

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/015**

# **Wyard's Barn, Aldous Corner, Rumburgh RMB 013**

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** DC/07/0631/LBC

**Date of Fieldwork:** 3rd November 2010 – 28th January 2011

**Grid Reference:** TM 3648 8195

**Funding Body:** Mr P. Dutton

**Curatorial Officer:** Edward Martin

**Project Officer:** Simon Cass

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-92242

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



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## Summary

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Wyard's Barn (previously Pear Tree Farm Barn) between the 3rd November 2010 and the 28th January 2011. Several elements of the footings and underpinning were observed, with two probable pit features being seen. Due to the conditions, it was not possible to investigate these features further and no dateable finds were recovered, though at least one of them appeared to contain post-medieval ceramic building material in its upper fill.





## **1. Introduction**

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Planning permission ((DC/07/0631) was granted for the redevelopment of a barn at Pear Tree Farm, Aldous's Corner, Rumburgh by Waveney District Council. This development permission contained a condition requiring Historic Building Recording as well as archaeological monitoring of any invasive ground works. The building recording has been reported on previously, and this document concerns the archaeological monitoring of the ground works.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies on flat land, at approximately 45m AOD, between the village of Rumburgh to the west and Spexhall/Stone Street to the east. The underlying geology is listed as Beccles Clay, a chalky till deposit.

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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The historic background of the site has been detailed more extensively in the previous building recording, but to summarise, the barn is part of a farmhouse range dating in part from the mid-16th century, although the barn itself is more likely to be of 17th century origin. Archaeologically, the site lies in an area rich in medieval remains, with several moated sites nearby, although the County Historic Environment Record shows no known archaeological sites within c. 700m of Aldous's Corner.

## **4. Methodology**

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The site was visited on several occasions during the ground works, in order to observe the phased underpinning and foundation excavation works entailed in the conversion. Digital photographs were taken of relevant sections, with general site shots to illustrate locations and conditions. Measured sketches and sections were drawn where appropriate to record features of archaeological relevance.

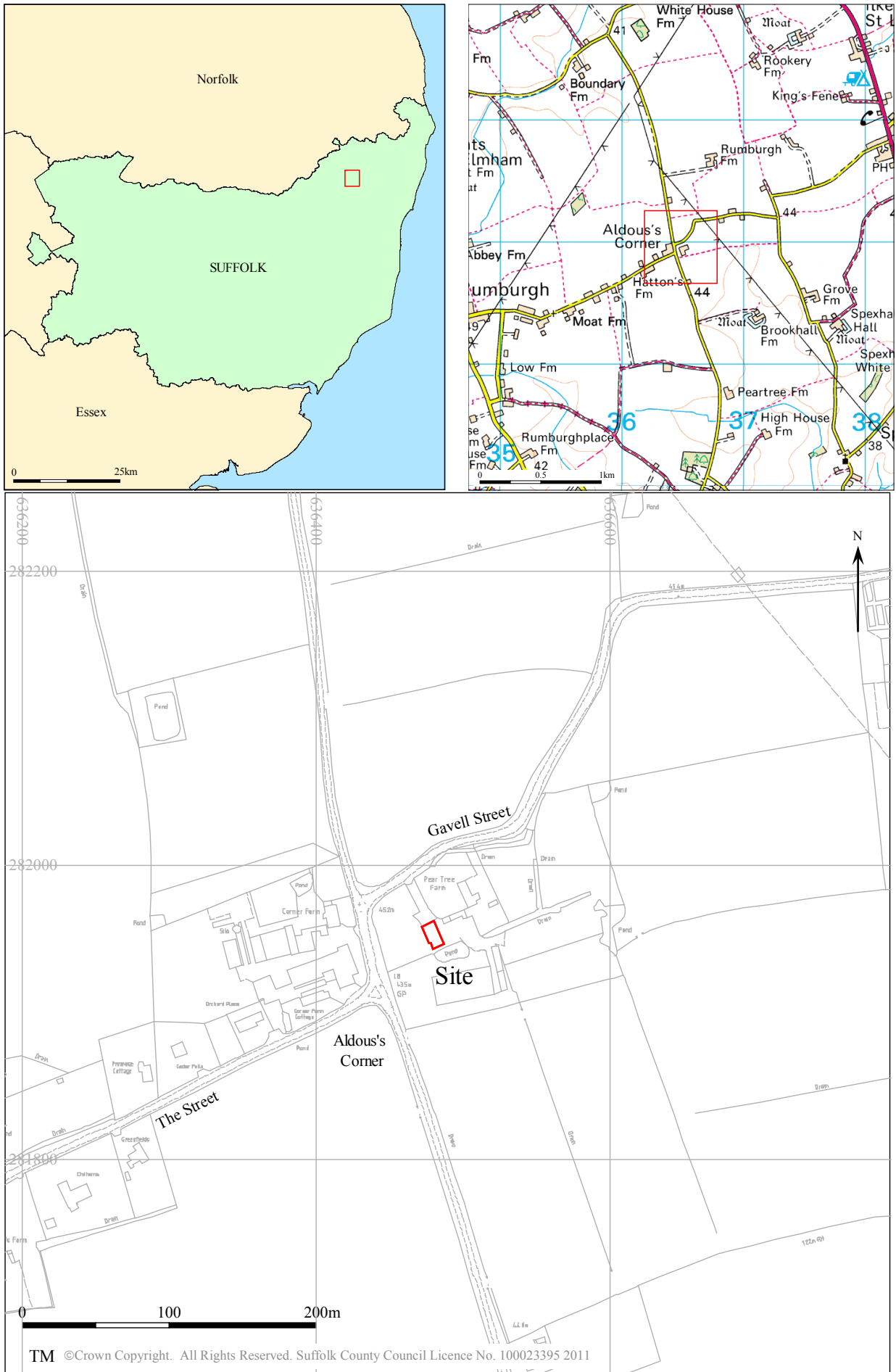


Figure 1. Site Location

## 5. Results

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The general stratigraphy encountered in the footings consisted of between 0.2 and 0.35m of mixed/disturbed topsoil and hardcore above generally orangey/yellow clay with patches of greyish yellow clay with chalk flecks and lumps throughout, believed to be natural geology. No historic floor layers were visible in the internal section of footings, and internal footing trenches crossing the barn only encountered the remnants of a concrete floor directly above natural clay. The two features noted in the external foundations were situated as shown in Figure 2.

Pit 0001 had concave sides to a shallow concave base, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep (Plate 1). It was sealed with mixed hardcore and topsoil (old floor layer within the barn) and filled with a mid grey silty clay with orangey brown silty sandy clay mottling. No finds were observed in the sections.



Plate 1. Pit 0001, facing north-east.

Possible pit 0003 had steep sides, becoming slightly more curved to the east, and was at least 0.95m north-south by 0.35m east-west and up to 0.75m deep. It was filled with a mid blueish grey silty clay and again no finds were visible in the section.

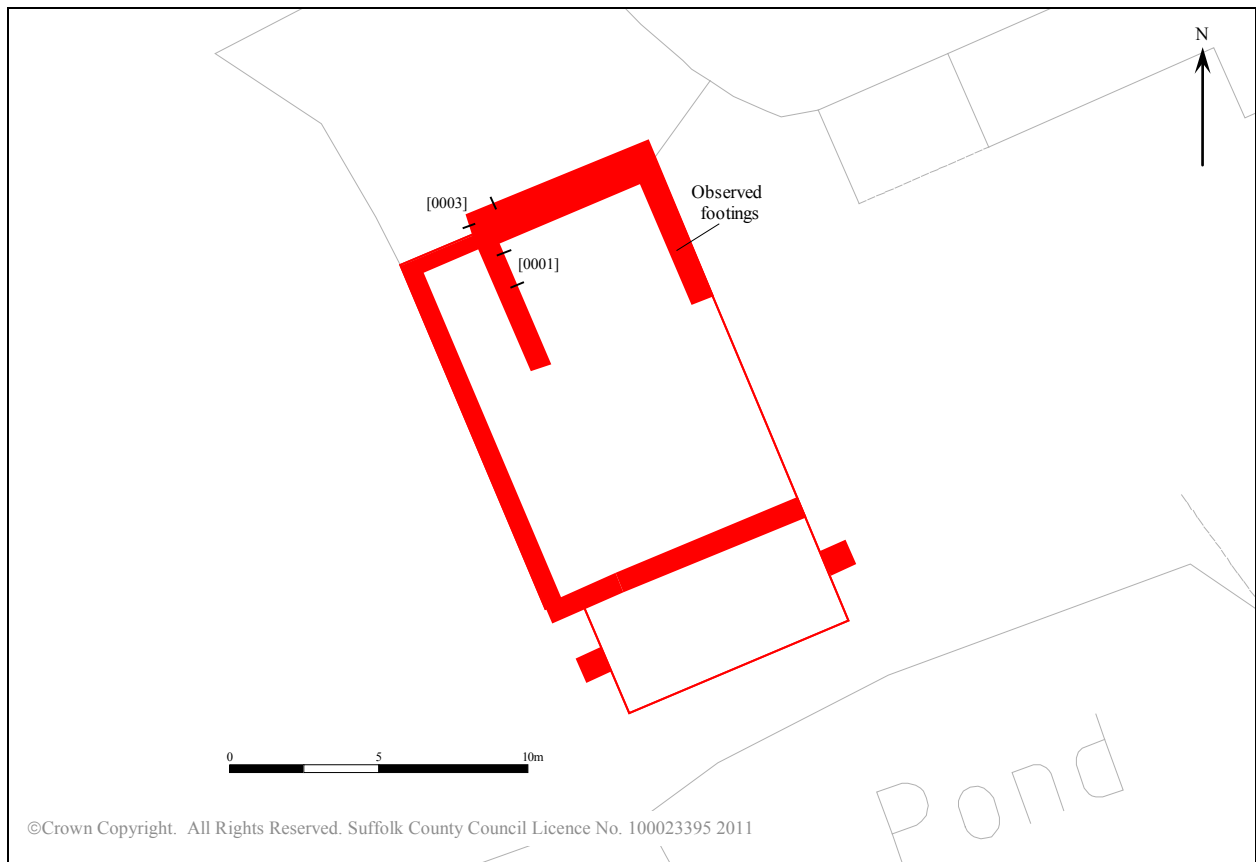


Figure 2. Observed foundations and feature locations.

## 6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

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No finds were recovered from this site, and the only artefactual evidence seen in the foundations appeared likely to be post-medieval/modern ceramic building material, although this was only visible in the uppermost part of the features and could be intrusive.

## 7. Discussion

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The two pits observed during the course of this archaeological monitoring could relate to any period of use of this site, whether during the life of the barn, or before. With no dateable artefactual evidence, there is little that can be interpreted from the presence of two pits in a farmstead known to have existed on the present site for some 4-500 years

or more. The absence of any surviving floor layers is perhaps not surprising, given the apparent removal of a modern concrete floor, which may have either been laid directly on an older floor (removing it as the concrete was broken up and dug out), or caused the removal of older floor surfaces before it was poured.

## **8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork**

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The observed features are of minimal interest in themselves, however they may indicate the presence of possible refuse pits or similar features in the area behind the main farmhouse complex – possible a servants/working area not visible from the main entrance to the farm. The absence of any dateable artefacts does however mean that the features encountered could have been much older and not relate to the farm except coincidentally.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

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Finds and environmental archive: None.

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The monitoring was carried out by a number of archaeological staff (Simon Cass, Steve Manthorpe and Simon Picard) from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed and directed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site plans was carried out by Simon Cass and the report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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Alston, L. 2008      The Barn, Pear Tree Farm, Rumburgh, Suffolk Historic Building Record.

### **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.















