

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/306

**Church Farm Barn, Cavendish
CAV 052**

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/08/1107

Date of Fieldwork: 08.12.2009

Grid Reference: TM 804 466

Funding Body: Mr. A. McCallum

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Liz Muldowney

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-69477

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

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Church Farm Barn, Cavendish on the 8th December 2009. Two trenches were examined after they had been mechanically excavated and post-medieval and modern features were observed. These features were likely to relate to the use of the farm house and associated barn.

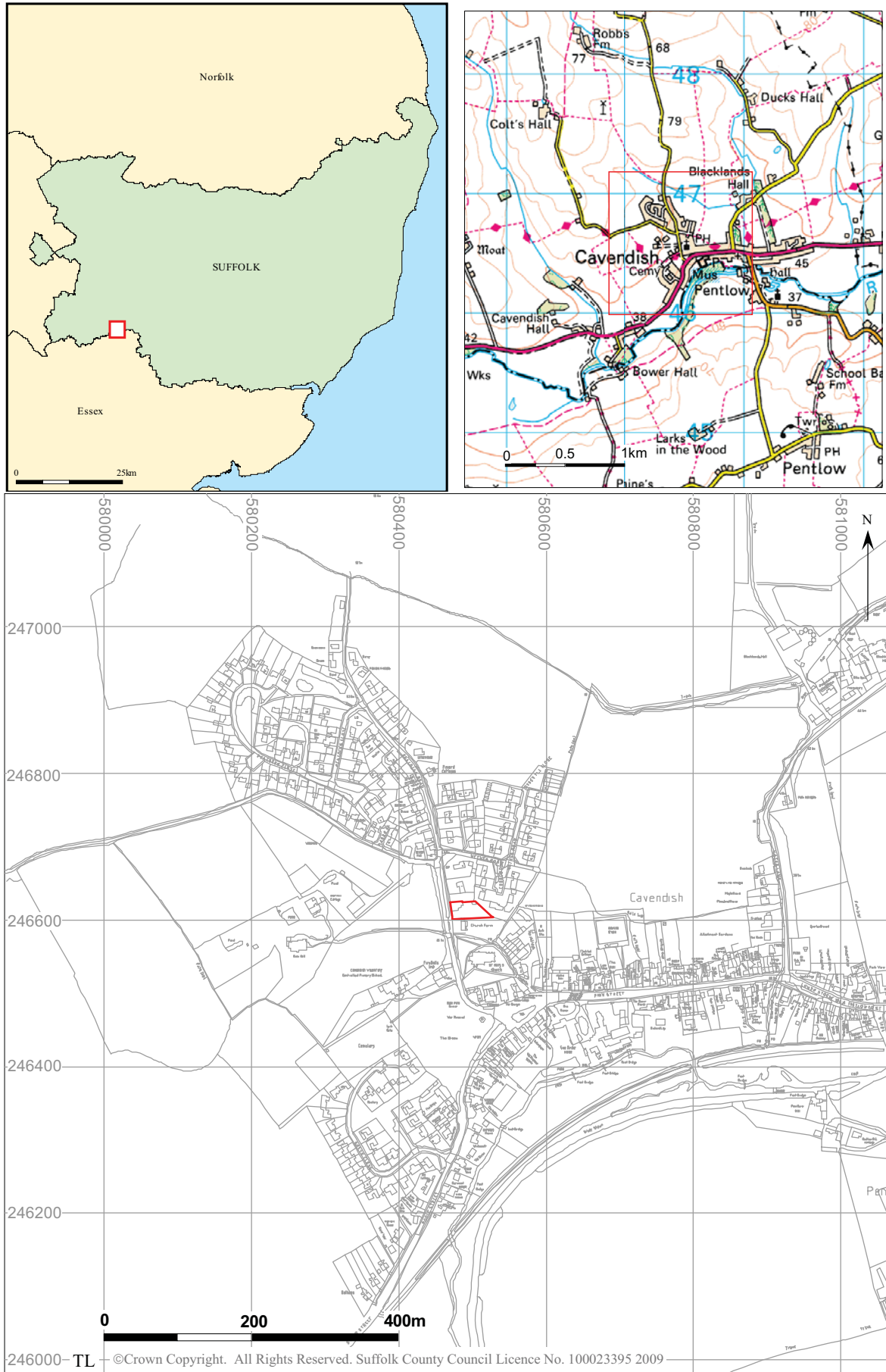
1. Introduction and methodology

Monitoring of a service trench and a boundary wall foundation trench at Church Farm Barn, Cavendish (Fig.1) took place on the 8th December 2009. The work was associated with the conversion of the barn into a residential dwelling and the construction of a new boundary wall to separate the new plot from the existing Church Farm property. The monitoring was carried out by Liz Muldowney on behalf of the client Mr. A. McCallum.

The strip for the construction of a new cart lodge garage at Church Farm was monitored on the 8th October 2009 (CAV 051). The foundation slab was very shallow at between 0.08m and 0.15m below modern ground surface and no pre post-medieval deposits were encountered. Topsoil, yard surfaces and rubble make-up layers were observed (Fig. 2).

The service trench and the boundary wall trench had been mechanically excavated prior to the monitoring visit on the 8th December 2009. The service trench was linear, and measured 18m in length, 0.5m in width and approximately 1.2m in depth. It was oriented south-west to north-east and ran from the gateway at the property boundary towards the corner of the barn. The wall foundation trench was curvilinear in plan, and ran north from the existing garden wall for 4m before curving to the east and continuing for 17m. This trench was 0.5m in width and 0.6m in depth (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. Due to the depth and narrow width of the foundation trenches, it was not possible to clean



the sections thoroughly. The location of the foundation trenches was recorded by tape in relation to existing OS mapping data.

No artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.



Figure 2. Trench location plan

2. Results

A definite cut feature, a possible cut feature and a series of layers were encountered within the monitored trenches (Fig. 3). The results are discussed below in stratigraphic sequence. The natural geological horizon, where encountered, was light yellowy orange silty clay.

Layer 0013 was lowest within the stratigraphic sequence, and was observed in the service trench only. It was sticky, mid yellowy brown silty clay with frequent peagrit

gravel and moderate quantities of post-medieval ceramic building material fragments. It measured approximately 0.1m in depth. Its lower horizon with the natural sandy clay was clear. It may have been cut by possible feature 0011 (Fig. 3, Section 2).

Possible cut feature 0011 was located towards the south-west end of the service trench. It was observed in the south-east side of the 0.5m wide trench, and measured 0.3m in width and 0.6m in depth. If real it was sealed by layer 0014 before being truncated on the south-west side by pit/posthole 0009. It had an indistinct interface with the natural clay and may not have been a true cut feature, however, too little was exposed in too narrow a trench to be certain. The deposit within this possible feature 0012 was mid greyish yellow silty clay with occasional ceramic building material fragments. It had the appearance of 'dirty natural' and may have been the product of the machining process.

Layer 0014 sealed the possible feature 0011 and was mid yellowish orange silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions measuring 0.12m in depth (Fig. 3, Section 2). It was similar in appearance to layer 0017 in the boundary wall foundation trench (Fig. 3, Section 3) but it is not known whether they were contiguous.

Pit/posthole 0009 cut layer 0014 (Fig. 3, Section 2). It was narrow with near vertical sides, its base was not observed. It measured 0.6m in width and 0.8m+ in depth. It was seen only in the south-east side of the trench. The single fill 0010 was dark greyish brown clay silt and contained frequent modern ceramic building material fragments and slate fragments.

Layer 0015 sealed the pit/posthole 0009 and was dark grey brown silty clay with moderate ceramic building material fragments and occasional stone fragments, measuring 0.22m in depth (Fig. 3, Section 2).

Layer 0016 sealed layers 0015 and 0017, it was a mixture of gravel and concrete fragments 0.18m in depth and formed the current yard/driveway surface.

Layer 0018 was seen in the wall foundation trench. It was composed of loose tarmac, gravel and ceramic building material fragments in dark greyish brown clay silt. This presumably formed an earlier yard surface.

Layer 0017 sealed layer 0018 in the wall foundation trench. It was redeposited orangey yellow clay with moderate gravel inclusions. This deposit was very similar to layer 0014 recorded in the service trench. This layer was sealed by the current gravel drive/yard surface layer 0016.

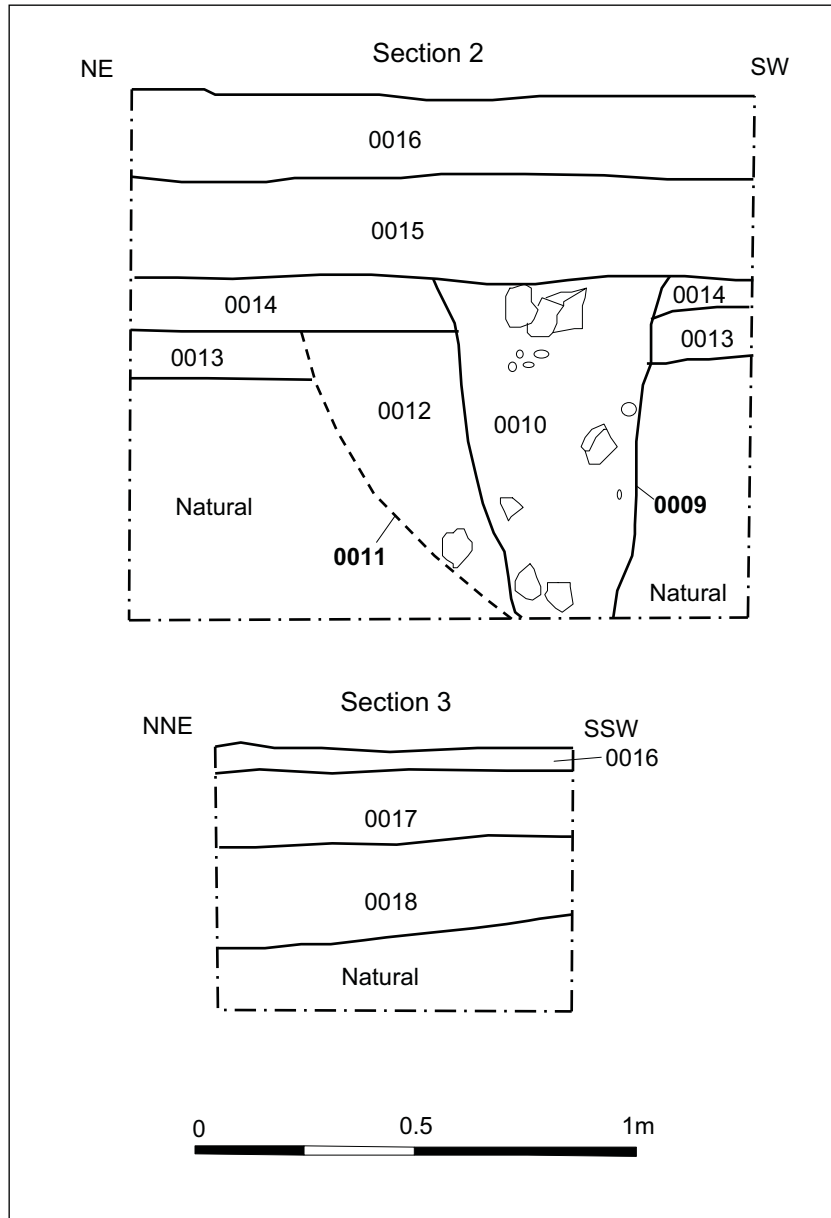


Figure 3. Sections

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December 2009