

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/098

**New Visitor Centre, Suffolk Punch
Trust, Hollesley Bay
HLY 110**

S. Cass

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at the Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley Bay Colony in advance of construction of a new visitor centre. The construction involved inserting a new access road and associated parking in addition to the visitor centre building. This report is concerned with the visitor centre building only, with another report anticipated to cover the remaining works. The area of ground truncation required for the construction of the visitor centre encountered several features of Iron Age date, including two pits and three to four ditches, possibly related to some form of enclosure or boundary. At least three of the features contained a significant amount of burnt material, suggested as being the result of at least one event of high temperature combustion, most likely from some form of small-scale industrial process. Although the features encountered continued out of the area where the archaeological horizon was exposed, none of them were visible in the sections of the building foundations excavated in these directions. It is anticipated that further work will be required on future stages of development within the site.

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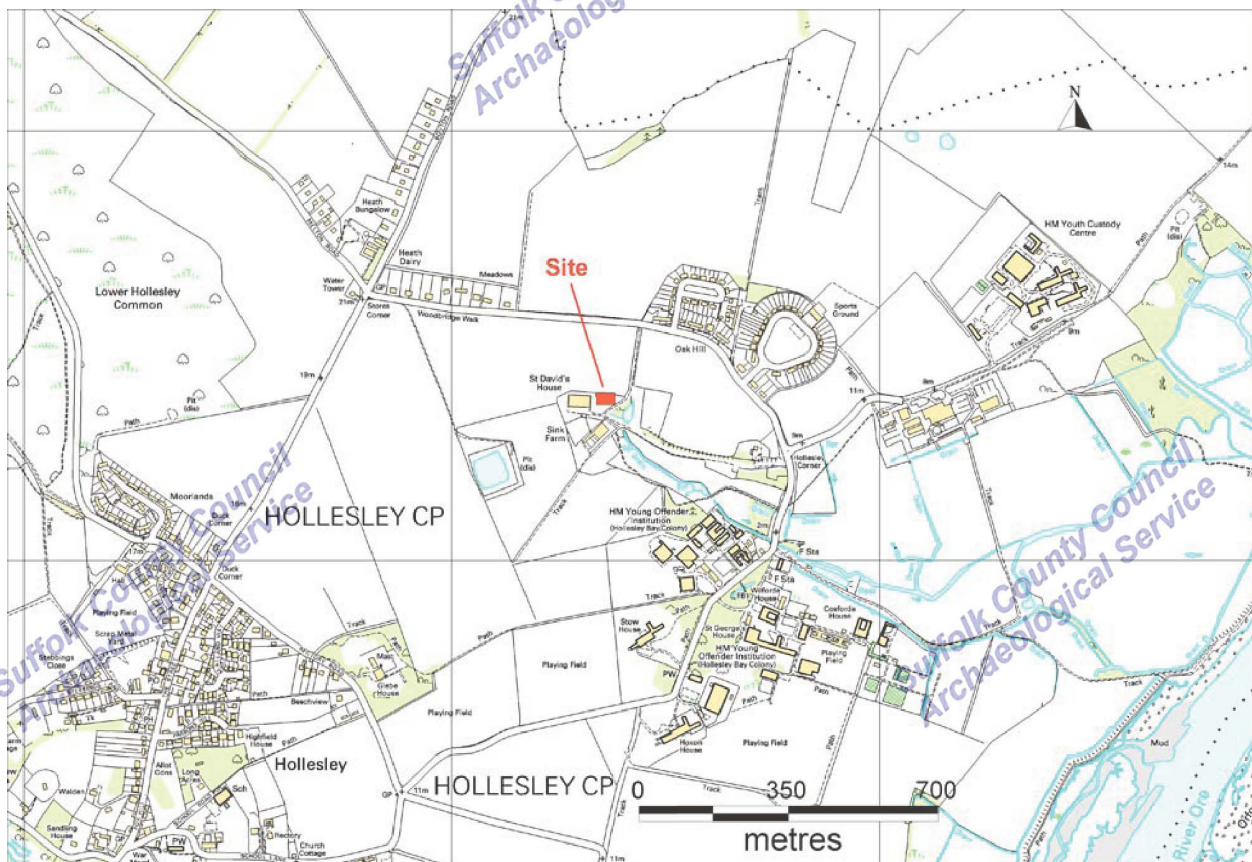
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1. Introduction

This report documents the archaeological works carried out in advance of the erection of a new visitors centre at the Suffolk Punch Trust site at Hollesley Bay Colony (Fig. 1) between the 19th and 31st of March 2009. The presence of significant quantities of archaeological features in such a small area necessitated a change in the project design from a watching brief into a small-scale excavation and the second part of the anticipated works being placed under an updated specification to include an archaeological evaluation prior to commencement of the car park construction.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on the edge of a shallow valley, on a south-east facing slope at a height of between 10m and 8m AOD, on glaciofluvial drift above Cretaceous sand or Crag (deep sand). The land slopes down further to the south and east. Prior to this development the land was grassed scrub/wasteland and may have had some light structures on it in the relatively recent past.



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Figure 1. Location map

3. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological background for the area relates mainly to a large cropmark complex (including field systems, trackways, ring ditches and enclosures) approximately 800m north-east of the site. There is also an undated possible causeway c. 725m due east of the site. A Neolithic flint arrowhead has been recorded to the north (c. 580m) and a mid-late third century coin c. 530m to the southeast. Neolithic flintwork (including a part-polished axe) and late Iron Age pottery have been found c 1km to the south and south-west as well.

No evidence of development on the site is visible in the earliest OS maps for the area, and it is likely that the subsequent developments are entirely related to the use of the land as the prison stud, and thus quite modern. Prior to the prison, this land appears to have been part of a training college, originally for 'young gentlemen' who were to leave for the colonies, providing them with training in agricultural practices and the skills necessary for colonial life. Later, in the early 1900's, the site was acquired by the Central (unemployed) Body of London offering smallholdings and training to unemployed people from London.

4. Methodology

Originally, the site was stripped under constant archaeological monitoring, to the constructor's formation level for the new building. At this point, significant archaeological deposits were encountered and it was decided that a different approach was necessary. The new methodology entailed the stripping of the site to either the first level at which archaeology was encountered or to the formation level for the building, whichever was higher. As the land sloped away to the south and east, it meant that the archaeological horizon would only be visible in the north-western corner of the site, with subsoil and topsoil remaining over the other areas. Disturbance in the other areas would be limited to the actual foundation trenches, which would be observed after the exposed archaeology was recorded. Once an appropriate record had been made of the archaeological deposits, the site was re-stripped to the formation level for the visitor centre and the footings were excavated.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The deep truncation at the north-western corner proved to be the only point where archaeologically relevant deposits were encountered, although there were also more modern truncations present. The features encountered appear to be mainly agricultural in nature, although the richness of the finds in some features suggests that there may have been more intensive usage (possibly including occupation) in close proximity at one point.

5.2 Monitored site strip

The features in the north-western corner mainly consisted of between 3 and 4 ditches, and 2 to 3 pits, with a large modern truncation passing across the area from east to west. Pottery recovered from the features dates entirely from the Iron Age period.

Pit 0002 was a circular feature with steep, almost vertical, sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base measuring 1.6m east-west by 1.8m north-south and 0.28m deep. Fill 0003 was a moderately compacted charcoal-rich dark brown to black silty sand with occasional small rounded stones up to 50mm diameter. There were moderate charcoal fleck inclusions, along with occasional larger lumps of charcoal and occasional daub flecks and fragments, burnt flints and pot sherds. Some root/animal disturbance was noted, along with slumping originating along the northern edge of the feature.



Plate 1. Pit 0002, facing west (1m scale)

Ditch 0004 and 0014 was a linear ditch, orientated north-south, then turning to pass out of the area of excavation towards the north-east. It had a U-shaped profile, with steep sloping edges and a concave base with a moderate break of slope. It measured 0.4m deep and 0.9m east-west at the section of 0004 and 0.6m deep and 0.96m wide at the section of 0014. Ditch 0004 was filled with 0005, a soft mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones up to 50x30mm and occasional charcoal flecks, with some evidence suggestive of root/animal disturbance. Within slot 0014 three fills were observed. The primary fill was 0015, a pale brown slightly silty sand mottled with natural yellow sand with occasional small rounded stones, deposited from the north-western side of the feature and showing evidence of some root disturbance. The secondary fill was 0016, a mid brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones up to 70x50mm and occasional charcoal flecks, with some evidence of animal disturbance. Sealing this was 0017, a soft dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones up to 40x60mm and moderate rounded stones up to 20x20mm.

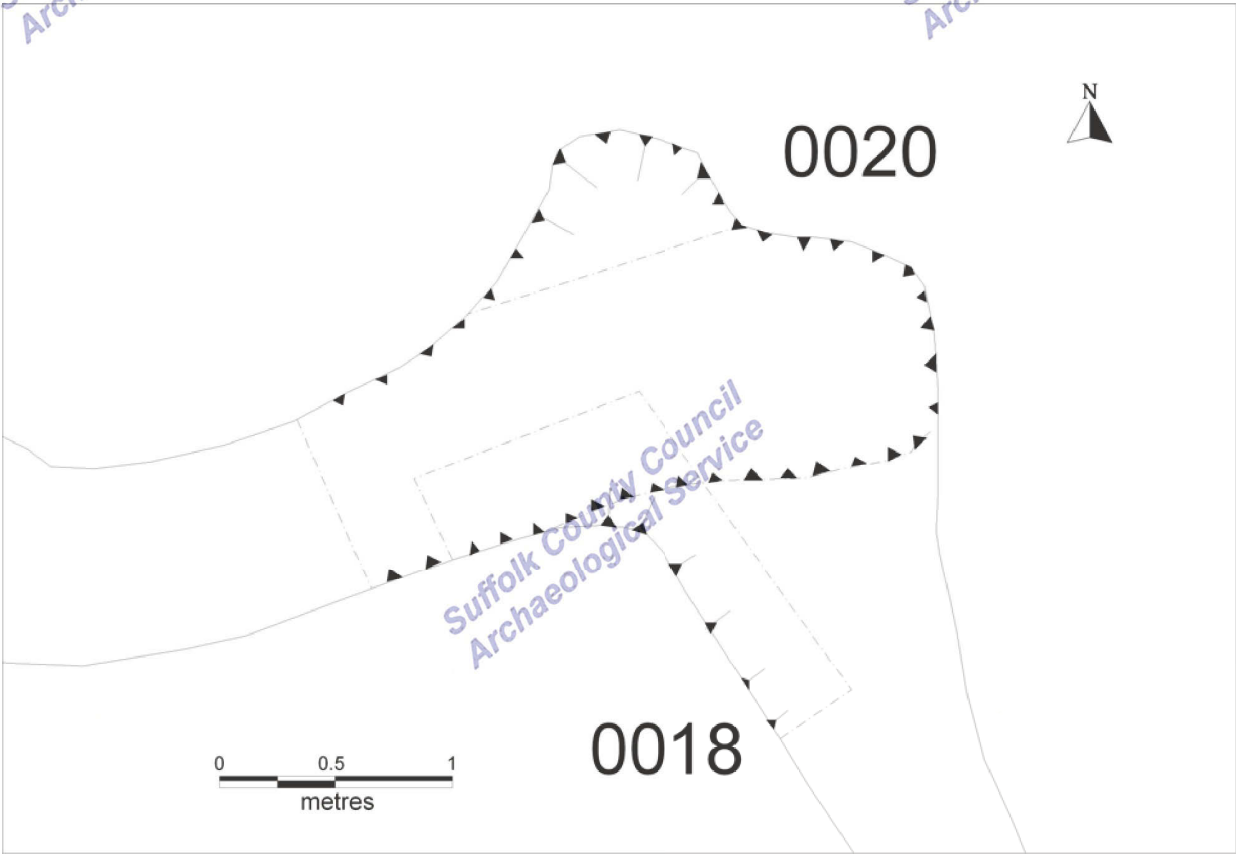


Plate 2. Ditch 0014, facing north (1m scale)

Ditch 0006 was a large linear ditch, orientated approximately northwest-southeast, with a shallow dished profile, gentle curving edges and a non-perceptible break of slope to a shallow slightly concave base. It appeared to cut feature 0004/0014, although the area of the relationship was badly truncated by machining before the methodology was altered to allow proper archaeological recording to take place. Unfortunately the north-western portion of the ditch was totally truncated and as such, only visible in the section at the edge of the site. The ditch was 1.6m wide (southwest-northeast) and 0.3m deep at the section of 0006, and a similar size at the limit of excavation. It was filled with 0007, a soft mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecks, and very occasional larger rounded stone, angular flint (retained as possible crude flakes) and burnt sandstone fragments.

Ditches 0008, 0012 and 0018 are all believed to be the same feature, a shallow linear ditch entering the site on the western side heading generally in a south-easterly direction. It is possible that the deviation in this route was to take in a pit, 0020, although it is also possible that there was an older ditch along this alignment of which 0020 is the last remaining part, that was redefined and re-cut by 0008/0012/0018. The extant ditch is between 0.9-1.0m wide (northeast-southwest) and approximately 0.25m deep, filled with a consistently light brown loose silty sand with occasional small rounded stones and some charcoal flecking. Finds were only recovered from slot 0012 within this feature.

Feature 0020, was a steep, near vertical-sided elongated pit/linear feature, approximately 0.5m deep and up to 1.6m wide (northwest-southeast). It was partially truncated by the above feature, which masked its presence until excavation. The primary fill (0022) was a mid brownish yellow silty sand mixed with mid-pale yellow (natural) sands. The secondary fill (0021) was a mottled black/mid brown silty sand deposit with some intermingling and a diffuse and disturbed interface with 0022.



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Figure 2. Detail of pit 0020

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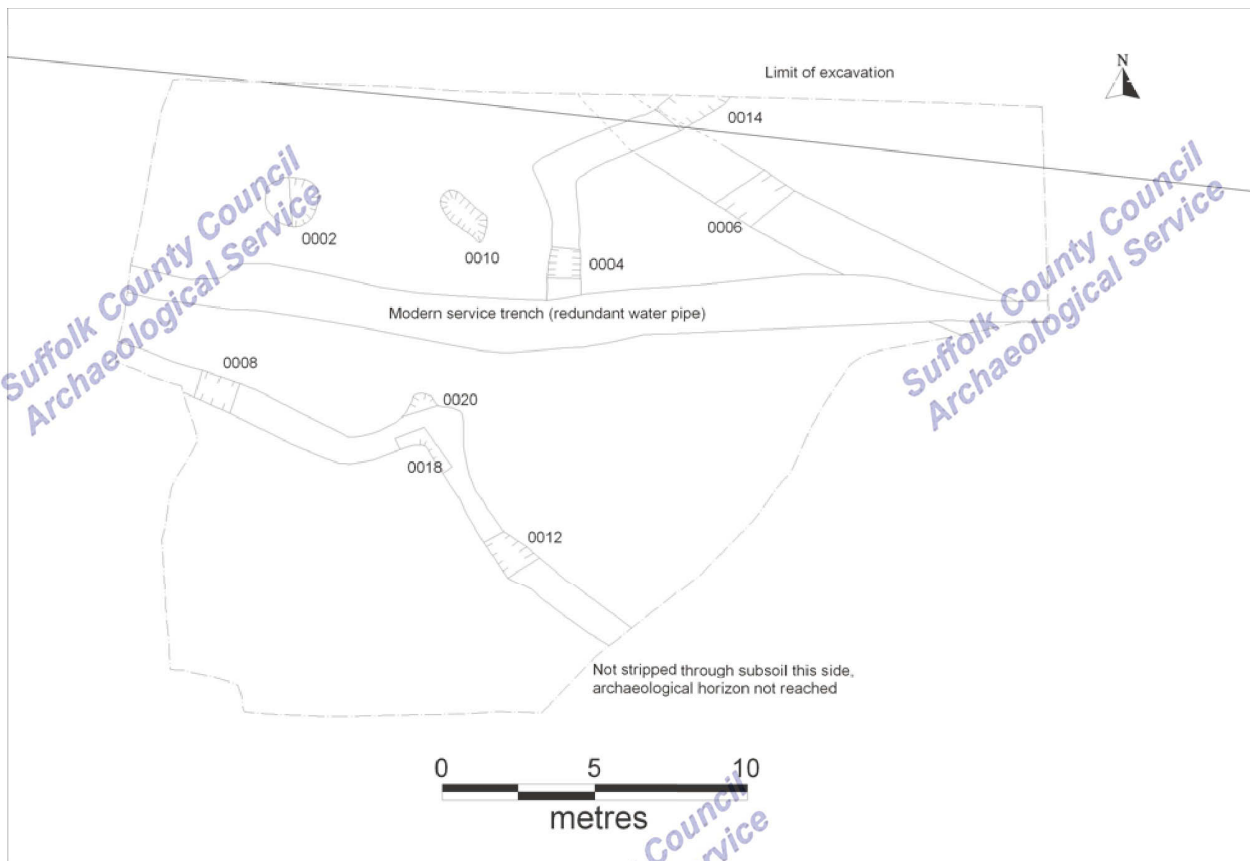


Plate 3. Ditch 0018 and feature 0020, facing north (1m scale)

Pit 0010 was an elongated/ovoid pit, 1.9m northwest-southeast by 0.9m northeast-southwest and 0.29m deep with steep sloping edges and a moderate break of slope to a flattish base. It was filled with 0011, a mid brown soft silty sand with occasional flint pebbles. Some patches of slightly darker sand were initially investigated as possible body/coffin staining but dismissed as they showed no form and were confirmed to run beyond the edges of the feature into natural deposits. No finds were located within this feature.

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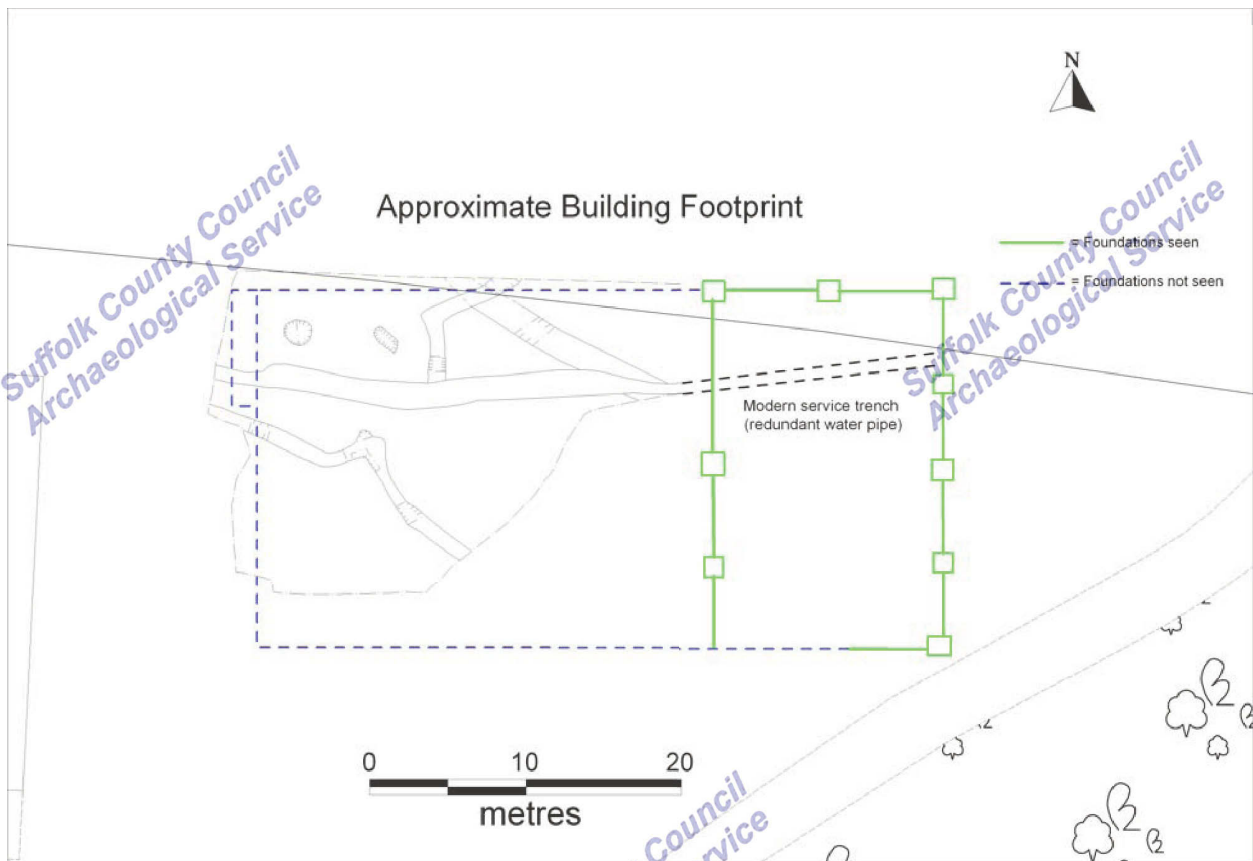
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Figure 3. Detailed site plan

5.3 Footings

The footings in the areas to the east and southeast of the excavated area were examined over several days between the 25th March and 1st April 2009. Despite the presence of known features heading towards these areas, none were distinguishable in any of the footings. Due to their depth and the nature of the soils it was considered not safe to enter the foundation trenches for detailed examination of the sections, so it is possible that the features did continue but were masked by bucket smearing or simply not visible due to difficult lighting conditions prevalent at the time.

Areas of modern truncation were noted during the observation of the footings, in some cases extending down into the natural geology and an area of deep subsoil was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the foundations, extending for c. 15m along the eastern side.



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Figure 4. Plan of observed foundations

6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Cathy Tester

6.1 Introduction

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

Ctxt	Pottery		Fired clay		Flint		Bt flint/stone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0003	29	381	5	42	2	4	8	154	Shell 1-<1g	Iron Age
0005	2	15			1	3				Iron Age
0007	1	2	1	1	3	31	4	13	Iron 2-18g (SF 1001-2)	Iron Age
0013	20	187	29	377	1	11	5	10	Slag 2-54g	Iron Age
0014	5	54								Iron Age
0016	1	3								Iron Age
0019	24	563	9	753			6	523	AB 1-11g	Iron Age
0021	17	229	2	82			14	1175	AB 6-7g	Iron Age
0022	1	5							Slag 3-390g	Iron Age
0024									Iron 1-22g	
Total	100	1439	46	1255	7	49	37	1875		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Prehistoric Pottery

Sarah Percival

Introduction

A small assemblage of 100 sherds weighing 1439g was recovered from nine contexts. The assemblage is all of later Iron Age date and is characterised by undecorated, round-shouldered or globular jars and bowls in sandy fabrics. The sherds are moderately well preserved with a large mean sherd weight of 14g.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 1992; 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion (F representing flint and Q quartz). Vessel form and form element were recorded and the sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were noted.

Fabric

The pottery is almost all of sand-tempered fabrics, which make up 99% of the assemblage (1423g). A very small number of sherds are flint-tempered (0.8%, 11g) and the remainder are too small to identify (0.2%, 5g). In addition to the rounded quartz pieces which make up the bulk of the inclusions the sandy fabrics also contain mica shreds and elongated voids characteristic of organic material such as chaff or grass (Table 2). Organic material was sometimes added to clay to improve workability during manufacture and drying. It is likely that the mica was a natural component within the clay. Sandy fabrics are highly characteristic of later Iron Age assemblages in East Anglia from around the 5th century BC onwards whilst flint-tempering was more prevalent during the earlier Iron Age (Percival 1999). The small numbers of flint-tempered sherds found are likely to be residual within the later Iron Age assemblage. The fabrics are comparable with those from the later Iron Age occupation at Burgh, some 15km north-west of Hollesley (Martin 1988, 43).

Fabric	Fabric description	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt
Q1	Common quartz sand; occasional mica shreds, fine sandy	29	29.0	302	21.0
Q2	Common quartz sand common elongated voids, medium organic	36	36.0	558	38.8
Q3	Common quartz sand common; medium sandy	9	9.0	115	8.0
Q4	Common quartz sand; moderate medium rounded quartz, coarse sandy	22	22.0	448	31.1
F1	Moderate medium angular flint; moderate quartz sand	2	2.0	11	0.8
Unknown	Abraded sherds of uncertain sandy fabric	2	2.0	5	0.3
Total		100	100.0	1439	100.0

Table 2. Prehistoric pottery fabric quantities.

Form

Rims from a minimum of eight vessels were identified (Table 3). All of the vessels are practical, utilitarian cooking and storage jars in a small number of forms and include a jar with high rounded shoulders similar to examples found at Burgh (Martin 1988, fig. 19, 24) and two others also with rounded shoulders (Martin 1988, fig. 19, P26), a globular jar which also finds parallel at Burgh (Martin 1988, fig. 19, P16) and two jars with out-turned rims. Vessel bases are simple or stepped and vessel surfaces have been smoothed (74.9%, 1078g), wiped (17.8%, 257g), burnished (5.8%, 83g) or roughened (1.5%, 21g).

Vessel type	No	% No	Wt/g	%Wt	No. of vessels
Everted rim jar	2	2.0	14	1.0	2
Globular jar	1	1.0	111	7.7	1
High round-shouldered jar	1	1.0	18	1.3	1
Jar/bowl	2	2.0	14	1.0	2
Round-shouldered jar	2	2.0	27	1.8	2
Unidentified body sherds	92	92.0	1255	87.2	
Total	100	100.0	1439	100.0	8

Table 3. Number of vessels by rim count and form.

Deposition

Prehistoric pottery was found in the fills of seven features, including five ditches which produced 57% of the total assemblage (824g) with a MSW of 15g. A single pit and a pit-like feature contained a combined total of 615g of pottery or 43% of the total assemblage by weight with a MSW of 13g (Table 4). The large MSW of the assemblage suggests that the pottery had remained largely undisturbed since incorporation in the features, however the fragmentary nature of the pottery and the lack of complete vessels indicates that the pits and ditches were not the primary context of deposition and that the pottery may have been stored or curated before being placed in the features.

Identifier	Feature	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt
Ditch	0004	2	2.0	15	1.0
	0006	1	1.0	2	0.1
	0012	20	20.0	187	13.0
	0014	6	6.0	57	4.0
	0018	24	24.0	563	39.1
Pit	0002	29	29.0	381	26.5
?Pit	0020	18	18.0	234	16.3
Total		100	100.0	1439	100.0

Table 4. Pottery quantities by feature.

Discussion

The small utilitarian assemblage is similar to the later Iron Age hand-made pottery found at Burgh dated by Martin to the 1st century BC (Martin 1988, 34). The site lies to the south of a small cluster of published Later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age sites, however the Hollesley site is somewhat later than these (Martin 1993, fig. 38) being perhaps contemporary with a small later Iron Age assemblage found in a single large pit at Kirton Lodge Farm which lies around 2km south of Hollesley (KIR 055 Area 2; Percival 2008).

6.3 Fired Clay

Sarah Percival

A total of 46 fragments of fired clay weighing 1255g were recovered from five contexts.

Twenty-five fragments (1157g) come from four objects or possible objects made in fine silty sand fabrics described in Table 5 below that were collected from three features which also contained later Iron Age pottery.

Fabric	Description	No	Wt/g
G10	Common silty sand; common medium to large sub-rounded grog	1	98
Q10	Common silty sand; occasional mica shreds, fine sandy	23	979
Q11	Common silty sand; common elongated voids,	1	80
Total		25	1157

Table 5. Fired clay object fabric descriptions

A fragmentary triangular loomweight (272g) in sandy fabric Q10 was recovered from the fill of ditch 012 (0013, SF1003). The loomweight is similar to examples from Danebury and originally had three suspension holes, one piercing each angle of the weight (Cunliffe and Poole 1991, fig. 7.44). Triangular loomweights of this form were also found at Burgh associated with pottery of later Iron Age and early Roman date (Martin 1988, fig. 35).

A solid 'drum-shaped' object, 77mm high, 91mm wide and weighing 707g, also in sandy fabric Q10, was found in the fill of ditch 0018 (0019, SF1004). The object is unusual and no parallel has been found. The upper surface of the object has 5? deep fingertip impressions whilst the underside is smooth. Its dimensions are similar to those of cylindrical loomweights of later Bronze Age date, but with no central perforation hole cannot have served the same purpose.

Two other pieces of fired clay are possible objects, but with no preserved surfaces, undiagnostic. One fragment (98g), in grog-tempered fabric G10, came from ditch 012 (0013) and the other (80g) in sandy silty fabric Q11, from pit 0020.

A further 21 fragments of fired clay weighing 98g were recovered from five contexts. The pieces are small and abraded with an average weight of only 4.6g and have no features that would indicate their function but are made of coarse sandy fabrics which are more likely to have been from structural use, such as daub or in hearths.

6.4 Metalwork

Three iron nails (40g) were collected from two contexts. Two nails from ditch 0006 (fill 0007) were recorded as small finds. The first is complete, 80mm long with a round head and square shaft that tapers down to a wedge-shaped point (SF 1001). The second is a broken off tip, 25mm long (SF 1002). A third nail, 85mm long (22g) was recovered from the subsoil (0024).

6.5 Flint

Colin Pendleton

Seven fragments of worked flint were collected from four contexts and details are shown in the table below.

Ctxt	type	No	Notes	Date
0003	flake	1	Flake, large amounts of cortex surviving down one edge on both faces.	Later Preh
	flake	1	Distal end of a snapped flake	Later Preh
0005	flake	1	Thin flake with cortex along one edge of dorsal face and distal end.	Later Preh
0007	shatter	1	Shatter piece. Dark grey surface showing mainly cortex on one face	Later Preh
	flake	1	Long thick relatively crude flake. Some battering on dorsal face	Later Preh
	flake	1	Squat flake possibly snapped . Small amount of cortex	Later Preh
0013	flake	1	Thin irregular flake with hinge fracture. Small amounts of cortex on both faces. Possible edge retouch or use-wear	Later Preh

Table 6. Flint catalogue

All of the flint is unpatinated and overall, none of the pieces are diagnostically early. They fall within a broad later prehistoric date, Bronze Age or Iron Age and display many of the characteristics of later flint assemblages.

6.6 Burnt flint and stone

A total of 37 fragments of burnt flint and stone weighing 1875g were collected from five contexts. All were found in association with Iron Age pottery.

Twenty-six fragments of burnt flint weighing 520g were collected from five contexts. All of the material is blue-grey to white and fire crackled and probably pot boiler debris. There are no concentrations but the largest amounts came from pits 0002 (0003) and 0020 (0021). Eleven fragments of burnt stone weighing 1363g were collected from two contexts. The material consisted of fire-cracked pebbles, five (512g) from ditch 0018 (0019) and six (851g) from pit 0020 (0021).

6.7 Slag

Five fragments of slag weighing 444g were collected from two contexts. Two fragments (54g) from ditch 0012 (0013) are non-diagnostic iron-working debris. Three fragments (390g) from pit 0020 (0021) are also non-diagnostic. Both features contained Iron Age pottery (and loomweights.)

6.8 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit and ditch fills, and four 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 on Table 7. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia, were present throughout.

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	0003	0007	0013	0021
Feature No.	0002	0006	0012	
Feature type	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	?Pit
Cereals				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	xfg			
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xfg			
(glume bases)	x			
(rachis internodes)	x			
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	x			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x			
Herbs				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love	x			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	x			
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	x	xx	xxx
Charred root/stem		x		x
Indet.seeds				x
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx	xx	x	
Black tarry material	x	xx	x	
Bone	x		x	
Burnt/fired clay	x			x
Ferrous globule			x	
Small coal frags.	x	xx	xx	
Vitrified material	x	x		
Sample volume (litres)	60	20	20	5
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	50%	100%	100%	100%

Table 7. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Key: x = 1 - 10 specimens, xx = 1 - 50 specimens, xxx = 51 - 100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens, fg = fragment

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds were only recorded at a very low density within the assemblage from pit 0002 (Sample 1). Preservation was moderately good, although the grains were fragmented. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted along with occasional spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases and seeds of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout and formed the major component of all four assemblages. Other remains included fragments of black porous and tarry material (some of which were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures), pieces of bone, pellets of burnt or fired clay and globules of vitreous material. Ferrous globules were noted within the assemblage from Sample 3 (ditch 0012). Small coal fragments were present within all but Sample 4, but all were probably intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken.

Conclusions

In summary, the composition of the assemblages from Samples 1, 2 and 3 suggests the presence of material derived from at least one episode of high temperature combustion, possibly connected to some small-scale 'industrial' process. The presence of charred cereals and seeds within Sample 1 may indicate that cereal processing waste was used as kindling or fuel for this process, a practise commonly seen in Romano-British contexts within eastern England, for example in the pottery kiln at Postwick near Norwich (Fryer and Murphy 1997).

As none of the current assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a written summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

6.9 Animal bone

Animal bone preservation is poor, only the most durable elements (teeth) have survived. Seven fragments (18g) were collected from two contexts ditch 0018 (0019) and pit 0020 (0021).

6.10 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The monitoring produced a small assemblage of mainly prehistoric finds from seven features, two pits and five ditches, which indicates activity on this site or in the vicinity during the Iron Age.

A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from nine contexts. The pottery is all of later Iron Age date, strictly 'utilitarian' cooking or storage vessels characterised by undecorated, round-shouldered or globular jars and bowls in sandy fabrics.

Four fired clay objects or possible objects made in fine silty sand fabrics and including a triangular loomweight were collected from three features, all of which contained later Iron Age pottery.

None of the struck flint is diagnostically early. It falls within a broad later prehistoric date range, Bronze Age or Iron Age, and displays many of the characteristics of later flint assemblages.

Animal bone preservation is poor, only the most durable element, teeth, have survived in two contexts. Although preservation was moderately good, plant macrofossil density was low and charred seed/grain chaff were only present in one sample. The main component of all four assemblages was charcoal representing material derived from at least one incident of high temperature combustion, possibly connected to some small-scale 'industrial' process.

7. Discussion

The features and artefacts encountered here appear to be consistent with a medium intensity utilisation of the landscape within the Iron Age, and are quite possibly related to the activity north east of this site. It is not known if the ditches encountered form any enclosures, or if they do which side is enclosed, but the quantities of pottery recovered, and the charcoal flecking present in the features are suggestive of occupation within close proximity to the site. The presence of charred material suggestive of small-scale industrial activity could be indicative of specialised activity in the area, rather than general domestic/hearth debris.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

While findspots of similarly aged artefacts have been recorded in the area, this site serves to confirm the geographical extent of occupation/activity in the Iron Age within the Hollesley Bay area. The features identified may be outliers to a larger site, possibly including more domestic features or specialised 'industrial' features. Further works, associated with the visitors centre, are anticipated - such as car parking and a horse ring - and it may be that the areas affected by these works would benefit from trial trenching or full-scale excavation as it seems likely that further archaeological remains will be encountered.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Hollesey

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: L / 144 / 3.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring and excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Linzi Everett, Simon Cass, Steve Manthorpe, Simon Picard) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Stuart Boulter, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds and environmental sample processing were carried out by Rebekah Pressler and Anna West respectively, with the production of site plans and sections by Simon Cass, and specialist finds report by Cathy Tester. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pemberton, Val Fryer and Sarah Percival. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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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. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

SUFFOLK PUNCH CENTRE, HOLLESLEY BAY COLONY, RECTORY ROAD, HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK (C/04/1552)

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

1. **The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
 - 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a new visitor centre, access and parking, together with the conversion of existing buildings at Hollesley Bay Colony, Rectory Road, Hollesley, Suffolk (TM 363 453) has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
 - 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
 - 1.3 The proposed development area is located on the west side, and immediately above the flood plain, of the River Ore (coastal floodplain), on glaciofluvial drift over Cretaceous sand or Crag (deep sand) at c. 8 - 10.00m AOD and sloping downwards west to east. The area of the new car park measures c. 55.00 x 35.00m.
 - 1.4 This site lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Archaeological monitoring during groundworks for the new visitor centre defined important late prehistoric settlement remains (fieldwork undertaken by SCCAS Field Team in March 2009: SCCAS report forthcoming). As a result of this work, there is high potential for early archaeological features to be defined in the area of the new car park, immediately to the west of the visitor centre. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
 - 1.5 In view of the important archaeological remains encountered during monitoring for the new visitor centre, a linear trenched evaluation is required of the car park area, before any groundworks take place (this Specification replaces the previous monitoring specification dated 9 August 2006). 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.
 - 1.6 In addition, further archaeological evaluation is likely to be also required in the future, for all further groundworks relating to the current planning permission, prior to development commencing.
 - 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: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the new car park, which is c. 87.50m². 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 50.00m of trenching in total at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
 - For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
 - For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.8 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.9 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling

strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.10 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.11 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.12 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.13 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.14 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.16 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.17 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.18 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 31 March 2009

Reference: / SuffolkPunchCentre-Hollesley2009

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. Context List

OPNO	GRID SQ	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION
1	Entire site	Topsoil	Topsoil deposit.
2		Pit	Circular pit, steep sides (almost vertical), fairly sharp B.O.S to flat base. Heavier slumping to northern edge of pit. 1.6m E-W, 1.8m N-S, 0.28m deep.
3		Pit Fill	Charcoal-rich loose dark brown to black silty sand. Occasional small stones <50mm. Moderate charcoal flecks, occasional charcoal lumps, occasional daub frags and flecks, occasional burnt flint, pot sherds. Some root/animal disturbance. Lighter brown towards northern edge.
4		Ditch	N-S orientated ditch possibly turning NE as it enters baulk at northern LOE. U-shaped profile, steep sloping edges and a concave base with moderate B.O.S. Truncated by stripping so dimensions at slot 0.4m deep and 0.9m wide. Dimensions at baulk 0.6m deep, 2.4m wide though not true width as at angle, open U-shaped profile.
5		Ditch Fill	Soft mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones up to 50x30mm, occasional charcoal flecks and v occasional pot sherds, 1 crude flint flake. Some root and animal disturbance.
6		Ditch	NW-SE orientated ditch. Shallow dish-like profile (gentle curving edges, non-perceptible B.O.S to slightly dished flattish base). Relationship with ditch [0004] almost entirely removed by machine and feature heavily truncated to NW. Appears to cut [0004] and probably also [0014].
7		Ditch Fill	Soft mid-dark brown silty sand, occasional rounded/sub-rounded stones up to 90x70mm. Very occasional large rounded stones (up to 170x150mm). Occasional charcoal flecking. V. occasional angular flints (possible crude tools - retained as finds), v occasional burnt sandstone. Some root and animal disturbance.
8		Ditch	Ditch, SE-NW orientated, entering from NW corner of LOE. Gently sloping sides, no perceptible BOS to shallow concave base.
9		Ditch Fill	Loose light brown silty sand, occasional small rounded stones (<30mm) and charcoal flecking.
10		Oval Pit /possible gr	NW-SE orientated ovoid pit. Rounded end to NW, straight S-N edge at SE. Steep sloping edges, moderate BOS to flattish base Suspected Grave, 100% excavated -no finds. 1.9m NW-SE, 0.9m SW-NE (max)
11		Pit Fill	Soft mid brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles. Some patches of compact slightly darker silty sand, initially investigated as possible body/coffin staining but dismissed as showed no form and continued beyond edges into natural.
12		Ditch	NW-SE orientated ditch, medium sloping sides, curved BOS to shallow concave base. 0.9m wide (NW-SE) and 0.25m deep. Some animal/root disturbance
13		Ditch Fill	Firable/soft mid orangeish brown silty sand. Occasional small-medium sub-angular- angular stones (<30mm).
14		Ditch	NE-SW orientated ditch, running into northern LOE. Open U-shaped profile (moderate sloping curved edges with a moderate/barely perceptible BOS to a concave base). Possible continuation of ditch [0004]. Looks to be cut by ditch [0006] but area heavily truncated.
15		Ditch Fill	Primary ditch fill. Soft pale brown (mottled with yellow sand) slightly silty sand. Occasional rounded stones (<30x40mm). Appears to have been deposited from NW side.
16		Ditch Fill	Soft mid brown silty sand. Occasional rounded stones (<70x50mm), fairly well sorted. Occasional charcoal flecks, some root/animal disturbance.

OPNO	GRID SQ	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION
17		Ditch Fill	Soft dark brownish grey silty sand. Occasional rounded stones (<40x60mm), moderate small rounded stones (<20x20mm). Some animal/root disturbance
18		Ditch	Corner of ditch, between [0008] and [0012]. Same feature as both. 0.23m deep, width varies. Steep sides, sharp BOS to flat base.
19		Ditch Fill	Friable mid brown silty sand with occasional small/medium sized subangular-angular stones.
20		Pit?	Possible pit cut underneath [0018], not distinguishable on surface from [0018]. 0.55m deep with steep sides and a flat base, with a moderate BOS.
21		Pit? Fill	Mottled black/mid brown silty sands, some intermingling with (0019) above and (0022) below. Edge unclear with (0021). Very occasional small-medium stones.
22		Pit? Fill	Mixed mid brownish yellow/pale yellow sands. Some intermingling with (0021) above, diffuse edge.
23		Section of Pit?	Second section through possible pit [0020]. Ditch [0018] not present in section. 0.4m deep, 0.75m wide.
24		Subsoil	Mid-pale brownish orangey yellow slightly silty sand with very occasional small-medium flints and stones.
25		Natural	Mid brownish orangey yellow mottled/banded sands.

Appendix 3. Pottery report

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt	Form	Notes	Surf	Period
0003	F1	b	2	11		abraded	S	Iron Age
	Q1	b	4	51			S	Iron Age
	Q1	b	1	2	Jar/bowl	Jar/bowl, flattened rim (SS1)	S	Iron Age
	Q1	b	2	4		(SS1)	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	1	5		Incised decoration	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	1	68		(SS1)	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	4	53			S	Iron Age
	Q3	b	1	13			B	Iron Age
	Q3	b	5	68			W	Iron Age
	Q3	r	1	18	Jar	High round-shouldered jar	S	Iron Age
Q4	b	7	88			W	Iron Age	
0005	Q2	r	1	11	Jar	Everted rim jar, flat rim	S	Iron Age
	Q3	ba	1	4			S	Iron Age
0007	Q2	b	1	2		Abraded	S	Iron Age
0013	Q1	b	4	49			B	Iron Age
	Q2	b	4	1		Very abraded scraps (SS3)	S	Iron Age
	Q2	ba	1	10		Stepped base	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	5	43			S	Iron Age
	Q4	b	4	79			S	Iron Age
	U	b	2	5		Orange, abraded	RW	Iron Age
0014	Q2	ba	1	31		Simple base	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	4	23			S	Iron Age
0016	Q1	r	1	3	Jar	Everted rim jar, rounded rim	B	Iron Age
0019	Q1	b	9	124			S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	6	101			W	Iron Age
	Q2	ba	2	163		Stepped base (P2)	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	2	16		Orange	RW	Iron Age
	Q4	b	4	48			S	Iron Age
	Q4	r	1	111	Jar	Globular jar, rounded rim (P1)	S	Iron Age
0021	Q1	b	7	64			S	Iron Age
	Q2	r	1	19	Jar	Round shouldered jar, rounded lip rim (P3)	S	Iron Age
	Q2	b	1	5		Orange surfaces	B	Iron Age
	Q2	b	1	7		(SS4)	S	Iron Age
	Q3	r	1	12	Jar/bowl	Rounded rim	S	Iron Age
	Q4	r	1	8	Jar	Round shouldered jar, rounded rim	B	Iron Age
	Q4	b	5	114			S	Iron Age
	0022	Q1	b	1	5		Orange surfaces	B

Key: b = bodysherd, ba = base sherd, r = rim sherd. Surface treatment B = burnished, RW = roughly wiped, S = smoothed, W = wiped,