

**Archaeological Evaluation  
Land at Rendham Road  
Saxmundham, Suffolk**

**NGR: TM 3770 6311**

**ASE Project No: 8137  
Site Code: RRS14**

**ASE Report No: 2014156**



**May 2014**

**Archaeological Evaluation  
Land at Rendham Road,  
Saxmundham, Suffolk  
IP17 1EJ**

**NGR: TM 3770 6311**

**Planning Ref: C12/2289**

**Site code: RRS 14  
OASIS ID: 176519  
ASE Project No: 8137**

**ASE Report No: 2014156**

**Prepared by  
Samara King  
With contributions by  
Like Barber and Elke Raemen  
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

**May 2014**

**Archaeology South-East  
The Old Magistrates Court  
79 South Street  
Braintree  
Essex  
CM7 3YQ**

**Tel: 01376 331470  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, in advance of residential development.*

*Trial trench evaluation in 2013 immediately to the south and east of the site recorded the presence of only a few post-medieval and undated ditch remains, most of which related to former 18th and 19th century field boundaries that are shown on historic mapping of the area.*

*The evaluation of the 1.8ha site comprised the excavation of six trial trenches. A further six planned trenches could not be implemented to constraints imposed by spoil heaps from the adjacent construction site.*

*Only the remains of a probably Early/Middle Saxon ditch running north-south down the west side of the site, and a post-medieval pit in the south, were identified to be present within the excavated trenches. While the pit was probably contemporary with the Post-medieval field boundaries found by the 2013 evaluation, the earlier Saxon ditch indicates an episode of land-use hitherto un-evidenced in this vicinity of Saxmundham. It is likely that a similarly low density scatter of further remains is present across the remainder of the site.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The site is located on previously undisturbed farmland at the western edge of Saxmundham and is situated southeast of the junction of Rendham Road and the A12 (NGR: TM 3770 6311). It is bound to the south and east by light residential development, to the west by the A12 trunk road, and to the north by Rendham Road (Fig.1).

1.2.2 The site consists of open, previously undeveloped, land with a tree-lined boundary on the western edge adjacent to the A12. The site sits at an altitude of c.30-31m AOD and in general is flat with a gentle slope from south to north in the northern portion of the site. Due to the current residential development to the south and east, portions of the site have been disturbed by machine activity and two large spoil heaps have been placed on the eastern edge of the site.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site is comprised of the Lowestoft Formation, a deposit consisting of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts, and clays. This overlies bedrock sand of the Crag Group formed in Quaternary and Neogene Periods (British Geological Survey © NERC 2014).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application (C12/2289) has been granted by the Suffolk Coastal District Council for the redevelopment of the site for residential use, comprising of 57 residential units to include affordable and/or supported housing, hard and soft landscaping, and new cable and drainage runs. The site is located in an area of some archaeological potential and, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS/CT) advised that a programme of archaeological investigation was required to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area. The recommendation was in accordance with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). An archaeological condition was duly attached to the consent for development.

1.3.2 The programme of investigation was to include a trench based evaluation. The requirements of the evaluation were set out in a brief of works (SCCAS/CT 2013). The results of the investigation would be used to inform decisions as to the need for and extent of any further archaeological work that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation *in-situ*.

- 1.3.3 Prior to this fieldwork, a similar archaeological condition was attached to consent for development immediately south and east of this site. The investigation was carried out in 2013 and overlapped with the northern end of the current site (Fig.1).
- 1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the scope of the archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared by ASE (2014) and approved by the SCCAS/CT. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with this document and the IfA Code of Conduct (2010), the Standard and Guidance for field evaluation (IfA 2008) and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). ASE is a registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).
- 1.3.5 Further detailed archaeological work might be required if the evaluation revealed significant archaeological remains. This work would be covered under a separate WSI.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains. This information will be used by the SCCAS/CT to inform the necessity for any further work. More specifically, the trial trenching was required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form, and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Establish the suitability of the area for development.
- Provide sufficient information as to the requirement for further archaeological work at the site and to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

1.4.2 Appropriate research objectives for any further work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), are set out in discussion section 7.0.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between the 22nd and the 24th of April, 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The work was carried out by Samara King with assistance from Benjamin Sleep and Lukasz Miciak.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Archaeological & Historical background**

2.1.1 The following background makes use of information provided by the SCCAS/CT brief, the Suffolk HER (accessed online via EH Heritage Gateway) and historic Ordnance Survey mapping.

2.1.1 No known archaeological remains are recorded within the proposed development area; however, fieldwalking and watching briefs within the immediate vicinity have revealed scatters of cultural material indicative of dispersed rural settlement. Prehistoric evidence includes four likely Neolithic or Bronze Age struck and worked flints finds within c.150-850m of the development area (HER SXM 004). Scatters of Iron Age and Roman pottery have been recovered within c.780m, indicative of a rural settlement area. The town name of Saxmundham is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Seismundsham*, the farmstead of Seismund (Ekwall 1987); however, little is known of the Saxon origins with only two finds of Saxon date within the area. Additionally, several medieval finds have been recorded to the southeast and west of the site. Records indicate that Saxmundham held a market as early as 1272 and remained a rural market town right through the post-medieval period. The site lay outside the medieval town, within its agricultural hinterland.

2.1.2 Historic maps for the vicinity of the site, dating from the 18th century onwards, indicate that the area was made up of various fields, of which two in the south of the site were being used for arable crops, two in the centre of the site were pasture meadows, and the northern tip was occupied by a pond (MoLAS 2006, Fig 6). Other than the imposition of the A12, there has been little change to the site with it remaining open land to the present day.

### **2.2 Previous archaeological work**

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment of the site and its surrounding vicinity has been undertaken (MoLAS 2006).

2.2.2 A 30 trench evaluation was conducted in 2013 by Archaeological Solutions (Barlow 2013) across land immediately north, east, and south of the current development area (referred to as *Land off Rendham Road, Phases 1 and 2*). Eight post-medieval/modern and three undated archaeological features were identified. Most of these related to land enclosure. In addition, five struck flints of possible early Neolithic date were recovered from the topsoil. Trenches 1-3 and part of 4 were in fact positioned *within* the current evaluation area (Fig.1). Of these, Trenches 1 and 2 recorded the presence of a north-south field ditch that is depicted on historic mapping. Trench 3 was blank. Trench 4 contained a roughly parallel former boundary ditch that ran outside the current site. None of the other evaluation trenches contained archaeological remains that can be projected to continue into this site.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Evaluation methodology**

- 3.1.1 The methodology comprised of the machine excavation, under archaeological supervision, of 12 trenches for a 5% sample of the c.1.8ha site area. However, due to residential development immediately east of the site, spoil heaps were placed on six of the proposed trench locations (Trenches 2, 3, 5-7 and 11; Fig.3). Consequently, a total of six trenches were excavated, arranged systematically to cover all available parts of the development area (Fig.1). Of these seven, an alteration was made in the field to the location of trench 4, with the approval of SCCAS/CT, in order to avoid one of the spoil heaps.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide, and accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil was bunded around the edges of the trenches to provide a physical and visible barrier. Excavation was generally undertaken to the surface of the natural drift geology or to the first archaeological horizon. Backfilling and compaction were undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, and subsequent to the agreement of the SCCAS/CT monitoring officer.
- 3.1.4 Standard ASE methodologies were employed during the fieldwork. All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system. With the exception of modern disturbances, up to 50% of all discrete features and 20% of non-structural linear features were excavated. Due regard was paid to the stratigraphic relationships between features and deposits during excavation and recording. A photographic record was created for all trenches, excavated features and general site views.
- 3.1.5 Finds were collected from all excavated deposits where present and identified, by context number, to a specific deposit or in the case of topsoil and subsoil finds to a specific area of the site. All finds were properly processed according to ASE and IFA guidelines. No deposits suitable for environmental study by means of bulk soil sampling were identified.

#### **3.2 Site Archive**

- 3.2.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the site event number (RRS14) was obtained from the SCCAS/CT and was used as the unique site identifier for all records. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Store in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Number of Contexts        | 21         |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 file     |
| Plan and sections sheets  | 1          |
| Photographs               | 15 digital |
| Bulk finds                | 1 box      |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Archaeological remains were identified only in trenches 4 and 8 (Figs.1 and 2) and are detailed below. The remains consisted of a small post-medieval pit and a possibly earlier Saxon linear ditch feature which were located in the central portion of the development area. Several other potential features were established to be of natural or modern origin upon investigation. Trenches 1 and 9-12 contained no archaeological remains of significance. Basic details on these blank trenches are presented in 4.12.

4.1.2 The removed topsoil consisted of mid to dark brownish grey silty clay that varied in depth from 0.22m to 0.36m across the site. The topsoil had been previously stripped from the trench 1 vicinity. With the exceptions of trenches 1 and 4 in the northern portion of the site, the topsoil directly overlay natural deposits. The subsoil found in trenches 1 and 4 consisted of mid greyish-brown silty clay with a variable thickness between 0.10m to 0.24m. The top of the underlying natural was observed to have been disturbed, by shallow north/south aligned wheel ruts in trenches 9 and 11, geophysical test-pits in trenches 1 and 8, and modern gravel-filled field drains in trenches 1, 4, and 11 (e.g. Figs. 4 and 7).

4.1.3 The exposed natural deposits in the base of the trenches varied slightly between the north and south parts of the site. Trenches 1, 4, and 8 contained mid orange-grey clay with rare small pieces of chalk. Trenches 9, 10, and 12 comprised of mid orange-brown silty clay with rare small pieces of chalk, with trench 11 containing a more yellow-grey clay with chalk present.

4.1.4 Feature legibility was varied, with the linear feature in trench 4 subtly distinct from the natural and the pit in trench 8 more well-defined with a noticeably darker fill from the natural deposit.

### **4.2 Trench 4**

4.2.1 Trench 4 was aligned north-northeast/south-southwest, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below the existing field surface (Fig.4). The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.33 (N) and 18.29 (S). The removed overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil, which overlay mid orange grey clay natural.

4.2.2 Two slots, [4/004] and [4/006], were excavated across a NE-SW aligned ditch exposed in the northern part of the trench. Segment [4/004] was located at the widest portion of the ditch visible within the trench and measured 0.68m in width and 0.30m deep with almost vertical sides and a flat base (Fig.2, Section 1 and Fig.5). Segment [4/006] comprised primarily the southeast edge of the feature. Its width measured 0.37m+ and was 0.29m deep with a steep eastern edge and a flat base in the north section. The ditch was filled with a single firm mid greyish-brown silty clay fill [4/005] and [4/007]. Eighteen small sherds of probably earlier Saxon pottery were recovered from the feature.

| Context | Type    | Description          | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Max. Depth m |
|---------|---------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 4/001   | Layer   | Topsoil              | 30m           | 1.8m         | 0.36m        |
| 4/002   | Layer   | Subsoil              | 30m           | 1.8m         | 0.20m        |
| 4/004   | Cut     | Ditch                | 1.0m+         | 0.68m        | 0.30m        |
| 4/005   | Deposit | Single fill of 4/004 | 1.0m+         | 0.68m        | 0.30m        |
| 4/006   | Cut     | Ditch                | 1.0m+         | 0.37m        | 0.29m        |
| 4/007   | Deposit | Single fill of 4/006 | 1.0m+         | 0.37m        | 0.29m        |
| 4/003   | Layer   | Natural              | 30m           | 1.8m         | -            |

Table 2: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Trench 8

4.3.1 Trench 8 was aligned north/south, measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.34m below the existing field surface (Fig.6). The recorded AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 18.36 (N) and 18.33 (S). The removed overburden consisted only of topsoil, which overlay a natural deposit of mid orange-grey clay.

4.3.2 One circular pit [8/003] was located in northwest corner of the trench (Fig.6). The pit was 0.66m in diameter and 0.17m deep, with an irregular base (Fig. 2, Section 2). It contained a single mid brownish-grey silty clay fill [8/004]. One sherd of later post-medieval pottery was recovered.

| Context | Type    | Description   | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Max. Depth m |
|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 8/001   | Layer   | Topsoil       | 30m           | 1.8m         | 0.34m        |
| 8/003   | Cut     | Pit           | 0.66m         | 0.66m        | 0.17m        |
| 8/004   | Deposit | Fill of 8/003 | 0.66m         | 0.66m        | 0.17m        |
| 8/005   | Layer   | Natural       | 30m           | 1.8m         | -            |

Table 3: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

### 4.12 Blank trenches

4.12.1 No archaeologically significant remains were identified within trenches 1, 9-12. Table 13 summarises the deposit sequence recorded in each trench.

4.12.2 Several potential features that had CBM and animal bone on their exposed surfaces were investigated in trenches 9 and 11. These areas did not have any depth and were determined to be the result of machine rutting and compaction (Fig.7), and root activity. A large dark area was located in trench 1 and determined to be a tree hole due to its irregular shape and the large presence of roots and pieces of wood. A potential linear feature was investigated in trench 11 which had a modern ceramic drain pipe at the base. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe was also recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

| Trench | Context | Type  | Description | Deposit Thickness (max) |
|--------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1      | 1/001   | Layer | Subsoil     | 0.24m                   |
|        | 1/002   | Layer | Natural     | -                       |
| 9      | 9/001   | Layer | Topsoil     | 0.32m                   |
|        | 9/002   | Layer | Natural     | -                       |
| 10     | 10/001  | Layer | Topsoil     | 0.36m                   |
|        | 10/002  | Layer | Natural     | -                       |
| 11     | 11/001  | Layer | Topsoil     | 0.26m                   |
|        | 11/002  | Layer | Natural     | -                       |
| 12     | 12/001  | Layer | Topsoil     | 0.36m                   |
|        | 12/002  | Layer | Natural     | -                       |

Table 4: List of contexts in blank trenches

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A very small assemblage comprising pottery and clay tobacco pipe was recovered (table 5). These were collected from the fills of only two features and an unstratified topsoil deposit. Finds were all washed and dried. They were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and context. Finds have been packaged and stored following IFA guidelines (2008). None of the artefacts require further conservation.

| Context      | Pottery   | Wt (g)    | CTP      | Wt (g)   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 4/005        | 13        | 31        |          |          |
| 4/007        | 5         | 8         |          |          |
| 8/004        | 1         | 4         |          |          |
| TR 11 u/s    |           |           | 1        | 4        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b> |

Table 5: Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2. The evaluation recovered very little pottery from the site. The majority was associated with a ditch, but this material is not particularly diagnostic. Context [4/005] produced 13 sherds weighing a mere 31g (an average sherd size of just 2.3g). All are tempered with moderate/abundant fine to medium ill-sorted quartz sand, occasionally with very rare flint (to 1mm) or, more commonly, organic streaks. All the fragments consist of low/medium fired featureless bodysherds with notable signs of wear. Context [4/007] produced a further five sherds (8g) of exactly the same type. Without larger and/or more diagnostic feature sherds, it is impossible to be absolutely certain about the date of this material. An Early/Mid Saxon date is quite probable. However, an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out. Hopefully future work on this area of the site will produce more diagnostic sherds. The only other sherd was recovered from pit fill [8/004]. This consists of a 4g fragment of slightly sandy glazed red earthenware of 18th to 19th century date.

### 5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A single unmarked and undecorated clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from the topsoil in trench 11. The piece is abraded,

suggesting considerable reworking, and dates to the mid 18th to 19th century.

## **5.4 Summary**

5.4.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of mostly undiagnostic pottery and clay tobacco pipe. Further work may produce more diagnostic pottery enabling confirmation of a Saxon date for the material from the ditch in trench 4.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Discussion**

7.1.1 It is demonstrated that below-ground archaeological remains are present within the site. The recorded features are cut into the natural deposit and are generally sealed beneath 0.22-0.36m of topsoil. A small amount of subsoil is present in trenches 1 and 4, but there appears to be no major masking colluvial or alluvial deposits. The adverse impact on archaeological remains from recent adjacent construction works is low.

7.1.2 Despite half of the planned trenches not being able to be excavated due to on-site constraints, sufficient were investigated in conjunction with those of the adjacent and overlapping 2013 evaluation to provide reasonable coverage and a reliable sample of the site content.

7.1.3 The discovery of only two archaeological features in two of the seven excavated evaluation trenches indicates that the overall density and complexity of remains across the rest of the development area is likely to be low. This accords with the results of the 2013 trenching of the immediate vicinity to the north, south and east.

7.1.4 Although not definitively dated, these remains comprise a probably Early/Middle Saxon ditch and a small post-medieval pit. While the pit can be comfortably fitted into the known past agricultural land-use of its location, and is probably contemporary with the post-medieval field system remains found by the 2013 trenching, the presence of a potentially Saxon (or possibly Iron Age) ditch is of greater significance.

7.1.5 The ditch presumably represents land division or drainage, though its northward continuation was not recorded in trench 1 or further parts of a widespread boundary system identified within any of the other trenches. It remains possible that it is an isolated feature within this site.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

7.2.1 The evaluation has established the presence of only a low density of archaeological remains across the north-central portion of the development area. These define two phases of past land-use, the earlier being probably Early/Middle Saxon (or perhaps Iron Age) and the later Post-medieval.

7.2.2 While the form of the post-medieval landscape is well documented by historic mapping from the earlier 18th century onwards, the potentially Saxon ditch relates to a previously unrecorded aspect of past land-use and

occupation in this vicinity of Suffolk. As such, this feature has some local significance though, in the absence of contemporary remains, the overall potential to inform understanding of the earlier Saxon occupation of this landscape is somewhat limited.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Jess Tipper and Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, for their guidance. The fieldwork was undertaken by Samara King with assistance from Lukasz Miciak and Benjamin Sleep, all of Archaeology South-East. The project was managed in the field by Adrian Scruby and in post-excitation by Mark Atkinson. Elissa Menzel processed the finds and the report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey.

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**Appendix 1: HER SUMMARY FORM**

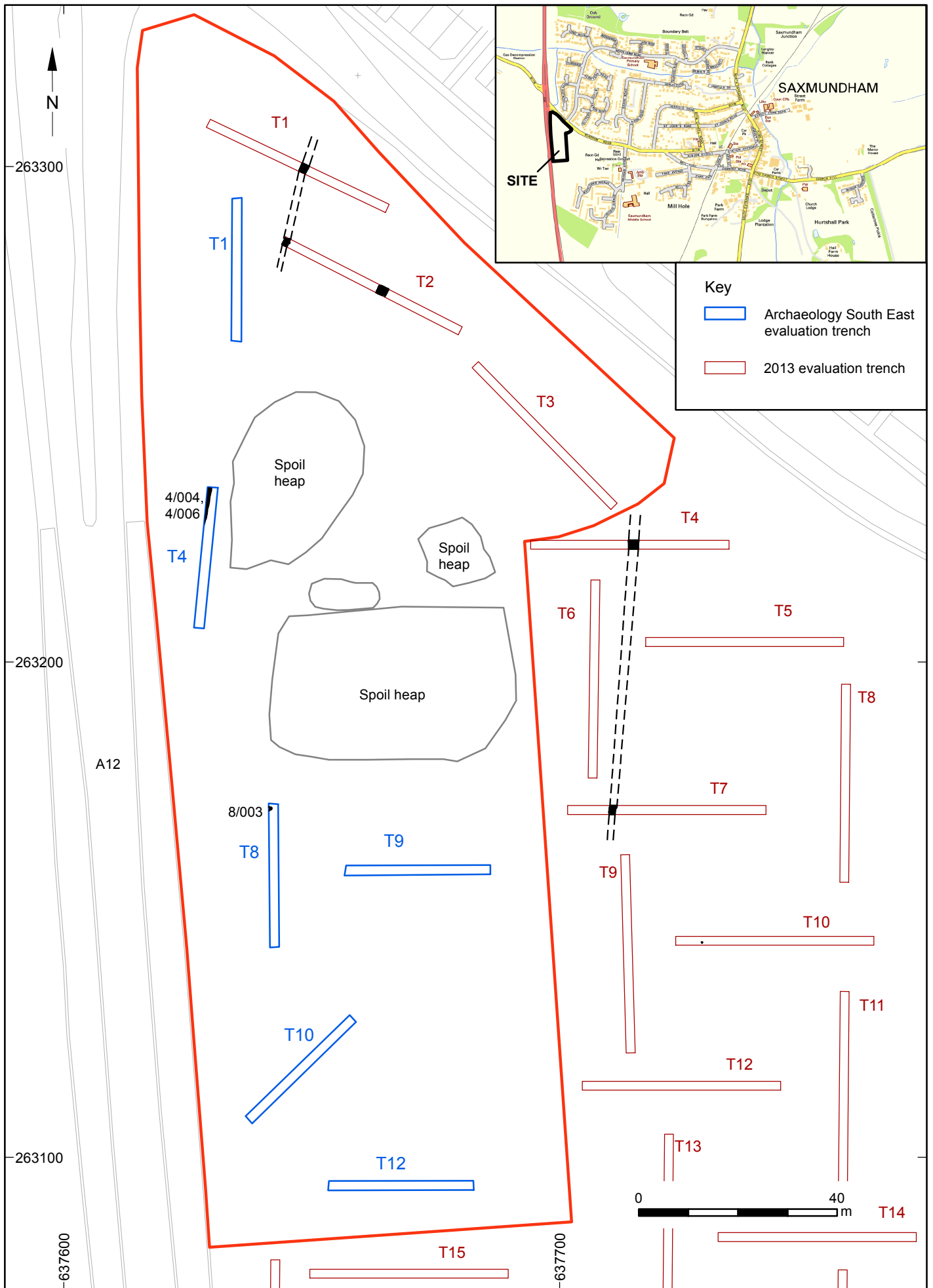
|   |  |               |                |                    |        |       |
|---|--|---------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code   | RRS 14   |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Identification Name and Address   | Land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1EJ |               |                |                    |        |       |
| County, District &/or Borough   | Suffolk Coastal District, Suffolk                  |               |                |                    |        |       |
| OS Grid Ref.  | TM 3770 6311                                       |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Geology   | Clay and silt of the Lowestoft Formation           |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Arch. South-East Project Number   | 8137   |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Type of Fieldwork   | <b>Eval.</b>                                       | Excav.        | Watching Brief | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site  | <b>Green Field</b>                                 | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban     | Other              |        |       |
| Dates of Fieldwork  | Eval.<br><b>22/04/14-24/04/14</b>                  | Excav.        | WB.            | Other              |        |       |
| Sponsor/Client  | CgMs Consulting                                    |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Project Manager   | Adrian Scruby                                      |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Project Supervisor  | Samara King  |               |                |                    |        |       |
| Period Summary  | Palaeo.  | Meso.         | Neo.           | BA                 | IA     | RB    |
|   | <b>AS</b>  | MED           | <b>PM</b>      |                    |        |       |
| <p><i>Archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, in advance of residential development.</i></p> <p><i>Previous trial trench evaluation in 2013 immediately to the south and east of the site recorded the presence of only a few post-medieval and undated ditch remains, most of which related to former 18th and 19th century field boundaries that are shown on historic mapping of the area.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation of the 1.8ha site comprised the excavation of six trial trenches. A further six planned trenches could not be implemented to constraints imposed by spoil heaps from the adjacent construction site.</i></p> <p><i>Only the remains of a probably Early/Middle Saxon ditch running north-south down the west side of the site, and a post-medieval pit in the south, were identified to be present within the excavated trenches.</i></p> <p><i>While the pit was probably contemporary with the Post-medieval field boundaries found by the 2013 evaluation, the earlier Saxon ditch indicates an episode of land-use hitherto un-evidenced in this vicinity of Saxmundham. It is likely that a similarly low density scatter of further remains is present across the remainder of the site.</i></p> |  |               |                |                    |        |       |

**Appendix 2: OASIS FORM**

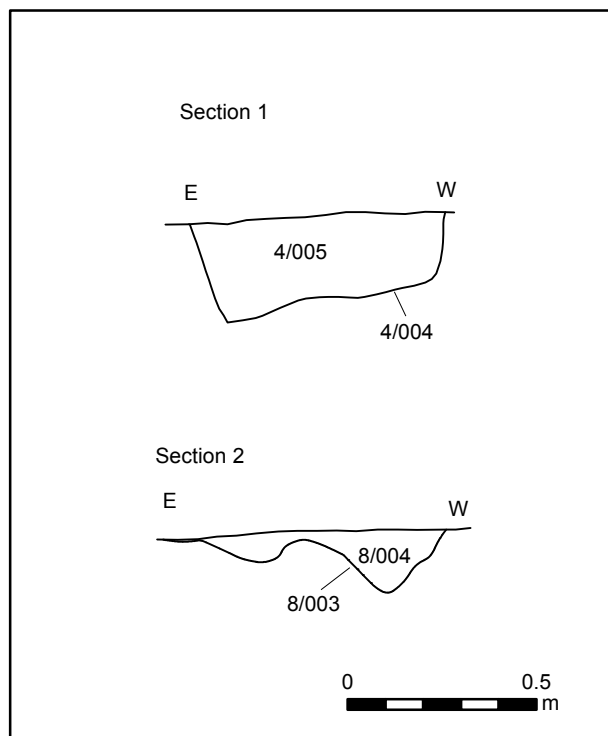
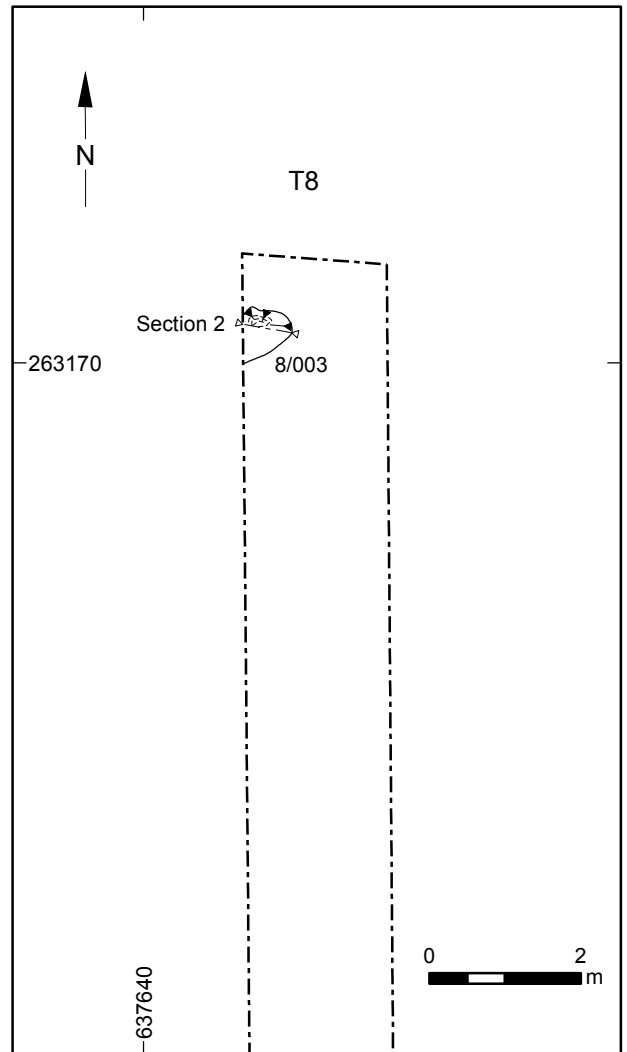
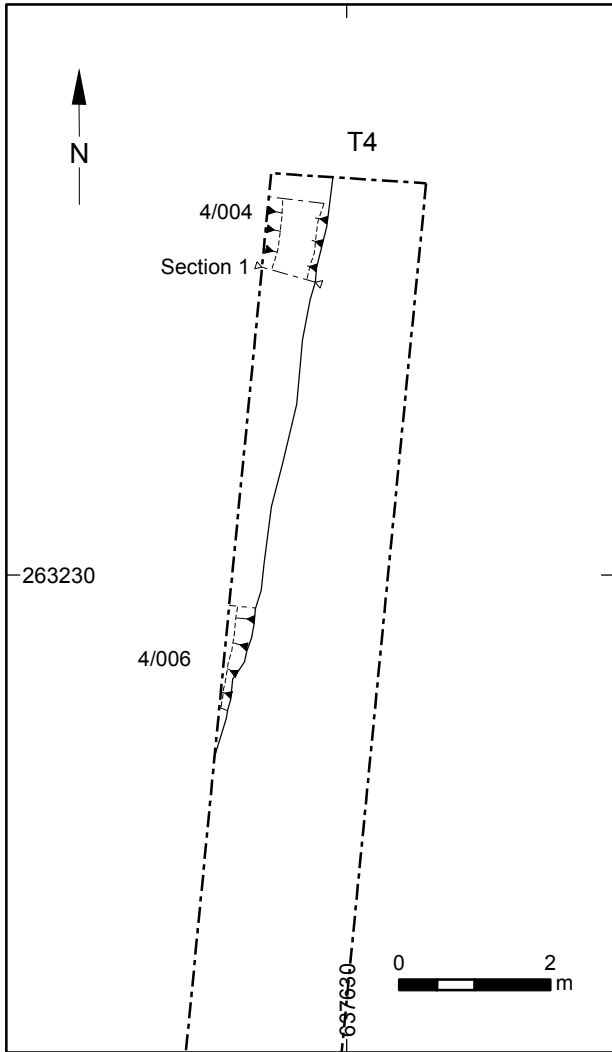
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-176519</b>      |   |
| <b>Project details</b>                 |   |
| Project name                           | Land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1EJ   |
| Short description of the project       | Archaeological evaluation on land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, was undertaken in advance of residential development. Trial trench evaluation in 2013 immediately to the south and east of the site recorded the presence of only a few post-medieval and undated ditch remains, most of which related to former 18th and 19th century field boundaries that are shown on historic mapping of the area. The evaluation of the 1.8ha site identified only the remains of a probably Early/Middle Saxon ditch running north-south down the west side of the site, and a post-medieval pit in the south. While the pit was probably contemporary with the Post-medieval field boundaries found by the 2013 evaluation, the earlier Saxon ditch indicates an episode of land-use hitherto un-evidenced in this vicinity of Saxmundham. It is likely that a similarly low density scatter of further remains is present across the remainder of the site. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 22-04-2014 End: 24-04-2014   |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | RRS14 - Sitecode<br>SXM 034 - HER event no.<br>8137 - Contracting Unit No.  |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation  |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m   |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Early Medieval<br>PIT Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Early Medieval<br>POTTERY Post Medieval   |
| Methods & techniques                   | "Sample Trenches"   |
| Development type                       | Housing estate  |
| Prompt                                 | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF   |
| Position in the planning process       | After full determination (eg. As a condition)   |
| <b>Project location</b>                |   |
| Country                                | England   |
| Site location                          | SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL SAXMUNDHAM Land at Rendham Road   |
| Postcode                               | IP17 1EJ  |
| Study area                             | 1.80 Hectares   |
| Site coordinates                       | TM 3770 6311 52.2142555806 1.4799816247 52 12 51 N 001 28 47 E Point  |
| Height OD / Depth                      | Min: 30.00m Max: 31.00m   |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project creators</b>       |  |
| Name of Organisation          | Archaeology South-East   |
| Project brief originator      | None   |
| Project design originator     | Archaeology South-East   |
| Project director/manager      | Adrian Scruby  |
| Project supervisor            | Samara King  |
| Type of sponsor/funding body  | Consultant   |
| Name of sponsor/funding body  | CgMs Consulting  |
| <b>Project archives</b>       |  |
| Physical Archive recipient    | Suffolk County Council Archive Store   |
| Physical Contents             | "Ceramics"   |
| Digital Archive recipient     | Suffolk County Council Archive Store   |
| Digital Contents              | "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"  |
| Digital Media available       | "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"                        |
| Paper Archive recipient       | Suffolk County Council Archive Store   |
| Paper Contents                | "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"  |
| Paper Media available         | "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section" |
| <b>Project bibliog</b>        |  |
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)                                    |
| Title                         | Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk                 |
| Report number                 | 2014156  |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | King, S.   |
| Date                          | 2014   |
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|                          |               |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham               | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 8137        | May 2014      | Location of archaeological evaluation trenches |        |
| Report Ref: 2014156      | Drawn by: APL |  |        |



|                          |               |                                       |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Land at Rendham Road, Saxmundham      | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 8137        | May 2014      | Plan and sections of trenches 4 and 8 |        |
| Report Ref: 2014156      | Drawn by: APL |                                       |        |



Figure 3. General site view showing disturbance and constraints, looking NW



Figure 4. Trench 4, looking north (1m scales)



Figure 5. Ditch segment [4/004], looking south (1m scale)



Figure 6. Trench 8, pit [8/003] in foreground, looking south (1m scales)



Figure 7. Trench 11, looking south (1m scales)

**Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
tel: +44(0)1273 426830  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**Essex Office**

The Old Magistrates Court  
79 South Street  
Braintree  
Essex CM7 3QD  
tel: +44(0)1376 331470  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**London Office**

Centre for Applied Archaeology  
UCL Institute of Archaeology  
31-34 Gordon Square  
London WC1H 0PY  
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

