

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/010

Whitegate Farm, Creeting St. Mary, CRM 060

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HER Information

Planning Application No: 3036/08

Date of Fieldwork: 8 + 9/01/2009

Grid Reference: TL 7293 7988

Funding Body: Mr and Mrs Salisbury of Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Supervisor: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-55980

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Whitegate Farm, Creeting St Mary, in preparation for the development of two structures and a lagoon for waste water. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification supplied by Dr Jess Tipper, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team.

The areas of the two structures contained no evidence of archaeological deposits.

The final area, designated for the lagoon, contained two boundary ditches, and a large pond-like feature that has been interpreted as an exploited natural channel or possibly part of a moated site. Very little finds evidence was recovered from the features. Those that were recovered were mostly undatable, except for three pieces of fired clay from one of the boundary ditches which may be medieval.

Macro-fossil analysis of samples taken from the large pond-like feature found a presence of grassland and buttercup seeds and small mollusc shells. Indicating that this feature was either permanently or at least seasonally waterlogged and the surrounding landscape was uncultivated grassland.

No further work is recommended within the development area, but any additional work within the vicinity would require archaeological input.

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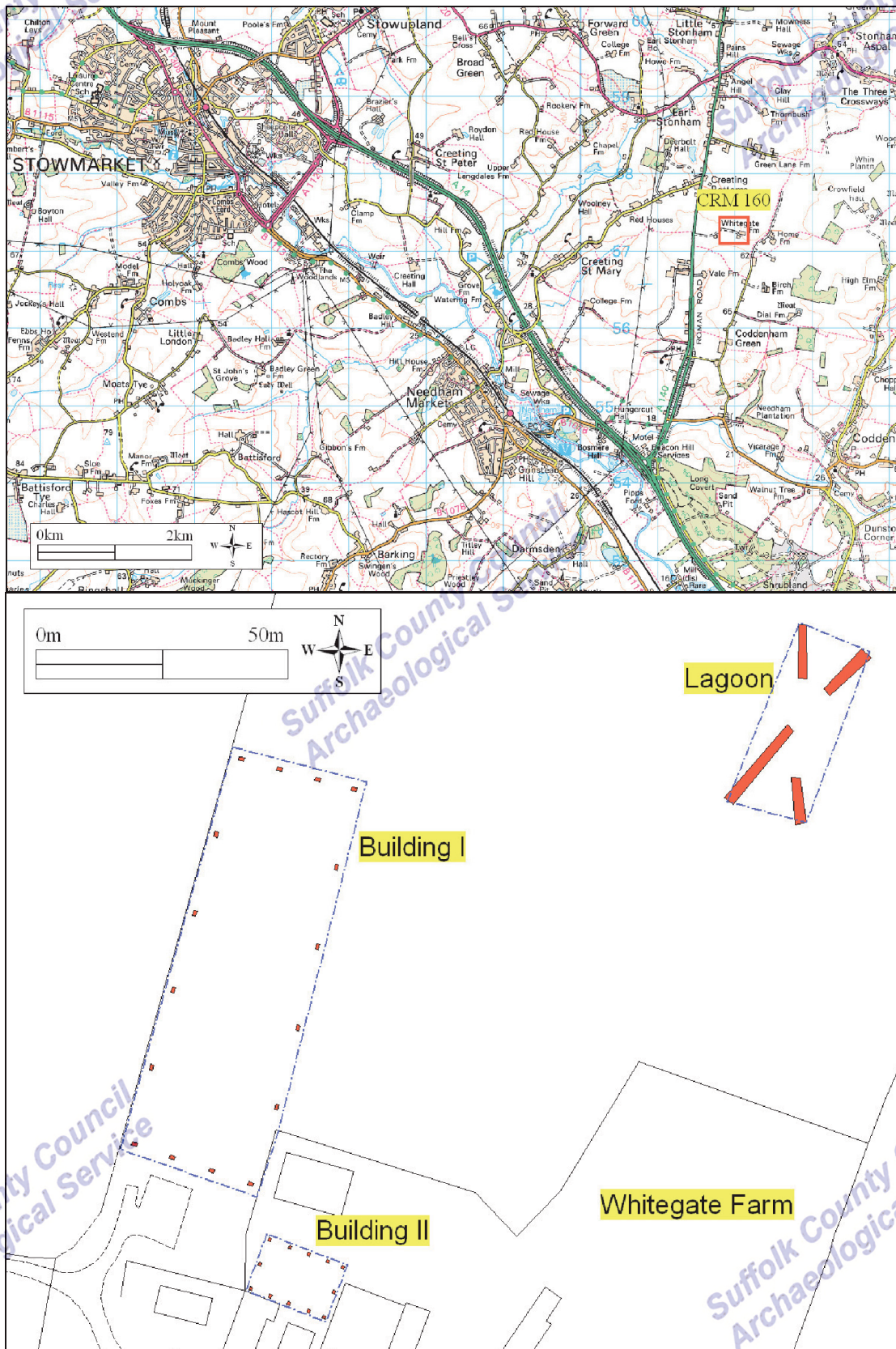
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1. Introduction



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Figure 1. Site location and trench plan.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out over 2 days at Whitegate Farm, Creeting St Mary, in January 2009 for planning application 3036/08. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification supplied by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team. The site is located at TL 7293 7988. Two areas for farm buildings had their piling trenches monitored and an area of 18m x 37m was evaluated by trial trenching (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

2.1 Lagoon and Building II

This site lies on a geological spur of slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine loam over clayey soil with a chalky till. It also lies 35m east of a geological change to a slowly permeable calcareous clayey soil with a chalky till (Ordnance Survey, 1983).

Topographically the area designated for the lagoon lies within a NW-SE channel running across the field. The ground level to the north and south of the area measures 55.5m and 55.3m OD respectively with the lowest central area measuring 54.5m OD.

2.2 Building I

Building I crosses the geological boundary described in Section 2.1. At its eastern edge the geology is a slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine loam over clayey soil with a chalky till and towards the eastern edge the natural geology is a slowly permeable calcareous clayey soil with a chalky till (Ordnance Survey, 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

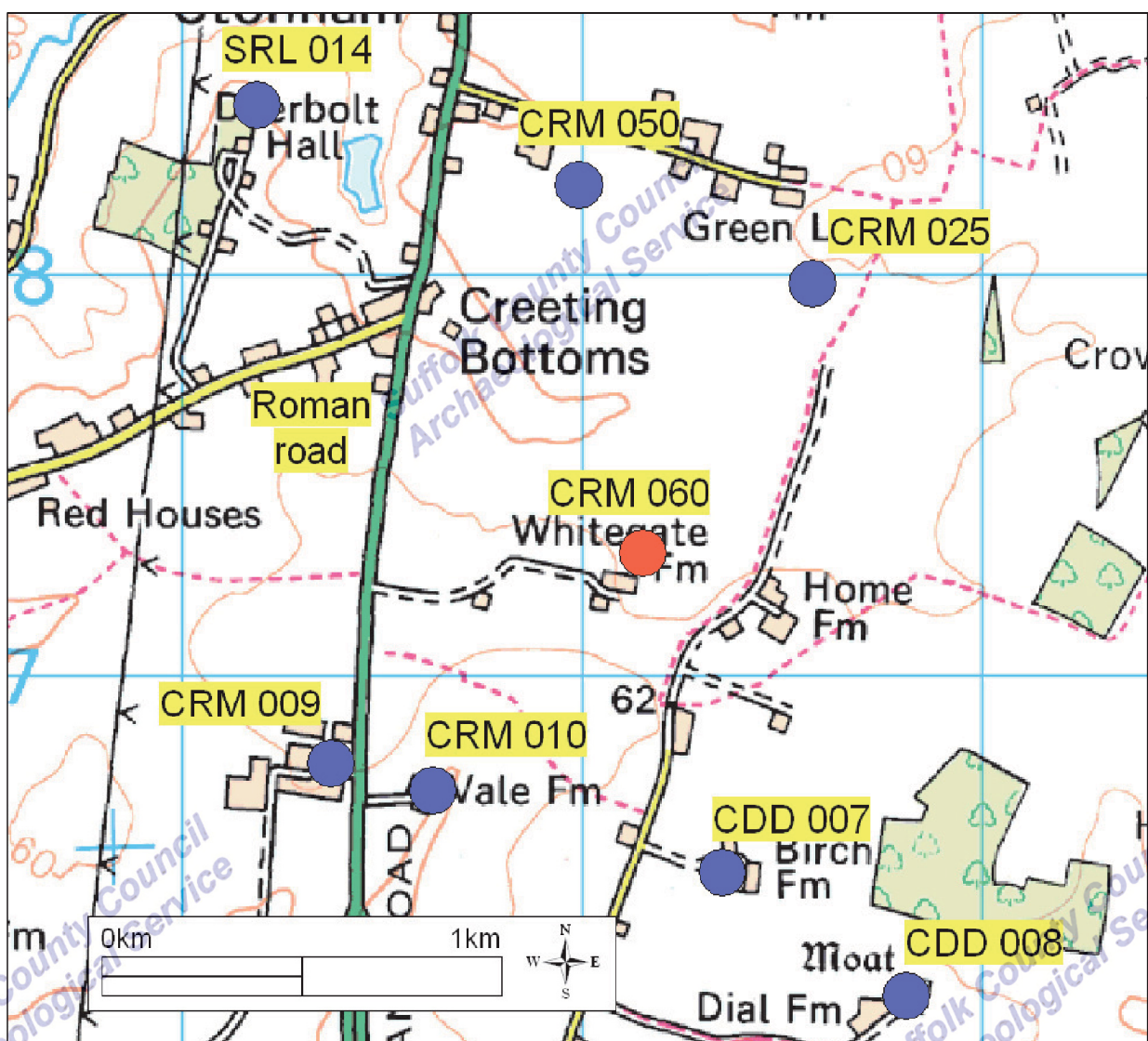
Creeting St Mary is one of four adjacent parishes that share the prefix Creeting. The latter part of the parish name is derived from the Benedictine priory situated in the parish, a cell of the Abbey of St Mary (Page, 1975).

The surrounding archaeological landscape is a fairly sparse and there appear to be no known areas of intensive historical occupation in the immediate vicinity. Within a 1km radius there are 5 known moated sites (CRM 009, CRM 010, CDD 007, CDD 008 and

SRL 014) (Fig. 2). These sites date to the medieval period and are likely to have surrounded affluent farmsteads or residences of lesser members of the free classes (Dymond & Martin, 1999).

Approximately 900m to the north of the site a collection of 3 medieval silver coins has been found (CRM 050). A double ditched feature, around 40m by 40m in area, was also observed to the north-east (CRM 025) although no datable evidence has been retrieved from this area.

In addition, a known Roman road runs north-south towards the west of the site (Fig. 2).



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Figure 2. Surrounding archaeological sites.

4. Methodology

4.1 Lagoon

Four trenches 1.8m wide with a combined length of 48.5m were excavated using a 1.6m wide ditching bucket mounted upon a back acting JCB. The trenches were aligned NE-SW and NW-SE to achieve maximum coverage of the area (Fig.1). The trench locations were adapted from the original Brief and Specification which encompassed a larger area.

Each trench was planned using a Leica system 1200 GPS. A sample section of each trench was recorded using high resolution digital images, monochrome print film and planned by hand at a scale of 1:20. Archaeological contexts were sample excavated by hand and recorded according to standards outlined in Gurney (2003) using standard SCCAS context recording sheets, under the new HER no. CRM 060. Plans of the trenches were recorded using a Leica Rover 1200 GPS with an average accuracy of approximately 0.02m. All archaeological contexts were also sampled (20l) for flotation and macrofossil assessment.

4.2 Buildings I and II

These buildings were to be erected on concrete piles and therefore an evaluation was not necessary due to the minimal disturbance to this area. In the light of this, rather than evaluate the area, the piling trenches were examined for archaeological evidence and an individual context number issued to each unique soil horizon.

In total 28 piling trenches were excavated. Their dimensions were (W x L x D) 1.1m x 0.7m x 0.8m for Building I and 0.6m x 0.9m x 0.9m for Building II.

5. Results

5.1 Lagoon

The location of the lagoon lay at the base of a NW-SE aligned natural channel between two small headlands. This presented a strong likelihood for the presence of deep colluvial and possibly fluvial deposits.

Soil profiles were fairly consistent across the whole evaluation area. These comprised a mid/dark greyish-brown silty-loam agricultural topsoil (0001), over a mixed mid-orangey-grey-brown subsoil (0002) that contained frequent inclusions of redeposited natural. It is likely that these natural inclusions result from either groundworks higher up on the northern rise in an effort to landscape the natural channel and create a single area for agricultural use, or natural soil movement from higher to lower ground during cultivation. The subsoil, 0002, lay on natural mid/light bluish-yellowish-brown clay (Fig. 3).

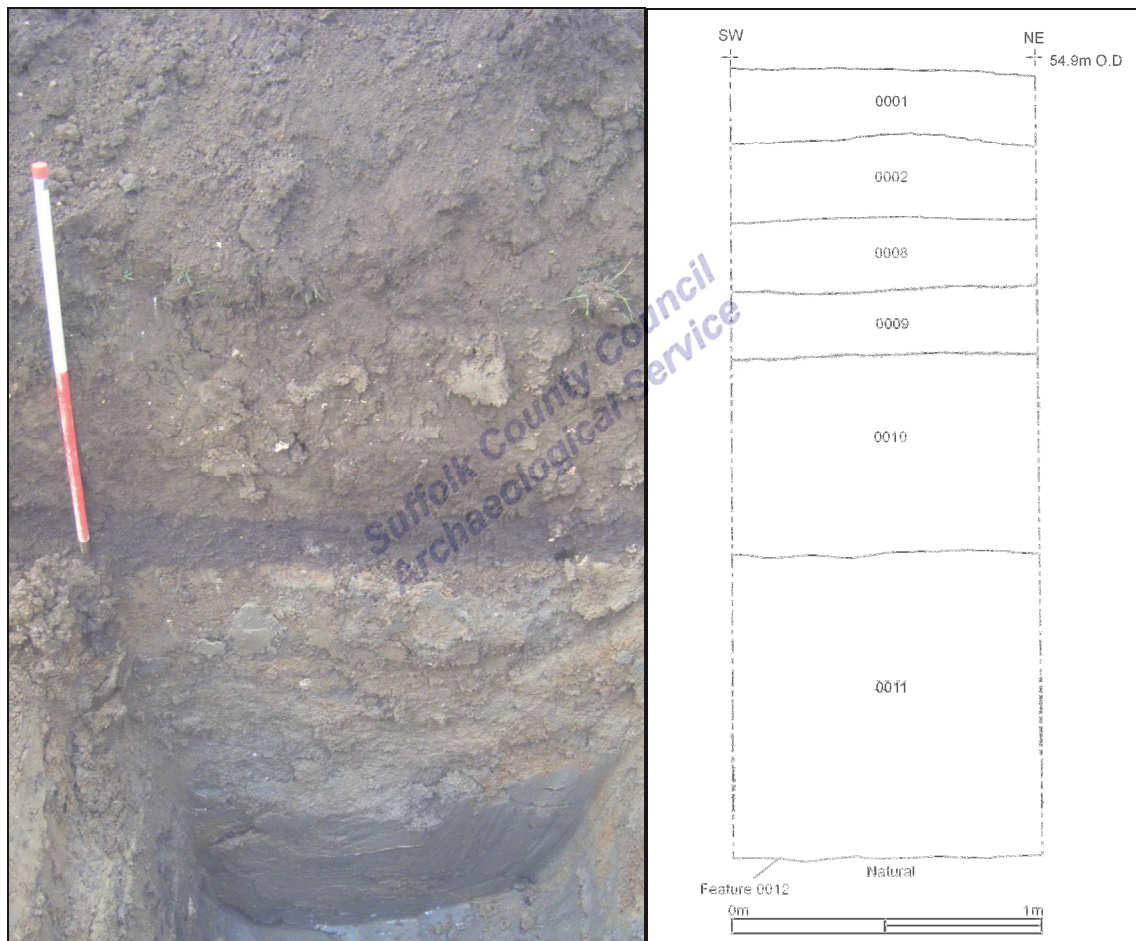


Figure 3. Large pond-like feature 0012 and sample section..

A large pond-like feature, 0012, occupied the majority of the area (Fig. 4). Sondages were machined out of this feature in each trench to ascertain its form, dimensions and alignment. These sondages found that 0012 had relatively steep, concave sides and a maximum depth of 2.6m. The southern, eastern and western edges were contained within the evaluation area, but the northern edge was not found. It was at least 38m long x 18m wide. Stratigraphically this feature comprised a grey-bluish-black basal fill,

0011, with a concentration of flint stones at its base, a secondary fill of mid-orangey-grey silty-clay, 0010, under a later fill of dark grey-brown-black peat, 0009, and with a final fill of mid orangey-brown clay-silt, 0008 (Fig. 3). The only finds recovered from the feature consisted of some animal bone and oyster shell from 0010 in the SW trench. 20L samples for macrofossil analysis were taken from contexts 0008, 0009, 0010 and 0011. These revealed the presence of waterlogged plant macrofossils commonly associated with grassland. This provides an insight into the surrounding land use during the period that this feature was open.

Two other features were found in this area. Ditch 0005 was aligned WSW-ESE and was fairly uniform in section and plan. Its dimensions measured 0.8m wide and 0.57m deep and it was located towards the south end of SW trench. This feature comprised two fills, an upper dark greyish-black silty-clay (0007) which contained medieval fired clay and a lower mid-grey silty-clay basal fill from which no finds were recovered. Samples recovered from 0005 showed a high percentage of charred grain and seeds. This is most likely the resultant by-product from the burning of processing or storage waste. Ditch 0013 was present in the north end of the NE trench aligned E-W. This feature had an irregular section and plan with a width that varied from 0.7m to 1.28m and a depth that varied from 0.09m to 0.27m (Fig. 4). Animal bone and flint were recovered from the fill of this feature (0014) but neither was datable. Macrofossil analysis of the light greyish-blue clay ditch fill, 0014, found a high percentage of charcoal, most likely originating from a single hearth waste deposition event.

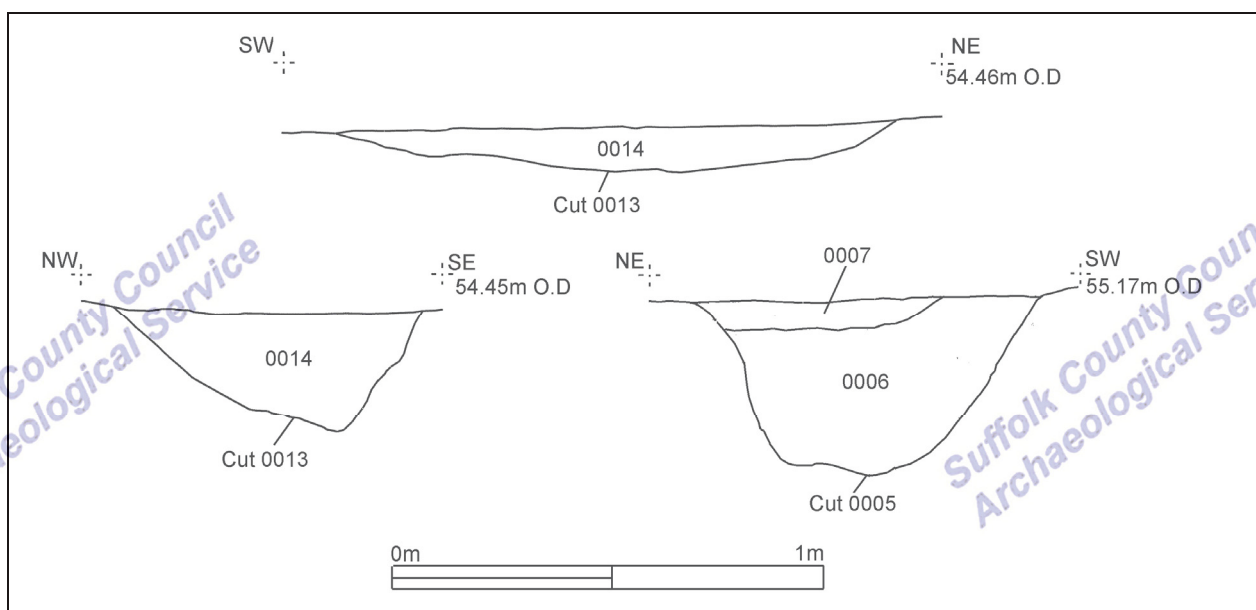


Figure 4. Ditch sections, 0005 and 0013.

Finds recovered from both 0005 and 0013 were limited despite the implementation of a 100% excavation strategy.

With very little datable evidence being recovered it is not possible to clarify the age of the features discovered but examination of the 1885 Ordnance Survey maps do not show a pond or other large feature present in the area at this time. The maps do show, however, a field boundary almost directly correlating with the western side of the pond feature (Fig. 4).

5.2 Buildings I and II

No archaeology was found in the piling trenches dug for Buildings I and II. Soil horizons across each piling trench varied only slightly and consisted of a mid-brown, clayey-loam topsoil layer, 0.3m in depth, a pale orangey-brown, homogenous soft clay subsoil, 0.25m in depth, and a heavy pale olive-brown chalk tilled clay with large flint nodule inclusions.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from 4 contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Context type	Fired clay		Flint		Animal bone		Shell		Spotdate
		No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0004	Unstratified			1	5					Unstratified
0007	Ditch fill	3	33							?Medieval
0010	Pond-fill					4	68	1	12	Undated
0014	Ditch fill			1	53	1	2			Undated
	Total	3	33	2	58	5	70	1	12	

Table 1. Bulk finds

6.2 Fired clay

Three fragments of fired clay were recovered from 0007; the second fill of ditch 0005 in the SW trench. They are made in a soft pale orange fabric containing occasional chalk inclusions up to 3mm in length and maybe medieval in date. There are no indications of

any structural impressions or other evidence to suggest whether the fired clay was used as daub or clay lining for some other type of structure.

6.3 Flint

(Identifications by Colin Pendleton)

Two flints were collected from the evaluation. One of them is an unstratified find from 0004. It is a small flake with limited edge retouch and has mostly cortex on the dorsal face. It cannot be closely dated and the most that can be said is that it may be later prehistoric, but also could be Post-Roman.

A second flint from 0014 which is burnt with very little surface surviving may be worked, but it is very poor condition.

6.4 Animal bone

Four fragments of bovine metatarsus were recovered from the large pond feature 0010, and a small and undiagnostic fragment of the shaft of another bone was present in 0014.

6.5 Shell

A fragment of oyster shell from 0010 was quantified and discarded.

6.6 Plant macrofossils

(Val Fryer)

6.6.1 Introduction and method statement

Seven 20L samples were submitted from the evaluation. The sampling was undertaken for the assessment of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages of the large pit or pond, and two ditches of possible medieval date. The results of the analysis are presented in tabular form in Appendix 3.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Two flots were seen to contain waterlogged plant remains and these were stored in water prior to sorting. The remaining flots were air dried. Both dried flots and wet retents were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed

on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Both charred and waterlogged/de-watered plant remains were recorded, with the latter being denoted in the table by a lower case 'w' suffix.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry.

6.6.2 Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common ruderal and grassland weeds were recorded at a low to moderate density in all but one sample (7 - 0014). Preservation was moderately good, although many of the charred grains were severely puffed and distorted, possibly as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. The waterlogged macrofossils were also reasonably robust, although some were distorted as a result of the compression of the deposits from which the samples were taken.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recovered with wheat being predominant. All grains were of a rounded hexaploid form. Bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were noted in Sample 2 (0001). Other probable food plant remains included individual charred pea (*Pisum sativum*) and bean (*Vicia faba*) seeds, a possible fragment of waterlogged pea/bean testa from Sample 3 (0011) and a charred bullace (*Prunus domestica*) type fruit stone. Seeds occurred less frequently, although charred small legumes (Fabaceae) were common within Samples 1 and 2 (0006 and 0001) and waterlogged buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) seeds were recorded at a moderate density within Samples 3 and 5 (0011 and 0009). Other taxa noted included cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.), thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), grasses (Poaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Wetland plant macrofossils were rare, comprising sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlets and a single water dropwort (*Oenanthe* sp.) type seed. Tree/shrub macrofossils, including a hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment, a bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pip' and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds, were recovered from five samples. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present within all but one sample (3 - 0011) and were the major component of Sample 7 (0014). Waterlogged root/stem fragments were abundant within Samples 3 and 4 (0011 and 0010). Other plant macrofossils occurred infrequently, although Sample 4 (0010) also contained indeterminate moss fronds, leaf fragments and twigs.

Small mollusc shell assemblages were recorded within all seven samples. All four of Evans (1972) ecological groups of land molluscs were represented along with a small number of freshwater obligate species. Burnt specimens were noted within the assemblages from Samples 1 and 2 (0006 and 0001).

Other remains occurred infrequently. The fragments of black porous and tarry material were probably mostly residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, although some pieces within Samples 6 and 7 (0008 and 0014) had a possible 'industrial' origin.

6.6.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The assemblages from Samples 1 and 2 (0006 and 0001) contain a high density of charred grain and seeds and may possibly be derived from burnt storage or processing waste. The large number of small legumes is typical of assemblages of medieval or later date, where pulses were commonly rotationally sown with cereal crops to improve soil fertility and yield.

The assemblages from the pit/pond samples (Feature 0012 Samples 3 – 6, contexts 0008-0011) appear to indicate that the feature was within a predominantly grassland area although some shaded elements or scrub areas may also have been present. The feature was probably at least semi-permanently water-filled or at least very wet at the base.

Sample 7, from 0014, the fill of ditch 0013 is almost entirely composed of charcoal, and is probably derived from a single discrete deposit of hearth waste, which was placed within the ditch.

All seven assemblages clearly illustrate that well preserved charred and waterlogged macrofossils are present within the archaeological horizon at Creting St. Mary.

Therefore, if further excavations are envisaged within this area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all sealed and dated deposits. These samples should be stored in cool, dry conditions prior to processing, and the latter should be undertaken with a minimum of delay. NB. Samples with a high waterlogged organic content should

ideally be processed by the plant macrofossil specialist. Although few waterlogged arthropod remains were recorded, analysis of the material may provide additional data regarding local environmental conditions and/or agricultural practises.

6.7 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

No pottery or other datable finds were recovered from the evaluation, although the chalk-tempered fired clay fragments from ditch fill 0005 may be medieval. One of the flints was in such bad condition that it is questionable whether it was worked, whilst the second flint may be Later Prehistoric or even Post-Roman in date. There was no definite evidence of medieval date, in spite of the positive results of the metal detecting that had been previously undertaken on the site. The assessment of the plant macrofossils showed that they were well-preserved and that if further work is to be undertaken, then sampling from selected deposits would be highly beneficial.

7. Discussion

A relatively low level of archaeology was found during this evaluation.

The area evaluated for the proposed lagoon found three archaeological features. Two of these were ditches (0013 and 0005) running E-W and WNW-ESE respectively.

Although not found on any early maps these features are considered to be boundary designation markers rather than structural; a conclusion derived from their orientation and the low quantity of recovered artefacts which would commonly indicate intense occupation. Ditch 0013 contained a heavy concentration of burnt material probably originating from the deposition of hearth waste. This would suggest an occupation area somewhere in the vicinity. Macrofossil analysis of samples from ditch 0005 found evidence of both cereal and pulses, this is frequently indicative of crop rotation techniques during the medieval period and later.

The third feature, 0012, was a large, steep-sided pond-like feature, at least 38m long x 18m wide, which lay within the NW-SE aligned channel visible in the topography.

Although this feature does not appear on the first ordnance survey maps, suggesting that it had been back filled by the 1880's, its western edge does correlate well with a boundary present at this time (Fig. 4) demonstrating that it was probably visible when the boundary was created or even used as an original boundary itself. The presence of

a rich organic layer, 0009, in the centre of the soil profile, suggests that the feature was open for some time and relatively stable at this level, containing standing water, or periodically waterlogged, in a landscape of trees, shrubs and flora, to allow this layer to accumulate. The silt layers beneath this, 0011 and 0010, may be geological accumulations. Considering the surrounding archaeological landscape (Fig. 2) it must be considered that this feature could possibly be interpreted as part of a moat for a medieval farmstead or other semi-affluent dwelling. However its the width of 18m would indicate a very substantial moat, much larger than generally found, and the absence of medieval finds consistent with a moated site would seem to indicate that is not the case. Samples recovered from this feature indicate that it was probably at least semi-permanently water-filled or at least waterlogged at the base, and whether natural or man-made, would have been a valuable watering hole for stock in this farming environment.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

This evaluation has identified three archaeological features, two probable field boundary ditches and a pond, and finds analysis identifies at least one of them (0005) as possibly having originated from the medieval period. However this area does not contain evidence of intense domestic occupation during any archaeological period.

Although this site lies within an archaeological landscape of medieval moated sites, and the possibility exists that the pond may be man-made or an exploited natural feature, as a result of the absence of finds, and the comprehensive evaluation undertaken in the area of the lagoon no further work is recommended during this development. However any subsequent proposals for development in this immediate area should be subjected to further archaeological conditions.

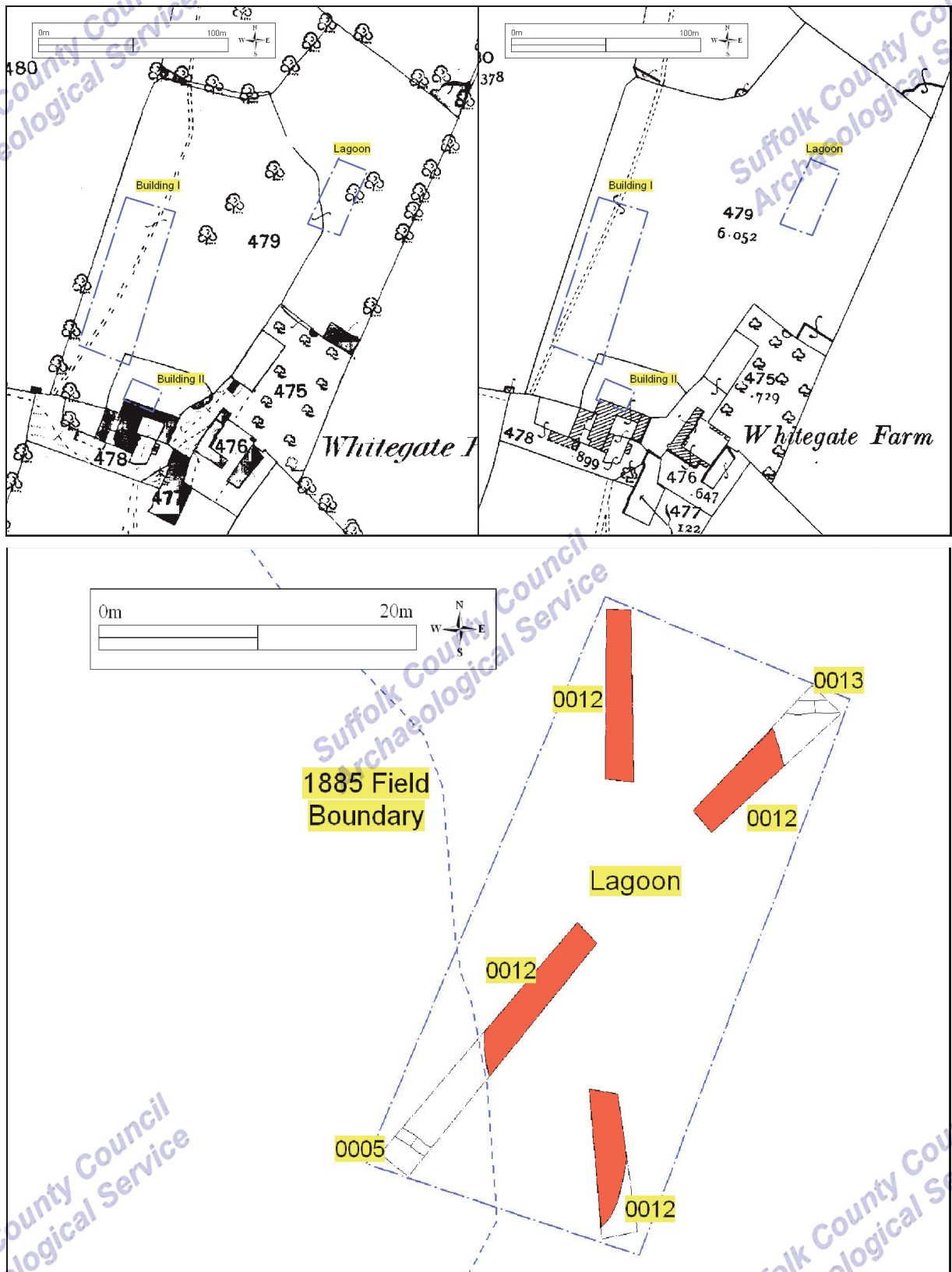


Figure 5. Boundary changes and feature correlation.

Clockwise from top-left: 1885 O.S map, 1907 O.S map, Lagoon plan.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\ALL_site\Creeting St Mary

Finds archive: SCCAS Store, Bury ST Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by archaeological staff, (Andrew Beverton, Nicholas Taylor) from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, under the direction of Andrew Beverton.

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner and Jo Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin and Val Fryer. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

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- | | |
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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Appendix 1

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Brief and specification

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

WHITEGATE FARM, NORWICH ROAD, CREETING ST MARY, 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 construction of two agricultural buildings, dirty water lagoon and muck pad at Whitegate Farm, Norwich Road, Creeting St Mary, IP6 8PG (TM 121 573), has been sought from Mid Suffolk District Council (3036/08).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance and should be evaluated, prior to consideration of the application, to establish the archaeological resource both in extent and quality.
- 1.3 The proposed development area measures c. 0.64 ha, to the north of Whitegate Farm (see accompanying plan). It is situated on chalky till (deep loam to clay) at c. 55 - 60.00m AOD, sloping south to north.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the area of a known medieval occupation site (CRM 044). There is high potential for medieval occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development and, in particular, the lagoon will cause total destruction to a large area. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. There is high potential to encounter important occupation deposits at this location.
- 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:
 - non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 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: Non-destructive Field Survey

- 3.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (0.64 ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

4. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c. 320.00m². 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 178.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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).
- 4.6 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.

- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

- 5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.6 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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>).
- 6.13 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.

- 6.14 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.
- 6.15 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.
- 6.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.17 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.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 8 October 2008

Reference: / WhitegateFarm-CreetingStMary2008

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.

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Appendix 2

CRM 060, Whitegate farm, Creeting St. Mary. List of Contexts

context feature identifier	type	description	sect. no	cuts	cutby	over	under	photos	Soil sample	finds
0001	Layer	Mid/dark Greyish-Brown. Silty-loam. The deposit had occasional chalk flecking ~10%. Fairly compact and cohesive.	1,2,3,4			0002		1-12, 14-18		No
0002	Layer	Mid Orangy-greyish-brown. Clay-silt. Deposit has frequent inclusions of disturbed natural. Moderate inclusions of chalk flecking ~20% and occasional modern CBM <10%. Quite compact.	1,2,3,4			0001	natural, 0014, 0008	1-12, 14-18		No
0003	Layer	Mid/Light blueish-yellow-brown Clay. Moderate flint nodule inclusions, unsorted (D = 0.02-0.1m), localised. Very compact.	1,2,3,4		0005, 0012, 0013			All		No
0004	Layer	Unstratified.								Yes
0005	Ditch	Cut of ditch 0005, 60 degree break of slope from surface to sides, sides are straight (northern side is a little closer to vertical) and a gentle curve to a concave base. Aligned NW-SE. Located towards the southern end of trench 1.		0003			0006	1,2 and 3		No
0006	Ditch	primary fill of ditch 0005. Mid grey silty clay with occasional small angular flint cobbles (0.02-0.05m diameter), charcoal flecking and chalk flecks. Loose compaction.				0005	0007	1,2 and 3	1	No
0007	Ditch	2nd fill of ditch 0005. Dark grey/black silty clay with numerous and frequent large (3-10mm) and small charcoal flecks. Loose compaction.				0006		1,2 and 3	2	Yes

context feature	identifier	type	description	sect. no	cuts	cutby	over	under	photos	Soil sample	finds
0008	Linear feature	Fill	Mid orangey-grey-brown clayey-silt with occasional chalk flecking. Moderately compact, friable/compact.				0002	0009	5	6	No
0009	Linear feature	Fill	Dark greyish-brown-black silty-clay peat. No inclusions, friable.				0008	0010	5	5	No
0010	Linear feature	Fill	Mid orangey-grey slightly silty-clay with moderate flint pebble inclusions sorted evenly across the context. Very compact.				0009	0011	5	4	Yes
0011	Linear feature	Fill	Dark grey-blue-black clay. Moderate organic inclusions (20%). Very compact.				0010	Natural	5	3	No
0012	Linear feature	Cut	Sub-rectilinear plan. Running N-S. Full section not excavated. Flared and smooth BOS coming to a fairly steep concave sides. Base not fully excavated. No truncation.		Natural				5		No
0013	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch varies along its length within trench 3. This is well illustrated on section sheet 2. the cut undulates and is highly irregular. The ditch is aligned SW-NE. Located at the north end of trench 3.		Natural			0014	11,12 and 13		No
0014	Ditch	Fill	Principle fill of ditch 0013. Light grey/blue clay with frequent large charcoal flecks (0.01-0.05m) and flecks of chalk. Loose compaction. There are also larger chalk lumps and flecks (0.05m MAX) which are mid orange colour. They have been burnt.					Natural	11,12 and 13	7	Yes

Appendix 3. Plant macrofossils from CRM 060

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	0006	0001	0011	0010	0009	0008	0014
Feature No.			0012	0012	0012	0012	0013
Feature type		?Topsoil	Pit/pond	Pit/pond	Pit/pond	Pit/pond	Ditch
Cereals and other food plants							
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)		xx		x			
Large Fabaceae indet.			xcffw				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x	xxx	xw	xcf			
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis node)		x					
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		xcf					
<i>Prunus domestica</i> L.	x						
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)	x						
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xx	xxx		x	x	x	
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)		x					
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	xcf						
Cereal indet. (grains)	xxx	xxx		x			
(detached embryos)		x					
Herbs							
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		x					
Asteraceae indet.			xw				
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.					xw		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		xcf					
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.	x						
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.		x					
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.			xw				
Fabaceae indet.	xx	xxx		x			
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A. Love	x	x					
<i>Galium</i> sp.			xw				
<i>G. aparine</i> L.		x					
<i>Leontodon</i> sp.			xw				
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	xcf						
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> L.			xxcfw				
Small Poaceae indet.		x	xw				
Large Poaceae indet.		x					
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.		x					
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>			xxw	xw	xxw	xw	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		x	xw				
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.		x					
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.			xcfw				
<i>Torilis japonica</i> Hoult DC			xw				
Wetland/aquatic plants							
<i>Carex</i> sp.					xw	xw	
<i>Oenanthe</i> sp.			xw				
Tree/shrub macrofossils							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x					
<i>Rubus</i> sp.				xw			
<i>R. sect Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab			xw			xw	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.			xw	xw	xw	xw	
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx		xx	x		xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx		x	x	x	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm							xxxx
Charred root/stem	x	xx				x	

Waterlogged root/stem			xxx	xxxx			
Indet.buds		x	xw				
Indet.culm nodes		xx					
Indet.leaf frags.			xxw				
Indet.thorns (<i>Rosa</i> type)	x	x	xw				
(<i>Prunus</i> type)			xw				
Indet.moss			xxw	x			
Indet.seeds		x		x xw			
Indet.twig frags.			xxw				
Wood frags.<5mm			xw			xw	
Mineralised wood frags.					xx		
Molluscs							
Woodland/shade loving species							
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.	x						
<i>Carychium</i> sp.					x		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	x	x					x
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	x					x	
Zonitidae indet				x			
Open country species							
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		x		x	x	x	
<i>V. costata</i>		xb		x			
<i>V. excentrica</i>					x	x	
<i>V. pulchella</i>	x		x				
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>		x xb					
Catholic species							
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	x	x xb			x		
<i>Helix</i> sp.	x						
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>						x	
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	xx	x		x	xxx	x	x
Marsh/freshwater species							
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	x			x			
<i>Armiger crista</i>			x				
<i>Bithynia</i> sp.				x			
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.	x xb	xb	x		x	x	
<i>L. truncatula</i>		xb					
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.		xb	x				
<i>Succinea</i> sp.		xb	x				
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xxxx		xx	x	x	x
Black tarry material		x					
Bone	x			x			
Burnt/fired clay	xx	x					
Caddis larval cases			x				
Mineralised soil concretions	x			x	xxxx	xxxx	
Small coal frags.					x	x	
Small mammal/amphibian bones	xb				x		x
Vitrified material						x	
Waterlogged arthropod remains			x	x			
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	10ss	10ss	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	2
% flot sorted	100%	50%	50%	50%	100%	100%	c.10%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

w = waterlogged/de-watered cf =compare tf = testa fragment b = burnt ss = sub-sample