

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/282

**141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm,
Ipswich.
PFM 017**



D. Stirk

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



HER Information

Planning Application No: C/09/0346

Date of Fieldwork: 26th to 27th October 2009

Grid Reference: TM 208 425

Funding Body: Hallmark Healthcare (Ipswich) Ltd.

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Duncan Stirk

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-67468

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





Contents

Summary		Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Geology and topography	1
3.	Archaeological and historical background	3
4.	Methodology	3
5.	Results	6
5.1	Introduction	6
5.2 to 5.14	Trenches 1 to 13	6
6.	Finds and environmental evidence (Cathy Tester)	9
6.1	Introduction	9
6.2	Pottery	9
6.3	Worked flint (Colin Pendleton)	9
6.4	Burnt flint	10
6.6	Charcoal	10
7.	Discussion	10
7.1 to 7.2	Trenches 4 & 6	10
8.	Conclusions and recommendations for further work	12
9.	Archive deposition	13
10.	List of Contributors and acknowledgements	13
11.	Bibliography	13
	Disclaimer	13

List of Figures

1. Site location 2
2. Site detail and trial trench locations 4
3. Trench 6 features 5

List of Tables

1. Trench dimensions 6
2. Finds quantities 9

List of Plates

1. Gyrotiller marks Trench 13. Scale 1m 11
- 2&3 Pits 0041 & 0044. Scales 0.5m & 1m 12

List of Appendices

1. Brief and Specification
2. Context List

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich (TM 208 425); PFM 017, in advance of a proposal to redevelop the site.

A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site on the 26th and 27th October 2009. Two features of potential archaeological interest were recorded during the work. These were charcoal and ash filled pits which were undated, but possibly relate to wartime activity at the nearby Ipswich Airfield. The site had subsequently been extensively ploughed using a rotary plough which will have removed any shallow archaeological deposits.

Duncan Stirk, SCCAS for Suffolk CC (Report no: 2009/282)





1. Introduction

A planning application was made for a development of a residential care home at 141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich, Suffolk. The site is centred on approximately NGR TM 208 425 and comprises approximately a total of 0.67 hectares.

The site has not been the subject of archaeological investigation in the past, but it is located in an area of archaeological interest. It is just to the north of a medieval settlement, church and burial ground listed as Historic Environment Record (HER) number PFM 008. It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was an initial requirement for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench, as outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix 1). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client, Hallmark Healthcare (Ipswich) Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

The site of the proposed development is immediately to the north of Bucklesham Road in Purdis Farm, Ipswich. (Figure 1) At the time of the evaluation the site spanned two properties and was occupied by gardens and orchards to the front and rear of one house and to the rear of another. The eastern property was relatively level, with a height of 34.71m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the street front, southern, end, and 34.63m AOD at the northern end of the plot. The western property sloped slightly down to the west, with heights of 33.41m AOD in the NW and 33.64m AOD to the SW edges of the evaluated portion.

The two properties were bounded to the south by Bucklesham Road, and to the East, West and North by similar properties and their gardens.

The geology underlying the site is glaciofluvial drift (Deep Sand).

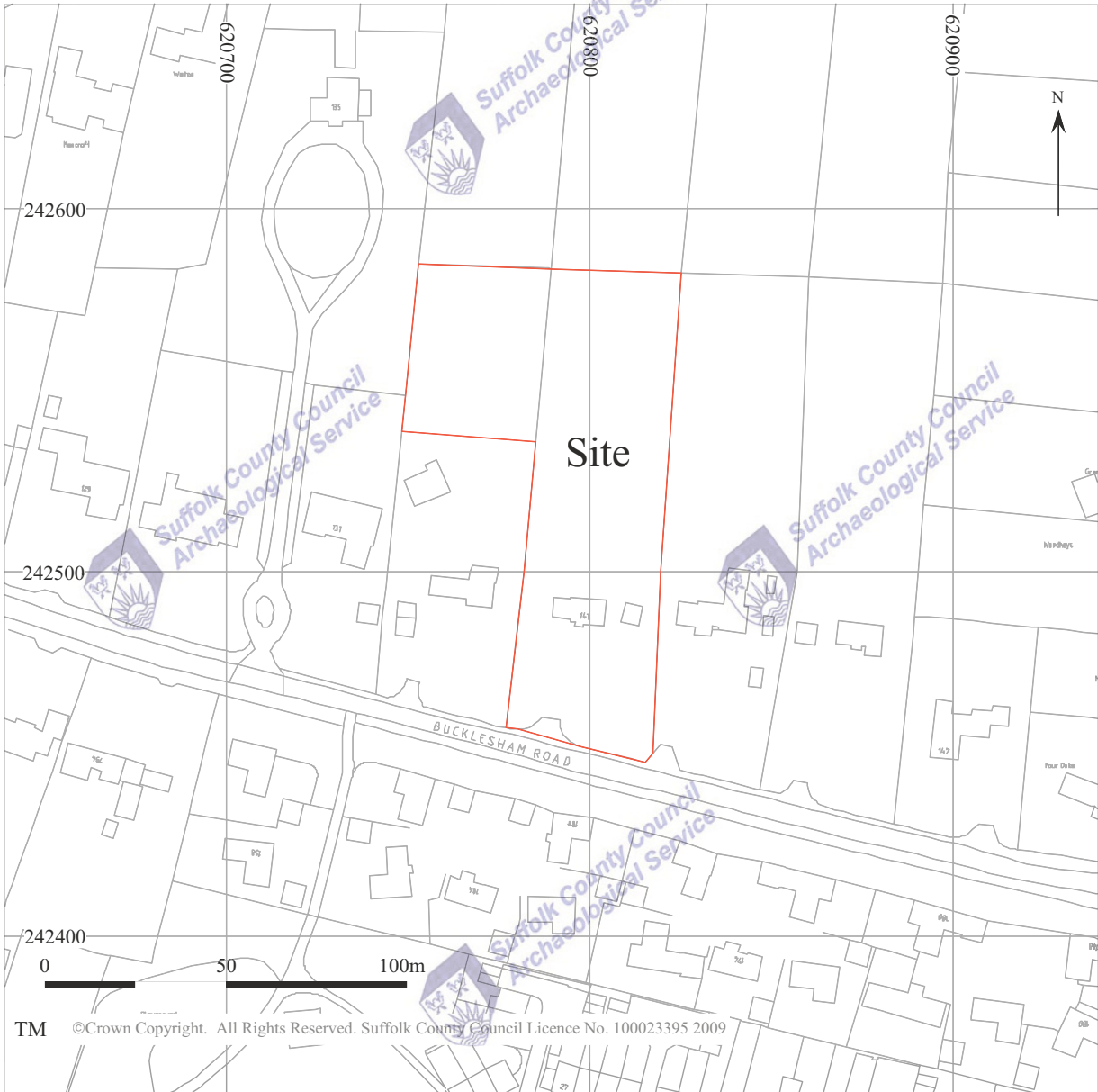
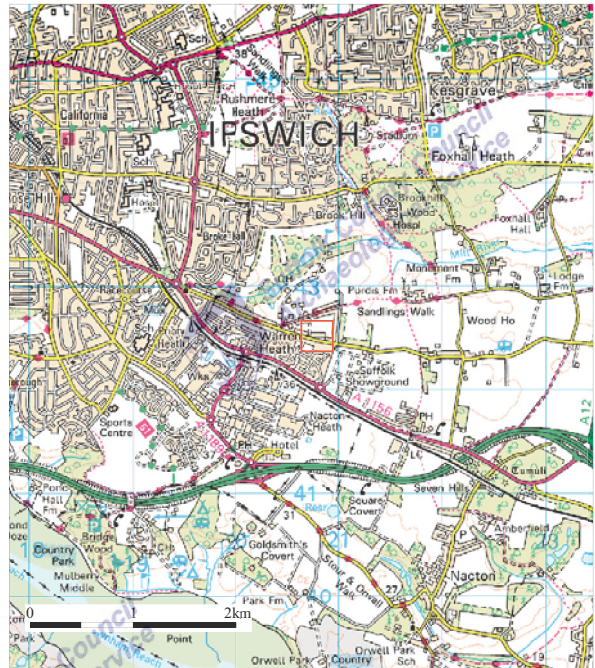


Figure 1. Site Location

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site is located at Purdis Farm on the eastern margin of Ipswich, along Bucklesham Road. Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the vicinity of the development site. There are a few entries in the Historic Environment Record (HER) in the vicinity of the site. The most relevant of these is the medieval church and churchyard of the presumed settlement of Brihtolvestuna, which is within 100m to the south of the site. The other HER entries in the vicinity relate to Second World War anti-aircraft defences and bomb craters.

Examination of historic maps reveals little about the development site. The Hodskinson map of 1783 locates the development site well outside the built up areas of Ipswich, in open fields. Later Ordnance survey maps dating to the 1880's, 1890's, and 1920's also show that the site was within a large field.

4. Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out from the 26th and 27th October 2009. The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.4m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the exposed surfaces was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify cut features. Certain trenches were moved to avoid live services and garden features.

The site covers approximately 0.67 hectares, of which 187.1 linear metres was trenched resulting in a sample of 5%.

The site was allocated the HER number PFM 017. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on pro forma recording sheets. All drawn recording was carried out in a series of 1:50 or 1:20 scale plans and 1:20 or 1:10 scale section drawings, as appropriate. A photographic record of all trenches was made which, along with the written records, forms the archive, stored with SCCAS Ipswich. The illustrations of individual trenches were rendered using MapInfo software.

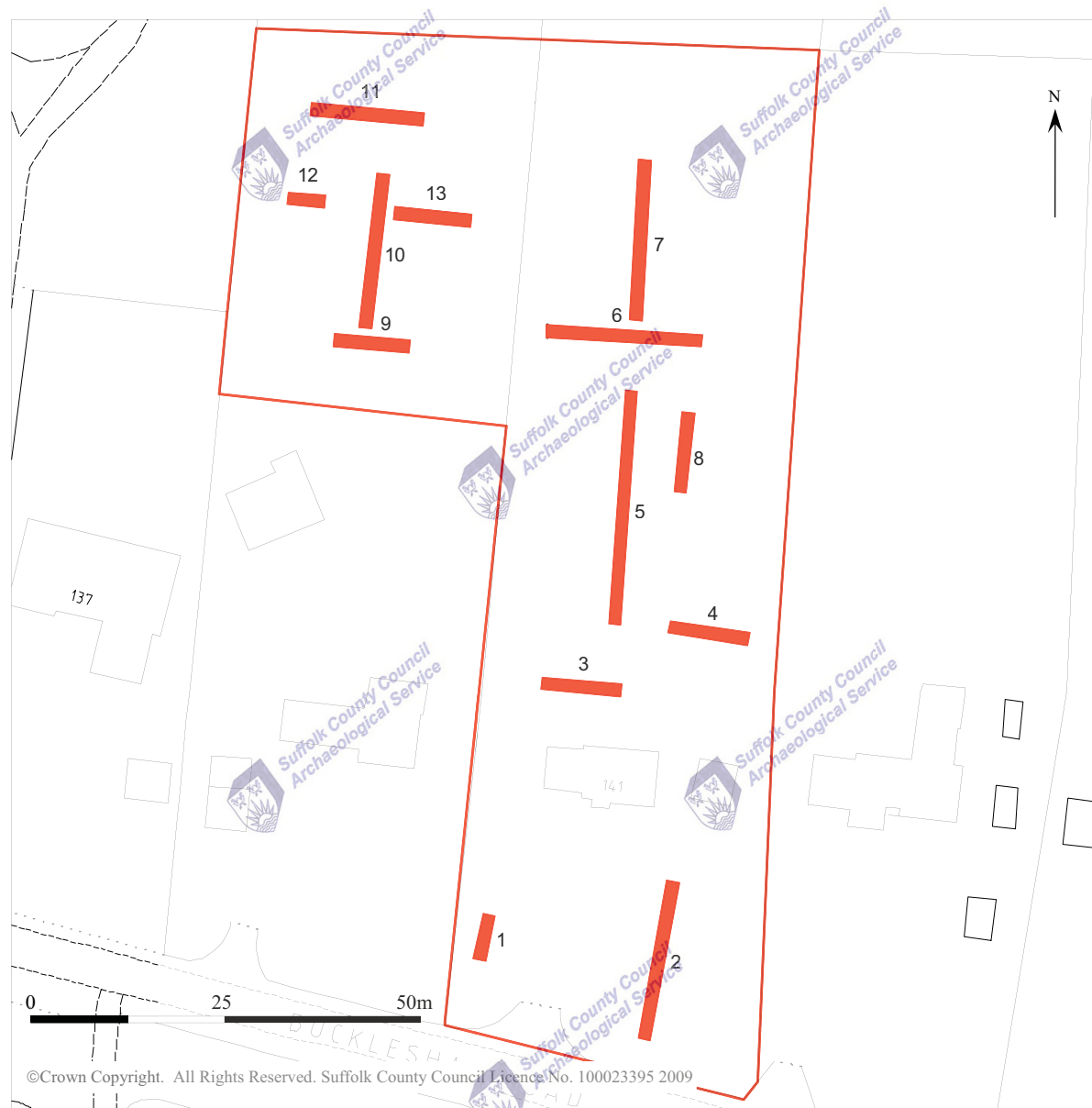


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench locations.

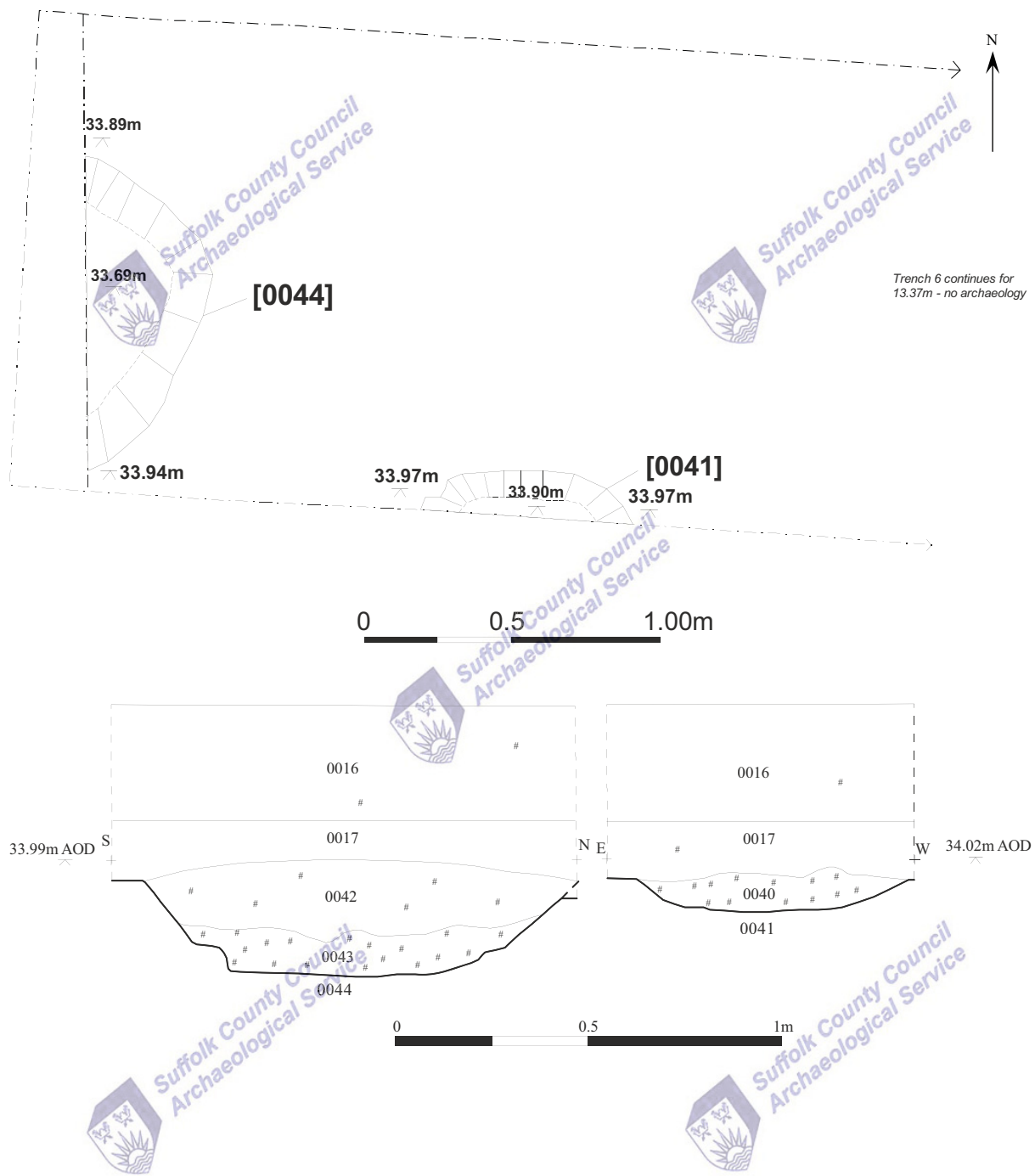


Figure 3. Trench 6 features



5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The basic trench dimensions were as follows:

	Length (m)	Area sq. m
Trench 1	5.9m x 1.6m	9.44
Trench 2	20.6m x 1.6m	32.96
Trench 3	10.3m x 1.6m	16.48
Trench 4	10.3m x 1.6m	16.48
Trench 5	30.1m x 1.6m	48.16
Trench 6	20.1m x 1.6m	32.16
Trench 7	20.6m x 1.6m	32.96
Trench 8	10.4m x 1.6m	16.64
Trench 9	9.7m x 1.6m	15.52
Trench 10	19.9m x 1.6m	31.84
Trench 11	14.6m x 1.6m	23.36
Trench 12	4.8m x 1.6m	7.68
Trench 13	9.9m x 1.6m	15.84

Table 1. Trench dimensions

5.2 Trench 1

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0001	0.2	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0002	0.2	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0003	0.1	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

The deposit sequence for Trench 1 was typical of most of the trenches during the evaluation, with a simple sequence of geological natural overlain by subsoil, and capped by topsoil and turf.

5.3 Trench 2

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0004	0.18	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0005	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0006	>0.17	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.4 Trench 3

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0007	0.2	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0008	0.2	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0009	>0.1	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.5 Trench 4

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0010	0.22	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0011	0.09	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0012	>0.09	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.
0013	0.1	Semi-circular shape with steep concave sides & concave base. Horticultural scars.

The concentric semi-circular scars were at the interface between the natural geology and the subsoil and were filled by subsoil deposit 0013.

5.6 Trench 5

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0014	0.32	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0015	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0016	>0.13	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.7 Trench 6

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0017	0.3	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0018	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0019	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.
0040	0.14	Mixed very light brown & reddish brown sand, mid grey ash & black charcoal. With occasional small pebbles & burnt flint. 0.7m x >0.14m x 0.14m thick. Fill of pit [0041]
0041	0.14	Semi-oval shape. Moderate concave sides & concave base. 0.7m x >0.14m x 0.14m deep. Cut of 'fog-lifter' or fire-pit.
0042	0.16	Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional flecks-medium charcoal. 1.0m x >0.4m x 0.16m thick. Secondary fill of pit [0044]
0043	0.16	Dark grey to black charcoally sand with frequent flecks - large charcoal. 0.8m x >0.3m x 0.13m thick. Primary fill of pit [0044]
0044	0.3	Irregular ovoid shape. Steep straight sides & concave base. 1.0m x >0.4m x 0.3m deep. Cut of 'fog-lifter' or fire-pit.

The natural geology was cut by two pits 0041 and 0044 at the western end of the trench. Feature 0044 extended beyond the western end of the trench and was 1.0m long by over 0.4m wide. It had steep straight sides and a concave base that was 0.3m deep. The pit held a primary fill 0043, of dark grey to black charcoal and sand that was at most 0.16m thick. This was overlain by a secondary fill 0042, of mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, that was 0.16m thick.

Pit 0041 was located along the southern edge of the trench just to the east of pit 0044. It was 0.7m long by over 0.14m wide. It had moderate concave sides and a concave base that was 0.14m deep. The pit held a single fill 0040, that was mixed very light

brown and reddish brown sand, mid grey ash, and black charcoal, that was 0.14m thick. No finds were recovered from either pit.

5.8 Trench 7

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0020	0.38	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0021	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.9 Trench 8

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0022	0.25	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0023	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0024	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.10 Trench 9

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0025	0.3	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0026	0.1	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0027	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.11 Trench 10

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0028	0.28	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0029	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0030	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.12 Trench 11

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0031	0.27	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0032	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0033	>0.1	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.13 Trench 12

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0034	0.32	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0035	0.1	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0036	>0.04	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

5.14 Trench 13

Context	Depth (m)	Description
0037	0.23	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flints & stones. Topsoil & turf.
0038	0.15	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flints & stones. Subsoil.
0039	>0.05	Pale creamy brown sand with moderate small to medium flint & stone. Natural.

6. Finds and environmental evidence (Cathy Tester)

6.1 Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		flint		burnt flint		burnt stone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001			1	8					LIA-ERom
0011	1	5							
0015			1	36			1	67	
0040					15	48			
0043					8	23			
Total	1	5	2	44	23	71	1	67	

Table 2. finds quantities.

6.2 Pottery

A single abraded sherd of wheel-made grog-tempered pottery was recovered from the subsoil layer (0011) in Trench 4. The sherd comes from a necked jar or bowl and belongs to the first half of the 1st century AD.

6.3 Worked Flint (identified by Colin Pendleton)

A patinated flake that has been retouched to form a crude oval scraper was found in the topsoil in Trench 1 (0001). The original patinated flake is probably Mesolithic or Neolithic and the later reworking is later prehistoric.

A large patinated long flake was found in Subsoil layer 0015 in Trench 5. The piece has a notch at the distal end, steepish retouch down all of one edge, the opposite edge is cortex. It is either a side scraper or side scraper/knife with a date of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

6.4 Burnt flint and stone

Twenty-three small fragments of burnt flint weighing 71g were recovered from the non-floating residues of Soil Samples 1 and 2 which were taken from possible 'fog-lifter' or fire pit features pit 0041

A fragment (67g) of fire-reddened mudstone was collected from subsoil layer 0015 in Trench 5.

6.5 Charcoal

Two soil samples were taken for the recovery of plant macrofossils from pits 0041 (0040) and 0044 (0043) in Trench 6.

Initial examination of the sample residue indicated they contain only charcoal, however the samples have been submitted for analysis, which will be forthcoming.

7. Discussion

7.1 Trench 4

The semicircular features which were recorded as context 0013 in Trench 4 were present in many of the trenches in both properties. They are almost certainly the result of a diesel rotary plough or "gyrotiller" which was generally used to bring land back into cultivation. It was designed to break up heavy clay soils and hard-pan, but could also be used to remove roots and vegetation. On this site it seems likely that the machine was used to remove heath-land gorse, and this may have been done immediately prior to the construction of the present houses.

These marks were present in the top of the natural geology at depths of between 0.31m and 0.47m below ground level (BGL). The subsoil and topsoil deposits above these marks were homogenous and devoid of archaeological features, which is indicative of the destructive action of the rotary plough.



Plate 1 Gyrotiller marks in Trench 13. Scale 1m.

7.2 Trench 6

Two cut features, 0041 and 0044, were present at the western end of Trench 6. These shallow pits both exhibited in-situ burning of the surrounding natural geology and were filled with ash and charcoal. The features were relatively undisturbed by animal and root disturbance and the fills were not leached out. For these admittedly subjective reasons the features are thought to be relatively modern, despite not containing datable finds. One possible interpretation is that these are the remains of 'foglifters' associated with Ipswich Airport. Many similar features were recorded on the former airport site during excavations there (Bales et al., 2006), although the distance of this site from the airport runways may count against this interpretation. Alternatively, these features may simply be fire-pits for burning vegetation, and therefore probably date to the 20th century, possibly during the clearance of the land prior to ground preparation with a rotary plough. (Environmental assessment and radiocarbon dating pending)



Plates 2 & 3 Pits 0041 & 0044. Scales 0.5m & 1m

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The archaeological evaluation on at 141 Bucklesham Road, Ipswich has revealed little of archaeological interest. The two cut features recorded during the work are probably modern fire-pits or 'foglifters' related to Ipswich Airport. (Results of environmental assessment & radiocarbon dating pending) Perhaps the most informative archaeological features were the plough-marks left by the 'Gyrotiller' rotary plough. The use of this heavy machinery on a site with such light sandy soil, hints that prior to the laying out of the current properties the land was probably overgrown heath, and the rotary plough was used to remove vegetation and roots rather than to break up the soil. Use of the rotary plough on the site would have truncated archaeological features to a greater depth than normal ploughing, in some trenches to a depth of almost 0.5m, which may have completely removed any shallow features. Few archaeological finds were recovered from the subsoil, so it seems likely that few such features were present before the ploughing. The Iron Age pottery and prehistoric worked flint are typical of the "background scatter" of prehistoric finds for the region and in these low concentrations probably not indicative of a settlement in the vicinity. The complete absence of medieval period finds strongly suggests that the development site was outside the medieval settlement known to lie to the south.

In light of the limited results of the trial trenching and the clear evidence for destructive rotary ploughing, it is thought that further archaeological investigation of the site would be unproductive. No further archaeological work on the site is therefore recommended.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Ipswich

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Duncan Stirk from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner, and supervised by Duncan Stirk. The production of site plans and sections was carried out by Duncan Stirk, and the specialist finds report by Cathy Tester with contributions by Colin Pendleton.

11. Bibliography

Bales, E., Good, C. and Meredith, J. 2006, Ravenswood (Former Ipswich Airport) IPS 024, IPS 386, IPS 390, IPS 391, IPS 404, IPS 405, IPS 406, IPS 420
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Conservation Team.

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.

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**141 BUCKLESHAM ROAD, PURDIS FARM, IPSWICH (C/09/0346)**

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/09/0346) for the erection of a residential care home (following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings) at 141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich IP3 8UB (TM 208 425). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The site, which measures 0.67 ha. in size, is located on the north side of Bucklesham Road, at c. 34.00m AOD. The underlying geology of the site comprises glaciofluvial drift (deep sand).
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the north of Purdis Farm medieval settlement, church and burial ground (HER no. PFM 008). There is high potential for medieval settlement at this location. 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, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, 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 specification.**
- 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 c. 335.00m². 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 186.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width,
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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. 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 palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic 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 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.

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeo-environmental remains recovered from palaeo-sols 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 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).



Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk



Date: 15 October 2009

Reference: / 141BuckleshamRoad-PurdisFarm2009

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.

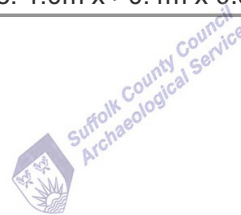
If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.



Appendix 2. Context List

Context	Type	Description
0001	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.2m thick topsoil & turf.
0002	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.2m thick Subsoil.
0003	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0004	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.18m thick topsoil & turf.
0005	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.
0006	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0007	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.2m thick topsoil & turf.
0008	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.2m thick Subsoil.
0009	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0010	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.22m thick topsoil & turf.
0011	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.09m thick Subsoil.
0012	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0013	Cultivation marks	Steep straight sides & concave base. Semi-circular shape. Horticultural cultivation marks?
0014	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.32m thick topsoil & turf.
0015	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.
0016	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0017	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.30m thick topsoil & turf.
0018	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.
0019	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0020	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.38m thick topsoil & turf.
0021	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0022	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.25m thick topsoil & turf.
0023	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.5m thick Subsoil.
0024	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0025	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.30m thick topsoil & turf.
0026	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.1m thick Subsoil.
0027	Natural	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0028	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.28m thick topsoil & turf.
0029	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.

Context	Type	Description
0030	Topsoil	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0031	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.27m thick topsoil & turf.
0032	Natural	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.
0033	Topsoil	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0034	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.32m thick topsoil & turf.
0035	Natural	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.1m thick Subsoil.
0036	Topsoil	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0037	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Frequent flints. Moderate stones. 0.23m thick topsoil & turf.
0038	Natural	Mid brown silty sand with moderate small & medium stones. 0.15m thick Subsoil.
0039	Topsoil	Pale creamy brown fine sand with moderate small & medium stones. Natural.
0040	Subsoil	Mixed very light brown & reddish brown sand, mid grey ash & black charcoal. With occasional small pebbles & burnt flint. 0.7m x >0.14m x 0.14m thick. Fill of pit [0041]
0041	Natural	Semi-oval shape. Moderate concave sides & concave base. 0.7m x >0.14m x 0.14m deep. Cut of 'fog-lifter' or fire-pit.
0042	Pit fill	Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional flecks-medium charcoal. 1.0m x >0.4m x 0.16m thick. Secondary fill of pit [0044]
0043	Pit fill	Dark grey to black charcoally sand with frequent flecks - large charcoal. 0.8m x >0.3m x 0.13m thick. Primary fill of pit [0044]
0044	Pit	Irregular ovoid shape. Steep straight sides & concave base. 1.0m x >0.4m x 0.3m deep. Cut of 'fog-lifter' or fire-pit.



Addendum to SCCAS Report No 2009/282

Two cut features recorded during the evaluation at 141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm, Ipswich, were originally interpreted as probable fire-pits of modern date or 'foglifiers' related to Ipswich Airport. It was recommended by Dr. Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team that sampled charcoal from one of the features be sent for Radiocarbon dating. The results contradict the initial interpretation, and strongly suggest a Middle Saxon date for one, and possibly both of the pits. The date range for the sample was between 650 and 810 AD with a 95.4% probability (see attached certificate).

This date for the pits warrants some discussion. Middle Saxon activity was recorded in excavations by SCCAS in 2002 to 2004 along Murrills Road directly to the south of the site. It was concluded on that site that post-Roman occupation began in the 9th Century AD with activity related to agriculture and smithing occurring beside a road. The middle Saxon date for a charcoal filled pit at the Bucklesham Road indicates that it is probably part of the same settlement and that activity began earlier than was originally thought. Additionally, the pits may be the result of charcoal burning that is an essential precursor to the smithing process. The unusual composition of the charcoal in the pit, which was unusually uniform and possibly imported to the site (see Environmental report attached), may represent the remnants of a final firing of charcoal in the 'pitstead' part of a charcoal burning clamp.

Additionally, the date of the pit casts some doubt on a 'foglifter' interpretation of other charcoal filled pits in the vicinity of Ipswich Airport. The pits at 141 Buckelsham Road were interpreted as probably modern based on the lack of leaching of the organic contents, and the lack of root and animal disturbance. This admittedly ephemeral and subjective evidence has now been demonstrated as an entirely inadequate for the determination of age and importance of this type of feature.

D. Stirk

August 2010





Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre

Director: Professor A B MacKenzie Director of Research: Professor R M Ellam
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park,
East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

30 June 2010

Laboratory Code

SUERC-30004 (GU-21759)

Submitter

Cathy Tester
SCC Archaeological Service
9-10 The Churchyard, Shirehall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk, IP33 2AR

Site Reference
Sample Reference

141 Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm Suffolk
PFM017-0043

Material

Charcoal

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB

-26.8 ‰

Radiocarbon Age BP

1285 ± 35

- N.B.**
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :-

Date :-

Checked and signed off by :-

Date :-



University
of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

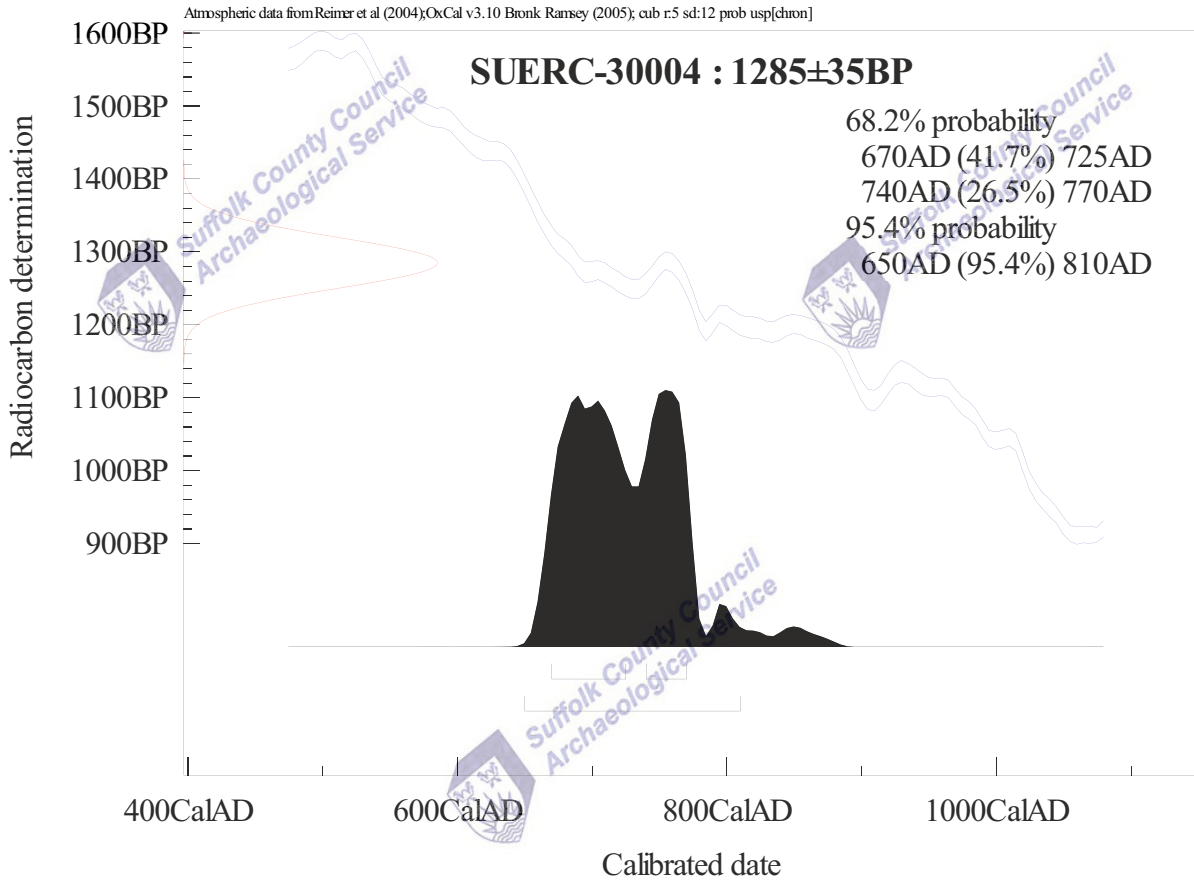


Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service



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Calibration Plot



AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM BUCKLESHAM ROAD, PURDIS FARM, IPSWICH (PFM 017)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
February 2010

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Purdis Farm, undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), recorded an undated pit with a very charcoal rich fill, which appeared to have been burnt *in situ*. Two samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, one from the primary fill and one from the main pit fill.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were present in both assemblages.

Results

Although only a small proportion of each of the large assemblages was sorted for assessment, both appear to be principally composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, some of which are very large. Much of this charcoal has a very flaked appearance, probably indicating that it is derived from one or more episodes of very high temperature combustion. The only other remains noted are a small number of fragments of charred root or stem from sample 2 (primary fill), which may derived from plants growing within the area prior to combustion.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The uniformity of the assemblages is, perhaps, a little unusual as most features exhibiting evidence of *in situ* burning will incorporate a wider range of burnt plant remains as well as some evidence of other detritus. As neither are present here it is, perhaps, possible that the fuel used was deliberately imported to the site solely for the purposes of this episode of burning. However, whether combustion occurred recently or in antiquity is currently unknown.

As the assemblages are very limited in composition, no further plant macrofossil analysis is recommended. However, identification and analysis of the charcoal/charred wood will identify the range of species present and may be able to provide data about the purpose of this episode of burning. Such analysis should also be able to separate material suitable for C14 dating, if the latter is required.

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	0040	0043
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >10mm	xx	xxx
Charred root/stem		x
Sample volume (litres)	6	5
Volume of flot (litres)	2	1.5
% flot sorted	<10%	<10%

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils from Bucklesham Rd, Purdis Farm, Ipswich.

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens