

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/235

**Maulkin's Hall Farm, Pakenham
PKM 059**

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/0767
Date of Fieldwork: 12-10-2009
Grid Reference: TL 9367 6809
Funding Body: Mr and Mrs Elton
Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Liz Muldowney
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-82450

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Summary

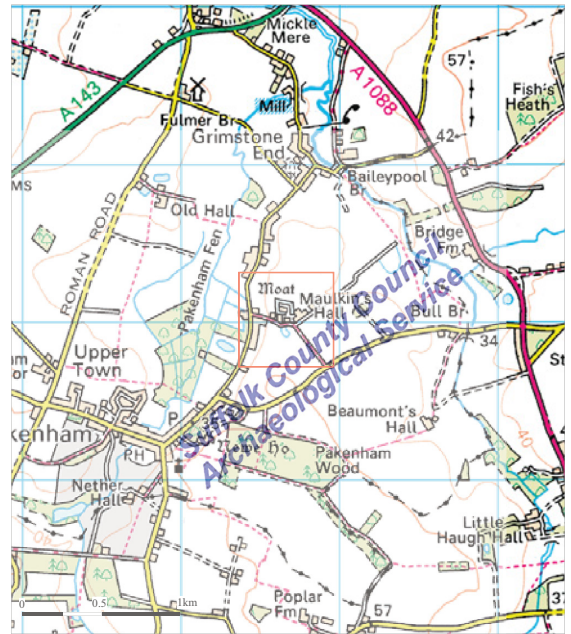
Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the excavation of two foundation trenches excavated prior to the construction of an orangery at Maulkin's Hall Farm. A large feature of indeterminate origin was observed below layers of post-medieval demolition material. No artefacts were recovered from the feature, but a sample of the ceramic building material, from the demolition layers was recovered for analysis.

1. Introduction and methodology

Monitoring of the foundation trenches at Maulkin's Hall Farm, Pakenham (Fig.1) in advance of the construction of an orangery (Planning Application SE/09/0767) took place on 12th October 2009. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The monitoring was carried out by Liz Muldowney on behalf of the clients Mr and Mrs Elton.

The existing conservatory was demolished and two 0.6m wide foundation trenches were excavated by a 0.9 ton, 360 degree excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 1.4m and 1.75m, and measured 7.4m by 6m in length forming an L-shape (Fig. 2).

Plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales and high resolution (7 megapixel) digital photographs were taken of all relevant deposits and features. A sample of the post-medieval ceramic building material was recovered for analysis, and no environmental samples were taken. Due to the depth and narrow width of the foundation trenches, it was not possible to clean the sections, and all recording was carried out from ground level. The location of the foundation trenches was recorded by tape in relation to existing OS mapping data.



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Figure 1. Site Location

2. Results

A single cut feature and a series of layers were encountered within the monitored trenches (Fig. 3). The results are discussed below in stratigraphic sequence. The natural geological horizon, where encountered, was a mixture of bluish yellow clay with yellow sandy lenses.

Layer 0006 was lowest within the stratigraphic sequence, and was observed in the north to south foundation trench only. It was friable, mid greenish yellow silty sand with grey mottling measuring approximately 0.3m in depth. Its lower horizon with the natural sandy clay was diffuse. To the north the layer was cut by feature 0005. It is possible that layer 0006 was disturbed natural formed during the construction of feature 0005 due to trample.

Pit/cut feature 0005 was located at the northern end of the north to south foundation trench. It was observed in both sides of the 0.6m wide trench, and extended beyond the northern limits of the monitored area, measuring 4.3m+ in length and 0.5m in depth. Its southern side was gradual with an imperceptible break of slope to a flat base. Its single fill 0004 was homogenous very dark brownish grey sticky clay silt with a greenish hue containing moderate charcoal flecks. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit, which had a distinct organic aroma. Too little of the feature was exposed within the foundation trench to determine its form and function, but it may have been the base of a large pit or possibly part of a channel associated with the moat that surrounds the property. The total absence of ceramic building material found in both the overlying layers 0003 and 0002, suggested that it was unrelated to their deposition and could have been of significantly earlier origin.

Layer 0003 sealed pit 0005 and extended across both foundation trenches. It was at its deepest at the north where it was 0.72m in depth, becoming much shallower to the south-east at 0.10m in depth. It was mid orangey yellow sticky silty clay and contained frequent ceramic building material fragments and moderate crushed chalk fragments. Its appearance and tapering thickness suggests that it was a layer of demolition debris used to fill in the hollow above the earlier pit/cut feature 0005 and raise the ground level. The sample of the ceramic building material recovered has

been dated to the late 16th to 17th century, indicating a structure of this date had been demolished, possibly prior to the construction of the current building.

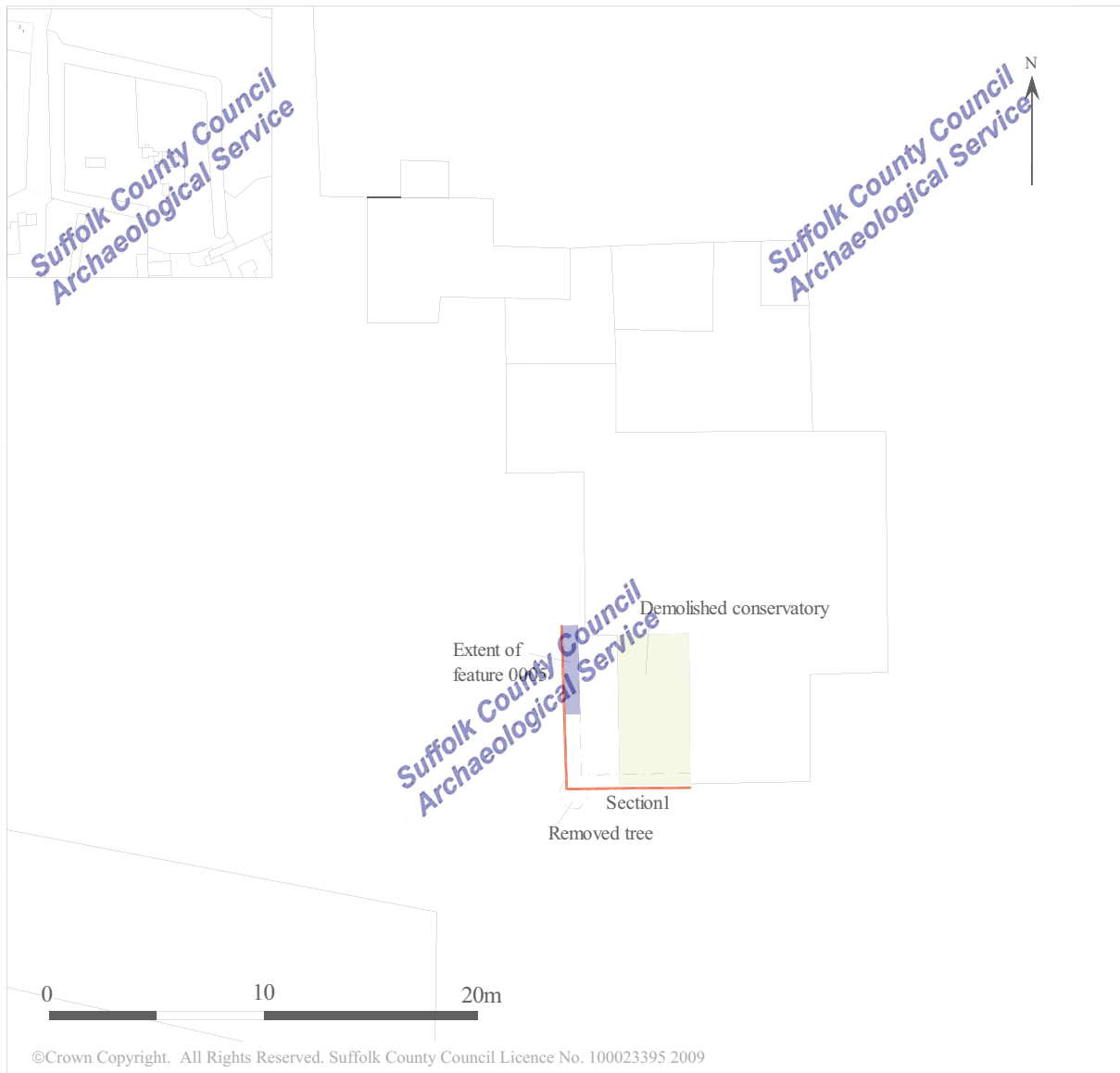


Figure 2. Plan of foundation trenches

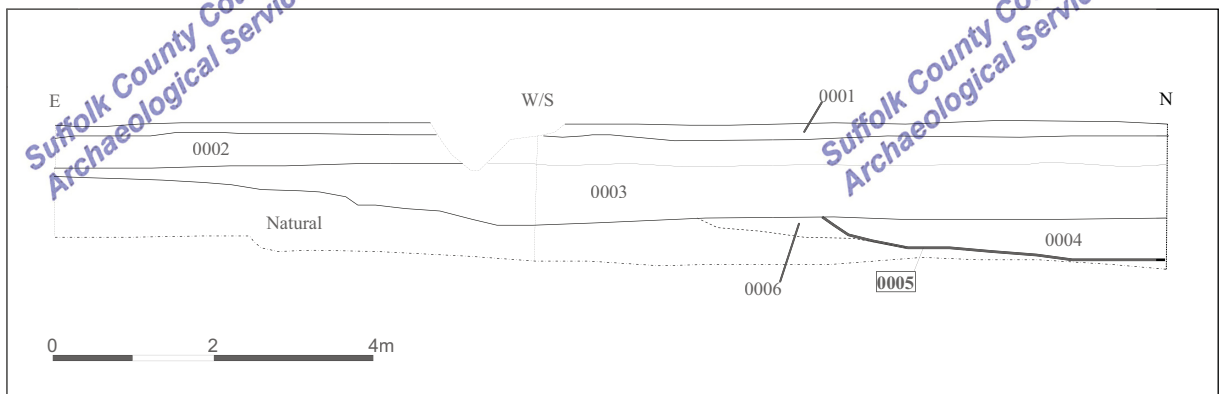


Figure 3. Section 1

Layer 0002 was similar to layer 0003 which it sealed. It was light brownish grey silty clay with frequent crushed chalk and occasional ceramic building material fragments. This layer was lighter than the lower one and contained significantly less demolition debris. It was a uniform depth across both foundation trenches at 0.36m and appeared to have been a levelling layer deposited to seal the debris rich make-up layer 0003 below.

Layer 0001 sealed layer 0002 and was mid orangey brown friable silty clay topsoil approximately 0.14m in depth. This layer was below garden turf and a gravel drive that formed the modern ground surface.

3. Finds Evidence

by Richenda Goffin

3.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context as shown in the table below.

Context	DBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0003	2	443	L16th-17th C
Total	2	443	

Table 1. Finds quantities

3.2 Ceramic building material

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the monitoring area, as a sample of the artefacts from a layer 0003 containing demolition debris which overlay pit 0005. The corner of a red-fired brick made in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions was present. Its height (45mm) suggests that it is a standard early post-medieval brick dating from the second half of the 16th into the end of the 17th century (Drury 165). A second fragment, also likely to be the remains of a brick, is coarser and contains flint inclusions as well as ferrous material. No complete dimensions such as height were measurable but the existing thickness, the hardness and fabric inclusions suggest that it is of a similar, if not slightly later date.

3.3 Discussion

The two fragments of ceramic building material collected from the demolition layer 0003 are post-medieval. There was no evidence of any artefacts of a medieval date reflecting the location of the site within the medieval moated enclosure.

3.4 References

Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic Building Materials', in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*. East Anglian Archaeology 58, Norwich Survey.

E. Muldowney

October 2009

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