

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/293

Burton End CP School, Haverhill HVH 070

M. Sommers
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HER Information

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Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: M. Sommers

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Burton End CP School, School Lane, Haverhill, in advance of proposed works to extend the school buildings and create additional parking space. Three trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural subsoil. Within two of these a small number of archaeological features comprising ditches, pits, post-holes and a possible beam-slot were revealed. Pottery sherds recovered from the fills of these features indicate that they relate to activity during the Iron Age and Roman periods. The natural subsoil consisted of a stiff pale brown clay with frequent chalk and flint. It occurred at depths of between 0.5m and 0.25m (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for RM Property).

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1. Introduction

A proposal has been made for the provision of additional parking space and the construction of an extension at Burton End CP School, School Lane, Haverhill (Fig. 1). Planning permission is to be sought but the client has been advised that any consent would be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Dr. J. Tipper, of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team, (Appendix 1) is the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may be deemed necessary.

The site of the proposed additional parking lies to the north of the existing staff car park whilst the proposed extension lies to the south of the main school building. At the time of the evaluation the site of the proposed parking comprised an area of level grassland with occasional small shrubs, trees and bushes. The site of the proposed extension comprised an area of grass which sloped down from north to south. Additionally, a temporary road was proposed to provide access to the area of the extension, this ran across grassland around the edge of a hard play area (Fig. 2). It was considered that all three aspects of the development had the potential to cause damage or destruction to any underlying deposits and consequently the Brief and Specification called for all three areas to be evaluated.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the school site is TL 6600 4526. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned and funded by RM Property.

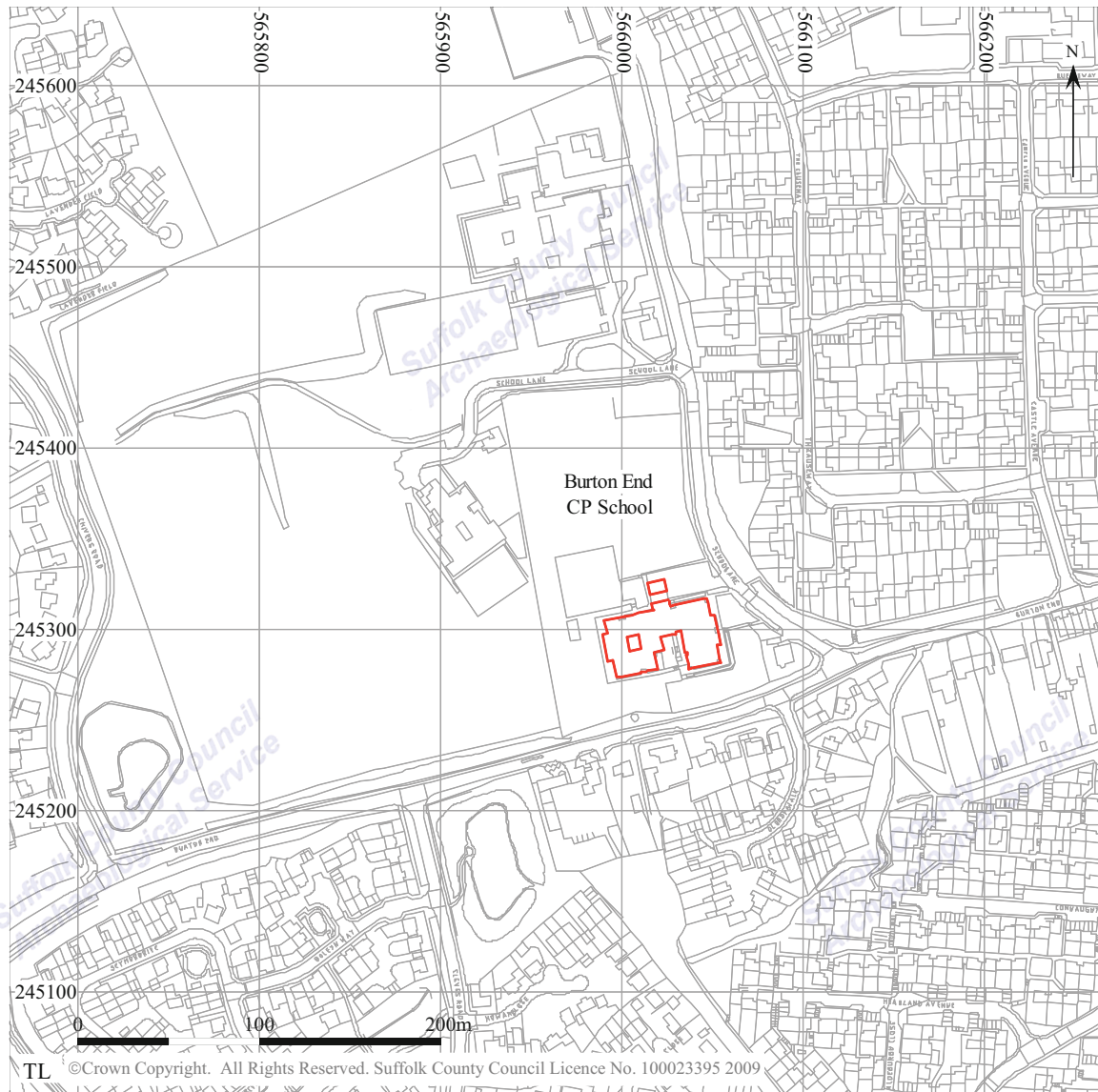
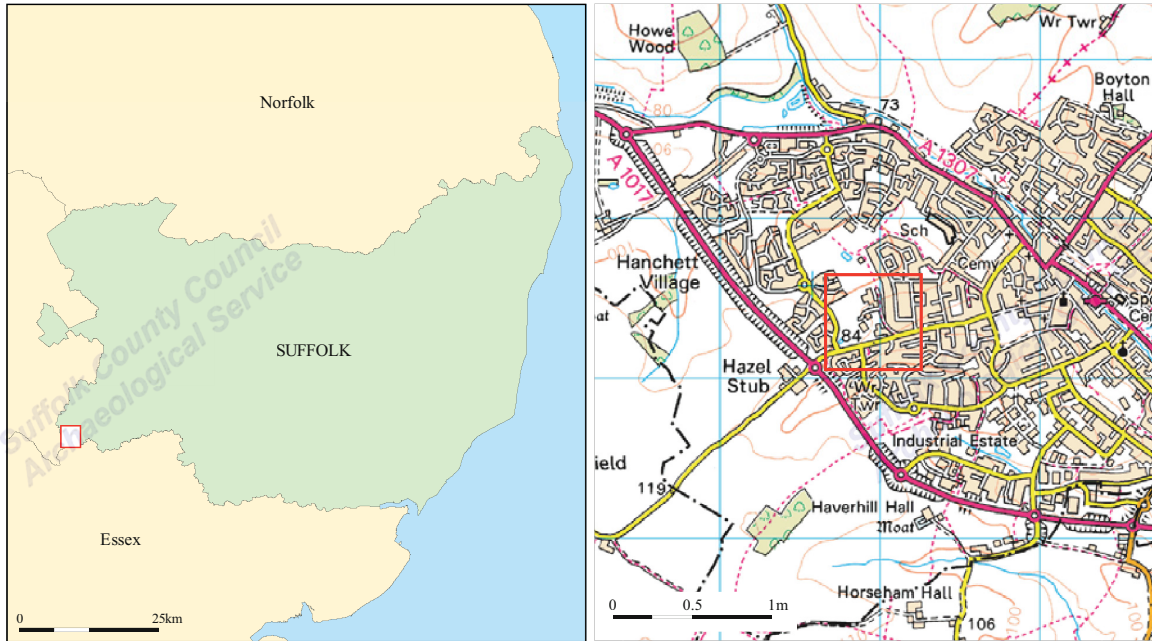


Figure 1. Site Location Plan

2. Geology and topography

The underlying geology of this area of the county comprises a chalky boulder clay till that was deposited by the great Anglian Glaciation which has been dissected, relatively deeply, by streams and rivers. The result is a landscape that undulates, sometimes strongly, in contrast to the landscape of the north Suffolk claylands, which have very little relative relief.

The site is situated upon the south facing slope of an approximately east-west valley c. 1km west of Haverhill town centre. Although the site fronts onto School Lane, a main thoroughfare, Burton End Road, runs along the southern boundary. This road is believed to be at least medieval in origin. It appears to be cut into the base of the south facing slope resulting in a steep slope between the roadway and the land to the north.

The site is located within the present urban area of Haverhill in an area of late 20th century development. Prior to this the school site was open farmland.

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record within the school site but it is situated within an area of archaeological importance as recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER). Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds have been recorded to the west (HER ref. HVH 034) and southwest (HVH 030) and an extensive medieval site (HVH 035) was excavated some 280m to the west. Together these indicate a high potential for earlier remains relating to numerous periods to be located at this site.

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a 7 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trenches was in accordance with a plan approved by the County Conservation Team.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features or deposits. Any features/deposits identified were then sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts. Scale plans and cross sections of the excavated features were produced. A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.

A metal detector survey of the spoil and the *in-situ* fills of the features was undertaken to aid the recovery of datable artefacts.

Following excavation the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench location was plotted and the depths were noted. Upon completion of the recording the trenches were backfilled.

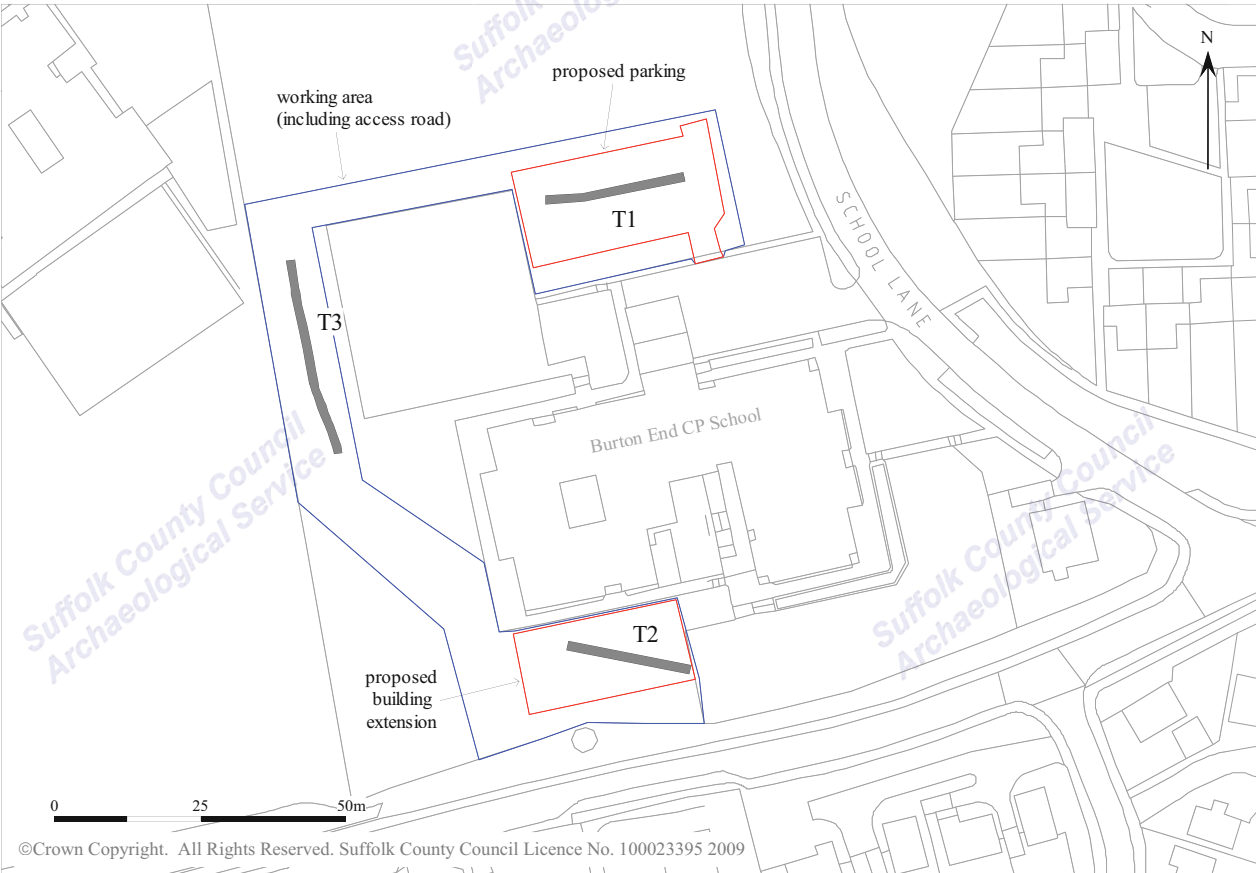


Figure 2. Trench Location Plan (marked as T1 to T3)

5. Results

Three trenches were excavated (Fig. 2) of which two, Trenches 1 and 3, revealed archaeological features. Within these two trenches a total of eleven features were identified for which thirty-one context numbers were issued (see Appendix 2 for the full list). The trenches are described below:

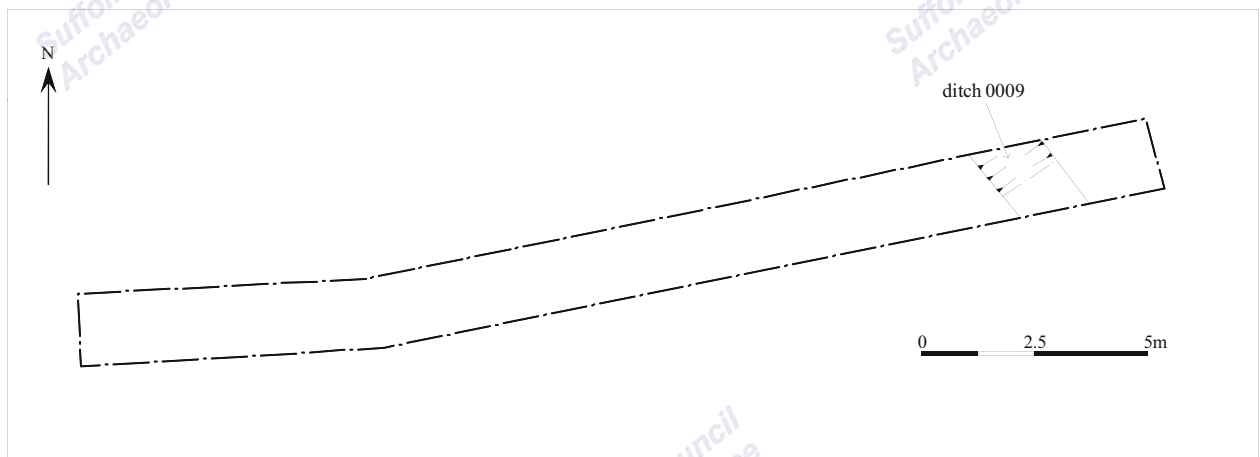


Figure 3. Surface plan of Trench 1 showing ditch 0009

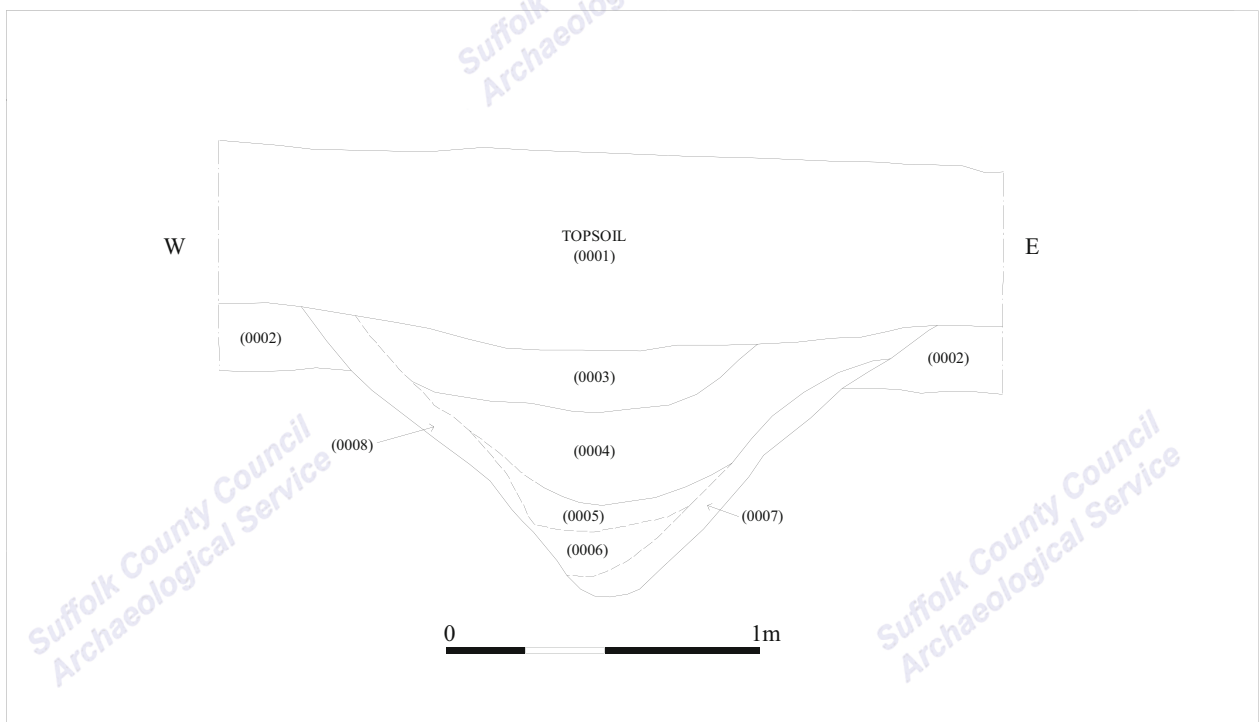


Figure 4. W-E section through ditch 0009

A small number of unstratified metal artefacts (context no. 0027) were recovered from the Trench 3 spoil during the metal detector survey but no metal artefacts were recovered from any of the feature fills.

Trench 1 was excavated across the area of the proposed parking space and measured 25m in length. The revealed soil profile comprised c. 0.5m of topsoil over a mid brown silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay the natural subsoil which consisted of stiff pale brown clay with frequent chalk and flint at a depth of c. 0.7m.

A single linear feature interpreted as a ditch was recorded in the eastern end of this trench (context no. 0009, see Fig. 3 for a surface plan and Fig. 4 for the northwest cross section). It measured c. 1.5m in width and was cut to a depth of 0.9m through the subsoil and into the natural subsoil beneath (Plate I). The fill comprised various layers of brown and mid grey-brown silty clays (contexts 0003 to 0008) from which prehistoric/Late Iron Age pottery was recovered. A possible recut could be seen in section although this was not entirely clear.

Trench 2 was excavated to the south of the school building in the area of the proposed extension. It was initially intended to excavate a trench 25m in length but due to limited space this was reduced to 20m. Only natural deposits were revealed. These comprised c. 0.3m of topsoil over a pale brown silty subsoil, interpreted as hillwash, which at the northwest end of the trench this was found to be c. 0.25m thick but this increased to c. 0.5m towards the southeast end of the trench. This layer overlay the natural subsoil which comprised brown silty clay with occasional areas of the stiff pale brown clay with frequent chalk and flint, as seen in Trenches 1 and 3. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Trench 3 was a north-south trench, 35m in length, excavated to the west of the hard play area along the route of the proposed temporary road. The natural subsoil, which lay at a depth of between 0.25 and 0.3m, was situated immediately beneath the topsoil and comprised stiff pale brown clay with frequent chalk and flint.

Within this trench a number of features were noted, the majority of which were in a relatively tight group towards the southern end of the trench (Plates II and III). They comprised probable post-holes, pits and a possible beam-slot. See Figure 5 overleaf for

a plan of the trench followed by descriptions of the features. See Figure 6 for the recorded cross-sections.

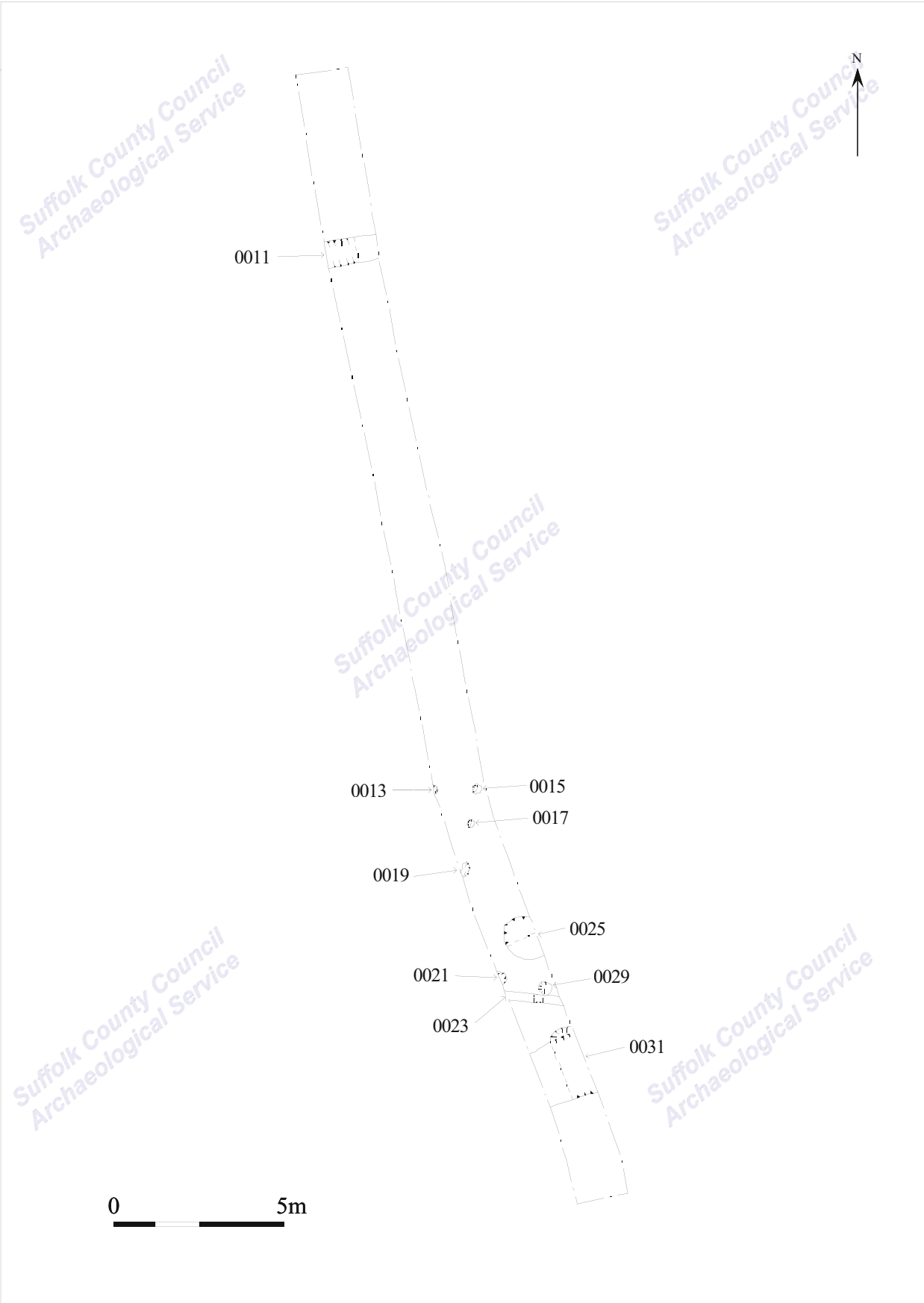


Figure 5. Surface plan of Trench 3

- Ditch 0011: Shallow linear feature interpreted as a ditch. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.24m and was 0.95m wide. Fill (0010) comprises mid brown silty clay from which prehistoric and early Roman pottery was recovered.
- Post-hole 0013: Small feature interpreted as a post-hole. Located on the edge of the trench but was believed to be circular. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.3m and was 0.3m in diameter. Single fill (0012) of mid greyish brown silty clay from which 3rd/4th century Roman pottery was recovered.
- Post-holes 0015, 0017 and 0019: Three features interpreted as post-holes lying in a line and spaced 1m and 1.4m apart. 0015 and 0017 were similar with both being circular, 0.3m in diameter and 0.3m deep with fills of mid brownish grey silty clay (0014 and 0016 respectively). Post-hole 0019 was an elongated oval shape, 0.46m by 0.21m, and 0.10m deep with a fill (0018) of mid brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from any of these features.
- Posthole 0021: Small feature interpreted as a posthole. Located on the edge of the trench but was believed to be circular. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.11m and was 0.4m in diameter. Single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (0020). No finds.
- Slot 0023: Narrow, shallow, linear feature with steep sides and a flat base. Interpreted as a possible beam-slot. Measured 0.25m wide and 0.07m deep with a fill (0022) of mid brownish grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered.
- Pit 0025: Sub-circular shaped feature measuring with near vertical sides and a flattish base (Plate IV). It measured 1.2m by at least 0.9m. Situated on the edge of the trench and continued to the east. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.58m and contained a single fill (0024) which comprised dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Four very small sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill but these could only be given a broad prehistoric date.
- Post-hole 0029: Small circular feature interpreted as a post-hole. Located adjacent the possible beam slot 0023 and is possibly associated. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.10m and was 0.4m in diameter with a single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (0028). No finds.
- Pit 0031: Large feature aligned approximately southwest to northeast and running the full width of the trench. Varies in width from 1.7m to 2.0m. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.52m and had steep sloping sides with a flat base. The fill (0030) comprised dark grey firm silty clay (0030) with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps of fired clay. It was unclear if this is a ditch or a pit although the flat base suggests it is a pit. A small amount of prehistoric pottery was recovered from fill.

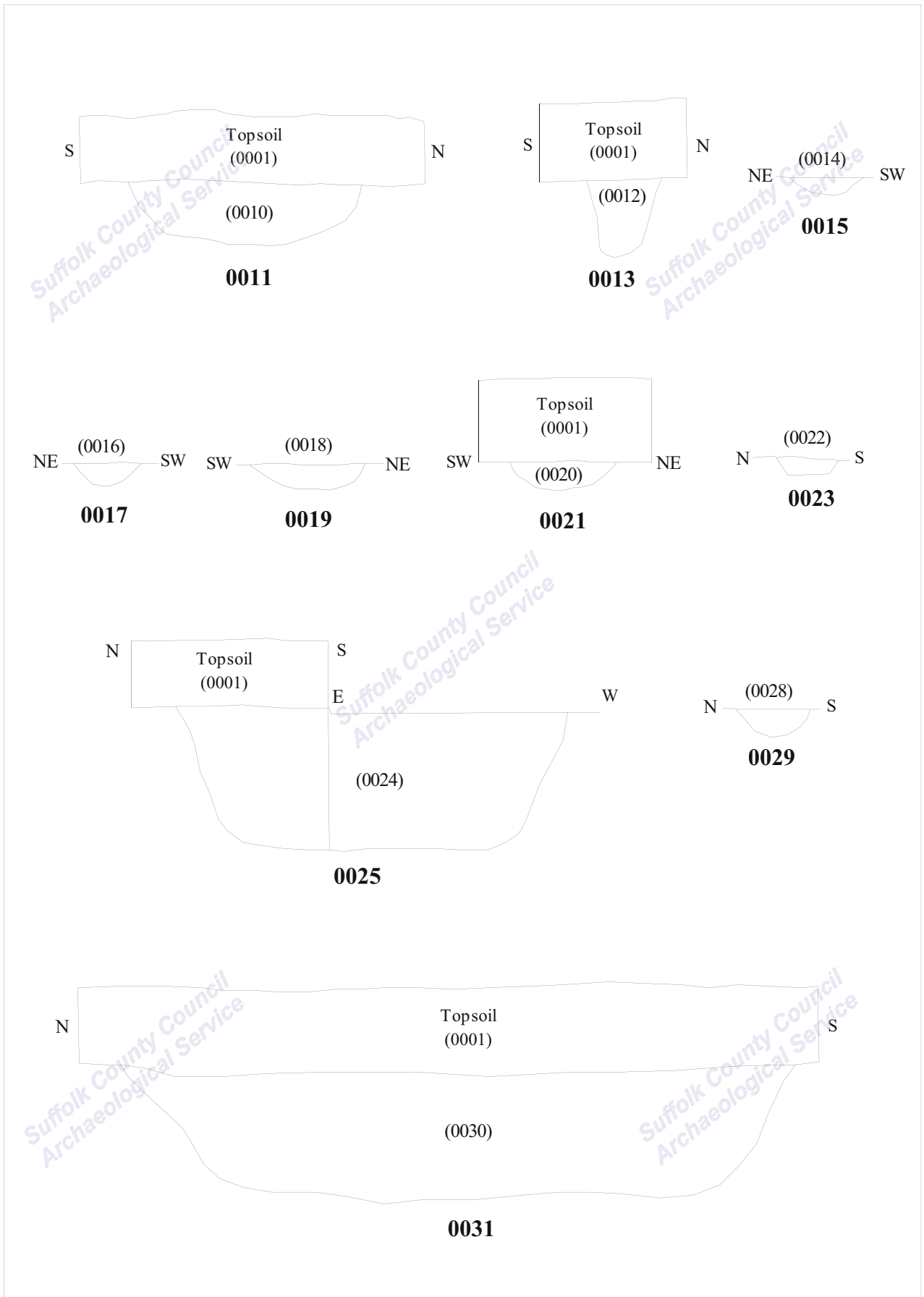


Figure 6. Trench 3 sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence (by Cathy Tester)

Introduction

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

Ctxt	Pottery		Animal bone		Flint		B Flint/stone		Fired clay		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0003	6	56	1	5	1	4	10	344			Snail 7-11g	LIA
0004	10	5	18	1	1	11	6	5	3	9	Snail 3-2g	Preh
0005	1	1	6	4	1	37	1	62	2	3		
0010	15	70	2	52								MC1, Preh
0012	1	21									Snail 1-1g	LC3/4
0024	4	1	5	12	1	1	10	615	78	153	Slag 2-6g	
0027											Iron 5-8g, Cu alloy 1-3g, lead 1-11g	PMed
0028	1	3										LC3/4
0030	4	2	16	42			9	42	16	20	Oyster 1-8g Slag 1-6g	Preh
Total	42	159	48	116	4	53	36	1068	99	185		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

Forty-two sherds of pottery weighing 159g were recovered from eight contexts in Trenches 1 and 3. The assemblage includes nearly equal amounts of prehistoric and Roman wares. Quantities by fabric and period are summarised in Table 2 and the full list by context is in Table 3.

Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	% Wt
Hand-made flint tempered	HMF	28	53	33.3
Hand-made sand tempered	HMS	1	22	13.8
<i>Total hand-made prehistoric</i>		<i>29</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>47.2</i>
Black surfaced wares	BSW	11	60	37.7
Late shell-tempered wares	LSH	2	24	15.1
<i>Total LIA-Roman wares</i>		<i>13</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>52.8</i>
Total pottery		42	159	100.0

Table 2. Pottery fabric quantities by period

Prehistoric pottery

Twenty-nine sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery were recovered from six contexts and most of them are probably Iron Age but some are too small to be closely dated except as prehistoric. Two broad fabric groups based on main visible inclusions were identified, one flint tempered and one sand tempered.

In total, 28 sherds are flint-tempered (HMF) and contain numerous sub-angular white and grey flint pieces up to 8mm in size. Vessel form is uncertain as all are bodysherds and none of them are decorated. Of these, 18 sherds weighing 8g were recovered from the non-floating residues of environmental Samples 1-3 from contexts 0004, 0024 and

0030 respectively, and were the only pottery recorded in those contexts. Although they appear similar to the rest of the flint-tempered sherds, they are too small to be certainly dated.

A single sand tempered sherd (HMS) from ditch 0009 (0003) in Trench 1 probably belongs to the later Iron Age. It was found in association with flint tempered wares as well as wheel-made Late Iron Age or Roman pottery of early or mid 1st century date and with which it could possibly be contemporary.

Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

Thirteen sherds (84g) of wheel-made Late Iron Age or Roman pottery representing the earliest and latest Roman periods were recovered from four contexts. The earlier sherds are black-surfaced wares (BSW) representing two vessels from two contexts. The first is a burnished bodysherd from ditch 0009 (0003) in Trench 1 which has a 'romanising' fabric containing black grog. It appears to have been hand-made and wheel-finished and probably belongs to the first half of the 1st century AD. The second is a high-shouldered jar from ditch 0011 (0010) in Trench 3, also in a 'romanising' fabric and of probable mid 1st century date.

Late shell-tempered wares (LSH), a provincially-traded specialist ware which characterises the later Roman period, were recovered from two contexts in Trench 3. A jar rim from post-hole 0013 (0012) and a bodysherd from post-hole 0029 (0028) are both of late 3rd or 4th century date.

Ctxt	Tr No	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt	Notes	Spotdate
0003	1	BSW	b	1	7	Romanising fabric black grog burnished.	E/MC1
		HMF	b	1	3	Prehistoric, not closely datable	Preh
		HMF	b	3	24	Orange surf black core, sand and abundant flint. grey & white flint (up to 8mm)	IA
		HMS	b	1	22	Hard, medium sandy Later IA?	L. IA
0004	1	HMF	b	10	5	From SS<1> prob. IA	Preh
0005	1	HMF	b	1	1	Small abraded. White flint, not closely datable	Preh
0010	3	BSW	rb	10	53	High-shouldered jar type 4.1, patchy colour romanising fabric w black grog	MC1
		HMF	b	5	17	Grey and white flint dark orange-brown ext (3) dark brown ext (2) prob earlier IA	IA
0012	3	LSH	r	1	21	Jar rim (180mm,13%)	LC3/4
0024	3	HMF	b	4	1	From SS<2> preh not closely datable	Preh
0028	3	LSH	b	1	3		LC3/4
0030	3	HMF	b	4	2	From SS<3>	Preh

Table 3. Pottery by context

Fired clay

In total, 99 fragments of fired clay daub weighing 185g were recovered from four contexts. The fired clay is very uniform in appearance, all made in a buff to grey medium-fine sandy fabric with abundant coarse chalk, ferrous inclusions and occasional natural flint. The largest quantity, 78 fragments weighing 153g, came from pit 0025 (0024) in Trench 3 which includes several pieces with one flat surface, one of which has a wattle impression with a diameter of c. 18mm on its opposite face. It also includes 45 very small fragments (21g) from the environmental sample (Sample 2). Very small amounts but with similar fabric were also found in ditch 0009 (0004 and 0005) in Trench 1 and pit 0031 (0030) in Trench 3.

Metalwork

A collection of unstratified post-medieval metal finds recovered by metal-detecting the machined spoil from Trench 3 (0027) includes five iron nails, a copper alloy button and a fragment of lead (11g). All are relatively modern in date.

Flint (by Colin Pendleton)

Four pieces of struck flint were collected from four contexts, three ditches from Trench 1 and a pit from Trench 3. Descriptions by context are shown in the table below

Ctxt	Type	No	Notes	Date
0003	flake	1	Patinated squat flake w hinge fracture, limited areas of probably use-wear	Later Preh
0004	long flake	1	Patinated long flake with limited areas of probable use-wear on side plus two small retouched notches at distal end.	Later Preh
0005	core	1	Single platform flake core, irregular, small 50% cortex, unpatinated.	Later Preh
0024	flake	1	Slightly patinated small thin flake with limited retouch or use-wear, distal end is cortex.	Later Preh

Table 4. Flint descriptions

The assemblage is too small to discuss conclusively, but all of the pieces are of later prehistoric date, the unpatinated single platform core (0005) is probably Bronze Age or Iron Age.

Heat altered flint and stone

Twenty-two fragments of heat altered flint weighing 285g were collected from four contexts. Six fragments (222g) from pit 0025 (0024) in Trench 3 are 'potboilers, grey-white and fire-crackled. The material is undatable but often associated with prehistoric

occupation. Other heat altered flint fragments recovered from the non-floating residues in environmental samples 1 and 3 (0004 and 0030) are very small but probably from shattered pot-boilers as well.

Fourteen fragments of heat-altered sandstone weighing 783g were collected from three contexts, ditch 0009 (0003 and 0005) in Trench 1 and pit 0025 (0024) in Trench 3.

Slag

Three small fragments (12g) of non-metallurgical slag were recovered from two pits 0025 (0024) and 0031 (0030) in Trench 3.

Animal bone

Forty-eight fragments of animal bone weighing 116g were recovered from six contexts. It includes pieces recovered in the non-floating residues of environmental Samples 1 and 3. The material is in poor condition and fragmentary and few pieces are identifiable. Sheep teeth were identified in ditch 0009 (0003) and post-hole 0013 (0012) and a cattle long bone fragment from ditch 0011 (0010).

Shell

Eleven snail shells (14g) identified as *cepea nemoralis*, a terrestrial species, were collected from ditch 0009 (0003 and 0004) in Trench 1 and post-hole 0013 (0012) in Trench 3. An oyster shell was recovered from pit 0031 (0030) in Trench 3.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

Three samples were submitted for retrieval and assessment of plant macrofossils.

Sample 1 - Ditch 0009 (0004) Tr 1

Sample 2 - Pit 0025 (0024) Tr 3

Sample 3 - Pit 0031 (0030) Tr 3

Summary (by Val Fryer, freelance environmental specialist, see Appendix 3 for the full report).

As the assemblages are all small (less than 0.1 litres in volume) and limited in composition, it is considered most likely that the materials within them are derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. As cereals, chaff and segetal weeds seeds are recorded, it is

tentatively suggested that some material may be derived from cereal processing waste or hearth debris.

Discussion of finds and environmental evidence

The earliest finds are a few worked flints of later prehistoric date (Neolithic to Iron Age) and a small amount of hand-made prehistoric pottery of possible Iron Age date. All of the sherds are non diagnostic undecorated bodysherds, and with the exception of a single sand-tempered sherd, all are flint tempered.

Wheel-made Late Iron Age or Roman pottery includes a small amount of early material with romanising fabrics belonging to the first half of the 1st century AD and a similar amount of later (late 3rd or 4th century) material.

7. Discussion

The archaeological evidence recorded in Trench 3 indicates the presence of both Iron Age and Roman activity and includes evidence for structures. The relatively large amounts of pottery recovered from the limited sections excavated into fills of the pits, and the nearby ditches recorded in the northern end of Trench 3 and in Trench 1, suggests actual occupation in the immediate vicinity, probably related to an isolated farmstead. Cereal processing and/or hearths, indicative of farming and occupation, are suggested by the environmental evidence, although it is not conclusive.

The lack of subsoil and the shallowness of the natural subsoil in Trench 3 would suggest that some truncation of the land surface has occurred, probably in association with construction of the school, but this does not appear to have significantly cut into the natural subsoil. The hard play area to the east of Trench 3 is cut deeply into the ground surface and has undoubtedly destroyed any earlier evidence that may have been present.

Although no archaeological features were noted to the south of pit 0031 the possibility that further features could exist beyond the southern limit of Trench 3 cannot be ruled out.

No archaeological evidence was located in Trench 2, excavated in the area of the proposed extension, only natural deposits were encountered. There was no evidence for any significant truncation of the land surface.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Positive evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity has been recorded in the area of the additional parking space and the temporary access road which is likely to be damaged or destroyed by the proposed works. To mitigate against such a threat it is recommended that further archaeological works be undertaken.

As a minimum, any stripping of topsoil in the area of the additional parking and the temporary access road should be archaeologically monitored.

The precise method for the construction of the temporary road is at present unknown to the author but if it involves any stripping of the topsoil this work should be archaeologically monitored. In the vicinity of Trench 3, or any other significant group of archaeological features that may be encountered elsewhere within the temporary road area, the topsoil strip should be undertaken under archaeological control to ensure accurate machining to the top of the archaeological levels. Time should then be allowed for the excavation and recording of any features or deposits that may be revealed.

It should be noted that the installation of underground services within the area of Trenches 1 and/or 3 would also require mitigation to prevent the loss of archaeological evidence.

The precise nature of any further archaeological works that may be required is ultimately the decision of the County Conservation Team and may be dependant on the chosen methods of construction.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Haverhill\HVH 070 Burton End CP School

Photo Archive: GER 27 – GER 51 in T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\Digital photos\GER

Historic Environment Record reference under which archive is held: HVH 070

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-67926

10. Contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by S. Manthorpe, S. Picard and M. Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The machine was provided by Holmes Plant Limited.

The finds were processed by J. Van Jennians and the specialist finds report was by C. Tester with further specialist identifications and advice by C. Pendleton.

The project was directed by M. Sommers, and managed by S. Boulter, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

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.

Plates



Plate I. Ditch 0009 in Trench 1 (ref. GER 28)



Plate II. General view of Trench 2 with pit/ditch 0031 in foreground (ref. GER 33)



Plate III. Possible beam slot 0023 in Trench 3 (ref. GER 32)



Plate IV. General view of pit 0025 in Trench 3 (ref. GER 43)

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

BURTON END CP SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE, BURTON END, HAVERHILL

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 is to be sought by Suffolk County Council for extensions and alterations, including new car parking at Burton End Community Primary School, School Lane, Burton End, Haverhill, CB9 9DE (TL 660 453). Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the proposed works.
 - 1.2 The Planning Authority will be 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 area of the proposed development is located on the west side of Haverhill. The soils are deep clay of the Hanslope series, derived from the underlying chalky till at c. 85 - 90.00m AOD.
 - 1.4 The school lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds are recorded to the west (HER: HVH 034) and south-west (HVH 030), which are indicative of further occupation remains in this vicinity. There is high potential for archaeological remains to be defined at this location, given the proximity to known remains. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance (including topsoil stripping for site compound and storage areas) have the 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 (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. 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 Three linear trenches will be required for the archaeological evaluation at this school:
 - A linear trial trench 25.00m in length, aligned E to W, is to be excavated to cover the area of the new car park and bike sheds on the north side of the school;

- A linear trench 35.00m in length, aligned N to S, to cover the storage area on the western side of the school.
- A linear trench 25.00m in length, aligned E to W, to cover the area of the new extension on the southern side of the school.

The trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.

- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m 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 Provision should be included in the WSI for public engagement with the investigative works, in the form of outreach activities for the School.
- 4.4 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.5 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.6 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.7 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 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

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Date: 14 October 2009

Reference: / BurtonEndCPSchool-Haverhill2009revised

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	Component	Identifier	Location	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under
0001	0001	Layer - Topsoil		Topsoil comprising dark greyish-brown silty loam.			0002	
0002	0002	Layer - subsoil	T1	Subsoil comprising mottled mid brown and yellow silty clay with frequent chalk flecks/nodules.			natural subsoil	0001
0003	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut 0009 comprising mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional chalk, moderate charcoal. Horizon between fills 0003 and 0004 is diffuse (numerous snail shells, c. 5% kept).			0004, 0008	0001
0004	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut 0009 comprising dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and moderate to frequent charcoal. Horizon between fills 0003 and 0004 is diffuse [Sampled - No.1].			0005, 0008	0003
0005	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut 0009 comprising mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk and charcoal.			0006, 0008	0004
0006	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut 0009 comprising mid brown silty clay with few chalk flecks and occasional charcoal.			0007, 0008	0005
0007	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut 0009 (primary slump?) comprising light brown/yellowish silty clay with frequent chalk.			0008	0006
0008	0009	Ditch Fill	T1	Fill of cut comprising mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and moderate charcoal. Barely distinguishable from fills 0003 and 0004. Possibly the original fill of 0009 with 0003 to 0007 being fills within a later re-cut.				0003, 0004, 0005, 0006, 0007
0009	0009	Ditch Cut	T1	Linear feature cut interpreted as a ditch. Aligned approximately NW-SE.	0002,	natural subsoil		
0010	0011	Ditch Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0011 comprising mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk nodules towards base.				0001
0011	0011	Ditch Cut	T3	Linear feature cut interpreted as a ditch aligned east-west. Steep sides flattened V-shaped base.	natural subsoil			
0012	0013	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0013 comprising mid greyish brown silty clay.				0001
0013	0013	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut adjacent west edge of trench with steep sides and a concave base.	natural subsoil			
0014	0015	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0015 comprising mid brownish-grey firm silty clay.				0001
0015	0015	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut with a concave profile.	natural subsoil			
0016	0017	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0017 comprising mid greyish brown firm silty clay.				0001
0017	0017	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut with a concave profile.	natural subsoil			
0018	0019	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0019 comprising mid brown silty clay.				0001
0019	0019	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut with a concave profile.	natural subsoil			
0020	0021	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0021 comprising mid grey silty clay.				0001
0021	0021	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut adjacent west edge of trench with steep sides and a concave base.	natural subsoil			
0022	0023	Fill	T3	Fill of possible beam slot 0023 comprising mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps.				0001
0023	0023	?Beam Slot	T3	Linear feature comprising a narrow cut with steep sides and a flat bottom. Interpreted as a possible beam slot.	natural subsoil			
0024	0025	Pit Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0025 comprising dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent chalk nodules and moderate charcoal [Sampled - No.2].				0001, 0026
0025	0025	Pit Cut	T3	Sub-circular shaped feature cut interpreted as a pit. Steep sides with moderately sharp break of slope onto a flattish base.	natural subsoil			

Context	Component	Identifier	Location	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under
0026	0026	Layer - subsoil	T3	Subsoil comprising mottled pale brown and yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks/nodules (not a separate layer but an overcutting of the natural subsoil during machining).			natural subsoil	0001
0027	0027	Finds	T3	Collection of metal detector finds from the spoil heap of Trench 3.				
0028	0029	Posthole Fill	T3	Fill of cut 0029 comprising pale grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and lumps.				0001
0029	0029	Posthole Cut	T3	Small circular cut with steep sides and a concave base.	natural subsoil			
0030	0031	Pit Fill	T3	Fill of large feature cut comprising dark grey silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and nodules, becoming frequent towards northern end. Moderate charcoal flecks [Sampled - No.3].				0001
0031	0031	Pit Cut	T3	Large feature cut running full width of trench. One edge fairly straight, the other irregular, steep sides and fairly flat base although slightly uneven. Possibly a ditch	natural subsoil			

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

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

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Haverhill, undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), recorded a small number of features of probable prehistoric date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and three were submitted for assessment.

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 and other remains noted are listed in the Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds were present throughout.

Results

With the exception of charcoal/charred wood fragments, which were abundant throughout, plant macrofossil were scarce, with most occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. Preservation was moderately good, although some grains were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded. The wheat was exclusively of a rounded hexaploid type form and a single bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis node was noted within the assemblage from sample 3. Seeds of common field weeds were also present, with taxa noted including stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). A single possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was recorded from sample 3.

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	0004	0024	0030
Feature No.	0009	0025	0031
Feature type	Linear	Pit	?Ditch
Cereals			
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)			x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x
<i>T. aestivum/compcatum</i> type (rachis node)			x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x
Herbs			
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.			x
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.			x
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.		x	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			x
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.			x
Tree/shrub macrofossils			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.			xcf
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	x	x
Charcoal >10mm		x	x
Charred root/stem	x		x
Indet.culm nodes	x		x
Indet.seeds		x	x
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x
Black tarry material	x		
Small coal frags.	x		
Small mammal/amphibian bone	xpmc		
Sample volume (litres)			
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

Table 1. plant macrofossils and other remains

KEY: x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
 xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare pmc = possible modern contaminant

Mollusc shells (not tabulated) were present throughout but were particularly abundant within the assemblage from sample 1. However, at the time of writing, the contemporaneity of the shells with the contexts from which the samples were taken was uncertain. Woodland/shade loving species (most notably *Discus rotundatus* and *Carychium* sp.) and open country species (particularly *Vallonia* sp.) occurred most frequently.

Other remains were very scarce. The fragments of black porous material were probably derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. The small pieces of coal were almost certainly intrusive within the feature fills.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, as the assemblages are all small (less than 0.1 litres in volume) and limited in composition, it is considered most likely that the materials within them are derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. As cereals, chaff and segetal weeds seeds are recorded, it is tentatively suggested that some material may be derived from cereal processing waste or hearth debris.

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

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

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