

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/226

Proposed Earth Shelter House, Little Priory, Church Street, Wangford with Henham, Suffolk

WNF 028

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HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/10/0031

Dates of Fieldwork: 20.10.10

Grid Reference: TM 4661 7903

Commissioning Body: Vaughan Keal

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Jezz Meredith

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-89911

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

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Disclaimer

Summary

WNF 028, proposed Earth Shelter House, Little Priory, Church Street, Wangford with Henham: A single trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a proposed earth shelter dwelling. Under deep deposits of likely post-medieval date, two significant archaeological features were encountered at the southern end of the trench. A partly revealed possible footing of flint cobbles and mortar was encountered in the extreme south-east corner of the trench. The footing cut a large irregularly-based feature (possibly a series of ditches) which contained medieval pottery of 13th to 14th century date.

1. Introduction

A single trial trench evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Little Priory, Church Street, Wangford (TM 4661 7903). This work was in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission granted by Waveney District Council (Planning Application number: DC/10/0031) for a proposed earth shelter dwelling. The fieldwork was conducted by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team, on Wednesday, 20th October 2010.

2. Location, geology and topography

The site is centred at National Grid Reference TM 4661 7903 and encompasses an area of approximately 1,100m². The area under investigation is just below the 10m contour. It is located within the centre of Wangford to the south of the Church of St Peter and St Paul (Fig. 1).

The published Quaternary geology of the site is glacial sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00, Quaternary). Sands and gravel with minor inter-beds of silt and clay would be expected in this area. The natural geological deposits encountered during trenching consisted of mid yellow sand and gravel.

The site is located on a gentle western slope, which becomes steeper to the west of the site where it eventually leads down to the River Wang. The eastern edge of the site is bounded by a low bank. This feature has previously been archaeologically investigated and shown to be of modern origin (Good 2008b). A band of trees occupy the north of the site and these form a boundary with the adjacent churchyard to the north. A well established hedge runs along the southern boundary, before the ground gives way to a deeply cut lane beyond.

The site is located in an area of Rolling Estate Sandlands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment* (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk).

The key characteristics of this landscape type are as follows:

- Sloping or rolling river terraces and coastal slopes
- Sandy and free draining soils with areas of heathland
- Late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges
- Parklands
- A focus of settlement in the Estate Sandlands landscape
- In the east are 19th century red brick buildings with black glazed pantiles
- Tree belts and plantations throughout
- Occasional and significant semi natural woodlands and ribbons of wet woodland
- Complex and intimate landscape on valley sides



Plate 1. General view of trench looking north; feature 0009 under excavation

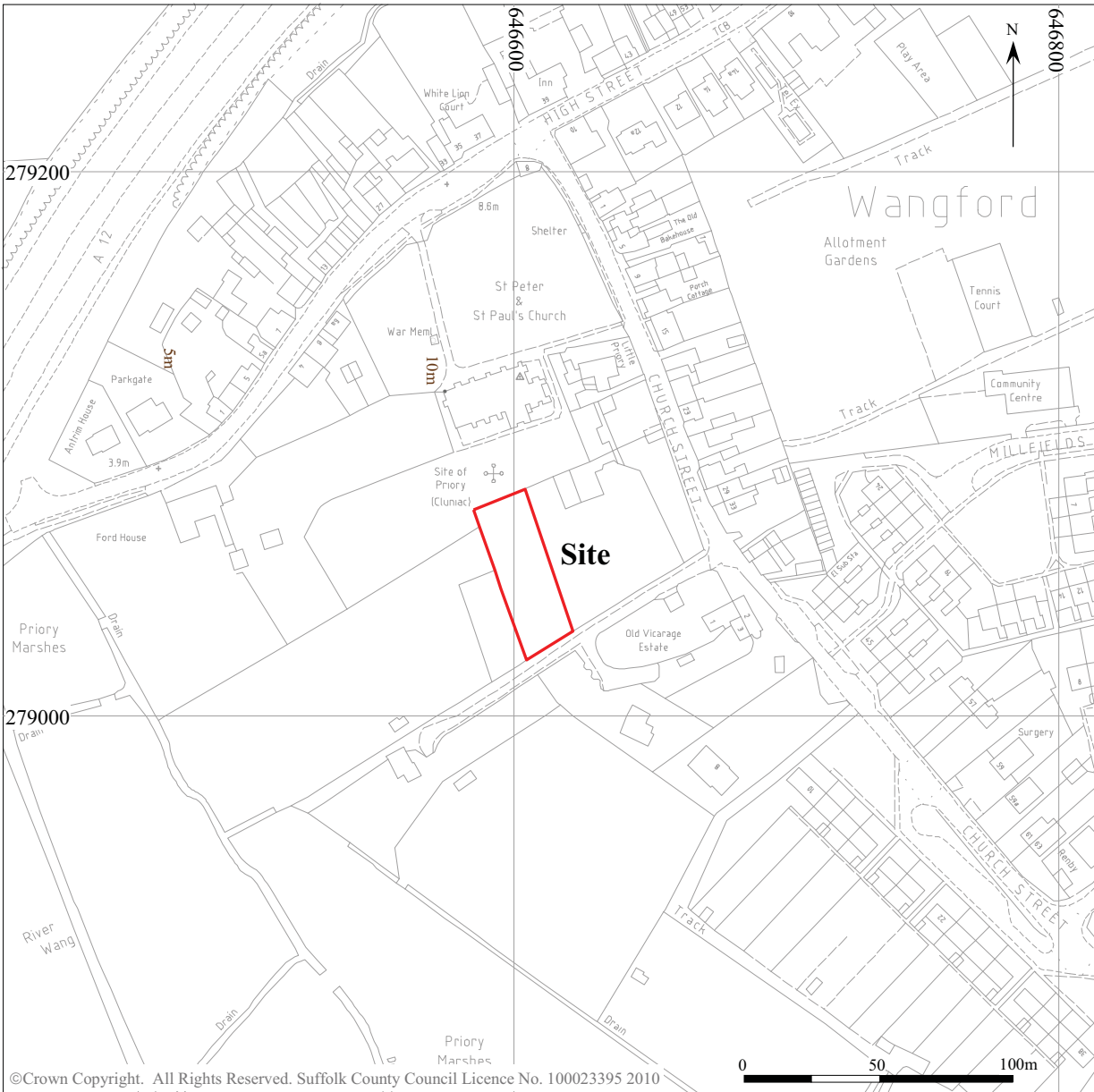
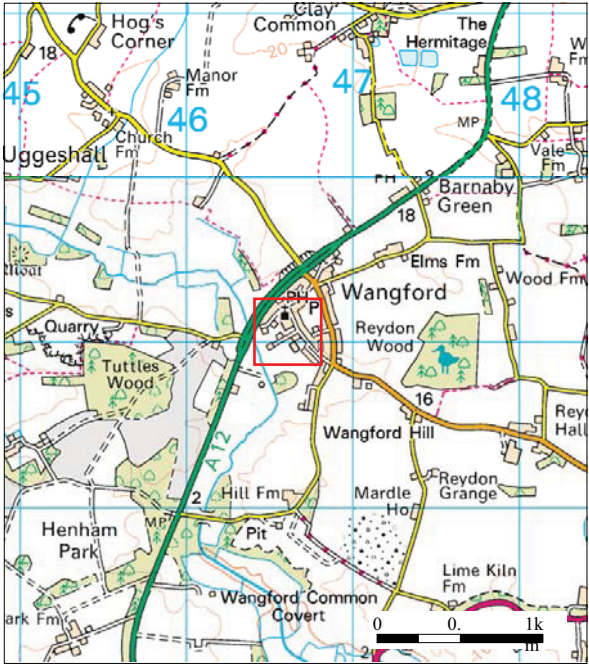


Figure 1. Site location

3. Archaeological background

The historic and archaeological significance of the site has previously been investigated (Breen 2007, Good 2008a, 2008b). The following description summarises their findings.

The site is located c.40m south of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul (WNF 005). It is likely that this church is superimposed over and could incorporate parts of the earlier monastic church of the Augustinian Priory (WNF 001). It is possible that the present site could be within the priory precinct.

The monitoring of building works at Little Priory (WNF 024) to the east of the church revealed disarticulated human bone, probably originating from the churchyard but now incorporated into modern pits and features.

An earlier evaluation south of Little Priory (WNF 025) and to the east of the present site revealed prehistoric features (Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) to the east and a large extraction pit and other medieval features to the west and north-west of the adjacent site.

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation took place on October 20th, 2010, and was conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Tipper, 2010; Appendix 1).

A single north to south trial trench was positioned running through the middle of the site to sample the area within the footprint of the proposed building and of the driveway coming from the north (Plate 1). It was not possible to extend the trench towards the north of the site because of the dense covering of trees at this end of the plot.

The trench was 29m long and was dug with a wheeled digger with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trench was c.600mm deep at its northern end and

c.800mm at the south. Topsoil and other overburden were removed by the machine to reveal either undisturbed geological deposits or archaeological features.

Archaeological features, soil horizons and the natural stratum were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0012. They were drawn in plan (at scales of 1:50) and in section (at a scale of 1:20) on 290mm x 420mm sheets of gridded drawing film. Written records were made on *pro forma* context recording sheets. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images. Selected deposits were sampled for environmental analysis. The trench edges were measured in from the boundaries of the site

Due to the previous wet conditions, the depth of deposits encountered and the piling of spoil up-slope from the trench, part of the trench edge suffered collapse during excavation of feature 0009. For this reason 0009 was not photographed or the section drawn against the baulk.

The site has been given the Historic Environment Record (HER) code WNF 028. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1-89911 has been used for this project.

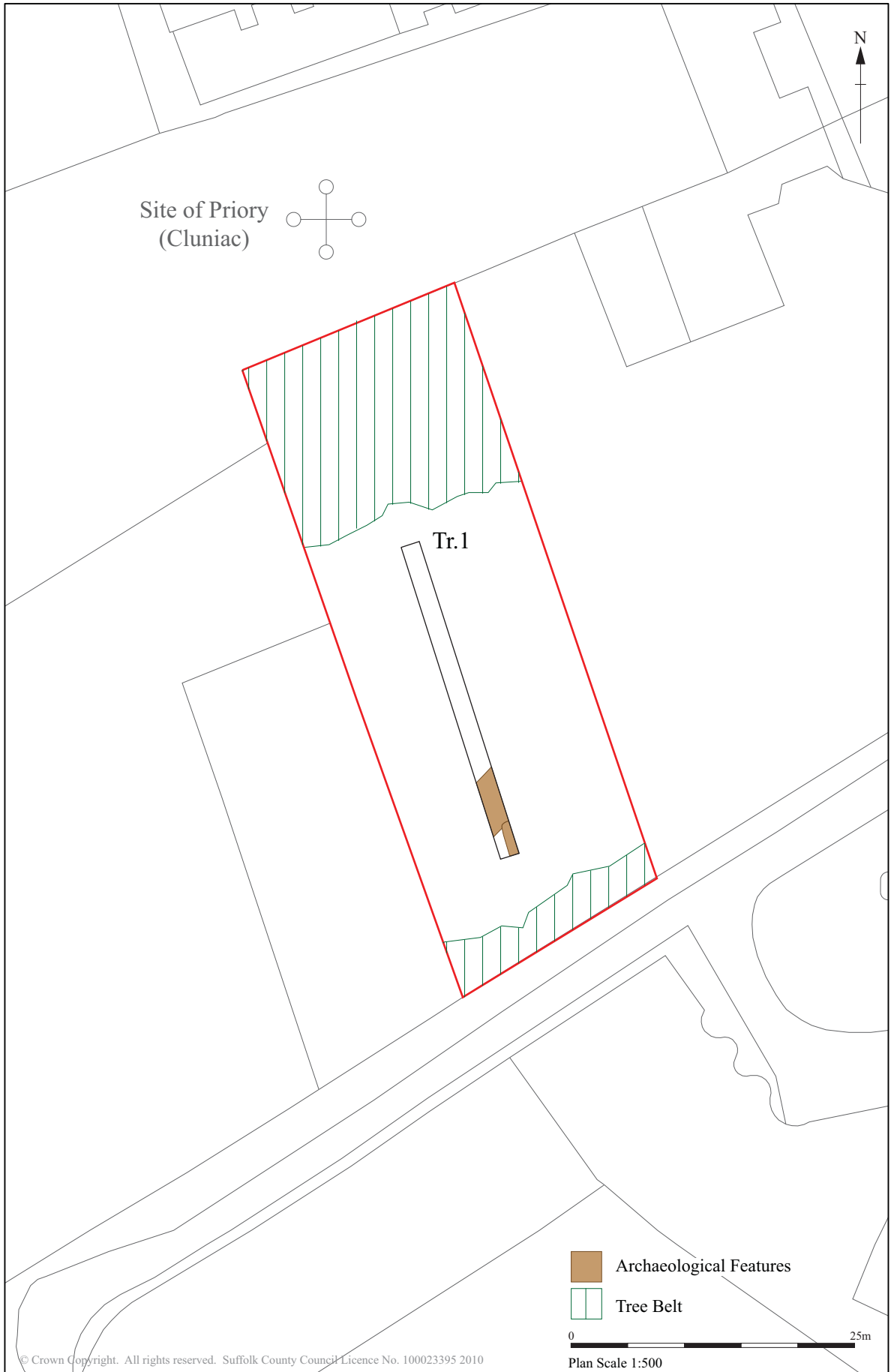


Figure 2. Trench location

5. Results

A thick sandy loam topsoil of up to 400mm depth (layer 0002) lay over a silty sand subsoil of 200mm thickness (layer 0003). Under this were natural geological deposits consisting of yellow sand with rounded flint gravel patches (0004).

At the southern end of the trench modern deposits were encountered between 0002 and 0003 (Plate 2). Layer 0005 was located under the topsoil between approximately 5m and 10m from the end of the trench while the more considerable layer 0006 extended for a full 10m from the southern end. Pale yellow loose sand of c.100mm thickness (layer 0005) was over a deposit of dark grey brown loam (layer 0006) which was up to 250mm in thickness. Layer 0006 contained post-medieval pottery and at least one piece of disarticulated human bone.

Feature 0007 (Fig. 3, Plate 2) was encountered in the south-eastern corner of the trench and ran northwards along the eastern trench edge (length 2.8m+, width 700mm+ and depth 400mm). This was a shallow, linear cut with only the western edge and part of the northern end revealed within the trench. Where excavated it revealed a fairly sharp break of slope at the top with gently sloping concave sides with an imperceptible break of slope to a flat base.

Fill 0008 (Fig. 3, Plate 2) consisted of alternate bands of, from top: large flint cobbles, some broken, with loose mortar; yellow sand; medium flints with soft mortar; yellow sand with small rounded flints; mixed flint cobbles, small rounded flints and sand; and, at the base, mid brown sand with small to medium rounded flints. It seems likely that this feature is part of a foundation. At its northern end 0007 cut the fill of feature 0009.

At 2m from the south end of the trench was feature 0009 (Fig. 3, Plate 1). Partly sample excavated along the eastern edge of the trench before the trench sides collapsed, its undulating base suggested initially that it was an irregular pit. Its appearance in plan with parallel sides, c.4.5m apart, might suggest however that this was a ditch and the irregular base might be due to more than one ditch being present (e.g. recuts), although these could not be recognised in section before the collapse. No linear features on this alignment were detected within nearby Trench 6 of site WNF 025.

Where seen, cut 0009 had a gradually sloping northern edge with an uneven base. Its maximum depth from the base of the trench was 660mm. Its upper fill was 0010 which was mid reddish brown silty sand, which was over basal fill 0011. This deposit was mid brown silty sand with paler sandy lenses. Pottery finds from these fills suggest a medieval date of between the 12th and 14th centuries.

Feature group 0012 consisted of a line of five post-settings, two of which contained traces of fairly fresh looking wood. Running north to south with the trench and therefore parallel with the western boundary of the site, these appeared to be of quite recent origin and probably represent an earlier boundary or a sub-division of the plot. None of these features were excavated.

A full list of contexts is shown in Table 1.



Plate 2. Footing 0007, overlain by modern deposits 0005 and 0006

Context no.	Type	Description
0001	Finds	Unstratified finds, whole trench
0002	Layer	Topsoil. Sandy loam of 350-400mm thickness, stonier band at c.300mm depth
0003	Layer	Subsoil. Mid brown friable silty sand of c.200mm thickness. At S end of trench dark dump layer 0006 was over this. Feature 0009 probably cut this layer but this was difficult to check due to collapse of trench edge
0004	Deposit	Natural. Mid to pale yellow loose sand with moderate small to medium rounded flint gravel. Patches of root disturbance all along trench but particularly at N end near trees
0005	Layer	Spread of pale yellow loose sand of c.100mm thickness. Probably modern make-up between 0002 and 0006 at S end of trench only
0006	Layer	Spread of dark grey brown loam of c.250mm max thickness, S end of trench only extending for c.10m. Probable recent make-up over 0008. Contains human bone – possibly derived from work undertaken in 1950s around church and suspected to have been dumped here
0007	Cut	Cut for possible footing. Possible N-S running linear, partly revealed along E and S edges of trench. Only W edge and base of feature observed in trench: fairly steep bos top, gently sloping concave sides with imperceptible bos to flat base. Length 2.8m+ (cont. to S), width 700mm+ (cont. to E), depth 400mm. Cuts 0010, upper fill of feature 0009
0008	Fill	Layered footing with bands of cobbles, sand, mortared flints etc of c400mm thickness
0009	Cut	Ditch or pit near S end of trench. Gradually sloping N edge, uneven base. Filled by 0010 and 0011. Depth 660mm from base of trench, extends for c.5m along trench for full width of trench. Possible extraction pit but could be series of NE-SW ditches? Sectioned not photographed due to collapse of edge of trench
0010	Fill	Upper fill of 0009. Mid reddish brown friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frags. Finds: pot, bone, heated flint. Sample 1
0011	Fill	Lower fill of 0009. Mid brown friable silty sand with lenses of pale brown silty sand and pale yellow sand. With v occasional small rounded stones, occ charcoal flecks and frags. Finds: pot, bone. Sample 2
0012	Group	Line of 5 N-S running posts, most with traces of wood intact, probably 20 th century. Not excavated

Table 1. Context list

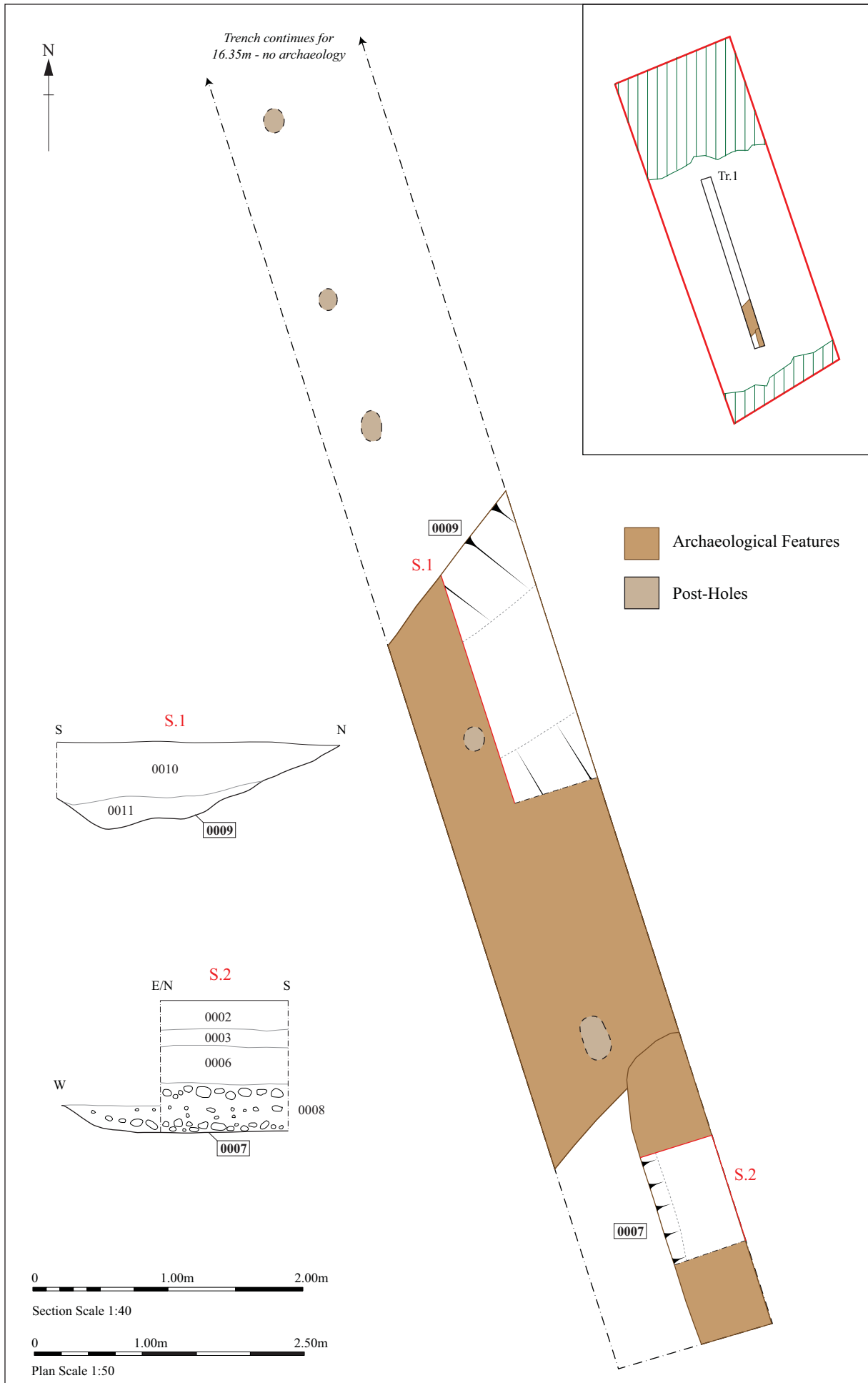


Figure 3. Trench plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	1	34								13th-14th C
0005	7	122	2	61	1	15	1	5	1 human bone @ 190g, 1 oyst frag @ 1g	Med, post-med
0010	55	716	1	12	8	53			2 oyster @ 24g, 2 burnt flint @ 22g, fishbone from Sample 1	13th-14th C
0011	3	25			3	69			Med sherd from Sample 2	12th-14th C
Total	66	897	3	73	12	137	1	5		

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

A total of sixty-six fragments of pottery was recovered from the evaluation (897g). The assemblage dates to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery was fully catalogued (Appendix 2). Additional medieval sherds were noted in the soil samples from contexts 0010 and 0011, but these have not been included in the table above.

A large medieval assemblage was recovered from two fills of feature 0009. A total of 55 sherds were found in the upper fill 0010. The group was made up of a range of medieval wheelthrown coarsewares. These were varying in their appearance, with most of them being pale orange to dark grey in colour and having sandy fabrics. Many of them showed similarities to Hollesley type wares, but the fabrics were not differentiated and they were classified by the collective term of medieval coarsewares. Some fabrics were characterised by coarser sand inclusions and these may date to slightly earlier in the overall date range. The square rims of four jars shows that the context dates to the 13th-14th century. In addition one jar with a plain everted thickened rim is likely to date to the 11th-12th century. Some of the pottery was sooted. Three further body sherds of sooted medieval coarseware were found in the lower fill 0011.

Four post-medieval sherds were found in the sandy spread 0005. Three of these date to the nineteenth century, but three sherds of medieval pottery were also identified from this feature.

6.3 Ceramic building material

Three small fragments of ceramic building material were collected overall (73g). A fragment of curved tile, probably part of a post-medieval pantile and another fragment of fully oxidised roofing tile was found in spread 0005. A small abraded fragment with a sandy fabric with flint inclusions may date to the late medieval to early post-medieval period, from fill 0010 may perhaps be intrusive.

6.4 Flint

Identified by Colin Pendleton

A single fragment of worked flint was collected from spread 0005. It is an unpatinated long flake with limited edge retouch on the long edges and partially along the distal end, which is also partially hinge fractured. It has shallow parallel flake scars on the dorsal face. It dates to the later prehistoric period and is probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date.

6.5 Burnt flint

Two pieces of burnt flint were recovered from fill 0010.

6.6 Human skeletal remains

Mike Feider

A single left tibia from an adult human was found in spread 0005, with a fragment of unidentifiable medium sized mammal bone.

6.7 Animal bone

Mike Feider

Twelve fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 137g. A rib from a medium-sized mammal and a large mammal lumbar and cervical vertebra were found in fill 0011. The cervical vertebrae displayed several fine cut-marks on the lateral surfaces. The largest quantity of bone was recovered from fill 0010. This contained fragments of a pig ulna, cow scapula, sheep/goat tibia, a pheasant coracoid, two medium-sized mammal ribs, a medium-sized mammal thoracic vertebra, and an

ulna from a juvenile sheep/goat. All of the remains were in very good condition, apart from the shaft fragment from spread 0005, which displayed significant surface weathering. In addition fragments of fishbone were identified amongst the material recovered through the flotation of the plant macrofossil samples.

6.8 Shell

Fragments of oyster shell were recorded from spread 0005 and fill 0010.

6.9 Plant macrofossils

Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methods

The flots from two bulk samples taken from a medieval feature were submitted to the Environmental Department at Oxford Archaeology East for an initial assessment in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The flots had been obtained by the manual flotation of bulk samples carried out by a member of the Suffolk Archaeology team using a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Sample No	Context	Cut No	Feature type	Flot contents
1	10	9	Upper fill of feature	Charcoal +++, charred cereal grains #, weed seeds #, legumes #, hammerscale +
2	11	9	Lower fill of feature	Charcoal ++, charred ceral grains #, weed seeds #, legumes #, hammerscale +

Table 3. Plant macrofossils

Preservation is predominantly by charring although mineralisation occurs in Sample 2, lower feature fill 0011. Charcoal fragments are common and consist of wood charcoal.

Charred cereal grains occur in low numbers (less than 15 specimens) in both samples. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains predominate with occasional rye (*Secale cereale*) grains and a single barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain occurring in Sample 2.

Legumes in the form of beans (*Vicia faba*) and peas (*Pisum sativum*) occur in low quantities (less than 5 specimens) in both of the samples.

Occasional charred weed seeds are present and include grass seeds (Poaceae), vetch (*Vicia* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.) and a fragment of knapweed/cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.). A single mineralised seed of bitterweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) was recovered from Sample 2 along with a mineralised millipede segment.

Small bones are present in both samples and include rodent and possibly amphibian bones. Four fish bones were noted in Sample 2.

Hammerscale was retrieved from both samples. Spheroids occur in both samples and a single flake of hammerscale was found in Sample 2.

Discussion

The plant remains recovered from the medieval feature 0009 are dominated by cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised. The weed seed assemblage, though small, is generally consistent with plants likely to be harvested as crop contaminants. The cereals, along with other dietary remains, namely fish bone and legumes, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste into the feature.

The plant assemblages from the two deposits are similar in content; the only significant difference being the presence of mineralised plant and invertebrate remains in the lower deposit. The occurrence of a mineralised seed of bitter-sweet is unusual as the berries from this plant are poisonous to man. The plant does have medicinal properties and the berries are edible for birds.

Small bones occur in both deposits but fish bones were only noted in the flots of Sample 2, although fish bone was recovered from both of the sample residues.

The presence of hammerscale indicates that smithing activities were taking place in the near vicinity. Both spheroids and a single flake were noted in the flots. Flake hammerscale is indicative of general smithing activities but spheroids are only produced during high temperature welding and smithing of primary bloom.

Further Work and Methods Statement

No further work on the plant macrofossil assemblage is required. Identification of the small bone elements may be informative.

If further work is planned in this area, environmental sampling should still be considered as these results show that there is potential for the recovery of plant macrofossils. Specific sampling for magnetic residues should be included.

6.10 Finds discussion

The finds assemblage demonstrates some evidence of prehistoric activity, consisting of a redeposited flint of later prehistoric date and two burnt flint fragments. The struck flint is of a similar date to the three flints recovered from the previous evaluation nearby (Good 2008b). The majority of the pottery is medieval, with most of the diagnostic rims present in fill 0010 being dated to the 13th-14th century. A range of fabric variants is represented, with some sherds which are likely to date to around the 12th century rather than later. Feature 0009 provides further evidence of the location of the site within the Priory, and the medieval village settlement. The presence of small quantities of macrofossils and animal bones including fishbone, together with oyster shell, and pottery does suggest this feature contained domestic refuse, whilst the appearance of hammerscale indicates that smithing was occurring nearby during the medieval period.

The fragment of redeposited human bone is also likely to be evidence of medieval burials associated with the Priory or the nearby church.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The deep soil deposits encountered might be partly due to hillwash and colluvial processes but dumping of soils on the plot is suspected and modern made ground was identified within the adjacent site (WNF 025). Layers 0005 and 0006 are probably of post-medieval or more recent date. The site owners believe that soil removed from near the churchyard was dumped here during the 1950s and this might account for the human bone recovered from 0006.

The possible structural feature 0007 appears to be a flint and mortar footing, although it was only partly seen in the trench and was thus not confirmed to be structural. The client's architect was aware that a structure was recorded nearby on the OS map of c.1920 (Fig. 4). The trench, however, did not extend to the structure as shown on the OS map, although the registration of the modern plan with the historic map can not be assured. The construction technique, although undated, is likely to be pre-20th century. Given that no structures are shown at this location on the 1st and 2nd edition maps of c.1880 and c.1910 respectively, it is probable that this feature belongs to an earlier period. This footing cut feature 0009, which has been dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. Footing 0007 is likely to be therefore of late medieval or post-medieval date.

Feature 0009 appeared to have an uneven base and might represent more than one feature. The sides were parallel so this feature could represent a north-east to south-west running ditch (the uneven base possible due to a number of re-cuts). No ditches on this alignment were, however, encountered in the almost adjacent Trench 6 of site WNF 025. Unfortunately due to the severe collapse of the trench edge this feature could not be fully investigated.

Feature 0009 contained two fills (upper 0010 and lower 0011) that produced good quantities of finds with pottery dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The presence of cereal grains, legumes and fish bones indicate an abundance of domestic debris and likely medieval habitation nearby. Interestingly, sample residues also revealed evidence

for metalworking – both general and primary bloom smithing – so industrial processing nearby is also likely.

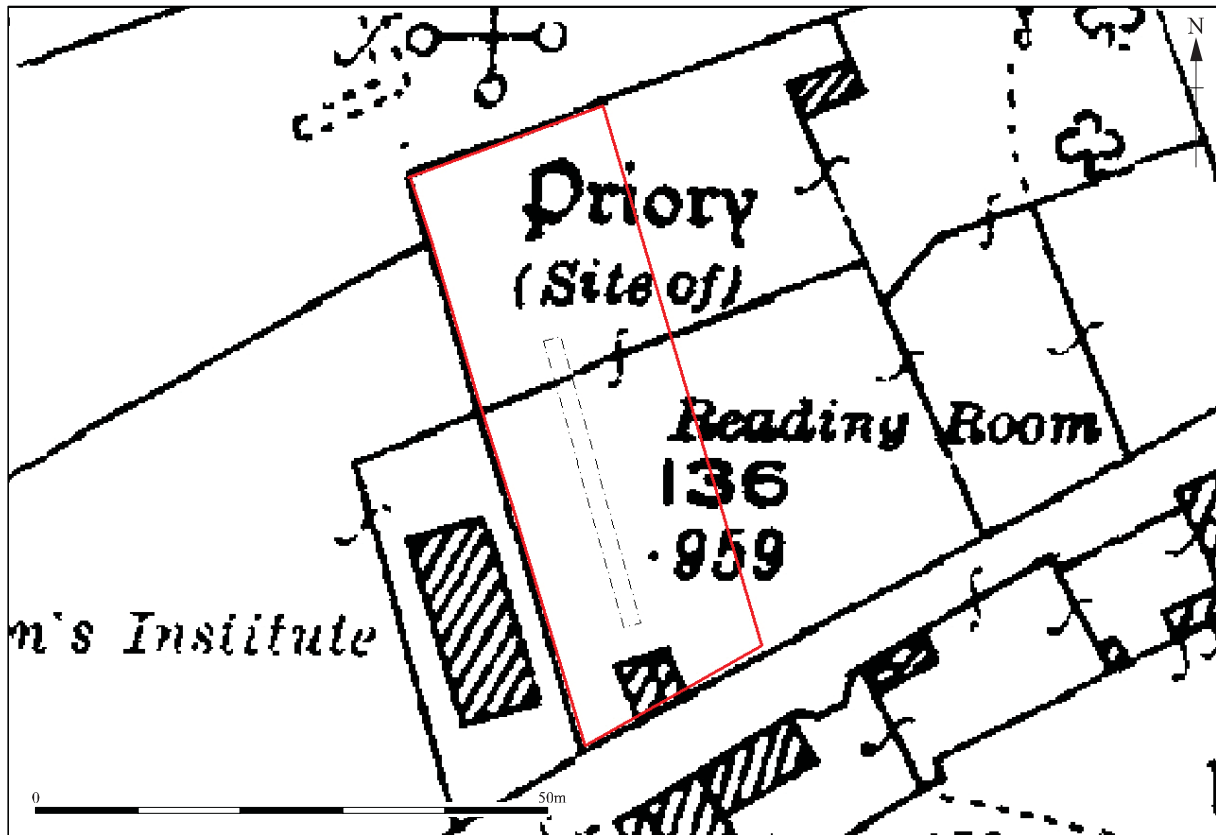


Fig 4. Site and trench location in relation to 1920s O.S. map

Archaeological remains appear to be restricted to the south end of the trench. The features encountered could either be situated within the abbey precinct or linked with settlement and activity beyond. Feature 0009 contained material of medieval date which was possibly contemporary with the monastic centre to the north. The flint and mortar footing 0007 could belong to a later period. If feature 0009 represents one or more ditches these could indicate either the southern limit of the abbey precinct or of property boundaries, possibly associated with the sunken lane to the south of the site.

It is recommended that deep ground interventions across the southern third of the site be investigated archaeologically. Any groundworks of 600mm or more depth are likely to damage archaeological remains and some form of mitigation would be required. Shallower interventions of up to 400mm depth would allow a 200mm buffer and would pose little threat to the archaeology and thus remains could be left *in situ*.

Should deep groundworks of over 600mm depth be required, it is suggested that the site should be stripped to the level of the archaeological deposits and then excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. It is also recommended that the access road and any service runs be monitored. Further environmental sampling should be undertaken and samples should also be checked for metalworking debris.

8. Archive deposition

Paper, photographic and digital archive: SCCAS Ipswich –
St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1LZ

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds –
8-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2AR
Main store: K/121/5

9. Acknowledgements and list of contributors

The site owner, Mr Stephen Clarke, kindly provided a wheeled digger with driver. The client's architect, Mr Vaughan Keal, offered advice during the trenching. Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Curatorial Team) was the curatorial officer in charge and issued the Brief and Specification for this project.

Rhodri Gardner managed the project. Jez Meredith directed the fieldwork and was assisted by Simon Picard.

Richenda Goffin reported on the finds, with contributions from Mike Feider and Colin Pendleton. The environmental samples were processed by Anna West and were assessed by Rachel Fosberry. Graphics were produced by Linzi Everett.

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of SCCAS Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors will determine the need for further work 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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**LITTLE PRIORY, CHURCH STREET, WANGFORD, SUFFOLK**

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission has been approved by Waveney District Council for the construction of a new dwelling (earth-sheltered house) on land at Little Priory, Church Street, Wangford, NR34 8RW (TL 466 790). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPG 16 (Paragraph 30) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The site is located to the west side of Church Road at c.10.00m OD and overlooking the River Wang and Priory Marshes (to the west). The soils are deep sand and loam, derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift and chalky till.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposal will cause significant ground disturbance and will affect a considerable area. The development site has been previously evaluated in 2008, prior to determination of the planning permission (SCCAS report 2008/137; HER no. WNF 025). This work defined prehistoric settlement features (ditch and pit) in Trench 1 in the SE part of the site, close to Church Street. A medieval extraction pit was defined in the central part of the site (Trs. 3 and 4), a pit and two ditches (Tr. 6), all probably associated with the monastic complex (Augustian Priory; WNF 001) located immediately to the north. There is, therefore, high potential for encountering further heritage assets of archaeological importance during the development. In general, however, the depth of topsoil and subsoil deposits was deep, due to dumping across the central part of the site, although the depth was much shallower towards the west.
- 1.5 Because of the nature of the development, there is high potential for any remains to be damaged or destroyed by any groundworks associated with the proposed earth-shelter house, in the west part of the site (an area measuring 60.00m long N–S x 20.00m E–W).
- 1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the west part of the site where significant groundworks are proposed, and which has not been previously evaluated.
- 1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Waveney District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of

assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

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

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 3.1 The following trenched evaluation is required:
- A single linear trial trench is to be excavated, 30.00m long x 1.80m wide to cover the area of the proposed new development (aligned N–S).
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench should be included in the WSI and 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 Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

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 a 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 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer

regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.14 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 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 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.17 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, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval (see para. 5.16). This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 26 August 2010

Reference: / LittlePriory_Wangford2010rev

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. WNF 028 Pottery catalogue

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	Weight	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0001	MED	MCW	JAR	1	34	S	Squared rim		13th-14th C
0005	PM	GRE	BOWL	1	45	S		16th-18th C	
0005	PM	ENGS	BODY	1	13		Probably London stoneware	17th-19th C	
0005	PM	IRON	DISH	2	39		Transfer printed wares, pearlware, floral border	19th C+	19th C+
0005	M	MCW	BODY	3	25	S		12th-14th C	
0010	M	MCW	JAR	4	76		Pale orange to dk grey, all squared rims		13th-14th C
0010	M	MCW	JAR	1	16	S	Internal thumbled rim decoration		
0010	M	MCW	JAR	1	14		Plain everted thickened rim, probably 11th-12th C	11th-12th C	
0010	M	MCW	JAR	1	9		Club shaped beaded rim		
0010	M	MCW	BODY	48	601		Miscellaneous body sherds		
0011	M	MCW	BODY	3	25				12th-14th C