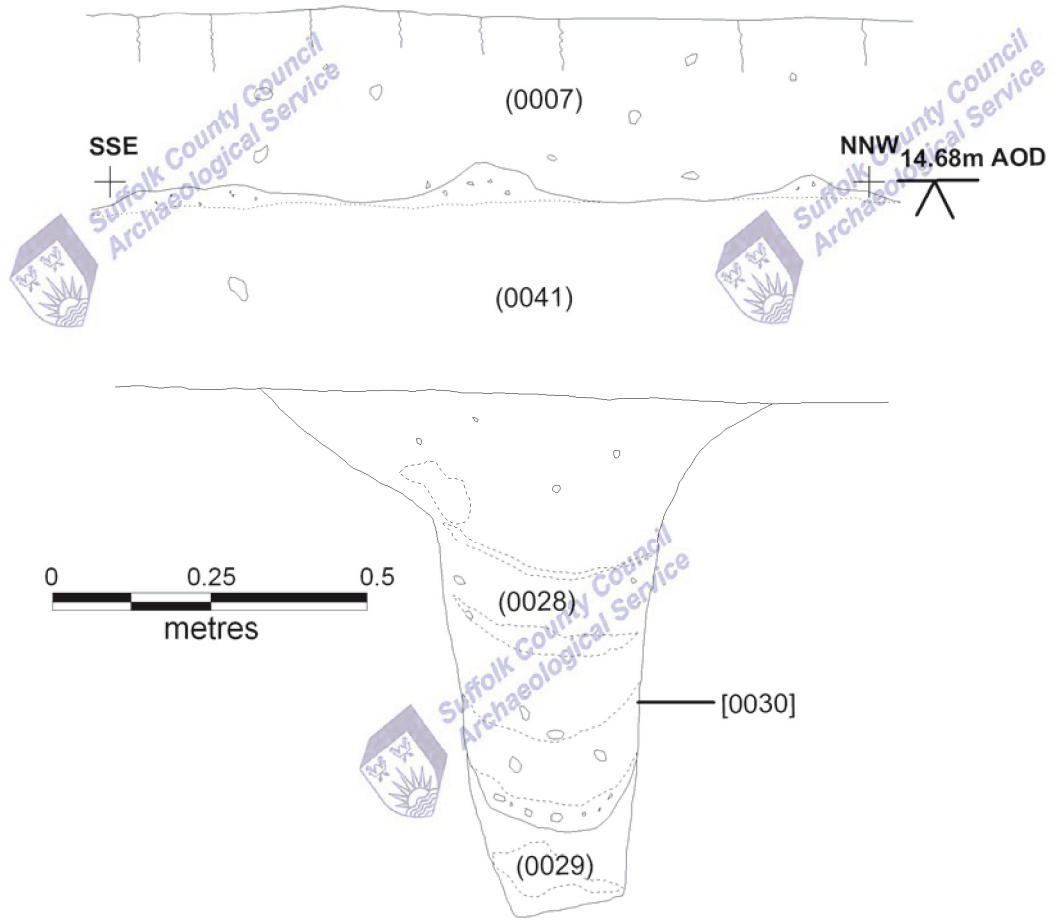


Figure 8. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0030] Section.



Plate 3. Post-hole [0032] Looking WSW. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 4. Post-hole [0024] Looking NW. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 5. Ditch [0042] Looking ENE. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 6. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0030] Looking WSW. Scale 1m 0.5m.

3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned in the western portion of the plot to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits in an area with no visible cropmarks.

The geological natural was revealed at a depth of 0.43m BGL (16.19m AOD) at the SW trench end and 0.42m BGL (15.19m AOD) at the NE end. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench. The natural subsoil was sealed by 0.18-0.28m of mid brown grey silt sand mottled with light brown sand (0045), over which was 0.25-0.3m of topsoil (0007).



Plate 7. Trench 4 Looking ENE. Scale 2m.

3.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the central portion of the site in an attempt to pick up the end of a feature related to a cropmark that appears to terminate within the plot. The geological natural subsoil (0009) was hit at 0.56m BGL (15.78m AOD) at the NW trench end, and 0.29m BGL (15.14m AOD) at the SE end.

Cutting the natural subsoil (0009) at the NW end of the trench was a WSW-ENE aligned linear feature [0037] that was 0.96m wide and over 4.54m and 0.70m deep. It had steep to vertical convex sides and a flat base. At its base was a light orangy brown silty sand primary fill (0040) that was 0.26m thick. Over this was a dark brown silty sand secondary fill (0039) that was 0.17m thick. The bulk of the feature was filled with a mid to dark brown silty sand fill (0038) that was 0.29m thick. A sherd of Greyware, a sherd of Samian, and a fragment of Roman CBM all dating from the late 2nd to mid 3rd Century were recovered from fill (0038). The top of this feature was at circa 0.5m BGL (15.76m AOD). Feature [0037] was probably sealed by a trench-wide deposit (0046), that was mid brown grey silt sand mottled with light brown sand, and circa 0.10m thick. This was sealed by the topsoil deposit (0007).

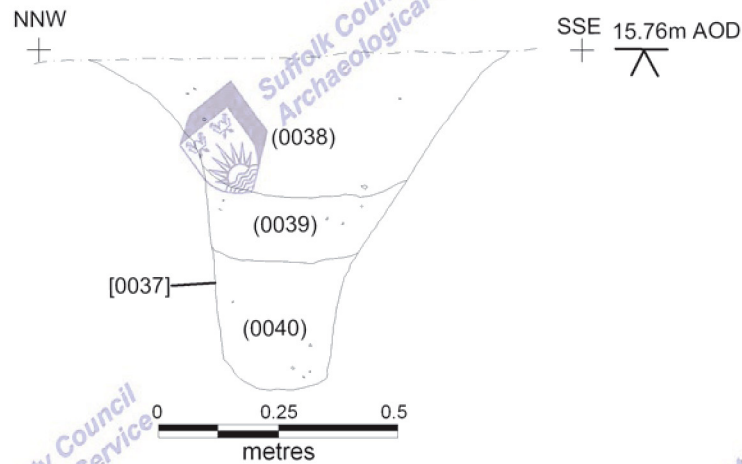


Figure 9. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0037] Section.



Plate 8. Ditch or Palisade Trench [0037] Looking ENE. Scales 1m & 0.5m.

3.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located beside the road at the southern boundary of the site. It was placed to determine the presence or absence of occupation activity along the road frontage.

The natural subsoil (0009) was encountered at a depth of 0.59m BGL (15.96m AOD) at the NW end of the trench, and at 0.46m BGL (15.31m AOD) at the SE end. At the NW end of Trench 6 the natural was cut by a large feature [0018] that was over 0.38m wide by 3.32m long and 0.47m deep. It had steep concave sides and a flat base. Only a portion of the feature was present in the trench, so its full shape is unclear. Feature [0018] had a single fill (0017) that was mixed dark brown grey silty sand, orange brown sand, and mid brown sand. The mottles within this fill are strongly suggestive that the feature was partly filled with turves.

Feature [0018] was cut by a similar sub-rectangular feature [0020] that measured over 0.62m wide by 2.12m long and 0.40m deep. It had moderate to steep concave sides and a sloping base. A single fill (0019) composed of mid brown sand mottled with orange brown sand was present in feature [0020], from which a single sherd of Roman storage jar was recovered. The top of these features was at a depth of 0.56m BGL (16.04m AOD).

Features [0018] and [0020] were sealed by 0.27m of a mixed mid brown sand with lenses of dark brownish grey silt sand and grey brown silty sand deposit (0021). This was cut by a linear feature [0016] that ran the length of the trench, so was over 20.0m long and 1.05m wide by 0.64m deep. It had moderate convex sides and a concave base. Two slots were excavated through this feature; one at the western end revealed a mid orangy brown sand primary fill (0015) that was 0.13m thick and a mid grey brown silty sand mottled with orangy brown sand secondary fill (0014) that was 0.42m thick. A single flint flake was recovered from fill (0014). A second slot excavated through the feature towards the eastern end of the trench revealed a mid brown sand primary fill (0036) that was 0.18m thick, and a mid brownish grey silt sand secondary fill (0035) that was 0.11m thick. Two fragments of Roman CBM were recovered from fill (0036). The top of feature [0016] was at a depth of 0.2m BGL (16.51m AOD). The trench was capped by topsoil horizon (0007).

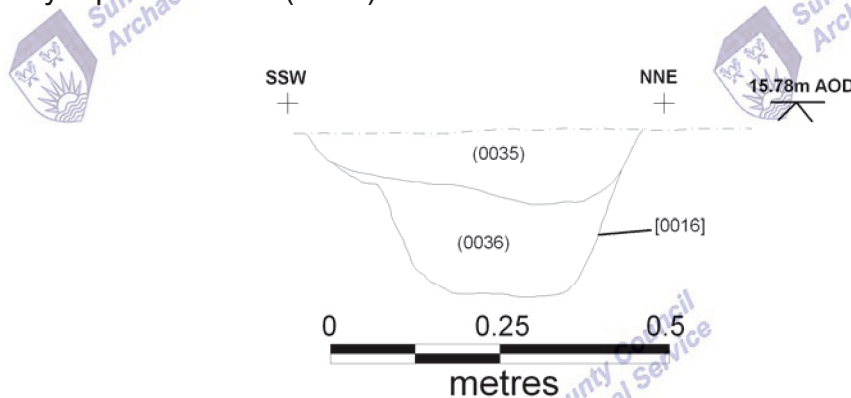


Figure 10. Ditch [0016] Section.

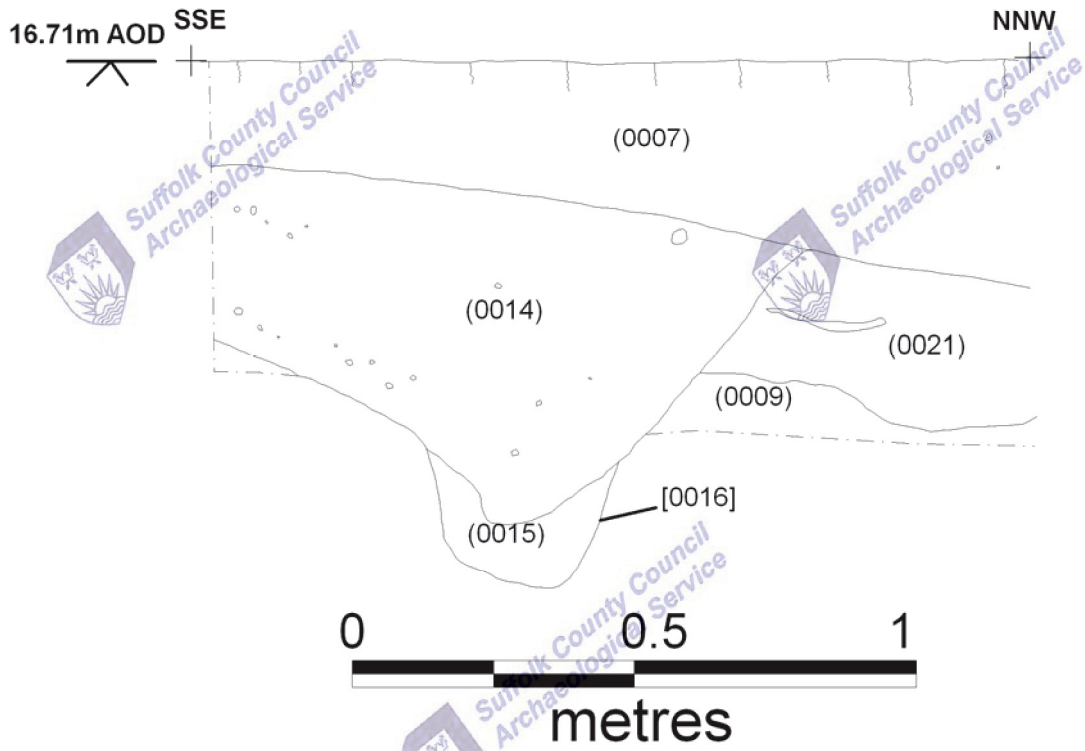


Figure 11. Ditch [0016] Section

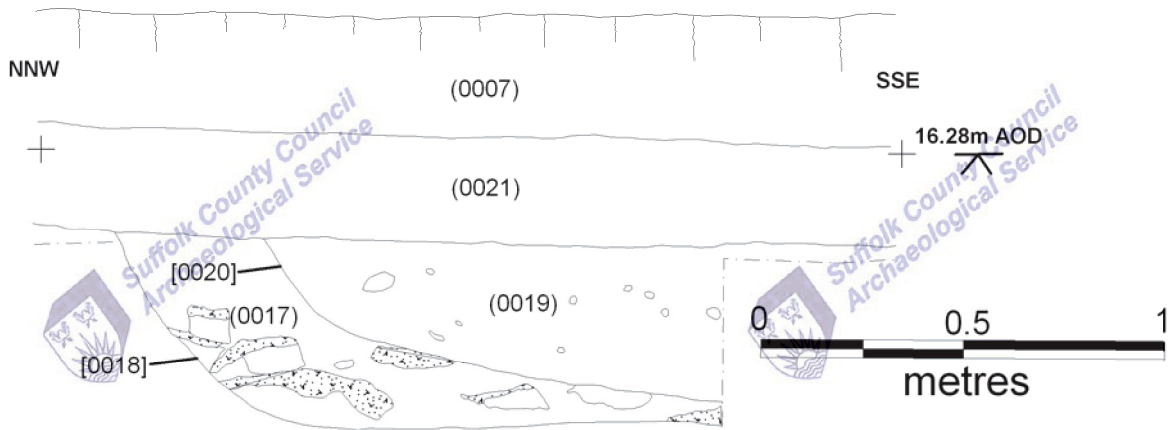


Figure 12. Pits [0018] [0020] Section.



Plate 9. Ditch [1016] Looking NW. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 10. Ditch [1016]. Looking NW. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 11. Pits [1018] & [1020]. Looking NE. Scale 1m & 0.5m.



4 Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin and Cathy Tester.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 15 contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	1	4	4	503		Roman
0003	3	12	3	513		C2
0004			5	23		Roman
0005	1	5				C2
0006			3	143		Roman
0007	25	139	8	599	Burnt flint 1-54g	PMed, Med, Rom
0011	4	50	1	46		Roman
0013	5	41	3	225		MC2-MC3r
0014					Flint 1-2g	
0019	1	90				Roman
0026	2	17	1	6		Roman
0028			1	47	Fired clay 1-5g	Roman
0036			2	2		
0038	2	5	1	31		LC2-MC3
0044	1	10	1	5		Roman
Total	45	373	33	2143		

Table 2. Bulk finds quantities

Pottery

Introduction and methodology

Forty-five sherds of pottery weighing 373g were collected from 10 contexts and the assemblage includes Roman, medieval and post-medieval wares. The quantities by period are summarised in Table 3 and detailed quantification by context is in AppendixV

Fabric name	Code	No.	Wt./g	% Wt
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	2	9	2.4
Grey micaceous wares (black-surfaced)	GMB	4	34	9.1
Grey micaceous wares (grey-surfaced)	GMG	2	24	6.4
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	27	166	44.5
Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux)	SACG	3	11	2.9
East Gaulish samian	SAEG	1	1	0.3
Storage jar fabrics	STOR	2	102	27.3
<i>Total Roman wares</i>		41	347	93.0
Hollesley-type coarseware	HOLL	1	4	1.1
Medieval coarseware	MCW	2	6	1.6
<i>Total Medieval wares</i>		3	10	2.7
Staffordshire-type slipware	STAF	1	16	4.3
<i>Total Post-medieval wares</i>		1	16	4.3
Total		45	373	100.0

Table 3. Pottery quantities by period

The pottery was quantified by count and weight. Roman and post-Roman fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk Roman and post-Roman fabric series. Details of fabric, form and form element were recorded and each 'sherd family' was given a separate entry on the database table and an individual spotdate when possible. SCCAS pottery recording forms were used and the data has been input onto an Access database table.

Roman pottery

Forty-one sherds of wheel-made Roman pottery were collected from ten contexts in five evaluation trenches and from the topsoil during the fieldwalking phase. Four contexts were unstratified and four were from excavated features, five ditches and a pit. Most of

the pottery is in poor condition and very abraded and battered, which is quite usual for material which has been through a long deposition cycle.

Seven fabrics or fabric groups were identified which include imported finewares and local and regional coarsewares.

Imported finewares are represented by three sherds of Central Gaulish samian (SACG) of Hadrianic or Antonine date. The only identifiable sherd is from a Dr 37 decorated bowl. A single sherd from an East Gaulish samian (SAEG) plainware cup, Dr 33, belongs to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century.

The coarseware assemblage consists mainly of several broad greyware groups from a variety of sources that are unknown but presumed to be local or regional. All appear to be full-romanised wares which belong to the 2nd or 3rd centuries.

Black-surfaced wares (BSW) are represented by two sherds, including the rim of a small vessel (120mm diameter) which is not closely datable.

Grey micaceous wares in the black and grey-surfaced variants (GMB and GMG) are also present. One GMB form identified is a high-shouldered beaker or jar with an outplayed everted rim and a date of mid 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Miscellaneous sandy grey wares (GX) are the most common fabric group. Forms identified are a straight-sided triangular-rimmed dish (type 6.18) with a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date, two other uncertain dish forms and an uncertain jar.

Also present are two large storage jar sherds (STOR).

Post-Roman pottery

Four sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil (0007) during fieldwalking.

The medieval pottery includes a Hollesley-type grey coarseware rim (HOLL) of late 13th or 14th century date and two sherds of medieval coarseware (MCW) which are 12th to 14th century.

Post-medieval wares are represented by a single sherd of Staffordshire-type slipware (STAF) of late 17th or 18th century date.

Ceramic building material

A total of 33 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the fieldwalking phase and the evaluation (2143g). The material has been fully catalogued and is presented in Appendix III.

Most of the fragments are made in dense fabrics of Roman date, many of which have clay pellets and silty bands. Although there are a few examples of flanged roof tiles or *tegulae*, and some fragments of *imbrex*, the majority of the fragments are abraded and cannot be assigned to any particular form, and have been recorded under the general category of Roman brick and tile (RBT). There is no evidence of any flue tiles or *pilae*, which could suggest a hypocausted building.

Most of the ceramic building material is abraded, with the better preserved fragments collected through fieldwalking, and a few more recognisable fragments recorded in ditch 0012. There is no evidence of any mortar on the fragments, but this is not surprising as so many pieces have lost most of their original surfaces.

A fragment of late medieval/post-medieval rooftile was present as an unstratified find in Trench 3.

Flint

Worked flint (identified by Colin Pendleton)

A thin snapped flake with restricted area of steep edge retouch, probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was present in ditch 0016 fill 0014 Trench 6.

Burnt Flint

A fragment of burnt flint was collected from the topsoil (0007) during fieldwalking.

Small Finds

A total of seven small finds of Roman and medieval date was recovered from the evaluation which are listed in Appendix IV.

Roman

Four metal detected copper alloy finds were recovered.

A complete pin (SF 1002) from a Colchester type brooch, with the remains of some of the coil spring still attached is a fieldwalking find from the topsoil, dating to the early 1st century AD (25-60 AD). A small copper alloy coin (SF 1003) which has been coated with silver is fragmentary and poorly preserved. Very little of either of the surface survives, but it is possible that the coin is a late 4th century forgery of an official silver coin (Andrew Brown, pers. comm.). Other less datable Roman finds include part of the shaft of a copper alloy toilet instrument, perhaps a probe (Crummy 1983). The shaft has been bent and broken, but has a thickened swelling at one end which may originally have been above the functioning part of the implement. The remains of a copper alloy mount with two rivets (SF 1006), is an unstratified find from Trench 4. It is very fragmentary and is broken in many places, but may be part of a peltate mount (Jude Plouviez, pers. comm).

Medieval

The remains of a gilded copper alloy buckle plate (SF1004), an unstratified find from Trench 1, dates to the 12th-13th centuries.

Undated

A small fragment of melted copper alloy (SF 1001) was found during fieldwalking in the topsoil. A circular piece of turned wood (SF 1007) which features fine parallel grooving has not been fully identified.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations recorded a limited number of features of probable Roman date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditches, post-holes and a possible quarry pit, and six were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds were present throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Sample No.	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	0014	0026	0022	0023	0031	0017
Feature No.	0016	0025	0024	0024	0032	0018
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	ph	ph	ph	qp
Plant macrofossils						
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		xcf				
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxx	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	xxx		x	x
Charred root/stem		x	x			
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material	x	x	x	x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay			x			
Burnt stone		x	x			
Mineralised soil concretions		x				
Vitrified material	x			x		
Small coal frags.					x	x
Sample volume (litres)	16	16	8	8	8	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4. Plant macrofossils and other remains

(Key to Table: x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 10-50 specimens, xxx = 50-100 specimens, b = burnt, ph = posthole, qp = quarry pit)

Results

Although small charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, other plant macrofossils were extremely scarce. Sample 3, from a fill within ditch 0025, contained a single small fragment of possible hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and pieces of charred root/stem were noted within Samples 3 and 4 (post-hole 0024). All six samples contained black porous and tarry residues and occasional pieces of vitreous material, all of which were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at extremely high temperatures. Splinters of burnt stone were also noted within Samples 3 and 4. Small coal fragments were recorded within the assemblages from Samples 6 (posthole 0032) and 7 (quarry pit 0018).

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages are all extremely small and sparse and it would appear most likely that all are derived from scattered refuse, much of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Despite this, they do illustrate that charred plant remains are preserved within the archaeological horizon, most notably within the post-hole fills. Therefore, if further archaeological intervention is planned within this area of Wenhasston, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all well sealed and dated contexts, and most particularly from any pit or post-hole fills. Ditch assemblages are

frequently difficult to interpret, as the source of any recovered material is generally unclear. However, additional samples should be taken from any ditch intersections, from ditch termini and from the corners of any ditched enclosures. Further ditch samples can be taken at the discretion of the excavator. All samples should be stored in cool, dark conditions prior to processing and processing should be undertaken with a minimum of delay. All relevant context details should accompany the samples at all times.

Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The evaluation has provided a valuable opportunity to gain further knowledge on the nature and date of the Roman settlement at Wenhaston through a controlled excavation from which stratified finds could be recovered, as well as metal detected objects.

The largest proportion (93%) of the pottery assemblage is Roman with the most diagnostic fabrics and forms dating from the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries. None of the forms or fabrics which characterise the earliest or latest Roman periods are present in this assemblage which consists mainly of local and regional coarsewares and just a very small proportion of imported finewares represented by samian from Central and East Gaulish production centres. This is a very typical composition for a rural assemblage indicating that the inhabitants of this site relied mainly on local or regional sources for their pottery requirements but also had access to markets where finer products were sold.

The Roman pottery was collected from a limited number of features or unstratified in five of the six evaluation trenches (1-3, 5 and 6) and there were no real concentrations in any of them. The total number of sherds from each was four or less except in Trench 1 which produced nine sherds. Without exception however, the pottery from every context is very abraded and appears to have been through a very long deposition cycle and does not suggest intense activity on this site during the Roman period.

The ceramic building material assemblage shows a standard range of fabrics and forms for the Roman period. There is no structural evidence to suggest the possibility of hypocausted rooms which would imply a higher status building.

The copper alloy small finds demonstrate a wide date-range within the Roman period and include both earlier and later material than is present in the pottery assemblage. The remains of the Colchester brooch is early, but the silvered coin is likely to date to the late 4th century. Both these finds were metal detected and unstratified. The remains of the mount (SF 1006) may perhaps have a military connection, although it is in very bad condition and difficult to identify with certainty. It bears some similarities to a circular military belt fitting from Bear House Field 1, Caerleon, which has been dated to c.130-230 AD (Chapman, 2005).

Post-Roman finds are few and all are unstratified or found in the topsoil. They include several sherds of medieval and post-medieval coarseware pottery and roof tile and the post-medieval copper alloy buckle plate.

Plant macrofossils, although sparse, demonstrate the potential for preservation within the archaeological horizon.

5 Discussion and Conclusions

A number of archaeologically significant features were recorded during the evaluation. Two of these clearly represent cropmarks that were visible on aerial photographs of the area, although a feature relating to a third cropmark was not evident within the trenched area. The depositional sequence was consistent across the site, with a buried soil horizon evident in all trenches over the geological natural (0009), and sealed by the topsoil/modern plough horizon (0007). This buried soil was in places mixed and in places more homogenous, perhaps indicating different activity across the site. It was recorded as deposits (0033/0008), (0034), (0041), (0045), and (0046). Negative features were evident that either cut or were sealed by the buried soil horizon, indicating at least three pre-modern phases for activity on the site.

The stratigraphically earliest of these features, a roughly E-W aligned linear feature represented by [0025], [0030] and [0037] superficially appears to be a simple boundary ditch. At its base however, the feature is clearly slot-like, with near vertical sides and a flat base which is suggestive of a structural slot. This is best seen in the profile of the portion excavated in Trench 3. It seems conceivable that this slot once held a structure like a palisade. The upper portions of the feature more closely resemble a V-profile ditch. It is considered likely that this has been caused by the collapse of the top edges of the slot where it was cut into friable sand, rather than the slot being re-cut by a ditch. It is notable that the steepest and most slot-like profile was evident where the feature was cut into more stable sandy gravel in Trench 3. This feature matches the position of one of the cropmarks on the AP plot. This feature was not well dated by the finds assemblage. The uppermost fill contained Roman period finds from the late 2nd to mid 3rd Century AD, by which time the feature was out of use.

Also stratigraphically early were two intercutting features [0018] and [0020]. Feature [0020] was a rectangular pit feature. This contained few finds so is unlikely to have been for rubbish disposal. A more likely function is for quarrying of the sandy natural geology. The shape of feature [0018] is unclear as it extended under the trench edge. It may have been a pit similar to [0020] but alternatively may have been linear slot. Indeed, when the fill was sampled at the trench edge it appeared that the northern edge of the feature was present within 0.30m of the trench edge. The backfill of [0018] was notable for the presence of rectangular turves, although what this indicates about the purpose of the feature is unclear.

In Trench 3 a couple of discrete features were recorded beneath the buried soil. The small feature [0032] had the form of a small post-hole, but equally could be part of animal disturbance. Feature [0024] on the other hand, was much larger and had a relatively clear post-pipe where a large diameter post was once set. That post-hole also appeared to have been re-dug with a post-hole of similar size to [0032] cut into the top of post-hole [0024]. The type of structure represented by these post-holes is unclear due to the relatively small area sampled by the trenching, and neither can be dated from finds.

A number of features were recorded as cutting the buried soil horizon. The linear feature running the length of Trench 6 [0016] was along the boundary of the field with the road and probably served as a field boundary in the past. The date for the original track that is now Narrow Way may give some indication of the date of the boundary ditch. The desktop survey undertaken for the work at 14 Narrow Way indicates that the site was common land until enclosed in about 1760, although what is now Narrow Way

may have been the route to the home of Thomas Thrower prior to this date. (Boulter, 1998.) It is likely therefore that this was a medieval or later feature. A similar feature [0042] was present in Trench 3, also adjacent to the modern field boundary.

Lastly, two phases of a boundary ditch were seen in Trench, that matched another of the aerial photograph cropmarks. This SW-NE aligned ditch [0010] and its re-cut [0012] were not picked up in any of the other trenches, which may indicate that the ditch terminates to the north of the possible palisade trench, as is suggested by the aerial photograph cropmark. This ditch sequence can be dated to the Roman period from the finds assemblage.

The preliminary findings of this evaluation are that deposits of archaeological importance do survive on the development site. The shallow character of these deposits and the nature of the light sandy soils means that they will inevitably be disturbed by development on the site. It is therefore recommended that a suitable programme of archaeological mitigation be developed to ensure the preservation or preservation by record of these archaeological deposits.

Report No. 2009/059
 OASIS ID No. suffolkc1 - 53781
 Duncan Stirk, for SCCAS, March 2009

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.



6 Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND NORTH OF 7-14 NARROW WAY, WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of 6no. affordable houses with new access and parking on Land North of 7 to 14, Narrow Way, Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet (TM 4290 7544), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/2050).
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 0.44 ha, on the western side of the River Blythe (see accompanying plan). It is situated on glaciofluvial drift and chalky till (deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils) at c. 18 - 22.00m AOD, sloping west to east.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a known area of extensive archaeological activity. It is situated within an area of enclosures and field systems, recorded as cropmarks by aerial photography (WMH 004). Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds scatters, indicative of further occupation deposits, are recorded from the same area. There is high potential to encounter important occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as a first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, the following work is required:

Collation and assessment of historic documentation, including all cartographic sources and aerial photographs, relevant to the site to identify historic landuse and the siting of old boundaries and which would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site. Where possible copies should be included in the report.

non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.

A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place, informed by the results of the previous two surveys.

This will form part of an integrated evaluation strategy for the project, and may require subsequent geophysical survey; if required, a separate specification will be also issued for this work.

- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.7 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.

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

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 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 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 SCCAS/CT (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: Assessment of Historic Documentation, including Aerial Photographs**

3.1 Collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and any earlier buildings. Where possible copies should be included in the report.

3.2 Collation and assessment of historic documentation relevant to the site that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

3.3 Re-assessment of aerial photographic evidence and, where relevant, a replotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist with relevant experience at a scale of 1:2500. It should be possible to obtain residual errors of less than $\pm 2\text{m}$. Rectification of extant mapped features such as field boundaries and buildings shall be undertaken in order to give additional indication of accuracy of the transcription.

4. **Specification: Non-destructive Field Survey**

4.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (0.44 ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

5. **Specification: Trenched Evaluation**

5.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 220.00m². These 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 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 122.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.

5.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

5.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

5.4 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

5.5 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. For guidance: For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width; For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 5.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 5.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 5.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 5.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

6. General Management

- 6.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 6.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 6.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

- 6.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 6.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 6.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

7. Report Requirements

- 7.1 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).
- 7.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 7.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 7.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 7.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 7.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 7.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 7.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 7.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 7.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds

there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

- 7.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 7.15 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 7.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 7.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 7.18 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.
- 7.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper
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Date: 3 July 2008 Reference: / NarrowWay-WenhastonwithMells2008

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.

Appendix II: Context List and Descriptions

OP	Description
0001	Unstratified finds from machining of trench 1
0002	Unstratified finds from machining of Trench 2
0003	Unstratified finds from machining of Trench 3
0004	Unstratified finds from machining of Trench 4
0005	Unstratified finds from machining of Trench 5
0006	Unstratified finds from machining of Trench 6
0007	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles. Friable. Topsoil across site. 0.25m to 0.45m thick.
0008	Mixed mid brownish grey silt sand, mid brown sand and light brown sand. Buried soil horizon, possibly plough-soil.
0009	Pale to mid yellow brown silty sand, orange brown sand with dark brown manganese mottles, and mid grey gravelly sand. Variable natural.
0010	NE-SW aligned ditch. Sharp break of slope top, moderate to straight concave sides, gradual break of slope at base, concave base. Probable field boundary ditch. 0.91m wide x >2.4m long x 0.32m deep.
0011	Light to mid orangy brown sand. Fill of ditch [0010] Homogenous fill suggesting natural silting process. 0.91m wide x >2.4m long x 0.32m thick.
0012	NE-SW aligned ditch. Sharp break of slope top, moderate concave sides, sharp break of slope at base, flat base. Re-cut of probable field boundary ditch [0010]. 1.04m wide x >2.9m long x 0.23m deep.
0013	Light to mid orangy brown sand. Fill of ditch [0012]. Mixed deposit suggests intentional backfill or later animal disturbance. 1.04m wide x >2.9m long x 0.23m thick.
0014	Mid grey brown silty sand mottled with orangy brown sand towards top of fill. Friable, with frequent modern roots and occasional small flint pebbles. Secondary fill of probable field boundary ditch [0016]. 1.05m wide x >1.0m slot x 0.42m thick.
0015	Mid orangy brown sand with occasional small pebbles. Friable. Primary fill of probable field boundary ditch [0016]. Probable slumping of natural down sides of ditch. 0.40m wide x >1.0m slot x 0.13m thick.
0016	WNW-ESE aligned ditch. Sharp break of slope top, moderate convex sides, sharp break of slope at base, concave base. Probable field boundary ditch adjacent to and parallel with modern road. 1.05m wide x >1.0m long x 0.64m deep.
0017	Mixed dark brown grey silty sand and orange brown sand and mid brown sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles. Fill of a large possible pit or slot [0018]. Inclusions in fill look like turves. >0.38m wide x 3.32m long x 0.47m thick.
0018	Linear in plan, sharp break of slope at top, steep concave sides, gradual break of slope at base, flat base. Possible quarry pit. >0.38m wide x 3.32m long x 0.47m deep.
0019	Mid brown sand mottled with orange brown sand. Occasional small pebbles. Fill of possible quarry pit [0020]. >0.62m wide x 2.12m long (1.14m excavated slot) x 0.40m thick.
0020	Sub-rectangular in plan, sharp break of slope at top, moderate to steep concave sides, gradual break of slope at base, sloping base. Cut of possible quarry pit. >0.62m wide x 2.12m long (1.14m excavated slot) x 0.40m deep.
0021	Mixed mid brown sand with lenses of dark brownish grey silt sand and grey brown silty sand. Occasional small pebbles. Buried soil horizon, possible a plough-soil. Present trenchwide and 0.27m thick.
0022	Mottled brownish grey and mid brown silty sand. Moderate flecks and small charcoal and occasional small pebbles. Friable. Fill of post-pipe in post-hole [0024]. 0.55m wide x 0.95m long x 0.50m thick.
0023	Mottled mid brown and orangy brown sand, with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional small pebbles. Friable. Primary packing fill in large post-hole [0024]. 0.70m wide x 1.01m long x 0.58m thick
0024	Sub-oval shape in plan. Sharp break of slope at top, steep straight sides, sharp break of slope at base, concave base. Cut of large post-hole, with re-cut for replacement post visible but not excavated. 0.70m wide x 1.01m long x 0.58m deep.
0025	NE-SW aligned ditch. Sharp break of slope at top, steep convex sides, sharp break of slope at base, flat base. Cut of ditch or possible palisade trench. 0.96m wide x >1.52m (0.8m excavated slot) x 0.62m. Same as [0030] in Tr 2 and [0037] in Tr 5.
0026	Light to mid brownish grey sand mottled with light orangy brown sand. Secondary fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0025]. 1.36m wide x >1.52m (0.8m excavated slot) x 0.50m thick.

Appendix II: Context List and Descriptions

OP	Description
0027	Light orange sand trending to light brown at base of fill. Primary fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0025]. Fill largely derived from eroded natural sides of ditch. 0.40m wide x 0.8m excavated slot x 0.20m thick.
0028	Banded mid to dark grey silt sand and mid grey brown silt sand and light grey brown sand at base. Friable, with moderate small pebbles. Secondary fill of ditch or palisade trench [0030]. 0.80m wide x 1.52m long (0.82m excavated slot) x 0.62m thick.
0029	Mottled orange brown sand and light grey sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles. Primary fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0030], derived from slumping natural sides of cut. 0.27m wide x 0.82m excavated slot x 0.23m thick.
0030	NE-SW aligned linear feature. Sharp break of slope at top, steep to vertical convex sides, sharp break of slope base, flat base. Cut of ditch or palisade trench. 0.8m wide x >1.52m long (0.82m excavated slot) x 0.75m deep. Same as [0025] & [0037].
0031	Mottled mid to dark grey silt sand and mid brown sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles. Fill of possible post-hole [0032]. 0.37m wide x >0.22m x 0.23m thick.
0032	Circular shape in plan. Sharp break of slope at top, steep to vertical straight sides, sharp break of slope at base, concave base. Cut of possible post-hole. 0.37m wide x >0.22m x 0.23m deep.
0033	Light orange sand mottled with light grey sand. Buried soil horizon, possibly a plough-soil. Present trenchwide and 0.19m thick. Same as deposit (0008).
0034	Light to mid greyish brown sand with mid grey sand mottles. Buried soil horizon, possibly a plough-soil. Present trenchwide and 0.35m thick.
0035	Mid brownish grey silt sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles. Secondary fill of ditch [0016]. Equivalent to (0014). 0.49m wide x 1.0m excavated slot x 0.11m thick.
0036	Mid brown sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles and occasional manganese lumps. Primary fill of ditch [0016]. Equivalent to (0015). 0.43m wide x 1.0m excavated slot x 0.18m thick.
0037	NE-SW aligned linear feature. Sharp break of slope top, steep to vertical convex sides, sharp break of slope base, flat base. Cut of ditch or possible palisade trench. 0.96m wide x >4.54m (1.18m exc slot) x 0.70m deep. Same as [0025] & [0030].
0038	Mid to dark brown silty sand. Moderately compact with occasional small pebbles. Final fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0037]. 0.92m wide x 1.18m excavated slot x 0.29m thick.
0039	Dark brown silty sand. Moderate compaction. Secondary fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0037]. 0.42m wide x >1.18m excavated slot x 0.17m thick.
0040	Light orangy brown silty sand. Loose with occasional small pebbles. Primary fill of ditch or possible palisade trench [0037]. Fill largely derived from natural sand eroded from sides of cut. 0.29m wide x 1.18m excavated slot x 0.26m thick.
0041	Mid to dark brown silty sand. Friable with occasional small pebbles and occasional flecks charcoal. Buried soil horizon, possibly a plough-soil. Trenchwide and 0.15m to 0.36m thick.
0042	NE-SW aligned feature. Sharp break of slope top, moderate concave sides, gradual break of slope base, concave base. Cut of possible linear feature. >0.96m wide x >1.52m long x 0.40m deep.
0043	Dark brown mottled black silty sand. Moderate compaction. Secondary fill of possible ditch [0042]. 0.96m wide x >1.52m long x 0.20m thick.
0044	Light grey silty sand. Moderately compact. Primary fill of possible ditch [0042] 0.60m wide x >1.52m long x 0.20m thick.
0045	Mid brownish grey silt sand mottled with light brown sand at base. Friable. Buried soil horizon, possibly a plough-soil. Trench wide and 0.18m to 0.28m thick.
0046	Mid brown grey silt sand mottled with light brown sand. Friable. Buried soil horizon, possibly a plough-soil. Trenchwide and circa 0.10m thick.

APPENDIX III: CBM											
Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Abr	Height	Width	Length	Comments	Date	Kept
0001	msfe	TEG	1	154					Flange width 20mm, slightly overhung	R	YES
0001	mscp	RBT	2	156						R	Y
0001	msq	RBT	1	36						R	Y
0001	fscp	RBT	1	39						R	Y
0001	fscp	RBT	1	42						R	Y
0001	fscp	RBT	1	87						R	Y
0001	msf	RBT	1	85						R	Y
0002	msf	RBT	1	405						R	Y
0002	fscp	RBT	1	55						R	Y
0002	ms	RBT?	1	14						R	Y
0002	fs	RT	1	26					Probably late med/post-med	M/PM	Y
0003	msf	RBT	1	460						R	Y
0003	ms	RT?	1	47					Curved, but not imbrex, post-R	M?PM?	Y
0004	fscp	RBT?	1	14						R	Y
0004	fsfe	RBT?	1	7					Laminated	R	Y
0004	ms	RBT?	1	2						R	Y
0006	fscp	RBT	1	135	A					R	Y
0006	msfe	RBT?	2	8						R	Y
0011	msfe	RBT	1	45	A				Abraded	R	Y
0013	msfe	IMB	1	43	A					R	Y
0013	msf	RBT	1	138						R	Y
0013	msfe	IMB?	1	41						R	Y
0026	mscp	RBT	1	6	AA					R	Y
0028	mscp	RBT	1	47						R	Y
0038	msfe	RBT	1	31						R	Y
0036	fsc	RBT?	2	3						R	Y

APPENDIX IV: Small Finds

ID	Small find no	Context	Period	Material	Object Name	Finds category	No of frags	Weight	Dimensions (Length)	Dimensions (Width)	Dimensions (Depth)	Diameter	X-ray number	Comments
1	1001	0007	UNK	COPPER ALLOY	UNID		1	12	0	0	0	0		Irregular fragment, burnt and molten lump
2	1002	0007	ROM	COPPER ALLOY	BROOCH		1	3	44	0	0	0		Pin of Colchester-type brooch, with coil spring, 25-60 AD
3	1003	0007	ROM	COPPER ALLOY/SILVER	COIN		1	1	0	0	13	0		Fragmentary and abraded remains of a copper alloy coin coated with silver. Poss a Late 4th C forgery
4	1004	0007	SAX	COPPER ALLOY	BUCKLE		1	2	24	0	0	0		Fragment of gilded buckle plate, originally decorated but now too damaged. 12th-13th C
5	1005	0005	ROM	COPPER ALLOY	PROBE		1	4	69	0	0	0		Fragment of shaft of a cosmetic or medical implement, broken at both ends? Crummy 60-61
6	1006	0004	ROM	COPPER ALLOY	MOUNT		1	4	26	0	0	0		Flat sheet with remains of two large rivets. Peltate mount, poss military (JP, pers comm).
7	1007	0005?		WOOD	UNID		1	0	0	0	0	7		Small fragment of ?turned wood, diameter 7mm. Has parallel grooves/indentations.

APPENDIX V : Pottery							
Ctxt	Fabric	sherd	No.	Wt./g	Form	Notes	Spotdate
0002	GMB	b	1	4		Oxidised core. Abraded	Rom
0003	BSW	b	1	5		Abraded	Rom
	GX	b	1	3		Abraded	Rom
	SACG	b	1	4		Very abraded	125-200 AD
0005	SACG	b	1	5	Dr 37	Double medallion. Very abraded	125-200 AD
0007	STAF	b	1	16		Abraded	L. 17th-18th C.
	HOLL	r	1	4		Hollesley-type grey ware	L13th-14th C.
	MCW	b	2	6			12th-14th C.
	BSW	r	1	4		120mm, 9%)	Rom
	GX	r	2	24	jar	Two separate vessels (not measureable)	Rom
	GX	r	1	9	6.18	Rim 31 v abraded	MC2-MC3
	GX	b	16	64		Misc. bodysherds, very abraded	Rom
	STOR	b	1	12	SJar	Very abraded	Rom
0011	GMG	b	1	12		Abraded	Rom
	GX	ba	1	2	6 dish	Dish base. V. abraded	Rom
	GX	b	1	34	jar	Jar. Abraded	Rom
	SACG	r	1	2		Very abraded	125-200 AD
0013	GMB	r	2	20	3.10		MC2-MC3
	GX	b	2	16		Abraded	Rom
	GX	r	1	5			Rom
0019	STOR	b	1	90	SJar	Thick bodysherd	Rom
0026	GMG	b	1	12			Rom
	GX	b	1	5		Abraded	Rom
0038	GX	r	1	4	6 dish	Dish or bowl (c. 200mm,4%)	Rom
	SAEG	r	1	1	6 Dr33	Abraded	LC2-MC3
0044	GMB	b	1	10		Very pitted and abraded	Rom

(Key: b = bodysherd, r = rimsherd)