

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/243

**The Old Vicarage, Badwell Ash
BAA 023**

HER Information

Planning Application No: 1912/09
Date of Fieldwork: 18 to 19th November 2009
Grid Reference: TL 989 688
Funding Body: Mrs J. Vincent
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Liz Muldowney
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1_67741

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<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at the Old Vicarage, Badwell Ash. Four footing trenches were excavated prior to the construction of a cartlodge garage. The site appears to have been remodelled, probably prior to the construction of the house, possibly through quarrying. Three modern features were observed cutting into the redeposited gravels, all of which were backfilled with building debris including brick, tile and iron fixtures and fittings.

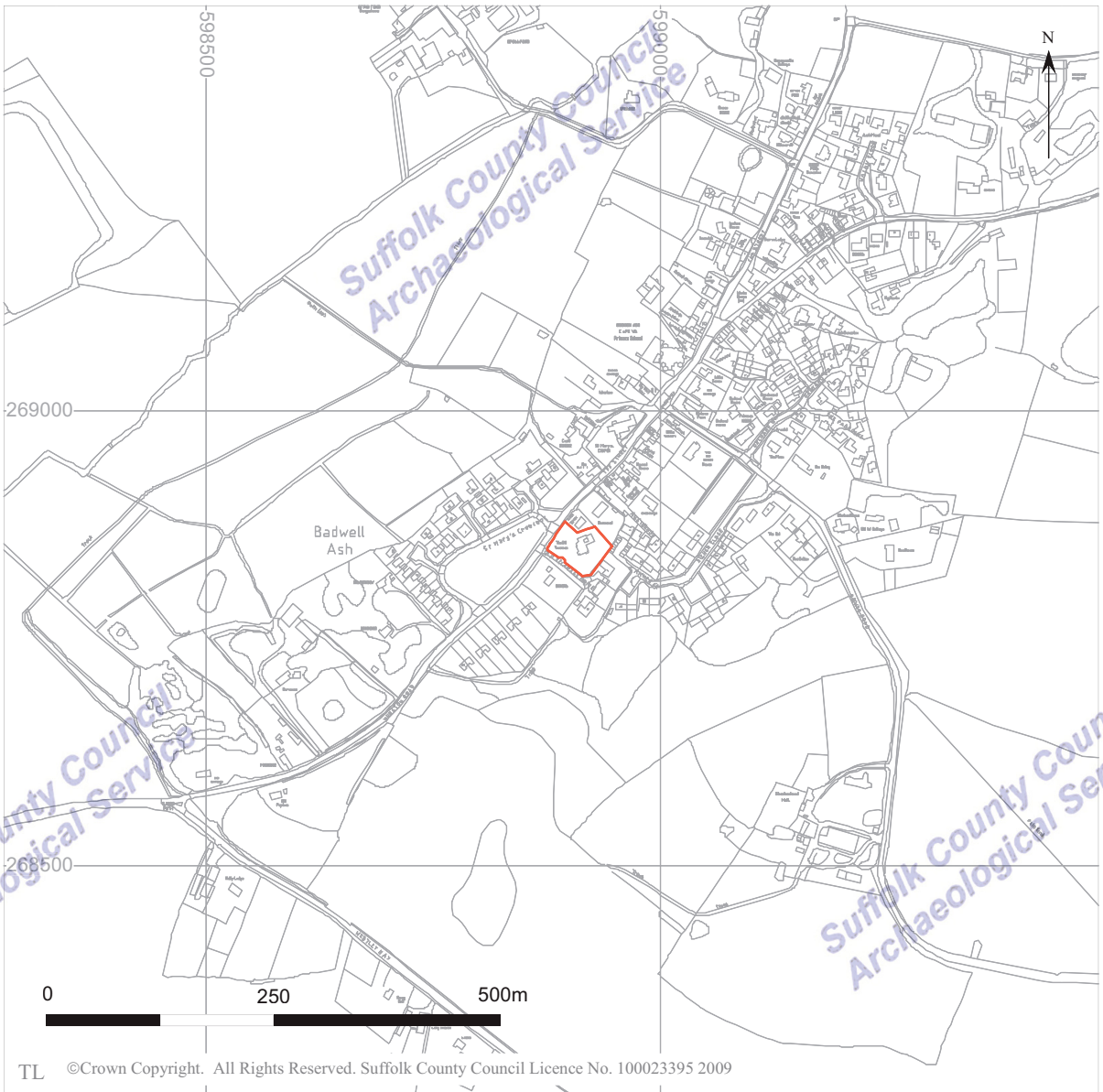
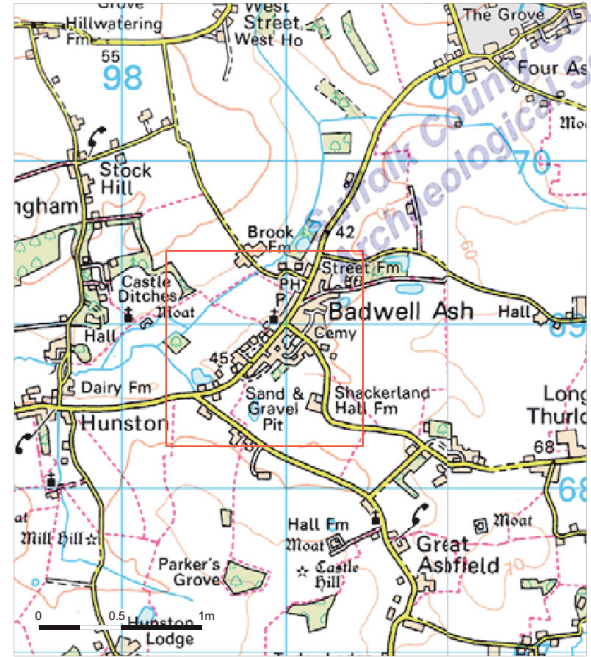
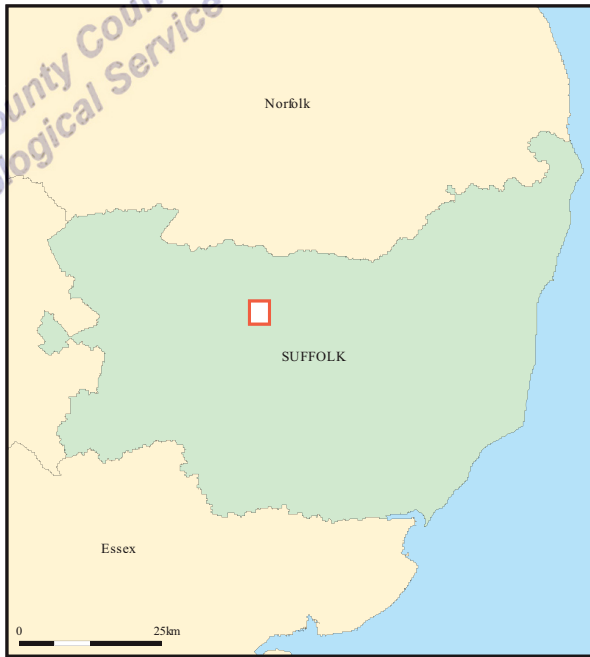
1. Introduction and methodology

Monitoring of the foundation trenches at the Old Vicarage, Badwell Ash (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of a cartlodge garage (Planning Application 1912/09) took place on the 18th and 19th November 2009. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The monitoring was carried out by Liz Muldowney on behalf of the client Mrs J. Vincent.

The existing garage had been demolished and four 0.6m wide foundation trenches were excavated by a 3 ton, 360 degree excavator fitted with an 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.8m and 1m below modern ground level, except in Trench 1 where a modern brick lined pit/soakaway was removed to a depth of 1.4m. Trench 1 measured 10.4m in length, Trenches 2 to 4 were 7m long and together formed an uneven E shape (Fig. 2).

Plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales and high resolution (7 megapixel) digital photographs were taken of all relevant deposits and features. No finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken. The location of the foundation trenches was recorded by tape in relation to existing OS mapping data.

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Figure 1. Location map (development area outlined in red)



Figure 2. Trench location

2. Results

The majority of the development area appears to have been subject to substantial remodelling, probably prior to the construction of the Old Vicarage and probably resulting from quarrying gravels and flint for building work. A substantial posthole was recorded cutting the backfilled quarry pits, two modern backfilled pits were observed and a modern brick lined pit/soakaway was also recorded (Fig. 3).

Redeposited material 0006, presumably derived from backfilling quarry pits was observed across the whole of Trenches 2, 3 and 4. The base of this material was not observed within the excavated foundation trenches and is therefore greater than 0.8m in depth. It was a mixed deposit of sorted gravels, peagrit, sand and pulverised chalk layers. The profile suggests that these represented dumps of material that had been tipped haphazardly into large pits (Plate 1). In places this backfill was sealed by mid grey brown sandy silt subsoil 0005 with moderate gravel inclusions (0.2m at

deepest point), below 0.3m of dark grey brown sandy silt garden soil 0001. No datable material was recovered but the quarrying is likely to predate the construction of the house because of its proximity to it. The 1st edition OS map (1880's) shows the vicarage within its present boundaries; however in the fields both to the east and west fairly extensive gravel pits are shown. It is possible that gravel extraction had previously been more extensive (Fig. 4).

Trench 1 had a more homogenous appearance at its east end with topsoil 0001 sealing a sandy gravel layer 0002. The upper 0.4m of this layer was composed of predominantly well sorted gravel pebbles, whilst below this the layer became sandier with fewer small flint pebbles and moderate large irregular flint cobbles. This may have been the natural geological sequence but it had a dirty greyish yellow appearance, was extremely loose and subject to collapse. It could also have been redeposited quarry backfill.

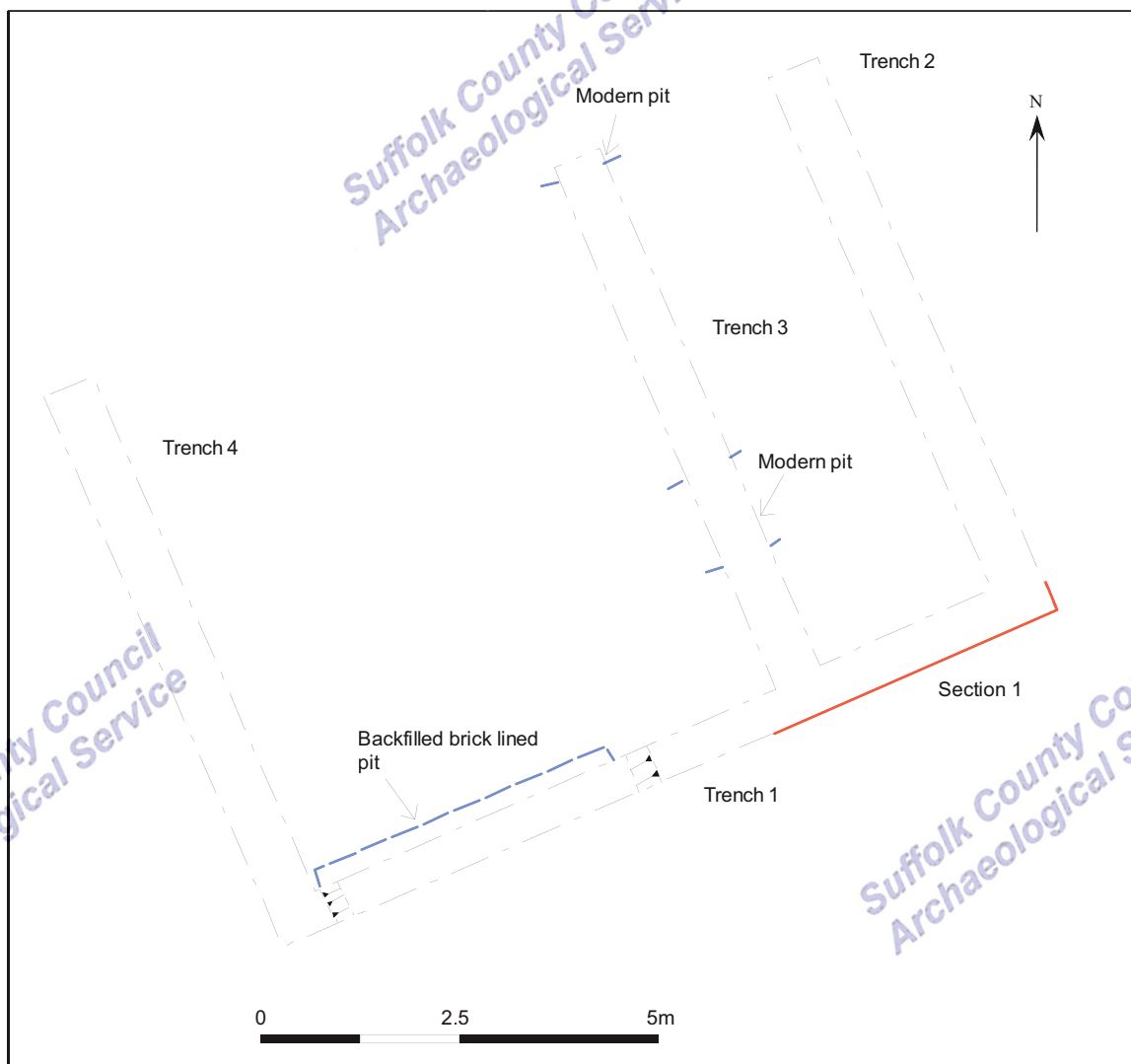


Figure 3. Trench plan

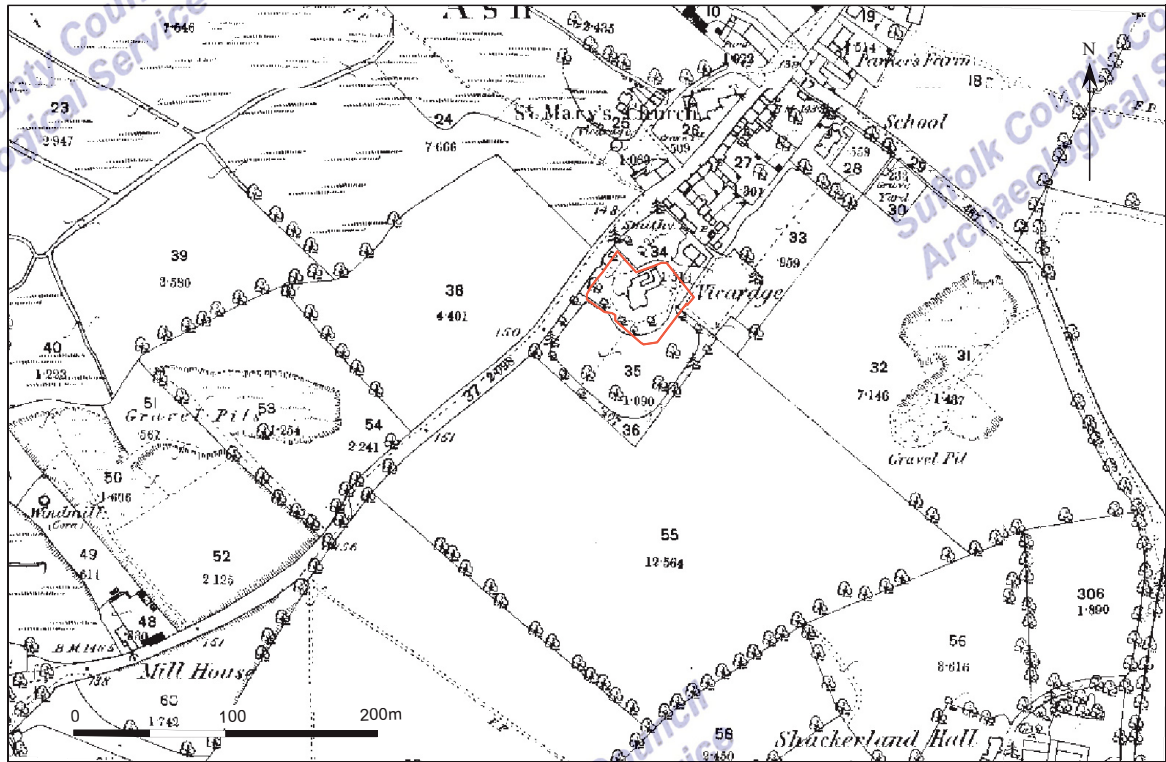


Figure 4. 1st edition OS map (1880's)

A large vertically-sided possible posthole 0003 obscured the relationship between the two sequences in the corner of Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 5). It was observed only in section and measured 0.5m+ in width and more than 0.75m in depth, and was filled with mid orangey brown loose sandy silt with abundant peagrit gravel and rare large flint fragments 0004 (Plate 2).

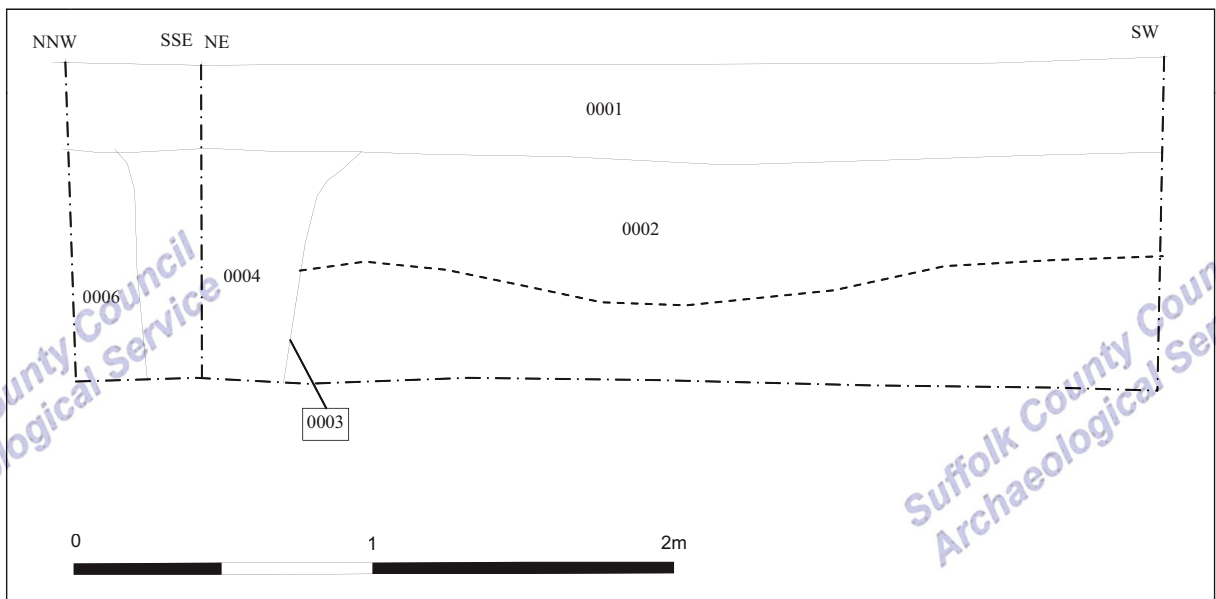


Figure 5. Section 1

Two modern pits were observed in Trench 3. A large pit measuring approximately 1.4m in width and 0.6m in depth was recorded towards the southern end of the trench. It was steep-sided with a concave base and was filled with a mixture of brick and tile fragments and iron fixtures and fittings within a dark brownish grey sandy silt deposit. The second pit was recorded at the very northern end of the trench. The majority of the feature was beyond the trench to the north and therefore its form was not observed. The fill was composed of greenish grey clay with large brick fragments.

A modern brick-lined feature was observed in Trench 1. It measured approximately 4m in length and 1.4m in depth. Its width could not be determined within the foundation trench. It had been backfilled with building rubble including mortared brick and tile fragments. The majority of the bricks were of post-medieval 16th or 17th century appearance, hand-made with large ceramic inclusions and measured 220mm by 120mm by 40mm. The face of this buried wall was observed when the loose fill collapsed into the foundation trench, and it was seen to be constructed from more modern large bricks. The rubble did not extend into the southern face of the foundation trench although the profile suggested the area was disturbed.



Plate 1. Possible quarry backfill in Foundation Trench 2 looking north-east, 1m scale



Plate 2. Posthole 0003 in Trench 1, looking east

E. Muldowney

November 2009

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