Suffolk County Council

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/150

15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds BSE 340

J. A. Craven

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

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HER Information

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

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Summary

A program of archaeological excavation and monitoring was carried out in advance of housing development at 15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The excavation identified low-level activity on the site in the Neolithic period, followed by a ring ditch, c.23m in diameter, of probable Early Bronze Age date which may have been dug for the construction of a burial mound or barrow overlooking the valley of the River Lark. The site subsequently had a likely agricultural use through the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Although no evidence of a burial was identified the absence of cut features or finds material indicating contemporary occupation may suggest that the site forms part of a funerary landscape. The ring ditch and possible barrow appears to have then acted as a focus for temporary, passing activity in the later Bronze or Iron Age.

1. Introduction

A programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring was carried out in advance of housing development at 15 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The excavation was required by a condition placed upon planning application SE/08/1584 following an archaeological evaluation of the site which had identified evidence of prehistoric activity. The work 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. The excavation

2.1 Site location

The site, which had consisted of a late 20th century bungalow, garage and large garden, lies on the southern edge of Bury St Edmunds at TL 864 630.

2.2 Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of c.38m-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).

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

The planning condition was originally placed as the site had high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lies 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 (Suffolk Historic Environment Record

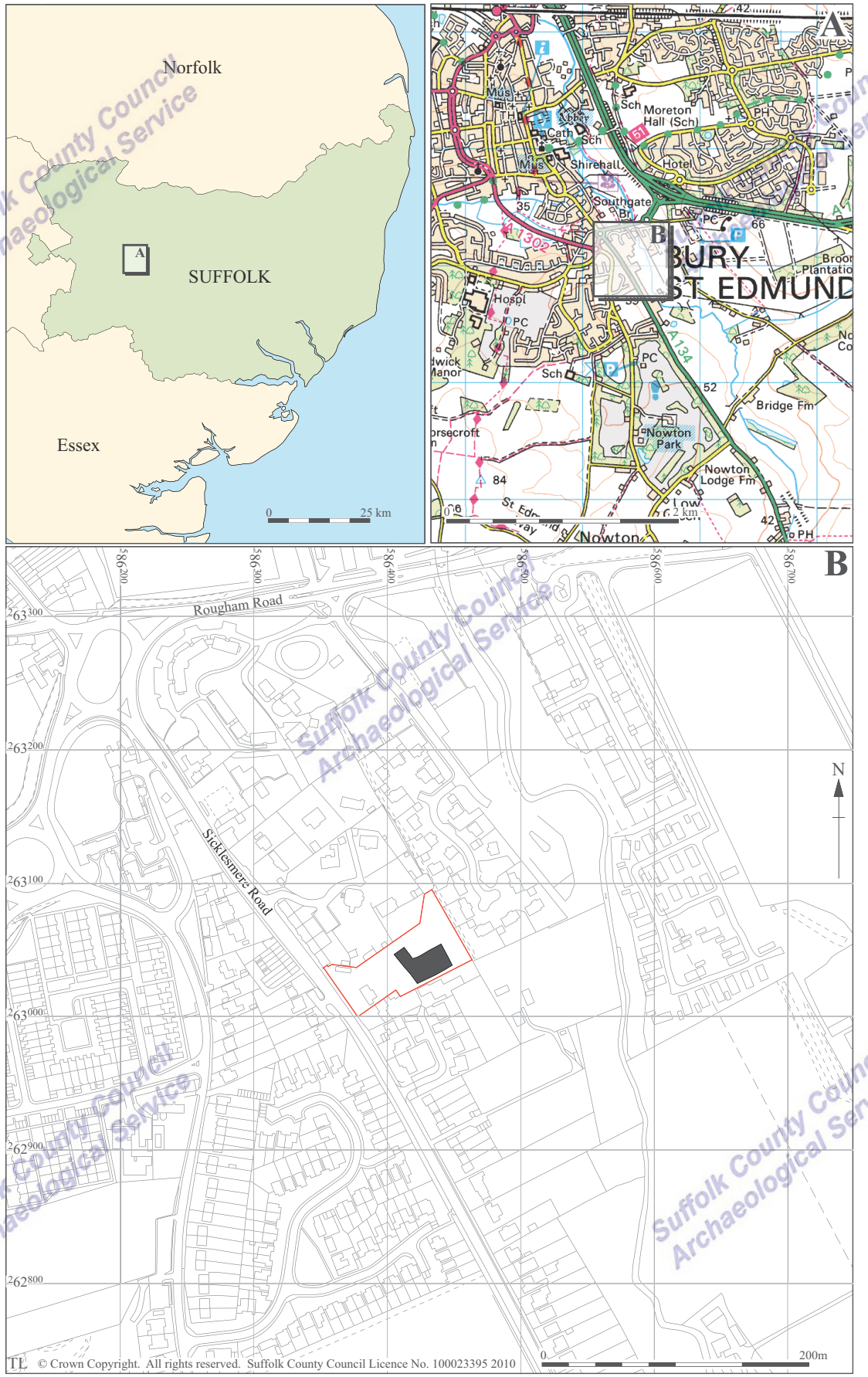

Figure 1. Site location, Showing development area (red) and area of excavation (black)

No. 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).

An archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site in February 2010 (Craven 2010) identified a scatter of features (Fig. 2) belonging to two distinct phases of activity in the Mesolithic/Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age periods, which were dated by the recovery of small flint assemblages. These deposits were important evidence of early occupation in the area, particularly the Middle Bronze Age/Early Bronze Age to Early Iron Age flint assemblage. A further program of archaeological recording, consisting of open-area excavation of the footprint of two of the proposed buildings and archaeological monitoring across the remainder of the site during the development groundworks was recommended to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource.

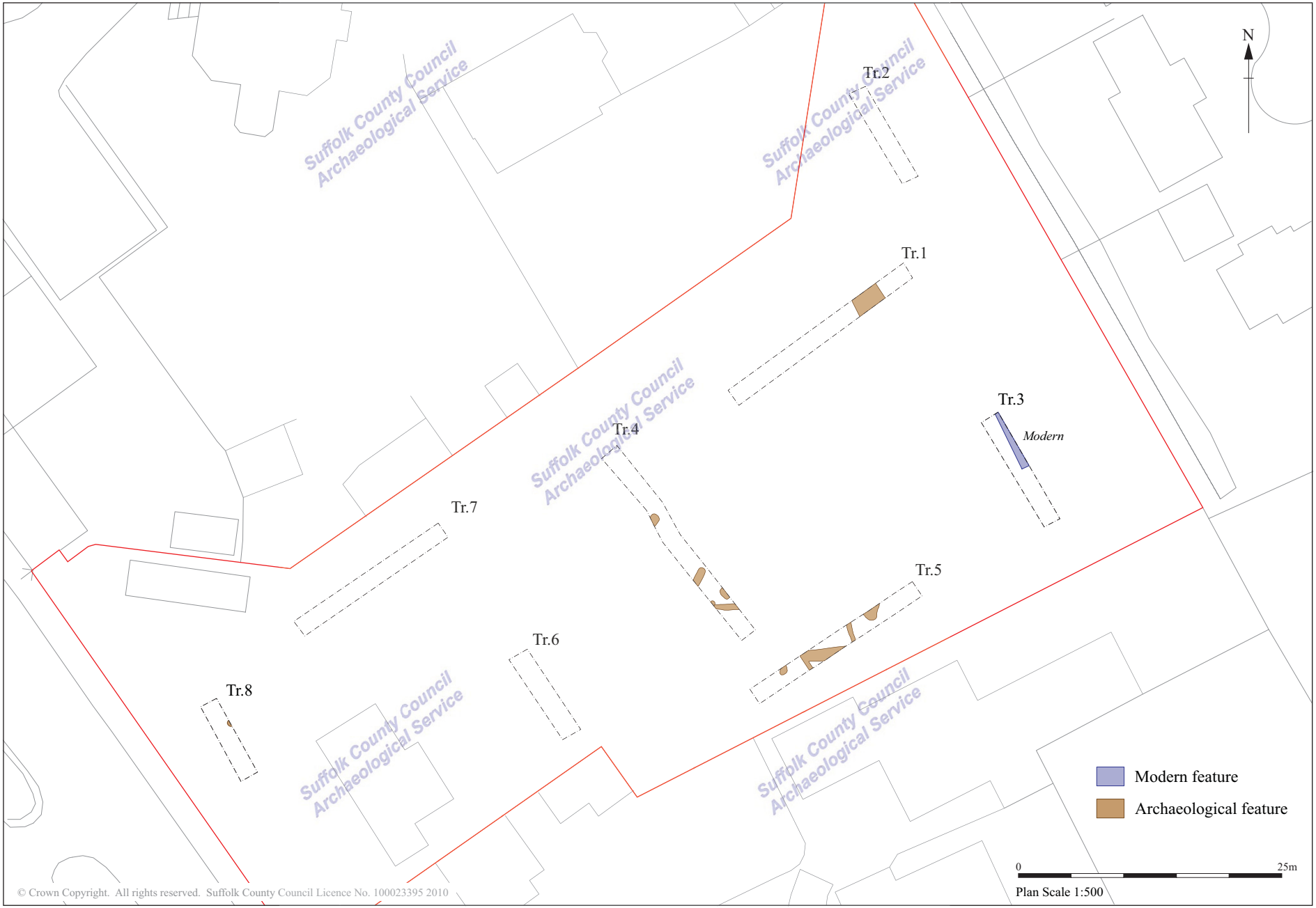

Figure 2. Evaluation trench plan, showing recorded archaeological features

3. Methodology

The excavation area of c.670sqm was stripped by a mechanical excavator, equipped with a ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The site strip involved the removal of c.0.4m of modern topsoil, then a c.0.3m-0.5m thick deposit of mid brown silty/sand and gravel, 0116, which lay above the natural orange/brown sand and gravel subsoil. The site and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist both during the machining and subsequent hand-excavation of features. Archaeological monitoring was carried out at all stages of the development groundworks.

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. The excavation area outline, 10m site grid and benchmark were recorded using an RTK GPS. The excavation site and monitored groundworks were planned by hand on A3 gridded permatrace sheets at a scale of 1:50. Feature sections and baulk profiles were recorded by hand at a scale of 1:20, with level data being recorded with a dumpy level. 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. Bulk environmental samples were collected from a selection of archaeological contexts across the site.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-74875) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit).

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

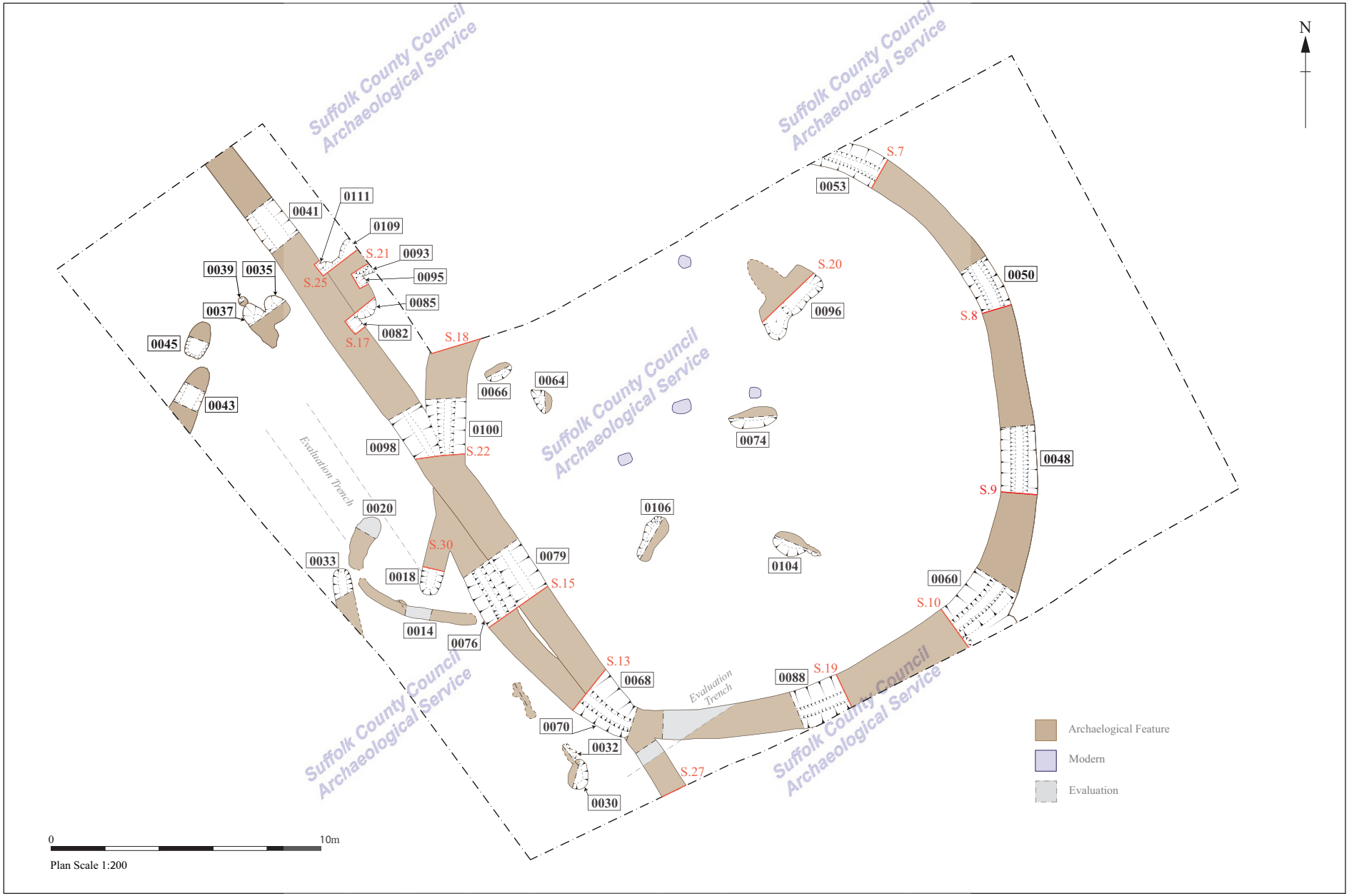

Figure 3. Excavation plan

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

Archaeological features were exposed following the removal of a buried soil layer of mid orange/brown silty sand with gravel, numbered in Section 27 as 0116. This deposit was of a medieval or later date as contained a single sherd of medieval pottery and sealed ditch 0122 which also contained medieval material. Full feature descriptions are given in Appendix 1.

4.2 Phase I: Early prehistoric - Neolithic

The remainder of an evaluation feature, prehistoric pit 0030, was excavated and a further six worked flints of possible Neolithic date were collected. Six additional worked flints were later recovered from a bulk environmental soil sample taken from fill 0031 (quantified in Appendix 2 but not included in finds report or Appendix 4).

0035, 0037and 0039 were three irregular pits with identical merging fills of mid brown silty sand with flint gravel. Pit 0037 contained five worked flints of early Neolithic or possible Mesolithic date, and pit 0035 another four flints. Five further flints of similar appearance were collected during surface cleaning 0047 and so these features are all thought to belong to this early phase of activity.

4.3 Phase II: Bronze Age

The principal feature on the site was a circular ring ditch, 0059, measuring c.23m in diameter, which had originally been identified as ditch 0011 during the evaluation. Approximately 80% of the ring ditch was present on the site, the remaining part of what is assumed to be a complete circle lying beyond the northern site edge.

The eight sections excavated through the ring ditch (cuts 0048, 0050, 0053, 0060, 0070, 0076, 0088 and 0100) showed a fairly consistent profile throughout, with the upper part of the ditch having gentle/moderate sloping sides, which turned into a steep-sided central trench c.0.25m wide. The ditch dimensions varied from 1.1m to 1.8m wide at the surface, and 0.5m to 1m deep. The variation between these measurements is thought to be due to differing levels of truncation to the upper levels of the ditch.

The basal deposits throughout the ditch, infilling the central trench, consisted of yellow/orange/brown silty sands and flint gravels (0051, 0058, 0063, 0073, 0077, 0086, 0089, 0103). These were generally hard to differentiate from the natural sand and gravel subsoil and appeared to have derived from the natural erosion and slumping of the ditch cut. A single worked flint was collected from 0051.

The central infilling deposits of the ditch (0055, 0056, 0057, 0062, 0072, 0078, 0090 and 0102) were similar throughout, consisting of a c.0.3m-0.4m thick layer of mid orange/brown silty sands mixed with flint gravel. There was occasional evidence of root disturbance in several of the sections. A small assemblage of 33 pieces of worked flint was collected from these fills, the majority from 0055. Bulk environmental soil samples were collected from ditch fills 0055, 0062, 0072 and 0102. A further 18 worked flints were later recovered from the samples (quantified in Appendix 2 but not included in finds report or Appendix 4).

The upper fill of the ditch (0049, 0052, 0054, 0061, 0071, 0081, 0091, 0101) generally consisted of a mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional flints and areas of tree root disturbance, ranging from 0.13m to 0.32m thick depending upon the apparent levels of truncation. The majority of finds from the feature, including 466 pieces of worked flint came from these deposits, in particular fill 0049. A single sherd of Bronze or Iron Age pottery was recovered from 0061. A bulk environmental soil sample was collected from 0071 and a further seven flints collected (quantified in Appendix 2 but not included in finds report or Appendix 4).

Further surface finds from the final cleaning of the ring ditch were recorded as 0113, 0115, and 0117-0121 and included 53 pieces of worked flint, a single sherd of Bronze or Iron Age pottery and two sherds of medieval pottery.

0032 was an irregular spread of mid brown silty sand/flint gravel extending west from 0030, probably infilling a natural hollow or disturbance to the subsoil. Eight worked flints were collected from its fill.

4.4. Phase III: Medieval/Post-medieval

The final phase of activity dates to the medieval/post-medieval periods and consists of a single linear ditch, 0122, identified in the evaluation as 0028. Aligned north-west to

south-east, it ran across the south-west part of the site and was fully or partially sectioned at six points (cuts 0041, 0068, 0079, 0082, 0098 and 0111). Three of these sections showed its relationship cutting the south-west side of the ring ditch 0059. It measured between 1.3m and 1.8m wide and 0.3m-0.44m deep and generally had moderate sloping sides an a concave base. Each section contained a single fill (0042, 0069, 0080, 0083, 0099 and 0110), which together formed a continuous deposit of mid/dark grey/brown silty sands with occasional flints and charcoal flecks. Although 26 prehistoric worked flints were collected from 0042, 0069, 0080 and 0099 this is all likely to be residual from the earlier phases of activity as two sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of CBM were also recovered from the ditch fills, together with a single small find, SF 1001. A bulk environmental soil sample was collected from 0042. Further finds of CBM and ten worked flints, 0112 and 0114, were collected from the surface of the feature during the final cleaning of the site.

4.5. Unphased

The remaining 12 features, a range of irregular pits or possible ditches, were undated. The majority of these features had very similar fills of mid/dark brown silty sand and gravel, like the five undated features (0014, 0016, 0018, 0020 and 0022) previously seen in evaluation Trench 04. The excavation also showed that 0014 and 0020 were parts of a single curvilinear ditch while 0018 was the terminus of a short ditch that ran towards 0059 and 0122.

Of these features six lay within the area enclosed by ring ditch 0059; 0064, 0066, 0074, 0096, 0104 and 0106. These were all irregular pits, varying from 0.5m to 2m in length, and contained very similar fills of mid/dark brown silty sand and gravel. The irregular nature of these six features suggests that they may all be natural, not man-made, in origin and there was no indication that any of the six had any function associated with the ring ditch. Bulk environmental soil samples were collected from fills 0075, 0105 and 0107 of 0074, 0104 and 0106 respectively. Small amounts of burnt and worked flint were present in these samples (the worked flint is quantified in Appendix 2 but not included in finds report or Appendix 4).

0033 and 0043 were two linear pits or ditch termini of similar dimensions, extending north from the site edge. The fills of silty sand and gravels were similar to that seen in the surrounding unphased features.

To the north of 0043 was a circular pit, 0045, which was relatively well defined in comparison to the other scattered features although it again had a fill, 0046, of mid brown silty sand and gravel fill as seen elsewhere. A bulk environmental sample was collected from which a fragment of CBM and a small amount of burnt flint was recovered.

0093, 0085/0095 and 0109 were a group of possible small pits, cut by ditch 0122. Again these all had mid/dark brown silty sand and gravel fills.

4.6. Monitoring

Only parts of the development were monitored but no further archaeological deposits were observed. Trenches for the remaining part of the housing block extending east from the excavation site simply showed a similar soil profile overlying the natural subsoil. Various footings, service trenches and the access road strip along the road frontage were either not deep enough to expose the archaeological levels or showed natural subsoil. The road strip above the area of the potential remaining part of the ring ditch was also not deep enough to expose the archaeological levels. Trenches for the three buildings in the north-east corner of the site were not seen.

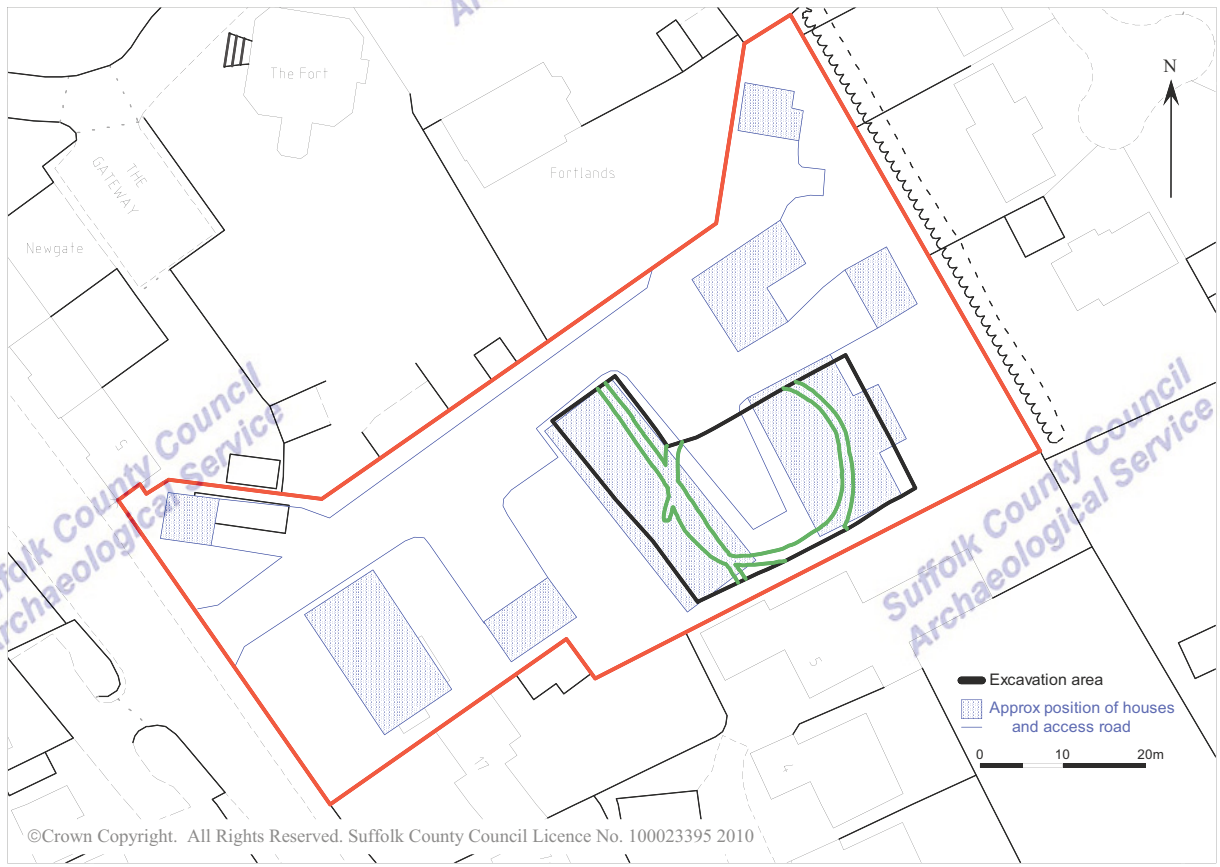

Figure 4. Monitored development plan

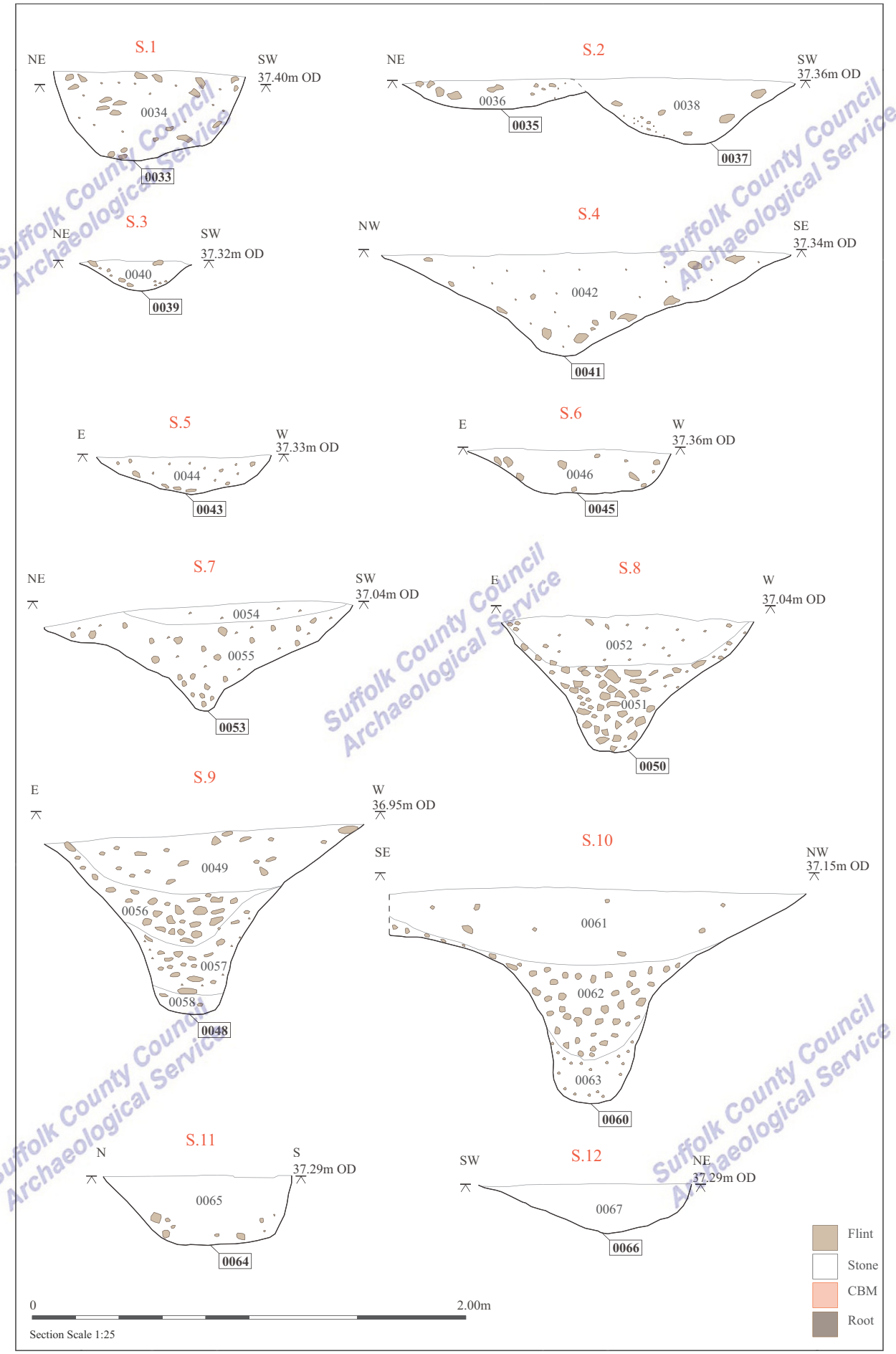

Figure 5. Sections 1 to 12

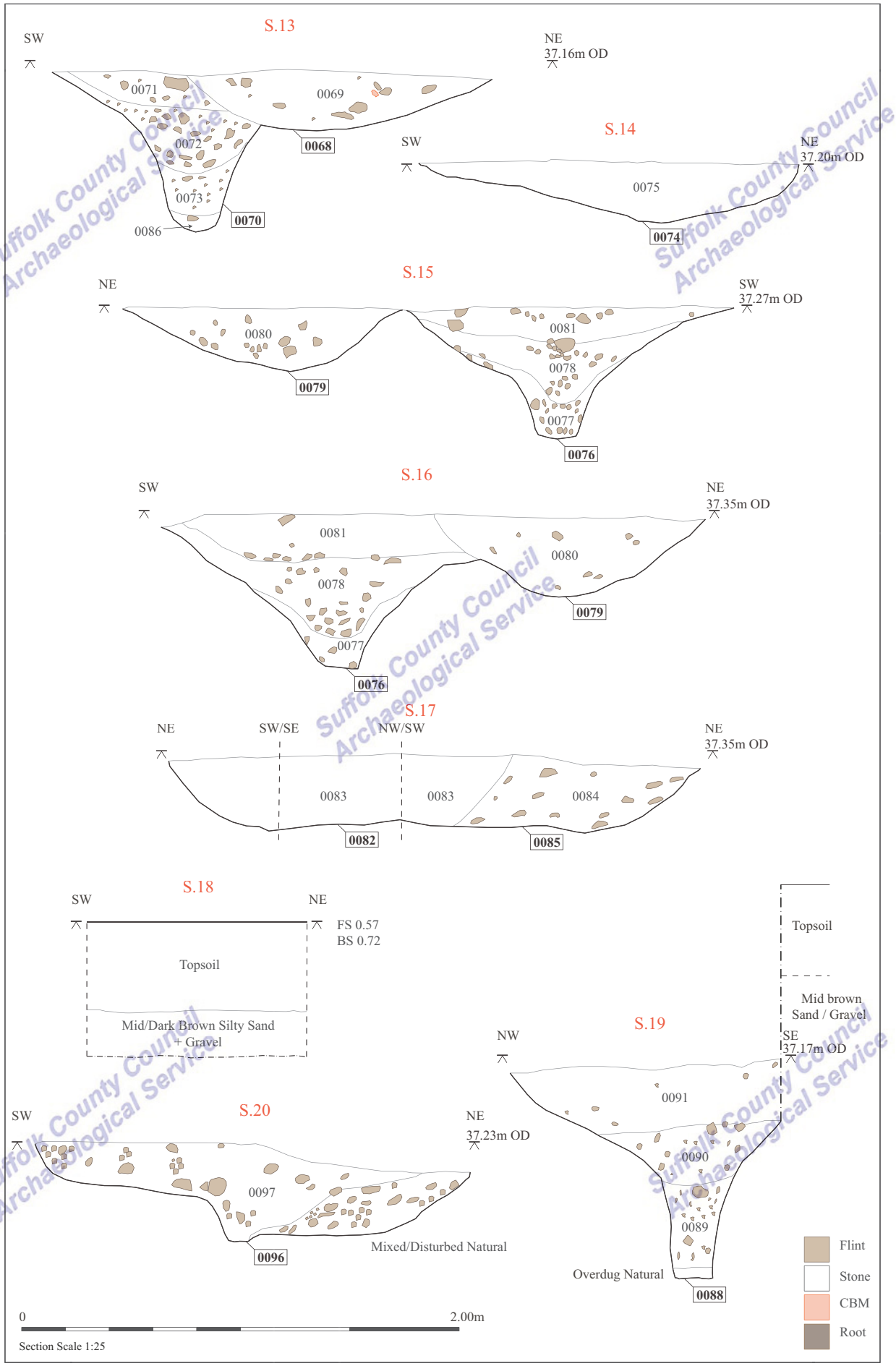

Figure 6. Sections 13 to 20

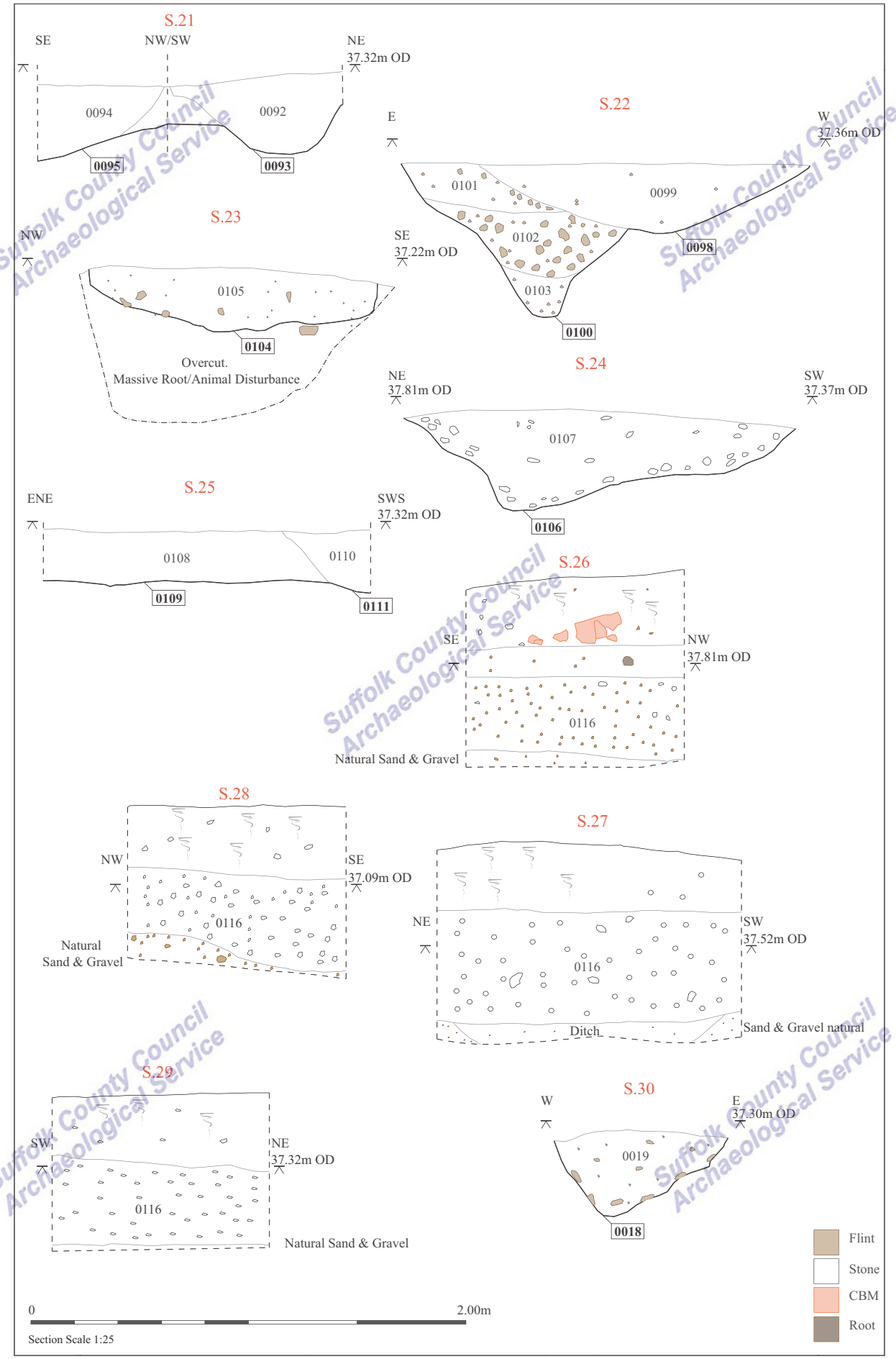

Figure 7. Sections 21 to 30

5. The finds evidence

Andy Fawcett

5.1 Introduction

A total of 741 finds with a weight of 16034g was recovered from 37 contexts at Sicklesmere Road, as demonstrated in Table 01. A full contextual breakdown of find types forms part of the site archive and a version of this can be seen in Appendix 2.

Find type	No	Weight/g
Pottery	11	127
CBM	24	655
Worked flint	617	14697
Burnt flint	70	447
Animal bone	6	82
Shell	1	2
Slag	2	13
Fe objects	4	8
Charcoal	4	1
Glass	2	3
Totals	741	16035

Table 1. Finds quantities

5.2 Pottery

Pottery was recorded from eight contexts (11 fragments @ 127g). In terms of condition, the pottery may be described as between abraded and slightly abraded. A full contextual breakdown of fabrics forms part of the site archive and can be seen in Appendix 3. Two time periods are represented by the ceramic assemblage, prehistoric and medieval.

Prehistoric

Just two sherds of pottery represent this period and both of these display considerable abrasion. The first (8g) is very abraded and grog-tempered, and appears to be hand-made (HMG). It was recorded in ring ditch fill 0061 and the flint from this context is thought to be dated from the Bronze Age onwards. The sherd itself is dated from between the Bronze and Iron Age, although there is a possibility that it could be a later Iron Age example. The second fragment (a surface find from 0118 weighing less than a gram) is flint-tempered (HMF) and dates from the Middle/Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age.

Medieval

Nine sherds have been dated to this period (118g) and overall these only display slight abrasion. Firstly two sherds of general medieval coarseware (MCW) have been identified in pit fill 0044 and ditch fill 0049, which are dated from the late 12th to 14th century. A single glazed sherd of Hollesley type ware (HOLG) is present in ditch fill 0069 which is dated from the late 13th to early 14th century. The sherd exhibits a shallow thumb mark, as well as a line of notches above a single groove. Glazed wares in this fabric are not as common as the coarsewares and although the fabric displays a number of characteristics associated with this industry, such as clay pellets, it is likely that such wares were produced in several places. Pit fill 0080 contained a single sherd of German stoneware (GSW 3) from Raeren, in the form of a mug. This fabric is dated from the late 14th to early 16th century; a similar mug type can be seen in the Norwich *corpus* of pottery (Jennings 1981, 114). A single body sherd of Bury type ware (BSW) has been recorded in soil layer 0116, and this fabric is dated from the late 12th to 14th century. Finally, two sherds of medieval glazed ware (UPG) were recorded as surface find 0019. These both join to form an unusual bowl form, although the sherds are too abraded to enable an exact parallel to be sought. The fabric is dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

5.3 Ceramic building material

A total of 24 pieces of CBM with a combined weight of 655g was recovered during the excavation. The CBM has been divided into two groups, late brick and roof tile.

Late brick

Just two small and abraded late brick fragments have been noted. The first occurs in ring ditch fill 0052 (20g) and is in a sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe); it is dated to the post-medieval period. The second piece (161g) was retrieved from ditch fill 0069 and this is also in a medium sandy fabric but with the addition of flint (msf). A similar fabric to this was identified at the Angel Hotel in Bury St Edmunds (Anderson 2005) and it is thought to date from the late medieval to post-medieval period. Unfortunately due to its abraded state and the fact that it was a 'mid-section' fragment, no other measurements could be taken for comparative purposes.

Roof tile

The 22 pieces (474g) of roof tile are in an equally abraded and fragmented state as the late brick. They are spread across contexts, mostly in single figures. Elements of the assemblage are clearly dated to the post-medieval period, for instance those in msfe fabrics and located in ditch fills 0069, 0099, 0112, and 0119. The remainder of the tile assemblage is made up of long-lived fabrics types that are dated from the medieval to post-medieval periods. These are generally medium sandy (ms) with either calcite (msc) or flint (msf).

5.4 Worked flint

(Identified by Sarah Bates)

Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an ACCESS database table. The material was classified by category and type with numbers of pieces and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded, platform type and the condition of the flint being commented on. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary.

Non-struck flint was included in a separate column (non-struck) in the database and has been discarded. It is not included below.

Introduction

A total of 617 pieces of struck or shattered flint was recovered from the site. The flint is mostly mid to dark grey with occasional lighter grey, sometimes coarser, inclusions. Cortex is often present and includes a variety of types from pale to dark cream, orange brown and grey and from smooth to coarse with a fair number of patinated and/or abraded surfaces occurring. Only very few pieces exhibit post-depositional patination. The assemblage is summarised in Table 2 and listed by context in Appendix 4.

Thirty-five further pieces of struck flint were recovered during processing of soil samples. These are not included in the following report but have been quantified and the data included in Appendix 2.

Type	No
Multi platform flake core	5
Core fragment	4
Tested piece	2
Struck fragment	48
Crested blade	1
Core trimming flake	1
Core tablet	1
Shatter	142
Flake	358
Blade-like flake	7
Blade	8
Spall	19
Chip	1
Piercer	3
Spured piece	1
Scraper	1
Retouched flake	7
Utilised flake	6
Utilised blade	2
Total	617

Table 2. Summary of flint by type

The assemblage

There are large numbers of irregular struck and shattered pieces present (48 and 142 pieces respectively). The struck fragments are, with the exception of a single piece, cortical and many of them have been deliberately struck on one edge, often several times. Many pieces exhibit incipient percussion cones on their surfaces and, overall, the material represents quite crudely worked hard hammer struck waste. Many of the pieces may be fragments that shattered from larger lumps during the initial preparation of the raw material and were subsequently tested to see whether they were suitable for use. The flakes from most of them were probably rather too small or irregular to be useful; the fragments probably had very little potential as 'cores' and were discarded.

Numerous sharp shatter pieces show little sign of having been struck intentionally but have almost certainly resulted during initial breaking and shaping of the raw material into pieces suitable for use. Most of this material (84% by number) is cortical with quite a few pieces having cortex over most, sometimes all, of one side. Two shattered pieces are burnt.

A much smaller number of pieces (relative to the number of more irregular 'struck fragments') have been classified as cores. There are five small multi platform flake cores, one of which is broken and one of which has an irregular fracture at one end and was probably abandoned. There are also four fragments from the sides of cores. One appears to be from a keeled type core, possibly indicating a greater degree of care or skill in its use than the others.

Three pieces of flint appear to represent the deliberate preparation or rejuvenation of cores (Butler 2005, 84,121). There is a very small crested blade and a core tablet, both 0038, and an unusual neat thin curving blade-like flake with an abraded platform and a steep right edge which has been reworked or abraded along its length 0031. It is notable that both the two former pieces (and the rest of the flint from that context) have whitish patinas and that the latter, in common with its associated material is a distinctive mottled pale grey.

Over half of the assemblage (358 pieces) consists of unmodified flakes. These are predominantly quite small squat or irregular pieces. The nature and condition of these flakes is shown in Table 3.

Type	No
Complete	89
Cortical	80
Primary flake	5
Cortical platform	22
Prepared platform	2
Hinge fracture	4
Patinated	3

Table 3. Condition and type of flint (as % of unmodified flakes by number)

The majority of flakes are complete cortical pieces and although the number of pieces classified as 'primary' flakes (with entirely cortical dorsal surface) is relatively low, many flakes have cortex over much or most of their dorsal face showing that much of the recovered debitage was produced early in the knapping sequence. Most of the flakes have probably been struck by hard hammer. Although a small number of flakes have been struck from prepared cores, a much larger number have plain platforms and a relatively large number of flakes have cortex on their platforms suggesting less careful working.

A relatively high number of hinge fractures (compared to other assemblages recorded by the writer) also suggests a lack of care/skill in the selection of flint and knapping technique which suggests a later prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, date (Butler 2005, 179). A fairly small number of flakes are patinated and the presence of patina seems to correspond with thinner flakes or other 'soft hammer' type attributes. It is likely that these pieces represent an earlier, residual, element to the assemblage.

Seven blade-like flakes are present; most of them quite small and sharp and most with cortex. One slightly larger piece, with a facetted platform, has clearly come from a prepared core. This, and one other of the flakes, have possible slight lips to their bulbar edges, an indication that they were probably struck by soft hammer (Butler 2005, 38, fig.15).

Eight blades were found. These include sharp and edge damaged pieces and several are incomplete. In two cases cortex remains on the flake platforms but two blades have abraded platforms and another has a facetted platform and slight lip to its bulbar edge. Although only small *numbers* of pieces are involved, 38% (by number) of the blades have prepared platforms and 38% are patinated. This is a far higher percentage than for the flakes (see above) and suggests that the blades may be part of a residual element to the assemblage.

Four pieces have been broadly classified as piercers. A small pointed blade 0061 with a slightly abraded platform has its distal tip narrowed by slight transverse retouch on its ventral face which may be deliberate or might, possibly, have occurred during use. It is unpatinated apart from one thinly patinated thermal surface and, although its blade-like form suggests a possible earlier date, these other factors seem to suggest a later date is more likely. Another broad flake from the same deposit is retouched on its distal edge to form a protruding spur mid-way long the edge. It is characteristic of Bronze Age piercers (Butler 2005, 186, fig 76, 2-3). Two other irregular squat flakes have slight retouch at one side of their distal points 0091, 0121.

A small squarish thermal fragment has one cortical edge and part of another side retouched as a scraper-like edge with a very slight notch or concavity in the cortical side 0049.

Six miscellaneous retouched flakes and a primary shatter fragment retouched as a scraper are present. These are mostly irregular with slight retouch of parts of their edges. One very small flake has irregular retouch of both sides to its proximal point and a narrowing distal end 0042; it is possible that it could be an irregular arrowhead although it is rather asymmetrical. Six flakes, two of them blade-like, have utilised edges. One, of these, a thin trapezoidal flake with facetted platform 0032 has small chips, possibly use-related damage to its broader distal edge is reminiscent inform to a

chisel type arrowhead although the damage is probably inconsistent with such use. Two neat thin blades came from deposit 0052. One is a medial fragment, the other has an abraded platform and slight very small notches or crude serrations in its sides.

Flint by context

Flint from pits

Six flints from pit 0030 are all of a similar mottled pale grey flint. They are sharp, thin and probably soft hammer struck. They include two blades, a blade-like flake and an unusual curving core rejuvenation flake. The consistent nature of the flint from this feature suggests that it is contemporary material and its type suggests that it is relatively early in date; probably earlier Neolithic.

Five similarly patinated, almost white, flints came from pit 0037. They include a small crested blade and a core tablet, both indicating the preparation or rejuvenation of cores. The other pieces are two shatter fragments and a thin flake. The flints suggest an earlier Neolithic date for the feature although the small crested blade, which does have a slightly different (whiter) patina than the other flints, might be a residual Mesolithic piece. Four sharp flakes, two of them blade-like, came from nearby pit 0035. Two of the flakes have abraded platforms and two exhibit a similar patina to those in pit 0037 with another piece being more lightly patinated and one unpatinated but slightly burnt. Another five patinated flints came from deposit 0047 which was a cleaning layer in the vicinity of the two aforementioned pits. They include a probable core fragment, a neat curving flake and a neat narrow thin blade. The flint is very similar in nature to that from the pits and probably originated from them or associated activity.

Flint from ring ditch 0059

In total 553 flints were found in fills of ring ditch 0059 or were surface finds associated with it. Of these flints, only three were patinated and only one, from an upper fill of the ring ditch, had a white patina – this was a neat flake with a facetted platform. It seems highly likely (considering the other material – see above) that this was a residual earlier piece.

Surface finds from the ring ditch include six struck fragments, nine shatter pieces, twenty-five flakes, two spalls, an irregular squat piercer, a retouched hard hammer

struck flake and three utilised flakes. The flakes are sharp, irregular and unpatinated and almost all of them are cortical; some with patinated and abraded cortex.

In total 500 flints were found in fills of the ring ditch. They include four quite small and generally irregular multi platform flake cores, three core fragments, one of them probably from a keeled type core, forty-three struck fragments, 124 shatter pieces (most of them with much, and various types of, cortex) 301 flakes, two blade-like flakes, three blades and twelve spalls. Most of the flakes are sharp or quite sharp, they are predominantly small, or fairly small, squat or irregular pieces and most (79% by number) are cortical with cortex ranging from light to dark cream and orangey brown and white or cream patinated cortex some of it weathered and abraded. Twenty-two percent of the flakes have cortex on their platforms and 3% have hinge fractures. Less than one percent of the flakes are patinated.

Only ten retouched or utilised pieces came from the fills of the ring ditch. One is a primary shatter piece with slight retouch around it much of its scraper-like edge. There are two piercers, one on a small pointed blade 0061 and the other on an irregular squat flake 0091, a spurred piercer 0061 and a small squarish slightly notched scraper 0049. There is also a retouched flake, two utilised blades and an utilised flake. The two blades are distinctive neat thin pieces, one with an abraded platform. They are quite unlike most of the other material from the ring ditch fills and are probably residual pieces.

Well over half of the flint from the ring ditch (306 pieces) came from the upper fill of one excavated segment 0048. Almost all of it comprises struck fragments, shatter pieces, and flakes. It is notable that many of the shatter pieces and struck fragments from 0048 are roughly consistent in size, although with various types of cortical flint present. The flint from the ring ditch fills is indicative of hard hammer working; many of the fragments exhibit incipient percussion cones or small areas of battered cortex. It probably represents the initial breaking of gravel lumps and nodules with some suitable pieces (the struck fragments) being tested for use and other unsuitable pieces being discarded – perhaps once they were reduced to a certain size and had no further potential.

Other flint

A flake core, two shatter pieces and three hard hammer struck flakes are recorded as mixed surface finds from the ring ditch 0059 and ditch 0122 and thirty-four flints were from fills of ditch 0122 which cut the ring ditch. There is a struck fragment, five shatter pieces (one of them burnt), eighteen flakes, a broken blade, four spalls and a chip, three retouched flakes and an utilised flake. The flakes are mostly squat or irregular hard hammer struck types. There is a mixture of sharp and edge damaged material and one piece is patinated a glossy white and is weathered. The retouched pieces include the possible arrowhead 0042 (see above).

Five flakes, two blade-like flakes and a possible utilised flake were found in the subsoil 0032. These pieces are mostly sharp thin flakes and one quite large blade-like flake appears to have come from a prepared core.

Discussion

The flint from the site appears to represent activity at the site during two main periods with one piece perhaps representing earlier, Mesolithic, flint-working. A small group of pits contain patinated soft hammer struck flakes and a few core preparation pieces that are atypical of the assemblage as a whole. The material is likely to date to the earlier Neolithic and although the small numbers of pieces do not provide much potential for interpretation of the features, the type of material and its presence in pits can be compared to larger amounts deposited in clusters of small pits at, for example, Spong Hill and Kilverstone (Healy 1988, 105-107 and Beadsmoore 2006, 66-70). The flints show that knapping occurred at the site during this period and that particular care was taken with the preparation of cores. No tools are present.

Most of the flint from Sicklesmere Road, however, is likely to be of a later date and is probably contemporary with, or post-dates, activity associated with the excavated ring ditch. The lack of patination and presence of unprepared platforms and hinge fractures are considered good indicators of later prehistoric material and the presence of the 'spurred' type piercer and use of a thermally fractured flint for the scrapers are both particularly consistent with flint-working during Bronze Age or later periods (Butler 2005, 165 and fig. 76,2-3 and Robins 1996, 269). The flint consists mostly of primary knapping debris, much of it concentrated in an upper fill of the ring ditch. This can be compared to similar material found elsewhere in ring ditch fills (eg at Roydon, Norfolk,

Peter Robins, *pers com*. or at Risby, Suffolk, Martin, 1976). It suggests that flint-working and the discard of unwanted waste pieces occurred at the site after the ditch had partly infilled. This might suggest the continued relevance of the monument, perhaps as a meeting place, working hollow or useful waste disposal area, to the later prehistoric community. It is possible that an existing monument or other earlier activity might have acted as a source (through the process of ditch digging) of readily accessible flint in the form of already 'mined' gravel lumps and nodules (Herne 1991, 71).

5.5 Burnt flint

In total 70 fragments of burnt flint with a weight of 447g were identified, although the vast majority of these were recovered from samples. None of the burnt flint was noted alongside prehistoric pottery, however it has frequently been recorded next to worked flint, for instance in ring ditch fills 0049 and 0061. The burnt flint is often variable in size and colour, ranging from pink/red right through to grey/white. The red to pink coloured flint may represent pieces that have been subjected to some form of 'fire' event, for instance the burning of tree roots, whereas the white to grey coloured fragments probably relate to the so called 'pot boiling' process.

5.6 Small Finds

SF1001
Cu alloy lace tag/chape. Length 59mm.

This artefact was recovered from ditch fill 0083, however no other finds were recorded in this context. The lace tag is slightly bent and displays some corrosion products on its surface in the form of small irregular lumps. The tag is hollow, tapered and decorated with an incised repetitive spiral type design. The earliest examples of this artefact have been dated from the mid 13th to 14th century although this version is more likely dated from the late medieval to early post-medieval period, and similar examples can be seen in Margeson's *corpus* (1993, 22-24).

5.7 Charred macrofossils and other remains

(Identified by Val Fryer)

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pits, a ditch and from ring-ditch 0059, all of which were undated at the time of excavation, but

which were most likely to be of prehistoric date. Eleven samples 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 Table 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). With the exception of a single piece of mineral replaced wood, which may be a modern contaminant, all plant macrofossils were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous and woody roots, seeds, arthropod remains, scraps of metal foil, rodent droppings and fungal sclerotia, were abundant within all eleven of the assemblages studied.

Results

Cereal grains and/or seeds of common grassland herbs were present within all but three samples, although mostly as single specimens within the assemblage. Preservation was very variable, with most remains being severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) whilst rare grains were extremely well preserved.

Barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum sp.) were recorded although most grains were too poorly preserved or fragmented for close identification. Weed seeds were extremely scarce, comprising single specimens of indeterminate legumes (Fabaceae) and grasses (Poaceae), henbane (Hyoscyamus niger) and mallow (Malva sp.). A possible fragment of hazel (Corylus avellana) nutshell was noted within the assemblage from Sample 1 (pit [0030]). Charcoal fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Pieces of charred root and stem were also recorded within all but three of the assemblages.

Other remains, most of which appeared to be very modern in origin, were common or abundant throughout. Although some of the fragments of black porous and tarry material were possibly derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, most were very hard and brittle and more closely resembled bi-products of the combustion of coal. Small coal fragments were also present within all but one assemblage, along with globules of white or brown vitrified material. Other materials occurred less frequently, but did include pieces of bone and pellets of burnt or fired clay.

Sample No.	1	2	3	6	10	11	4	5	7	8	9
Context No.	**0031**	**0042**	**0046**	**0075**	**0105**	**0107**	**0055**	**0062**	**0071**	**0072**	**0102**
Feature No.	**0030**	**0122**	**0045**	**0074**	**0104**	**0106**	**0059**	**0059**	**0059**	**0059**	**0059**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**R.ditch**	**R.ditch**	**R.ditch**	**R.ditch**	**R.ditch**
Section No.							**0053**	**0060**	**0070**	**0070**	**0100**
Cereals											
Hordeum sp. (grains)		xcf		x						x	
Triticum sp. (grains)			x						xcf		
Cereal indet. (grains)		xcf	x	x			xcffg		xcf		
Herbs											
Fabaceae indet.	x										xcf
Hyoscyamus niger L.							xcf				
Malva sp.			x								
Large Poaceae indet.		x									
Tree/shrub macrofossils											
Corylus avellana L.	xcf										
Other plant macrofossils											
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	xxx	xx	xx	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x		x
Charred root/stem	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Mineral replaced wood		xpmc									
Indet.seeds					x				x		
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		xxx	xx	x	x	x		xx	x	xx
Black tarry material	xx	x	xxx	xx	xx	x	x	x	xx		xx
Bone		x			xb		x	x			
Burnt/fired clay		x									
Small coal frags.	xxx	x	xx	xx	x	x		x	xx	x	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bone		xpmc									

Table 4. Charred macrofossils and other remains

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, all eleven assemblages would appear to be severely contaminated with intrusive materials, thereby precluding the possibility of any accurate interpretation of the remains. The few charred plant macrofossils which are recorded are, perhaps, consistent with scattered domestic hearth or midden waste, although here too, it is impossible to ascertain the degree of contamination within the assemblage.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material proven to be contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken, no further analysis is recommended.

5.8 Miscellaneous

Animal bone

Only six pieces of animal bone have been identified (82g). Two of these have been recovered from samples taken from ditch fill 0042 and pit fill 0046. Both of these are extremely worn and weigh less than one gram each. Ditch fill 0069 contained a single mammal rib (29g) and a second ditch fill 0099 (51g) has three abraded femur fragments which possibly belonged to a horse.

Shell

A single worn fragment of oyster shell (2g) was noted in ditch fill 0081. Roof tile and worked flint are also present in this context.

Iron nails

Three contexts contained iron nails, the first is ditch fill 0042 and the remaining two, 0115 and 0120 are recorded as surface finds. All of the examples are small and suffer from considerable corrosion.

Charcoal

Four fragments of charcoal weighing less than a gram were noted in ditch fill 0061. Worked and burnt flint, as well as Iron Age pottery, were also present in this fill.

Slag

There are two instances of slag, and both have been classified as surface finds. The first is in context 0047 (4g) and the second in 0120. Neither of these are magnetic and are likely to relate to fuel waste.

Glass

Two instances of post-medieval bottle glass have been recorded. The first is a very worn piece identified in fill 0031, which also contained worked and burnt flint. The second (2g) is equally as worn and has been noted in ditch fill 0052. Late brick and worked flint were also retrieved from this context.

5.9 Conclusion

In general the finds assemblage, with the exception of the worked flint, is fairly small and in a poor state of preservation. Frequently finds from different periods have been identified in the same context. However, despite these limiting factors two clear time periods are represented by the finds assemblage. The first is later prehistoric, which is characterised by a large collection of flint, and the second, high medieval, is denoted by a small collection of pottery. The presence of prehistoric material at this site is significant as there are no other clear spots of activity within a kilometre of this current excavation. However, further to the east considerable activity relating to this period has been noted. Although the medieval pottery assemblage is small, its presence is not unsurprising, as the site is so close to where the probable medieval town defences were and the town itself.

6. Discussion

The excavation has identified several phases of activity on the site, beginning in the Early Neolithic with a small scatter of pits containing possible Early Neolithic flint deriving from flint-knapping onsite.

The main period of activity occurs in the Bronze Age, with the excavation of a ring ditch, c.23m in diameter. The date of the excavation of the ring ditch is uncertain although it is thought most likely to be part of an Early Bronze Age barrow, there being no evidence of any other contemporary occupation which could suggest an alternative use such as structures or domestic waste within the enclosed area. The topographic location of the ring ditch, high up on the slope overlooking the River Lark to the east, also suggests that this may be a funerary monument, it being a typical location for such features, which would have been a prominent and visible monument in the landscape.

However there is no firm proof that the ring ditch was associated with a barrow. There was no sign of any grave cut within the ring ditch, the feature nearest the centre, 0074, simply being an irregular undated pit. There was also no indication in the ditch fills of an interior mound slumping into the cut. The absence of a burial though is not conclusive. The site has probably been truncated to an unknown extent, indicated by the occasional intrusive pieces of medieval or post-medieval material in the uppermost fills of the ring ditch, and any potential mound, upper levels of the ring ditch or shallow grave cut may have been lost. Any burial laid onto the pre-existing land-surface beneath the mound, or inserted into the mound itself, could also have been lost. The near-total absence of animal bone on the site also indicates that human bone is unlikely to have been preserved in these sand/gravel soils.

The lower fills of the ring ditch probably derive from natural processes such as slumping and erosion of the cut over a lengthy period of time. An absence of archaeological finds from these basal deposits demonstrates that the site was not in an area of occupation following the original excavation of the feature. The various, unphased, miscellaneous pits and possible ditches may be broadly contemporary with the ring ditch's early use but do not form any obvious pattern of activity either within or without the ditch.

A gradual increase in finds material, broadly dating to the later Bronze Age, was seen in the central fills, with substantial deposits of struck flint being seen in the upper fills of the feature, particularly on its eastern side. The finds assemblage indicates that the ring ditch was gradually infilling throughout the Bronze Age and, while not being an area of occupation, was evidently an extant feature acting as a focus for passing activity, such as an instance of primary flint-knapping possibly exploiting flint material brought to the surface by the original cutting of the ditch.

Following the prehistoric period there is no evidence of any activity until the medieval period indicating that the site was unused or agricultural land on the periphery of Anglo-Saxon Bury St Edmunds. The single ditch and occasional pieces of medieval material suggest a degree of land division and low-intensity usage of the site, again probably as agricultural land on the outskirts of the expanding settlement. This land-use appears to have continued throughout the post-medieval period, with the occasional presence of post-medieval finds material in the overlying soil horizon. The 1st Edition Ordnance survey of 1886 shows the site as open land next to the disused County Gaol (BSE 073) within a broader landscape of open fields to the south of the town.

7. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The excavation has identified a ring ditch of probable Early Bronze Age date which may have originally been associated with a funerary barrow monument overlooking the valley of the River Lark, together with evidence of low-level activity on the site in the Neolithic period, as indicated in the evaluation and of the site's likely agricultural use through the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Although no evidence of a burial was identified, the absence of cut features or finds material indicating contemporary occupation may suggest that the site forms part of a funerary landscape. The ring ditch and possible barrow appears to have then acted as a focus for temporary, passing activity in the later Bronze or Iron Age.

While the County HER records several spot finds of prehistoric material along either side of the Lark valley in the general vicinity of the site, and to the north of Bury St

Edmunds there is substantial known prehistoric activity along the river valley associated with monuments such as the Fornham Cursus, this site is the first excavated evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate area. As such the site is of significant local importance, demonstrating that evidence of prehistoric activity is likely to exist elsewhere along the valley slopes even if there is no previous recorded evidence such as find scatters or cropmarks to suggest the presence of a site.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.
Digital Archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\archive field proj\BSE\BSE 340 15 Sicklesmere RD\BSE 340 excavation
Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven.

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andrew Beverton, Bill Brooks, John Craven, Steve Manthorpe, Simon Picard, Matthew Rushmer, John Sims, Alan Smith and Adam Yates) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan van Jennians and the processing of bulk environmental samples by Anna West. The production of digital site plans and sections was managed by Crane Begg. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett with contributions from Sarah Bates (freelance) and Val Fryer (freelance). The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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Appendix 1. Context list

Context	Feature	Component	Type	Category	Description	Cuts	Cutby	Over	Under	Sample no
0032	0032		Subsoil	Layer	Irregular spread of mid brown silty sand/flint gravel extending west from 0030. Infill of a natural depression in subsoil.					
0033	0033		Ditch	Cut	Probable terminus of linear ditch, may be an elongated pit. Aligned NE-SW, moderate sloping sides and concave base. 0.84m wide and 0.18m deep.				0034	
0034	0033		Ditch	Fill	Pale orange/brown silty sand and flint gravel.			0033		
0035	0035		Pit	Cut	Amorphous pit, broadly circular with gentle sloping sides and a concave base. 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep. Adjacent to and possibly cut by 0037.				0036	
0036	0035		Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel. Some root disturbance.			0035		
0037	0037		Pit	Cut	Irregular linear pit, aligned south-east to north-west and adjacent to 0035 and 0039. Moderate sloping sides, concave base, measuring 1m by 2m and 0.3m deep. Possibly cuts 0035.				0038	
0038	0037		Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel. Some root disturbance.			0037		
0039	0039		Pit	Cut	Small circular pit lying at northwest end of 0037, no visible relationship. 0.5m diameter and 0.14m deep with concave sides and base.				0040	
0040	0039		Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel and some root disturbance.			0039		
0041	0041	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of linear ditch 0122. 1.8m wide and 0.48m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.				0042	02
0042	0041	0122	Ditch	Fill	Mid orange/brown silty sand with frequent scattered flints.			0041		
0043	0043		Pit	Cut	Oval pit or possible ditch terminus extending under site edge. Aligned north to south it measured 1m wide, 2.3m+ long and 0.18m deep. Straight, moderate sloping sides and a flat base.				0044	
0044	0043		Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel. Some root disturbance.			0043		
0045	0045		Pit	Cut	Oval pit, aligned north to south, measuring 1.6m by 0.9m and 0.2m deep. Straight, moderate sloping sides and a slightly concave base.				0046	
0046	0045		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand and gravel.			0045		03
0047	-		Finds		Surface finds recovered during initial cleaning of 0035, 0037 and 0039.					
0048	0048	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.5m wide and 0.88m deep. Moderate sloping upper sides with a steep sided central gully at centre.				0058	
0049	0048	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0048. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and heavy root disturbance. 0.32m thick.			0056		

Context	Feature	Component	Type	Category	Description	Cuts	Cutby	Over	Under	Sample no
0050	0050	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.16m wide and 0.46m deep. Moderate sloping, concave sides with a flat base. Central deeper gully identified in other sections of ring ditch is absent.				0051	
0051	0050	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0050. Mid orange/brown silty sand with flint gravel. 0.46m thick.			0050	0052	
0052	0050	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0050. Mid grey/brown silty/sand with occcasional flints. 0.22m thick.			0051		
0053	0053	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059 against northern site edge. 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep. Moderate sloping upper sides, steepening towards centre although the deep gully seen in other sections is only hinted at here.				0055	
0054	0053	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0053. Mid brown silty sand with occasional flints.		0055			
0055	0053	0059	Ditch	Fill	Lower fill of ring ditch cut 0053. Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel, 0.4m thick.			0053	0054	04
0056	0048	0059	Ditch	Fill	Central fill of ring ditch cut 0048. Mid brown silty sand with flint gravel. Some root disturbance. Up to 0.26m thick.			0057	0049	
0057	0048	0059	Ditch	Fill	Central fill of ring ditch cut 0048. Mid/light orange/brown silty sand with flint gravel. Some root disturbance. Up to 0.24m thick.			0058	0056	
0058	0048	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0048. Mid/light orange/brown silty sand and flint gravel, very hard to differentiate from natural subsoil. Derived from initial slumping and erosion of ditch cut, infilling the deep central gully.			0048	0057	
0059		0059	Ditch		Circular ring ditch enclosing an area c.23m in diameter. 80% visible on the site, northern part lies under site edge but assumed to be a complete circle. Originally identified as 0011 in evaluation. C.30% excavated in eight sections, see cuts 0048, 0050, 0053, 0060, 0070, 0076, 0088 and 0100.					
0060	0060	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.85m wide and 1m deep. Moderate sloping upper sides with a steeper sided central gully at centre.				0063	
0061	0060	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0060. Mid orange/brown silty sand with occasional flints and charcoal flecks. 0.34m thick. Frequent root disturbance.			0062		
0062	0060	0059	Ditch	Fill	Light/mid orange/brown sandy silt and flint gravel. Up to 0.44m thick, root disturbance.			0063	0061	05
0063	0060	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0060. Light orange/brown sandy silt and gravel. Very hard to differentiate from natural subsoil. Derived from initial erosion and slumping of ditch cut. Up to 0.2m thick.			0060	0062	
0064	0064		Pit	Cut	Irregular oval pit cut in south-west quadrant of ring ditch interior. Steep/moderate sides and a concave base. Measured 0.8m by 0.7m and 0.3m deep. Uncertain if a man-made or natural feature.				0065	

Context	Feature	Component	Type	Category	Description	Cuts	Cutby	Over	Under	Sample no
0065	0064		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand and flint gravel.			0064		
0066	0066		Pit	Cut	Oval pit cut in south-west quadrant of ring ditch interior. Gentle/moderate sides and a concave base. Measured 1.1m by 0.5m and 0.25m deep. Uncertain if a man-made or natural feature, very similar to 0064 and other evaluation features.				0067	
0067	0066		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand and flint gravel.			0066		
0068	0068	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of linear ditch 0122. Up to 1.4m wide and and 0.3m deep. Gentle sloping sides and concave base.	0071, 0072			0069	
0069	0068	0122	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints and charcoal flecks. Some of the finds material is possibly redeposited from ditch 0059.			0068		
0070	0070	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.1m wide and 0.76m deep. Moderate sloping upper sides with a steep sided central gully at centre.				0086	
0071	0070	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0070. Mid grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints. Heavy root disturbance.		0068	0072		07
0072	0070	0059	Ditch	Fill	Central fill of ring ditch cut 0070. Mid brown silty sand with orange sand mottling and dense flint gravel, 0.3m thick. Some root disturbance.		0068	0073	0071	08
0073	0070	0059	Ditch	Fill	Light/mid brown/orange silty sand and flint gravel, up to 0.2m thick. Hard to differentiate from natural subsoil and probably derives from slumping and erosion of ditch sides.			0086	0072	
0074	0074		Pit	Cut	Shallow oval pit near centre of ring ditch. Measured 1.8m by 0.7m and 0.3m deep. Moderate/gentle sloping sides and concave base. Unclear if natural or man-made feature. No indication that it is a central grave for the ring ditch.				0075	
0075	0074		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand and flint gravel.			0074		06
0076	0076	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.25m wide and 0.7m deep. Moderate sloping upper sides with a steep sided central gully at centre, although not as distinct as seen in other sections.				0077	
0077	0076	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0077. Mid orange/brown silty sand and flint gravel, hard to differentiate from natural subsoil. Initial slumping infill of feature. 0.22m thick.			0076	0078	
0078	0076	0059	Ditch	Fill	Central fill of ring ditch cut 0077. Mid brown silty sand and flint gravel, 0.29m thick.		0079	0077	0081	
0079	0079	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of linear ditch 0122. 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep. Moderate sloping sides, flat base.	0078, 0081			0080	
0080	0079	0122	Ditch	Fill	Pale grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0079		
0081	0076	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0077. Mid brown silty sand andoccasional flints, 0.13m thick.		0079	0078		
0082	0082	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch 0122. Partially seen in section 17.	0084			0083	

Context	Feature	Component	Type	Category	Description	Cuts	Cutby	Over	Under	Sample no
0083	0082	0122	Ditch	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0082		
0084	0085		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional flints.		0082	0085		
0085	0085		Pit	Cut	Oval pit, aligned north-west to south-east. c.1.6m long, other dimensions unclear. Moderate sloping sides and flat base.				0084	
0086	0070	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0070. Light/mid orange/brown silty sand and flint gravel, 0.08m thick. Initial slumping deposit at very base of ditch, hard to distinguish from natural subsoil.			0070	0073	
0087	0068		Finds		Fragment of CBM recovered from fill 0069 of ditch cut 0068.					
0088	0088	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.4m wide and 0.9m deep. Moderate sloping, flat upper sides with a steep sided central gully at centre, flat base, partially under site edge.				0089	
0089	0088	0059	Ditch	Fill	Basal fill of ring ditch cut 0088. Mid yellow/brown sand and flint gravel, very hard to distinguish from natural subsoil, infilling the central trench. Probably derived from natural erosion/slumping of ditch cut.			0088	0090	
0090	0088	0059	Ditch	Fill	Mid fill of ring ditch cut 0088. Mid brown sand and dense flint gravel.			0089	0091	
0091	0088	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0088. Mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional flints and tree root disturbance.			0090		
0092	0093		Pit	Fill	Mid orange/brown silty sand and occasional flints.		0095	0093		
0093	0093		Pit	Cut	Possible pit, shape unclear in plan, irregular profile.				0092	
0094	0095		Pit	Fill	Mid red/brown silty sand and frequent flints.			0095		
0095	0095		Pit	Cut	Same feature as pit 0085.	0092			0094	
0096	0096		Pit	Cut	Irregular pit in north part of ring ditch interior. Measured c.2m long, 1m wide and 0.45m deep with an irregular profile. Heavily disturbed by tree roots. Unclear if a natural or man-made feature.				0097	
0097	0096		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0096		
0098	0098	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of linear ditch 0122. 1.3m wide and 0.44m deep, gentle sloping sides and slightly concave base.	0101, 0102			0099	
0099	0098	0122	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with occasional flints and charcoal flecks.			0098		
0100	0100	0059	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ring ditch 0059. 1.4m wide and 0.7m deep. Moderate sloping, flat upper sides with a steep sided central gully at centre, concave base.				0103	
0101	0100	0059	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of ring ditch cut 0100. Mid orange/brown sandy silt with occasional flints, 0.2m thick.		0098	0102		
0102	0100	0059	Ditch	Fill	Mid fill of ring ditch cut 0100. Mid orange/brown sandy silt and flint gravel, 0.3m thick.		0098	0103	0101	09

Context	Feature	Component	Type	Category	Description	Cuts	Cutby	Over	Under	Sample no
0103	0100	0059	Ditch	Fill	Light orange/yellow silty sand and flint gravel, 0.2m thick. Initial slumping/erosion deposit, hard to differentiate from natural subsoil.			0100	0102	
0104	0104		Pit	Cut	Oval pit in southern part of ring ditch interior. Aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 1.6m by 0.8m and 0.3m deep. Substantially over-excavated as heavy root disturbance had mixed material with underlying natural subsoil. Unclear if a natural or man-made feature.				0105	
0105	0104		Pit	Fill	Pale grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0104		10
0106	0106		Pit	Cut	Possible pit in south part of ring ditch interior. Irregular oval in plan, aligned north-east to south-west. Measured 0.9m wide, 1.8m long and 0.46m deep, irregular profile. Unclear if a natural or man-made feature.				0107	
0107	0106		Pit	Fill	Mid/dark orange/brown silty sand with occasional flints. Tree root disturbance.			0106		11
0108	0109		Pit	Fill	Dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints and small amount of burnt flint.		0111	0109		
0109	0109		Pit	Cut	Shallow pit, shape unclear in plan but possibly oval and aligned north-east to south-west.				0108	
0110	0111	0122	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0111		
0111	0111	0122	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch 0122. Partially seen in section 25.	0108			0110	
0112		0122	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0122 between sections 17 and 22.					
0113		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between site edge and section 22.					
0114		0122	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0122 between sections 15 and 22.					
0115		0059/0122	Finds		Mixed surface finds from ditches 0059 and 0122 between sections 13 and 15.					
0116	0116		Buried soil	Layer	Buried soil layer under topsoil as seen in baulk section 27.					
0117		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between sections 13 and 19.					
0118		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between sections 10 and 19.					
0119		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between sections 09 and 10.					
0120		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between sections 08 and 09.					
0121		0059	Finds		Surface finds from ditch 0059 between sections 07 and 08.					
0122		0122	Ditch		Linear ditch, aligned north-west to south-east, running across site and cutting the south-west side of ring ditch 0059. See cuts 0041, 0068, 0079, 0082, 0098 and 0111. Originally identified in evaluation as 0028.					

Appendix 2. Bulk finds

Context	Pottery		CBM		Post med bottle		Slag		Nails		Worked flint		Burnt flint		Animal bone		Shell		Spotdate
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
0031					1	1					6	11	20	29					
0031											6	64							
0032											8	109							
0036											4	14							
0038											5	123							
0042									2	1			11	18	1	1			
0042											6	20							
0044	1	12																	Late 12th to 14th C
0046			1	1									14	97	1	1			
0047							1	4			5	140	2	41					
0049	3	5									306	9150	3	204					Late 12th to 14th C
0051											1	9							
0052			1	20	1	2					50	781							
0055											5	7	4	6					
0055											31	535							
0061	1	8									60	762	1	7					BA to IA
0062											1	8							
0062													2	7					
0069	1	39	6	252							15	195			1	29			Late 13th to early 14th C
0071											13	478							
0071											7	18	1	4					

Context	Pottery		CBM		Post med bottle		Slag		Nails		Worked flint		Burnt flint		Animal bone		Shell		Spotdate
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
0072											1	24							
0075													9	8					
0080	1	36	1	24							4	75							Late 14th to early 16th C
0081			1	1							15	474					1	2	
0087			1	26															
0091											6	37							
0099			9	262							1	34			3	51			
0101											17	124							
0102											13	26							
0105											2	22							
0107											2	10							
0107													3	26					
0112			3	53															
0113											2	96							
0114											10	196							
0115									1	3	6	295							
0116	1	6																	Late 12th to 14th C
0117											12	344							
0118	1	1									23	353							BA to IA
0119	2	20	1	16							1	11							Late 12th to 14th C
0120							1	9	1	4	5	86							
0121											4	66							

Appendix 3. Pottery

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range
0044	Medieval	MCW	Body	1	12	Sli	Slightly sooted	Late 12th to 14th C
0049	Medeival	MCW	Body	3	5	Sli	All sherd join. Predominatly quartz in fabric	Late 12th to 14th C
0061	Prehistoric	HMG	Body	1	8	Very	Soapy, could be Iron Age	BA to IA
0069	Medieval	HOLG	Body	1	39	Sli	Shallow thumb, notch groove decoration, glazed.	Late 13th to early 14th C
0080	Late medieval	GSW3	Mug/tankard	1	36	Sli	Ref Jennings p114	Late 14th to early 16th C
0116	Medieval	BSW	Body	1	6	Sli	Abundant quartz, sparse mica and grog	Late 12th to 14th C
0118	Prehistoric	HMF	Body	1	1	Abr	Less than one gram. Likely LBA-EIA	BA to IA
0119	Medieval	UPG	Bowl	2	20	Abr	Unusual bowl form	Late 12th to 14th C

Appendix 4: Flint by context

Context	Type	Quantity
0031	blade	2
0031	core trimming flake	1
0031	blade-like flake	1
0031	flake	1
0031	spall	1
0032	blade-like flake	2
0032	flake	5
0032	utilised flake	1
0036	blade-like flake	2
0036	flake	2
0038	core tablet	1
0038	crested blade	1
0038	flake	1
0038	shatter	2
0042	blade	1
0042	chip	1
0042	flake	2
0042	retouched flake	1
0042	utilised flake	1
0047	blade	2
0047	core fragment	1
0047	flake	2
0049	core fragment	1
0049	core fragment	2
0049	multi platform flake core	1
0049	blade-like flake	1
0049	flake	54
0049	flake	100
0049	shatter	51
0049	shatter	52
0049	spall	8
0049	scraper	1
0049	struck fragment	12
0049	struck fragment	23
0051	non-struck fragment	1
0052	flake	39
0052	shatter	7
0052	non-struck fragment	2
0052	utilised blade	2
0055	flake	26
0055	shatter	1
0055	spall	1
0055	retouched flake	1
0055	struck fragment	1
0055	utilised flake	1
0061	blade	1
0061	blade-like flake	1
0061	flake	50
0061	shatter	4
0061	spall	1
0061	piercer	1
0061	spurred piece	1

Context	Type	Quantity
0061	struck fragment	1
0062	non-struck fragment	1
0069	flake	9
0069	spall	3
0069	retouched flake	1
0069	struck fragment	1
0069	non-struck fragment	1
0071	multi platform flake core	3
0071	flake	7
0071	struck fragment	3
0072	flake	1
0080	flake	2
0080	spall	1
0080	non-struck fragment	1
0081	blade	1
0081	flake	7
0081	shatter	3
0081	spall	1
0081	struck fragment	1
0081	non-struck fragment	2
0091	flake	3
0091	spall	1
0091	piercer	1
0099	flake	1
0101	blade	1
0101	flake	14
0101	retouched flake	1
0101	non-struck fragment	1
0113	shatter	1
0113	struck fragment	1
0114	flake	4
0114	shatter	5
0114	retouched flake	1
0115	multi platform flake core	1
0115	flake	3
0115	shatter	2
0117	flake	3
0117	shatter	6
0117	struck fragment	3
0118	flake	16
0118	shatter	1
0118	spall	2
0118	retouched flake	1
0118	struck fragment	1
0118	utilised flake	2
0119	flake	1
0120	flake	3
0120	shatter	1
0120	utilised flake	1
0121	flake	2
0121	piercer	1
0121	struck fragment	1

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Excavation

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

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

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.

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). The planning permission has been granted subject to the following condition (number 8):

No development shall take place within the site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.

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.

A trenched archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in February 2010 by SCC Archaeological Service Contracting Team (HER no. BSE 340; SCCAS Evaluation Report 2010/035). The trial trenching identified archaeological features belonging to two distinct phases of activity in the Mesolithic/Neolithic and middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age periods, within three of the evaluation trenches.

1.5 Any works causing significant ground disturbance have the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.6 In order to comply with the planning condition, the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) has been requested to provide a brief and specification for the archaeological recording of archaeological deposits that will be affected by development – archaeological mitigation in the form of

preservation by record. An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

1.7 Failure to comply with the agreed methodology may lead to enforcement action by the LPA.

2. Brief for Archaeological Investigation

2.1 An archaeological excavation, as specified in Section 3, is to be carried out prior to development:

An area measuring *c*. 825.00m^2 in size to target the archaeological remains defined in Trenches 4 and 5 of the archaeological evaluation, which is the area of house plots 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (defined on Figure 7 of the Evaluation Report).

2.2 All other groundworks, including the construction of the other dwellings, the access road, and excavation of service trenches, must be subject to continuous archaeological monitoring and recording. Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

2.3 The excavation objective will be to provide a record of all archaeological deposits which would otherwise be damaged or removed by development, including services and landscaping permitted by the consent. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation.

2.4 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects,* 1991 (*MAP2*). Excavation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential for analysis and publication. Analysis and final report preparation will follow assessment and will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design.

2.5 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 SCCAS/CT (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443). The work must not commence until both the archaeological contractor and the WSI have been approved for the work.

2.6 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, the assessment of the findings, analysis and reporting, and archiving – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

2.7 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met; an important aspect of the WSI will be an assessment of the project in relation to the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology* Occasional Papers 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment', and 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy').

2.8 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 SCCAS/CT before execution.

2.9 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on archaeological field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2.10 All arrangements for the excavation 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.

2.11 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3. Specification for the Archaeological Excavation

The excavation methodology is to be agreed in detail before the project commences. Certain minimum criteria will be required:

3.1 Topsoil and subsoil deposits must be removed to the top of the first archaeological level by an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist.

3.2 If the machine stripping is to be undertaken by the main contractor, all machinery must keep off the stripped areas until they have been fully excavated and recorded, in accordance with this specification. Full construction work must not begin until excavation has been completed and formally confirmed by SCCAS/CT.

3.3 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.4 All features which are, or could be interpreted as, structural must be fully excavated. Post-holes and pits must be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (e.g. yards and floors) must be fully exposed and cleaned. Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

3.5 All other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date and function. For guidance:

a) A minimum of 50% of the fills of the general features is be excavated (in some instances 100% may be requested).

b) 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (ditches, etc) are to be excavated (min.). The samples must be representative of the available length of the feature and

must take into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature and any concentrations of artefacts. For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width.

3.6 Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement [if necessary on site] with a member of SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

3.7 Collect and prepare environmental bulk samples (for flotation and analysis by an environmental specialist). The fills of all archaeological features should be bulk sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains and assessed by an appropriate specialist. The WSI must provide details of a comprehensive sampling strategy for retrieving and processing biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations and also for absolute dating), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. All samples should be retained until their potential has been assessed. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser in 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 A finds recovery policy is to be agreed before the project commences. It should be addressed by the WSI. Sieving of occupation levels and building fills will be expected.

3.9 Use of a metal detector will form an essential part of finds recovery. 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. No discard policy will be considered until the whole body of finds has been evaluated.

3.11 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts to be cleaned and processed concurrently with the excavation to allow immediate evaluation and input into decision making.

3.12 Metal artefacts must be stored and managed on site in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines* and evaluated for significant dating and cultural implications before despatch to a conservation laboratory within four weeks of excavation.

3.13 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of remains following study and analysis will be required in the WSI.

3.14 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally 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/high resolution digital images, and documented in a photographic archive.

3.16 Excavation record keeping is to be consistent with the requirements the County Historic Environment Record and compatible with its archive. Methods must be agreed with 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.

4.2 Monitoring of the archaeological work will be undertaken by SCCAS/CT. A decision on the monitoring required will be made by SCCAS/CT on submission of the accepted WSI.

4.3 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors). 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.

4.4 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example, in the form of an open day and/or local public lecture and/or presentation to local schools.

4.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Specification.

4.6 A detailed risk assessment and management strategy must be presented for this particular site.

4.7 The WSI must include proposed security measures to protect the site and both excavated and unexcavated finds from vandalism and theft.

4.8 Provision for the reinstatement of the ground and filling of dangerous holes must be detailed in the WSI. However, trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4.9 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.10 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this specification are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Archive Requirements

5.1 Within four weeks of the end of field-work a written timetable for post-excavation work must be produced, which must be approved by SCCAS/CT. Following this a written statement of progress on post-excavation work whether archive, assessment, analysis or final report writing will be required at three monthly intervals.

5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a Historic Environment Record number for the work. This number will be unique for the site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.3 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principle of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (*MAP2*), particularly Appendix 3. However, the detail of the archive is to be fuller than that implied in *MAP2* Appendix 3.2.1. The archive is to be sufficiently detailed to allow comprehension and

further interpretation of the site should the project not proceed to detailed analysis and final report preparation. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for lodgement in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.

5.4 A complete copy of the site record archive must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record. All record drawings of excavated evidence are to be presented in drawn up form, with overall site plans. All records must be on an archivally stable and suitable base.

5.6 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute Conservators Guidelines.

5.7 The site archive quoted at *MAP2* Appendix 3, must satisfy the standard set by the "Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels" of the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993).

5.8 Pottery should be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with 6.3 above, i.e. *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication,* Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occ Paper 1 (1991, rev 1997), the *Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery*, Study Group Roman Pottery (ed M G Darling 1994) and the *Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Group* (in draft).

5.9 All coins must be identified and listed as a minimum archive requirement.

5.10 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.

5.11 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.12 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

5.13 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 proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.14 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project, 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 journal, must be prepared and 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.

5.15 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

Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.16 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.

5.17 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

6. Report Requirements

6.1 An assessment report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided consistent with the principle of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4. The report must be integrated with the archive.

6.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

6.3 An important element of the report will be a description of the methodology.

6.4 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.

6.5 Provision should be made to assess the potential of scientific dating techniques for establishing the date range of significant artefact or ecofact assemblages, features or structures.

6.6 The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record.

6.7 The report will give an opinion as to the potential and necessity for further analysis of the excavation data beyond the archive stage, and the suggested requirement for publication; it will refer to the Regional Research Framework (see above, 2.5). Further analysis will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. Analysis and publication can be neither developed in detail nor costed in detail until this brief and specification is satisfied. However, the developer should be aware that there is a responsibility to provide a publication of the results of the programme of work.

6.8 The assessment report must be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

6.9 The involvement of SCCAS/CT should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

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This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.