ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/017

34A & B Rectory Cottages, Elveden
ELV 069

R. Brooks

www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

Lucy Robinson, **County Director of Economy, Skills and Environment**
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

HER Information

Planning Application No:	**F/2006/00961/FUL**
Date of Fieldwork:	**17/03/2009 to 18/03/2009**
Grid Reference:	**TL 822 800**
Funding Body:	**Elveden Farms Ltd.**
Curatorial Officer:	**Dr. Jess Tipper**
Project Officer:	**Rob Brooks**
Oasis Reference:	**Suffolkc1-57078**

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

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Appendices

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land immediately east and south of 34A and B Rectory Cottages, Elveden, Suffolk. One prehistoric pit of probable later Bronze Age or Iron Age date and a further later, possibly post-Roman pit were discovered. These contained Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Iron Age flint, and Iron Age and Roman pottery. A further undated but possibly associated pit was also found. A possible buried topsoil layer of uncertain age was also observed. Unstratified Mesolithic, Neolithic or later prehistoric flints were recovered. There were generally good levels of preservation, although there was shallow truncation over much of the site, particularly relating to the house footings.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on the eastern and southern sides of 34A and B Rectory Cottages, Elveden, Suffolk to observe the machine excavation of seven footing trenches. The site is located at grid reference TL 822 800. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr. Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2006/0961/FUL. The work was funded by Elveden Farms Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

The trenches revealed natural subsoil 0004, which was very light yellow and cream coloured slightly silty sand with sporadic patches of dark orange sand. The site is at c.36m above the Ordnance Datum and appeared to be level. The site formerly functioned as a garden of managed grassland.

3. Archaeological and historical background

Two sites of particular importance are located close to the monitoring. In the 19th century a high status Iron Age cremation burial with three pots and a bronze-plated wooden tankard was found somewhere within Broom Close field (highlighted on Figure 1 as a green polygon ELV 005), as well as an Iron Age pot (ELV 003). The nearby Elveden church suggests there may also be medieval archaeology in the area (ELV 007). Evaluation work 900m to the west also uncovered Iron Age coins and the site of Fison Way in Thetford is an Iron Age and Roman site of economic, social and ceremonial/ religious importance (Gregory, 1991). A number of other local Iron Age and Roman sites, as well as the plentiful earlier prehistoric flints found around the Breckland as a whole indicate the area's potential to contain archaeological features. As such a monitoring was required to record any features that might have been uncovered by the trenching.

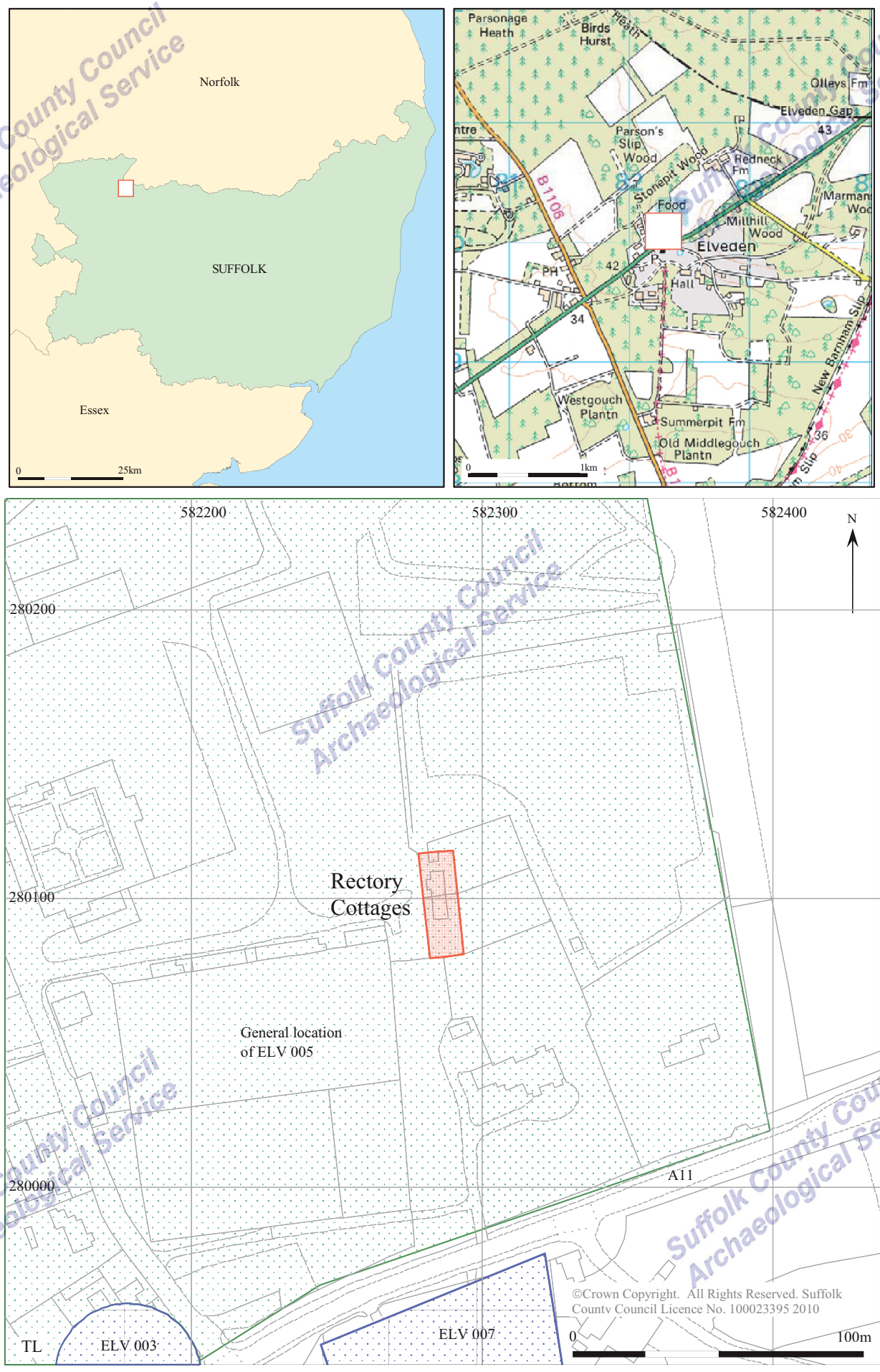

Figure 1. Site location and HER listings

4. Methodology

The trenches were c.0.6m wide x c.1m deep and dug using a JCB equipped with a toothed bucket. The enlarged area of Trench 2 was c.1.4m wide. The base of feature 0005 in Trench 2 was hand excavated after machine excavation and environmental samples were taken from the two fills. Both pits 0007 (Trench 2) and 0010 (Trench 7), were fully excavated by machine prior to becoming visible for hand excavation. The features were then cleaned by hand and drawn in section at 1:10. Pit 0005 was planned and a stratigraphic section of Trench 1 was drawn, both at 1:20. High resolution JPEG format digital colour photos were taken at 72 x 72 dpi of features and trenches, and monochrome film photos were taken of all features. All the trenches were monitored during excavation and the upcast soil was examined for finds. There was some shallow truncation of the stratigraphy relating to service pipes in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. In Trench 7 the house footings had truncated the northern side of pit 0010.

On-site records have been input into the MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Record code ELV 069. Finds have been washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data entered onto the database. Inked and digital copies of profile and feature sections have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-57078) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds, under the HER code ELV 069.

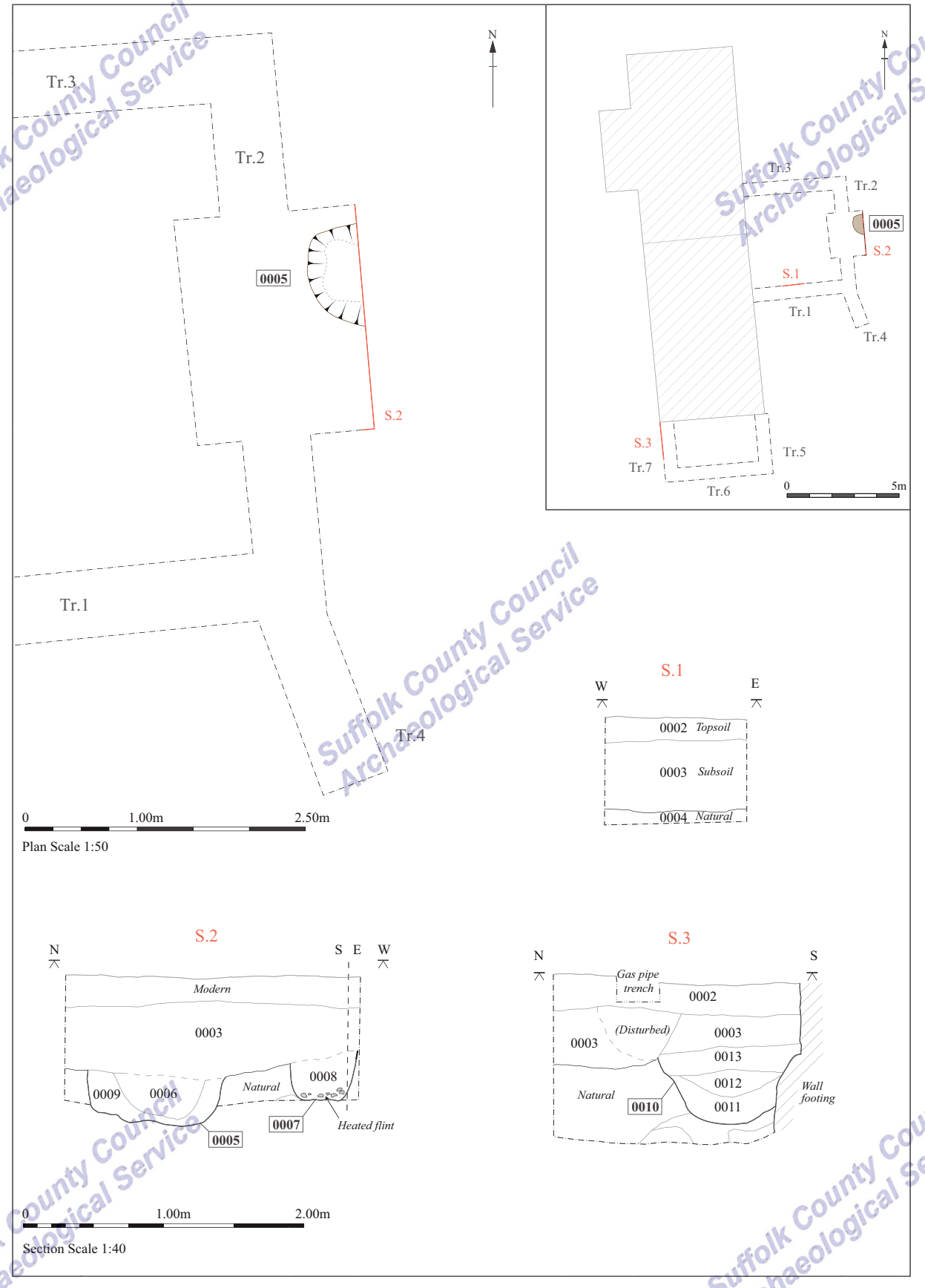

Figure 2. Plan and sections

5. Results

(Fig. 2)

The footing trenches revealed three individual cut features. Pit 0005 had c.80-90° sloping sides and an uneven base. It was recorded in Section 2 of Trench 2 and had been almost entirely machine excavated prior to becoming visible in plan. Two fills were recorded within it, the uppermost of which was 0006, a mid-very dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional stones, which was c.0.3m deep. Mid grey/brown silty sand with regular stone and occasional chalk inclusions made up basal fill 0009, which was also c.0.3m deep. Both fills contained struck flint dating the feature as possibly later prehistoric, whilst soil samples from this material contained hazelnut shell, as well as charcoal that was indicative of high temperature combustion.

Approximately 0.45m south of 0005 was pit 0007, also in Section 2. This had c.80° sides, and a flat base. It was not visible in plan, having been truncated by machining. The single fill, 0008, was made up of mid-dark grey/brown silty sand, mottled with orange sand patches. It contained chalk and stones, heat-altered flint at the base and later Iron Age and late 3rd to 4th century pottery.

Pit 0010 was seen in Section 3, Trench 7. Its northern side was truncated entirely by the existing house footings, but its southern side was largely undisturbed, sloping at c.45-50°, before coming to a slightly concave base. Fills 0011, 0012 and 0013 were recorded within the feature, though none produced finds or could be sampled as they were machine excavated. Basal fill 0011 was extremely dark grey silty sand with stones, and was c.0.25m deep. There was also some heat-altered flint. The fill appeared to include burnt material, although not from *in-situ* burning activity. Middle layer 0012 consisted of mid-dark grey/brown silty-sand with regular stones and was c.0.2m deep. The final infill of the pit was 0013, a mid brown silty sand with frequent stones that measured c.0.2m deep.

In all seven trenches and above all three features was a mid and occasionally dark brown silty-sand subsoil layer with regular stones and flints. This was up to 0.55m deep and numbered as 0003. Above this was the existing topsoil layer 0002. This was truncated in many places by pipe trenches and made up of mid-dark brownish-grey silty-sand, which was c.0.25m deep in places.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Cathy Tester

6.1 Introduction

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

Ctxt	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001			3	406				
0006			52	415	1	1	Animal bone 3-<1g	Preh
0008	7	58						lc3/4 preh
0009			23	193	1	1	Fired clay 1-28g	Preh
Total	7	58	78	1014	2	2		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Seven sherds of pottery weighing 58g were recovered from the fill of pit 0007 (0008). Four of the sherds (33g) are hand-made sand-tempered bodysherds of probable later Iron Age date. Three sherds (25g) are from a single late shell-tempered ware vessel, probably a dish of late 3rd or 4th century date.

6.3 Fired clay

A single small abraded fragment of fired clay (28g) in a medium sandy fabric was recovered from pit 0005 (0009.)

6.4 Flint

Colin Pendleton

Seventy-eight pieces of struck flint were collected from three contexts, one unstratified (0001) and two from pit 0005 (0006 and 0009). Most of the flint is dark grey or black and cortex when present is a creamy off-white colour. Three pieces are patinated. The flint was recorded by type and descriptive comments about the appearance, condition and technology were noted and a date suggested. The flint types are summarised in the table below and descriptions by context are shown in Appendix 3.

Type	No
Core	2
Core /walling	2
Flake	25
Spall	44
Long flake	2
Hammerstone	1
Utilised flake	2
Total	78

Table 2. Flint summary

The majority of the assemblage consists of unmodified flakes and spalls. Two long flakes and a hammerstone are also present and two flakes show signs of use-wear. Two irregular flake cores, one with a single platform and one with a double platform, are present. The flint assemblage falls within three possible date ranges. A few patinated pieces are early, probably Mesolithic, but the majority are later prehistoric. The assemblage from the lower fill of pit 0005 (0009) could be later Bronze Age or Iron Age, the pieces in the top fill (0006) probably include residual material which is earlier, Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Two irregular cores, one with traces of mortar, could be crude later prehistoric flake cores or more likely, post-medieval walling material.

6.5 Burnt flint

Two small fragments of burnt flint were recovered from the environmental samples from pit 0005. Burnt flint was also noted in the basal fill of pit 0010 (0011) but not retained.

6.6 Animal bone

Two tiny fragments of animal bone, possibly burnt, were recovered from the environmental sample from pit 0005 (0006).

6.7 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

The excavation recorded a small number of features of probable prehistoric date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the upper and lower fills of pit 0005, and two were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS staff and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

Results

The assemblages are very similar in size and composition, with both being largely composed of charcoal/charred wood. Many of the charcoal fragments have a distinct flaked appearance, probably suggesting that the material was burnt at a very high temperature, and it is probably of note that several pieces are also fringed with tarry

globules, a further indication of high temperature combustion. Other remains are scarce, although both assemblages contain small pieces of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

Sample No.	**1**	**2**
Context No.	**0006**	**0009**
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx
Corylus avellana L.	x	x
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Black tarry material	x	x
Bone		x
Small coal frags.	x	x
Sample volume (litres)		
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**

Table 3. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains
Key: x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 51-100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens

Conclusions

In summary, these assemblages are typical of many noted from a range of prehistoric features recorded across eastern England. Such assemblages are generally small and limited in composition, although it is perhaps of note that food refuse, and particularly hazel nutshell fragments, are commonly recorded. Such assemblages may possibly represent the 'ritual' burning of midden waste prior to the seasonal vacation of a site (cf. Harford Park and Ride site, Norwich (Fryer forthcoming), although in the current instance, where only one feature has been sampled, such an interpretation may not be accurate.

6.8 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The monitoring produced a small assemblage of finds from a limited number of features of prehistoric, Roman and possible post-medieval date. The earliest finds are within the flint assemblage, a few pieces which are Mesolithic or Neolithic although the majority of the flint is later prehistoric, Bronze Age or Iron Age.

Pottery was recovered from one pit and included sherds of hand-made sand-tempered ware which are of probable later Iron Age date, as well as Roman sherds of late 3rd or 4th century date.

Fragments of possible post-medieval walling material were also collected but they are not certainly distinguishable from crude flake cores of later prehistoric date.

The macrofossil assemblages are small and limited in composition.

7. Discussion

Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed prehistoric, Roman and possibly later activity on the site, including one pit which is late prehistoric and another which is late Roman/post-Roman. A third pit, 0010, was not clearly dated. It is worth noting that the dating of these features is based on a limited amount of evidence and that any finds may be redeposited. It is also difficult to date the features without being able to relate them to the wider potential archaeological landscape outside of the trenching.

The pits were well preserved below subsoil layer 0003. This was interpreted as buried topsoil, which had been disturbed by root action from nearby trees. It produced no finds but its colouration may suggest it was somewhat leached and possibly of some antiquity. The layer varies in depth considerably over the site, suggesting that it infilled natural undulations or hollows. It is possible that the lack of finds within it indicates that it formed during a period when the site was not occupied, and its composition suggests it may have formed as a result of Aeolian or alluvial deposition. Above layer 0003 was topsoil 0002, which was quite shallow and disturbed. This contained post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), which was not kept.

The nature of the three pits was rather variable in terms of their size and shape, perhaps indicating different functions or dates, although their close proximity, charcoal-rich fills and similar depths was thought initially to suggest that they may be contemporary. Pit 0005 contained evidence of burnt material, with the soil samples producing pieces of combusted wood and hazelnut shells. However in this pit the presence of two fills indicates that it may have stood open for an extended period, during which time it was filled with two burnt deposits, which possibly contained domestic waste. The dating evidence for this feature suggests it is probably late prehistoric, as shown by the flints within it, although these may also be redeposited material. If the finds within the pit were redeposited then pit 0005 may still be from the same phase as pit 0007. However this seems unlikely judging by the number of flints recovered, hence the decision to phase it as late prehistoric.

Pit 0007 contained the most clearly datable material, consisting of pottery sherds of later Iron Age and late 3rd to 4th century date, although this large disparity and the limited number of sherds suggests that the Iron Age material was redeposited within fill

0008 at some point during or after the late 3rd or 4th century. The purpose of the pit is unclear, although the presence of the dark fill and heated flint indicates burnt material, although not burning *in-situ*.

Although it produced no finds and could not be sampled, the nature of fill 0011 within pit 0010 closely resembles the burnt material within the other pits, especially fill 0008 from pit 0007. The basal deposit within 0010 was extremely dark and contained heat-altered flint, again indicating redeposited burnt material. The three fills within the pit suggest that it was left open for some time.

Whilst the finds recovered from the monitoring were not used to definitively date the features, their presence indicates the potential for Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity on the site or in the nearby vicinity. The later Iron Age and later Roman pottery also tends to indicate that the site was located relatively close to settlement activity as does the presence of charcoal and hazelnut shell within the pit fills.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The good levels of preservation seen during the monitoring revealed three clear pit cuts and a relatively large finds assemblage spanning an unusually large timeframe. The three features may or may not be contemporary, but a clear use of pits for depositing the remains of burnt material obviously recurs. In the case of pit 0005 this may be related to the seasonal vacation of Iron Age sites. This indicates the potential for further excavation in the area to increase understanding of Iron Age settlement in Suffolk. The large finds assemblage and relatively high number of features uncovered in the limited trenching of this monitoring has revealed that the site was used potentially from the Mesolithic to the late or post-Roman periods as a whole. This illustrates the even wider potential for the local archaeological landscape, particularly in relation to the Iron Age and Roman sites of importance, such as Fison Way and the other settlements and activity nearby. With this site there is a possibility that it was occupied with a degree of continuity from the Iron Age through to the late Roman period. This is not only partially indicated by the finds, but also by the patterns seen within settlements relatively nearby in locations such as Lakenheath and Mildenhall.

Whilst the flint and pot assemblage provides slightly unclear dating evidence for pits 0005 and 0007, it does indicate a local landscape in which Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman people were present and actively producing the flint tools. This fits with the currently recognised pattern of human activity around the Brecklands, and the site may have been a loose focus of such activity, perhaps in relation to local resources. The tendency for many of the finds to be redeposited also suggests that there may have been intensive late or post-Roman activity, during which time the pits may have been dug.

The pits are all sealed by layer 0003 and whilst this was not dated during the monitoring, the possibility of doing so in further archaeological work would help with the dating of the cut features. It is unclear at this stage how this layer formed, although it presently appears to relate to natural formation processes and may indicate a gap in the site's occupation, which would in itself indicate an interesting change in activity.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:Arc\Archive field proj\ Elveden\ELV 069 34A&B Rectory cottages
Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish Box H/80/2

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Rob Brooks, and managed by Andrew Tester.

The post-excavation was managed by Cathy Tester. Finds processing was carried out by Rebekah Pressler, and the production of sections and plans by Gemma Adams and Crane Begg. The specialist finds report was written by Cathy Tester. The soil samples were processed by Anna West, and the plant macrofossils were identified and written up by Val Fryer. The report was checked by Joanna Caruth and Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Fryer, V., forthcoming, 'Charred plant macrofossils and other remains' from the Harford Park and Ride site, Norwich. *East Anglian Archaeology*

Gregory, T., 1991, Excavations in Thetford, 1980-1982, Fison Way, Vol. I, *East Anglian Archaeology 53,* Norfolk Museums Service, Norfolk

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

34 RECTORY COTTAGE, ELVEDEN, SUFFOLK (F/2006/0961/FUL)

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. Background

1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a new extension at 34 Rectory Cottage, Elveden, Thetford, IP24 3TJ (TL 822 800), has been granted by Forest Heath District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application F/2006/0961/FUL).

1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).

1.3 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the area of a high status late Iron Age burial (ELV 005). There is high potential for further Iron Age deposits to be disturbed by development at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.4 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 establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liase with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.6 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

1.7 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.

1.8 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 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new extension (sitting room and porch), which measures *c*. 10.00 x 4.20m. Any ground works associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.

3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.

4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.6 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. 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.

4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (*MAP2*), particularly Appendix 3.This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event 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.

5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

5.4 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.

5.5 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 proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

5.7 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the

archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.10 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

5.11 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 Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.12 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.

5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel. : 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 16 March 2009 Reference: /34RectoryCottage_Elveden2009

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 list

Context	Feature	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description	Over	Under
0001			Finds		Unstratified finds from upcast soil. Machine excavated. Finds made up of two flint cores and one flint flake.		
0002		1-7		Layer	Topsoil layer seen in all trenches. Highly mixed in places, particularly to the rear of the property by foundations of the 'old stable block' that had been there previously. Lots of service pipes, etc. Made up of a mid-dark brownish-grey silty-sand. 0.25m deep. Machine excavated.		
0003		1-7		Layer	Subsoil layer seen in all trenches. Mid and occasionally dark brown silty-sand. Regular stones and flints, c. 0.01-08m diameter. Often disturbed, with a diffuse horizon clarity, particularly over feature fills. 0.55m deep. Machine excavated.		
0004		1-7		Layer	Natural subsoil seen in all trenches. Very light yellow/cream coloured sand. Regular stones, c.0.02-04m diameter. Sporadic patches of mid-dark orange sand and isolated chalk deposits. Machine excavated.		
0005	0005	2	Pit	cut	Pit cut, located directly north of 0007. Seen in trench section. Appears to be round in plan. Truncated by machining. Abrupt break of slope at surface on north side. Gradual break of slope at surface on south side. 70-80°, slightly concave sides. Gradual break of slope at base. Uneven base. 0.84m (N-S) x 0.55m (E-W) x 0.4m deep. Filled with 0006 & 0009. Digital colour and monochrome film photographs taken.		0009
0006	0005	2	Pit	fill	Mid-very dark grey/brown silty sand. Occasional stones, c. 0.01-05m diameter. Slightly mixed with 0009. Contained struck flint. Machine and hand excavated. One bucket environmental bulk sample (no. 1) taken from fill. Interpretation - top fill of pit 0005. C.0.3m deep.	0009	0003
0007	0007	2	Pit	cut	Small probable pit just south of 0005. Only seen in section. Could not be seen during machining. Abrupt break of slope at surface. C. 80°, slightly concave sides. Abrupt break of slope at base. Nearly flat base. >0.39 m (N-S) x 0.43m deep. Filled with 0008. Digital colour and monochrome film photographs taken.		0008
0008	0007	2	Pit	fill	Mid-dark grey/brown silty sand, mottled with orange sand patches, which are thought to be root disturbance. Contained at least six pieces of heat-altered flint at 0.04-08m diameter, which were not kept. Regular stone inclusions at c.0.01-05m. Occasional c.0.01m chalk nodules. Contained pottery. Machine excavated. Interpretation - fill of 0007. C.0.35m deep.	0007	0003

Context	Feature	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description	Over	Under
0009	0005	2	Pit	fill	Mid grey/brown silty sand. Regular stone inclusions, c.0.01-04m diameter. Occasional c.0.0-0.02m chalk lumps. Contained struck flint. Machine and hand excavated. Root disturbed. Two bucket environmental bulk sample (no. 2) taken from fill. Interpretation - basal fill of 0005. C.0.3m deep.	0005	0006
0010	0010	7	Pit	cut	Pit cut seen in western section of Trench 7. Truncated by house footings on northern side. Removed by machine prior to being seen in plan. South side - abrupt break of slope at surface, c.45-50°, irregular slope. Gradual break of slope at base. Base - slightly concave. Quite leached and disturbed profile. Filled with 0011, 0012 and 0013. >0.84m (N-S) x c.0.6m deep. Digital colour and monochrome film photographs taken. Interpretation - an 'ancient' pit, judging by the leaching of the fills and the similarities and possible association with 0005 and 0007.		0011
0011	0010	7	Pit	fill	Extremely dark grey (appears black) silty sand. Regularly occurring stones at 0.01-03m diameter. Some heat altered flint that was not kept. Slightly disturbed by footings and gas pipe. Diffuse horizon clarity. Machine excavated. Interpretation - primary infill of burnt material that is not in-situ. C.0.25m deep.	0010	0012
0012	0010	7	Pit	fill	Mid-dark grey/brown silty-sand. Regular stone inclusions at 0.01-03m diameter. Disturbed by footings. Diffuse horizon clarity. Machine excavated. Interpretation - second infill of pit. C.0.2m deep	0011	0013
0013	0010	7	Pit	fill	Mid brown silty sand. Frequent stones at 0.01-05m diameter. Hard to distinguish from 0003. Disturbed by footings. Diffuse horizon clarity. Machine excavated. Interpretation - final infill of pit. C.0.2m deep.	0012	0003

Appendix 3. Flint catalogue

Ctxt	Type	No.	Pat	Notes	Date
0001	core	1	u	Crude irregular flake core. possible traces of mortar. c. 30% cortex. Either L Preh or PMed walling material	Later preh or PMed
	core?	1	u	Irregular core w a few flakes detached, and a hammerstone type surface on one face. (no observable mortar but could also be walling material	Later preh or PMed
	flake	1	sl	Lightly patinated flake, snapped, prob Mesolithic or Neolithic	Meso or Neo?
0006	core	1	u	Large irregular flake core w several short flakes removed, mainly single platform, some incipient cones of percussion. About 10-15% cortex	Neo-EBA
	flake	1	u	Very small grey flake w hinge fracture	Later Preh
	flake	1	u	Small grey squat flake w transverse parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Later Preh
	spall	23	u	Spalls (sieved)	Later Preh
	flake	1	u	irregular thick flake, probably fragment of core	Later Preh
	flake	2	u	irregular thick flakes, small amt of cortex	Later Preh
	flake	1	sl	Irregular snapped flake, parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Later Preh
	flake	1	u	Shallow/thin snapped flake hard hammer struck	Neo or EBA
	flake	1	u	Thin snapped flake, limited cortex	Neo or EBA
	flake	1	u	Small snapped flake, mainly cortical	Later Preh
	flake	1	u	Small flake using an earlier patinated flint	Neo EBA
	flake	4	u	Small long flakes (1 snapped) parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Neo EBA
	flake	1	u	Small snapped flake, parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Neo EBA
	flake	1	u	Very small flake honey-coloured	Neo EBA
	flake	2	u	Irregular squat flakes	Neo EBA
	flake	2	u	Small flakes w hinge fractures	Neo EBA
	flake	1	u	Fire-damaged flake	Later Preh
	flake	1	p	Patinated flake w hinge fracture and parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Meso
	flake	1	p	Snapped thin flake/small blade , parallel flake scars on dorsal face	Meso
	long flake	1	u	Long flake, probably use-wear on long edge probably Neo-EBA	Later Preh
	long flake	1	u	Long flake using what appears to be patinated flake or blade. Probably Neo	Later Preh
	hammerstone	1	u	Possible core - re-used as a hammerstone. c 30% cortex	Later Preh
	utilised flake	1	u	Irregular squat flake, limited use-wear on 1 edge	Later Preh
	utilised flake	1	u	Flake w limited use wear on 1 edge	Later Preh
0009	core	1	u	Largish irregular flake core, 2 main striking platforms, some hinge-fractured flakes removed, 5-10% cortex	Later Preh
	flake	1	u	Irregular, sub-triangular x-section, hinge fractured	Later Preh
	flake		u	Squat flake	Later Preh
	spall	21	u	Spalls some have a bit of cortex(sieved)	Later Preh

Key: p = patinated, u = unpatinated, sl = slightly patinated

Appendix 4. Site matrix