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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/059

Alexandra House, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds BSE 343

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M. Muldowney
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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/0021

Date of Fieldwork: 10th and 11th March 2010

Grid Reference: TL 844 636

Funding Body: Suffolk County Council Property Division

Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Mo Muldowney

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1_75712

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out on land at Alexandra House, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds identified three ditches of probable Iron Age date and a post-medieval hedgeline. Two sherds of pottery found within natural cracks in the chalk geology and a third stratified sherd, dated these features to the Iron Age.

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1. Introduction

An evaluation was carried out at Alexandra House, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds ahead of a proposed redevelopment of the current building and site (Planning application number SE/09/0021). The work was carried out on 10th and 11th March 2010 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

Alexandra House is located near the west end of Hospital Road, between South Close and Westgarth Gardens, south of the present cemetery and lies less than 1km to the south-west of the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

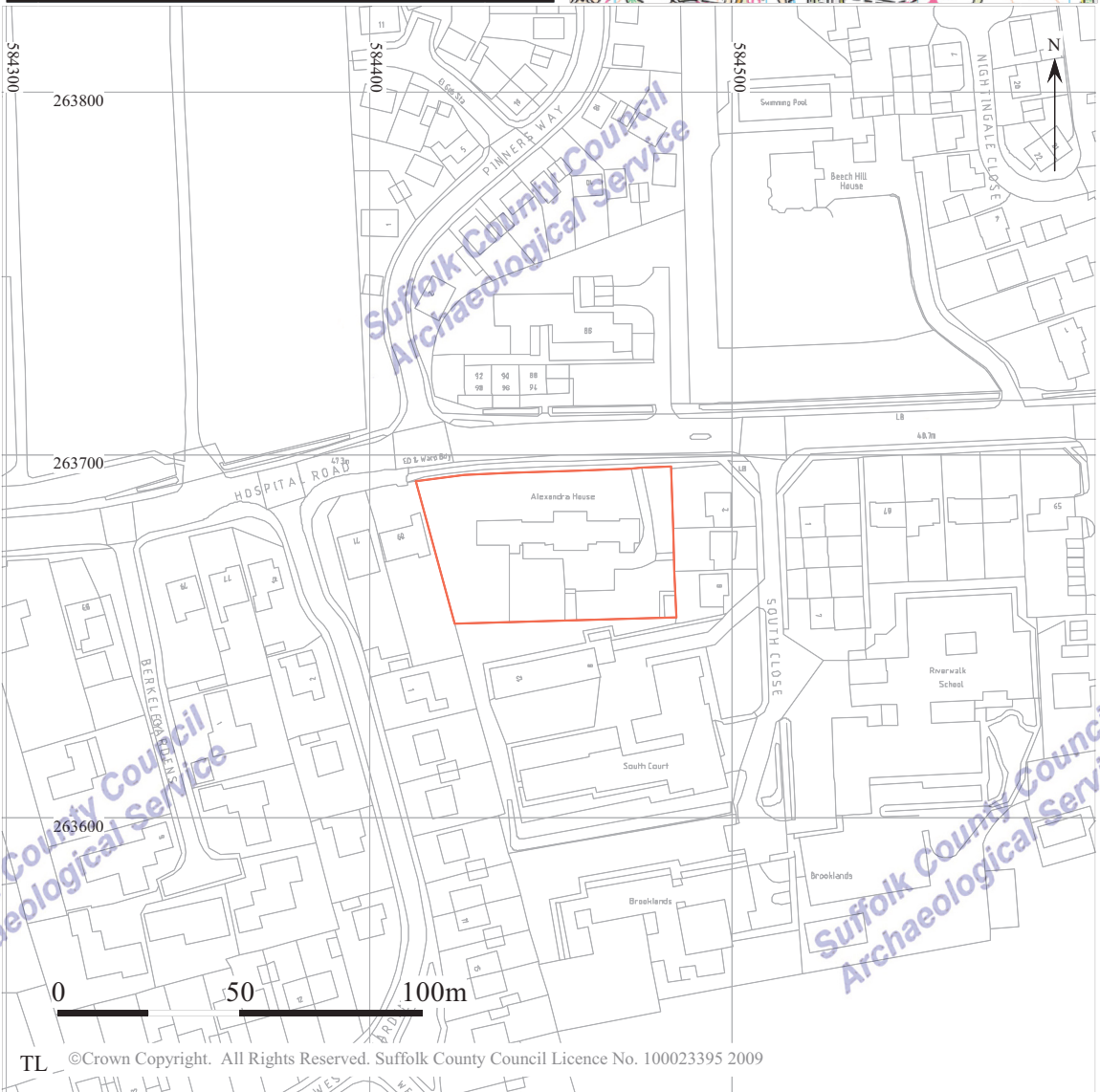
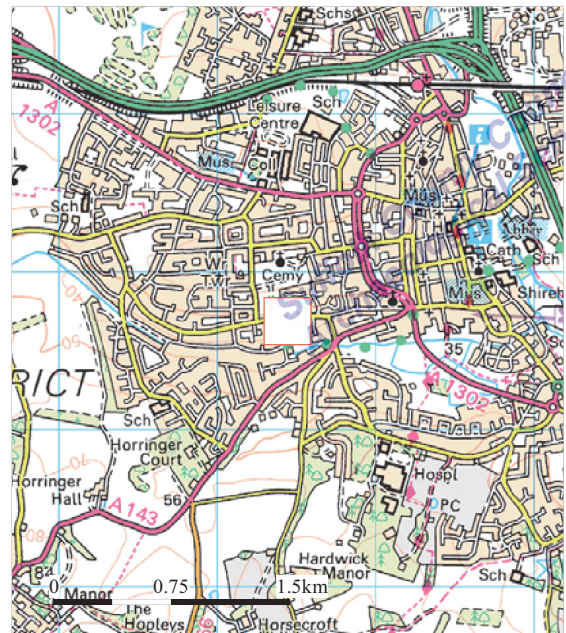
The development area overlies chalk and lies at approximately 47m OD on the side of the south-facing valley overlooking the River Linnet. At this point, the land slopes downwards from north to south from approximately 47m OD to 44m OD.

Alexandra House stands in the north half of the development area, with a grassed area at the front and in the west half of the rear. The remainder of ground surface is tarmac. The site is fenced on all sides with additional trees and shrubs around the edges. At the time of works Alexandra House was unoccupied.

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are very few HER entries in close proximity to the subject site and all are post-medieval or undated, with the exception of BSE 030, an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which lies 300m to the south-west. The post-medieval/undated entries are all located to the east of the development area and are at least 300m distant. These include BSE 186, the site of Stamford Bridge over the River Linnet, BSE 103, a limekiln and chalk pit and BSE 102, mines at Jacqueline Close.

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Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to four trenches, each 1.8m wide, with a total length of 75m. The trenches were of differing lengths depending on access and space limitations on site and were excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was kept of all features and deposits on both black and white film and a high resolution digital camera (314 dpi).

The evaluation trenches were surveyed where possible (due to poor signal under the trees at the west edge of the site), and levels established using a Leica GPS.

Three environmental samples were taken.

No metal-detecting was carried out.

A digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service:

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

5. Results

The evaluation identified three ditches oriented approximately north-north-east to south-south-west, a post-medieval hedgeline and a number of natural disturbances in the chalk (Fig. 2). The archaeological remains were identified in each of the four trenches (Figs. 3 and 4). Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 2, and details of each trench are presented in Table 1, below.

All features truncated the natural chalk 0019, which was poor in quality and contained a series of linear and sub-circular dark orange brown silt clay patches. This material was

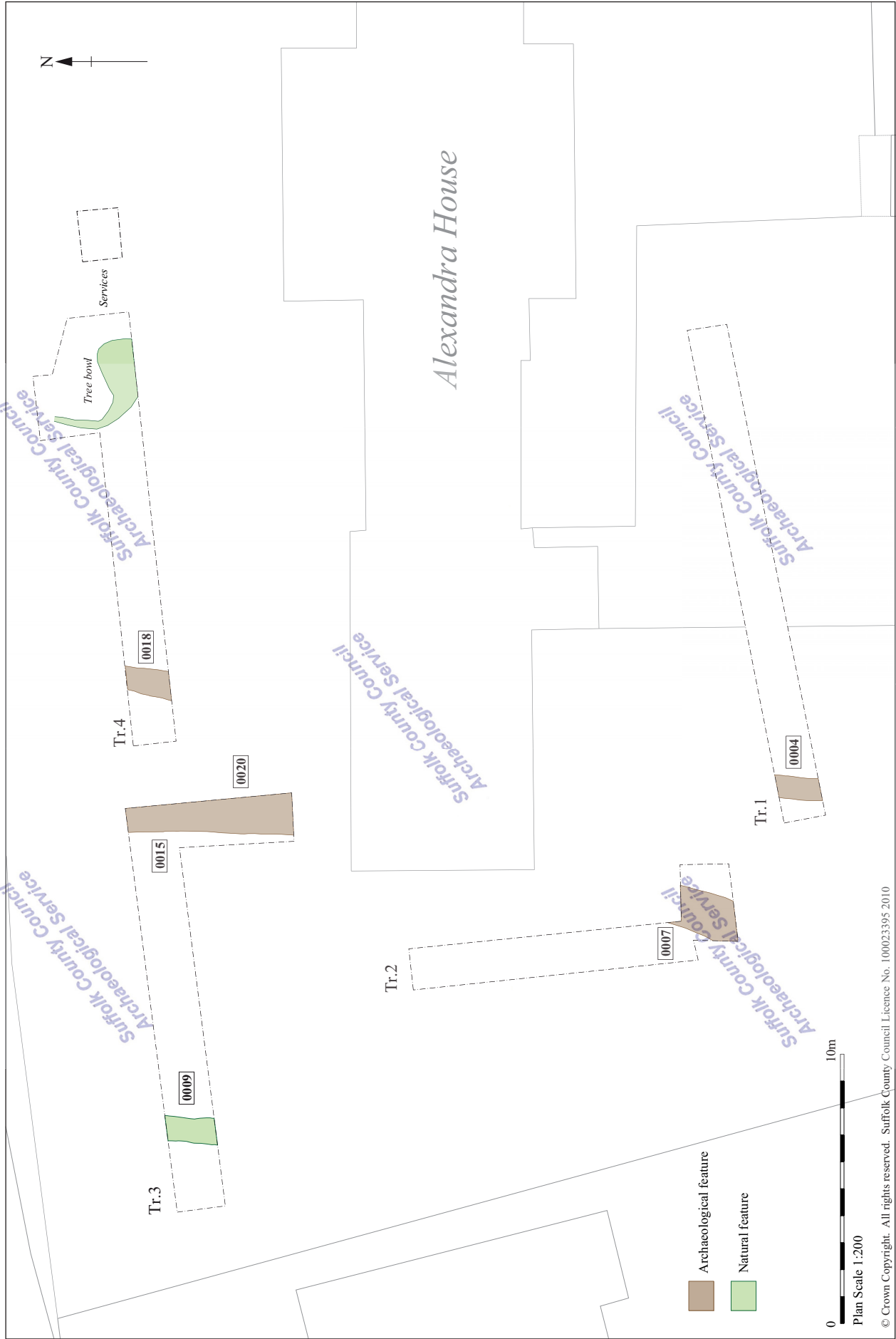


Figure 2. Trench plans

derived by non-anthropological processes, although in two instances a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered (see below).

Ditch 0015 was the earliest feature and identified in Trench 3 only. It was re-cut by ditch 0007/0020, see below. It was located at the west end of Trench 3 and seen in section only. It was +0.66m wide by 0.30m deep and had a concave base. The full profile was not visible due to the truncation. Two fills were identified, from which no finds were recovered.

Ditch 0007/0020 was seen in Trench 2 and Trench 3 and was at 1.4m and the depth was 0.6m. It was approximately +1.44m wide by 0.46m deep. It had a v-shaped profile with, wide splaying upper edges and a slightly concave base and contained no more than two fills. Flint and ten fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Ditch 0004/0018 was the westernmost of the ditches and was identified in Trench 1 and Trench 4. It was at least 28m in length, and no more than 0.90m wide by 0.32m deep. It had a regular, steep-sided, flat-based profile and contained a single fill towards the south end and two at the north end. The fills were similar mid-to-dark orange brown silty clay, although the earlier of the two contained a slightly increased chalk content. A single sherd of pottery, animal bone and flint were recovered.

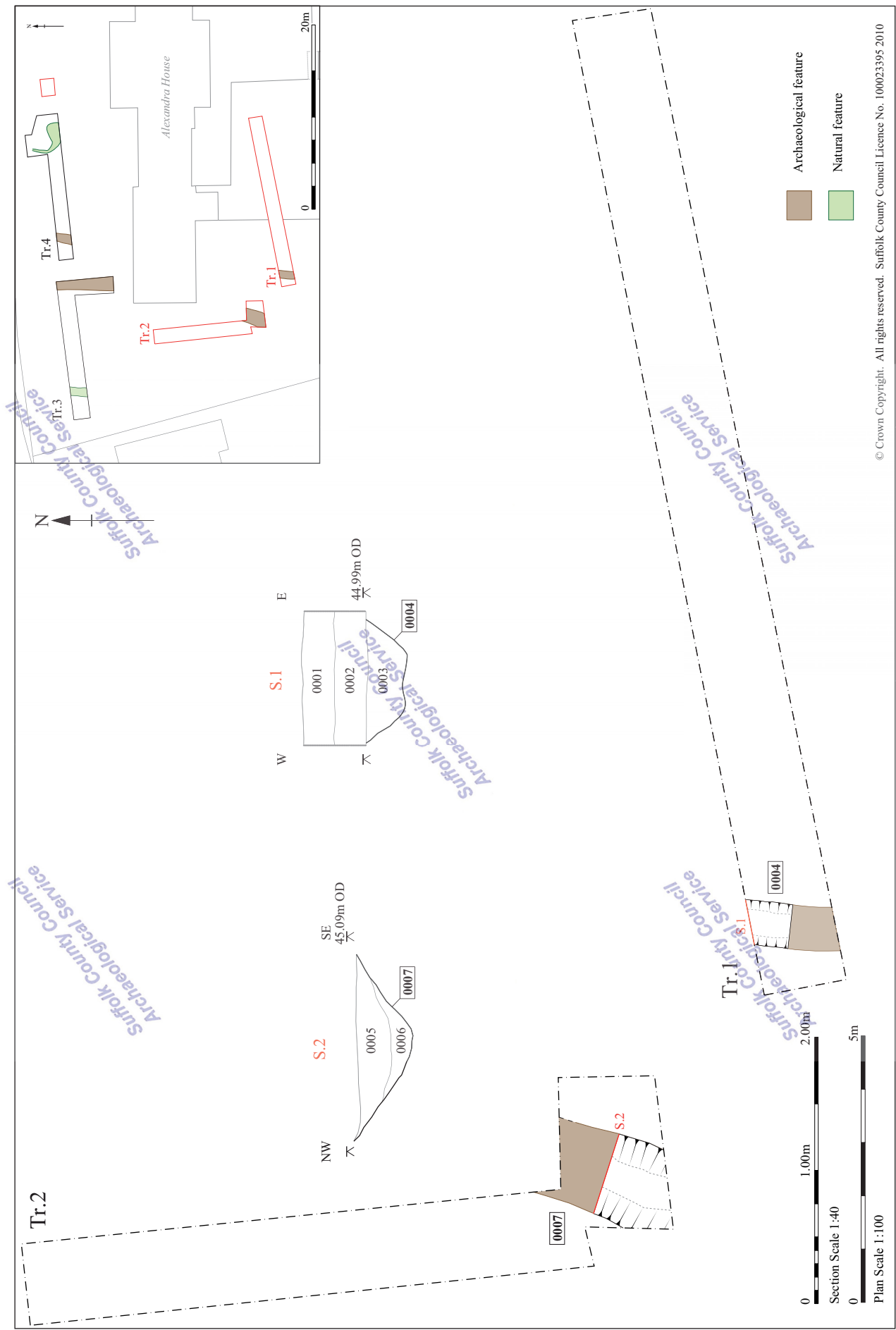
Hedgeline 0009 was located 2.50m from the west end of Trench 1. It shared the same orientation as the ditches, but was filled by the overlying subsoil. In contrast to the smooth edges of the ditches, hedgeline 0009 had very uneven, undulating sides and base. A small quantity of post-medieval brick and tile fragments were recovered from fill 0008.

Natural feature 0011 was located at the east end of Trench 4 and was originally thought to be a ring ditch. After extending the trench to expose its full extent, it became clear that the feature was instead formed by root action or frost cracking. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered.

All features were overlain by subsoil 0002. It was recorded as having an average depth of 0.22m and was present in all four trenches. The uppermost deposit was topsoil 0001, which was up to 0.28m deep.

Trench number	Feature number	Length (m)	Total depth (m)	Height top (m OD)	Height base (m OD)
1	0004	19.30	0.51	45.45	44.98
2	0007	10.25 + 2.10 (ext)	0.54	45.59	45.31
3	0009; 0015; 0020	15.10 + 4.30 (ext)	0.54	46.85	45.96
4	0018	15.80 + 2.20 (ext)	0.48	46.85	46.28

Table 1. Trench data



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Figure 3. Trenches 1 and 2, plans and sections

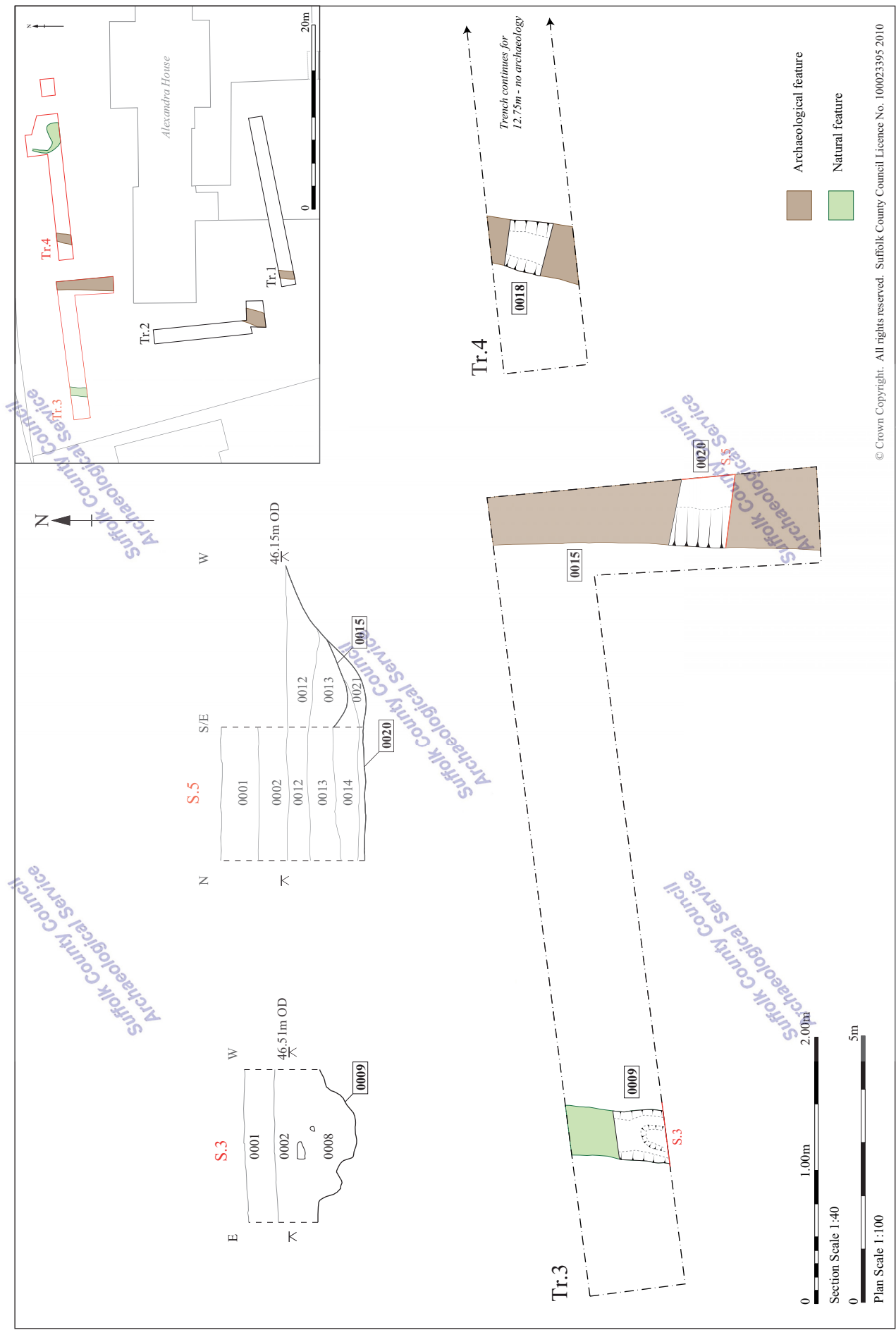


Figure 4. Trenches 3 and 4, plans and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Cathy Tester

6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Trench No	Pottery		Flint		Animal bone		CBM		Spotdate
		No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	1			1	83					-
0006	2			1	4					-
0008	2			1	20	2	8	4	185	PMed
0010	3	1	9							IA
0012	4			1	72	5	66			-
0013	3					5	3			-
0016	4	1	1	1	8	2	1			Preh
0019 (U/S)	4	1	7							LIA
Total		3	17	5	187	14	78	4	185	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Three small sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery were recovered. A single bodysherd with angular grey and white flint (up to 2mm) and abundant quartz sand inclusions from natural feature 0011 (0010) in Trench 4 is Iron Age, but not closely datable. A very small sherd (<1g) of flint-tempered pottery recovered from the environmental sample from ditch 0018 (0016) in Trench 4 is prehistoric but not closely datable. A very abraded sherd of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery containing abundant angular fragments of grey, buff and orange grog within a dark grey-brown matrix was unstratified (0019). As it appears to be a hand-made product, it probably dates from the last quarter of 1st century BC or 1st quarter of 1st century AD.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

Four fragments of CBM were collected from 'hedgeline' feature 0009 (0008) in Trench 3. The first is a fragment of Late Brick, Drury's (1993) Type LB2, (height 50mm). It is made in an orange-red fabric with creamy streaks and grog lumps and is of probable 16th to 17th century date. The other three fragments are very small and abraded (15g) and probably also post-medieval.

6.4 Flint

Colin Pendleton

Five pieces of struck flint weighing 187g were recovered from five contexts in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. The flint was recorded by type and other comments about appearance, condition and technology were noted. Descriptions by context are shown in the table below.

Ctxt	Type	No.	Notes	Date
0003	core	1	Multiplatform flake core w 3 striking platforms, simple, irregular. 25% cortex, 30% natural unaltered surface	Later Preh
0005	flake/ blade	1	A (recently) snapped flake or blade. Later prehistoric or more recent	Later Preh
0006	flake	1	Heavily patinated snapped flake w multi directional flake scars on dorsal face. (Later preh prob NEO)	Later Preh
0012	core	1	Irregular flake core or fragment of walling with a few flake scars. 1 face maybe patinated, traces of mortar on unpat faces	Preh/ Med+
0016	flake	1	Large irregular thin snapped flake. Later prehistoric or later	Later Preh

Table 2. Struck flint by context

Some of the flint appears to be later prehistoric, possibly later Bronze Age or Iron Age; other pieces appear to be more modern. An irregular flake core or fragment of walling from the top fill of ditch 0015 (0012) in Trench 3 has traces of mortar adhering to the unpatinated faces suggesting its use in a wall of medieval or later date. Its patinated surfaces could be from an earlier struck core of unknown prehistoric date.

6.5 Animal bone

Fourteen fragments of animal bone weighing 78g were collected, the majority of which was recovered from ditch 0007 in Trench 2 (0006) and ditch 0015 (0012) which is the same as ditch 0007 in Trench 3. The bone is in poor condition, eroded and rootmarked, but includes a cow mandible and teeth (0012) and a large mammal scapula (0006). In addition to these, a few small fragments including a rodent tibia (0013) were recovered from environmental samples 2 and 3.

6.6 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from three features of possible Later Iron Age or later date.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS staff 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 3 below. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous and woody roots, seeds and buds were abundant within each of the assemblages studied.

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	0010	0013	0016
Feature No.	0011	0015	0018
Feature type	Natural	Ditch	Ditch
Plant macrofossils			
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	
Fabaceae indet.	x	x	
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.			x
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x		
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x
Charred root/stem			x
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material	xxxx	xxxx	xxx
Black tarry material	xxxx	xxx	xxx
Bone		x	x
Small coal frags.	xxx	xx	xxx
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x	
Vitrified material	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	20	30	30
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	<0.1	0.2
% flot sorted	100%	100%	50%

Table 3. Plant macrofossils and other remains.

Key: x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 11-50 specimens, xxx = 51-100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens

Results

Although scarce, charred plant macrofossils, including cereal grains and seeds, were present within all three assemblages. However, preservation was very poor, with all of the macrofossils noted being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded along with other grains, which were too poorly preserved for accurate identification. Small legume (Fabaceae) cotyledons were also noted along with a single medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.) seed and a fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present at a moderate density in all three assemblages.

Shells of terrestrial molluscs (not tabulated) were present throughout, although the condition of the specimens suggested that most were later intrusion within the features. Open country species were predominant, although Sample 1, from a fill within a possible ring ditch, later determined to be of natural origin, also contained a number of shells of woodland or shade loving species.

In all three assemblages, black porous and tarry residues, many of which appeared to be relatively modern in date, and small coal fragments, were predominant. It was assumed that some or all of these were intrusive within the fills. Other remains were scarce, but did include bone fragments and vitreous globules.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, all three assemblages are severely contaminated with modern roots and it would appear quite likely that the disturbance caused by these has been instrumental in introducing a number of other modern materials to the sampled deposits. As a result, it is unclear whether the few charred plant remains noted within the assemblages are contemporary, or also later in date. However, despite this issue, plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Alexandra House and it is, therefore, recommended that if further interventions are planned, additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from any well-sealed and dated contexts recorded.

6.7 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

A small assemblage of finds indicating limited activity on this site during the prehistoric and post-medieval periods was collected from eight contexts in evaluation trenches 1-4.

Prehistoric material includes struck flints of probable later prehistoric date, two sherds of Iron Age pottery which are not closely datable and a single sherd of hand-made 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware which probably dates to the last quarter of the 1st century BC or the beginning of the 1st century AD.

Later finds include a fragment of brick of 16th or 17th century date and as well as struck flint which may have been used in walling during the medieval period or later.

The plant macrofossil assemblages are severely contaminated with modern roots which are likely to have introduced other modern materials to the deposits making it unclear whether the few charred plant remains noted within the assemblages are contemporary, or also later in date.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

Three archaeological features were identified at Alexandra House and all were ditches. The fills in each were similar and in particular largely devoid of organic material. This would tend to suggest that they were prehistoric in origin, a conclusion that is supported by the three sherds of Iron Age pottery, one of which was found in natural feature 0011, one was unstratified and the third was recovered from ditch 0004/0018.

In addition, the ditches run down the valley side rather than along it, perpendicular to the east to west oriented trend of the medieval period, which had boundaries and plots leading along the valley towards the town (Tipper, pers comm). This type of alignment, running with a slope, can be more indicative of earlier practices, where the ditch or field boundary also acted as a conduit, draining water from the tops of fields into the valley base; in this instance towards the River Linnet.

Environmental samples taken from both ditches 0004 and 0015 contained a small quantity of macrofossil remains, although a high number of modern contaminants were noted. Specialist analysis has recommended that further environmental samples should be taken should any additional work take place. This is also worth bearing in mind for any future work undertaken in proximity to Alexandra House.

The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological remains are located in this area, and that they are most likely to be later prehistoric, potentially Iron Age in date. No Saxon remains were found, despite the site's proximity to an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (BSE 030). This area of town has thus far not been explored extensively for archaeological remains, but it is clear as a result of this evaluation that they are present and that there is a medium to high potential for identifying more.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. T:\Arc\ALL_site\BSE\BSE
343 Alexandra House

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: H / 79 / 2.

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Mo Muldowney and John Sims) from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mo Muldowney, and managed by David Gill.

Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and illustrations and graphics were produced by Crane Begg. Anna West processed the environmental samples. The specialist finds report was written by Cathy Tester and other specialist identification and advice was provided by Richenda Goffin, Colin Pendleton and Val Fryer. Richenda Goffin also edited the report.

10. Bibliography

- Drury, P., 1993 'Ceramic building materials', in Margeson, S., Norwich Households, East Anglian Archaeol 58, Norwich Survey, pp. 163-8.
- Stace, C., 1997 New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Plates

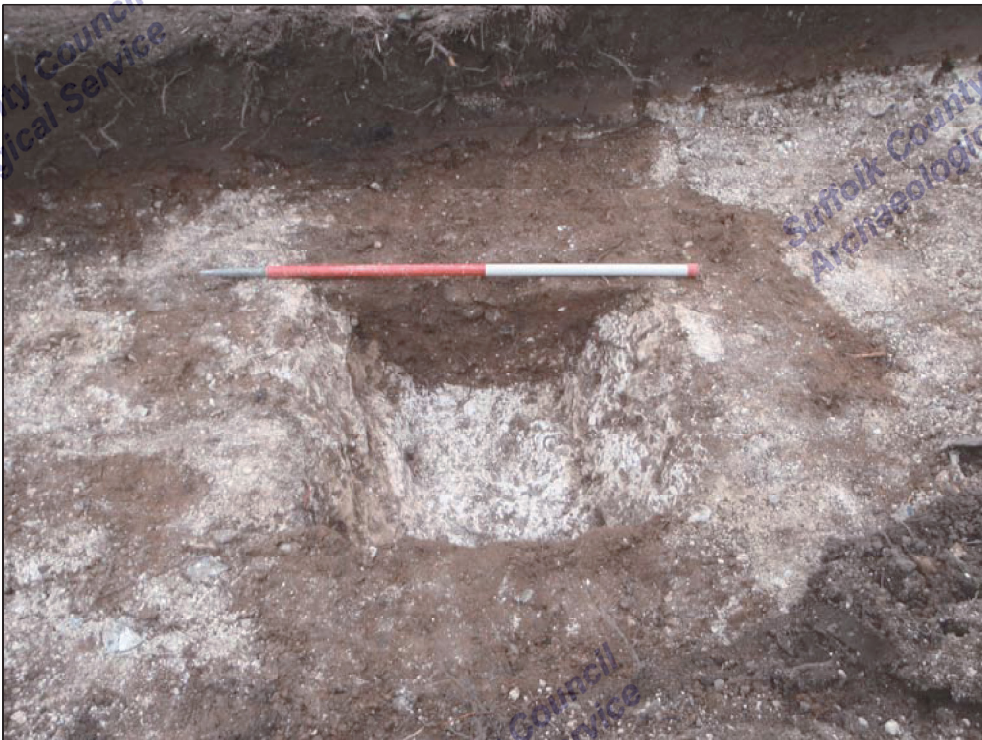


Plate 1. Trench 4: ditch 0004/0018, facing south-south-west

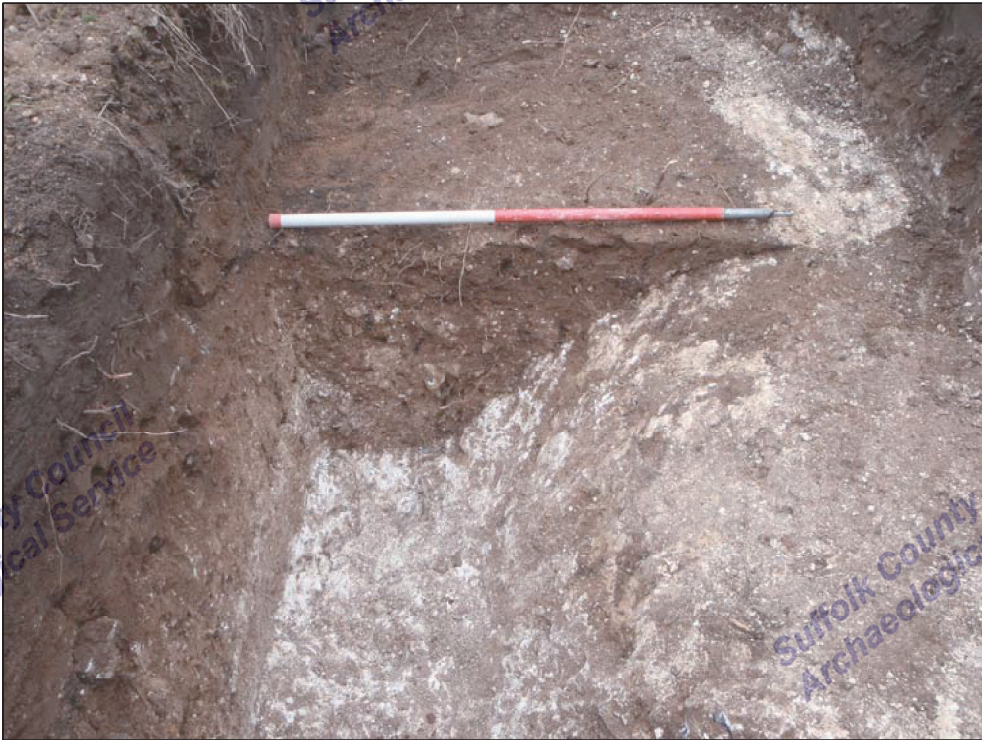


Plate 2. Trench 3: ditch 0007/0015 showing re-cut 0020, facing south-south-west

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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

ALEXANDRA HOUSE, 67a HOSPITAL ROAD, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Suffolk County Council for the construction of a facility to provide accommodation for up to 8 children (following demolition of existing 1960s Children's Home) at Alexandra House, 67a Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds (TL 844 636). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**

1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

1.3 The site (0.28 ha. in area) is located on the south side of Hospital Road at c. 45.00m AOD. The soils are loam derived from the underlying chalky drift and chalk.

1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a valley location and opposite to the site of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER no. BSE 030). There is high potential for archaeological remains to exist at this location given the proximity to known remains and the landscape setting, overlooking the River Linnet, which is topographically favourable for early occupation. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:

A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.

1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Mid Suffolk District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement

that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

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

1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches totalling 40.00m in length are to be excavated to cover the area of ground disturbance associated with the current planning application. Trenches shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

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

4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

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

4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

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

5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

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

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Date: 18 February 2010 Reference: / AlexandraHouse-BuryStEdmunds2010

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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Appendix 2. Context summary

Context Fill of	Filled by	Trench	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0001		All	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown			0.23m	Topsoil
0002		All	Deposit	Subsoil	Mid greyish orangey brown			0.22m	Subsoil
0003	0004	1	Fill	Ditch	Mid orangey brown			0.32m	Single fill of ditch
0004	0003	1	Cut	Ditch	Linear		0.9m	0.32m	N-S aligned ditch
0005	0007	2	Fill	Ditch	Mid orangey brown			0.24m	Upper fill of ditch. Heavy root disturbance.
0006	0007	2	Fill	Ditch	Pale orangey brown				Basal fill of ditch [0007]. Some root disturbance.
0007	0005; 0006	2	Cut	Ditch	Linear		1.4m	0.42m	Pre historic ditch?
0008	0009	3	Fill	Hedgeline	Dark brown			0.28m	Single fill of hedgeline of post-medieval date. Very similar/indistinguishable from subsoil (0002) - so probably the same thing.

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Trench	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0009		0008	3	Cut	Hedge/line	Linear N-S	1.00	0.28	0.28	Post-medieval hedge/line
						Very uneven, u shape. Sharp Break of slope from surface with uneven wobbly sides. Gradual break to uneven base. Undulating Friable				
0010	0011		4	Fill	Ditch	Mid brownish orange Silty clay		0.23	0.23	Chalk: occasional small-medium fragments. Angular charcoal: very rare, flecks Flint: occasional small-medium fragments. Sub-angular flat and uneven
0011		0010	4	Cut	Natural	Curvilinear	0.58	0.23	0.23	Natural rooting
						Variable. Squared at W. sharp Break of slope from surface to base. Shallow U-shape. SW gradual Break of slope from surface to base				
0012	0020		3	Fill	Ditch	Mid/dark orangey brown Silty clay		0.26	0.26	top fill of ditch - sagging subsoil
0013	0020		3	Fill	Ditch	Mid/pale orangey brown Silty clay		0.36	0.36	Main fill of ditch
						Frequent chalk flecks and nodules frequent small-large angular and medium flints Moderate flint angular and round, small-medium				
0014	0015		3	Fill	Ditch	Brownish white Silty chalk				Full extent unseen, redeposited chalk fill of ditch
0015		0014;	3	Cut	Ditch	Linear rough		0.58	0.58	Ditch. Same as 0007
						Not fully				

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Trench	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0016	0018	0021	4	Fill	Ditch	NE-SW excavated. Break of slope 45 degrees approx to convex sides. Friable			0.25	Upper fill of ditch [0018]. Less chalky but otherwise not a fantastic amount of diff between the two.
0017	0018		4	Fill	Ditch	Silty clay dark orange brown			0.12	Lower fill of ditch [0018]. Increased chalk content, suggesting partially mixed with upcast or experienced some erosion of sides. Open? Over winter? Cut of ditch. Continuation of [0004] in Trench 1 to south
0018	0016; 0017		4	Cut	Ditch	NNE-SSW Flat based V. sharp BoS from surface with steep sides, mostly straight. More gradual break to base.	0.78	0.29		
0019 0020	0012; 0013		All 3	Layer Cut	Natural Ditch	Chalk NNE-SSW Wide, v-shaped, gradual breaks of slope	1.44	0.46		Natural chalk Re-cut of ditch 0015, seen in Trench 3 and Trench 2
0021	0015		3	Fill	Ditch	Silty clay Mid brownish orange			0.12	Earliest fill of ditch 0015. Truncated by ditch 0020