

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/046

**Mere Cottage, Haughley
HGH 036**

HER Information

Planning Application No: Mid Suffolk 1016/08

Date of Fieldwork: 10, 13 and 18/11/2008, and 08/01/2009

Grid Reference: TL 029 627

Client: The Whitworth Co-partnership architects

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-95320

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

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land off Green Road, Haughley at Mere Cottage. This revealed the north-east limit of the medieval Haughley Mere. The conditions for the monitoring were acceptable, although the waterlogging across the site made interpreting some of the trench profiles difficult. No finds were recovered. The northern strip of the site was not monitored as the contractor failed to notify SCCAS Field Team of the groundworks commencing.

1. Introduction and methodology

Footing trenches were excavated and a site strip was carried out at Mere Cottage, Green Road, in Haughley (Fig. 1). As part of the planning conditions for these works, an archaeological monitoring was required in order to record any archaeological features and recover any finds that could otherwise be uncovered by the machining. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). Whitworth Co-partnership architects were the client. The work was carried out on the 10th, 13th and 18th November 2008, and 8th January 2009. The site was located at grid reference TL 029 627 (Fig. 1) and just below the 60m Ordnance Survey contour. It should be noted that whilst the footing trenches were monitored, the building contractor failed to notify SCCAS Field Team of the further schedule of works regarding the drive-way and garage construction. As such the site strip, which would most likely have been the most archaeologically revealing aspect of the works, was not monitored and so it is uncertain if any deposits of interest were present in this area of the site.

The site lies on the edge of Haughley Mere. A channel from the mere links up with the moat of Haughley Castle, which is recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) as HGH 001 and is a partly scheduled medieval monument to the south-west (Fig. 1). The development area is also only 270m north-east of the medieval town limits (HGH 043). The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1884/5) shows the site's boundaries to be much the same as they are today, although the mere extended further to the east (Fig. 2). An early 17th century house is also present immediately opposite the site across Green Road and another is present just to the north, whilst a Neolithic flint was found in fields to the east of the development

area. The works therefore had potential to uncover and destroy archaeological deposits, and as such a programme of monitoring was required.

The monitored trenches were 0.5m wide x up to 2.3m deep, although they were generally shallower (Fig. 3). The trenches were monitored, and the upcast soil was sorted for finds. The site was often quite waterlogged due to its position near the old mere and the weather conditions, which made the interpretation of some of the trench profiles difficult. Measurements were taken of the soil profiles within the trenches and the different contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system (Table 1). Section 1 was drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). Photographs were not taken as trench shattering obscured the view, as did the depth of the trenches. The site was planned from OS points. One environmental bulk sample was taken from pond deposit 0004, but this was discarded as it contained a large proportion of partially decomposed leaves and a tin can, suggesting a recent date, or that it was too disturbed.

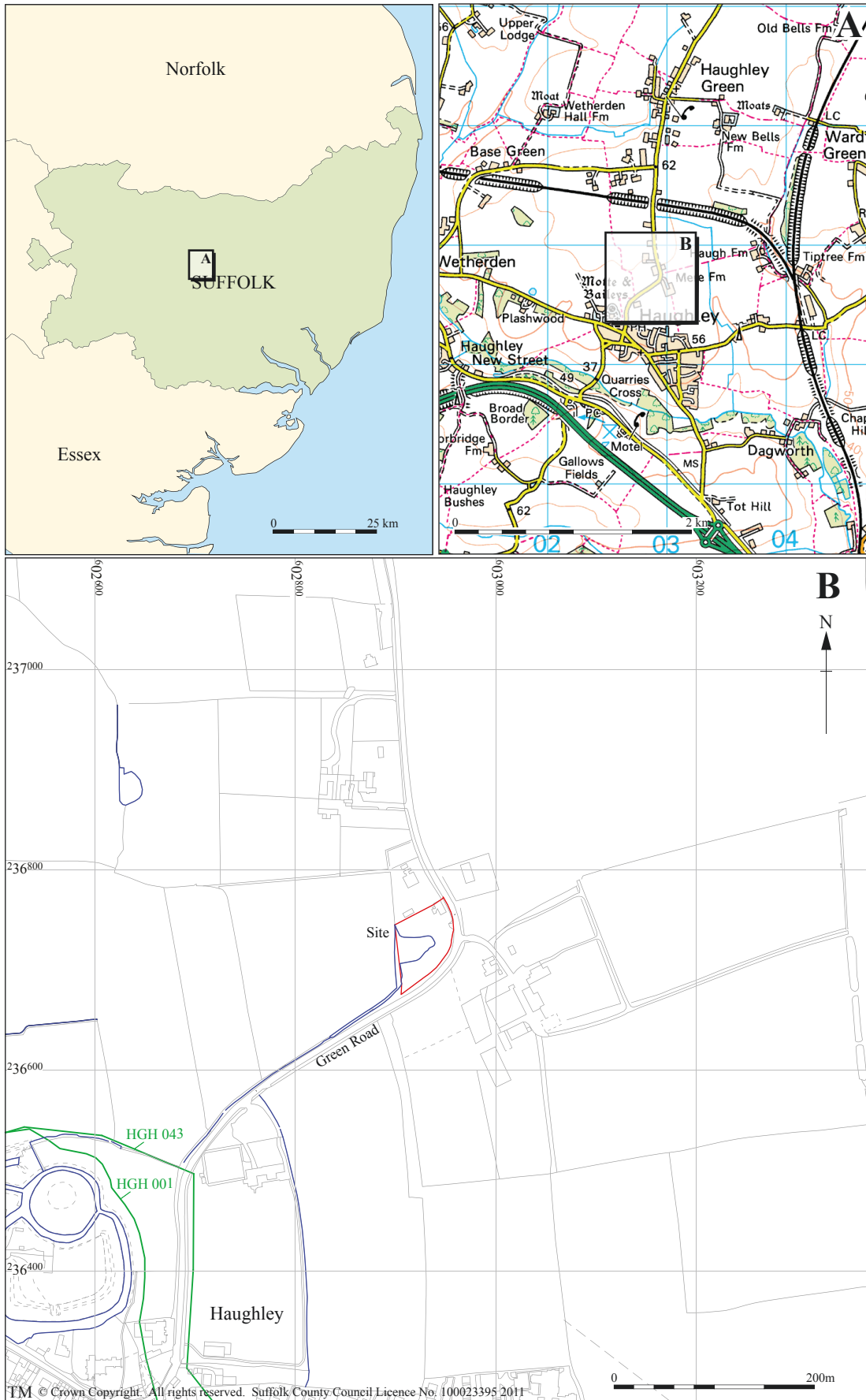


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red), water features (blue) and Historic Environment Record entires mentioned in the text (green)

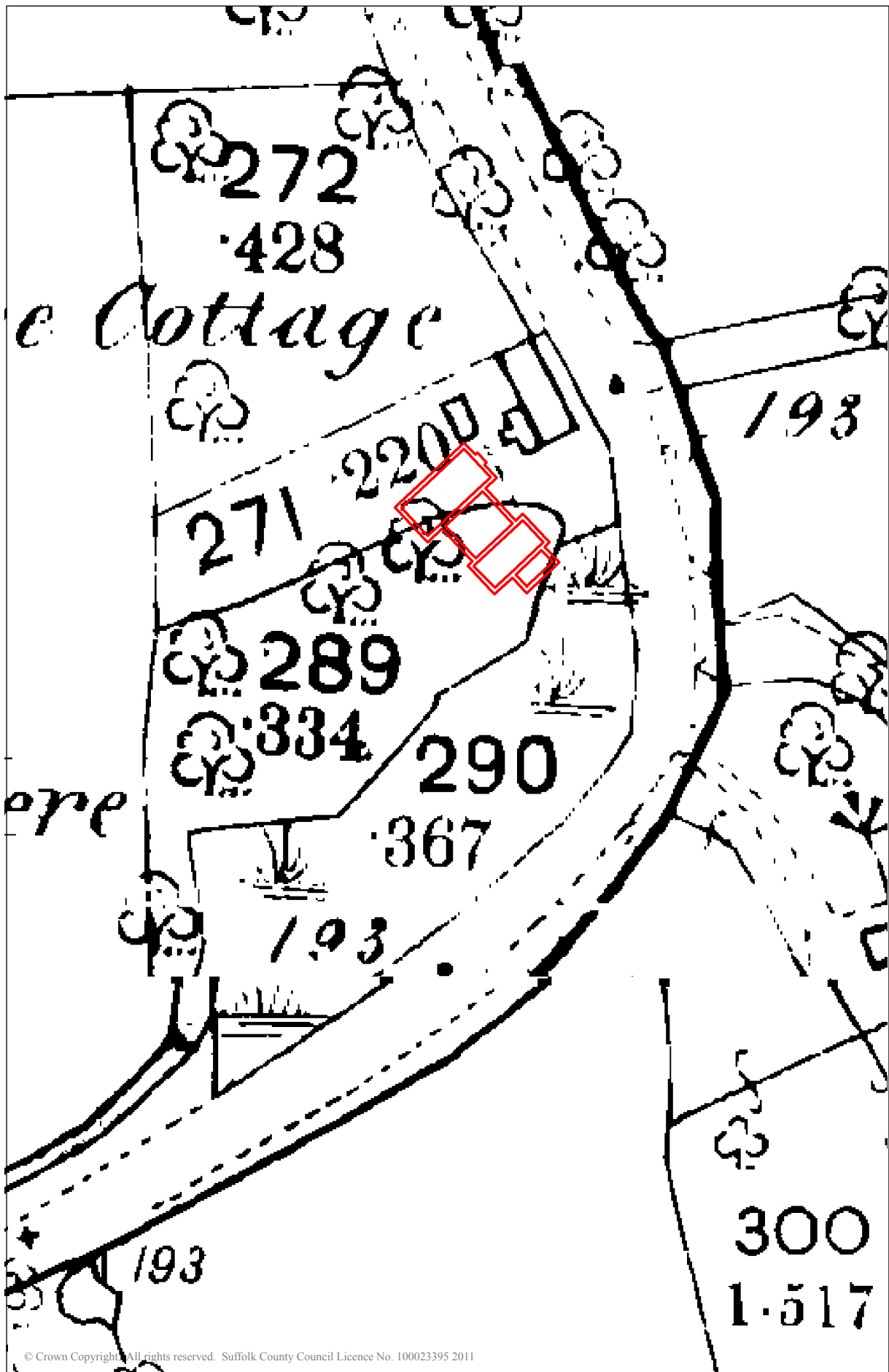


Figure 2. First edition Ordnance Survey map, c.1884/85, showing development area (red)

2. Results

Within Trenches 1 and 2 the three layers were measured to a depth of 1.4m, at which point natural geological layers of clay were revealed to 2.3m. The top two layers (0002 and 0003) were interpreted as topsoil and subsoil, with 0003 consisting of possibly redeposited natural. Layer 0004 was thought to be a mere deposit, relating to the former extent of the feature as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figs. 2 and 3).

In Trench 3 and much of the rest of the site the soil profile was much shallower, with what was interpreted as geological clay immediately below thin topsoil. This would indicate that deposits 0002 and 0003 may also be mere deposits, or at least not uniform topsoil and subsoil, judging by their absence in all of the trenches except 1 and 2.

The exact limit of the mere feature was not recorded. This was due to the water-logged conditions on the site and the highly varied depths of the trenches, which made interpretation difficult. However, the mere appears to stop somewhere between Trenches 1 and 3. No finds were recovered from the monitoring, except for a tin can from deposit 0004, which was discarded due to its modern date.

Context	Description
0001	Unstratified finds. None recovered.
0002	Mid brown clayey topsoil. 0.2m deep. Not found over entirety of site, e.g. it was absent beyond Trenches 1 and 2. Interpretation – thought to be topsoil in Trenches 1 and 2. However, its absence from Trench 3 suggests it may have been a mere deposit, hence its absence where the mere is thought to have stopped. Above 0003.
0003	Greyish-orange slightly silty-clay. 0.7m deep. Not found over entirety of site, e.g. it was absent beyond Trenches 1 and 2. Interpretation – subsoil or mere deposit, possibly redeposited natural. Above 0004, below 0002.
0004	Very dark grey (appears black), silty-clayey deposit. 0.56m deep. Contained a large quantity of only slightly decomposed leaves and a tin can. Above 0005, below 0003.
0005	Grey clay with frequent small chalk flecks. C.0.34m deep, although this was difficult to tell due to the unclear horizon with 0006. Interpretation – natural clay subsoil/geological layer. Above 0006, below 0004.
0006	Light yellowish-brown clay with chalk flecks. >0.6m deep. Interpretation – natural clay subsoil/geological layer. Below 0005.

Table 1. Context descriptions

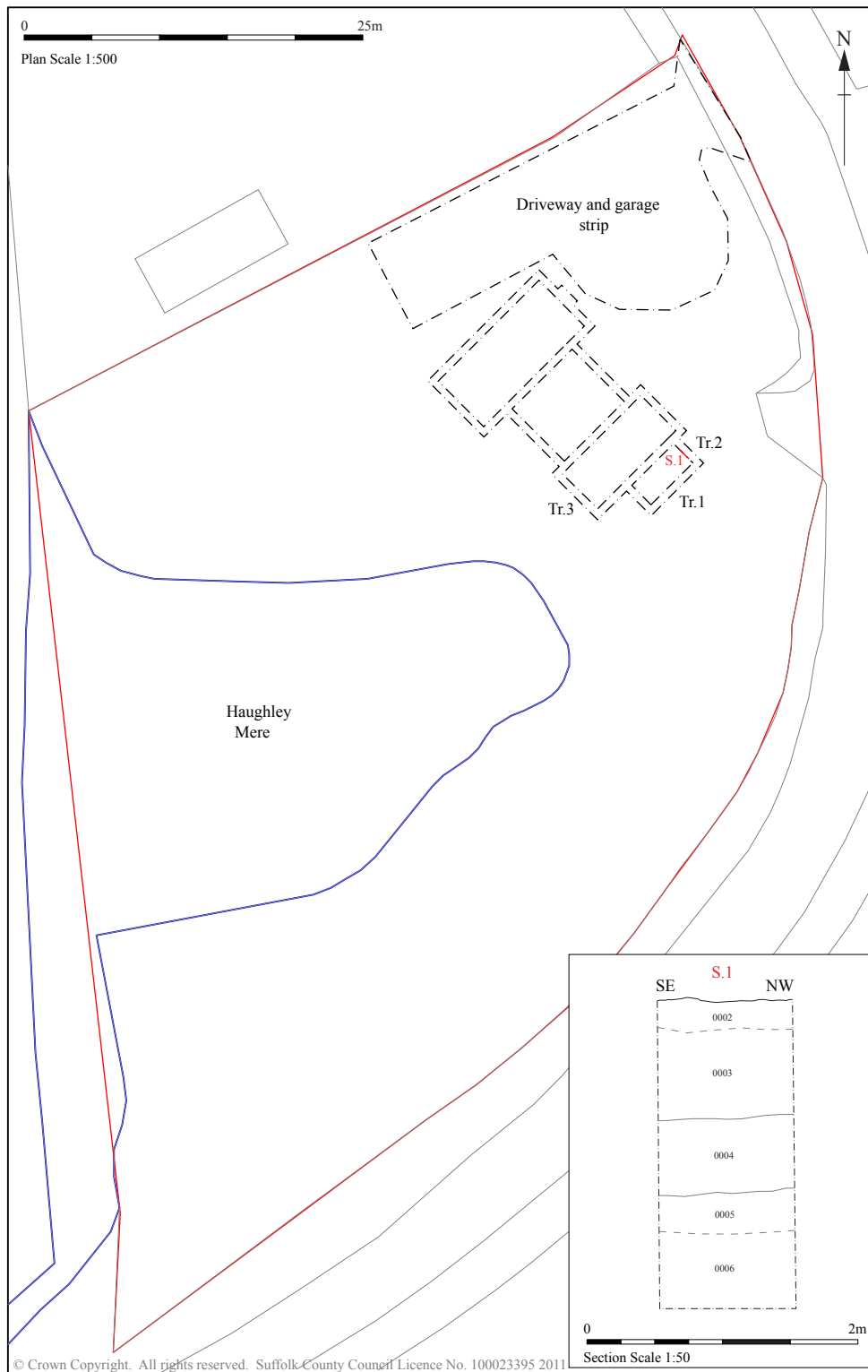


Figure 3. Trench plan and section

3. Conclusions

The monitored groundworks revealed evidence of the existing mere having originally extended further to the east, in keeping with 1884/1885 Ordnance Survey maps. The remainder of the trenching produced no features or finds. The site strip to the north of the footing trenches was not monitored because the developer did not inform the SCCAS Field Team of the schedule of works, and as such the full archaeological potential of this site has not been examined.

Rob Brooks

October, 2014

Appendix 1. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-95320

Project details

Project name	HGH 036 Mere Cottage, Green Road, Haughley
Short description of the project	An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land off Green Road, Haughley at Mere Cottage. This revealed the north-east limit of the medieval Haughley Mere. The conditions for the monitoring were acceptable, although the waterlogging across the site made interpreting some of the trench profiles difficult. No finds were recovered. The northern strip of the site was not monitored as the contractor failed to notify SCCAS Field Team of the groundworks commencing.
Project dates	Start: 08-11-2008 End: 08-01-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HGH 036 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	HGH 036 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	Mid Suffolk 1016/08 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	POND Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK HAUGHLEY HGH 036 Mere Cottage, Green Road, Haughley

Postcode	IP14 3RA
Study area	3432.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 029 627 52.2524379159 -0.492421896348 52 15 08 N 000 29 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 57.10m Max: 58.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	Jo Caruth
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Whitworth Co-partnership architects

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	HGH 036
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	HGH 036
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report, Mere Cottage, Haughley, HGH 036
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