

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF

## Chapel Barn Farm

### Aldeburgh

#### ADB 163

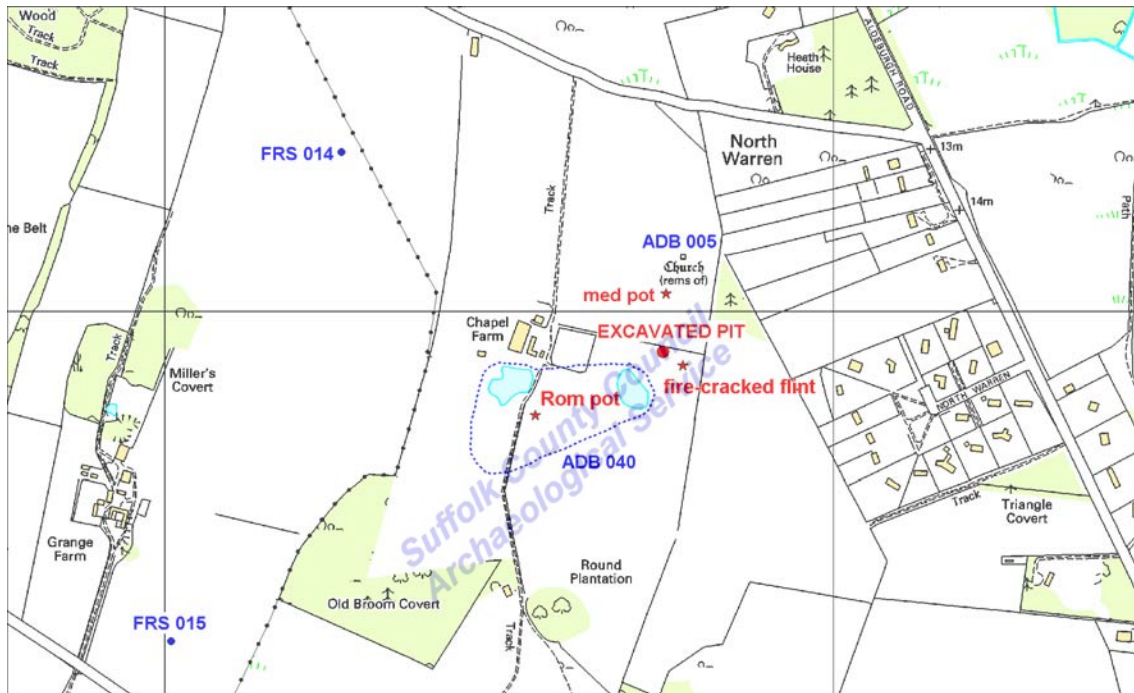
PLANNING APPLICATION REF: C/02/1069

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Funded by: Mr T. Haworth



Location plan showing areas monitored and finds recovered (in red) and known archaeological monuments and features (in blue).

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## Summary

During a monitoring visit to observe the excavation of a deep pit, an inspection was made of other smaller excavations nearby. A piece of fire-cracked flint, indicating a possible prehistoric presence, was found in footings trenches close to the deep pit. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a drain trench to the south of the farm buildings. To the south of the ruined church of St Mary (ADB 005) a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the field (see location plan).

**Introduction** (see location plan for areas of archaeological interest in the vicinity)

The planning permission granted for the development of this area for a camping site was conditional upon an archaeological monitoring of any deep excavations within a 150m radius of Hazlewood church. A large pit was excavated for a sewerage tank within this zone and this was observed on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2005. Opportunities were also taken to observe footing trenches near to the excavated pit, to see a shallow service trench to the south-west and to inspect the ruins of Hazlewood church.

The archaeological potential of this site centres on its proximity to the ruined medieval church of St Mary (ADB 005). Two churches are mentioned in the Domesday Book for Aldeburgh and it is likely that one of these is the Hazlewood church. It is thus probably of Saxon origin.

This church was already in ruins by 1600 but burials continued until c.1700. By 1870 the ruins consisted of a portion of the east end window and the base of a round tower. Human bones were apparent in the plough soil, with coloured glass, glazed tiles and pieces of carved stone recovered from the uncultivated land around the church. Today all that remains is a block of masonry wall standing to a maximum height of 1.6m.

Other nearby features of archaeological interest include three post-medieval quarries (pre-1900) to the south of Chapel Barn farm, one of these is recorded as a 'clay pit'. The two ponds now within this area probably indicate where two of these pits once stood.

Slightly further away, at c.400m to the north-west of the farm buildings is site FRS 014. This has been recognised as a cropmark from aerial photographs and is of unknown date. It consists of a curvilinear enclosure and could possibly be a chalk ring associated with the nearby airfield. Also known from aerial photos, at c.700m to the south-west, is a ring-ditch (site FRS 015), possibly once enclosing a prehistoric burial mound.

#### **Results** (see location plan for finds positions)

No archaeological features or finds were seen associated with the deep excavation for the sewerage tank.

Within an adjacent area, where the footings for a toilet block have been placed, a fire-cracked flint ('pot-boiler') was recovered from the exposed surface of the subsoil.

From the upcaste spoil for a small pipe trench to the south of the farm buildings, a small and abraded sherd of Roman greyware pottery was recovered.

To the south-west of the church ruins, a large, unabraded, thin-walled sherd of grey/black pottery was recovered. This piece had a distinctive red core to its fabric. This pottery is of probable medieval date.

#### **Conclusions**

Medieval settlement associated with the church of St Mary appeared not to extend as far as the deep pit excavation monitored (e.g. 150m away). Some settlement evidence (pottery) was noted in the field adjacent to the church.

Single finds of fire-cracked flint and Roman pottery might indicate a nearby settlement presence within the prehistoric and Roman periods, although the Roman pot sherd was worn and might have arrived on site during the backfilling of the quarry pits to the south of the farm.

All finds have been returned to the landowners.

**Jezz Meredith, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, January 2005**