

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/035

**15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St
Edmunds
BSE 340**

J. A. Craven

© February 2010

www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/08/1584
Date of Fieldwork: 8th-9th February 2010
Grid Reference: TL 864 630
Funding Body: O Seaman and Son Limited
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: J. A. Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-69977

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk in advance of residential development. The trial trenching identified a scatter of features belonging to two distinct phases of activity in the Mesolithic/Neolithic and middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age periods, which have been dated by the recovery of small flint assemblages. A further stage of archaeological excavation and monitoring of development groundworks has therefore been recommended.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of housing development at 15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by a condition placed upon planning application SE/08/1584 in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, O Seamans and Son Limited.

2. Geology and topography

The site, which consists of a late 20th century bungalow, garage and large garden, lies on the southern edge of Bury St Edmunds at TL 864 630. The site lies at a height of c.39m AOD, on an east facing slope overlooking the River Lark which lies c.120m to the east. Ground levels within the site were broadly flat but dropped away sharply by c.3m immediately beyond the north-east boundary fence, implying that the neighbouring housing estate was set in an area of heavy landscaping.

The site geology is of deep, well drained, clay/loam soils overlying chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lay in an area of archaeological importance with its topographical position overlooking the River Lark being a typical location for prehistoric activity. Palaeolithic finds for instance have been found on land immediately to the south (BSE 074). The site also lies some 350m to the south-west of the outer limit of medieval Bury St Edmunds, fronting onto one of the main routes leading out of the town, and is adjacent to the early 19th century County Gaol (BSE 073).

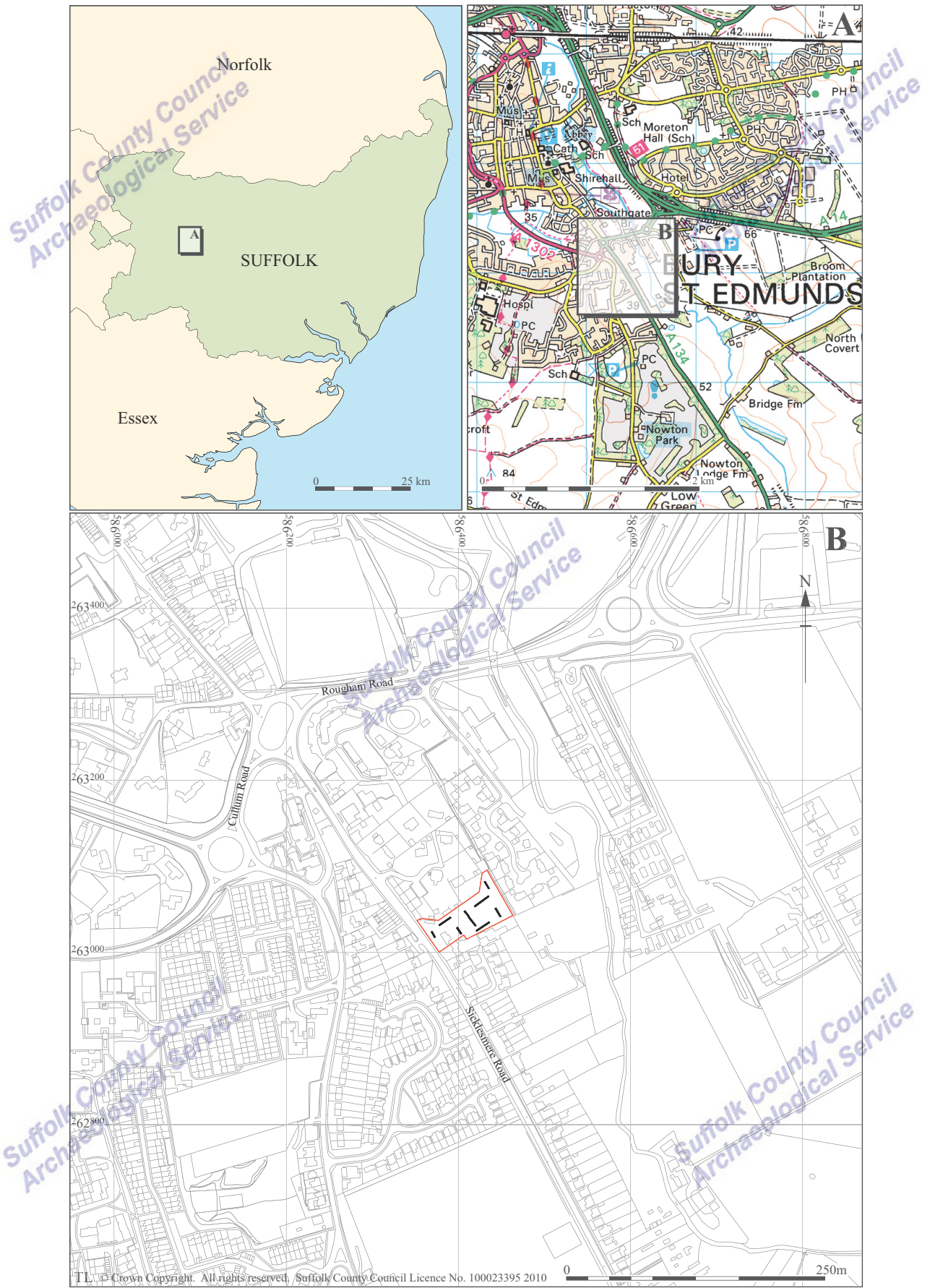


Figure 1. Site location, showing the development area (red) and evaluation trenches (black)

4. Methodology

The eight trenches (Fig. 2) were marked out by hand and excavated by a mechanical digger, equipped with a ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Measuring 117m in total length and 1.8m wide this amounted to 210.6sqm, or 5.2% of the 0.4ha area. Minor adjustments were made to the position of Trench 08 to avoid buried services and an overhead telephone wire and other trenches to avoid several small greenhouses and sheds.

The depth of the trenching varied from 0.5m to 1.2m, largely depending upon the thickness of modern deposits and topsoil (0001), an underlying layer of mid brown silt/sand (0002), and a mixed interface of silt/gravel (0007) that in turn lay above the natural orange/brown sand and gravel subsoil. This basic soil profile appeared throughout the trenching. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist both during the machining and subsequent hand-excavation of features.

Archaeological features or deposits were normally clearly visible cutting the natural subsoil and were cleaned and excavated by hand as required. The site was recorded using a separate single context continuous numbering system. Trench outlines, excavated sections and site levels were recorded using a Total Station Theodolite. Trenches containing archaeological deposits were then planned on A3 gridded permatrace sheets at a scale of 1:50, as were feature sections and trench profiles, at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour and black and white print photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital and physical archives respectively. No environmental samples were collected as feature fills appeared to predominantly be relatively sterile gravels.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-69977) and a digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER Nos. BSE 340.

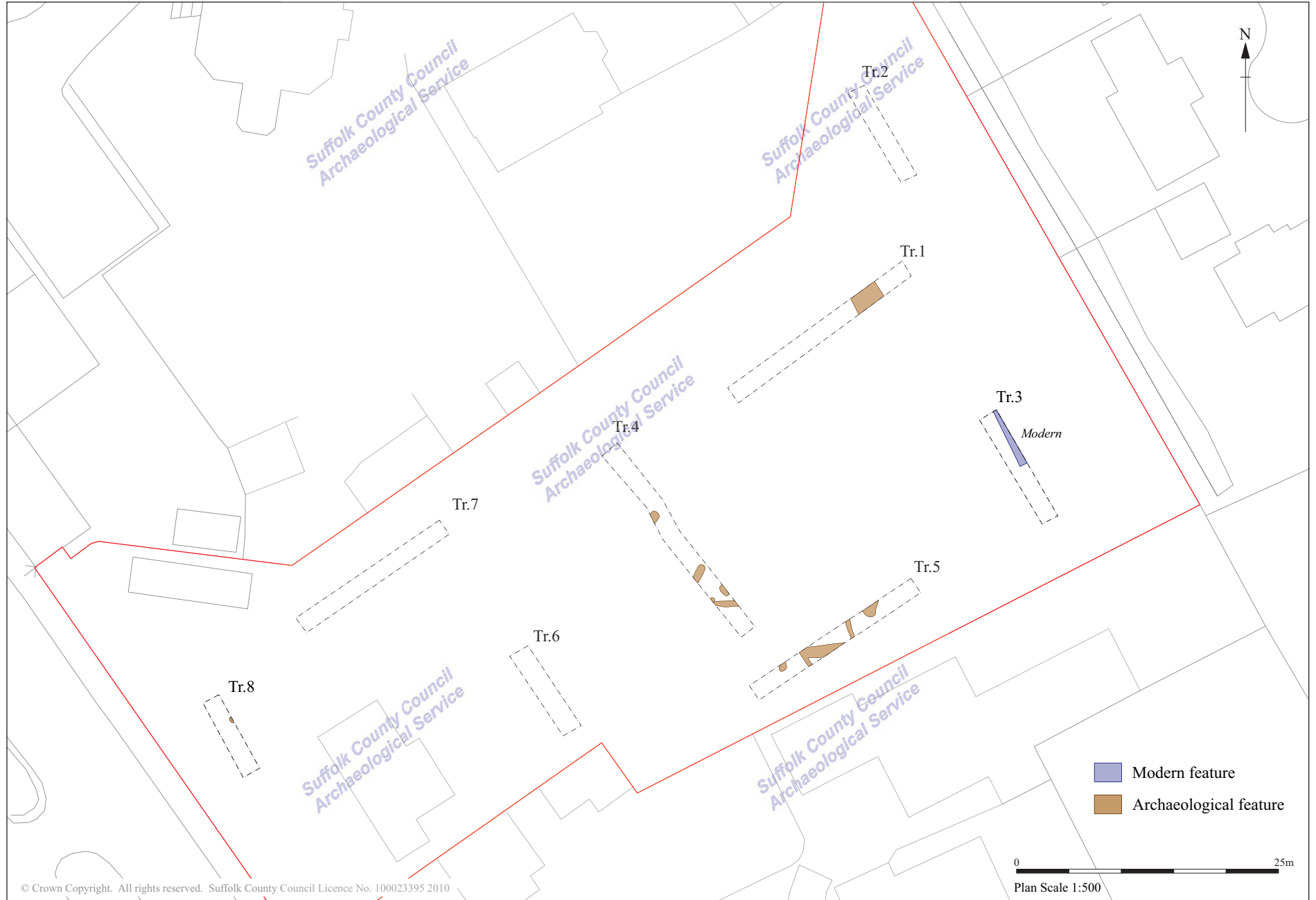


Figure 2. Trench plan, showing recorded archaeological features

5. Results

(Figs. 3-6)

5.1 Trench 01

This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 20m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.4m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying 0.3m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 36.73m AOD at the north-east end and rose to 37.18m AOD to the south-west. A single archaeological feature, 0003, was identified towards the north end of the trench. This was a broad linear ditch, aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 3m wide and 1.14m deep with moderate/steep sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its basal fill was a 0.16m thick deposit of dark orange/brown silt/sand with frequent small flints. Above this was 0005, a 0.56m thick mixed deposit of light/mid orange/brown silt/sand with abundant flint gravel, then 0006, a 0.42m thick layer of mid/dark orange/brown silt/sand with frequent flints from which a piece of post-medieval brick and a prehistoric flint were collected.

5.2 Trench 02

This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 10m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.1m-0.4m of modern topsoil overlying 0.3m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil was seen at 36.9m AOD. No archaeological deposits were identified.

5.3 Trench 03

This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 11.5m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.1m-0.4m of modern topsoil overlying 0.3m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 36.6m AOD at the south-east end and rose to 36.95m AOD to the north-west. No archaeological deposits were identified but a linear area of modern disturbance was seen for a c.4m along its northern edge.

5.4 Trench 04

This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 22.5m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.3m-0.4m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying 0.3m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 37.3m AOD. A series of probable, but undated, features with similar fills were seen along its length.

0014 was a linear ditch, aligned east to west and measuring 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill, 0015, was a mix of dark brown silt/sand and gravel.

0016 was a small pit or posthole on the edge of 0014 and only partially within the trench. Measuring 0.3m wide and 0.25m deep it had a fill, 0017, of dark brown silt/sand and gravel. There was no visible relationship with 0014.

0018 was a circular pit only partially within the trench. Measuring 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep with steep sides and a concave base, it had a fill, 0019, of dark brown silt/sand and gravel.

0020 was a linear ditch, aligned north to south and measuring 0.8m wide and 0.3m. It terminated within the trench deep. Its fill, 0021, was a mix of dark brown silt/sand and gravel.

0022 was a circular pit only partially within the trench. Measuring 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep with moderate sides and a flat base, it had a fill, 0023, of dark brown silt/sand and gravel.

5.5 Trench 05

This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 19.5m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of c.0.3m-0.4m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying 0.3m-0.4m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 37.05m to 37.15m AOD. A series of archaeological features with similar fills were seen along its length.

0011 was a linear ditch, aligned east to west and measuring 1m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its basal fill, 0012, was a 0.36m thick deposit of mixed light/mid orange/brown silt/sands and gravel. Above this was 0013, a 0.38m thick layer of mid/dark orange/brown silt/sands and gravel which contained struck flint of middle Bronze Age/late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date. On its western side it ran into a small north to south aligned ditch, 0028, which measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. This had a similar fill, 0029, of mid/dark orange/brown silt/sand and gravels and no relationship was visible between the two features.

0024 was an irregular circular pit, partially within the trench, measuring c.1.5m wide and 0.5m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0025, was a mid/dark orange/brown silt/sand with gravel.

0026 was a small linear ditch, aligned north to south, measuring 0.56m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill, 0027, was a mid/dark orange/brown silt/sand with gravel.

0030 was an oval pit measuring 1.4m by 1m and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0031, was a dark grey/brown silt/sand with gravel, from which a single Mesolithic/Neolithic flint blade was collected.

5.6 Trench 06

This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 9.5m long. At its south-east end 0.4m of modern deposits and topsoil overlaid a 0.6m thick layer of dense and dry mid yellow/brown layer of sand. 3m to the north-west the trench was affected by a 1m deep modern disturbance beyond which the typical soil profile of 0.3m of topsoil, 0.3m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007 was again seen. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 37.23m AOD. No archaeological deposits were identified.

5.7 Trench 07

This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 16m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.5m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying 0.4m of layer 0002 and 0.2m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 37.55m AOD at the

north-east end and rose to 37.75m AOD to the south-west. No archaeological deposits were identified.

5.8 Trench 08

This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 8m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of 0.5m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying 0.5m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of a mixed yellow sand and brown silt. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 38.2m to 38.4m AOD. A single archaeological feature, 0008, was identified.

0008 was a small circular pit, partially within the trench, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. Its main fill, 0009, was a dark grey/black silt/sand with occasional patches of yellow sand caused by tree root disturbance. The remaining fill, 0010, was a root disturbed mix of natural yellow sands and mid brown silt/sand. A small quantity of worked flint of Mesolithic/Neolithic date was collected from 0009.

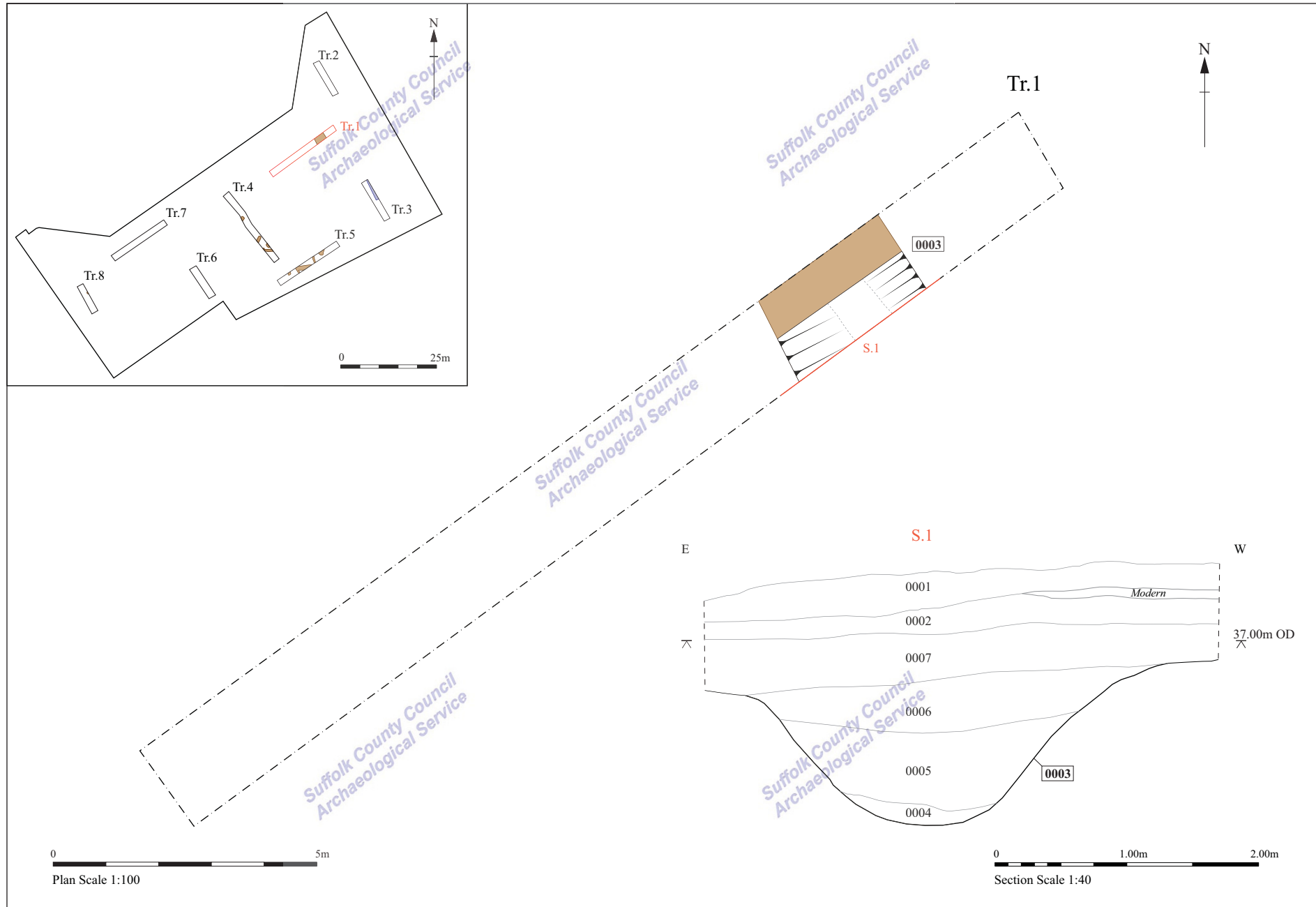


Figure 3. Trench 01, plan and section

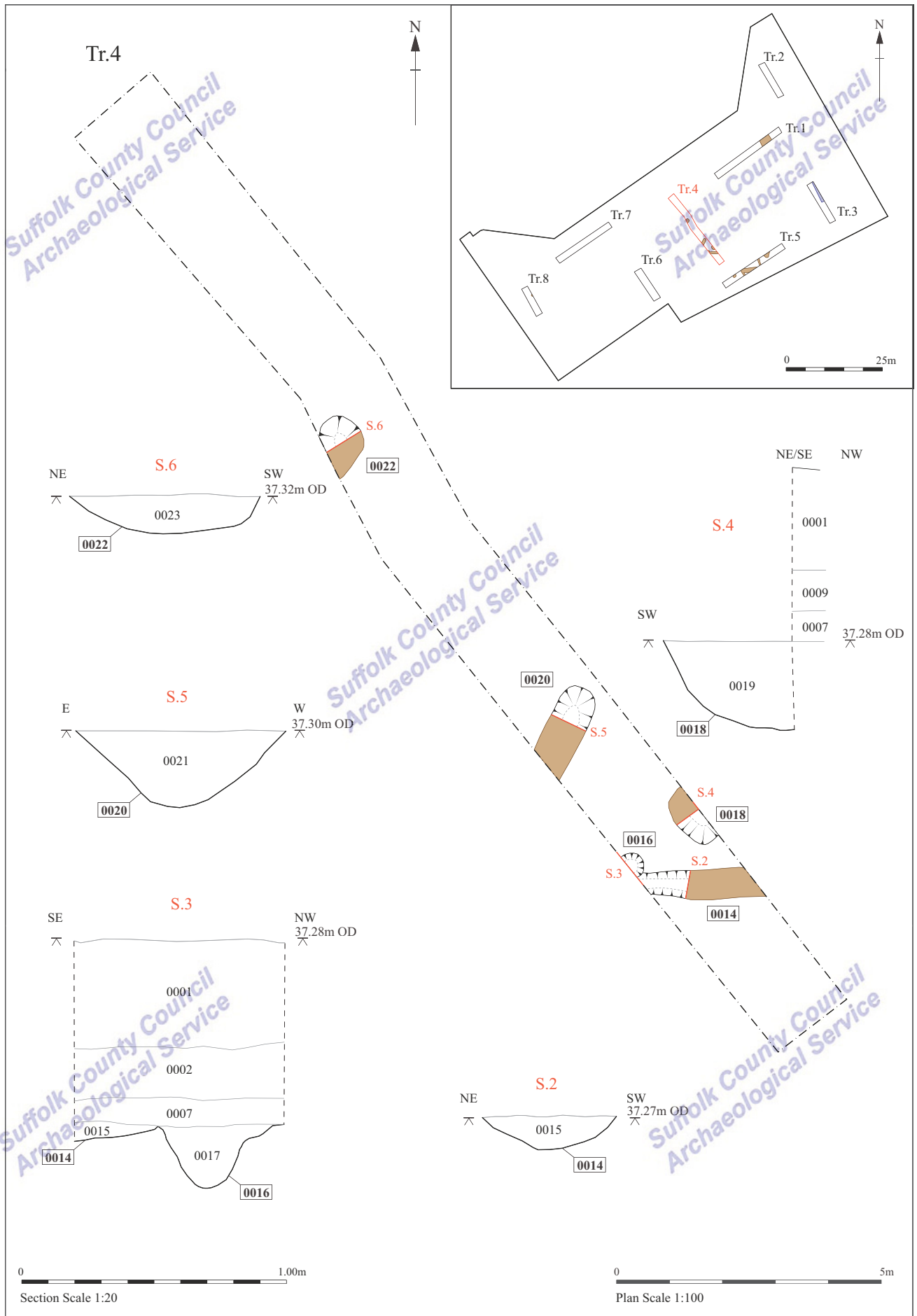


Figure 4. Trench 04, plan and sections

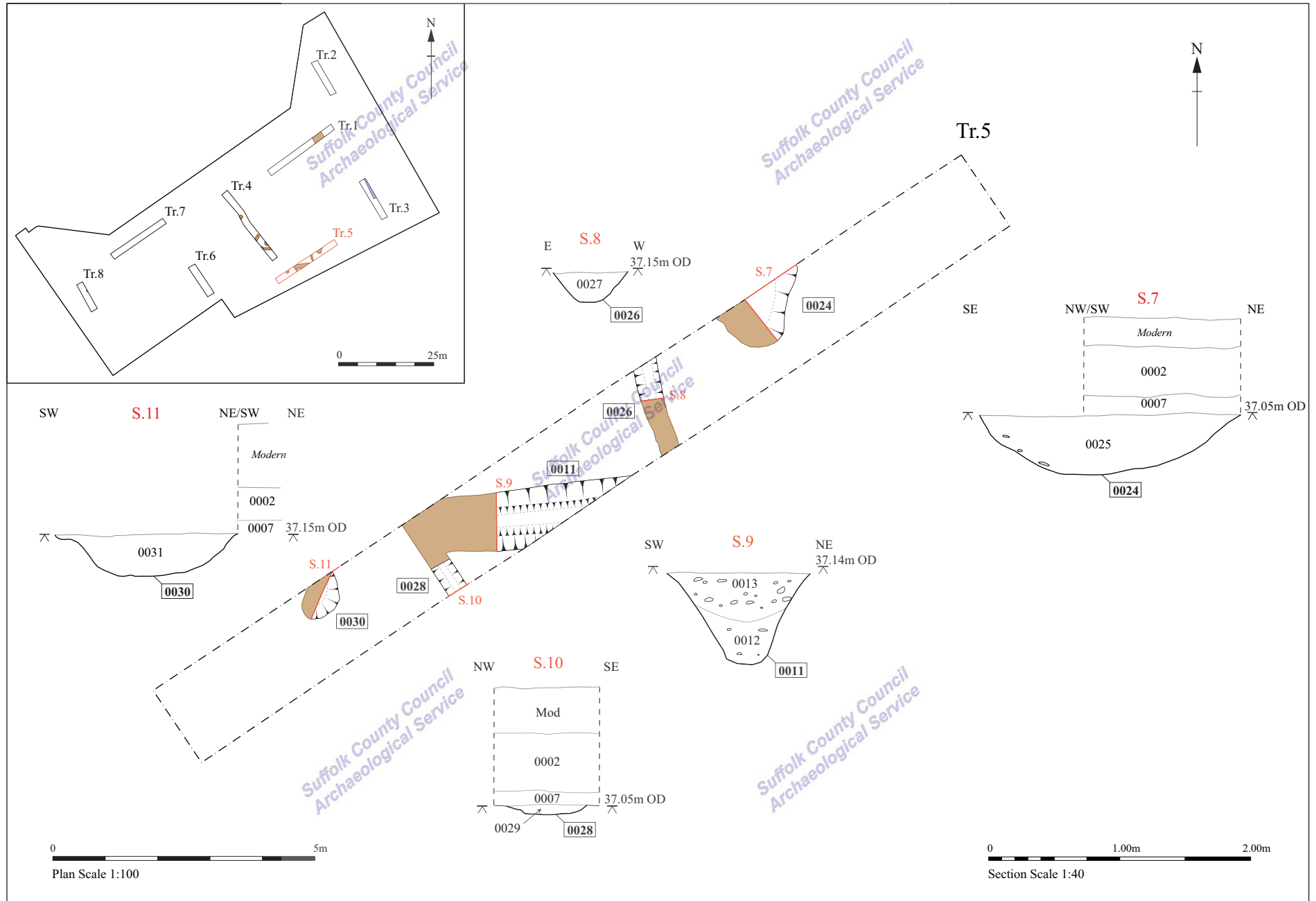


Figure 5. Trench 05 plan and sections

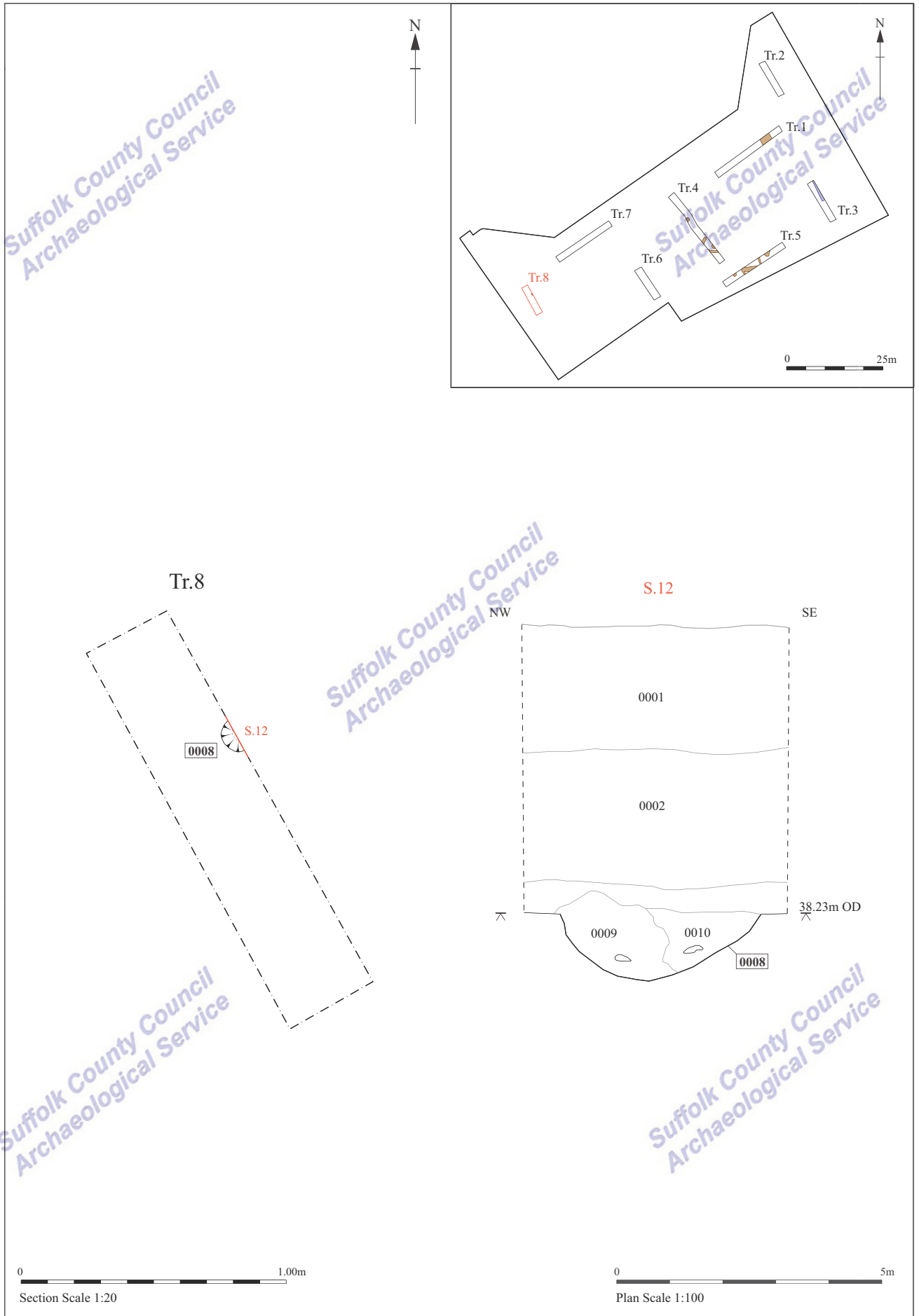


Figure 6. Trench 08, plan and section

6. The finds

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A total of 40 finds weighing 1013g was collected from four contexts, as shown in the table below.

Ctxt	Flint		Animal Bone		Charcoal		CBM		Spot dates
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0006	1	15	1	5	1	3	1	15	Post-medieval
0009	13	198							Mesolithic to Neolithic
0013	22	744							MBA/LBA to EIA
0031	1	33							Mesolithic to Neolithic
Total	37	990	1	5	1	3	1	15	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Flint

(identified by Colin Pendleton)

Introduction and methodology

The flint assemblage consists of 37 pieces with a combined weight of 990g. Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context. The material was classified by type and other observable features, such as details of patination and the type of technology used; wherever possible a date has also been assigned. A summary of this information can be seen in Table 2 (below). The vast majority of the flint has been noted in two fills, pit fill 0009 and fill ditch 0013 (see Table 1 above).

Type	No
Core	3
Single platform	2
Multi-platform core	3
Blade	1
Long blade	1
Flake	10
Long flake	5
Squat flake	8
Thick flake	3
Thin flake	1
Total	37

Table 2. Summary of the flint

The assemblage

The two large flint collections from pit fill 0009 and ditch fill 0013 are quite different in character. The first set is made up of a mixture of patinated and unpatinated pieces. Two cores have been noted. The first is part patinated, the second is un-patinated and both display hinge fractured flake scars. The single example of a patinated blade, although snapped, has parallel blade scars on its dorsal side and has been crudely retouched (serrated) to form a saw-like implement. It was potentially meant to be utilised as a bone cutter and is thought to date from the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods.

Two long flakes (dated to the Neolithic) are both unpatinated as well as exhibiting signs of retouching on one long edge. A third long flake example has a hinge fracture, a prepared striking platform, parallel long scars and slight retouching on the long edge. This is also possibly a Neolithic piece. The remainder of this assemblage is made up of mostly irregular patinated flakes. Overall the date of the assemblage from fill 0009 is likely to range from the Mesolithic to Neolithic period.

The second assemblage from context 0013 is slightly larger and every piece within it is unpatinated. There are six cores present, three of which display incipient cones of percussion. The single primary long flake has pronounced ripples. There are six squat flakes within this collection which display a variety of features, such as hinge fractures, pronounced ripples, multi-directional flake scars and one has an obtuse striking platform with limited edge retouch. Of the three thick flakes one has directional flake scars as well as slight edge retouch and another has a small retouched notch. Finally five irregular flakes are present and of these, one example has a small area of retouch alongside an obtuse striking platform. A single fire crackled irregular flake has also been recorded in this context.

In general this group shows a low standard of workmanship, and the cores and flakes are irregular. Furthermore the majority of flakes are squat and display characteristics associated with the periods middle Bronze Age/late Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

Two other contexts contained flint. Firstly ditch fill 0006, held an unpatinated irregular flake which has a natural striking platform with a pronounced ripple on the bulbar face. The example is rather battered and is possibly a former hammer stone, and it is dated to the later pre-historic period.

Pit fill 0031 contained a partly patinated black long blade with parallel scars on its dorsal face. The long edge also displays the possible traces of use. It is dated from the Mesolithic to Neolithic period.

Conclusion

Although the two main flint assemblages appear to represent two phases, it is a possibility that the earlier material could have been gathered and reused in the later period.

6.3 Ceramic building material

A single abraded piece of post-medieval roof tile has been noted in upper ditch fill 0006. The fragment is in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe) and has a small amount of mortar attached to it.

6.4 Charcoal

One piece of charcoal (3g) has been recorded in ditch fill 0006.

6.5 Animal bone

The only example of animal bone has been noted in ditch fill 0006 (5g) and this is a worn rib bone.

6.6 Discussion

The two flint collections dominate the finds assemblage, and although the earlier material is fairly typical of that already encountered in the town, the later group can be considered quite distinct. This is because middle Bronze Age/early Bronze Age to early Iron Age flint assemblages in general are quite scarce in the Bury area, often because they have simply not been recognised and indeed on occasion have been mis-recorded (Pendleton *pers. com*). However, the flint from Sicklesmere Road represents some form of prehistoric settlement within the modern boundary of Bury St Edmunds.

7. Discussion

The majority of the trenching showed a uniform soil profile, with a thick build up of modern deposits sealing an earlier soil horizon. This modern landscaping of the site has probably lessened the slight original east facing slope, which must have become sharper beyond the eastern boundary of the site which is now heavily truncated.

Although no material was collected from the former soil horizon, 0002, this is likely to represent the post-medieval topsoil. The site is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of c.1880 as an open plot adjacent to the disused County Gaol and does not appear to have undergone significant change since, other than the construction of No. 15.

0002 overlaid 0007, a mixed deposit forming the interface between the overlying soils and the sand/gravel subsoil. The presence of this deposit indicates that the subsoil surface and archaeological levels are well preserved, at a depth ranging from 0.6m-1.2m, and there was very little evidence of modern disturbance.

Of the eight trenches four did not contain any archaeological deposits. In the remaining four however a scatter of features was identified which the finds evidence suggests represent two distinct phases of light activity in the Mesolithic/Neolithic and middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age periods. The small pit 0008 is clearly of Mesolithic/Neolithic date but may be an isolated feature. In Trenches 04 and 05, although a cluster of features was identified, only two contained datable material, ditch 0011 a middle Bronze Age/early Bronze Age to early Iron Age flint assemblage and pit 0030 a single Mesolithic/Neolithic flint. The features in these trenches all had very similar fills, which suggests that they are contemporary and probably belong to a Bronze/Iron Age phase of activity, with the single earlier flint being a residual or re-used piece.

The date of ditch 0003 in Trench 0002 is uncertain, as it contained both prehistoric and post-medieval material. As there is no comparable boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey, and its fills are of similar appearance to the other prehistoric features, it is more likely to be contemporary with the later prehistoric activity, the post-medieval abraded roof tile fragment being an intrusive deposit in the upper fill.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has identified a scatter of deposits relating to two phases of prehistoric activity, generally well preserved at a depth of 0.6m+. Material evidence from the features was slight and the intensity of activity on the site is likely to have been low.

These deposits are important evidence of early occupation in the area, particularly the middle Bronze Age/early Bronze Age to early Iron Age flint assemblage, and so a further program of archaeological recording is required to mitigate the effects of the development.

Archaeological levels across the site are, in certain areas, at a significant depth below ground and so will not be affected by shallower groundworks. Feature 0008 in Trench 08 for instance lies under the course of the proposed access road at a depth of c.1m and is therefore unlikely to be disturbed, as are subsoil levels in Trenches 06 and 07. The features in Trenches 01, 04 and 05 however are slightly shallower and could be vulnerable to disturbance by groundworks such as house footings.

Due to the density of features in Trenches 04 and 05 it is recommended that archaeological excavation of the c.690sqm footprint of the two proposed buildings in that area (Fig. 7), together with a program of archaeological monitoring across the remainder of the site during the development groundworks, would form an appropriate strategy to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource of the site. If the proposed development plan is altered in any way then the exact extent of the excavation area may be modified.

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.

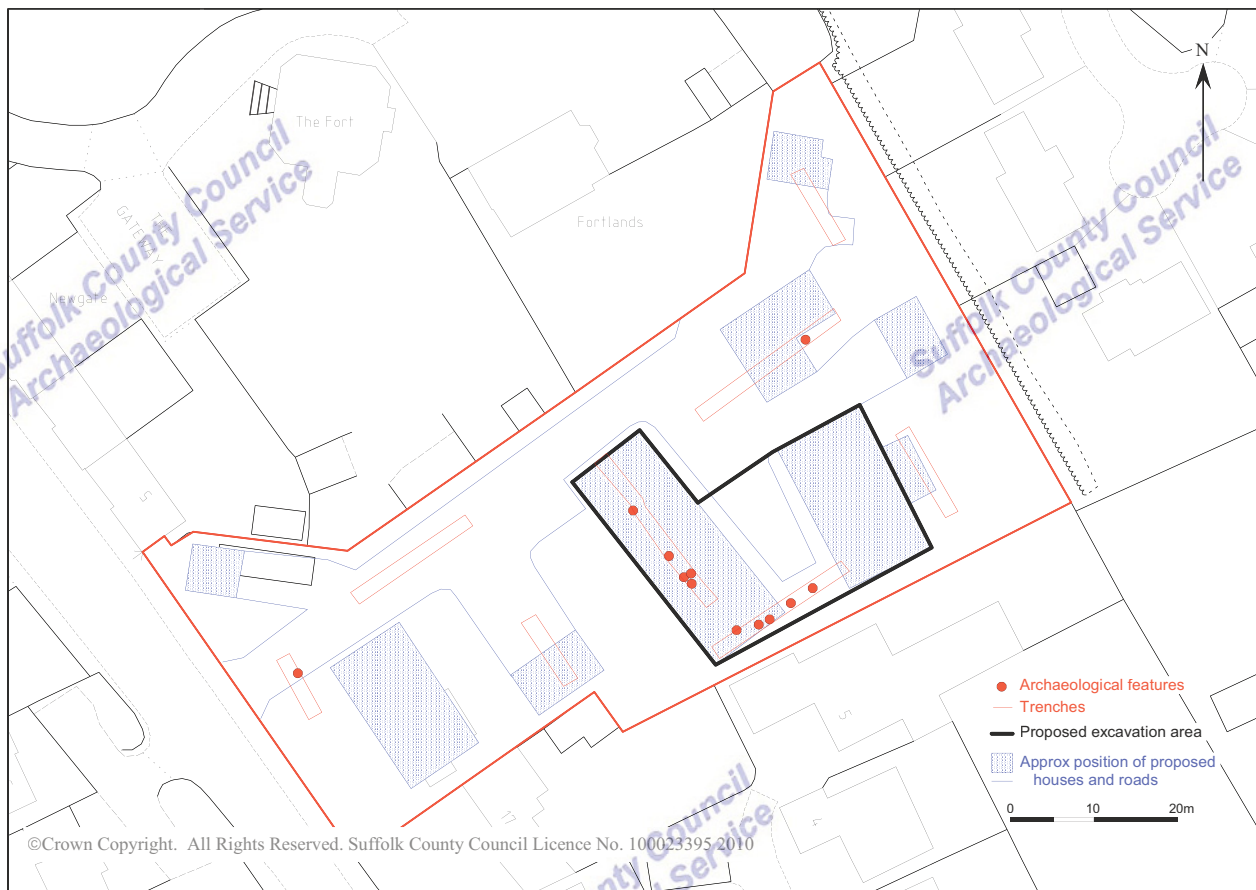


Figure 7. Recommended excavation area and proposed development layout

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\archive field proj/BSE 340 15

Sicklesmere RD

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff (John Craven, John Sims, Alan Smith and Jonathan Van Jennians) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Crane Begg. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and the specialist finds report by Andy Fawcett. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

11. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

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Appendix 1

Brief and Specification

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

15 SICKLESMERE ROAD, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK (SE/08/1584)

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 for the erection of nine dwellings, associated garaging and alterations to access at 15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (TL 864 630) has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (see accompanying plan).
- 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 proposed development area is located on the west side, and immediately above the flood plain, of the River Lark, on chalky till (deep loam to clay) at c. 35 -40.00m AOD. The area of the new development measures 0.40 ha.
- 1.4 This site lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. There is high potential for early archaeological features in view of its topographic location overlooking the River Lark, which is a favourable location for early occupation. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work 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 brief.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 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: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the new development, which is c. 200.00m². 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 111.00m of trenching in total at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.
- 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).
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental 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 palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic 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 J. Heathcote, 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.
- 3.10 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.

- 3.11 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.12 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.16 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.17 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 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 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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).

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Date: 22 December 2009

Reference: / 15SicklesmereRoad-BSE2009

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.