

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/112

The Old Rectory, Cavendish CAV 053

R. Brooks
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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/1185

Date of Fieldwork: 28th January and 11th – 12th March, 2010

Grid Reference: TL 8063 4644

Funding Body: Mr R Bennett (architect acting on behalf of client)

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Stuart Boulter

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-78110

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

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land on the site of the Old Rectory, in Cavendish, Suffolk. Most of the footing trenches were either partially filled with concrete or heavily disturbed. Two undated cut features were recorded, one of which was large, retained water and may have been a pond. Post-medieval tile and oyster shell were also found in one soil layer, as well as unstratified late medieval/post-medieval CBM and animal bone.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the machine excavation of footing trenches for living rooms/bedrooms and alterations to the existing tearoom, and for the construction of a conservatory on the site of the former Sue Ryder care home in Cavendish, Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1), to fulfil a condition on planning application SE/09/1185, and was commissioned by the architect, Mr R Bennett, working on behalf of the client.

2. Geology and topography

The natural geology revealed in all of the trenches was a clay and gravel mixture 0011. It was compacted, and orangish-brown in colour. Above this was subsoil 0004; a dark brown, fine clean silt that was c.0.2m thick, but it survived only partially and was probably relatively recent, rather than being geological. The site was fairly level and at c.41m above the Ordnance Datum.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site is directly associated with the discovery of undated human remains, recorded as CAV 012 in the county Historic Environment Records and lies within the grounds of the Old Rectory (Figs. 1 and 4). It is also located close to the medieval Church of St Mary, which was partially constructed using Roman bricks (CAV 010). Immediately east of the church, Roman pottery, a brooch, a Spanish amphora and a terret ring were also discovered (CAV 004).

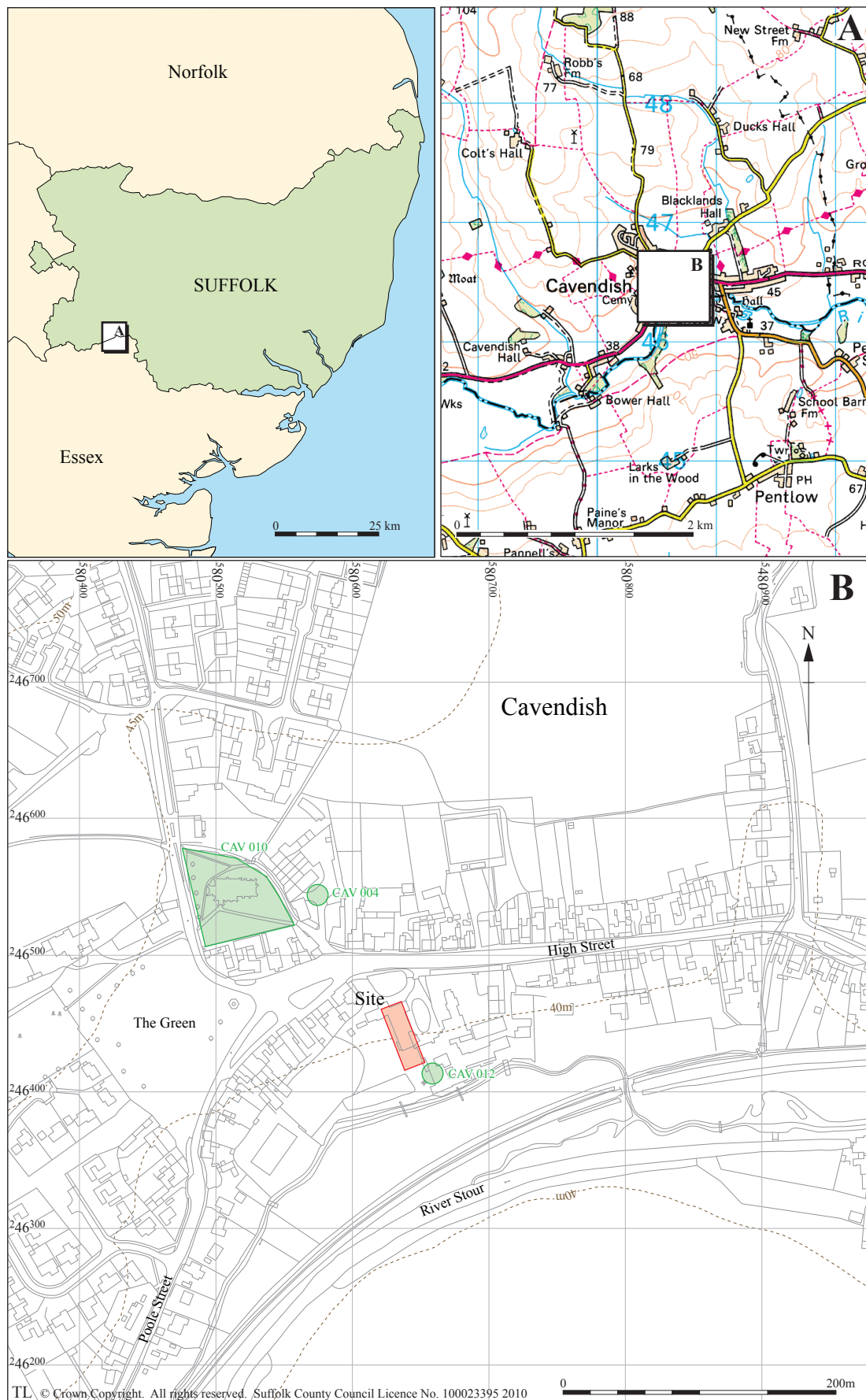


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red) and Historic Environment Record entries mentioned in the text (green)

4. Methodology

Four visits were made to the site on 28th January and 11th and 12th, March 2010, in order to monitor trenches associated with the construction of new buildings. The trenches were excavated by a mechanical digger using a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The depth of the trenches varied from 1.2-1.5m, and truncated the natural subsoil. Various soil layers as well as disturbed and modern material were removed from many of the trenches before natural subsoil and features were reached in the base of the trenches in the southern area of development. Many of the trenches in the northern development area were partially filled with concrete prior to the visit of the archaeologist and those which were not were disturbed and only photographed as a result. The southern trenches were monitored, although their depth and width made access unsafe.

The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system (Appendix 2). Plans were drawn of the southern trenches at 1:50 scale from OS points in the areas where possible features and less disturbed stratigraphy were recorded. No sections were drawn as no features were visible in the trenches before reaching the base of the trench, although measurements were taken of the soil stratigraphy. Digital colour photographs (300 x 300 dpi, JPEG format) were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive.

Site data has been input onto the MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code CAV 053. Digitised copies of plan drawings have also been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. Suffolkc1-78110) 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 archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code CAV 053.

5. Results

5.1 Northern development

The first visit to the site was to monitor the trenches within the footprint of the building that had previously occupied the northern part of the development area. Many of these

trenches had been partially filled in with concrete prior to the visit of the archaeological service and the remaining visible sections (c.0.4-0.8m deep) were consistently heavily disturbed, usually as a result of the former building's foundations.

A small number of these trenches were not filled with concrete and were c.1.2m deep. These revealed disturbed topsoil that was c.0.3m deep, above c.0.7m of heavily disturbed mid-dark orangish-brown and grey silty-sand subsoil. Natural orangish-brown stony-clay subsoil was reached at a depth of 1m below ground level. Unstratified late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone was found in the base of these trenches.

5.2 Southern development

In the area of the southern development a more varied soil stratigraphy was recorded. This was most intact in Trench 2, with 0.2m of topsoil 0001 over 0.8m of mid grey-brown clay with building debris. Below this was 0.2m of 0003, a dark grey-brown clayey-silt with oyster shell (none kept) and post-medieval CBM. The lowest layer was 0004, which was 0.2m deep and made up of dark brown, homogenous silt. Throughout the trenches associated with this phase of development, there was still a consistent level of disturbance relating to former works on the site and existing pipe trenches. The trenches varied in depth from 1-1.4m, with the natural subsoil rising gradually towards the north-west end of Trench 1 and the north-eastern ends of Trenches 4 and 5.

In the base of Trenches 1 and 2, two features were recorded. The largest was 0006, which had an unclear or possibly linear shape in plan, running roughly NNW-SSE and was first uncovered at c.1.1m below ground level and was >0.3m deep x >5.75m (NW-SE) x c.3.2m (SW-NE). It was visible in Trenches 1 and 2 and was filled with 0005; very dark grey silt. This retained a noticeably high water content, although the lack of access to the trenches made it difficult to ascertain whether the feature was actually water-logged. This feature was partially excavated in Trench 2 and produced no finds although frequent organic material was uncovered, including small wood fragments. In the NNW end of Trench 1, feature 0007 was excavated. Only one side of the feature was visible in plan and it was c.0.4m deep, being filled with dark grey clayey-silt 0008, which produced no finds. It was >1m (NW-SE) x >0.6m (SW-NE).

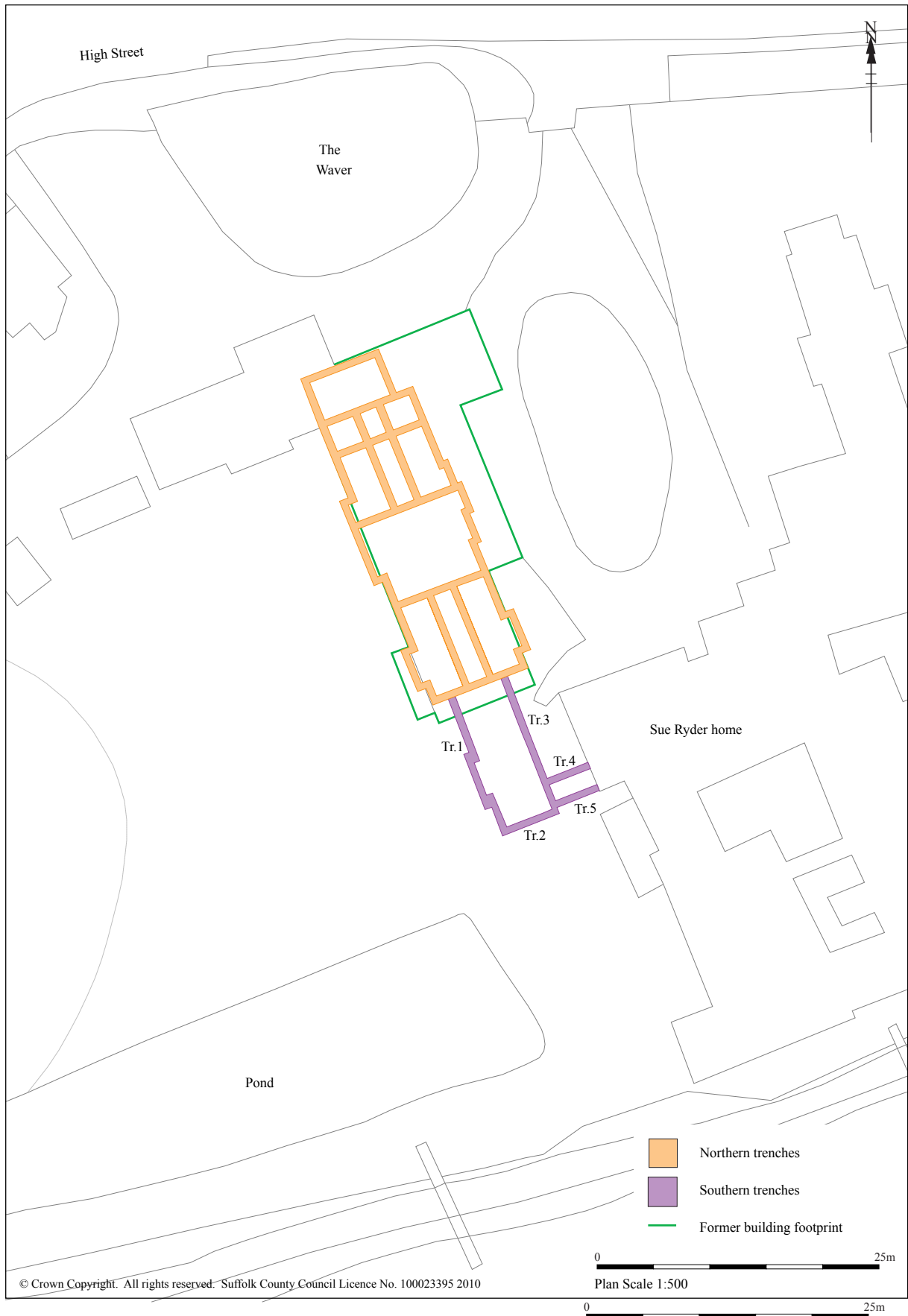


Figure 2. Trench plan

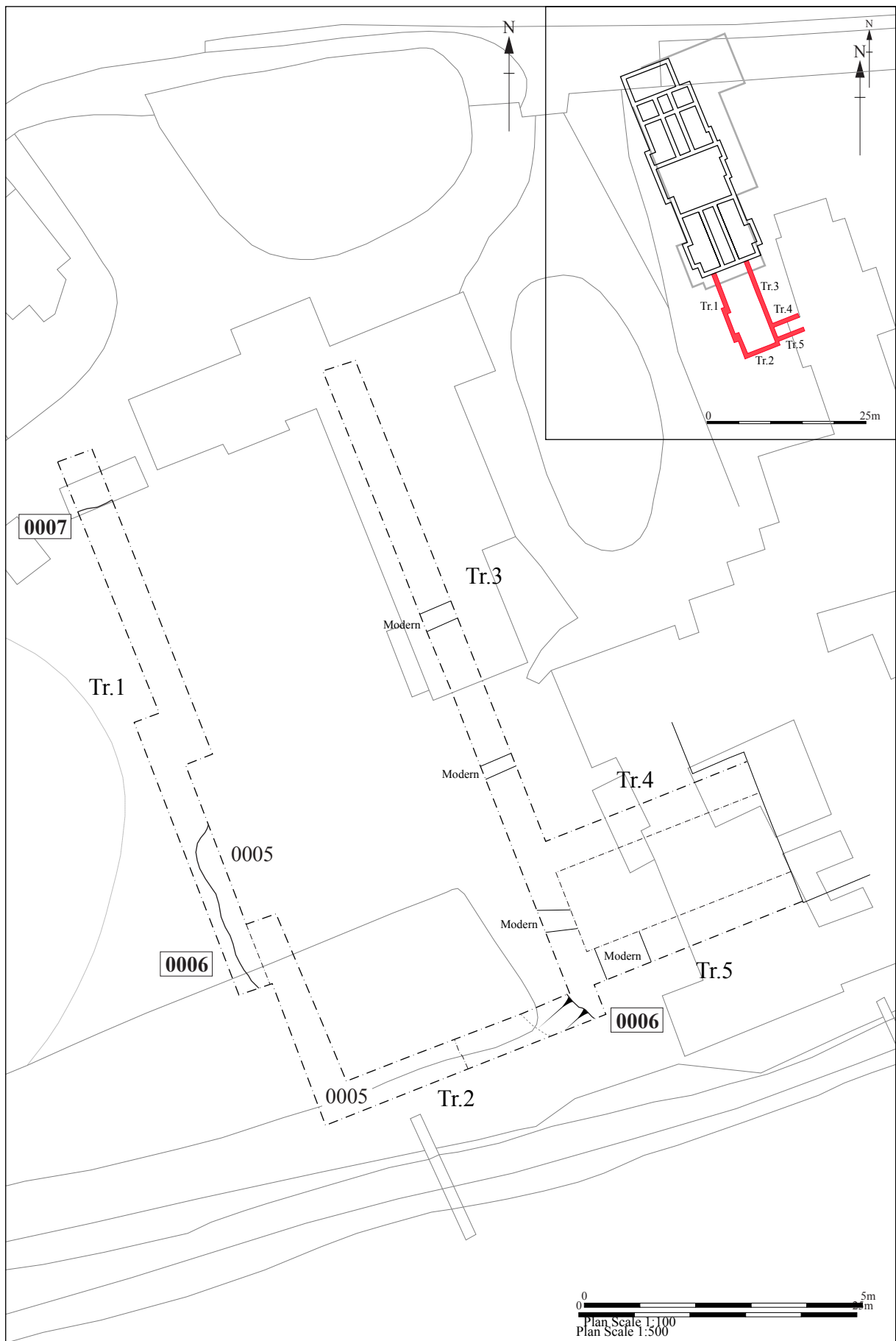


Figure 3. Plan of southern trenches

6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A total of 31 finds with a combined weight of 984g was collected from two contexts, as shown in Table 1.

Context	CBM		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	3	194			Post-medieval High/late medieval to Post-medieval
0010	3	673	25	117	
Total	6	867	25	117	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Ceramic building material

A total of six roof tile fragments with a combined weight of 867g have been recorded. With the exception of one piece, located in deposit 0010, the tile is dated to the post-medieval period. The tile as a whole only displays slight abrasion and a single example in each fill shows faint traces of mortar. All of the post-medieval tile fabrics are in a medium sandy fabric (ms), the only variation being a single example containing common ferrous inclusions (msfe). One tile fragment is dated to the medieval/early post-medieval period. This example is in a medium sandy fabric with rare flint (ms), it is oxidised and has a grey core with a depth of 25mm.

6.3 Animal bone

All of the animal bone was recovered from disturbed deposit 0010 and belongs to the same canine. The assemblage is mostly made up of spinal and rib pieces, as well as a single fragment of jaw. The colour of the bones suggests that they are likely to be of a fairly recent date.

6.4 Conclusion

This is a very small and narrow range of finds collected from two disturbed contexts and therefore of limited archaeological value.

7. Discussion

Monitoring of the groundworks revealed two cut features, several soil layers and a small assemblage of finds. Most of the trenches were either disturbed by the old building footprint or were partially filled with concrete. The 1886 Ordnance Survey map revealed that the development may well have fallen in the area of two boundaries as well as the Old Rectory (Fig. 4).

The two features within Trenches 1 and 2 are hard to interpret. They were only partially visible and only in plan, which showed 0006 as being irregular and very deep. This feature did not produce any finds, although the presence of wood within the fill of 0006 suggests that it may be relatively modern. However, if fill 0005 was truly water-logged the fill may have preserved the organic material and been significantly older. The surrounding area contains at least two ponds and a water course and this, combined with its shape and depth suggests that it may well have been another pond within the locality. Feature 0007 was only visible in a very limited area and also did not produce finds to indicate any age or function.

Finds were recovered from layer 0003 in the southern development and are of post-medieval date. Although this layer is only partially visible, the 'frequent' inclusions of oyster shell and brick suggest that this may have been an occupation deposit, or fill of a now truncated feature. Further finds were collected from the trenches that made up the northern development. The tile and animal bone from within these trenches are of later medieval and post-medieval date and suggest the presence of disturbed features, although the finds could be redeposited.

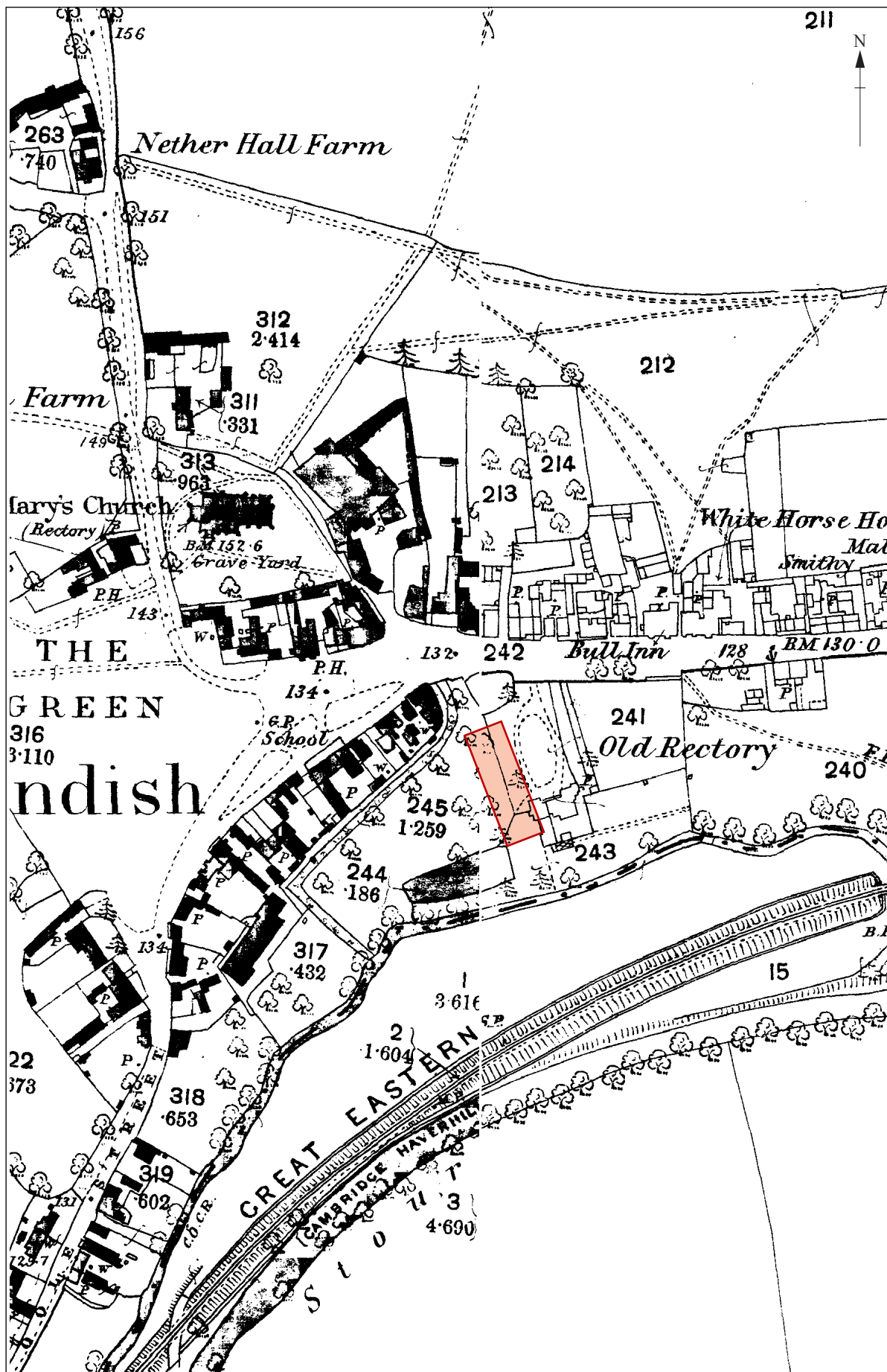


Figure 4. First edition Ordnance Survey map, c.1886, showing development area (red)

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

Despite the high levels of modern truncation across much of the development area, two features and layers were recorded and several finds recovered. Although no clearly interpretable features were recognised within the trenches, the presence of the cuts 0006 and 0007, the two soil layers 0003 and 0004 and the unstratified finds suggests that there was relatively intensive occupation of the site at some point. The evidence suggests that this occupation was late medieval and post-medieval and is likely to relate to the Old Rectory and its associated features. Although no earlier features or finds were identified, the fieldwork was located in and around the disturbance created by other building works and as such does not clearly rule out the existence of other, less disturbed features in the surrounding areas.

The two cut features are difficult to interpret in the limited area visible within the trenching. However, their close proximity to the boundaries and water features shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map suggests they may be ditches marking the boundaries, whilst 0006 could also be another pond (Fig. 4). This could explain the high water content, or even potential waterlogging recorded in feature 0006. However, a lack of dating evidence and finds make it impossible to reach any firmer conclusions.

Layers 0003 and 0004, as well as the finds, are indicative of further archaeological activity on the site, however whilst the nature of this is unclear, it appears that they may relate to domestic waste, a pet burial and building/demolition activity.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\arc\Archive field proj\Cavendish\CAV 053 Sue Ryder-Old Rectory

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish box H/80/1

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out and directed by a number of archaeological staff, (John Craven, Mo Muldowney and Linzi Everett) and managed by Stuart Boulter, 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 production of site plans and sections by Gemma Adams. The specialist finds report was written by Andy Fawcett. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

THE OLD RECTORY, HIGH STREET, CAVENDISH (SE/09/1185)

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. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for alterations and extensions to existing buildings at The Old Rectory, High Street, Cavendish, Suffolk (TL 806 464), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/09/1185).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, close to the find spot of early human remains (HER no. CAV 012). There is a strong possibility that further burials will be encountered at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 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 establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.5 Following approval of the WSI, our office will advise the Local Planning Authority that an acceptable scheme of work is in place, and therefore we (will) have no objection to the work commencing. 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.

- 1.6 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping or excavation. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. 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.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 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. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event 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.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 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.

- 5.5 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>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.7 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment 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.
- 5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.10 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.11 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 imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 4 December 2009 Reference: / TheOldRectory-Cavendish2009

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.

Appendix 2. Context List

Context	Feature	Type	Identifier	Description	Under	Over
0001		Layer		Mixed topsoil and mid grey clay and debris. Found throughout various trenches. Up to 0.6m deep.		0002
0002		Layer		Mid grey-brown clay and frequent building debris. Up to 0.8m deep.	0001	0003
0003		Layer		Layer of dark grey/brown gritty clay/silt. Frequent brick and oyster shell.	0002	0004
0004		Layer		Layer of dark brown, fine clean silt. C.0.2m thick.	0003	0005
0005	0006	Layer/Fill	Deposit/fill	Very dark grey, fine silt. Frequent organic material - wood fragments, etc. Slight water-logging. Found at the base of several trenches. Interpretation - alluvial deposit or fill of 0006.	0004	0006
0006	0006	Cut	Pit/pond	Cut of very large pit or pond. >1.4m deep. Not bottomed. Filled with 0005. Shape in plan is irregular but largely unclear within trench plan.	0005	0011
0007	0007	Cut	Feature	Feature at NW end of Trench 1. Only seen in a very limited area of the trench. Interpretation - possible feature but difficult to judge as only small area seen/recorded. >1m (NW-SE) x at least 0.4m deep.		0008 0011
0008	0007	Fill	Feature	Dark grey clay/silt. Possible feature fill but no finds. >1m (NW-SE) x at least 0.4m deep.		0001 0007

Context	Feature	Type	Identifier	Description	Under	Over
0010		Finds		Finds. Retrieved from a disturbed deposit in the section of a trench. Found during monitoring of northern half of trenches. Interpretation - possibly from a very dubious pit but unlikely.		
0011		Layer	Subsoil	Orangish-brown clay and gravel mix. Compacted. Interpretation - natural subsoil.	0006	