

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/151

**Land at Hilton Farm, Badingham Road,  
Peasenhall**

**PSH 014**

**Kieron Heard**  
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## HER Information

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**Curatorial Officer:** William Fletcher

**Project Officer:** Kieron Heard

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## Summary

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PSH 014, Land at Hilton Farm, Badingham Road, Peasenhall: A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of 15 houses. Five trenches (total area 319.5m<sup>2</sup>) were excavated, representing approximately 5% of the area of the proposed development.

The geological strata consist of glacial sands and gravels, showing considerable variation across the site and displaying evidence for periglacial processes in the form of ice wedges, eroded hollows and a run-off channel. These deposits are sealed in places by naturally-occurring subsoil that has been altered in the course of agricultural activity. Elsewhere the subsoil has been lost by down-slope erosion or artificial truncation.

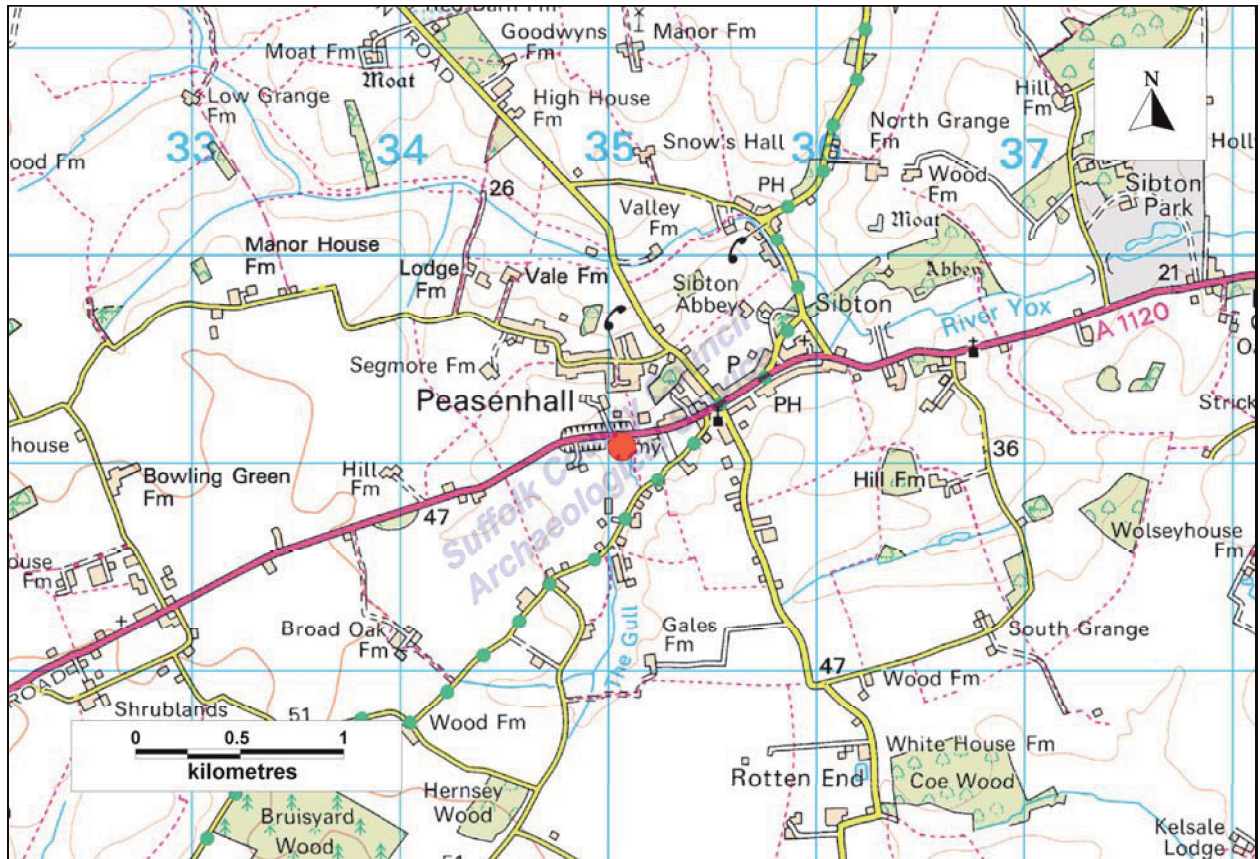
A large quarry pit, of post-medieval date, was identified in the northeast part of the site. Undated dumped deposits in the southeast part of the site are probably filling another extraction pit or represent up-cast from nearby quarrying.

The only significant artefactual evidence was a Romano-British brooch recovered from an otherwise undated deposit.

In view of these limited results it is recommended that no further fieldwork or stratigraphic analysis is required and that this document should be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

# 1. Introduction

An archaeological trenched evaluation was carried out on land at Hilton Farm, Badingham Road, Peasenhall (Fig.1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for 15 houses (planning application number: C/O8/0120). Marflet Construction Limited commissioned the evaluation on behalf of Hastoe Housing Association.



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Figure 1. Location map (general)

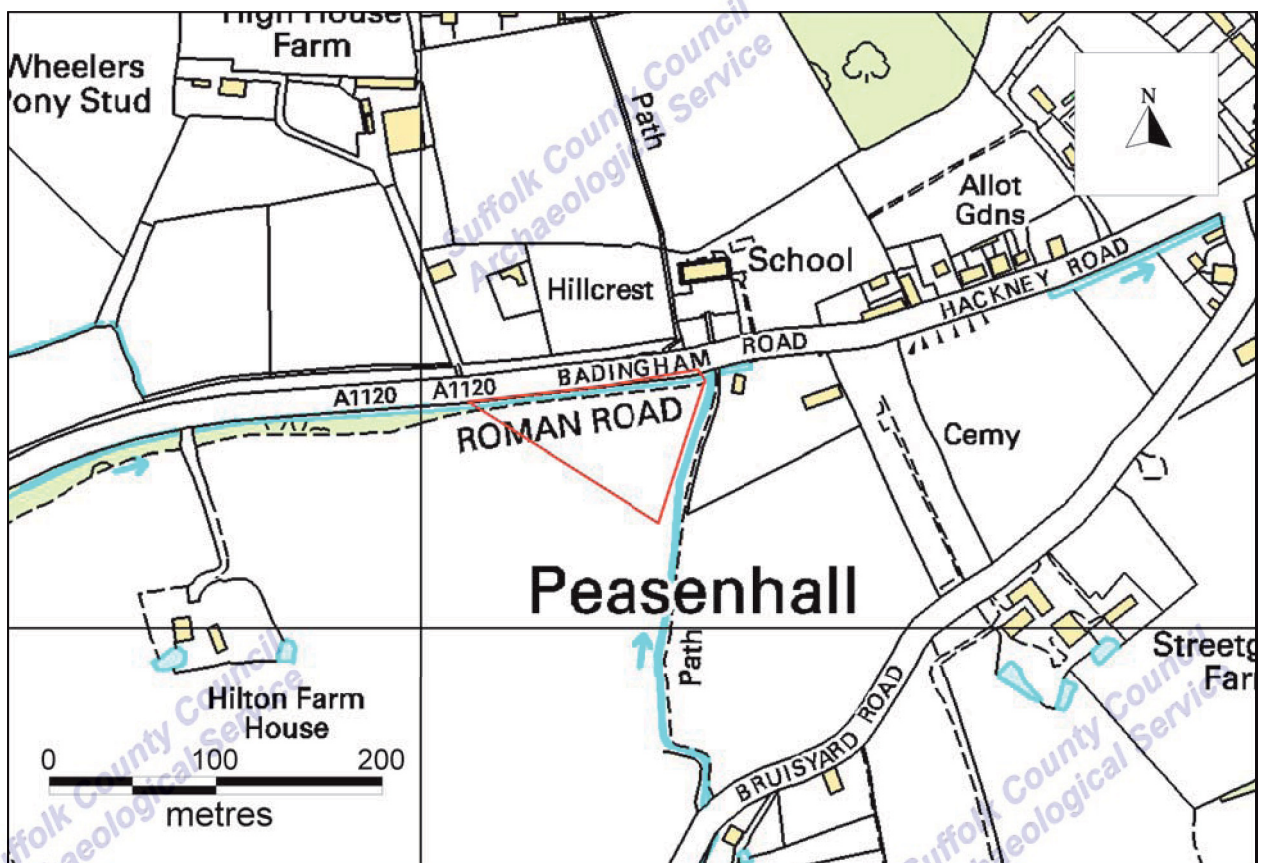
## 2. Location, geology and topography

The development site is centred at National Grid Reference TM 35100 69109 and encompasses a triangular area of approximately 6260m<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded by the A1120 (Badingham Road) to the north, by a cultivated field to the south and west and by a drainage gully (The Gull) to the east (Fig. 2).



The published Quaternary geology in the area of the site is glacial sand and gravel over chalky till (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00). These are overlaid by the deep, clayey soils of the Hanslope series. The site is located in an area of Rolling Valley Claylands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment*.

The site is on sloping ground on the south side of a tributary valley of the River Yox, at a maximum recorded height of 26.75m OD. Generally the ground falls gently from southwest to northeast but the gradient increases sharply along a break of slope close to and parallel with the northern boundary of the site. Here the ground slopes steeply down towards a brook (known locally as The Causeway) that runs along the south side of the A1120 where it passes through the village. This steeply sloping ground could not be evaluated archaeologically.



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Figure 2. Location map (detail) showing the proposed development site (red)

### 3. Archaeological and historical background

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Peasenhall is located at the junction of two Roman roads. The first, *Margary 34b* (Historic Environment Record number: BDG 014), ran from Coddendam to Peasenhall and its route is reflected largely by the modern A1120; from Peasenhall it probably continued eastwards to either Dunwich or Wenhaston. The second Roman road, *Margary 35* (HER number: PSH 007), ran from Pulham in Norfolk to Peasenhall and its route is marked locally by Mill Hill. This road might have continued southwards towards Knodishall or joined *Margary 34b* to run eastwards to Wenhaston or Dunwich (Moore 1988, 31).

The Roman roads converged close to what is now the centre of Peasenhall village, near the parish church of St Michael. It is likely that a Romano-British settlement would have developed at this junction, although no evidence for this has been found. Scattered Roman artefacts (as well as Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds) have been retrieved from surrounding fields and are recorded in the County Historic Environment Record.

Peasenhall village has medieval origins. The manor of Peasenhall is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 although no church existed at that time. The existing parish church has medieval elements but was largely rebuilt in the 1860s. The site is located to the west of the village on land that has always been agricultural, as shown on Figure 3. It is within an area of pre-18th-century enclosures characterised by long, co-axial fields, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Historic Land Characterisation*.

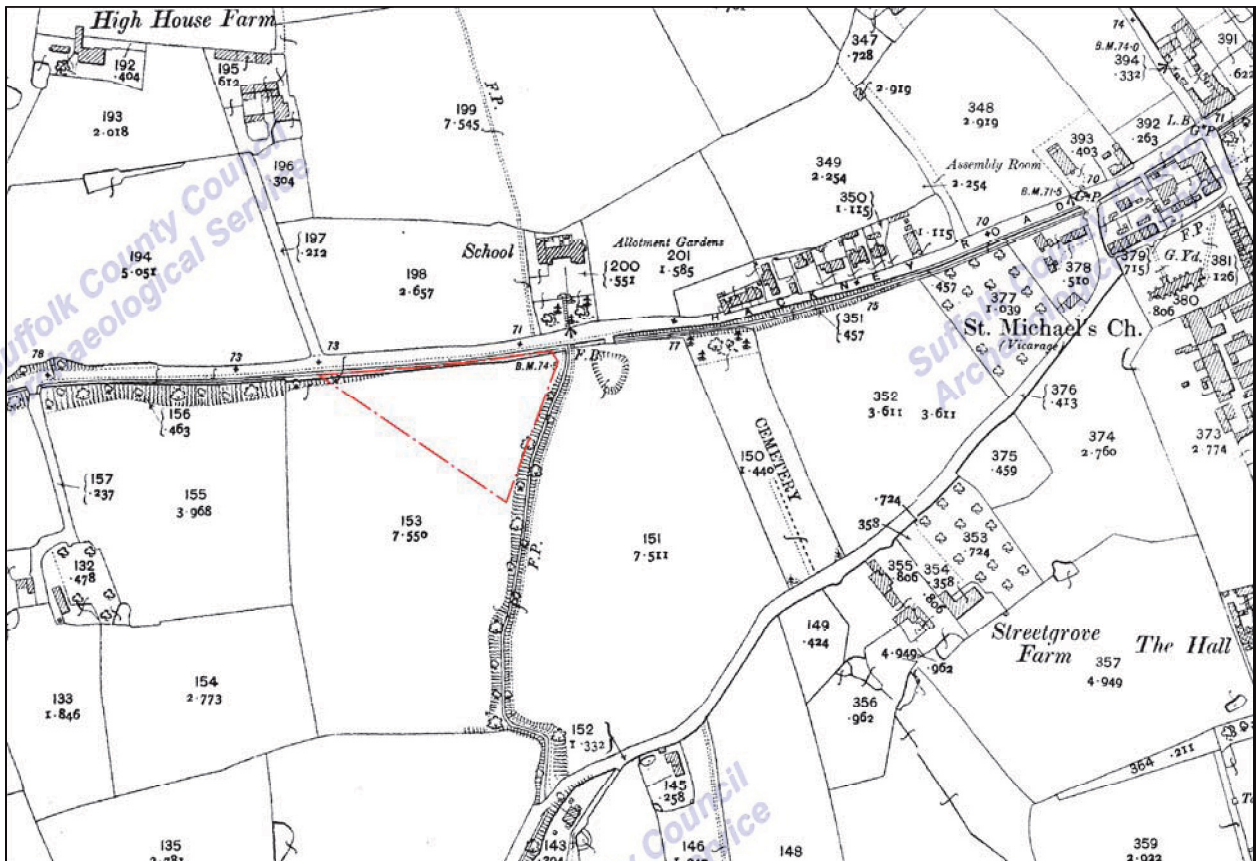


Figure 3. The site superimposed on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890

#### 4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation took place on 05–08 May 2009 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by William Fletcher of SCCAS Conservation team (Fletcher, 2009; Appendix 1).

Five evaluation trenches (Fig. 4) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. The trenches were between 25.00m and 55.50m in length and were excavated to maximum depths of between 0.40m and 1.80m below ground level, depending on soil conditions.

Generally, mechanical excavation continued to the top of the geological strata, although in some areas it extended below that depth in order to expose and clarify the nature of underlying natural strata. Some suspected archaeological deposits and features were excavated partially with hand tools.

The intrusive features, soil horizons and natural strata were recorded using a unique sequence of 'context numbers' in the range 0001–0043. They were drawn in plan and/or section (as appropriate) at a scale of 1:20 on 300mm x 420mm sheets of gridded drawing film. Written records (soil descriptions, etc) were made on the same sheets and reproduced subsequently as a Microsoft Access database. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high resolution .jpg images.

A metal-detecting survey was carried out along the bases of all evaluation trenches and on mechanically- and hand-excavated soils.

Trench locations were recorded by off-setting from points on the site boundary. Levels were recorded by reference to an Ordnance Survey spot height of 21.5m OD located on the road adjacent to the northeast corner of the site (see Figure 3).

The evaluation trenches covered an area of 319.50m<sup>2</sup>, representing 5% of the total area of the proposed development.

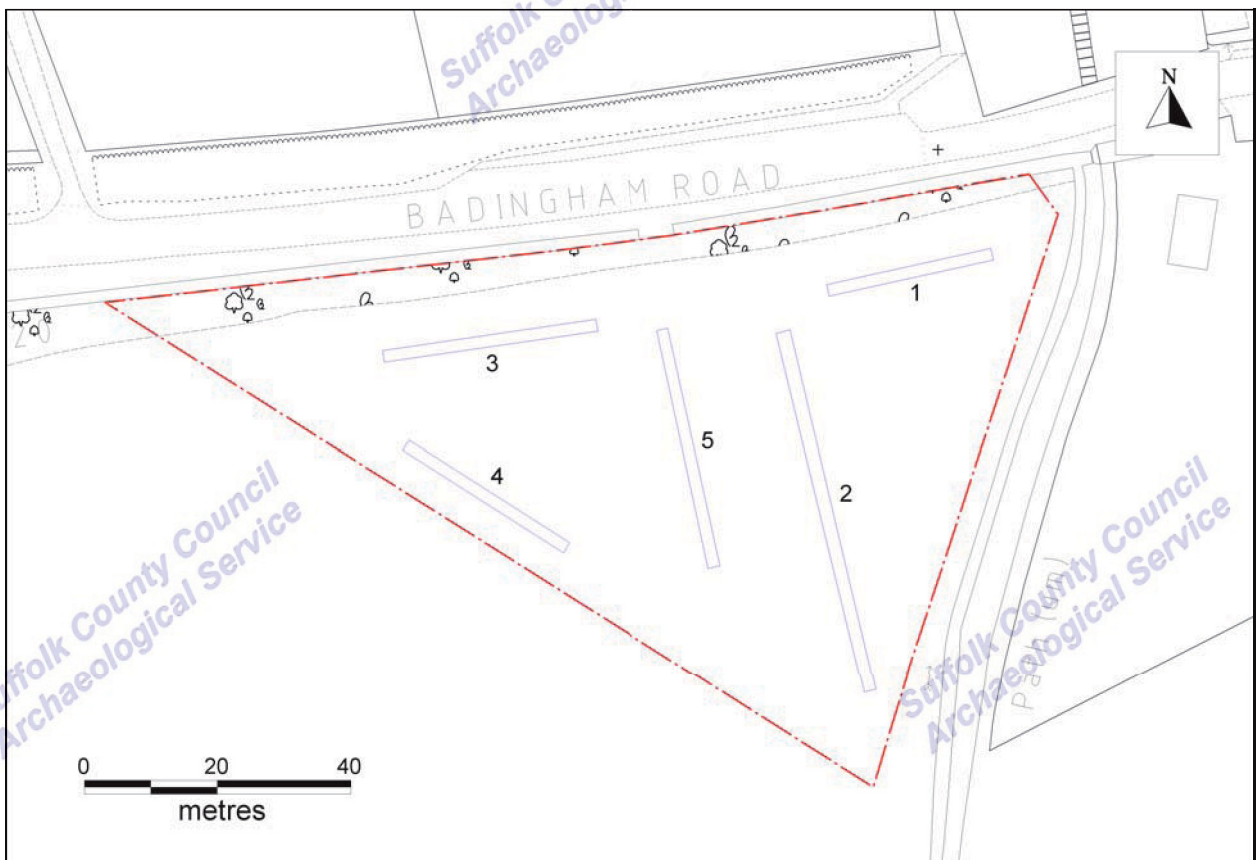


Figure 4. Trench location plan

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Introduction

The evaluation has revealed a complex sequence of geological strata, subsoil and worked soil horizons, archaeological deposits and cut features and modern topsoil.

These are summarised below (5.2) and described in detail in 5.3 (Trench descriptions).

### 5.2 General summary

#### Natural strata

The natural strata vary considerably across the site. They range from laminated sands (at the north end of Trench 2 and the west ends of Trenches 1 and 3) to mixed sands and gravels in Trenches 2 to 5 and flinty soils in Trenches 2 and 5. A number of intrusive features are interpreted as of geological origin. These include a run-off channel and ice wedges in Trench 4 and irregular, pit-like hollows in Trenches 2 and 5.

#### Subsoil and worked soil horizons

These overlie the natural strata in Trenches 4 and 5. They are assumed to be natural soil horizons and in some areas they have clearly been altered by deep ploughing. Elsewhere they do not survive, having been lost through down-slope erosion or truncated during mineral extraction or agricultural activity.

#### Archaeological deposits and features

An extensive cut feature in Trench 1 is interpreted as an extraction pit for the exploitation of the laminated sands that occur along the northern edge of the site. A sequence of horizontal deposits at the south end of Trench 2 might represent ground-raising dumps or the infilling of another large extraction pit. A smaller pit-like feature in Trench 2 could have been man-made but is more likely to be of geological origin.

#### Topsoil

A compacted topsoil supporting turf extends site-wide and forms the current ground surface.

### 5.3 Trench descriptions

#### Trench 1

Dimensions: 25.00m x 1.80m x up to 1.80m deep

Ground level: 23.52m OD (west), 22.10m OD (east)

| Deposits and features                   | Depth below ground level (m)      |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Turf and topsoil 0001                   | 0.00                              |
| Fills 0002–0005, 0007, 0008 in cut 0040 | 0.50 (east end), 0.30 (west end)  |
| Cut feature 0040                        | 0.40–1.00m (west end of trench)   |
| Natural sand 0009                       | >1.80 (east end), 0.40 (west end) |

#### Description

Natural stratum 0009 is a deposit of off-white sand containing fine bands of light grey silt and patches of iron staining. It was observed only at the west end of the trench, having been removed elsewhere by cut 0040 (Fig. 5).

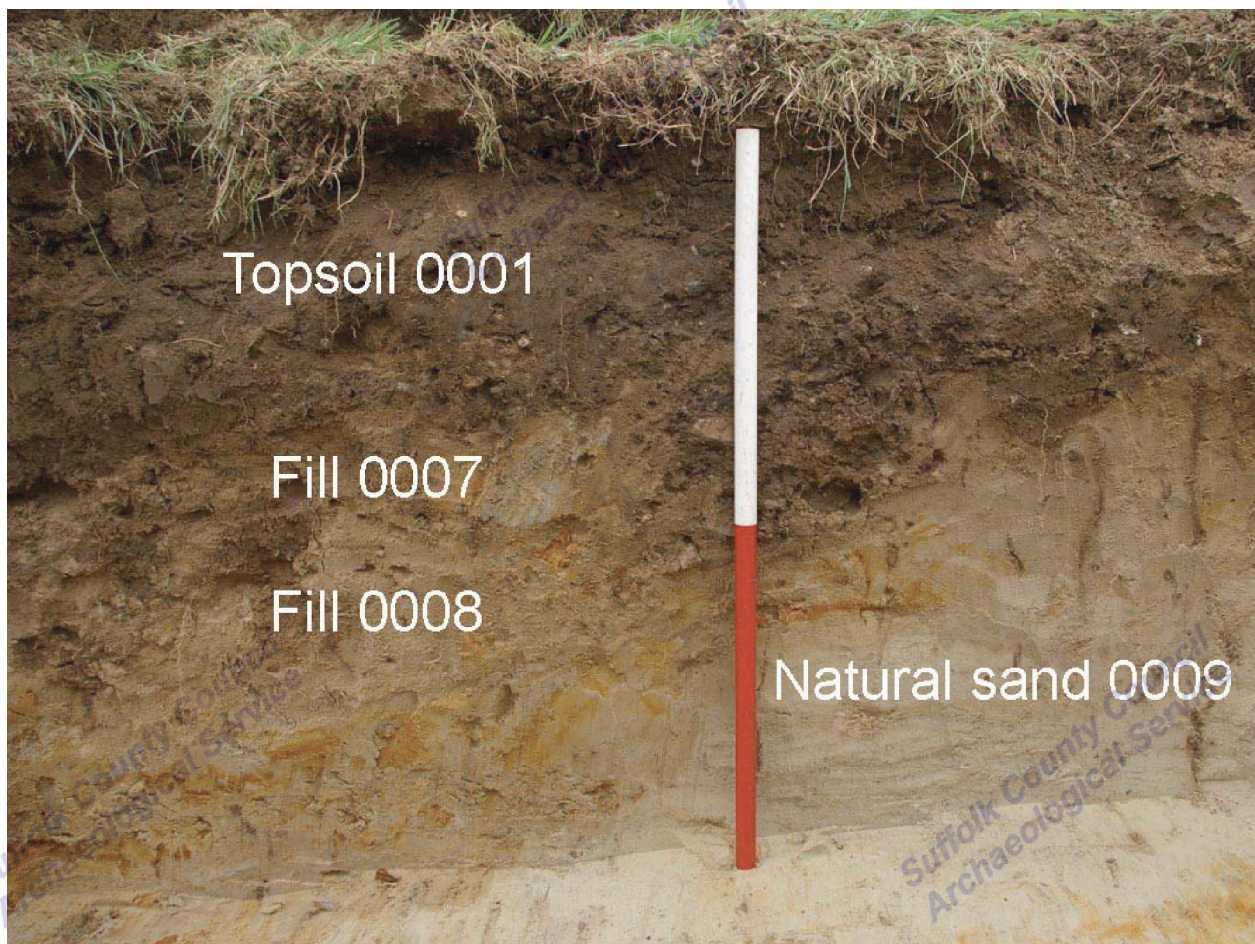


Figure 5. North-facing section at the west end of Trench 1, showing fills 0007 and 0008 (in cut 0040) and natural sand 0009 (1m scale)

0040 is a large cut feature that extends beyond the limits of the evaluation trench in all directions, such that its sides were not seen. At the west end of the trench it is only 0.40m deep but it becomes progressively deeper to the east, until at the east end of the trench it is in excess of 1.80m deep. It is interpreted as a probable extraction pit. It is filled by a sequence of horizontal or gently-sloping deposits 0002–0005, 0007 and 0008 (Figs. 5 & 6). These deposits of clayey silt, sandy silt and sand contain varying quantities of pebbles but little cultural material; deposit 0004 did contain some small fragments of abraded brick at depths of up to 1.80m below ground level.

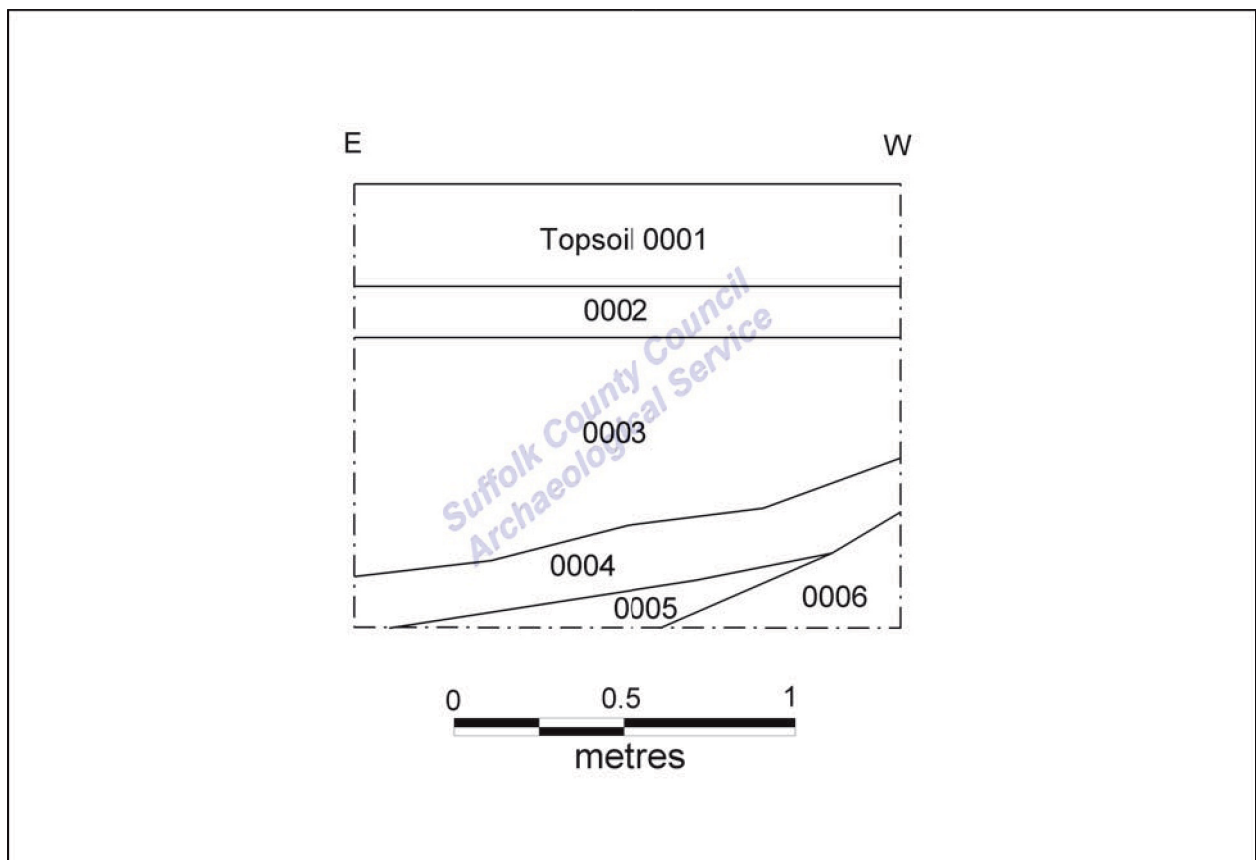


Figure 6. North-facing section at approximately 11m from the east end of Trench 1, showing topsoil 0001 over fills 0002–0006

## Trench 2

Dimensions: 55.50 x 1.80m x up to 1.90m deep

Ground level: 25.93m OD (south), 24.46 OD (north)

| Deposits and features                      | Depth below ground level (m)        |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Turf and topsoil 0001                      | 0.00                                |
| Worked soil / Subsoil 0021                 | 0.30 (south part of trench)         |
| Layer 0010 / 0021                          | 0.50–0.60 (southern half of trench) |
| Layer 0025                                 | 0.70 (south part of trench)         |
| Layer 0023                                 | 0.76–0.86 (south part of trench)    |
| Cut feature 0013 and its fills 0011 & 0012 | 0.60–0.70                           |

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Natural cut feature 0043 and its fills 0031 & 0032 | 0.60                               |
| Natural strata 0024, 0027–0030, 0033               | 1.00 (south end), 0.25 (north end) |

### Description

The natural strata vary considerably within Trench 2. At the north end of the trench 0030 / 0033 is a deposit of laminated white, yellow and reddish brown sand interleaved with lenses of clayey silt (similar to 0009 in Trench 1) that extends to at least 1.40m below ground level (Figs. 7 and 9). This deposit might have been truncated horizontally since it is sealed only by modern topsoil 0001, with no intervening natural subsoil. Small, localised hollows in the surface of the natural sand are filled with sands and gravels (for example, deposits 0028 and 0029 on Fig. 7). These hollows are sealed by a more extensive natural deposit of rounded to angular flint fragments and clayey silt (0027; Figs. 7 and 9).

Deposit 0027 is removed to the south by a large, irregular cut feature (0043; Fig. 9) that is assumed to be of geological origin; it is filled by deposits of sand and gravel (0031 and 0032) that are devoid of cultural material.

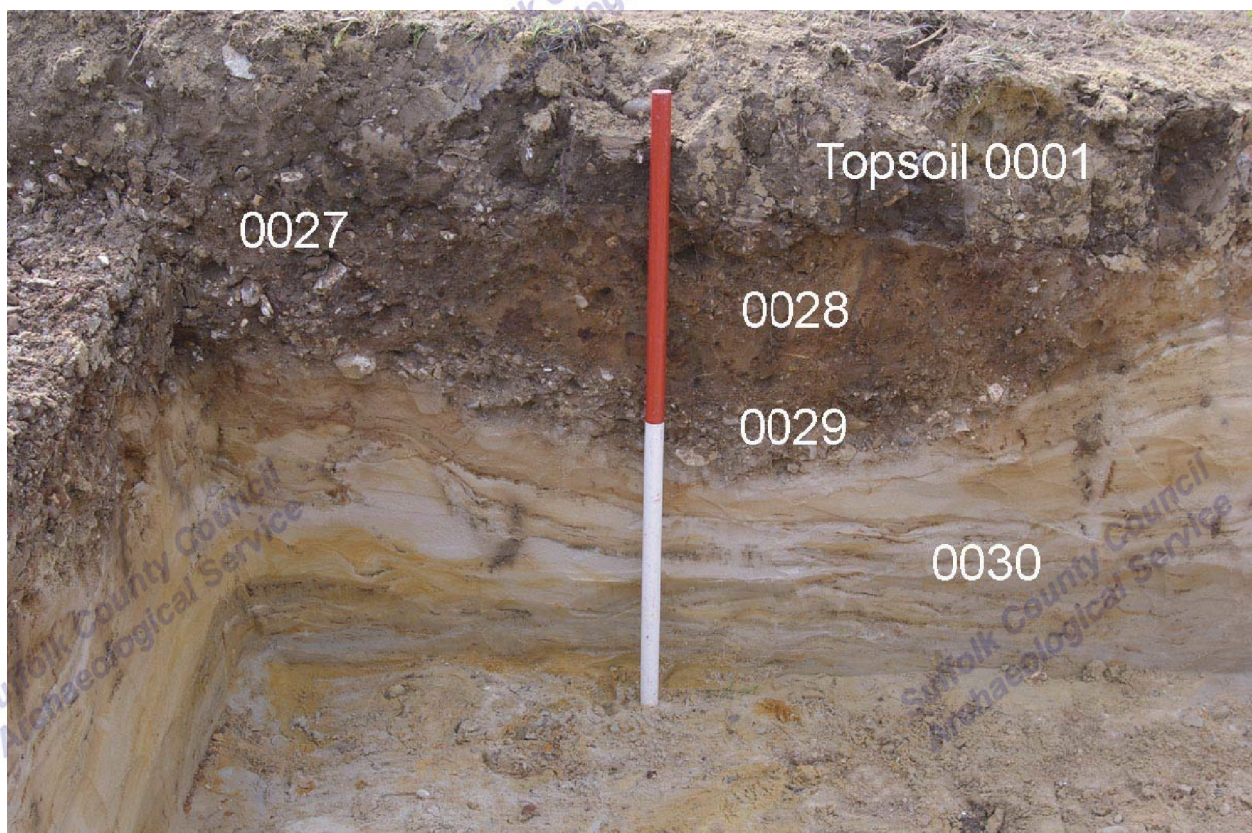


Figure 7. East-facing section near the north end of Trench 2 (1m scale)



Deposit 0024, at the south end of Trench 2, is an extensive natural stratum of loose sand and pebbles (80:20) that has possibly been truncated to a depth of 1.00m below ground level (Fig. 8). It is sealed by an extensive layer of soft, mid grey clayey sand, approximately 0.15m thick, containing moderate pebbles, occasional small fragments of charcoal and fired clay and a single sherd of pottery that could be of prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon date (0023; Fig. 8). This in turn is sealed by a 0.15m thick, localised deposit of soft, light yellowish brown sand (0025; Fig. 8). 0023 and 0025 *could* be former land surfaces but are more likely to represent dumping episodes following the widespread truncation of the natural strata at the south end of Trench 2.

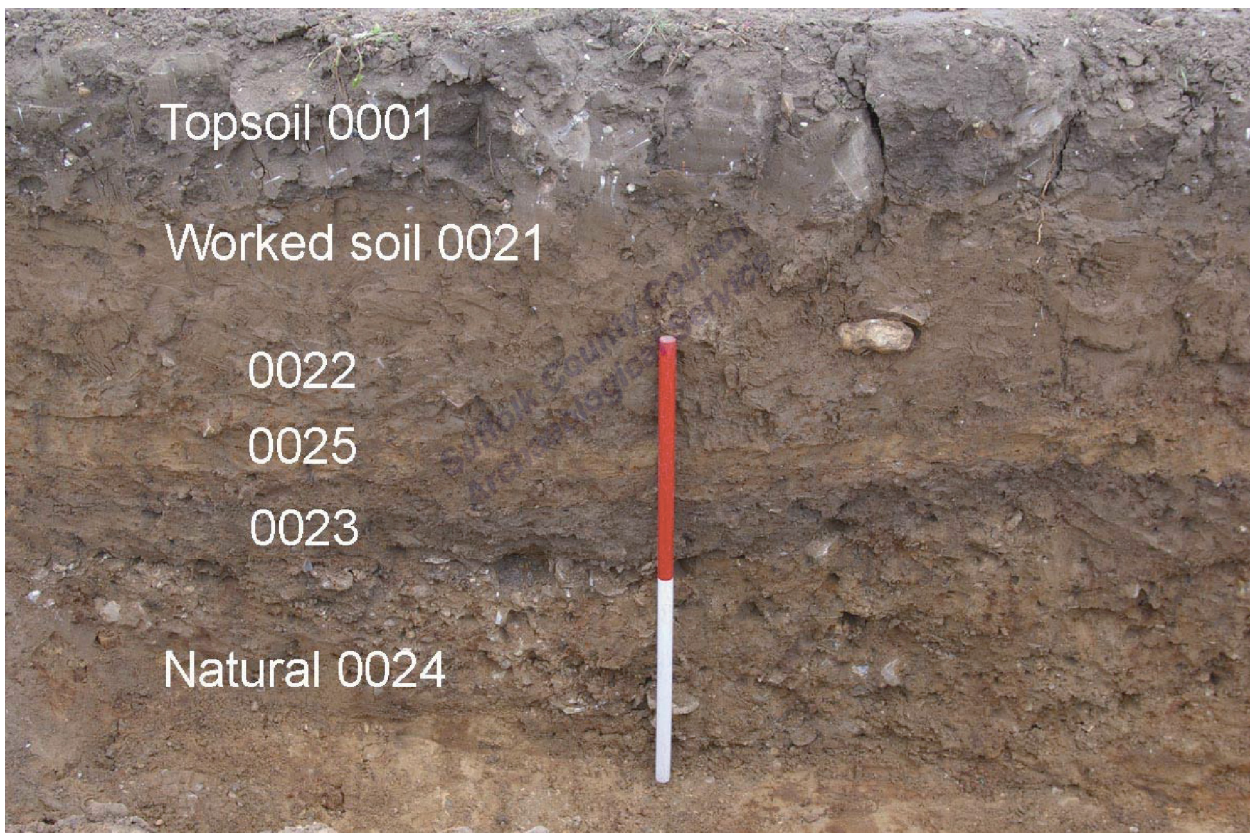


Figure 8. West-facing section at approximately 18.5m from the south end of Trench 2 (1m scale)

A large, oval cut feature (0013; Fig. 9) could be artificial but is more likely to be of geological origin. It measures 3.00m x 1.60m x 0.60m deep and has a bowl-shaped profile. Its primary fill 0012 is light brown silty clayey sand with lenses of grey clayey silt suggestive of gradual deposition in standing water; it contains no cultural material.

The upper fill 0011 is light brown sandy clay speckled with iron staining. A sheep tooth and a tiny fragment of undatable ceramic tile were retrieved from this deposit, but these could have been incorporated by root action or animal burrowing.

An extensive, dumped layer of firm, mid grey clay/silt (0010 / 0022: Figs. 8 and 9), up to 0.50m thick, seals cut feature 0013 and layers 0023 and 0025. It contains moderate angular flint fragments and occasional small fragments of chalk. It produced a Roman brooch (Small Find 1001), but contained no other obvious cultural material.

Dumped deposit 0010 / 0022 is overlaid at the south end of Trench 2 by a layer of loose, mid greyish brown silty sand (0021; Fig. 9) containing small fragments of abraded ceramic building material (not retained). This deposit is interpreted as a worked soil horizon below the current topsoil 0001.

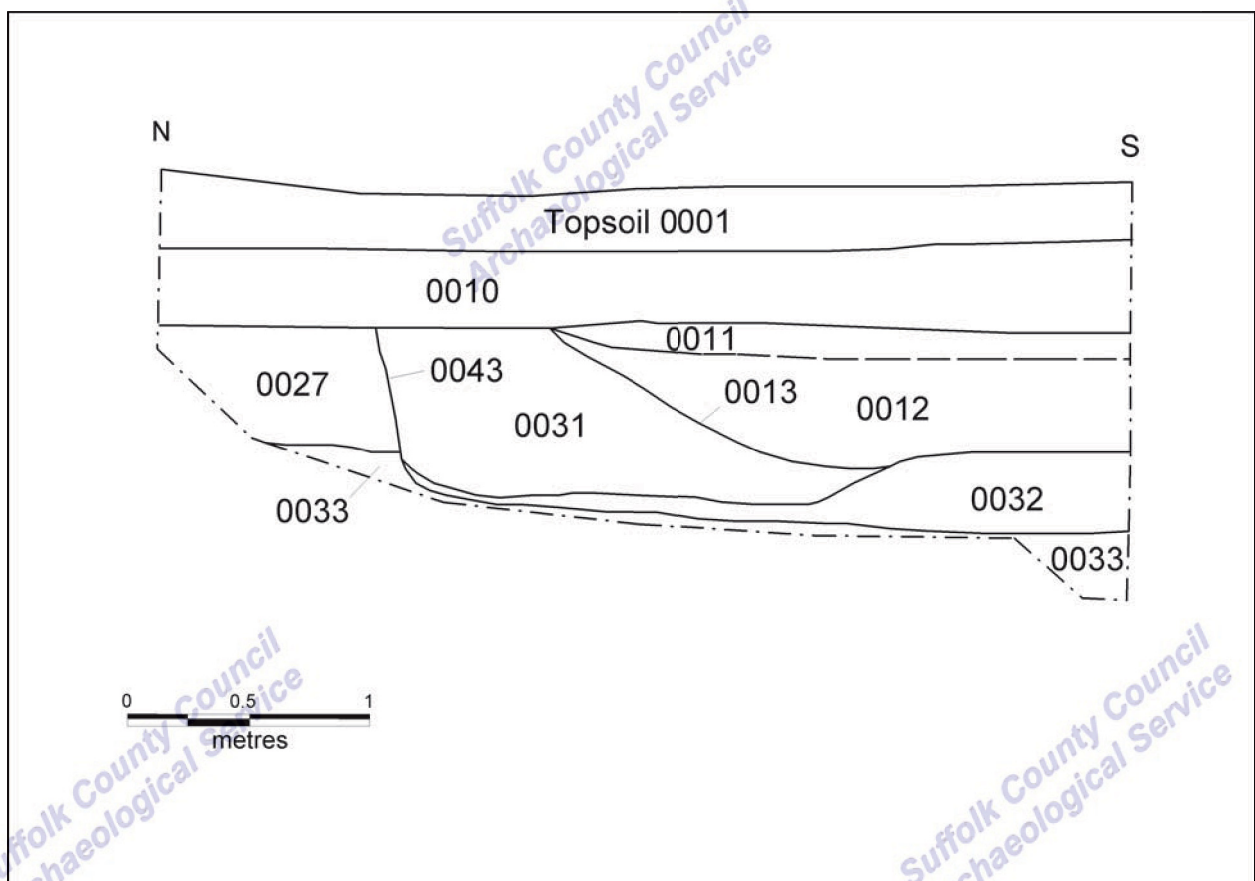


Figure 9. West-facing section at approximately 19m from the north end of Trench 2

### Trench 3

Dimensions: 32.30m x 1.80m x 0.95m deep (west), 0.40m deep (east)

Ground level: 25.61m OD (west), 25.01m OD (east)

| Deposits and features        | Depth below ground level (m) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Turf and topsoil 0001        | 0.00                         |
| Natural sand 0041            | 0.40 (west end of trench)    |
| Natural sand and gravel 0042 | 0.36 (east end of trench)    |

#### Description

The natural strata vary from horizontally bedded, thin layers of white sand, orange sand and cream-coloured clayey silt (0041; Fig. 10) to compact, very pebbly, orangey brown clayey sand (0042). These are sealed by turf and topsoil 0001, which is 0.40m thick.

The absence of naturally-occurring subsoil suggests that there has been some truncation by ploughing in this area of the site.



Figure 10. South-facing section at the west end of Trench 3, showing natural stratum 0041 sealed by topsoil 0001 (0.5m scale)

#### Trench 4

Dimensions: 28.40m x 1.80m x 0.70m deep (northwest), 1.50m deep (southeast)

Ground level: 26.75m OD (northwest), 26.65m OD (southwest)

| Deposits and features                              | Depth below ground level (m)    |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Topsoil 0001                                       | 0.00                            |
| Worked soil / subsoil 0014                         | 0.25 (NW end), 0.30m (SE end)   |
| Natural cut feature 0018 and its fills 0016 & 0017 | 0.70–1.40 (at SE end of trench) |
| Natural sands and gravels 0015, 0019 and 0020      | 0.50 (NW end), 0.60 (SE end)    |

#### Description

The natural strata consist of loose, light brownish orange clayey sand containing pockets of gravel and penetrated by ice wedges (0015 and 0020) overlaid (at the southeast end of the trench) by loose, light yellowish brown fine sand with large pockets of mid orangey brown clayey sand and pebbles (0019).

These natural strata are removed partially by a naturally eroded feature (0018) interpreted as a run-off channel (Fig. 11). It is linear, 3.70m wide x 0.60m deep with a shallow, V-shaped profile, and is oriented east–west. It is filled by variously coloured sands (0016 and 0017) that are devoid of cultural material.

Run-off channel 0018 and natural strata 0019 and 0020 are sealed by a layer of compact, mid brown silty clayey sand containing moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of abraded brick (not retained). This deposit is up to 0.50m thick and is interpreted as a worked soil horizon derived from naturally-occurring subsoil. It is overlaid by topsoil 0001 (Fig. 11).

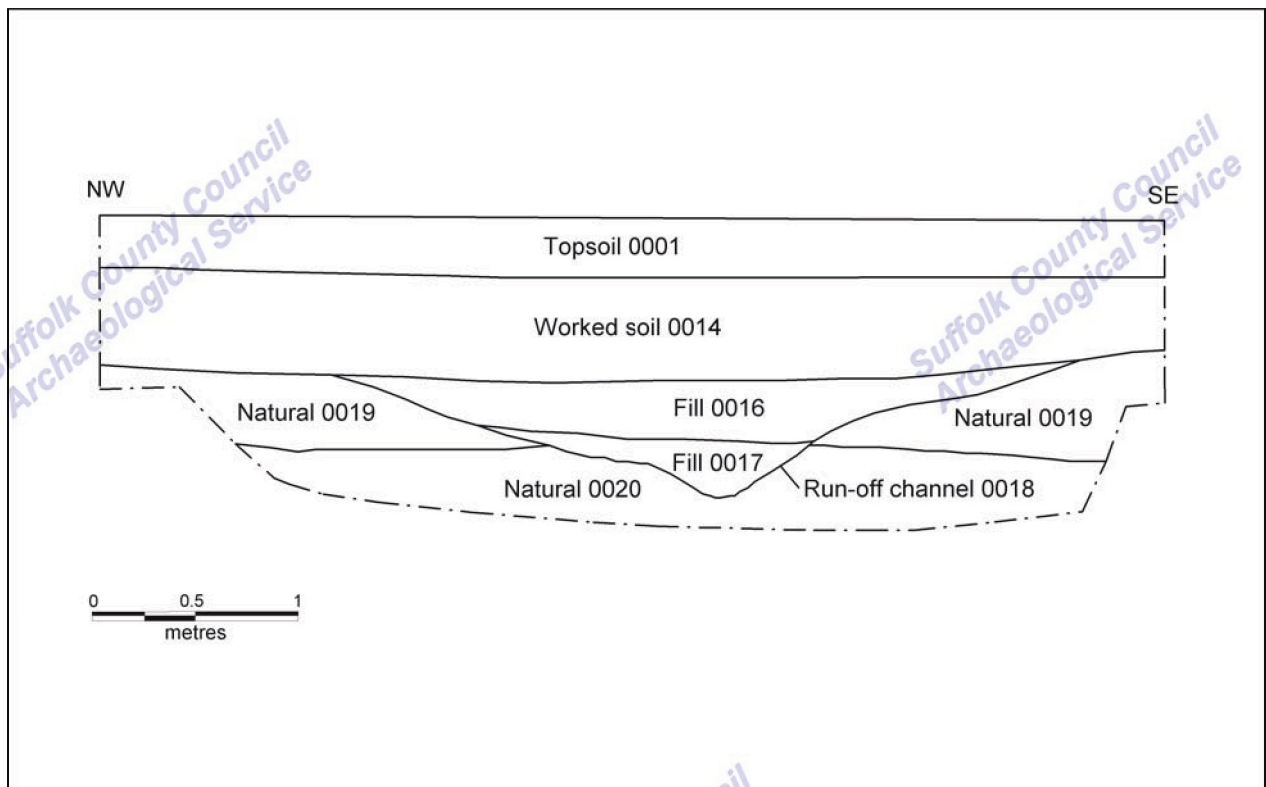


Figure 11. Southwest-facing section at the southeast end of Trench 4

## Trench 5

*Dimensions: 36.40m x 1.80m x up to 1.70m deep*

*Ground level: 25.88m OD (north), 24.16m OD (south)*

| Deposits and features            | Depth below ground level (m)       |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Turf and topsoil                 | 0.00                               |
| Worked soil / Subsoil 0034       | 0.26 (south end only)              |
| Subsoil 0035                     | 0.44 (south end only)              |
| Natural hollow and its fill 0036 | 0.75 (south end of trench)         |
| Natural stratum 0038             | 0.18 (north end only)              |
| Natural stratum 0037 / 0039      | 0.60 (south end), 0.18 (north end) |

### Description

Natural stratum 0037 / 0039 is a trench-wide deposit of soft, brownish yellow and reddish brown sand with frequent iron staining and moderate small-medium pebbles, in excess of 0.85m thick. At the north end of the trench it is sealed by 0038 – a natural stratum of light greyish brown sand and gravel (50:50) up to 0.44m thick at that point but becoming much thicker to the north: in the centre of the trench 0038 extends to a depth below ground level of more than 1.70m.

At the south end of the trench an irregular cut intrudes into the surface of natural stratum 0037. It is filled with soft, light grey sand containing moderate pebbles (0036) and is interpreted as a geological feature (Fig. 12).

The natural strata are sealed (in the southern half of the trench) by a layer of naturally-occurring subsoil (0035) with a worked upper horizon (0034), having a combined thickness of approximately 0.50m. These are deposits of soft, brownish grey silty sand, speckled with iron staining, containing occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the worked horizon 0034.

The subsoil/worked soil layers peter out in the centre of the trench, having apparently been removed further to the north as a result of recent agricultural activity. They are sealed by topsoil 0001, which in the northern half of the trench directly overlies the natural strata.

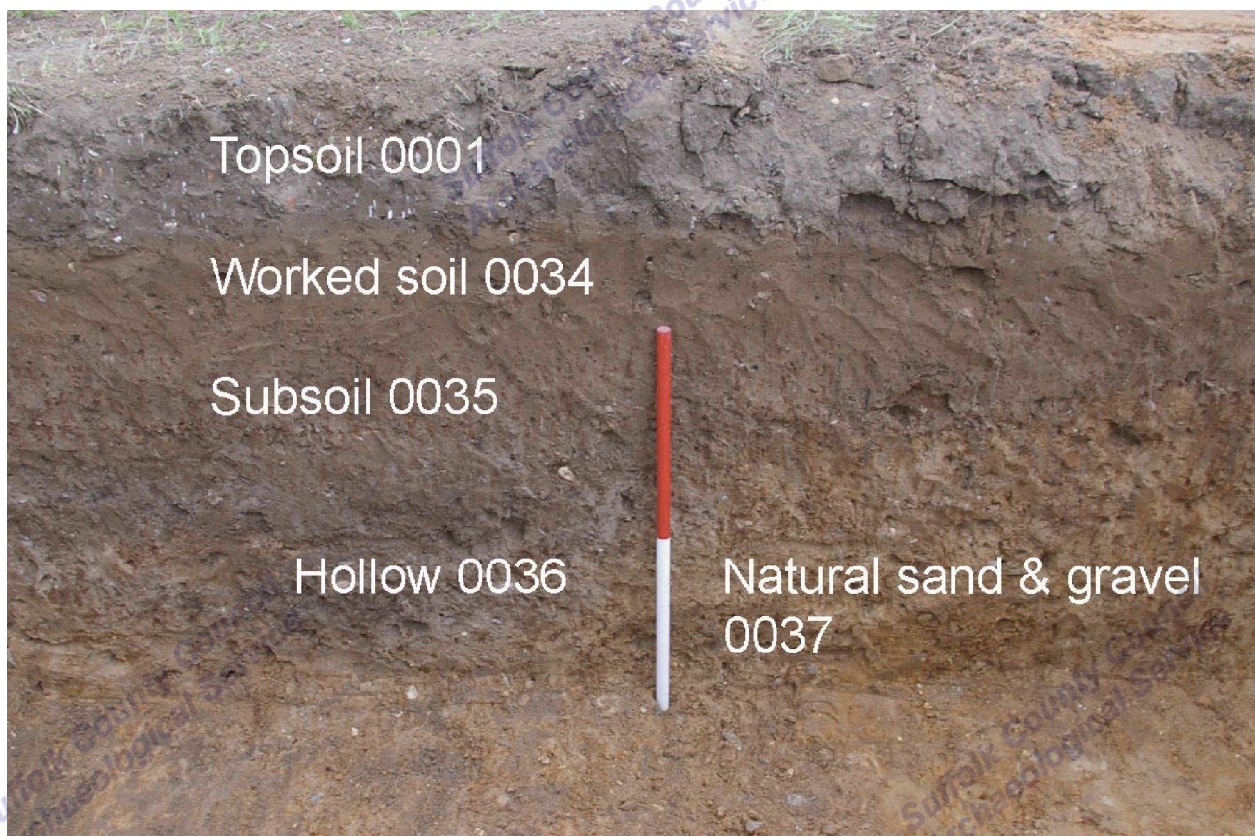


Figure 12. West-facing section at the south end of Trench 5

## 6. Finds evidence

Cathy Tester and Richenda Goffin

### 6.1 Introduction

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

| Ctxt  | Pottery |      | CBM |      | Animal bone |      | Miscellaneous               | Spotdate      |
|-------|---------|------|-----|------|-------------|------|-----------------------------|---------------|
|       | No.     | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | No.         | Wt/g |                             |               |
| 0001  | 1       | 9    |     |      |             |      |                             | 12th-14th C   |
| 0010  |         |      |     |      |             |      | SF 1001Cu alloy brooch 4.2g | 50-80AD       |
| 0011  |         |      | 1   | 1    | 4           | 2    |                             |               |
| 0023  | 1       | 6    |     |      |             |      |                             | IA or ESax    |
| 0034  | 1       | 11   |     |      |             |      |                             | L.13th-14th C |
| Total | 3       | 26   | 1   | 1    | 4           | 2    |                             |               |

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 6.2 Pottery

A small sherd (6g) of hand-made coarse quartz sand tempered pottery was recovered from dumped deposit 0023 at the south end of Trench 2. It is impossible to say with certainty whether the fragment is prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon; the possibility that is Anglo-Saxon cannot be ruled out entirely.

Two sherds of medieval coarseware pottery include a sagging base from a Hollesley-type greyware vessel of late 13th- or 14th-century date from worked soil horizon 0034 in the southern half of Trench 5. The second fragment is a medieval coarseware body sherd dating from the 12th to 14th century. It was found in topsoil 0001 and has soot on its exterior.

### 6.3 Ceramic Building Material

A small fragment (1g) of tile made in a fine dense fabric with silty clay bands and calcareous inclusions was collected from layer 0011 in Trench 2. The fragment is too small for identification or dating.

## 6.4 Copper alloy brooch

Jude Plouviez

Small Find 1001 (Figs. 13 and 14) is a Romano-British (50–80 AD) copper alloy bow-and-fantail brooch, coated with white metal. It was found by metal detector at the base of deposit 0010, at the point where that layer overlies cut feature 0013 (Trench 2). The brooch is 31mm long x 16.5mm wide and weighs 4.2g.

### Description

This copper-alloy bow brooch is complete except for most of the pin and damage to the corners of the foot. The spring has eight coils and is held, via the axis and the cord, on a double-pierced lug at the centre of the brooch head behind the wings. The wings are undecorated, 16.5mm across, with white metal coating surviving on the front and sides. The bow, 31mm long, has a narrow upper half, expanding into a fan-tail foot, with a slightly convex back which has a central rib (from casting?) and is rectangular in section. The upper bow has three strong longitudinal grooves, interrupted 2.5mm above the junction with the foot by a 2mm wide indentation. The lower bow is a thinner plate with a fine incised line around the border and a line of fine, punched dots forming a triangle within this. The front and sides of the bow, including the decorative elements, were coated in white metal although this has worn off the ribs on the upper bow. The wings are set at a slight angle to the bow so that the right wing (viewed from front) is lower than the left.

### Discussion

This type of brooch is remarkably standardised in form, with consistent dimensions, bow indentation and other decorative detail. An example was described by Nina Crummy from excavations at Maxey, Cambs (Crummy, 1985), with another cited from Lullingstone, Kent – it is suggested to be the forerunner of enamelled fantail brooches of the 2nd century and shares characteristics in the spring attachment system and the often angled head with 1st-century Colchester derivatives. The type was referred to as 'Maxey type Bow-and-fantail' by Hattatt (1987, 90) who listed an additional three in his collection (from Lakenheath, Suffolk, Norfolk) plus one in another private collection ('near Bury St Edmunds'). He noted that the similarities might suggest that they are produced from a single mould. There is one in the Moyses Hall collection (unlocated?)



and examples are recorded from detectorists in Suffolk from Lackford, Brandon and Rumburgh. Further examples on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database (using 'Maxey' in the description as search) include seven from Suffolk (Combs, Parham, Freckenham, Debenham, Monk Soham, Bacton, Gedgrave), one from Norfolk (Beachamwell) and a possible fragment from Northamptonshire. There are certainly other examples from Norfolk. A workshop centre in eastern England seems likely and the close relationship to Colchester derivative double lug types might suggest a source in the Essex area. Dating is entirely typological, very likely 1st century, perhaps c. 50–80?

### **6.5 Animal bone**

Fragments of a sheep tooth (2g) were collected from layer 0011 in Trench 2.

### **6.6 Discussion of the finds evidence**

Finds were collected from four contexts in Trenches 2 and 5 and from the topsoil. The assemblage is very small, but includes hand-made prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon pottery and medieval coarseware pottery. A notable find is a nearly complete copper alloy Roman brooch of mid to late 1st century date. The brooch requires photography after cleaning and, if it is not to be retained in public ownership, it needs to be illustrated.



Figure 13. The Roman brooch

## 7. General discussion

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The observed geological sequence is consistent with the published Quaternary geology of 'glacial sand and gravel' in the area of the site. These deposits outcrop along the flanks of the tributary valley of the River Yox in which Peasenhall village is located. The underlying 'chalky till' was not seen but can be expected at greater depth. In Trenches 4 and 5 the geological strata are sealed by deposits of naturally-occurring subsoil that have been altered in the course of agricultural activity.

There is no evidence for occupation of the site at any period, or for the Roman road (*Margary 34b*) that is known to have run through the area. It is quite possible that even if the Roman road had crossed the site no evidence for it would have survived.

There is evidence for mineral extraction in the area of Trench 1. It is noted that early Ordnance Survey maps (see Figure 3, for example) show a quarry pit (labelled “Old gravel pit” on the 1880 map) just to the east of the site. It would appear therefore that quarrying also took place within the site during the post-medieval period. In fact, the same sand deposits have been exploited on a lesser scale very recently; there is a small, partially backfilled quarry pit just to the east of the site entrance.

Horizontal deposits 0010 / 0022, 0023 and 0025 in Trench 2 probably represent dumping within another extraction pit, or up-cast from nearby quarrying. None of these deposits can be dated securely since they contain very few artefacts; the prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon pottery fragment from layer 0023 and the Romano-British brooch from layer 0010 are quite likely to be residual finds in post-medieval deposits.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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The evaluation has demonstrated post-medieval quarrying on the site and revealed some dumped deposits of uncertain date that are also likely to be associated with mineral extraction. The only significant find is a Romano-British brooch, although this is derived from a dumped deposit that cannot be dated accurately.

In view of these limited results it is recommended that no further fieldwork or stratigraphic analysis is required and that this document should be disseminated as a ‘grey literature’ report *via* the OASIS online archaeological database. The Romano-British brooch requires photography after cleaning and, if it is not to be retained, should be illustrated.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds/Parish Box

## 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The project was commissioned by Marfleet Construction Limited and funded by Hastoe Housing Association.

It was directed by Kieron Heard and managed by Rhodri Gardner. Kieron Heard and Roy Damant conducted the fieldwork.

Rebekah Pressler processed the finds and Cathy Tester and Richenda Goffin assessed and reported on the finds. Additional finds identification and reporting was provided by Jude Plouviez.

## 11. Bibliography

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### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of SCCAS Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors will determine the need for further work 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

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### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

#### LAND AT HILTON FARM, BADINGHAM ROAD, PEASENHALL, FOR THE SITING OF 15 DWELLINGS

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 consent has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the development of 15 dwellings on land at Hilton Farm, Badingham Road, Peasenhall, with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. This condition requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. The planning application reference is C08/0120, at NGR TM 351 691.
- 1.2      The proposed development area measures c. 0.39 ha, and is situated on the south side of Badingham Road to the west of Peasenhall. The soils are predominantly deep clayey soils of the Hanslope series over chalky till. The site is c. 25.00m AOD.
- 1.3      This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The field is bisected by the line of a Roman Road (BDG 014) which from the west to join another known route to the east of Peasenhall. The field is also just to the west of the medieval village core and within 350m of the medieval church. There is therefore a high potential for encountering Roman and Medieval deposits at this site, as well as possible earlier material.
- 1.4      Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5      In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as the first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, a linear trenched evaluation is required of the area, before any groundwork takes place.
- 1.6      The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.

- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 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: Trenched Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is approximately 195 m<sup>2</sup>. 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 108 m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 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.



- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.

- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 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 fulfil 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: William Fletcher

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Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Reference: / LandatHiltonfarm\_Peasenhall2009

**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 | type    | description  | interpretation                                    | trench    | sheet | finds | images        |
|---------|---------|--|---|-----------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 0001    | Layer   | Compact, mid brownish grey sandy silt (loam), moderate pebbles, thin 2-3mm iron pan at base; 0.20-0.30m thick                                | Current topsoil, supporting turf                  | Site-wide | 1-5   | N     | All           |
| 0002    | Layer   | Compact, mid grey, slightly clayey silt, moderate pebbles, 0.15m thick   | Dumped deposit in eastern half of trench          | 1         | 1     | N     | 001, 002      |
| 0003    | Layer   | Compact, mid greyish brown slightly clayey silt, moderate pebbles, occasional small fragments chalk and charcoal; up to 0.70m thick          | Dumped deposit in eastern half of trench          | 1         | 1     | N     | 001, 002      |
| 0004    | Layer   | Soft, light greyish brown silty sand, occasional pebbles & small fragments of abraded brick; at least 1.0m thick (not bottomed)              | Dumped deposit in eastern half of trench          | 1         | 1     | N     | 001, 002      |
| 0005    | Layer   | Compact, mid brownish grey sandy silt (loam), moderate pebbles, at least 0.15m thick   | Dumped deposit in centre of trench                | 1         | 1     | N     | 002           |
| 0006    | Layer   | Soft, light brownish yellow sand with patches of light grey silt; at least 0.30m thick   | Dumped deposit in centre of trench                | 1         | 1     | N     | 002           |
| 0007    | Layer   | Mixed light brownish yellow sand & light grey sandy silt, moderate pebbles; up to 0.20m thick  | Dumped deposit at west end of trench              | 1         | 1     | n     | 003           |
| 0008    | Layer   | Soft, light brownish yellow sand with large pockets of light grey sandy silt; moderate pebbles, 0.45m thick                                  | Dumped deposit at west end of trench              | 1         | 1     | N     | 003           |
| 0009    | Deposit | Soft, off-white fine sand with thin bands of light grey silt & patches of orange iron staining   | Natural sand at west end of trench                | 1         | 1     | N     | 003           |
| 0010    | Deposit | Firm, mid grey speckled with rust-coloured flecks, clay/silt, occasional small fragments of chalk & fine pebbles; up to 0.55m thick          | Dumped deposit in centre of trench (same as 0010) | 2         | 2 & 3 | Y     | 004, 005      |
| 0011    | Fill    | Friable, light brown silty sandy clay mottled with orange iron staining; up to 0.60m thick   | Probable fill of cut feature 0013                 | 2         | 2 & 3 | N     | 004, 005, 014 |
| 0012    | Fill    | Compact, light brown silty clayey sand with lenses of brownish grey clayey silt  | Fill of cut feature 0013                          | 2         | 2     | Y     | 004, 005      |
| 0013    | Cut     | Oval, 3.00m x 1.60m x 0.60m deep, with bowl-shaped profile   | Natural cut feature                               | 2         | 2     | N     | 004, 005      |
| 0014    | Layer   | Compact, mid brown silty clayey sand, moderate pebbles: 0.45m thick  | Subsoil/ploughsoil, extending length of trench    | 4         | 4     | Y     | 007-009       |
| 0015    | Deposit | Loose, light brownish orange clayey sand with pockets of gravel (same as 0020)   | Natural sand & gravel at NW end of trench         | 4         | 4     | N     | 009           |
| 0016    | Fill    | Loose, mottled, light grey and light brown medium sand, moderate small-medium pebbles  | Upper fill of natural channel 0018                | 4         | 4     | N     | 007, 008      |
| 0017    | Fill    | Loose, mottled mid brown & light grey medium sand, moderate pebbles  | Lower fill of natural channel 0018                | 4         | 4     | N     | 007, 008      |
| 0018    | Cut     | Linear, oriented W-E, 3.70m wide x 0.60m deep with shallow, V-shaped profile   | Natural channel                                   | 4         | 4     | N     | 007, 008      |
| 0019    | Deposit | Loose, light yellowish brown fine sand with large pockets of mid orangey brown clayey sand and pebbles (60:40)                               | Natural sand & gravel at SE end of trench         | 4         | 4     | N     | 007, 008      |
| 0020    | Deposit | Loose, light brownish orange clayey sand with pockets of gravel (same as 0015); includes ice wedge   | Natural sand & gravel at SE end of trench         | 4         | 4     | N     | 007, 008      |
| 0021    | Layer   | Loose, mid greyish brown silty sand, occasional small-medium pebbles and small fragments cbm; 0.30m thick                                    | "Subsoil" layer in southern half of trench        | 2         | 2     | N     | 012-014       |
| 0022    | Layer   | Firm, mid grey speckled with rust-coloured flecks, clay/silt, occasional fine-medium angular flint pebbles; up to 0.55m thick (same as 0010) | Dumped deposit in southern half of trench         | 2         | 2     | N     | 012-014       |

|      |         |  |   |   |   |   |         |
|------|---------|--|---|---|---|---|---------|
| 0023 | Layer   | Soft, mid grey speckled with rust-coloured flecks clayey sand, moderate small-large pebbles, occ flecks of charcoal and x1 pot fragment; 0.20m thick                 | Dumped deposit or buried topsoil at south end of t                | 2 | 2 | Y | 012-014 |
| 0024 | Deposit | Loose, mottled light yellowish brown and reddish brown medium sand and small-large pebbles (80:20), occ root stains  | Natural (glacial) deposit at south end of trench                  | 2 | 2 | N | 012-014 |
| 0025 | Layer   | Soft, light yellowish brown sand speckled with iron staining, occasional pebbles and frequent fine root stains; 0.18m thick  | Dumped deposit near south end of trench                           | 2 | 2 | N | 014     |
| 0026 | Deposit | Soft, light yellowish brown sand with patches of iron staining   | Natural sand near south end of trench                             | 2 | 2 | N | 014     |
| 0027 | Deposit | Indurated, mid grey clayey silt and fine-large rounded-angular flint s (40:60); up to 0.50m thick  | Natural (glacial) deposit at north end of trench                  | 2 | 3 | N | 019     |
| 0028 | Deposit | Soft, mottled mid brown and yellowish brown sand, moderate pebbles   | Natural (glacial) deposit at north end of trench                  | 2 | 3 | N | 019     |
| 0029 | Deposit | Indurated, light grey sand and fine-medium rounded-angular flints (40:60)  | Natural (glacial) deposit at north end of trench                  | 2 | 3 | N | 019     |
| 0030 | Deposit | Soft, white/yellow/reddish brown laminated sands with lenses of light grey clayey sand   | Natural sand at north end of trench                               | 2 | 3 | N | 019     |
| 0031 | Deposit | Soft, mottled mid greyish brown and yellowish brown sand with occasional pebbles   | Natural (glacial) deposit near north end of trench                | 2 | 3 | N | n/a     |
| 0032 | Deposit | Soft, mottled mid greyish brown and yellowish brown sand and small-large rounded-angular flints (60:40)  | Natural (glacial) deposit near north end of trench                | 2 | 3 | N | n/a     |
| 0033 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown clayey sand with fine lenses of light grey clayey silt and frequent pebbles  | Natural (glacial) deposit near north end of trench                | 2 | 3 | N | n/a     |
| 0034 | Layer   | Soft, light greyish brown slightly silty sand, occasional small-medium pebbles, x1 pot sherd; 0.20m thick  | Subsoil/ploughsoil in southern half of trench                     | 5 | 5 | Y | 020     |
| 0035 | Deposit | Soft, light brownish grey, slightly silty sand, frequent small patches of iron staining, occasional small fragments of charcoal and small pebbles; up to 0.30m thick | Natural subsoil at south end of trench                            | 5 | 5 | N | 020     |
| 0036 | Deposit | Soft, light grey sand with frequent patches of iron staining and moderate small-medium pebbles   | Natural (glacial) deposit filling a hollow at south end of trench | 5 | 5 | N | 020     |
| 0037 | Deposit | Soft, patchy brownish yellow and reddish brown sand, frequent iron staining, moderate small-medium pebbles   | Natural (glacial) deposit at south end of trench                  | 5 | 5 | N | 020     |
| 0038 | Deposit | Soft, light greyish brown slightly silty sand and pebbles (50:50), becoming lighter towards base   | Natural (glacial) deposit at north end of trench                  | 5 | 5 | N | n/a     |
| 0039 | Deposit | Soft, patchy brownish yellow and reddish brown sand, frequent iron staining, moderate small-medium pebbles   | Natural (glacial) deposit at north end of trench                  | 5 | 5 | N | n/a     |
| 0040 | Cut     | Shallow sloping cut into natural sand 0009, base not seen  | Quarry pit  | 1 | 1 | N | 003     |
| 0041 | Deposit | Horizontally stratified thin (5-10mm) layers of white sand, orange sand and pale cream clayey silt   | Natural sand at west end of trench                                | 3 | 4 | N | 006     |
| 0042 | Deposit | Compact, very pebbly orangey brown clayey sand   | Natural sand & gravel at east end of trench                       | 3 | 4 | N | n/a     |
| 0043 | Cut     | Large, oval cut, at least 3.00m long x 0.80m deep, with steep sides and a flat base  | Natural cut feature containing 0031 & 0032                        | 2 | 3 | N | n/a     |

## Appendix 3 Contents of the stratigraphic archive

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| Type   | Quantity | Format                   |
|--|----------|--------------------------|
| Plan/section drawing sheets                        | 5        | 300 x 420mm drawing film |
| Digital images                                     | 20       | 3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg   |
| Digital image register sheets                      | 1        | A4 paper                 |
| Microsoft Access stratigraphic database            | 1        | digital database         |
| This evaluation report (SCCAS report no. 2009/151) | 1        | A4 wire-bound            |

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