

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/224**

**34-36 Beeches Road, West Row,  
Mildenhall  
MNL 614**

**R. Brooks**  
© December 2009  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** F/2006/0142/OUT

**Date of Fieldwork:** 04/09/2009 to 08/09/2009

**Grid Reference:** TL 671 759

**Funding Body:** Mark Delaney

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Jo Caruth and Rob Brooks

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-64134

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

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## Contents

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### Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	3
4. Methodology	4
5. Results	4
6. Finds and environmental evidence	7
7. Discussion	9
8. Conclusions	11
9. Archive deposition	11
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	12

Disclaimer

### List of Figures

1. Site location and nearby HER listing	2
2. 1904 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map	3
3. Plans and sections	6

## **List of Tables**

1. Finds quantities

## **List of Appendices**

1. Brief and specification
2. Context list
3. Matrix

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## Summary

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land between 34 and 36 Beeches Road, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Nine footing trenches were dug, revealing a late medieval/early post-medieval pit or posthole, two post-medieval topsoil layers, one undated posthole, and a post-medieval brick and chalk lump domed capping structure, which covered a well, and its associated construction trench. An undated topsoil layer was also uncovered. It appeared that there may have been some truncation of the archaeological levels as a result of post-medieval activity.

## 1. Introduction

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of nine footing trenches to build a house on land between 34 and 36 Beeches Road, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1), to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2006/0142/OUT and was funded by the developer, Mark Delaney. The site was located just to the west of Beeches Road at grid reference TL 671 759 and at a height of c.6m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 1). The former use of the site had been as managed grassland and hardstanding.

## 2. Geology and topography

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The development area was largely flat, with a slight slope down towards the road. However prior to the monitoring, parts of the site had been slightly levelled, with topsoil being removed at depths of up to 0.2m at the west side of the area, although this work had not caused truncation below the topsoil.

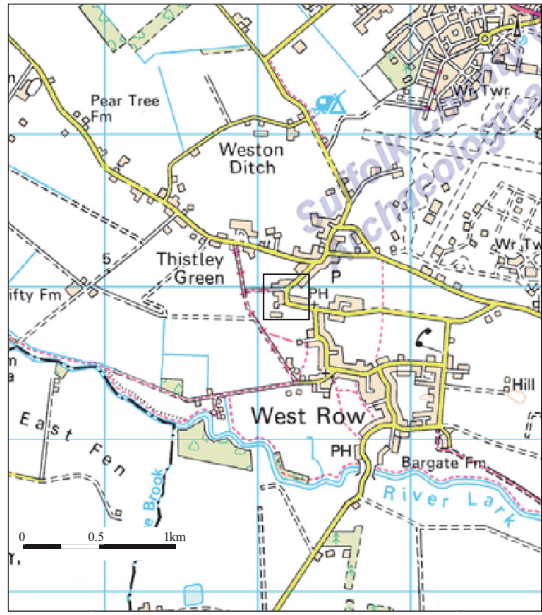
The geology of the site consisted almost entirely of compacted chalk although in places this was mottled with patches of pale yellow slightly sandy chalk.



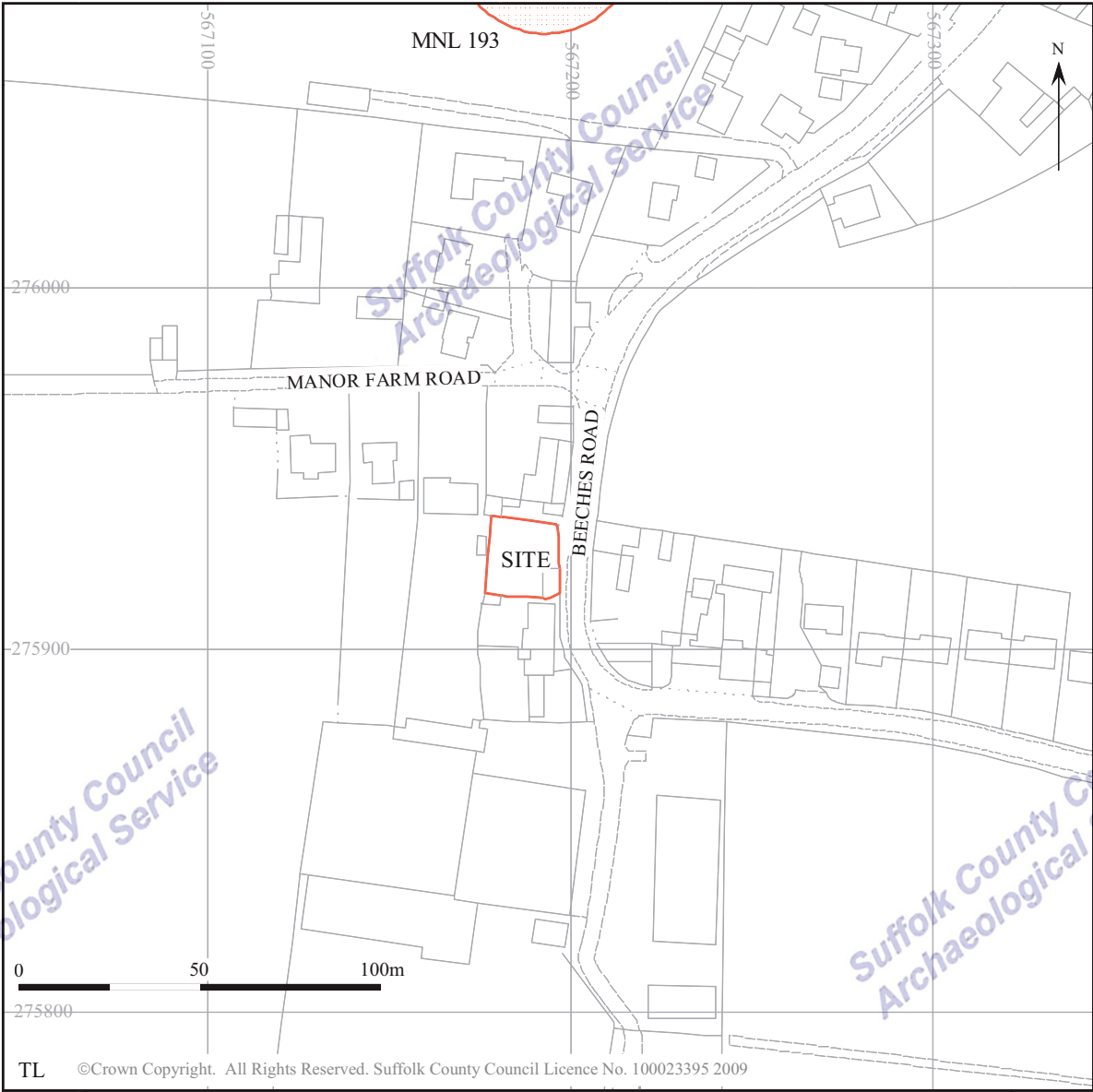
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Figure 1. Site location and nearby HER listing

### 3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance, adjacent to a historic routeway and potentially near to medieval occupation deposits (Appendix 1). Furthermore, prehistoric flint tools have been found 250m to the east (MNL 312), Roman finds to the north (MNL 193 – Fig. 1) and post-medieval gunflint production waste 320m to the north-east (MNL 538).

The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site in 1904 to have been very similar to its current state, except for the presence of structures in the north-west and south-west corners of the site (Fig. 2). The building in the south-east corner is still present today.

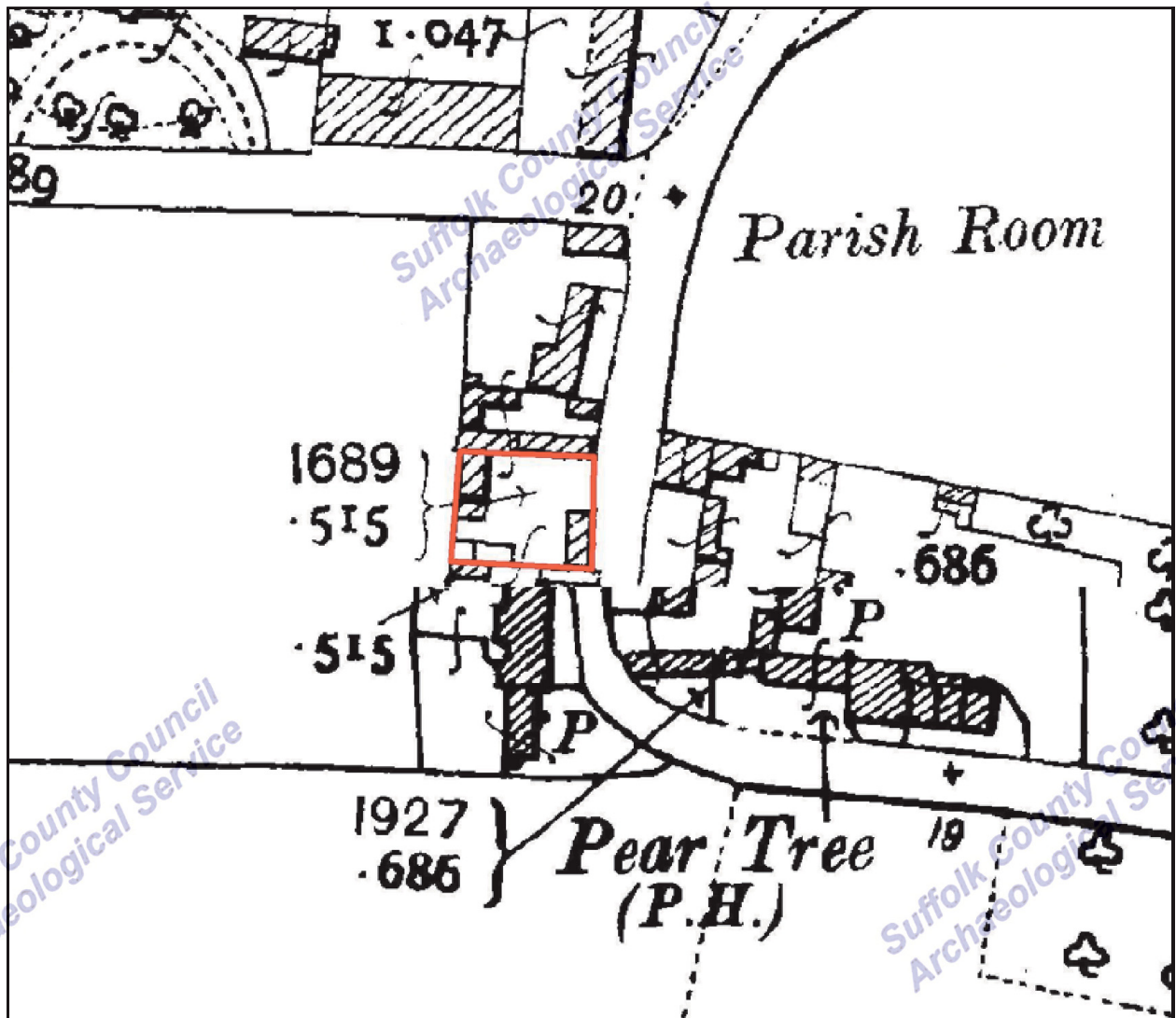


Figure 2. 1904 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (site highlighted in red)

## 4. Methodology

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Nine footing trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket to depths of c.0.95-1.0m. The works were constantly monitored by the supervising archaeologist and all upcast spoil was examined for finds and metal-detected. The total size of the house footprint was 107sqm. As features 0005 and 0007 became visible they were hand-excavated and cleaned. Features 0008 and 0011 could not be seen in plan during machining and so were only recorded in section. Sections were drawn of each feature at 1:20 scale and a plan made of Structure 0005 at 1:50. High resolution digital colour photographs were taken of features, soil stratigraphy and the site at 72 x 72dpi. The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system (Appendix 2) and planned from OS points.

On-site records have been input into the MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Record code MNL 614. Finds have been washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data entered onto the database. Inked copies of profile and feature sections have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-64134) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds, under the HER code MNL 14.

## 5. Results

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(Fig. 3)

The natural subsoil 0004 was made up of very consistent and highly compacted chalk, although in small patches there was pale yellow sandy-chalk. Overlying this were three topsoil layers of 0002, 0003 and 0010 (Appendices 2 & 3). 0002 and 0003 were present in all trenches except 3, 4 and 5, whereas 0010 was found in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and parts of 6.

Much of the site was covered by truncated soil layer 0002. This consisted of pale-mid brown silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments throughout. On the east side of the site c.0.02m had been removed, although on the west side up to 0.25m had been stripped. This was to level the site prior to the building works. However it still survived at

depths of up to 0.2m across the site, except in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 where it was not seen (Fig. 3). It had very sharp horizon clarity with 0003, and contained 19th-20th century pottery and Ceramic Building Material (CBM).

Below 0002 was dark greyish-brown silty-sand layer 0003. This contained common small chalk fragments and humus. It was 0.1-0.25m thick and had sharp horizon clarity with 0004. Pottery, CBM, glass and metalwork were recovered from this soil layer dating to the 19th-20th century. Again it was visible all over the site, except in Trenches 3, 4 and 5.

In Trenches 3, 4 and 5 and partially in Trench 6 was layer 0010. This was 0.25-0.35m deep and had a clear horizon clarity, although it was far more irregular than those of 0002 and 0003. This layer was made up of pale-mid brownish-grey silty-sand with common small chalk fragments. Due to root disturbance it was unclear in Trench 6 where 0002, 0003 and 0010 mixed.

The footing trenches revealed three cut features, 0007, 0008 and 0011 and Structure 0005. Feature 0005 was found in Trench 2 and was a circular domed structure. The top 1m of the structure was made up predominantly of 10 courses of bricks and mortar, although in places chalk blocks had been used, presumably where the curvature of the dome made it difficult to use brick. Below this depth, 1-4 irregular layers of mortared chalk blocks had been used instead of brick and were up to 0.25m deep. Below 1.25m the walls of the structure had simply been carved out from the natural chalk. At the top of the structure was an opening which was 0.35m wide. The bricks walls were 0.1m thick. At the top of the dome the walls initially sloped at c.45° and then changed abruptly to c.75°. The full depth of the feature was unknown as it had been infilled with rubble. Overall in plan it measured 1.32m (N-S) x 1.4m (E-W) x >1.4m deep. Feature 0007 was associated with 0005. It had near vertical and slightly irregular sides and measured c.1.3m across (S-N). Its base was not uncovered by the trenching and its shape in plan was unclear. It was difficult to define the feature as it was filled with 0006, which was largely made up of redeposited chalk, as well as some topsoil and other refuse. Its horizon clarity was also rather diffuse. Pottery from this material was dated to the 19th-20th centuries and a brick from 0005 was dated as late 19th century. However, it is quite possible that the brick structure was a later decommissioning addition to the original excavation of the chalk shaft. Both 0005 and 0007 were covered by layers 0002 and 0003.

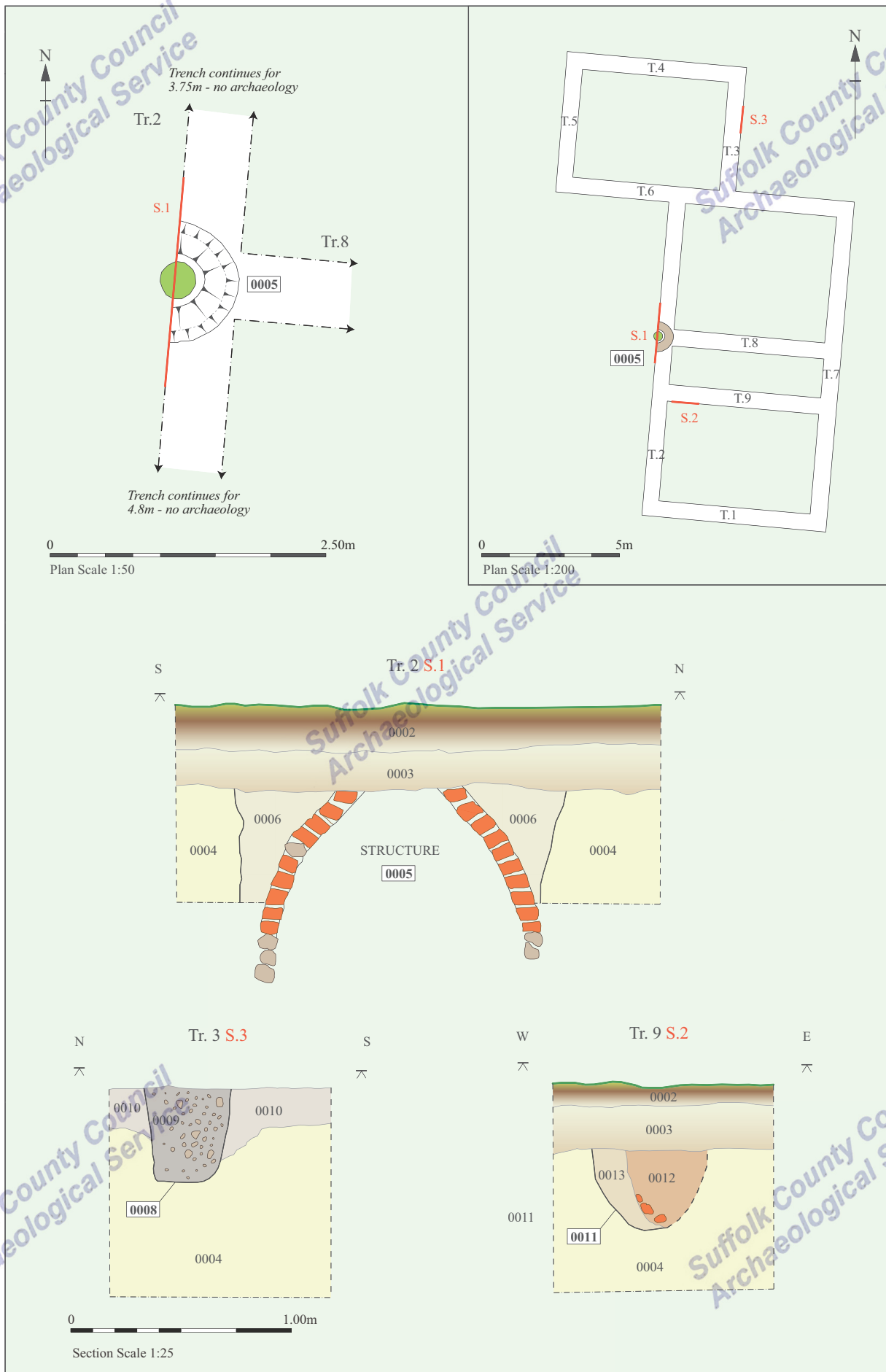


Figure 3. Site plan, feature plan and sections.

Posthole 0008 was found in Trench 3. It measured c.0.4m (N-S) x 0.43m deep. Its sides sloped at c.80° and were relatively straight. The break of slope at the surface was sharp, although this may have been truncated. At its base the break of slope was gradual. It had a flat base. This feature truncated topsoil 0010 and produced no finds. It was filled with a single context, 0009, pale-mid brownish-grey silty-sand with frequent chalk nodules.

Feature 0011 was found in Trench 9. The top fill, 0012 was overlain by soil layers 0002 and 0003. The feature's dimensions were not clearly defined, particularly on the east side. However it was thought to measure 0.32m (E-W) x 0.38m deep. The sides sloped at 80-90° and were slightly concave. The break of slope at the surface was unclear, but at the base it was gradual, leading to a rounded/concave base. It was filled with 0012 and 0013. 0013 was the basal fill, consisting of mid-grey silty-sand with frequent small chalk flecks. Above this was fill 0012, which was pale yellow chalky-sand and white chalk pieces with occasional small stones.

## 6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Rebekah Pressler

### 6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from 7 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Glass		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	1	100								20th C
0002	2	16	2	29						19th-20th C
0003	3	186	1	53	1	1				19-20th C
0005			1	2866						Late 19th C
0006	1	51								19th-20th C
0007							1	27		Undated
0012			4	113						Late med-p-med
Total	7	353	8	3061	1	1	1	27		

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 6.2 Pottery

A total of seven sherds of pottery was recovered from the monitoring (0.353kg). The assemblage was retrieved from deposits 0002, 0003 and 0006 and as unstratified finds

from 0001. The pottery ranges from post-medieval to modern, dating mainly from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Two sherds of pottery dating from nineteenth to the twentieth century were retrieved from the first topsoil deposit 0002 and consist of a rim sherd of an English stoneware jar and a body sherd of late post medieval earthenware or 'plant pot'. Topsoil deposit 0003 produced two sherds of pottery, including the base of a bone china egg cup coloured in orange with a copper lustre glaze dating to around c1900, which may be a souvenir. The second sherd of pottery from 0003 is a heavily abraded base sherd of orange Glazed red earthenware with possible remains of yellow slip decoration and dates from the 16th-18th century. A further nineteenth to twentieth century English stoneware jar sherd was retrieved from construction trench 0006.

A large sherd of brown glazed refined red earthenware (possibly a teapot) impressed with 'England' on the base was recovered unstratified. The sherd is undoubtedly modern, of either twentieth or possibly twenty-first century date.

### **6.3 Ceramic building material**

Rebekah Pressler with Richenda Goffin

The monitoring produced in total eight pieces of ceramic building material from four of the contexts.

Two joining small and abraded fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from topsoil deposit 0002. One piece has a slightly undercut outer edge suggestive of a floor-tile, the dimensions of which cannot be established. The fragments are light orange in colour with bands of buff clay and red clay pellets, and may be the remains of a Flemish tile of medieval or early post-medieval date. A piece of pan tile from 0003 is post-medieval.

The upper deposit 0012 of pit 0011 produced a total of four pieces of ceramic building material. Two very abraded fragments made in medium sandy fabrics with clay pellet inclusions date to the late medieval or post-medieval period. Two other brick fragments show the remains of two different mortar types, one of which covers a broken edge,

suggesting re-use. They are made in a cream fabric with silty bands and are likely to be of a similar date.

A complete machine made frogged brick with mortaring from circular structure 0005 is late, dating roughly from the mid to late nineteenth century.

#### **6.4 Metalwork**

A single copper alloy spoon was retrieved from topsoil deposit 0003. The spoon is of an elongated shaped suggesting a post 1760 date, however a late nineteenth century date is more likely in this case.

#### **6.5 Post-medieval glass**

A small fragment of fine cut glass (most likely from a wine glass) was retrieved from 0003 and is most likely of late nineteenth or twentieth century date.

#### **6.6 Animal bone**

A single pig humerus with signs of butchering was retrieved from construction trench 0007.

#### **6.7 Discussion**

The majority of the finds date to the later part of the post-medieval period, (late nineteenth or twentieth centuries). The sole sherd of earlier pottery from the site is heavily abraded and was recovered from a topsoil deposit. The small quantities of ceramic building material dating to the late medieval/early post- medieval period, retrieved from pit fill 0012 are the earliest finds from the monitoring.

### **7. Discussion**

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Monitoring of the groundworks revealed relatively high levels of post-medieval activity on the site as well as possible medieval features. It is possible that certain deposits may have been truncated by actions relating to layers 0002 and 0003. These both contained only post-medieval finds and had extremely sharp soil horizons, suggesting levelling or truncation of lower levels during their formation. Local residents remembered the site being used as a vegetable garden prior to being hardstanding and grassland, and it is



thought that layer 0003's formation is likely to be related to this, judging by its composition and colour. Topsoil 0002 is thought to then have been used as a levelling or consolidating screed for the site's recent use as hardstanding, or to perhaps be waste material from another process that was then spread over much of the area.

Feature 0008 is probably a posthole. It is undated and its proximity to the current boundary suggests that it may have related to that in some way.

Feature 0011 was the only feature identified to possibly be dated as late medieval/early post-medieval. It was initially thought to be a pit, although its shape in section is unclear. It may have functioned as a posthole. When taken out of use it may then have had waste CBM from a possible associated building incorporated into the fill. It seems unlikely that it relates to the south-west building shown on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map as it is not located on the footprint.

Structure 0005 and the associated shaft is the most significant feature on the site. It is probably the capping of a well shaft, built when the shaft had been taken out of use. As such, the dome's late 19th century date is possibly not indicative of when the shaft was dug or in use. Whilst the current water level is quite low and was not seen within the shaft, it may well have been higher in the past and well shafts excavated into chalk are known to have been up to 18.3m when required, such as in Bury St Edmunds (Gill, pers. comm.). The construction trench 0007 associated with 0005 is likely to have been contemporary with the original excavation of the main shaft, although it may well have been altered during the capping of the well and subsequently infilled with material at the same time.

## **8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork**

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The site has clearly been a focus of various activities in the post-medieval period and possibly earlier than this. The two postholes indicate structures of some sort, including the likely demarcation of a boundary, and in the case of feature 0011, the potential presence of a late-medieval/early post-medieval building. Whilst the well shaft associated with structure 0005 cannot be positively dated, it may also have first been used in the medieval period.

With projects of this nature it is difficult to be confident of the interpretation of the various features and soil layers. This is because of the limited visibility in the footing trenches and in this case, the limited dating evidence. However, the results do serve to extend the understanding of the post-medieval occupation of the site and were useful in helping to identify possible medieval uses as well.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\Archive field proj\Mildenhall\MNL 614 34-36 The Beeches

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The monitoring was carried out and directed by Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by Jo Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Rebekah Pressler and Jonathan Van Jennians and the specialist finds report by Rebekah Pressler and Richenda Goffin. Site plans and sections were produced by Gemma Adams and Crane Begg. The report was checked by Jo Caruth and Richenda Goffin.

### **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

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### The Archaeological Service

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

### ***Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording***

#### **LAND BETWEEN 34 & 36 BEECHES ROAD, WEST ROW, MILDENHALL**

(F/2006/0142/OUT)

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

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a new dwelling and garage on Land between 34 & 36 Beeches Road, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk (TL 671 759), has been granted by Forest Heath District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (F/2006/0142/OUT).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to a historic routeway. There is potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, 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, and until confirmation has been sought by the applicant from the Local Planning Authority. The WSI will *provide*

*the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.6 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.7 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new house and garage, principally foundation and service trenches, and any topsoil stripping/ground reduction. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

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

#### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

#### **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for

all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 5.7 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.10 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.11 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.12 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council  
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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
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Date: 1 September 2009

Reference: /BeechesRoad-WestRow2009

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**



## Appendix 2 – Context list

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Over	Under
0001			Unstratified	Finds	Unstratified finds. Only one piece of pottery recovered.		
0002		1 2 6 7 8 9	Topsoil	Layer	Pale-mid brown silty sand. Compact. Frequent small chalk fragments. Sharp horizon clarity. 0.02m on the east side and 0.25m on the west side of 0002 had been removed over the whole site prior to trenching. Remaining thickness of 0.2-0.3m. Interpretation - possibly a made-up layer to level the site (see 0003) or may be a dump associated with construction of nearby buildings or walls. Gets thicker towards the west and east sides of the site.	0003	
0003		1 2 6 7 8 9	Topsoil	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty sand. Firm compaction. Common small chalk fragments. Sharp horizon clarity 0.1-0.25m thick. Interpretation - thought initially to be the original topsoil, though still heavily disturbed and contaminated with modern CBM, glass, metal, etc. However apparently the site was a vegetable patch relatively recently and so this may be the cultivated soil, with 0002 as the levelling material after. The horizon clarity with 0004 is in places very sharp, suggesting truncation of 0004.	0006 0012	0003
0004		All	Subsoil	Layer	Yellowish-white chalk. Concreted compaction. No inclusions. Horizon clarity not seen. Possibly truncated as has a very sharp horizon with 0003.		0007 0010 0011

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Over	Under
0005	0005	2	Structure	Structure	Domed circular structure. Made up predominantly of red bricks, mortared together. However, occasional large chalk blocks were interspersed and mortared amongst the bricks. Below the 10 brick courses that made up the main structure were 1-4 layers of chalk blocks, that had been mortared in place. Below this the walls were simply hollowed out of the natural chalk. The opening at the top of the structure was 0.35m wide. The walls were 0.1m thick. The walls initially slope at c.45° and then change abruptly to c.75°. Total height of brick structure - c.0.7m. Full depth unknown. 1.32m (N-S) x 1.4m (E-W) x >1.2m deep. Interpretation - brick structure looks like a well, however the water table is low in this area and would require a lot of excavation through chalk to reach.	0007	0006
0006	0007	2	Construction Trench	Fill	Fill of 0007 that surrounds 0005. Mainly contains fragments of 0004 (60%), but also brick fragments (10%) and topsoil (30%). Diffuse horizon clarity. Firm compaction. Possibly produced one piece of pottery, though this may be from 0003. C.1.2m (N-S) x c.0.7m deep. Interpretation - fill of construction trench. Back-filled immediately as 0005 built.	0005	0003
0007	0007	2	Construction Trench	Cut	Shape in plan - probably roughly circular, curving around the exterior of 0005. Near vertical Sides. Sharp break of slope at surface. Break of slope at base unseen. C.1.2m (N-S) x c.0.7m deep.	0004	0005

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Over	Under
0008	0008	3	Posthole	Cut	Shape in plan unknown. C.80° sides, slightly concave. North side break of slope at base - sharp. South side break of slope at base - gradual/curved. Break of slope at surface - sharp. Base - flat. Filled with 0009. 0.38m (N-S x 0.43m deep. Interpretation - modern posthole, hence stratigraphy and very neat cut. Not a trench/ditch as not seen in opposite section.	0010	0009
0009	0008	3	Posthole	Fill	Pale-mid brownish-grey silty-sand. Firm-compact. Frequent fleck-medium sized chalk nodules. Sharp horizon clarity in natural chalk. 0.38m (N-S) x 0.43m deep.	0008	
0010		3 4 5 6	Topsoil	Layer	Pale-mid brownish-grey silty-sand. Firm-compact. Common small chalk fragments. Clear horizon clarity. 0.25-0.35m deep. Interpretation - original topsoil or subsoil that formed naturally over 0004. Lighter and less distinctly brown than 0002.	0004	0008
0011	0011	9	Pit	Cut	Shape in plan unknown. Break of slope at surface unknown due to truncation. 80-90° slightly concave sides. Break of slope at base - gradual. Rounded/concave base. Filled with 0012 and 0013. 0.32m (E-W) x 0.38m deep. Interpretation - probable pit cut. Shape unclear as contained lots of chalk, which made it impossible to see prior to machine excavation.	0004	0013

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Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Over	Under
0012	0011	9	Pit	Fill	Pale yellow and white patches of chalky sand and chalk, respectively. Compact. Occasional, small, sub-rounded stones. Diffuse horizon clarity. Contained tile/brick. 0.36m (E-W) x 0.36m deep. Interpretation - top fill of 0011.	0013	0003
0013	0011	9	Pit	Fill	Mid grey silty-sand. Firm-compact. Frequent small-medium chalk fragments. Diffuse horizon clarity. 0.14m (E-W) x 0.38m deep. Interpretation - basal fill of 0011.	0011	0012

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# Appendix 3 – Matrix

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