

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land to the East of George Lambton Avenue, Newmarket.

NKT 019

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1 – 5758

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2004
(Planning app. no. F/2004/0027/FUL)

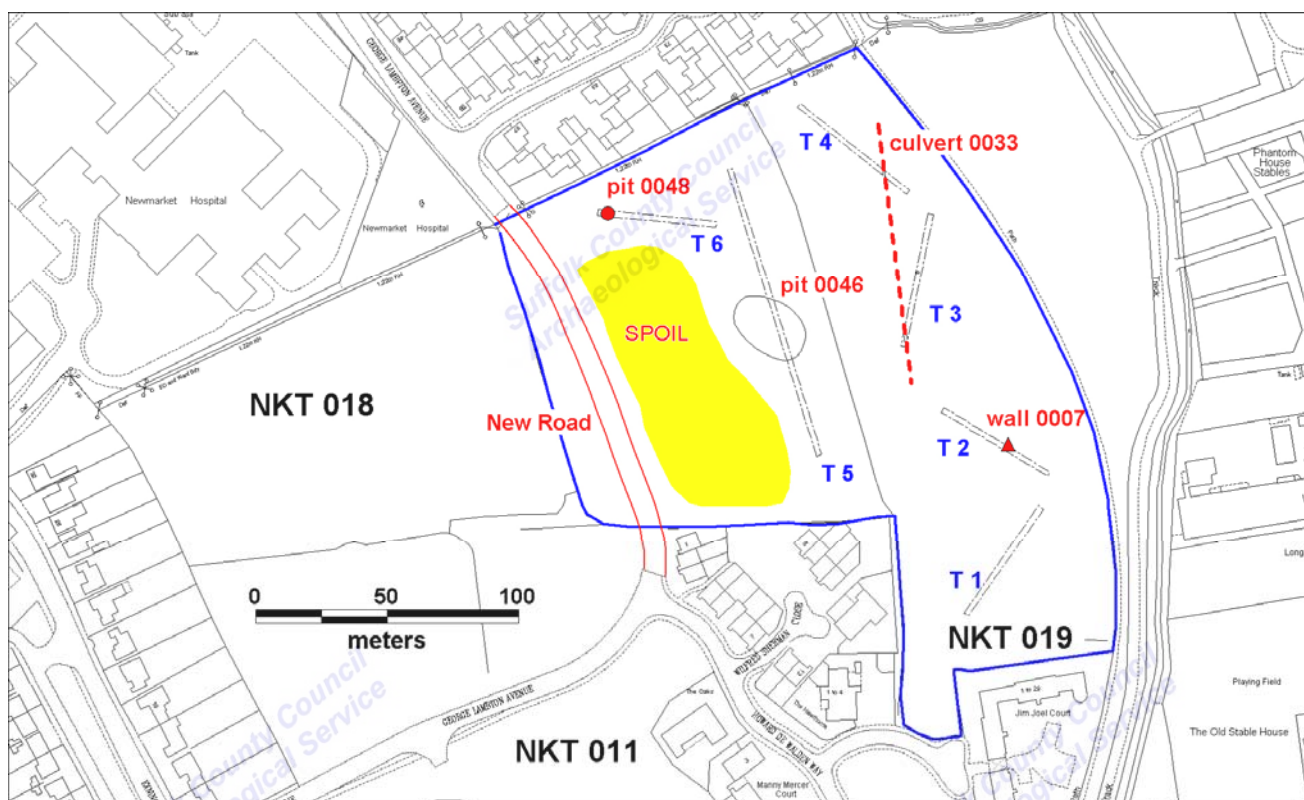


Figure 1: Location of Trenches

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2004

Jezz Meredith
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service
© December 2004

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds by Cathy Tester
5. Conclusions and Recommendations
6. Disclaimer

List of Figure

Figure 1: Location of Trenches
Figure 2: Significant features within Trenches 2, 3 and 4.
Figure 3: Plan of Features within Trench 6 and Sections of Pits 0048 and 0051.
Figure 4: Location of Trenches in relation to 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of c.1900

List of Tables

Table 1: Trench descriptions
Table 2: Context list
Table 3: Finds quantities

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Jezz Meredith	Project Officer
Cathy Tester	Finds Officer
John Duffy	Assistant Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Suffolk Heritage Housing Association and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division).

The hand excavation of features was carried out by Roy Damant and Phil Camps. Jonathan Van Jennians conducted the Total Station Theodolite (TST) survey. The project was directed by Jezz Meredith and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. John Duffy produced the location plan from the TST survey. Finds processing was carried out by Cathy Tester and Gemma Adams. Cathy Tester produced the finds report.

Summary

Evaluation of land to the east of George Lambton Avenue, Newmarket, revealed the remains of a brick structure, probably part of a nineteenth century stable, and a stretch of brick-lined culvert. Large pits and spreads of rubble were also of nineteenth century date. Another area of the site revealed pits containing fire-cracked flint, probably of prehistoric origin.

SMR information

Planning application no. F/2004/0027/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 8th – 10th November 2004
Grid Reference: TL 6420 6405
Funding body: Suffolk Heritage Housing Association

Introduction

The Planning Authority (Forest Heath District Council) has been advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent being given. An evaluation was therefore proposed to determine the archaeological potential of the area.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Persimmon Homes on behalf of Suffolk Heritage Housing Association. The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service conducted the fieldwork on the 8th to the 10th of November 2004.

The site is situated to the east of a recently completed section of George Lambton Avenue. No archaeological sites or remains have been recorded from this area. An evaluation conducted in October 2004 to the immediate west encountered a post-medieval ditch and a probable prehistoric pit c.150m to the west (NKT 018). Another area to the south-west (NKT 011) revealed the remains of a nineteenth century structure, presumed to be a stud, and shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. A single pit containing burnt flint, of probable prehistoric date, was also identified.

The site under present consideration consists of two fields, bounded by modern housing to the south and north, by a tarmac footpath to the east and by a new section of George Lambton Avenue to the west (see figure 1). The field to the west could only be partially sampled by trenching due to a large quantity of spoil stored in this area. The line of the road, the fenced-off corridor around the road and the ground between the new road and the western boundary of the field could not be accessed.

The eastern field was lower lying than that to the west and it looked as if soil had accumulated (colluvium) up against the western side of the hedge-line that separated them. A large sewer drain ran parallel to the east of the hedge, trenching had to keep clear of this modern service feature.

A large hollow in the western field indicated a possible filled-in pond or pit. In the extreme south-west corner of the eastern field a rise in level indicated where modern spoil had been dumped and spread.

The site is located within an area of potential Roman and prehistoric settlement, field systems and burials. The previous evaluations in the vicinity of George Lambton Avenue suggest that a low level of prehistoric activity might be encountered. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of this area (1880s) shows a stable complex within the eastern field.

Methodology

Trial trenching was conducted using a 360° machine equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing within the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed separately by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits and archaeological features in the base of the trench. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

Any archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and then hand excavated. Ditches, pits and potential features were investigated and recorded if proved to be real.

A Total Station Theodolite (TST) plan was made of the trench locations and of features within them. Observed archaeological features were recorded on plan at a scale of 1:50 and in section at a scale of 1:20. Different deposits encountered, archaeological or otherwise, were described and given separate 'observable phenomena' (O.P.) numbers (0001 – 0052, see table 2).

Finds recovered from the excavation were assigned to their archaeological context and recorded using the appropriate O.P. number. All finds were inspected, cleaned and analysed at our Bury St Edmunds office.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds. The Sites and Monuments Record code NKT 019 has been assigned to this site

Results

In the eastern field, archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 2,3 and 4. See figure 1 for trench locations and significant features and figure 2 for trench plans. In Trench 2 the corner of a brick structure, 0007, was revealed and this is probably part of a stable building known from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (see figure 4). A series of post-holes (0009 to 0019), some with wood still in-situ, and a large irregular pit, 0005, were also encountered. All these features were of probable nineteenth century date.

Trench 3 contained a nineteenth century pit, 0023, with abundant oyster shell. A substantial north to south running brick-lined culvert, 0033, was also encountered in Trench 4, and was of probable eighteenth century date. Besides the culvert, Trench 4 contained two large features, pits 0042 and 0044, containing post-medieval (eighteenth and nineteenth century) material, primarily building rubble.

A summary of the results from each trench is recorded in Table 1:

Trench no.	Description	Depth to natural
1	NE-SW orientation; length 49m; Up to 1.3m of modern overburden over topsoil 300mm; subsoil 200mm. No archaeological features. Modern water pipe encountered at c.2m depth at SW end.	1.8m (SW end) 600mm (NE end)
2	NW-SE orientation; length 48m; topsoil 350mm; subsoil 150mm. Features include an irregular pit of c.2m width, 0005, not excavated but containing post-medieval brick; the corner of a brick wall, 0007; series of post-holes, 0009-0020, some with wood still in situ	500mm (800mm SE end)
3	NNE-SSW orientation; length 50m; topsoil 350mm; subsoil 150mm. Features include a brick-lined culvert 0033, an oyster shell-filled pit 0023, a French drain 0025 and a group of undated pits 0027-0032.	500mm (200mm SW end)
4	NW-SE orientation; length 54m; topsoil 300mm, subsoil 150-200mm. Features include the continuation of the brick-lined culvert, here numbered 0034; two large pits 0042 and 0044 contained post-medieval rubble.	500mm
5	NNW-SSE orientation; length 116m; topsoil 300mm, subsoil 250mm. Single feature encountered, large pit 0046 – still survives as depression within field and is probably of fairly recent date.	600mm
6	E-W orientation; length 44.5m; topsoil 350mm; subsoil 300mm. Modern NW-SE service trench encountered 10m from W end. Features include a medium sized pit 0048, with dark fill, and a larger feature 0051, with paler fill, both containing burnt flint and probably of prehistoric date.	650mm

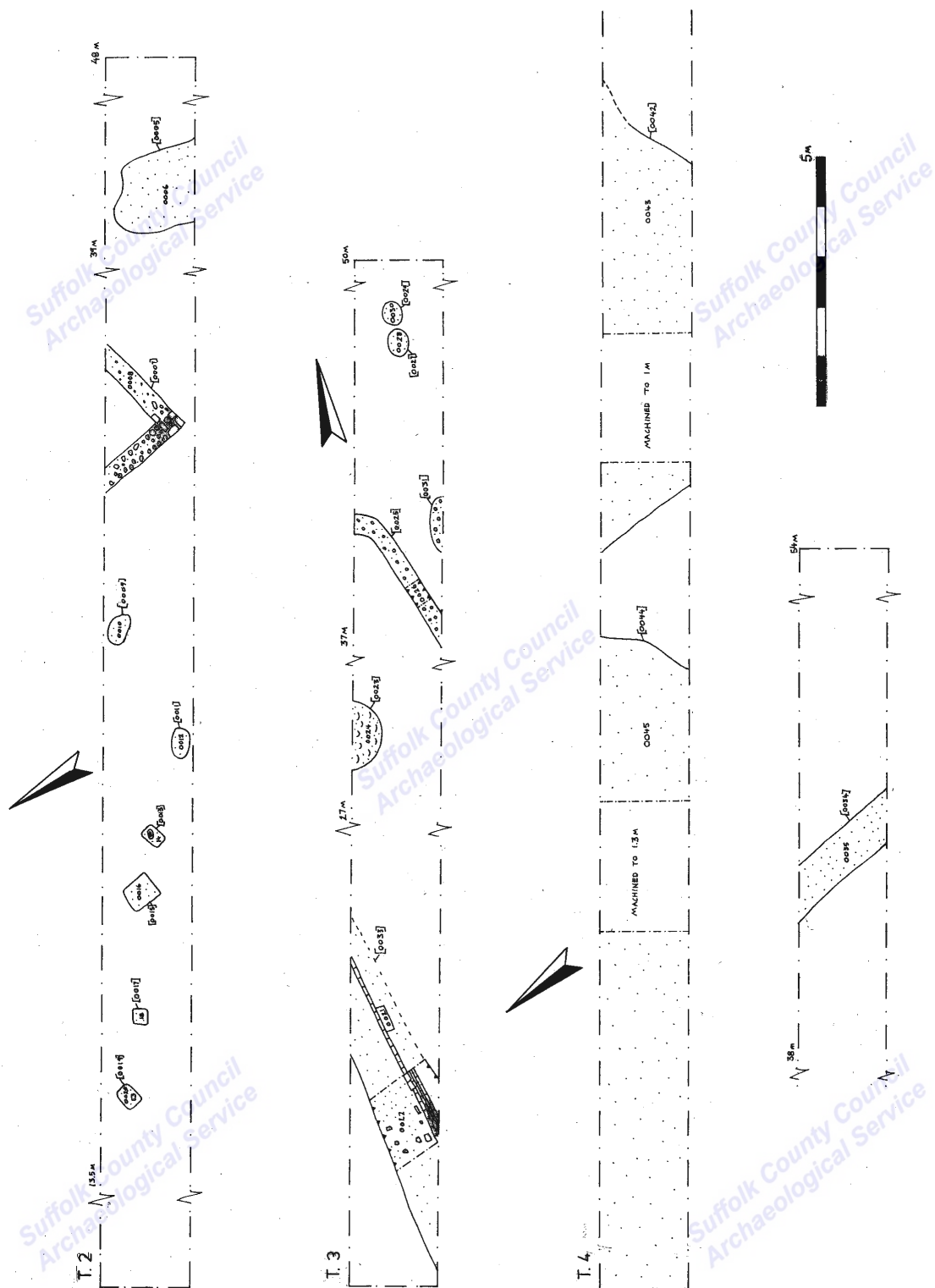


Figure 2: Significant features within Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

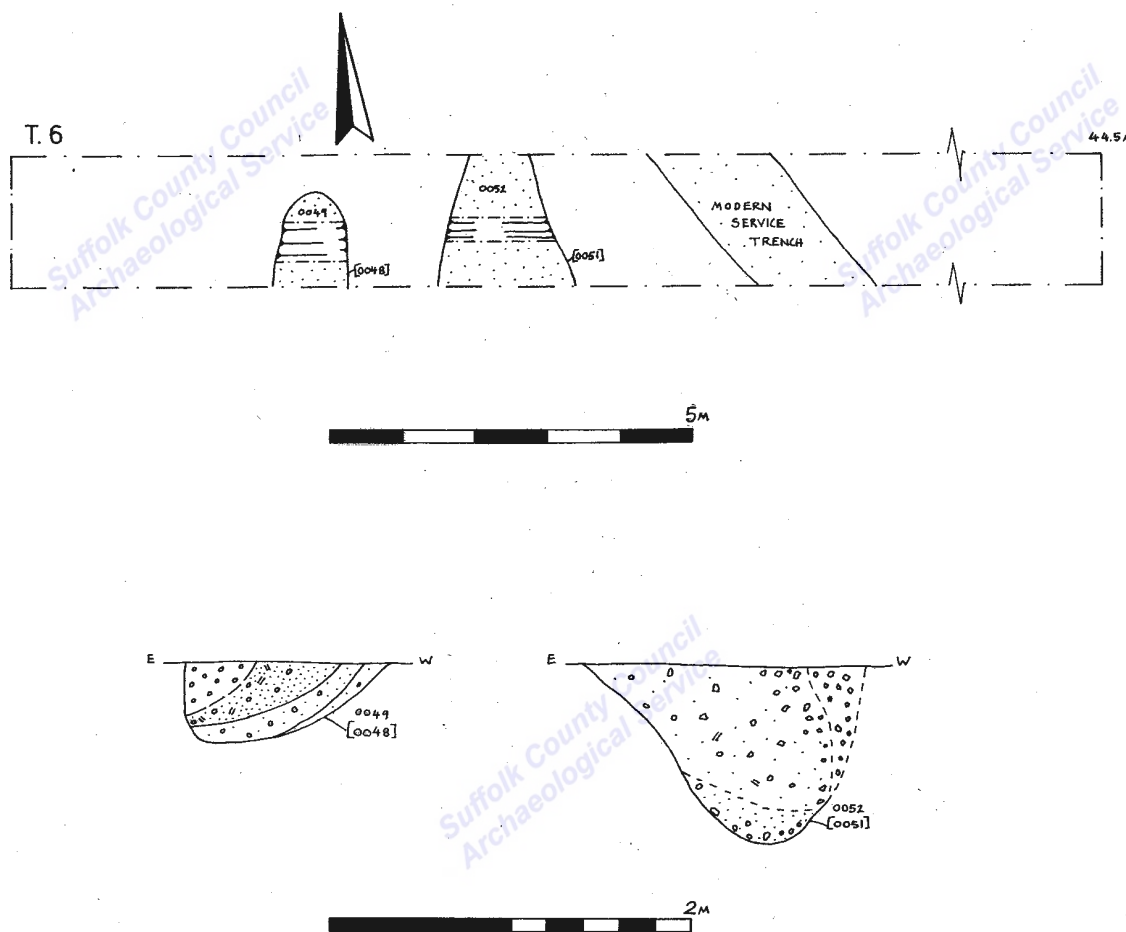


Figure 3: Plan of Features within Trench 6 and Sections of Pits 0048 and 0051.

Trenching was very restricted in the western field due to a large spoil heap, with the long Trench 5 put across a large hollow (recorded as pit 0046) of probable recent date (see figure 1). Striations within the fill of this feature suggested that it had been dug using a mechanical digger.

Trench 6 contained two pits containing fragments of burnt flint and are of probable prehistoric date. Pit 0048, 1.1m in diameter and 420mm deep (see section, figure 3), contained a central darker silty fill with charcoal flecks and a slump of natural sand and gravel along its eastern edge. It was from within the darker fill that the majority of the burnt flints and the single struck flint came from.

Pit 0051 was far less obvious with a pale brown clay sand fill, initially thought to be natural the presence of burnt flint recognised during the digging of a test hole showed this to be a substantial feature. Subsequent excavation revealed this pit to be of nearly 1m depth with a width of c.2m. The fill became slightly darker towards the base and a large slump of natural sand and gravel obscured the western profile of this feature. Burnt flint was recovered throughout the fill.

The contexts from the whole site are listed in table 2:

O.P	Context	Identifier	Location	Description	Finds
0001		finds	-	Unstratified finds from whole site	Glass, C.20 th
0002		layer	-	Topsoil, dark brown humic loam: whole site	
0003		layer	-	Subsoil, mid brown sandy clay: whole site	
0004		layer	T.1	Dump of modern overburden (redeposited natural) up to 1.3m thick, over 0002	
0005	0005	pit cut	T.2	Irregular (modern) pit c.1.5m width, not dug	CBM, PMed
0006	0005	pit fill	T.2	Mottled dark brown silty clay	
0007	0007	wall cut	T.2	Footing trench for wall with right-angle corner	
0008	0007	wall	T.2	Flint and mortar footing with occasional 1 st course of brick remaining.	
0009	0009	post/h cut	T.2	Elliptical cut	CBM, C.18 th
0010	0009	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam	
0011	0011	post/h cut	T.2	Elliptical cut	
0012	0011	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam	
0013	0013	post/h cut	T.2	Small square post-hole	
0014	0013	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam with wood post still present	
0015	0015	post/h cut	T.2	Larger square post-hole	
0016	0015	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam	
0017	0017	post/h cut	T.2	Small square post-hole	
0018	0017	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam	
0019	0019	post/h cut	T.2	Square post-hole	
0020	0019	post/h fill	T.2	Dark brown loam with white brick fragment	
0021	0033	culvert	T.3	Wall for brick lined culvert	
		wall			
0022	0021	fill	T.3	Fill of culvert, dark brown loam with frequent brick fragments	
0023	0023	pit cut	T.3	Circular pit, c.1.4m diameter	
0024	0023	pit fill	T.3	Black loamy clay with v. frequent oyster shell.	
0025	0025	drain cut	T.3	Vertical sided cut for land drainage	
0026	0025	drain fill	T.3	Very frequent small stones in dark brown sandy silt	
0027	0027	pit cut	T.3	Circular round-bottomed cut of c.500mm	
0028	0027	pit fill	T.3	Dark brown sandy loam	
0029	0029	pit cut	T.3	Circular round-bottomed cut of c.500mm	
0030	0029	pit fill	T.3	Dark brown sandy loam	
0031	0031	pit cut	T.3	Partly revealed stone-filled feature	Fired clay
0032	0031	pit fill	T.3	Very frequent small stones in dark brown sandy silt	
0033	0033	culvert cut	T.3	N-S running cut for brick culvert 0021, c.1.3m wide, not bottomed at 400mm	Pot, C.18-19 th
0034	0034	culvert cut	T.4	N-S continuation of 0033 in trench 4	
0035	0034	culvert fill	T.4	Dark brown loam	Pot etc C.19 th
0042	0042	pit cut	T.4	Large, irregular sided pit, min. 8m wide and up to 1m in depth (Machine sampled)	
0043	0042	pit fill	T.4	Mixed chalky-clay / silty sand, frequent building rubble.	Pot etc C.19 th
0044	0044	pit cut	T.4	NW end of trench, large pit, at least 13m wide, sampled to a depth of 1.3m	
0045	0044	pit fill	T.4	Mixed chalky-clay with frequent brick and tile	Pot etc C.19 th
0046	0046	pit cut	T.5	Large (?machine excavated) pit, at least 14m wide and over 1.5m deep (not bottomed)	
0047	0046	pit fill	T.5	Mixed clay silt and yellow sand and gravel	CBM
0048	0048	pit cut	T.6	Partly revealed elliptical pit of c.1.1m width and 450mm depth.	
0049	0048	pit fill	T.6	Mid to dark brown	Flint / burnt flint, Preh?
0051	0051	pit cut	T.6	Large possible pit of 1.6m width and depth of c.960mm	
0052	0051	pit fill	T.6	Fine light brown clay sand becoming darker to base, fire-cracked flint found occasionally throughout fill	Burnt flint, Preh?

The Finds

Cathy Tester, December 2004

Introduction

Finds were collected from twelve contexts in five evaluation trenches, as shown in the table below.

OP	Tr No	Pottery		Brick		Tile		Burnt flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
		No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	1					2	61			Glass (1-56g)	20th c.
0006	2			4	85	1	19				PMed
0020	2			1	770						18th c.
0022	3			1	2870						18th c.
0024	3					1	33			Oyster (10-419g)	PMed
0026	3			1	276						18th c.
0032	3									Fired clay (1-24g)	
0043	4	4	375	1	810						18-19th c
0045	4	9	171	1	303	5	924			Slate (1-14g); Clay pipe (1-4g)	19th c.
0047	5			2	1468						
0049	6							41	474	Flint (1-19g)	Preh?
0052	6							8	108		Preh?
Total		13	546	11	6582	9	1037	49	582		

Pottery

Thirteen sherds of post-medieval finewares and coarsewares were collected from two contexts. The majority of it consisted of refined white earthenwares. Eleven sherds from bowls, plates and platters with transfer printed decoration were found in pits 0042 and 0044 (0043 and 0045). A large unglazed redware fragment with a rounded bead rim (diameter 200mm) was found in pit 0042 (0043). The vessel is conical in shape and is possibly a flowerpot but the interior surface is caked with limescale 3mm thick and mortar. An unglazed redware body sherd was also found in pit 0044 (0045).

Ceramic building material and fired clay

Bricks were mainly later types and were collected from seven contexts. A partial brick from posthole 0019 (0020) is in a poorly mixed yellow-firing fabric containing flint and ferrous fragments and measures 105mm wide and 53mm thick. A complete brick from culvert 0033 (0022) has sandy mortar on all sides and is in a well-mixed orange red fabric. It measures 232 x 108 x 67mm. A half brick 'waster' from pit 0042 (0043) is purplish grey, overfired and cracked. The fabric is poorly mixed containing coarse flint, chalk, and grog and this brick measures 102mm wide and 64mm thick — 78mm in the centre where it bulges. A fragment from pit 0044 (0045) in a poorly mixed fabric containing grog and ferrous fragments measures 51mm thick. This brick has a reduced core which suggests an earlier, possibly 15/16th century date. A half brick from pit 0046 (0047) has a well-mixed sandy fabric containing flint, chalk and clay pellets and measures 105mm wide and 64mm thick. It has been partially burnt.

Roof tiles found in four contexts were all post-medieval. The best examples were a pantile and yellow-firing peg tiles from pit 0044 (0045). Small fragments of probable roof tiles were also found in pits 0005 and 0023 (0006 and 0024) and unstratified (0001).

A single fragment of fired clay in an orange sandy fabric was collected from pit 0031 (0032).

Miscellaneous

Slate

A small fragment of roofing slate was found in pit 0044 (0045).

Clay pipe

A single clay pipe stem piece was collected from pit 0044 (0045).

Glass

A fragment of modern 'bathroom' glass was unstratified in Trench 1.

Flint

A struck flint flake was found in pit 0048 (0049). It appears to be hard-hammer struck, has an incipient cone of percussion and is probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age but the possibility that it may be post-medieval cannot be ruled out (C. Pendleton, pers. comm.)

Forty-nine pieces of burnt flint were collected from pits 0048 and 0051 (0049 and 0052). The fragments are blue-white and fire-cracked, of the classic 'pot-boiler' type and probably prehistoric.

Shell

Ten oyster shells were collected from pit 0023 (0024).

Discussion of the finds

The evaluation finds assemblage includes possible prehistoric material but most finds collected were of post-medieval date. The pottery consisted of 18th or 19th century coarsewares and finewares and although one earlier brick was present, most of the bricks probably have a 17th or 18th century date. Other classes of finds (slate, clay pipe and glass) also indicate a post-medieval date.

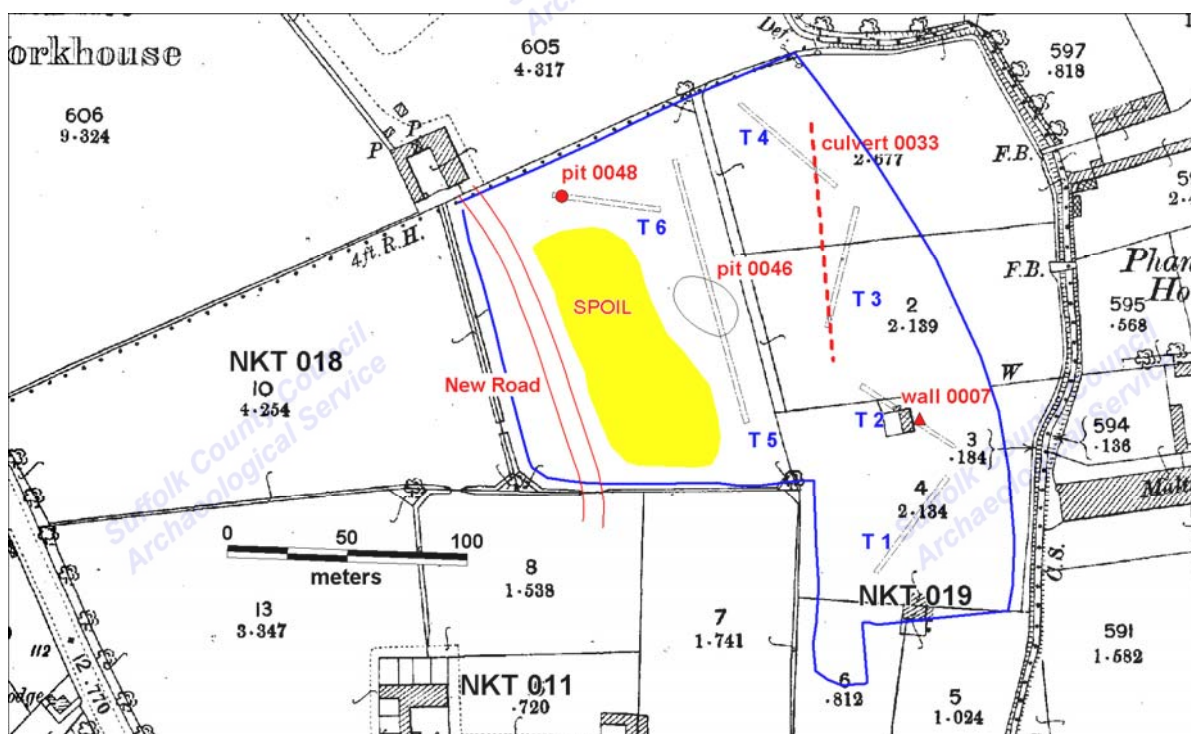
Conclusions and Recommendations

Evaluation of the site revealed a spread of activity dating from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century in the eastern field and a small area of prehistoric features in the western field. Large areas, particularly in the western field could not be sampled due to obstructions.

In the eastern field wall 0007, encountered in Trench 2, corresponds to a stable building marked on the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey map (see figure 4). The concentration of post-holes seen within this area, some still containing wood, are thought to be either contemporary or even more recent. The quite substantial brick-lined culvert running north to south across Trenches 3 and 4 was a more unexpected find. Backfill from this feature suggests an 18th century date. Further trenching to the south of Trench 3 to follow the line of the culvert could not be undertaken due to the proximity of the modern sewer running parallel with the hedge. Other substantial pits in Trench 4, 0042 and 0044, appeared to contain building demolition and probably other refuse of the 18th or 19th centuries.

In the western field Trench 5 sampled the large hollow 0046. This indicated that this was a very substantial feature of over 1.5m depth. The brick recovered from its fill suggests a recent date and certain soil marks noted suggest this pit was machine excavated. At the western end of Trench 6, two pits contained burnt flint of probable prehistoric date (pits 0048 and 0051). A struck flint from pit 0048 indicates a probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (6000 – 1500 BC)

This pair of prehistoric features are adjacent to a large area that could not be sampled due to spoil storage. It is recommended therefore that any major groundworks within the area of the spoil heaps (marked in yellow in figure 1) and adjacent to the western half of Trench 6 should be monitored.



Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service