

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/121

**The Old Post Office, Barnham
BNH 065**

A. Tester and E. Muldowney © June 2009
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/08/1709

Date of Fieldwork: May 2009

Grid Reference: TL 870 792

Funding Body: Mr A. C. Webb

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Andrew Tester

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at The Old Post Office, Barnham during May 2009. The work was carried out in advance of the construction of a single dwelling within the development area. A sequence of archaeological features and layers were encountered within the trench indicative of late medieval to early post-medieval domestic settlement on the terraced hill side.

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1. Introduction

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on an undeveloped plot on the site of the Old Post Office, Barnham, to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The trenching was part of a condition of planning application SE/08/1709 set out in a Brief and Specification for the work by Jess Tipper of the Conservation Team at Suffolk County Council (Appendix 1). The work was commissioned and funded by A. C. Webb.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 870 792 and is located on rising ground overlooking the floodplain of the Little Ouse at a height of c.23m AOD (Fig.1). While the site frontage is fairly level, the site rises significantly a further 5m to the rear of the property. The geology comprises substantial deposits of gravel and sand.

3. Archaeological background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the settlement and close to two medieval churches (BNH 003 and BNH 046). The site is equidistant from St Gregory's Church and the redundant church of St Martin. Anglo-Saxon objects have also been recorded in the vicinity (BNH 003). Its topographic location overlooking the floodplain would have been favourable for settlement throughout the historic and prehistoric periods.

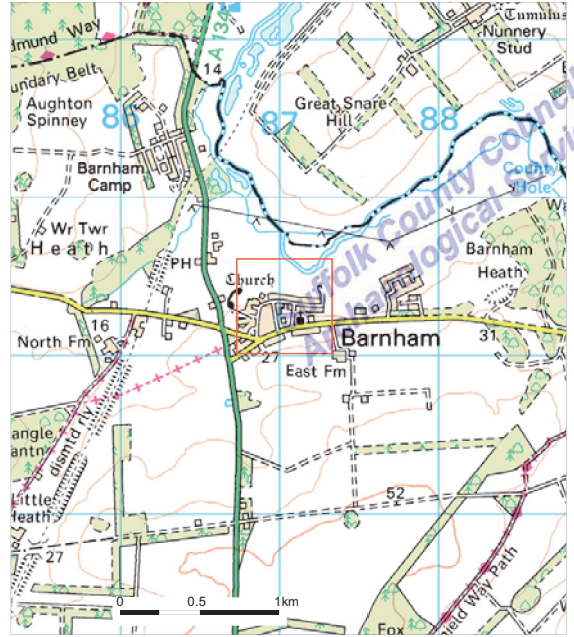
4. Methodology

A single trench was excavated measuring 11.8m x 2m and aligned N-S. Compacted material at the north end of the site close to the entrance was removed by machine along with dark topsoil exposing a mixed and intermittent surface of clay and chalk with gravel beneath in places. This was interpreted as a possible building platform and it was decided, therefore, to hand excavate a slot along the west side of the trench to establish the nature of the deposits. The section appears as Figure 6. High resolution (seven

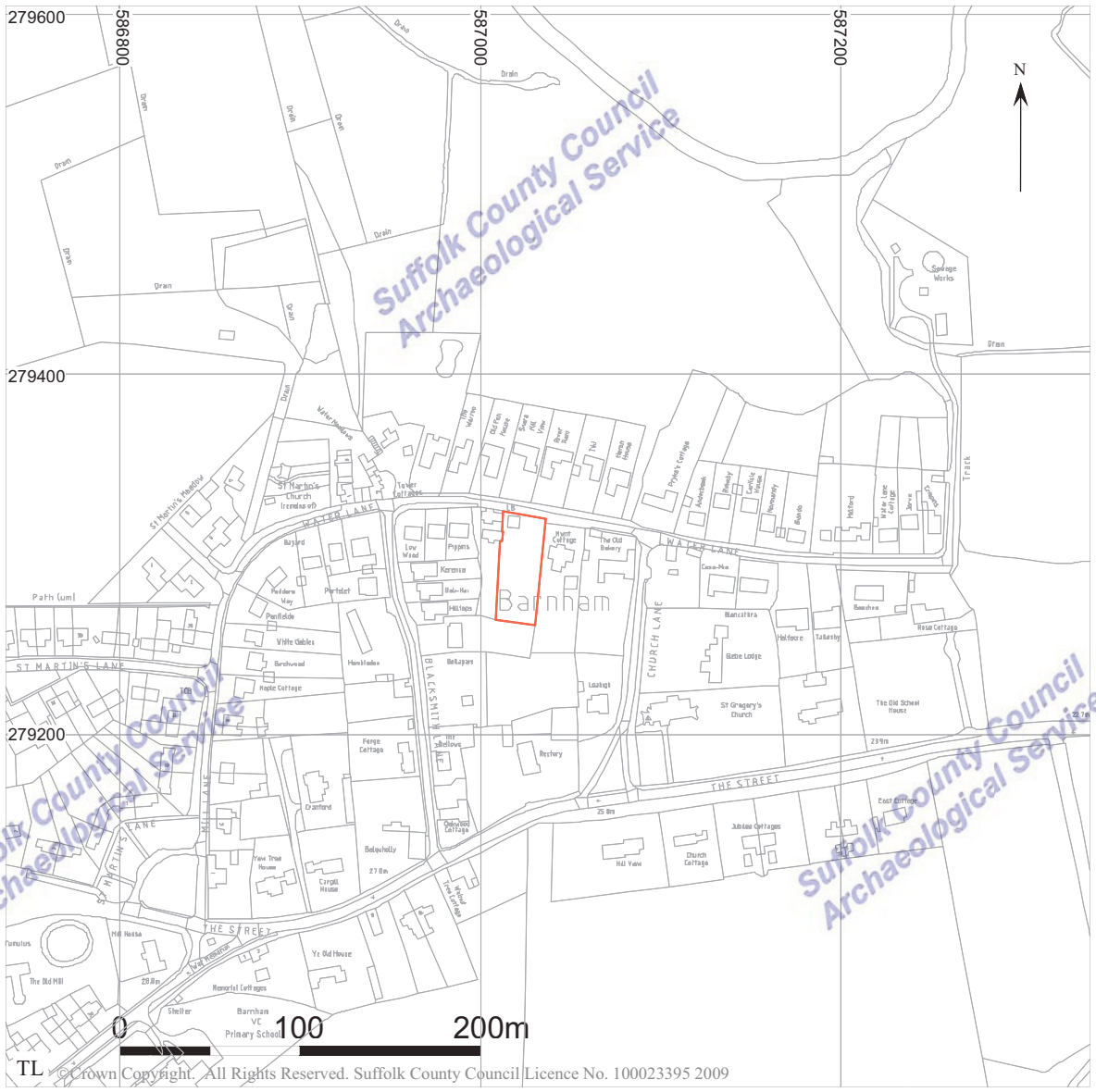
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Figure 1. Site location

mega pixel) digital images were taken. A single sequence continuous numbering system was used and the trench was located using a Total Station Theodolite.

At the request of the development control officer, Jess Tipper, the trench was subsequently extended upslope to the south (Fig.2) for a further 27m. Although connected the extension to the trench was offset to the west and a full section was not produced.

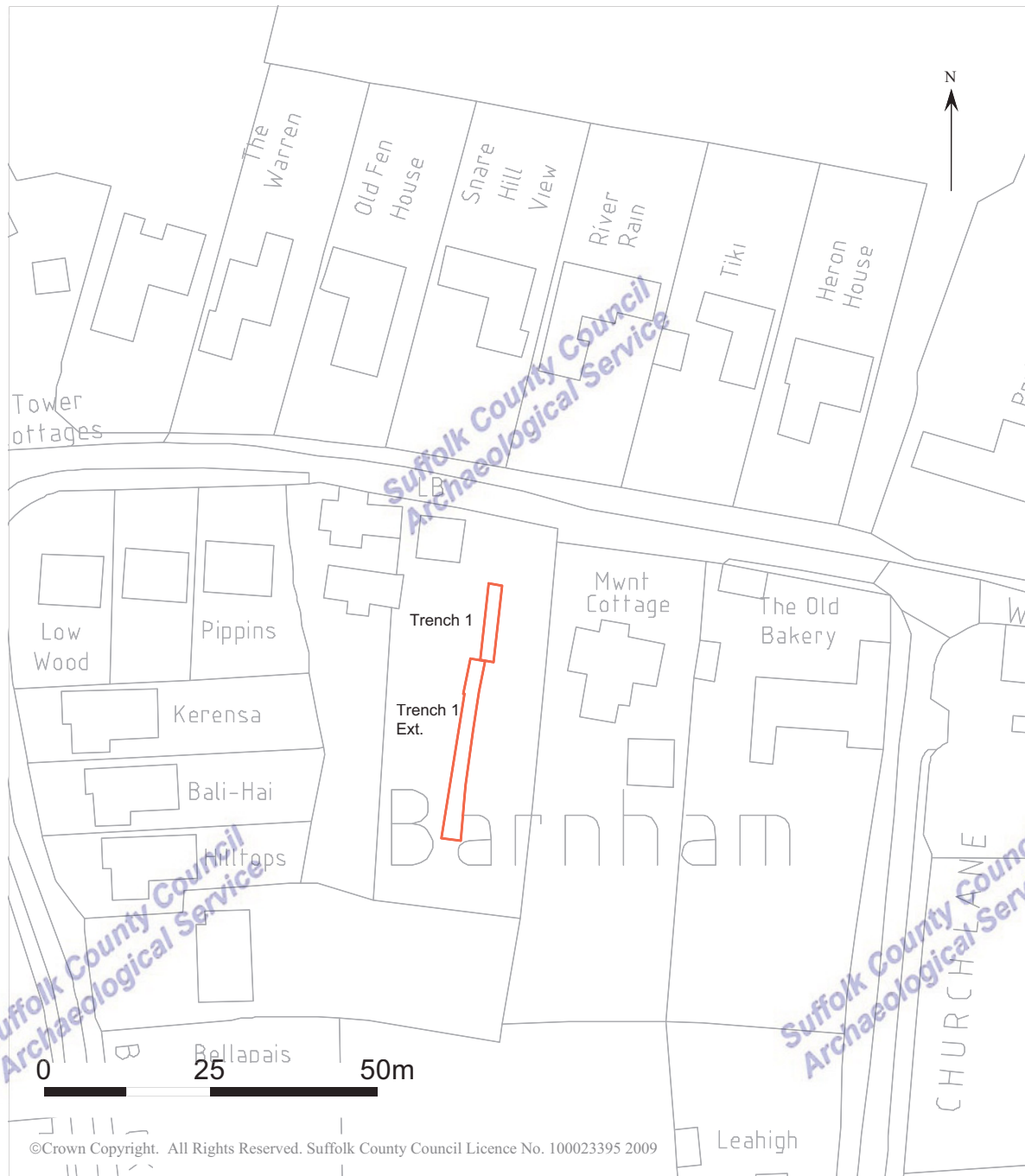


Figure 2. Trench location

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 4)

The results from the Trench 1 extension are described in stratigraphic sequence. Fill descriptions will only be included where relevant, as full context descriptions are included in Appendix 2.

Layer 0004 (Fig. 6, Section 1) was located towards the northern end of the trench and was stratigraphically early within the sequence. It was composed of brown silt and measured 5m in length and up to c. 0.2m deep. It was not fully excavated although in places natural orange gravel was exposed in the base of the trench suggesting that it was not a deep deposit. It contained seven sherds of pottery including three dated to the 11th to 12th century and four from the late 12th to 14th century, as well as two fragments of animal bone. This layer was below gravel layer 0006.

Layer 0005 contained one sherd of Thetford ware jar dated to the 10th to 11th century and six fragments of animal bone. This layer was at a similar level and appearance to layer 0004 and it is suggested that they were the same layer.

Pit 0008 (Fig. 6, Section 1) was c.2m wide and at least 0.8m deep; its full form in plan was not established within the trench. It had a steep southern side, but a more eroded down slope northern edge, and its base was not observed. Single fill 0007 was coarse brown silt with occasional flints but produced no artefacts. The relationship between the pit and layers 0004 and 0005 was not established during the evaluation. It was partially sealed by clay layer 0013 and chalk layer 0009.

Layer 0006 (Fig. 6, Section 1) was above layer 0004 and located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond its limits to the north. The layer was only partially removed within the trench. It was composed of broken up mortar and small flint fragments, and contained no artefacts. It was stratigraphically below gravel layer 0003.

Clay layer 0013 (Fig. 6, Section 1) dips below gravel layer 0003 (Plate 1). It survived in patches above ditch 0008. It may have been the remains of a clay floor surface.

Gravel layer 0003 (Fig. 6, Section 1) butted up against layer 0006 and together they formed a level platform. This layer also sealed clay surface 0013. It was approximately 0.4m in thickness and was partially excavated within the trench.

Context 0002 was the interface between gravel layer 0003 and the overlying clay layer 0012. Two sherds of 15th to 16th century pottery were recovered from this context.

Clay layer 0012 (Fig. 6, Section 1) was laid on the levelling layers 0003 and 0006. It was approximately 0.05m in depth and extended for 4m from the northern end of the trench. It was partly burnt possibly indicating the position of a hearth (Fig.4). Although undated it sealed two sherds of 15th to 16th century pottery recovered from the interface between this layer and gravel 0003 suggesting a late medieval to early post-medieval date for its construction.

Chalk layer 0009 was recorded above undated pit 0008. It was approximately 0.10m in depth and was c. 2m in width.

Clay surface 0012 and chalk layer 0009 were sealed by a dark brown silt subsoil layer 0010 (Fig. 6, Section 1). This layer was observed in the southern extension to the trench where it was recorded as layer 0034.

This subsoil layer 0010 was sealed by modern topsoil containing modern building debris. This layer was recorded in the trench extension as topsoil layer 0021, and here it was possible to discern a further subsoil layer 0031 that merged with the topsoil 0021. It is likely that this layer was also present in the original trench but was not recognised.

A number of finds were recovered from the surface of the field to the south of the original trench, which were assigned to context 0011. These included fifteen sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 12th to 14th and 15th to 16th century; and a single post-medieval roof tile fragment. The finds had been brought to the surface by recent ground works including the erection of a fence around the site.

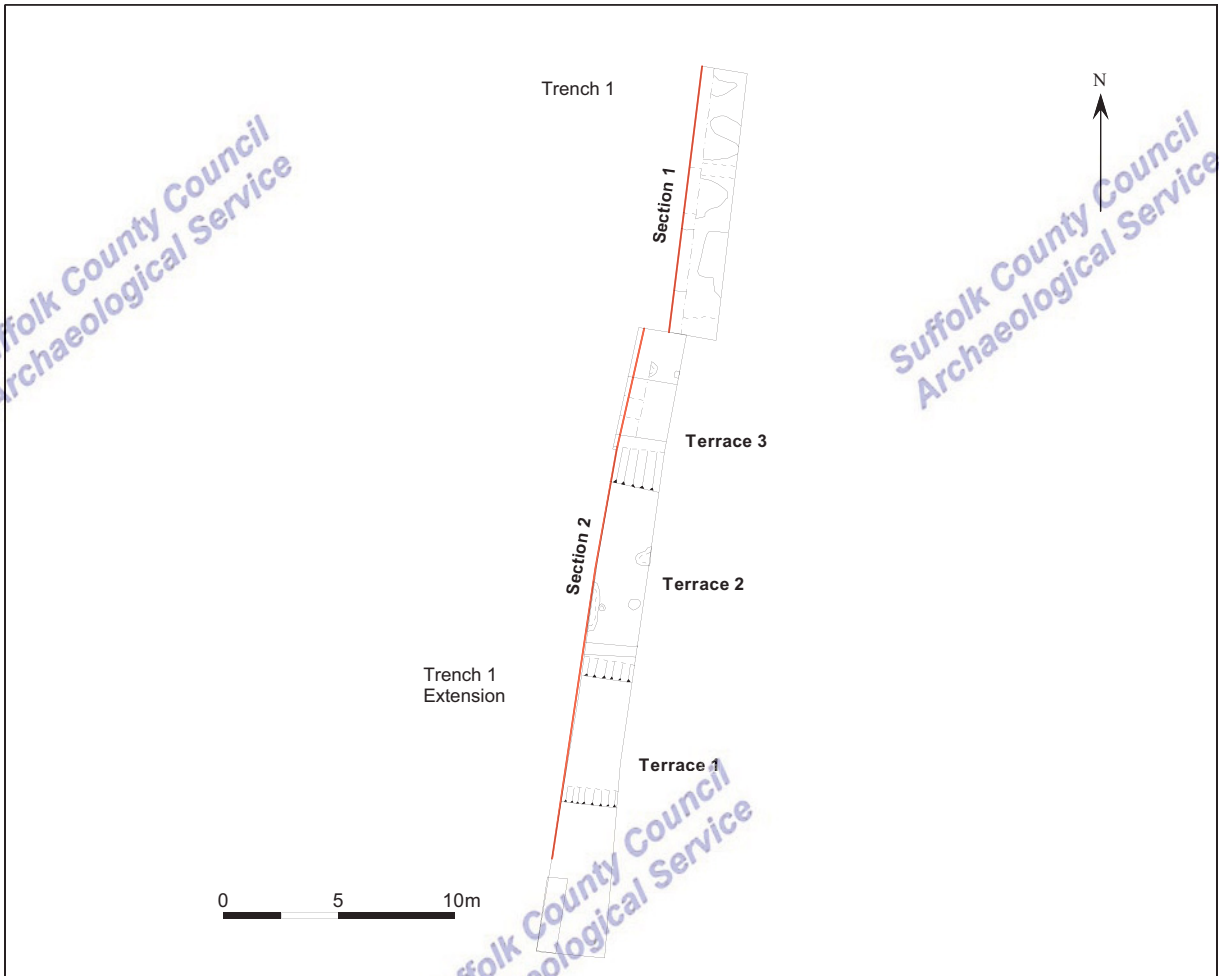


Figure 3. Trench plan



Plate 1. Gravel layer 0003 extending over clay layer 0013, looking south-west

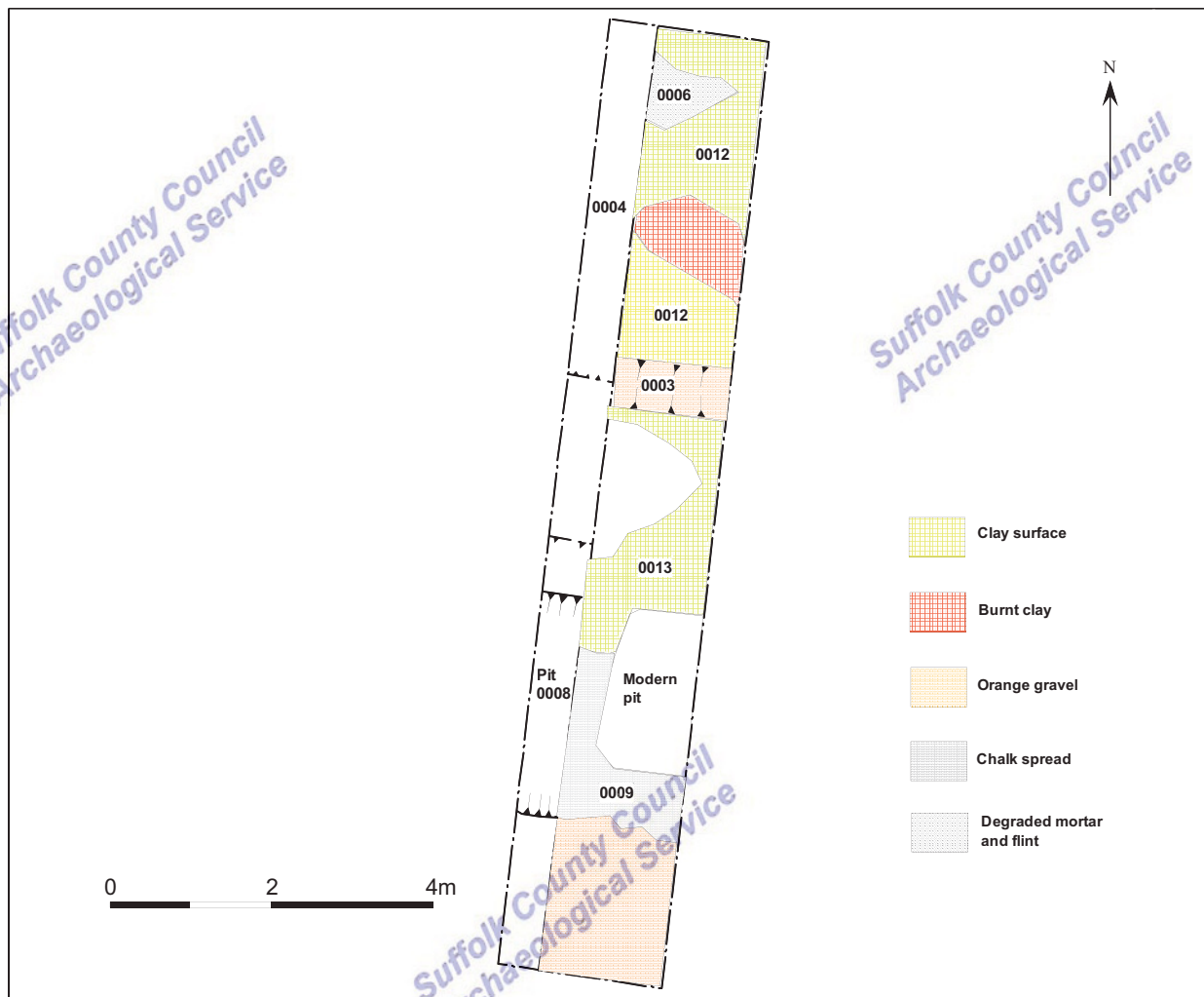


Figure 4. Trench 1 detail

5.2 Trench 1 extension (Figs. 3 and 5)

The results from the Trench 1 extension are described in stratigraphic sequence. Fill descriptions will only be included where relevant, as full context descriptions are included in Appendix 2.

Three terraces had been cut into the natural hillside (Fig. 6, Section 2) and may have predated the construction of pits 0023 and 0037, posthole 0035, and postpads 0025 and 0041. The lower Terrace 3 may have extended into the original trench and levelled out the lower part of the site. Above this was Terrace 2 which was 9m in width, whilst further upslope to the south was the 4.5m wide Terrace 1.

Pit 0023 was located 9m from the northern end of the extended trench and was partially obscured by the eastern baulk. It was irregular in plan with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to an irregular though flattish base. It measured 0.9m in width and 0.18m

in depth. The single loosely compacted fill 0024 contained no artefacts. This feature was sealed by subsoil/colluvium layer 0022 (same as 0031).

Postpad pit 0025 was located 1.5m from the northern end and towards the centre of the extended trench. It was sub-circular in plan with irregular gradual sides and an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. It measured 0.6m in width and 0.10m in depth. The fill 0026 was loose mid grey chalky clay believed to have been packed in to form a postpad. This feature was sealed by colluvium layer 0034 (recorded as layer 0010 in the original trench).

Posthole 0035 was recorded 12m from the northern end and towards the centre of the extended trench on the east side of irregular pit 0037. It was circular in plan measuring 0.25m in width. It had near vertical sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0036 was undated. The posthole was sealed by colluvium layer 0034.

Pit 0037 (Fig. 6, Section 2) was located 12m from the northern end of the extended trench partially obscured by the western baulk. Too little of the feature was exposed within the trench to determine its form in plan. It was very shallow with gradual sides and a flattish base. It measured 2.1m in width and 0.10m in depth. Single fill 0038 contained two sherds of pottery dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries, believed to be most likely to be 12th century in date. The environmental evidence indicates that this feature might contain hearth waste, although the high temperatures involved means that this material could be intrusive (Sample 1). It was similar to and merged with the overlying colluvial deposit 0031.

Unexcavated postpad 0041, measuring 0.25m in width, was recorded 1.5m from the northern end of the extended trench and was partially obscured by the eastern baulk. It was sealed by colluvium layer 0034.

Colluvium layer 0034 (Fig. 6, Section 2) was recorded at the northern end of the extended trench. It was light brown silt with some gravel inclusions surviving to a maximum depth of 0.46m. This layer filled Terrace 3, lapping over its southern cut onto the base of Terrace 2. It is likely to have derived from hill wash. This layer continued into the original trench where it was recorded as layer 0010.

Ditch 0027 (Fig. 6, Section 2) was located 2m from the northern end of the extended trench and was aligned east to west. Its southern side was more clearly defined than its downslope northern edge, with a steep side with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Although not clearly defined to the north its fill profile suggests that it cut through the colluvium layer infilling the lower Terrace 3. It measured 2.8m in width and 1.04m in depth. The ditch contained four fills 0028; 0032; 0033 and 0029 and was sealed by gravelly layer 0030. Fill 0032 contained a single sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery.

Layer 0030 (Fig. 6, Section 2) was a thin deposit of gravel and small stones measuring 0.08m in depth. It extended from the northern end of the extended trench for 6.3m where it lapped over colluvial deposit 0034 and the base of Terrace 2. This layer was not identified in the original trench, although it is likely that it was present here too. This layer was sealed by layer 0031.

Layer 0031 (also recorded as 0022) was described as being similar in appearance to the topsoil 0021, except that it was lighter in hue due to a higher chalk content. This layer is likely to have derived from soil washing down slope. It filled Terrace 2 and extended across the disused Terrace 3 (Fig. 6, Section 2). In the original trench this layer was not distinguished from the overlying topsoil. This layer was cut by postholes 0039 and 0042.

Posthole 0039 was located 12.5m from the northern end of the extended trench and partially obscured by the western baulk (Fig. 6, Section 2). It truncated colluvial layer 0031. It was vertical sided with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 0.5m in width and 0.30m in depth. Clay had been inserted against the edges of the posthole as packing. The posthole was filled with brown silt 0040. The posthole was sealed below topsoil 0021.

Unexcavated posthole 0042 was located 1.5m to the east of posthole 0039. Clay packing was observed surrounding a silt fill. This feature was believed to cut layer 0031 and to be sealed by topsoil 0021, but the relationships were not clearly observed during machining.

Topsoil 0021 sealed posthole 0039 and probably also posthole 0042. It extended across the whole trench sealing Terrace 1.

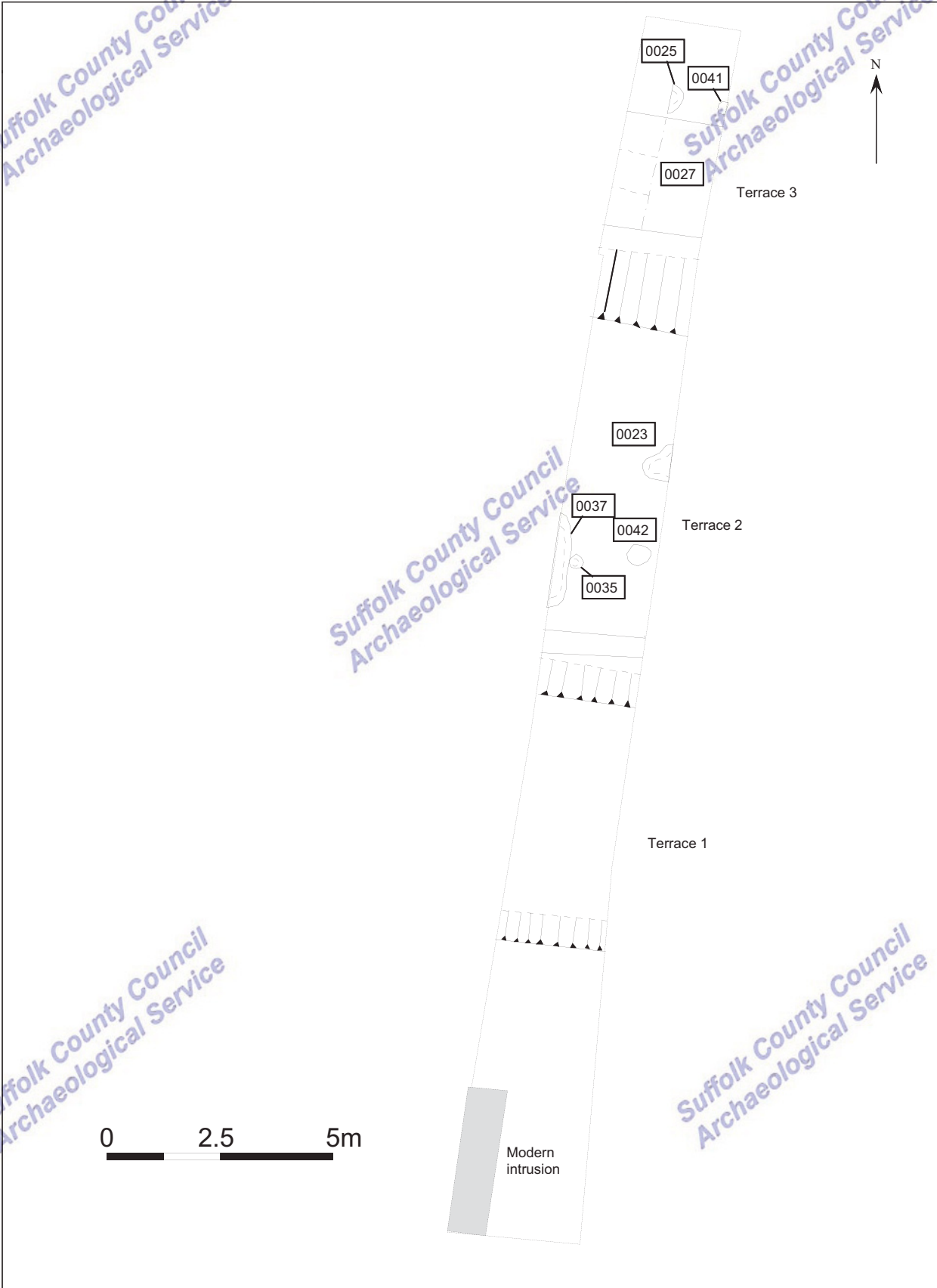


Figure 5. Trench 1 extension detail

Figure 6. Sections

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6. Finds and environmental evidence

6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		Animal bone		CBM	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	2	24				15th-16th C
0004	7	69	2	8		L12th-14th C
0005	1	10	6	129		10th-11th C
0011	15	121			1 26	15th-16th C
0020	3	56				16th-18th C
0032	1	1			1 3	P-med
0038	2	19	7	45		12th C?
Total	31	300	15	182	2 29	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Thirty-one fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (0.300kg). The assemblage has been fully quantified and catalogued (Appendix 3). The Thetford-type wares have been recorded using the classification established by Dallas (Dallas, 1984).

Two fragments of Late Saxon wares were identified. A single fragment of a small Thetford-type ware jar (Dallas type AB 8) was the only sherd of pottery present in layer 0005 in Trench 1. A very small rim of another Thetford-type ware jar (Dallas type AB 3) (everted with a triangular section) was identified from 0011, a context number given to finds collected from the surface of the site to the south of Trench 1, together with fragments of pottery of a later date.

Small quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from layer 0004 (Trench 1). Two fragments of early medieval wares were identified, with a sherd of sandy and calcareous ware similar to Yarmouth-type ware, all dating to the 11th-12th century. The group also included two sherds of medieval coarseware and two oxidised sandy and micaceous wares, one of which had a splash of lead glaze on it. These are likely to be local products dating to the L12th-14th century.

Further medieval fragments were collected as surface finds from 0011, from the field to the south of Trench 1. A sherd of an abraded coarseware bowl, in a gritty fabric with calcareous inclusions has a squared and flat-topped rim dating to c13th-14th century. Other unstratified medieval sherds were recovered (assigned context number 0020).

These consisted of two sherds, one of which was a shell-tempered jar with thickened everted rim dating to the 12th-13th century.

A small number of medieval sherds were present in pitfill 0038 (Trench 1 extension). These included a coarse sandy Colchester-type ware sherd dating to the 11th-12th century, and a fragment of possible medieval sandy ware with chalk inclusions (12th-14th C). A single sherd of Early medieval ware dating to the 11th-12th century was present in the finds residue of Sample 1. The analysis of the sample from this feature suggests that it may have contained hearth debris.

A single sherd of abraded Late medieval and Transitional ware dating to the 15th-16th century was recovered from ditch fill 0032 in the extension to Trench 1. The same fill contained a small fragment of white-firing ceramic building material of a later date. Two fragments of early post-medieval redware were collected from surface layer 0002, and other post-medieval wares were unstratified or represented other surface finds.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

A single laminated fragment of oxidised roofing tile was identified amongst surface finds (0011). It is made in a hard fine red-fired fabric with few inclusions and dates to the late/post-medieval period. A very small abraded fragment of white fired ceramic building material from ditch fill 0032 in the Trench 1 extension may be intrusive, as such white-firing clay fabrics with red grog usually date to the 18th-19th century, and it was found with a sherd of pottery dating to the 15th-16th century.

6.4 Animal bone

Fifteen fragments of animal bone were recovered (0.182kg). Most is fragmentary but the remains of mandible fragments, a bovine molar and the distal metapodial of a probable sheep were present in 0005. Much of the bone in this context was stained. Another sheep mandible was present in pitfill 0038 in the extension to Trench 1.

6.5 Plant Macrofossils

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

A single sample for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from a truncated pit 0038 into an area interpreted as a hillside terrace in the Trench 1 extension. The feature contained a small number of medieval pottery fragments.

The sample was bulk floated by SCCAS and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 2. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were noted.

Results

The flot was largely composed of charcoal/charred wood, fragments of black porous and tarry material and pieces of coal. Other plant remains occurred infrequently and most were poorly preserved. Material noted included possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, a brome (*Bromus* sp.) fruit, a possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and pieces of heather (Ericaceae) stem. A bone fragment and a single small mammal or amphibian bone were also recorded.

Sample No.	1
Context No.	0038
Feature No.	0037
Cereals and other food plants	
Large Fabaceae indet.	xcotyfg
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)	xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xcf
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
Other plant macrofossils	
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	x
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xcffg
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	x
Charcoal <2mm	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx
Charcoal >5mm	x
Other remains	

Black porous 'cokey' material	xxx
Black tarry material	xxx
Bone	x
Small coal frags.	xxx
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x
Sample volume (litres)	c.20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Table 2. Plant macrofossils

Key to table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
 Coty = cotyledon fg = fragment cf = compare

Conclusions

In summary, if the coal and the black porous and tarry residues are contemporary with the feature, it would appear most likely that the assemblage is derived from a small quantity of hearth waste. However, it should be noted that both the porous and tarry materials appear to have been subjected to an extremely high temperature process and may, therefore, be later intrusions within the feature. If this is the case, the assemblage probably represents a scatter of refuse, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fill.

Recommendations for further work

Although small, this assemblage does show that plant remains are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Barnham. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 litres in volume are taken from all well sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation.

6.6 Discussion of material evidence

The small ceramic assemblage provides evidence of likely occupation in the vicinity during the medieval period, with the possibility of earlier, Late Saxon activity. This is not unexpected given the location of the site in the heart of the village. Small quantities of Late Saxon and medieval pottery were recovered both from stratified deposits and as surface-collected finds. In addition to sherds of medieval coarseware and glazed wares, some of the ceramics present date to the early medieval period (11th-12th century). Post-medieval pottery was also identified, mainly as surface finds.

7. Discussion

The development area is quite steeply sloping and within the excavated area there is evidence for three terraces cut into the hill side (Plate 2). This stepped slope would have been more suitable for occupation and easier to work.



Plate 2. Terraced slope, looking south-south-west

The terracing might have predated the construction of the small number of pits/postholes/postpads observed in the extended trench. These features were located on the two lower trenches only (Terraces 2 and 3) and could be associated with structures. Of these features only irregular pit 0037 was dated by the presence of two probable 12th century pottery sherds within its shallow fill. However, it was not possible to discern any building plans within the confines of a narrow trial trench.

The terracing of the hillside might have been broadly contemporary with the deposition of clay surface 0013 lower down the slope to the north on the basis of the small amount of pottery recovered and the stratigraphic sequence. This clay layer is likely to have

been the remains of an internal floor surface. Layers such as this would have been unsuitable as external surfaces as they would have been readily broken up in inclement weather. However, packed and beaten clay surfaces are often found as internal floor surfaces. No evidence for a superstructure associated with this or the later floor surface 0012 was encountered within the evaluation. This surface might date from the 12th to 14th centuries onwards as it seems to be later than silt layers 0004 and 0005 which contained 12th to 14th century pottery and 10th to 11th century pottery respectively.

Clay layer 0012 overlay gravel levelling layers 0003 and 0006, and was apparently a replacement for original floor surface 0013. The levelling layers were undated but two sherds of 15th to 16th century pottery were recovered from immediately below this surface indicating a late medieval to early post-medieval date for its deposition.

Similar clay floor surfaces were encountered in excavations at Holly House, Bardwell where they have been interpreted as internal floor surfaces dating between the 12th and 14th centuries (Muldowney, E., 2008) and at Finningham Road, Walsham-le-Willows (Muldowney, R., 2008).

The lower terrace (Terrace 3) filled in first and might have marked the disuse of the clay floor surfaces further down slope. The terrace filled in gradually with soil and gravel 0034 (same as 0010) that washed down the slope. This episode does not mark the abandonment of the site. Ditch 0027 was excavated after the lower terrace filled in and has been tentatively dated to the 15th to 16th century.

The thin gravel layer 0030 overlying the filled in ditch 0027 might be the remains of a new surface. This layer might have been contemporary with the deposition of the chalky layer 0009 that was recorded to the north within subsoil layer 0010 on the basis of their respective stratigraphic positions and actual heights. Both layers might represent parts of external surfaces consolidating the area. Terrace 2 filled in some time after this, probably by similar means to the accumulation within Terrace 3.

The two postholes 0039 and 0042 were similar in form and are likely to be contemporary and associated. They could be either part of a building constructed above the filled in Terrace 2 or part of a boundary fenceline. These were the latest features to

be constructed prior to the deposition of the relatively recent topsoil 0021, although it is not known when they were in use.

8. Conclusions

The evaluation has revealed a sequence of evidence suggesting occupation on the site from the high medieval period (12th to 14th century) through to the early post-medieval period (15th to 16th century). Some earlier medieval pottery was present in the lower silt layers, and some late Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the disturbed ground at the south of the plot. Although no features could be ascribed a late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval date, the presence of this material would indicate activity of this date within the vicinity.

The relatively sparse features encountered included terraces, ditches, pits, postholes and the remnants of both external and internal surfaces. These feature types and the pottery recovered indicate domestic structures and settlement within the development area. However, no full plans were recovered within the confines of the narrow trenches.

The features were sealed by between 0.3m and 0.7m of overburden, including topsoil and subsoil/colluvium where present. On average there was 0.5m of soil coverage above the archaeological remains

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

T:\Arc\ALL_site\Barnham\The Old post office

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Row, H 79/4, Parish boxes.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Tester and Nick Taylor. Gemma Adams processed the finds and produced the section drawing; Richenda Goffin prepared the finds report and edited the main report.

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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.

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Appendix 1 Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

THE OLD POST OFFICE, WATER LANE, BARNHAM, SUFFOLK (SE/08/1709)

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 (SE/08/1709) for the erection of a single dwelling and garage at The Old Post Office, Water Lane, Barnham, Suffolk IP24 2NA (TL 870 792) has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.

6

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).

7

1.3 The area of the proposed residential development, on the south side of Water Lane (see accompanying plan). It is situated on chalky drift (deep sand) at c. 20.00m AOD overlooking the valley of the Little Ouse River.

8

1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core and close to two medieval churches (HER: BNH 003 and BNH 046). It is also close to the site of earlier Anglo-Saxon finds (BNH 003). The location has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its topographic location, which is favourable for early occupation, and proximity to known remains. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

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

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- A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

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

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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.

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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

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.

- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 A single trial trench is to be excavated, amounting to 10.00m in length x 1.80m in width across the site of, or immediately adjacent to, the new dwelling and garage.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other

visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

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

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

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

3.6 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 J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

3.8 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 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.18 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 18 May 2009

Reference: / TheOldPostOffice-Barnham2009

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 Information

Context of Fill	Filed by	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Spot date
0002		Layer	Surface	Grey/brown			0.10		15th-16th C
0003		Layer	levelling				0.4	Redeposited gravel	L12th-14th C
0004		Layer	unknown						10th-11th C
0005		Layer	unknown					possibly same as 0004	
0006		Layer	levelling				0.22	described only as layer broken up flint with lime mortar	
0007	0008	Fill	Pit	Dark grey			0.84	Pit fill, base not excavated	
0008	0007	Cut	Pit	Unknown			0.84	Large pit	
0009		Layer	formation	Greyish white		2.62	0.10	lens of crushed chalk, at base of/within layer 0010, only visible over pit 0008. Distinction between pit fill and overlying deposit 0010 not clear in section	
0010		Layer	Subsoil	Dark brown				occasional chalk and flint	
0011			Finds						15th-16th C
0012		Layer	Surface						
0013		Layer	unknown						
0020			Finds						16th-18h C
0021		Layer	Topsoil						
0022		Layer	Subsoil						
0023	0024	Cut	Unknown	Irregular		1.1	0.23	finds from surface of field	
				gradual break of slope to steep sides, sharp break of slope to flattish base				Unstratified finds	
								topsoil recent buried topsoil	

Context	Fill of	Filed by	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Spot date
0024	0023		Fill	unknown	Mid grey Loose				clayey sand	
0025	0026		Cut	Post pad	Sub-circular gradual break of slope to gradual sides, steeper on south side. Imperceptible break of slope to concave base	0.68	0.60	0.10	Possibly a small post pad set into the ground	
0026	0025		Fill	Post pad	Mid grey Loose			0.10	fill of possible post pad	
0027	0028; 0029; 0032; 0033		Cut	Ditch					frequent chalk flecks	
0028	0027		Fill	Ditch	Yellow orange Brown				few stones	
0029	0027		Fill	Ditch					flints	
0030			Layer	Unknown					abundant gravel and stones	
0031			Layer	Topsoil					occasional chalk and flints	
0032	0027		Fill	Pit	Light brown				sandy silt	15th-16th C
0033	0027		Fill	Pit						
0034			Layer		Light brown				some gravel	
0035	0036		Cut	Posthole	Circular					
0036	0035		Fill	Posthole	Dark Brown			0.19	uncertain date	
0037	0038		Cut	Pit					"very shallow, base of feature"	
0038	0037		Fill	Pit	Brown				uncertain boundary with 0031 (subsoil)	12th-14th, but prob 12th C
0039	0040		Cut	Posthole	Brown					
0040	0039		Fill	Posthole	Brown				Posthole in section clay packed with postpipe - dug close to topsoil postpipe	

Context of	Fill of	Filed by	Category	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Spot date
0041			Cut	postpad					clay pad truncated	

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Appendix 3 Pottery Catalogue

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0002	PM	LMT	JAR		1	14		Rim of jar or pipkin	15th-16th C	15th-16th C
0002	PM	DUTR?G	BOWL?	PIE	1	10		Fine redware, poss Dutch, pie-frilled rim	15th-17th C	
0004	M	EMW	BODY		1	3			11th-12th C	
0004	M	EMWS	BODY		1	1	S		11th-12th C	
0004	M	YAR?	BODY		1	13	S	Sandy fabric with some shell	11th-12th C	
0004	M	MCW	BODY		2	16	S		L12th-14th C	
0004	M	UPG	BODY		2	36		Fully oxidised, sandy fabric, poss Essex spl id gl internally	L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0005	LS	THET	JAR		1	10		Jar rim, Dallas type AB 8		10th-11th C
0011	LS	THET	JAR		1	4		Jar rim, Dallas type AB 3	10th-11th C	
0011	M?	MCW	BOWL?		1	6	S	Coarseware or poss a fine Therford ware	L12th-14th C?	
0011	M	MCWS	BODY		3	35	SA	Similar to Yarmouth-type ware	L12th-14th C	
0011	M	MCW	BODY		6	45		Includes 1 body/base	L12th-14th C	
0011	M	MCWG	BOWL		1	13	A	Gritty but contains calc inclusions too	L12th-14th C	
0011	M	ELCW	BODY		1	4	A	Reduced core, buff ext margin, some cal, ?Ely-type ware	12th-14th C	
0011	M	MSHW	BODY		1	3	AA	Very abraded, sand and shell	11th-14th C	
0011	M	LMT	BODY		1	12		Reduced grey core, spl id glaze, poss Rickinghall	15th-16th C	15th-16th C

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0020	PM	GRE	JAR		1	19		Kilnscar on rim	16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0020	M	MCW	BODY		1	21			L12th-14th C	
0020	M	MSHW	JAR		1	16		Thickened everted rim, prob 12th-13th C	12th-13th C	
0032	PM	LMT	BODY		1	16	A		15th-16th C	15th-16th C
0038	M	EMW	BODY		1	13		Colchester type coarse sandy, some calc	11th-12th C	
0038	M?	MCWC?	BODY		1	6		Sandy reduced core, w mod lge chalk & flint up to 4mm + red	12th-14th C	12th-14th, but prob 12th