

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/003

Land to the Rear of Deben Court, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market WKM 023

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by McCann Homes and the archaeological work was specified by Jess Tipper and monitored by William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological project assistants, (Beth Barham, Michelle Wright and Sabre Hennessy) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney and managed by Rhodri Gardner. Advice during the production of the report was provided by Jo Caruth.

Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds and environmental assessment reports by Richenda Goffin and Cathy Tester. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton. Post excavation assistance was provided by Gemma Adams, finds illustrations were produced by Donna Wreathall.

Summary

Excavation carried out in advance of redevelopment of land to the rear of Deben Court, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market identified a ditch and two pits, all of which were Iron Age in date. The earlier evaluation had identified the ditch and three further pits. A large portion of the north part of the site was subject to modern disturbance.

HER information

Planning application no.	C/08/0012/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	6th to 7th October 2008 and 3rd to 7th November 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 3047 5555
Funding body:	McCann Homes
Oasis reference	suffolkc1_54999

1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was undertaken prior to proposed residential development on land to the rear of Deben Court, Wickham Market (C/08/0012/FUL). The work was carried out between 3rd and 7th November 2008, following consultation with William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team (CT)). The excavation rapidly followed the evaluation, the results of which will be incorporated into this report. The work was funded by the developer McCann Homes.

1.1 Geology and Topography

The site lies at TM 3047 5555 on the east side of Chapel Lane to the rear of Deben Court in Wickham Market (Figs. 1 and 2). The development area was T-shaped in plan measuring approximately 0.58 hectares, bounded to the north, east and south by hedgerows; whilst the area was open to the west towards Deben Court. The land sloped very gently down from the west to the east and was between 25.2 and 27m OD. The underlying geology comprises orangey yellow sands and gravels.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest although few interventions have taken place in the immediate vicinity. A 3rd century AD Roman coin hoard contained in a greyware jar was found 0.9km to the north during construction work on Border Cot Lane (WKM 004), flint artefacts and a Roman *fibula* brooch were recovered from a field on the north side of the next village of Pettistree, 0.7km to the south-west of the development area.

The first edition OS map (Fig. 3) dating to approximately 1880 shows Deben Court as Plomesgate Union Workhouse with little deviation from the present layout with the exception of the 20th century block on the east side of the complex. The development area is shown as an open field with the same boundaries as the present plot. The second edition map shows little or no change to this configuration.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The evaluation was designed to determine the nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area as the first stage of a phased archaeological programme to mitigate the impact of the proposed development. On the basis of the results of the evaluation a small portion of the site was subject to an open area excavation to preserve by record the archaeological remains encountered and to attempt to reconstruct the history and use of the site with particular reference to origins, character, function and significance of the activities.

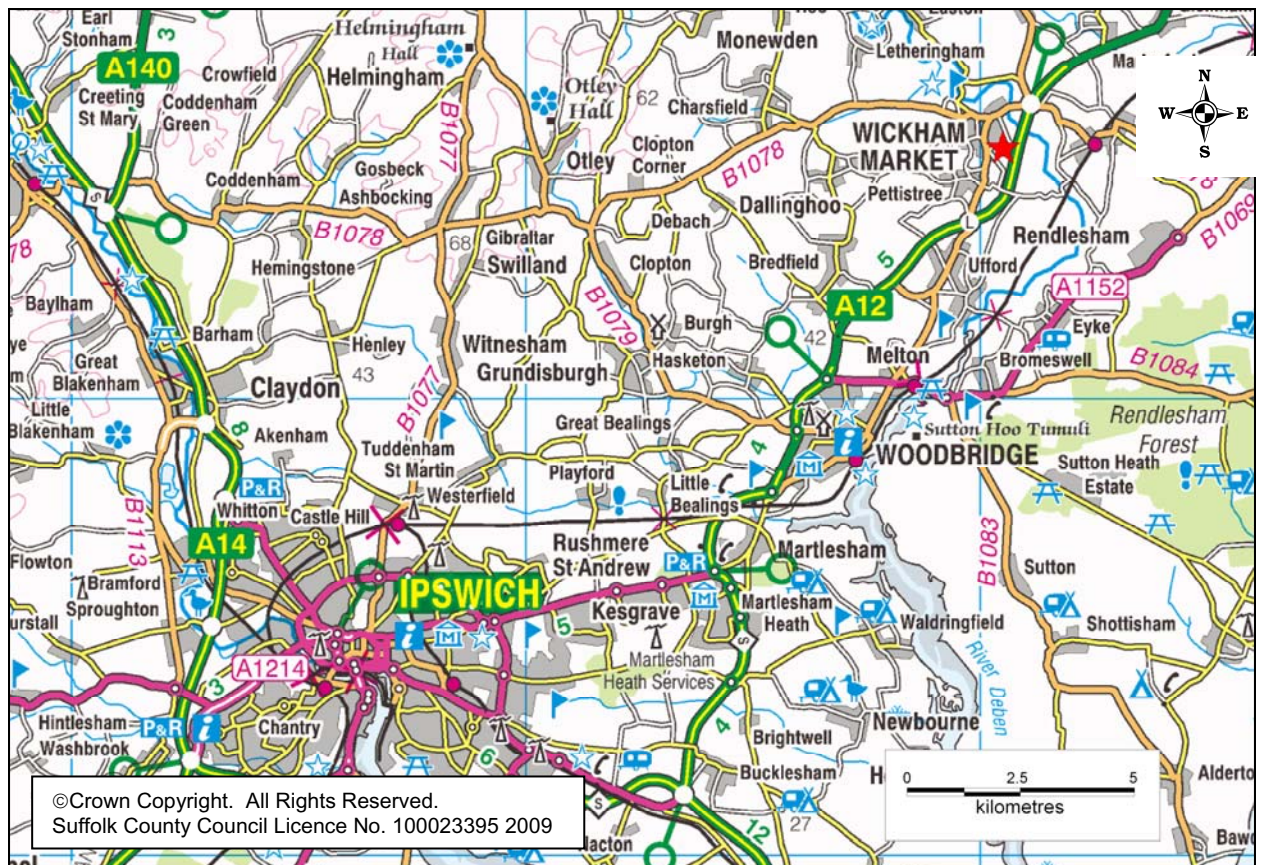


Figure 1. Wickham Market, site location marked by red star

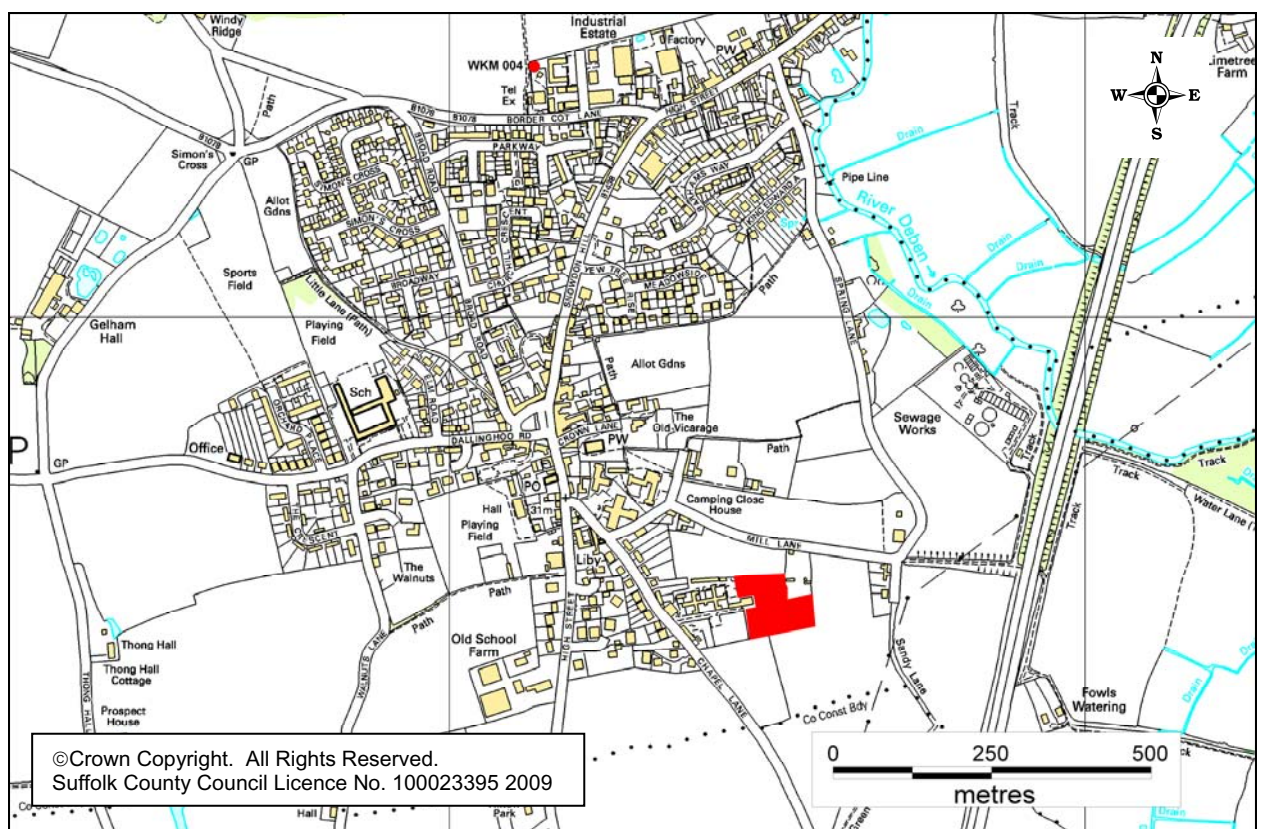


Figure 2. Development area shaded in red

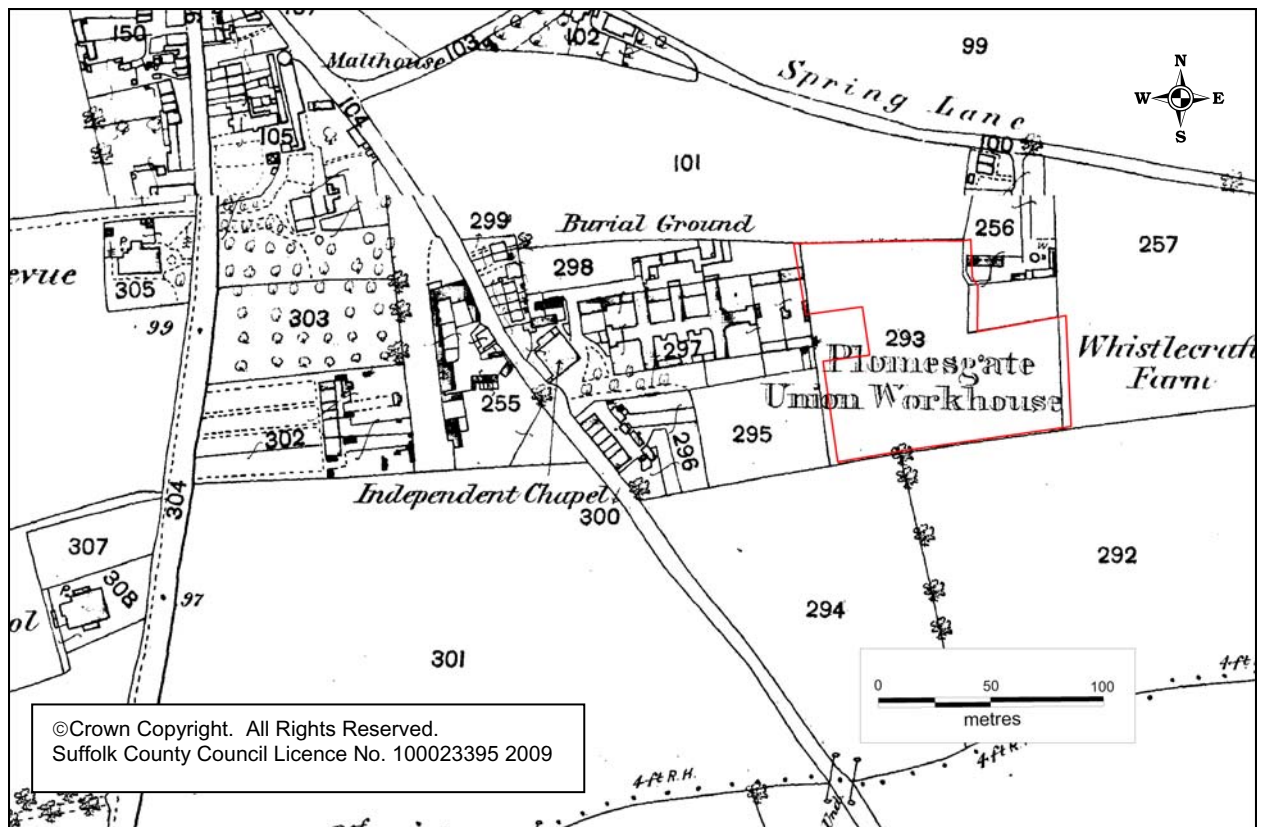


Figure 3. 1st Edition OS map

2. Methodology

Three phases of archaeological investigation were undertaken at Deben Court, a contour survey, trenched evaluation and open area excavation.

2.1 The Contour Survey

Prior to the evaluation, undulations in the ground surface had been observed. These were initially interpreted as possible relics of medieval platforms and/or boundaries, therefore a topographic survey was undertaken using a total station theodolite (Fig. 4). The results of the contour survey were inconclusive; however, the trench plan was designed to investigate identified areas of varying height.

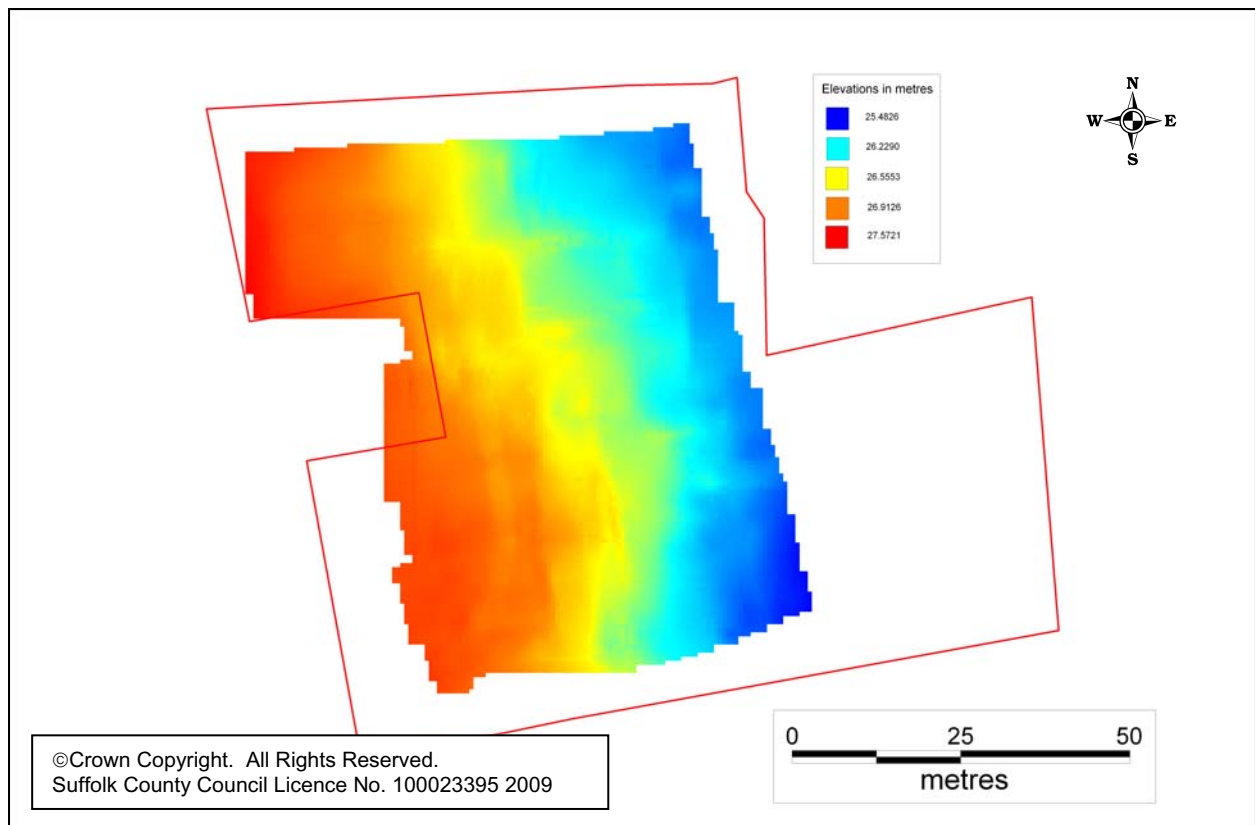


Figure 4. Contour Survey

2.2 The Evaluation

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Jess Tipper (Appendix 1). This required the excavation of 5% of the 0.58 hectare development area by linear trenches. Five trenches were excavated totalling 296m², representing 5.1% of the available area, using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The presence of overhead electricity cables running diagonally across the area from north-west to south-east restricted the location of the trenches and the subsequent excavation area. Designated open spaces within the development area that would not be disturbed during construction were not subject to intervention.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines. All records were created using SCCAS proformas. Black and white photographs and high resolution digital images were taken of all relevant features and deposits. The trench locations were surveyed using differential GPS. All finds were retained for inspection. No environmental samples were taken.

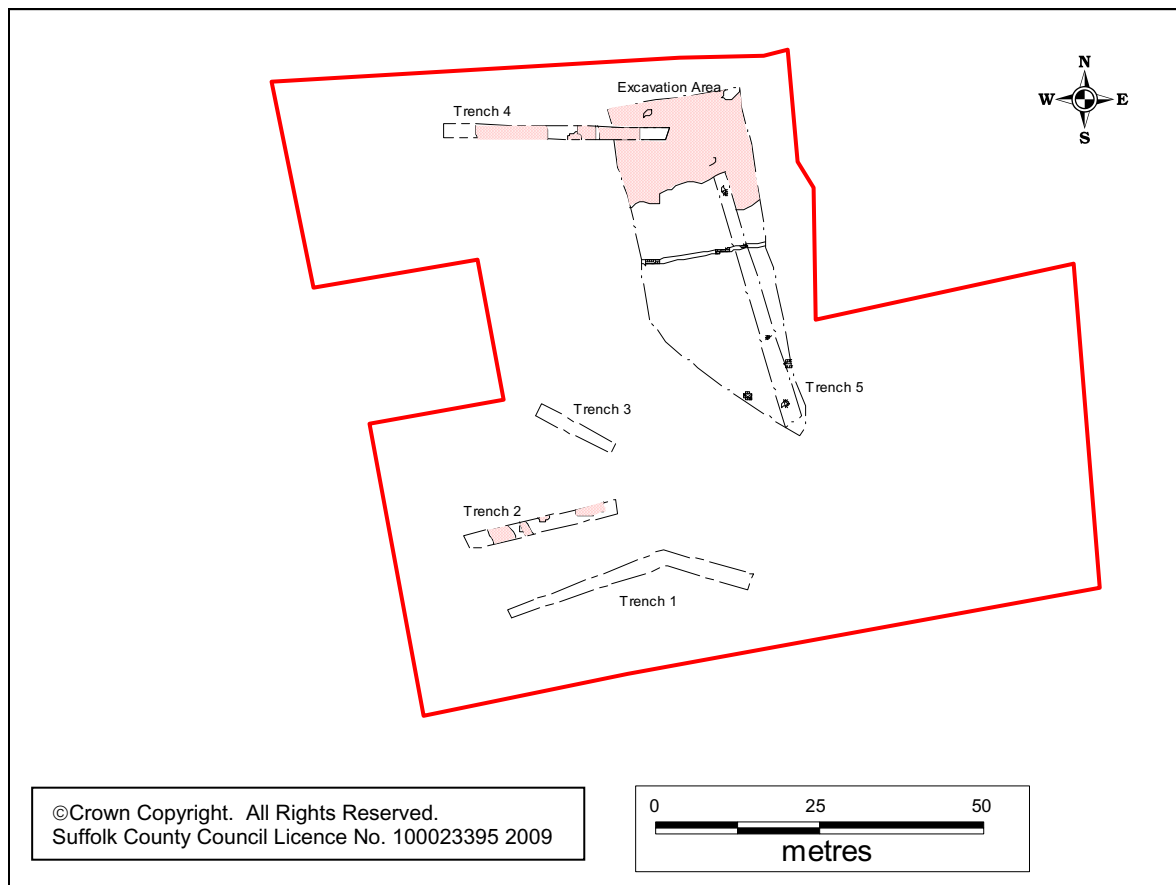


Figure 5. Location of evaluation trenches and excavation area

2.3 The Excavation

The excavation was carried out four weeks after completion of the evaluation before the findings of the evaluation had been reported upon and as such no brief/specification was produced for the excavation. The excavation area limits (Fig. 5) were defined in consultation with the development control officer (William Fletcher, SCCAS/CT) and were designed to target the features encountered in the evaluation centred on Trench 5.

The area was stripped using a 5.6 tonne tracked 360 excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological deposits were encountered.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines. All archaeological features were recorded using a single-context continuous numbering system, commencing from 0101, in order to avoid duplication of context numbers used during the evaluation and recorded using SCCAS proforma record sheets. This was supplemented by black and white, and digital colour photographs of all relevant features and deposits, and hand-drawn plans at 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate.

All finds were retained for inspection. No environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is kept in the main SCCAS store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. WKM 023.

3. Results

Full context descriptions are included in Appendix 2; soil descriptions are only included in the text where appropriate. Unless otherwise stated all features cut natural layer 0004 and were sealed by subsoil 0003.

3.1 The Evaluation (Fig. 6)

A small number of features were encountered in Trenches 1 to 4. Trench 5 was subsumed within the excavation area and will be described in Section 3.2. Topsoil 0002 was uniform across the site and was described as friable mid brownish grey silty sand with some clay content measuring between 0.35 and 0.45m in depth. This deposit sealed a number of modern features which cut into the subsoil 0003, a soft mid brown silty sand varying in depth from 0.10m in Trench 1 to 0.65m in Trench 5. All pre-modern features cut the natural sands and gravels 0004 and were sealed by subsoil 0003.

Trench 1

A single modern ditch 0007 was recorded in Trench 1 (Section 4, Fig. 7). It was recorded as being 2.65m in width and 0.95m deep with a steep, stepped south-west side (the north-east side was unclear) and a flat base. The single fill 0008 contained modern debris including bottle glass and a mixture of prehistoric and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located towards the south side of the site and was oriented east-north-east to west-south-west.

Pit 0006 was located towards the centre of the trench; it was truncated to the east by a modern feature. It was sub-rounded in plan with gradual sides and a concave base. It measured 0.7m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.16m in depth. Its single fill 0005 contained twenty-one sherds of Iron Age pottery and two fragments of fired clay.

Four modern pits were also recorded in the trench, all of which extended beyond the limit of excavation; they were recorded in plan only.

Trench 4

This trench contained only multiple intercutting modern pits which were recorded in plan only. One was excavated by machine and found to be 3.2m in depth.

3.2 The Excavation (Fig. 6)

The excavation area was wedge-shaped in plan, the south-west side being determined by the presence of the overhead cables. It measured approximately 20m by 45m in area. Features were sparse, only two more pits were discovered beyond the ditch and three pits that had already been encountered in Trench 5 during the evaluation. Modern intrusions were extensive at the northern end with 16m of the available area entirely covered in intercutting pits containing 20th century pottery, modern metalwork and building debris. These pits were the continuation of features located in Trench 4 during the evaluation.

Ditch 0015/0103/0107 (Sections 5 and 13, Fig. 7) was aligned east to west and ran across the middle of the excavated area. It was recorded in both the evaluation and the

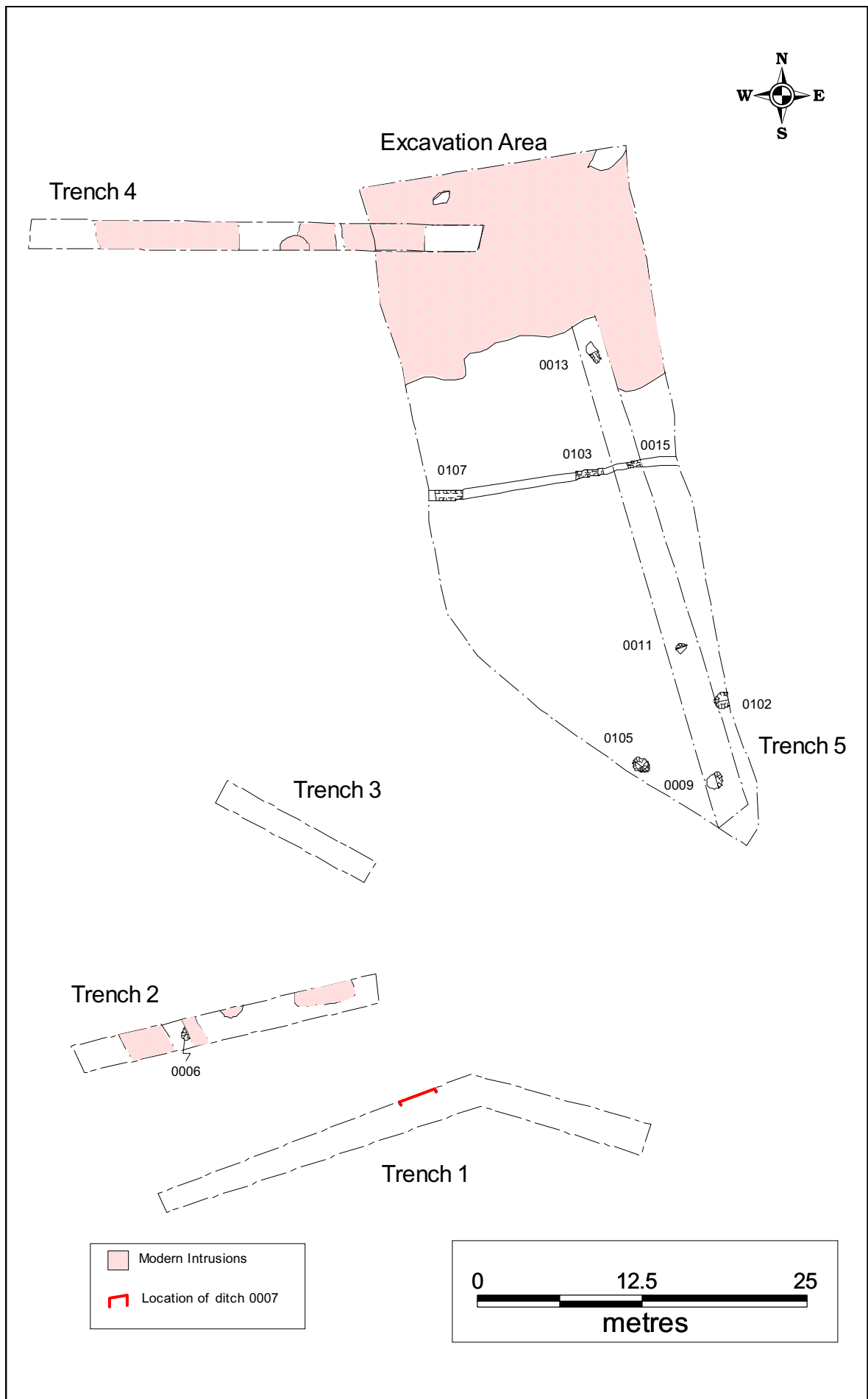


Figure 6. All-feature plan (evaluation and excavation)

excavation stages. It was a shallow linear feature with steep sides and a concave base. It measured between 0.41-0.56m in width and was approximately 0.14m in depth. A single fill (0014/ 0104/0105) was recorded in each segment, and artefacts were recovered from all segments. The finds assemblage included twelve sherds of Iron Age pottery, nine flint fragments (including core fragments and flakes), animal bone and one fragment of fired clay.

Pit 0009 (Section 1, Fig. 7) was located at the southern end of Trench 5, 5m to the east of pit 0105. It was sub-circular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base and was 1.4m in width and 0.21m in depth. The single fill 0010 contained four sherds of Iron Age pottery and four flint fragments.

Pit 0011 (Section 2, Fig. 7) was located 5m to the north of pit 0102 and was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 0.52m in width and 0.26m in depth. The single fill 0012 contained frequent medium to large stones on the base and against the sides of the pit. Lava quern fragments were retrieved in association with two flint fragments.

Pit 0013 (Section 3, Fig. 7) was located approximately 20m to the north of pit 0011 and was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 1.1m in width and 0.42m in depth. The single fill 0014 contained nine sherds of Iron Age pottery and nine flint fragments.

Pit 0102 (Section 10, Fig. 7) was located in the south-east of the area 5m to the south of pit 0011 and 5m to the north of pit 0009 and partially obscured by the baulk. The visible portion of the pit was circular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base and measured 0.1m in width by 0.24m in depth. Its single fill 0101 contained frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones; a few small bone fragments were retrieved from the upper part of the fill.

Pit 0105 (Section 12, Fig. 7) was located 5m to the west of pit 0009 and was oval in plan with gradual, slightly stepped sides and a concave base. It measured 1.4m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.25m in depth. Its single fill 0106 contained some charcoal staining and one sherd of Bronze Age pottery.

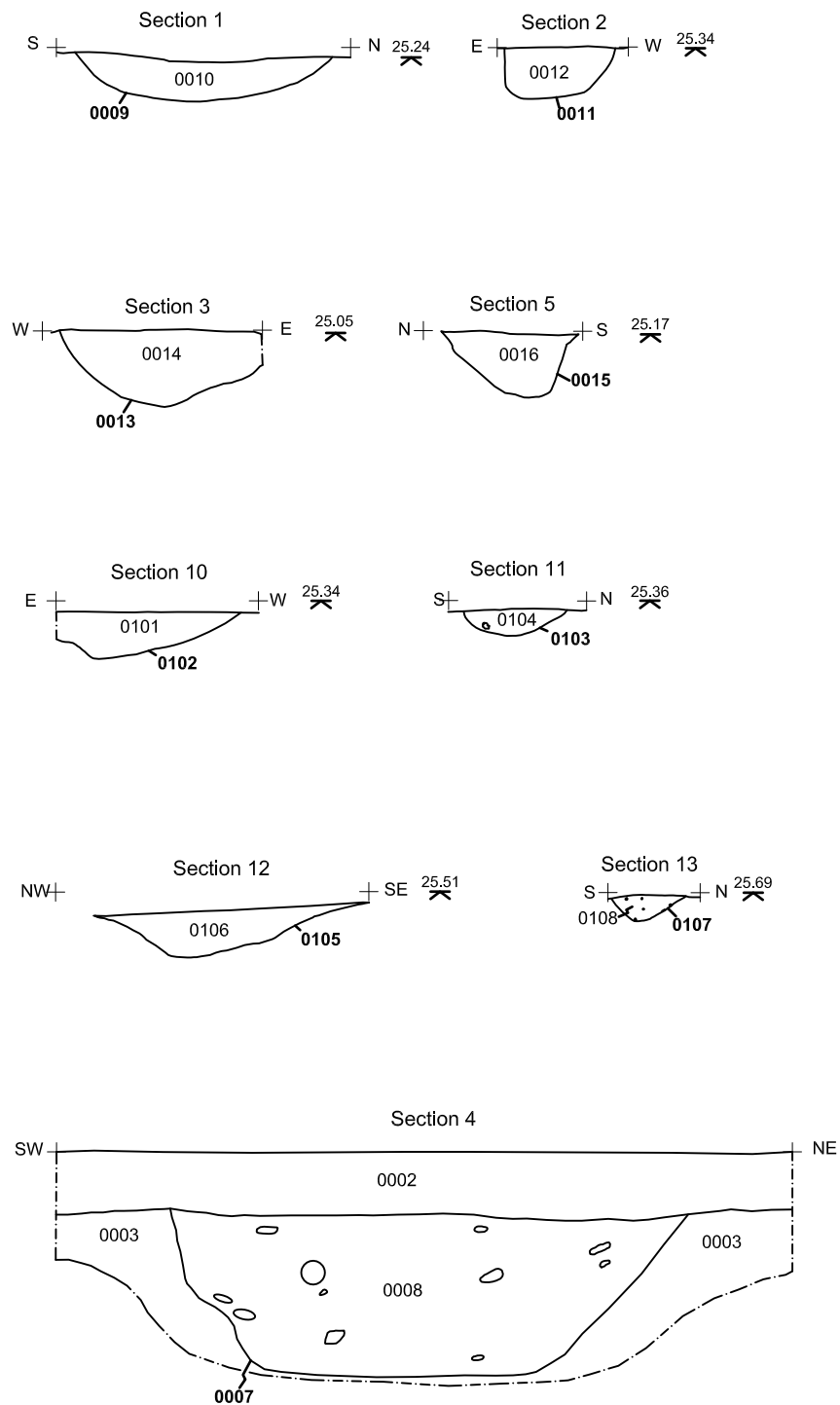


Figure 7. Sections (Scale 1:40)

4. The Finds and Environmental Evidence

by Cathy Tester

4.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from ten contexts during the evaluation and excavation, as shown in the table below.

Con- text	Pottery		Flint		Fired clay		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0005	21	245			2	6				Iron Age
0008					1	7			CBM 1-15g, Glass 1-33g	PMed
0010	7	26	4	9						Iron Age
0012			2	73					LQ 6-8g CH 1-2g	
0014	9	178	9	179	1	13			Bt Stone: 1-75g	Iron Age
0016	1	4	6	104						Iron Age
0101							20	39		
0104	2	18								Iron Age
0106	1	7								Bronze Age
0108	2	20					18	12		Iron Age
Total	43	498	21	365	4	26	38	51		

Table 1. Finds quantities.

4.2 Prehistoric pottery

Forty-three sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery weighing 498g and with an estimated vessel equivalent (Eve) of 0.49 based on five measureable rims were recovered from five excavated features, four pits and a ditch. The assemblage is almost exclusively of Iron Age date with just a single sherd that could be dated to the Bronze Age. The fabric quantities by period are summarised in Table 2 and detailed quantification by context is in Appendix 3.

Fabric	Code	No.	Wt./g	% Wt.
Grog-tempered	HMG	1	7	1.4
<i>Total Bronze Age wares</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Flint-tempered	HMF	9	96	19.3
Sand-tempered	HMS	17	241	48.4
Sand /organic tempered	HMSO	16	154	30.9
<i>Total Iron Age wares</i>		<i>42</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>98.6</i>
Total		43	498	100.0

Table 2. Prehistoric pottery fabric quantities

The pottery was quantified by count, weight and Eve. The wares were divided into broad fabric groups defined by their main visible inclusions. Details of fabric, form and form element were recorded and decoration and surface treatment were also noted. Each 'sherd family' was given a separate entry on the database table and an individual spotdate when possible. A x 10 binocular microscope was used to identify the fabrics. SCCAS pottery recording forms were used and the data has been input onto an Access database table.

Bronze Age

A single grog-tempered coarseware bodysherd with fingernail-impressed decoration from pit 0105 (0106) is Bronze Age, possibly Beaker coarseware.

Iron Age

Forty-two sherds (491g) in a mix of flint and sand-tempered fabrics are of Iron Age date. The pottery is in good condition with an average sherd weight of 11.7g.

Flint-tempered sherds (HMF) make up just under 20% by weight of the pottery assemblage. Apart from a single jar rim (140mm diameter) from pit 0013 (0014) which is upright, square and flat-topped, all are non-diagnostic bodysherds and all are undecorated.

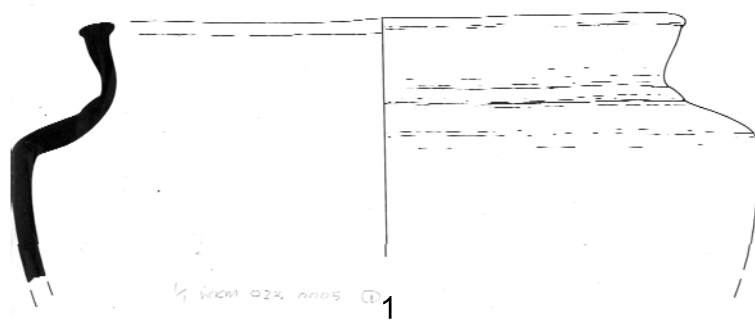
Sandy fabrics (HMS and HMSO) predominate, making up just under 80% of the pottery assemblage. Fabric HMS contains abundant medium to coarse quartz sand with occasional larger clear quartz grains, sub-angular opaque white quartz and some natural flint. HMSO is similar to HMS with the addition of organic (grass/chaff) inclusions. All are undecorated.

Forms identified are a large jar from pit 0006 (0005) in Trench 2 with an upright flattened rim (diameter 240mm) which overhangs externally and internally, a bead cordon at the base of the neck and a flattened out-turned shoulder-top which makes a very sharp carination (Fig. 8, 1). Another jar, also from pit 0005, has a simple upright rounded rim (140mm diameter) and an angular shoulder (Fig. 8, 2). A small fineware cup from pit 0009 (0010) in Trench 5 has a plain rim (80mm diameter) which is slightly thickened internally (Fig. 8, 3). A shallow bowl from pit 0013 (0014) in Trench 5 has a triangular rim (190mm diameter) thickened internally (Fig. 8, 4). Although none of the forms except No. 2 have close parallels, the predominance of sandy fabrics and the lack of decoration suggest a later Iron Age date for the assemblage.

4.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

A small abraded fragment of post-medieval brick (15g) made in a red-brown medium sandy fabric with few other inclusions was collected from ditch 0007 (0008) in Trench 1.

Seven abraded non diagnostic fragments of fired clay (26g) were recovered from three contexts. Two fragments from pit 0006 (0005) Trench 2 are a light buff-orange and contain fine sand and few other inclusions. An irregular fragment from pit 0013 (0014) Trench 5 has buff and a dark grey areas and a fine dense sandy fabric with organic (grass/chaff) impressions.



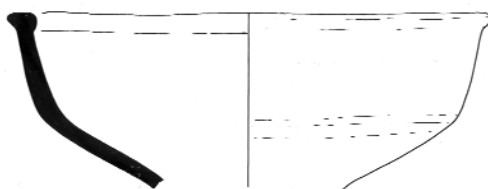
1



2



3



4

1. Jar, HMS, pit 0006 (0005)
2. Jar, HMSO, pit 0006 (0005)
3. Fineware cup, HMS, pit 0009 (0010)
4. Bowl, HMS, pit 0013 (0014)

Figure 8. Pottery Illustrations (Scale 1:3)

4.4 Miscellaneous

Flint (identified by Colin Pendleton)

Twenty-one fragments of struck flint were recovered from four cut features (two pits, a posthole and a ditch) in evaluation Trench 5. The flint is mid to dark grey and cortex, where present, is usually an off-white colour. All of the flint is unpatinated. The flint is summarised by type in Table 3 and listed by context in Appendix 4.

Type	No.
multi-platform flake core	5
shatter	2
flake	8
retouched flake	4
retouched fragment	1
utilised flake	1
Total	21

Table 3. Summary of flint types

The assemblage

Five multi-platform flake cores are present. All are irregular. Three of them have a number of long and short or squat flakes removed (0012, 0014, 0016). The other two have no obvious flakes removed (0014). A thick core trimming flake from the edge of a core was recovered from pit 0013 (0014). Two irregular shatter pieces were also recovered (0014 and 0016).

Eight unmodified flakes are present. These are mostly quite irregular, small and squat in shape. Three are hinge-fractured and one is snapped. One piece is classified as a long flake (0016) and has parallel flake scars on its dorsal face.

Four flakes (0010 0014 0016) and a fragment of natural flint (0016) with limited crude edge retouch were also present.

A long snapped flake has limited retouch on one edge and retouch or use-wear on the opposite edge (0012).

Discussion

Apart from two long flakes which show relatively fine workmanship and are probably Neolithic or early Bronze Age, most of the flint generally displays the characteristic standards of poor workmanship which typify later prehistoric assemblages. The flint is mostly irregular, hard-hammer struck and shows no evidence of careful core preparation. There are no formal implements. The flint was found with Iron Age pottery in three of the four contexts. A later Bronze Age or Iron Age date is suggested for the group.

Burnt stone

A fragment of a fire-altered quartzite pebble (75g) was present in pit 0013 (0014) in Trench 5.

Lava stone quern

Six very small fragments (8g) of Rhenish lava stone were collected from posthole 0011 (0012) in Trench 5. The material is undatable but is assumed to come from a hand-operated rotary quern which could be Roman, medieval or later.

Post-medieval bottle glass

A fragment of post-medieval bottle glass was collected from ditch 0007 (0008) in Trench 1.

Animal bone

Thirty-eight fragments of animal bone (51g) were found in two contexts. Preservation is poor and the material is very eroded and fragmentary. Twenty fragments (39g) from pit 0102 (0101) included sheep and other medium mammal long bone, rib and scapula fragments.

Eighteen fragments (12g) of a large or medium mammal long bone were recovered from the upper fill of ditch 0107 (0108) which also contained Iron Age pottery.

4.5 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The evaluation and excavation produced a modest assemblage composed mostly of prehistoric finds that indicate activity on this site mainly during the Iron Age, but also includes a small amount of earlier material which is Bronze Age or possibly Neolithic. Occupation of this date has not previously been recorded in the vicinity and this collection contributes quantified information which begins to establish the character of the activities carried out in the area during this period.

A small pottery assemblage was recovered from seven excavated features and represents domestic debris, mostly deposited within the fills of pits. Apart from a single Bronze Age sherd, most of the pottery is Iron Age, and it includes finewares and coarsewares, all undecorated. Sandy fabrics predominate, making up almost 80% of the total assemblage. The predominance of sandy fabrics and lack of decoration are both characteristics of later Iron Age assemblages.

A small assemblage of worked flint was collected from four contexts in Evaluation Trench 5. Apart from two pieces which are Neolithic or early Bronze Age and show evidence of relatively fine workmanship, most of the flint displays features of poor workmanship which characterise later prehistoric assemblages and a later Bronze Age or Iron Age date is suggested for the group. The recovery of Iron Age pottery from the same deposits may be more than coincidental.

Environmental evidence is sparse but given adverse soil conditions and the date of the deposits, the near lack of animal bone remains from this site is to be expected and that which is present is in very poor condition. Bone and shell are usually minimal in collections of this date unless accidentally preserved by burning.

Later finds are few. Ditch 0007 in Trench 1 produced post-medieval brick and bottle glass and Roman or post-Roman lava stone quern fragments were probably intrusive in one other feature.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The results of the evaluation and excavation indicate that there was some small scale prehistoric activity within the development area, all likely to date to the Iron Age. The low density of features encountered indicate that this was not the core of a settlement, however, the presence of pits and the recovered artefacts suggests there was domestic occupation within the vicinity.

Within the development area modern disturbance was extensive, particularly to the north and west and is likely to have disturbed or destroyed all archaeological features where present. This disturbance probably relates to the construction of rubbish pits associated with Plomesgate Union Workhouse as well as the building work associated with its renovation in the 20th century. It is likely that this disturbance is confined to the plot of land to the rear of Deben Court and is unlikely to extend beyond into the adjacent land parcels.

The presence of Iron Age land use/settlement within the development area was not predicted, although there have been few archaeological interventions within Wickham Market, particularly on the southern side of town. Its presence here would suggest that any further archaeological intervention in the surrounding area is likely to be productive and might provide a greater understanding of the form and significance of this prehistoric occupation.

Liz Muldowney
February 2009

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

LAND REAR OF DEBEN COURT, CHAPEL LANE, WICKHAM MARKET, 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 a 12 houses and 4 bungalows with associated car parking and external works on Land Rear of Deben Court, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk (TM 3047 5555), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/08/0012/FUL).
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures c. 0.58 ha., on the western side of the River Deben (see accompanying plan). It is situated on Glacio-fluvial Drift over Cretaceous Sand or Crag (deep sandy) at c. 25 - 28.00m AOD, sloping down south to north.
- 1.3 The application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the west of a Roman find spot. There is high potential for early 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 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 290m². 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 161.00m 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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).
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

- 3.12 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.16 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.17 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

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 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 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.

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 report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

- 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, 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).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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>).
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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).

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Reference: / DebenCourt-WickhamMarket2008

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 2. Context Information

Context	Feature	Identifier	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0002	0002	Layer	deposit	Topsoil, Compaction friable, Mid brownish grey slightly clayey silty sand loam, Inclusions moderate small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles, Occasional CBM (flecks to large lumps), Rare Fe rubbish/ other modern metal rubbish, Occasional ash-filled pockets and "features" - not recorded, Extent covers whole site consistently between 0.35m-0.45m thick, Very modern finds, Do not respect the ridges and furrows, very flat and even. Garden/ allotment soil with manuring			
0003	0003	Layer	deposit	Subsoil, Compaction soft, Mid brown silty sand, Some worm bioturbation, Inclusions of occasional small to medium angular to sub angular flint pebbles, No dateable finds, Thickness and extent varies, found within the gullies seen in the earthwork survey, Up to 0.65m deep in largest furrows, Can be as little as 0.1m deep atop the ridges. Very inert, almost certainly natural fill of very early periglacial features that have somehow survived any attempt of cultivation/levelling			0.65
0004	0004	Layer	deposit	Natural, Compaction soft, Mid yellowish brown sand, Matrix (60%) medium angular to sub angular flint cobbles/pebbles (poorly sorted and occurring in pockets)			
0005	0006	Pit	fill	Fill of Pit [0006], Compaction soft, Mid to light grey sandy silt, Inclusions of frequent potsherds, moderately small to medium flint pebbles, Single pot-rich fill of oddly shaped small prehistoric feature.			
0006	0006	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0006] in TR 2, Sub rounded/ truncated in plan, Break of slope - top to sides is sharp, sides gently sloping and concave, break of slope -sides to base imperceptible, Base is gently rounded and uneven due to flints in base, Truncated - cut away on east side by modern disturbance. Isolated shallow prehistoric feature, truncated, generally impossible to interpret	0.45	0.7	0.16
0007	0007	Ditch	cut	Cut of large ditch 2.5m from NE end of TR 1, Moderately steep possibly stepped sides to NW, cut unclear to NE, Base flat			
0008	0007	Ditch	fill	Reddy brown silty sand with frequent sub angular flints, CBM rags and charcoal flecks, modern debris (glass etc.)			
0009	0009	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0009] in TR 5. Truncated pit, sides are shallow and concave, the base is shallow and concave			
0010	0009	Pit	fill	Single fill of pit [0009], Reddy mid brown silty sand with frequent sub angular stones, prehistoric pottery/ flint flakes, scraper found in soil nearby.			
0011	0011	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0011] in TR 5, The sides are moderately sloped - steep, the base is shallow and concave, Large stones line the interface of the cut and fill			
0012	0011	Pit	fill	Single fill of pit [0011], Mid grey brown silty sand, fairly loose, frequent sub-angular stones, large and medium sub angular stones line base and sides, Finds of lava quern and flint			

Context	Feature	Identifier	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0013	0013	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0013] in TR 5. Oval/sub-rounded in plan, Break of slope from top is sharp, sides smooth gently sloping, break of slope to base imperceptible, Base gently rounded, Pit, function unknown.	0.85	1.9	0.38
0014	0013	Pit	fill	Fill of pit [0013], Compaction soft, dark brownish grey silty sand, Inclusions of rare worked flint and pottery, occasional small to medium flint pebbles sub-angular to angular. Single fill of prehistoric pit.			
0015	0015	Linear feature	cut	Cut of linear feature [0015] in TR 5, East side fairly steep however more gently sloping on the north side. Imperceptible break of slope from sides to base with base being rounded and concave.	0.74		0.34
0016	0015	Linear feature	fill	Fill of linear feature [0015], pale greyish brown silty sand with some sub-angular flint, some root disturbance			
0101	0102	Pit	fill	Fill of pit [0102], Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded and sub angular stones and flint of small- large size (15-100mm), Rare bone fragment confined to top of fill, loose compaction.			
0102	0102	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0102], Full extent unknown - running under bulk, probably rounded in plan, Western edge gently sloping into slightly concave base, East edge appears to be more steeply inclined though full extent not visible.	1		0.24
0103	0103	Ditch	cut	Cut of ditch segment [0103], Linear in plan running E-W, concave in section, shallow at E end getting deeper and therefore more steep at W end of segment, Same as [0107].	0.58	2.1	0.14
0104	0103	Ditch	fill	Fill of segment [0103], Mid brown silty sand, evidence of bioturbation, small mammals/worms/roots, Included some pottery fragments			
0105	0105	Pit	cut	Cut of pit [0105], Bowl shaped in section with concave sides onto an undulating flat base, oval/pear shaped in plan, aligned NE- SW, Approx. 7m W of [0102]	1.2	1.4	0.25
0106	0105	Pit	fill	Fill of pit [0105], Blackened silty sand with charcoal, flint stones, pebble and gravel inclusion, loose compaction, included pottery			
0107	0107	Ditch	cut	Cut of ditch segment [0107], Linear in plan running E-W, Concave in section with moderately steep sides and an almost flat base. Same as [0103]	0.82	2.1	0.33
0108	0107	Ditch	fill	Fill of ditch [0107], Mid brown silty sand, inclusions of pottery and bone (degraded), evidence of bioturbation			

Appendix 3. Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt./g	Notes	Date
0005	HMS	rb	8	150	Jar with flat-topped upright rim (c. 240mm, 11%) overhangs internally. Ht 105mm. Bead cordon at base of neck, sharp carination. Coarse quartz sand w larger translucent quartz and angular opaque white quartz & flint. (Fig. 8 No 1)	IA
	HMSO	rb	13	95	Jar simple upright rim (140mm 14%) and angled shoulder. Med-coarse quartz sand with round clear quartz and angular opaque white quartz and organic (grass/chaff) impressions. Orange ext surf., black core and interior. (Fig. 8 No 2)	IA
0010	HMS	rb	4	19	Fineware cup. Plain rim (c. 80mm, 10%). Sand, coarse angular opaque white quartz plus larger misc bits. Smoothed surface. Dark grey-brown surface & core. Patchy surf. Colour inner rim = orange brown (Fig. 8 No 3)	IA
	HMS	b	3	7	Small bodysherd. Quartz sand and coarse opaque white quartz. Light grey - light orange.	IA
0014	HMF	b	2	29	Abundant medium flint & black organic. Brown ext, black core and int surf. plain. Thick coarseware	IA
	HMF	b	2	21	Abundant medium flint. Orange ext surf, grey core and interior. Thick coarseware.	IA
	HMF	b	1	17	Medium-coarse flint (up to 6mm). Light orange-buff fabric. plain surf	IA
	HMF	r	1	5	Jar w upright square, flat-topped rim (140mm, 5%). Flint and opaque white quartz. Dark brown-black throughout. Coarseware	IA
	HMS	rb	2	65	Bowl, int over-hanging rim (190mm, 6%) burnished surface. Sand, opaque white quartz. Patchy surface dark brown/black int/ext in upper buff-orange ext below carination point (Fig. 8 No 4)	IA
	HMSO	ba	1	41	Coarseware jar or bowl base w. fine flint sand on basal exterior. Grey-brown ext, darker grey-brown core. Fabric coarse sand w opaque white quartz and organic.	IA
0016	HMF	b	1	4	Orange exterior surface, grey core and interior. Medium flint and sand. Coarseware	IA
0104	HMSO	b	2	18	Fineware. Medium-coarse sand w organic grass/chaff impression Brown ext & int surfaces, grey core.	IA
0106	HMG	b	1	7	Beaker coarseware? Fingernail-impressed dec. Dark orange-brown. Sand and grog fabric	BA
0108	HMF	b	1	16	Sand and flint. Brown surf. (plain) black core. Coarseware	IA
	HMF	b	1	4	Orange fabric. Sand and med-coarse flint. Abr. Coarseware	IA

(Key: r = rim, b = bodysherd, ba = base)

Appendix 4. Flint Catalogue

Context	Type	No.	Notes	Date
0010	flake	1	Squat flake, obtuse striking platform. No cortex	Later Preh
	flake	1	Short flake, some cortical down one edge. Small amount of retouch on one edge	Later Preh
	flake	1	Small squat hinge-fractured flake. No cortex.	Later Preh
	flake	1	Flake with 50% cortex on dorsal face	Later Preh
0012	multi-platform flake core	1	Core with a number of long and short flakes detached. Irregular, at least 3 striking platforms. Appears quite fresh. Small amt of cortex	NEO+
	flake	1	Long snapped flake with limited retouch on one edge and limited retouch/use-wear on opposite. Small amount of cortex	NEO+
0014	flake	1	Small thick flake with hinge fracture	Later Preh
	multi-platform flake core	1	Irregular multi-platform flake core with only a few flakes, including one squat, removed	Later Preh
	multi-platform flake core	1	Irregular multi-platform fragment of a core or thick flake. Small amount of cortex. No obvious flakes removed, could be shatter.	Later Preh
	multi-platform flake core	1	Irregular multi-platform fragment flake core or flake appears snapped. One face = mainly cortex. No obvious flakes removed, could be shatter	Later Preh
	flake	1	Long thick flake from edge of a core. Crude edge retouch on one side, pronounced ripples	Later Preh
	shatter	1	Shatter piece	Later Preh
	flake	1	Snapped flake with hinge fracture and limited edge retouch.	Later Preh
	flake	1	Small fragment of a flake	Later Preh
	flake	1	Squat flake, wide striking platform. Hinge-fractured	Later Preh
0016	flake	1	Long flake w parallel long flake scars on dorsal face (relatively fine workmanship).	NEO-EBA
	shatter	1	Shatter piece. Irregular flint with natural faces but also some 'fresher' faces	Later Preh
	retouched fragment	1	Natural flint with limited edge retouch or damage	Later Preh
	multi-platform flake core	1	Irregular multi-platform flake core, some cortex.	Later Preh
	flake	1	Small snapped flake, low quality flint.	Later Preh
	flake	1	Snapped flake with crude limited edge retouch	Later Preh

(Key: NEO = Neolithic, EBA = Early Bronze Age, Preh = Prehistoric)