

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/177

Mafeking cottage, Walberswick WLB 073

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HER Information

Planning Application No: C/08/2229

Date of Fieldwork: 7th May 2009, 4th Sept 2009, and 9th Sept 2010

Grid Reference: TM 4979 7476

Funding Body: Mr & Mrs A Cooke

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Duncan Stirk

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Mafeking cottage, Walberswick (TM 4979 7476); WLB 073.

Foundation trenching for a detached building and two extensions to the main structure, was monitored between May 2009 and September 2010. A number of archaeological features were recorded, including pits, post-holes and ditches of uncertain, but probably medieval date. Finds of middle Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval date were recovered during the fieldwork.

1. Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of building work was carried out at Mafeking Cottage, Walberswick, as part of an archaeological condition in relation to a planning permission for building extensions. (Application number: C/08/2229).

The site lies within the medieval core of the village of Walberswick. It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was requirement for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks as outlined in a Brief & Specification produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client Mr & Mrs A Cooke. This took place over three visits on the 7th May and 4th September 2009, and 9th September 2010.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located within the village of Walberswick (Figure 1). The ground prior to the building work was open ground to the rear of Mafeking cottage. The ground to the side of the cottage was occupied by a small extension which had been demolished prior to the work. The ground was relatively level at the 5m AOD contour line. The site is located on sandy drift deposits of glacial or fluvial origin. The site is bounded to the north and south by plots for similar cottages, to the west by open ground and to the east by a village green.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The medieval core of Walberswick is thought to lie to the SW of the development site and is listed on the Historic Environment record (HER) as HER No. WLB 010. The Church of St Andrew (HER No. WLB 014) is to the north of the main street and has a tower dating to the early 15th century. A number of archaeological interventions have been undertaken around the site:

- WLB 064 - Monitored groundworks at the adjacent Poplar Cottage to the SE revealed no archaeological features or finds.

- WLB Misc. – Monitored groundworks at Innisfree, Leverett's Lane, 50m to the NW revealed no archaeological features or finds.
- WLB Misc. Monitored groundworks at Walber House, Leverett's Lane, 70m to the NW revealed no archaeological features or finds.
- WLB Misc. – Monitored groundworks at Hidden Hut 70m to the SE revealed post-medieval pits and an undated post-hole.
- WLB 066 – Monitored groundworks at the Anchor Hotel, 120m to the SW revealed no archaeological features or finds.

On this evidence it would appear that medieval settlement activity in this part of the village was limited, although the lack of archaeological remains may be in part due to past ground disturbance.

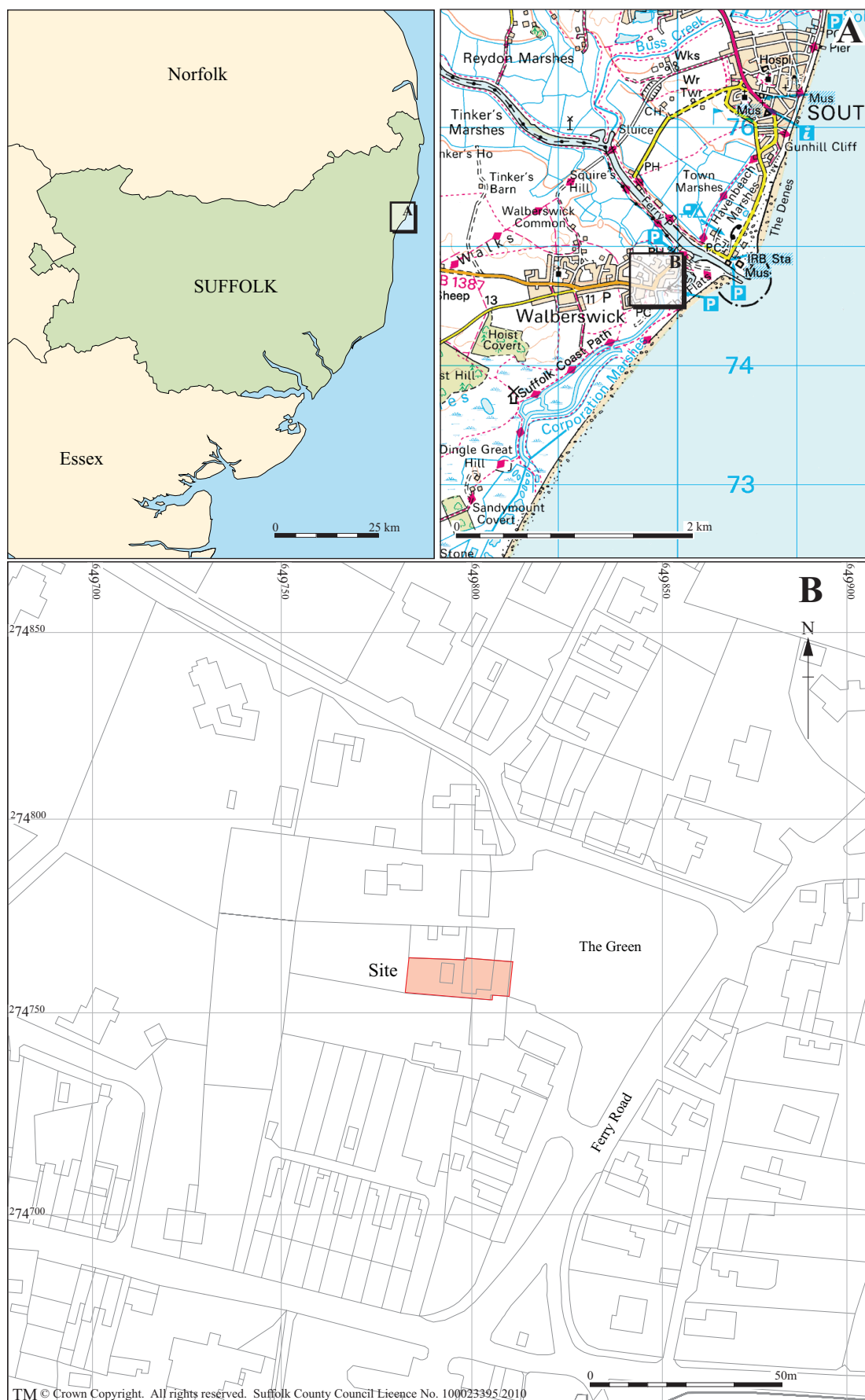


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red)

4. Methodology

The groundworks for the extensions were the subject of this monitoring work; which were allocated the HER number WLB 073.

The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team.

Monitoring of the excavation of foundations was carried out over three visits on the 7th May 2009, 4th September 2009, and the 9th September 2010. The work involved the examination of the excavated foundation trenches to determine the presence of archaeological features. The foundation trenches were excavated in advance of the archaeological monitoring with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand to better reveal changes in colour and composition that would indicate the presence of archaeological deposits and features. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro-forma* recording forms, following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service. All archaeological deposits were drawn in a series of 1:20 scale sections and 1:50 scale plans, and photographed. The graphics in this report have been produced using Adobe illustrator software.

5. Results

5.1 Extension 1

The first phase of monitoring was for an extension to the west side of Mafeking Cottage, that measured 6.9m by 6.1m. The topsoil and turf was reduced by 0.38m, and the geological natural was seen at a depth of 0.28m below the new ground level (BGL). It was a mixed deposit of orangy brown and light yellow brown sand, 0019. Cutting the natural along the southern side of the extension was a feature with shallow convex sides and concave base, 0013, that was 1.45m wide by 0.42m thick. It held a mixed fill of mid to dark brown sand and orangy brown sand with yellow sand at its base, 0015. This feature was cut by a N-S aligned ditch, 0014, with steep convex sides and a concave base, that was 0.95m wide and over 0.7m long by 0.5m deep. It held a mid grey brown sandy silt fill 0012. Feature 0013 and ditch 0014 were sealed by a dark grey brown sandy silt subsoil remnant, that was 0.08m thick, 0011. Deposit 0011 produced three pottery sherds dating to the middle Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval periods.

In the northern part of the extension foundation trench there was a brick well surround that had been capped with concrete, 0016. This well probably truncated most of ditch 0014, a remnant of which may perhaps be seen in the photograph (Plate 3). This was sealed by the modern topsoil 0001.



Plate 1. Ditch 0014 facing S



Plate 2. Feature 0013 facing
SW



Plate 3. Well 0016 facing NE

5.2 Extension 2

Extension 2 was located on the southern side of Mafeking Cottage, and measured 4.2m by 1.55m, with foundation trenches 0.88m deep. The natural geology, 0019, was the same as the deposit seen in Extension 1. It was cut by a variety of features. In the centre of the extension, the natural was cut by a N-S aligned slot 0008 that had near vertical convex sides and a concave base that was 0.6m wide by 0.64m long and 0.5m deep (Plate 4). It held a mottled light orange brown and mid brown silty sand fill, 0007.

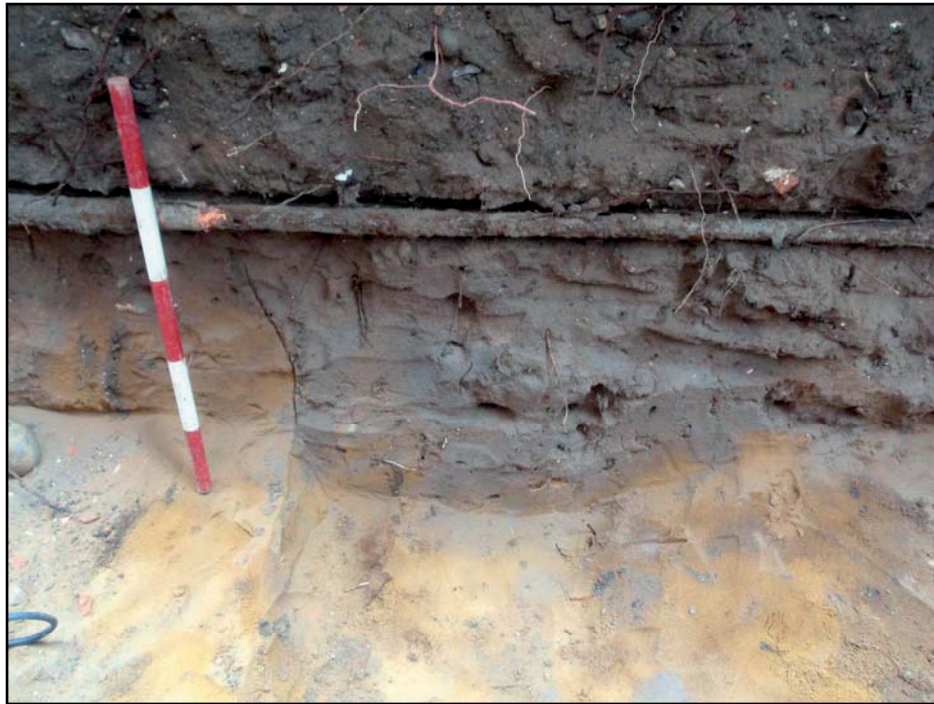


Plate 4. Slot 0008 facing S
(0.5m scale)

Beside slot 0008, to the west, was a post-hole, 0006, that had steep concave sides and a concave base, which measured 0.35m by 0.3m by 0.37m deep (Plate 5). It held a mottled light orange brown sand and mid brown silty sand fill, 0005.

At the eastern end of the extension the natural was cut by a shallow feature, 0010, with concave sides and a concave uneven base, measuring 0.7m by over 0.26m by 0.15m deep. (Plate 6) It held a reddish brown sand fill, 0009.



Plate 5. Post-hole 0014
facing S (0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Pit 0010 & foundation
0001 facing E (0.5m scale)

In the SW corner of the extension, and cutting post-hole 0006, was a large pit, 0004. The pit had moderate concave sides and a flat base, and was over 0.62m wide by over 1.15m long by 0.32m deep. It held a mid brown silty sand fill, 0003, from which a brick was recovered, that is late medieval or early post-medieval in date.



Plate 7. Pit 0004 facing W
(0.5m scale)

5.3 Extension 3

The third extension was in the garden at the western end of the plot. It measured 5.6m by 3.3m. No archaeological features were seen in this phase of work. The natural geology, 0019, was overlain by a 0.3m thick deposit of grey brown sandy silt subsoil, 0018, and a 0.2m thick deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt and turf, 0017.



Plate 8. Extension 3
foundations facing NW

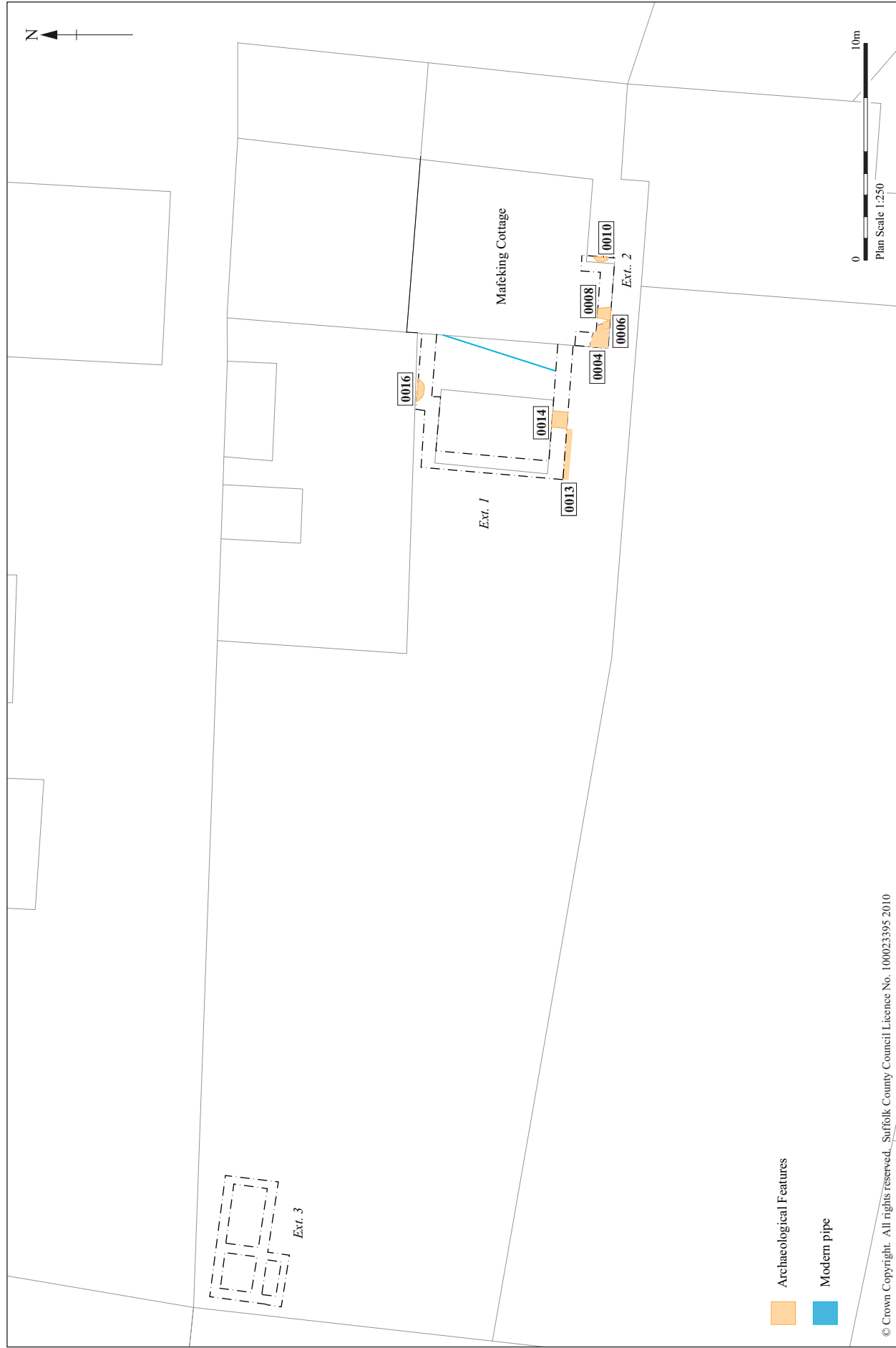


Figure 2. Trench Plan and features for three phases.

6 Finds and environmental evidence (Richenda Goffin)

6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003			1	586	Late med/early post-med
0011	3	21			Mid Saxon, med and early post-med
Total	3	21	1	586	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Three fragments of pottery were recovered from the monitoring (21g). An abraded sherd of Sandy Ipswich type ware of Middle Saxon date was present in subsoil deposit 0011. It has a sooted external surface and comes from the junction of the lower part of the pot with the base. A small, slightly abraded sherd of medieval coarseware which was also burnt was found in the same context, together with a fragment of a glazed red earthenware with a partially reduced core, (LMT/GRE), which probably dates to the sixteenth century.

6.3 Ceramic building material

A large but fragmentary piece of ceramic building material was collected from pitfill 0003. It is made in a fine slightly micaceous fabric which has buff and pale cream silty streaks. No complete dimensions are measureable, but its height is at least 41mm, and its width at least 85mm. It is probably a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval brick, although it could be part of a post-medieval floor-tile (Drury 166).

6.4 Discussion

The presence of the abraded sherd of Ipswich-type ware is of interest, as although it was not well-stratified, it provides some indication of the pre-medieval settlement. As the site lies within the medieval core of the village the presence of medieval and later pottery is not unexpected.

7. Discussion

Few stratified finds were recovered during the work, so it is difficult to interpret the features that were revealed. It seems likely that the cut features are medieval in date, as the deposit overlying them produced a small assemblage of Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval pottery. Ditch 0014 may have formed the rear boundary to properties fronting onto the green. Post-hole 0006, and slot 0008 may be elements of timber buildings within the property strip. The building technique is different and it is quite likely that different phases of building are represented by these features. Pit 0004 is possibly a rubbish pit that clearly post-dates post-hole 0006, but may be contemporaneous with slot 0008. Pit 0010 may be another rubbish pit, but its ephemeral nature and uneven base may suggest that it is a natural or plant feature.

Well 0016 is clearly much later than all the other archaeological features. It probably dates to the 18th or 19th century, and is located along the property boundary between Mafeking Cottage and the property to the north. It therefore probably dates to the construction of Mafeking cottage.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

Previous monitoring of development work in the vicinity of the site has not revealed any remains of the medieval village. The features recorded at Mafeking Cottage are not well dated, but they are likely to be remnants of a medieval property strip containing timber buildings, and are therefore good evidence that the area was part of the medieval settlement. Of particular interest is the fragment of residual middle Saxon pottery that was recovered, that appears to be the first such find in the village. Although unstratified, this is broad indication that a settlement of that period may have been in the vicinity. Future development in the vicinity should take this into account.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Duncan Stirk and Linzi Everett from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Production of site plans and sections was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

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

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. Context List

Context	Type	Description
0001	Deposit	Brick rubble make-up layer and foundation for demolished extension. 0.35m thick.
0002	Deposit	Dark grey sandy silt. Possible buried soil. 0.2m thick.
0003	Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Fill of pit 0004. >0.62m x >1.15m x 0.32m thick.
0004	Cut	Moderate concave sides and a flat base. Cut of pit. >0.62m x >1.15m x 0.32m deep
0005	Fill	Mottled light orange brown sand & mid brown silty sand. Fill of post-hole 0006. 0.35m x 0.3m x 0.37m thick.
0006	Cut	Steep concave sides & concave base. Cut of post-hole 0.35m x 0.3m x 0.37m deep.
0007	Fill	Mottled light orange brown sand & mid brown silty sand. Fill of slot 0008. >0.6m x 0.64m x 0.5m thick.
0008	Cut	Near vertical convex sides and concave base. Cut of pit. >0.6m x 0.64m x 0.5m deep.
0009	Deposit	Reddish brown sand fill of possible natural feature 0010. 0.7m x >0.26m x 0.15m thick.
0010	Cut	Concave sides & concave uneven base. Cut of possible natural feature. 0.7m x >0.26m x 0.15m deep.
0011	Deposit	Dark grey brown sandy silt subsoil remnant. 0.08m thick.
0012	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt fill of ditch 0014. 0.95m wide x >0.7m long x 0.5m thick.
0013	Fill	Shallow convex sides and concave base. Fill of feature. 1.45m wide x 0.42m thick
0014	Cut	Steep convex sides and concave base. Cut of N-S aligned ditch. 0.95m wide x >0.7m long x 0.5m deep.
0015	Cut	Mixed mid to dark brown sand & orangy brown sand with yellow sand at base. Fill of possible feature 0013. 1.45m wide x 0.42m
0016	Masonry	Brick well surround with concrete cap.
0017	Deposit	Dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil and turf 0.2m thick.
0018	Deposit	Grey brown sandy silt subsoil 0.3m thick
0019	Deposit	Mixed orangy brown and lt yellow brown sand natural.