

Archaeological Field Evaluation



**Ivyhouse Farm
The Street
Redgrave
Suffolk**

On behalf of

Roger Greenacre Esq

April 2021

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

e: info@borderarchaeology.com **t:** 01568 610101 **w:** borderarchaeology.com

Administration

The Plaza, Owen Way, Leominster Enterprise Park, Leominster, HR6 0LA

Post-Ex Facility – Leominster

t: 01568 610101
e: postex@@borderarchaeology.com

Post-Ex Facility – Milton Keynes

t: 01908 533233
e: postexmk@borderarchaeology.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

Milton Keynes

Common Farm
Calverton Lane
Milton Keynes
MK19 6EU

t: 01908 533233

Leeds

No 1 Leeds
26 Whitehall Road
Leeds
LS12 1BE

t: 0113 8187959

London

The Old Fire Station
140 Tabernacle Street
London
EC2A 4SD

t: 02033 015670

Newport

Merlin House
No1 Langstone Business Park
Newport
NP18 2HJ

t: 01633 415339

Bristol

First Floor,
Citibase Bristol Aztec West
Aztec Centre, Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4TD

t: 0117 9110767

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre
Winnall Valley Road
Winchester
SO23 0LD

t: 01962 832777



COMPILATION

Mark Sargent BA (Hons.)
Ruben Aaron Cencerrero Alonso BA MA

ARTWORK

Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)

EDITING

Lyndsey Clark BSc (Hons.) ACIfA

FINAL EDIT & APPROVAL:

George Children MA MCIQA

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1 Non-Technical Summary

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Roger Greenacre Esq to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) at Ivy House Farm The Street Redgrave Suffolk (NGR: TM 0425 7805) in connection with the demolition of an existing Nissen hut and the erection of a single detached bungalow with garage and cart lodge (Planning Application Nos. DC/19/05371/FUL; DC/21/01020).

The site, which is located directly to the SW of Ivy House Farm, comprises 900m² of depleted orcharding formerly occupied by a Nissen hut and is defined by walls to the E and S. It lies within what the Soil Survey of England & Wales (1983) identifies as an area of typical brown sands of the NEWPORT 4 series (551g) consisting of deep well-drained sandy soils, with some very acid soils with bleached subsurface horizon overlying glacio-fluvial drift.

Two trenches, one measuring 10m in length and a second of 5m, were proposed in connection with Planning Application No. DC/19/0531, with an additional 5m long trench placed over the footprint of the cart lodge with respect to Planning Application No. DC/21/01020. The three trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator with a wide-bladed toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Roger Greenacre Esq to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) at Ivy House Farm The Street Redgrave Suffolk (NGR: TM 0425 7805) in connection with the demolition of an existing Nissen hut and the erection of a single detached bungalow with garage and cart lodge (Planning Application Nos. DC/19/05371/FUL; DC/21/01020).

This report was compiled for submission to Matthew Baker Archaeological Officer Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Suffolk Historic Environment Record Bury Resource Centre Hollow Road Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AY.

3 Site Description

Redgrave is a linear settlement with development extending SE from the bridge across the River Waveney (HER No. RGV 032; NGR: TM 0394 7900) towards an area of enclosed grazing land known as Redgrave Green (HER No. RGV 035; NGR: TM 0486 7759).

Ivy House Farm, referred to as 'Ivyhouse Farm' on the Ordnance Survey mapping, lies at a height of between c. 39m and 41m AOD within the historic settlement core and in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

It comprises 900m² of depleted orcharding formerly occupied by a Nissen hut and defined to the E and S by a wall and separated from the farmhouse by another wall. The farmhouse is a mid-late 16th Century two-storey Grade II Listed Building (LB; List Entry No. 1261212) located NE of the proposed development (NGR: TM 04271 78091).

The farm's connection with its historic landscape setting has largely been lost due to recent development. The majority of the site lies outside the Conservation Area boundary.

3.1 Soils and Geology

The site lies within the 'High Suffolk' clay lands laid down on the underlying chalk (Taylor 2008). The Soil Survey of England & Wales (1983) identifies it as lying within an area of typical brown sands of the NEWPORT 4 series (551g), consisting of deep well-drained sandy soils, with some very acid soils with bleached subsurface horizon overlying glacio-fluvial drift.

The British Geological Society (BGS) places Redgrave within a broad area of bedrock geology encompassing rocks of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation (undifferentiated). Superficial deposits consist of glaciogenic

sedimentary material of the Croxton Sand and Gravel Member formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021).

Historic borehole data obtained in 1946 near to Ivy House Farm (NGR: TM 0426 7807) with respect to the construction of a well recorded glacial sand overlying yellow blue and brown chalky boulder clay above the upper chalk (BGS 2021).

An evaluation carried out at a modern bungalow named 'Timbers' (NGR: TM 04200 78000) revealed topsoil to a depth of 0.20m overlying a mid- to light brown sandy subsoil to a depth of 0.50m above a light brown sandy natural. Soils encountered at the Old Garage in 2003 (NGR: M 04270 78130) consisted of topsoil overlying a natural subsoil of orange glacial gravels at depths of 0.15-0.20m in the SW of the site to 0.60m in the N corner where topsoil had accumulated.



4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; BA 2021) submitted for this programme of works detailed the archaeological and historical background of the site and the following summarises the information contained therein.

4.1 Prehistoric

There are no recorded finds of Palaeolithic material within the vicinity of the site, the earliest identified evidence of human activity being a collection of Mesolithic flintwork recovered as several multi-period scatters (HER No. RGV 024; HER No. RGV 026; & HER No. RGV 069). A single 19th Century findspot consisting of a quartzite mace head (HER No. RGV 073) is recorded at Deer's Hill in Redgrave Park (NGR: TM 06000 77000), the piece was found 10ft below ground level during stone quarrying.

Evidence of possible Neolithic activity includes tumulus sites, a possible ring-ditch barrow (HER No. RGV 075) and artefacts, such as: an axe and two additional flints (HER No. RGV 012); an arrowhead (HER No. RGV 040); and a knife (HER No. RGV 074), all found during several fieldwalking surveys carried out over the years around the Redgrave area. A Neolithic flint knife (HER No. RGV 074) was reportedly found by one Captain C. Evans at a depth of about a foot in his garden (NGR: 05000 78000) in 1946. Its current whereabouts is unknown.

The Late Bronze Age/Iron Age is represented by a settlement site (HER No. RGV 011), while a series of cropmarks denoting drove ways, field systems and enclosures (HER No. RGV 032) represent possible Iron-Age/Romano-British activity. Finds associated to them include pottery, worked flint, a palstave, part of a quern (HER No. RGV 002) and a Late 1st Century BC gold stater of the British J Norfolk wolf type (Mack 49b; HER No. RGV 015).

4.2 Romano-British

Evidence of a Romano-British presence in the area is attested by the ploughed-out remains of a probable pottery kiln (HER No. RGV 025), located to the W of the village in the field adjoining the Little Ouse River, and The Pye Road (Margary Route 3d, 1973), which runs roughly 8km to the E of the area, crossing the River Waveney at the Scole Roman settlement site (NGR: TM 14574 78825).

The remains of the former comprise a circular patch of red burnt clay and soil c. 1m in diameter and visible in the plough soil. Adjacent to this was an area of dark soil associated with Early Romano-British pottery, with a second such area, again with pottery, some 5m distant. A similar burnt patch (HER No. RGV 013) was found in the same area further to the NNW (NGR: TM 036 780). Finds associated included jars, an amphora sherd and a coin of the reign of Valentinian (AD 364-378).

Metal detection activity in the area uncovered other significant objects such as a brooch and brooch fragment (HER No. RGV 021), a bronze fantail/thistle-type fibula (HER No. RGV 016) and coins, mostly bronze or copper, three of which dated to the 4th Century AD (HER No. RGV 003; & HER No. RGV 015).

4.3 Anglo-Saxon

The name 'Redgrave' is of Old English origin and derives either from the place-name elements hrēod + græf meaning 'reedy pit' or rēad + graf meaning 'red grove' and is attested as Redgrafe in the 11th Century (Mills 2003, 387).

The most direct evidence of an Anglo-Saxon presence in the area is the recovery of the 'Black ware urns' (HER No. RGV 009) recorded as having been found in c. 1895 at Ivy House Farm (referred to by its alternative name of Ivyhouse Farm) during excavation work near the farmhouse. Basil Brown notes that a gourd-shaped urn then held by Norwich Museum and listed on the HER under record RGV 004 may have come from this site.

Other evidence includes urns (HER No. RGV 005), combs and tweezers (HER No. RGV 004) that have appeared across various sites in Redgrave. Another notable Anglo-Saxon find is a probable 9th Century bronze strap-end with animal head terminal and inlaid niello panel decoration (HER No. RGV 029) which was located with a metal detector.

4.4 Medieval

The manor of Redgrave is said to have been given to Bury St Edmunds Abbey by Ulfketel, Earl of East Anglia, in the early 11th Century (Wilson 1870-2) and it appears to have been a fairly substantial holding in 1086. The manor continued under the Abbey's lordship during the centuries following the Conquest and in the 14th Century the Abbot built a hunting lodge and deer-park (HER No. RGV 022; NGR: TM 057 769).

The Saxon Church mentioned in Domesday was replaced, probably on the same site, by the 14th Century Grade I Listed Church of St Mary the Virgin (List Entry No. 1254091; HER No. RGV 017) located on Churchway (NGR: TM 057 782) c. 1km NE of Redgrave and redundant since 2005; the rector in 1509 was Cardinal Thomas Wolsey.

A marketplace was also established by the Abbey at Botesdale, together with the Grade II Listed Chapel of St Botolph's (List Entry No. 1352340) built nearby (NGR: TM 04877 75890) in the late 14th or early 15th Century as a chapel-of-ease or chantry. The Abbey retained control of the manor until the Dissolution, when it passed to the Crown, and was acquired soon after by Nicholas Bacon in 1545, who demolished the hunting lodge and erected Redgrave Hall.

A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out within the village, some of which have encountered evidence of medieval settlement activity. An excavation in 2003 at nearby Dudleys Close (NGR: TM 04284 78120) revealed medieval building remains and associated features (HER No. RGV 043), with medieval artefacts (HER No. RGV 030; HER No. RGV 041; & HER No. RGV 044) recorded to the NW of the site.

An evaluation (HER No. RGV 043) carried out in 2003 (Gill 2003) opposite the site at the Old Garage (NGR: TM 0427 7813) encountered evidence of a former structure located on the street frontage. The subsequent excavation (Craven 2004) confirmed the presence of medieval structural remains consisting of postholes and a floor surface with two possible hearths that were aligned with, and probably contemporary with, the neighbouring property. The medieval structure appeared to have been demolished at some point in the 17th-18th Century as confirmed by the excavation of the site and by its absence from Ordnance Survey historic maps. Pottery dating from the 13th-14th Century was also recovered from the site.

Other finds include scatters of pottery fragments ranging from the 13th up to the 16th Century and a stone spindle whorl recovered from various service works and fieldwalking surveys across the area.

4.5 Post-Medieval

Redgrave Green (HER No. RGV 035) as shown on Hodkinson's 1783 Map of Suffolk, the first cartographic source to depict the village in any appreciable detail, is an area of grazing at the SE extent of the village (NGR: TM 0486 7759) that was enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1815. A process of gradual encroachment around the margins of the Green have obscured its historic form and present difficulties when attempting reconstruction using modern mapping.

Redgrave's economy was largely based on agriculture, the importance of which is well-attested by the number of largely 19th Century farmsteads in and around the settlement, many of which are recorded as part of the Suffolk historic farmstead survey. They include Green Farm (HER No. RGV 080; NGR: TM 0449 7754), which comprises a farmhouse set back from a regular E-plan courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings with additional detached elements; The Old Rectory (HER No. RGV 081; NGR TM 0448 7770), a 17th Century rectory set back from a U-shaped yard formed by working farm buildings; and Priory Farm (HER No. RGV 082; NGR TM 0480 7773), a 16th Century farmhouse with 19th Century L-shaped farmyard and buildings.

Two trial-trenches opened within the farmyard complex on the opposite side of The Street from Ivy House Farm at Street Farm (HER No. RGV 053; NGR: TM 0435 7810) encountered a post-medieval plough soil and 19th /20th Century garden deposits in one trench and a large post-medieval pit and 19th Century wall foundation in the second (Heard 2012).

5 Research Aims and Objectives

The research aims and objectives for this site were previously set out in the WSI (BA 2021) as follows:

- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation;
-

- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits;
- To establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence;
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Broader project aims reflected areas of archaeological research as prioritised in the *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011), currently undergoing a comprehensive review process. Based on the nature of the finds recovered in the immediate vicinity of the site, particular emphasis was placed on the early and later medieval periods.

6 Methodology

All archaeological site works were undertaken in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Manual* (2017), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2021a), together with accepted professional standards, including *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020b) and *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (3rd Edition; Canti & Corcoran 2015). BA recognises the requirements of the *ClfA Code of conduct* (2019a).

ClfA (2020a, 4) defines AFE as:

.... a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

6.1 Site Specific

In total, three trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator with a wide-bladed toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision (*Fig. 1*). Two of the trenches were opened in connection with Planning Application No. DC/19/0531, Trench 001 was the northernmost of the two, measuring 5m in length, while Trench 002 was 10m long. The third trench, 003, was also 5m long and was placed over the footprint of the cart lodge in respect to Planning Application No. DC/21/01020.

Undifferentiated topsoil and made-ground were removed in level spits down to the interface layer between the topsoil and subsoil and machine-use ceased when a clear geological horizon was reached. The topsoil was

examined for archaeological material (SCCAS 2021a, paras. 1.2-1.3) and all deposits were kept separate during the excavation to allow for the sequential backfilling of the trenches (SCCAS 2021a, par. 1.16).

Metal detector searches were undertaken throughout the evaluation by Mr Graham Brandeys, as nominated by SCCAS as a suitably experienced detectorist. Metal detecting was carried out before trenches were stripped, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches had been opened (SCCAS 2021a, par. 1.9; SCCAS 2021b, par. 4.6), all such work being consistent with BA's *Metal Detecting Policy* (2018), which incorporates elements of the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (2nd Edition; Portable Antiquities Advisory Group 2017) and *Our Portable Past: Guidance for Good Practice* (Chadburn 2018).

Trenches were not backfilled without the approval of SCCAS. Suitable arrangements were made with Mr Greenacre to ensure trenches were appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

All BA staff were suitably qualified and experienced to discharge their project roles effectively, were fully cognisant of aims and methodologies and were suitably equipped to undertake the work.

6.2 Recording

The programme of works was recorded under the BA Site Code IHF21. The HER parish code is **RGV 089** and this was clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, the project manager carried out a risk assessment to mitigate or eliminate all potential risks.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Manual* (2017).

Records included:

- A proforma context record for each stratigraphic unit examined;
- A full graphic record of all excavated areas made with the primary record consisting of hand-drawn plans and sections (produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester film) to show the extent of the area, the extent of all stratigraphic units and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units. Sections were drawn at 1:10 (SCCASD 2021a, par. 1.12). All levels relate to Ordnance Datum (SCCAS 2021a, par. 1.12-1.13). Drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register cross-referenced to the written record;
- The graphic record included survey using Total Station (TS) and/or survey-grade GPS;
- A detailed photographic record of all stratigraphic units and representative photographs showing the progress of archaeological work. The record was made using a high-resolution digital camera (20 MPX) (SCCAS 2021a, 1.15) and comprised photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. The initial photograph of each recorded feature included a board showing context information, N arrows and scales. All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written

site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number;

- Temporary Benchmarks (TBMs) were established as required.

6.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Data

Procedures were consistent with the methodology set out in the WSI (BA, 2021), with all finds collected and processed (unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS during the course of the evaluation; SCCAS 2021a, par. 1.10). In accordance with *CIfA Standard and guidance* (2020b) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), all such materials were labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. They were stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and with Historic England technical standards and other relevant sources of information, including standards for data-gathering set out by Brown (2011, 18-20). Each retained assemblage was examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified.

7 Results (see Appendix 1 for full context tabulation)

7.1 Trench 001



Plate 1. Trench 001 facing NW

Trench 001 (*Plate 1; Fig. 2*) running NW-SE, was located in the NE corner of the proposed development area. It reached a maximum depth of 0.67m and revealed three deposits, topsoil (001001), subsoil (001002) and natural geology (001003), all of which had been heavily affected by rooting from the fruit trees that made up the orchard. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the trench.

The topsoil (001001) was composed of a dark brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions. It had a maximum thickness of 0.32m and produced a variety of artefacts, including Victorian, Edwardian and modern pottery, glass and a variety of metal objects; a possible small brooch <002> of uncertain date was also recovered from the topsoil spoil by the on-site metal detectorist Mr Graham Brandeys.

The underlying subsoil (001002) was a mid orange brown sandy silt, which measured 0.35m thick and contained occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions. The natural geology (001003) comprised a light brown orange silty sand with occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stones.

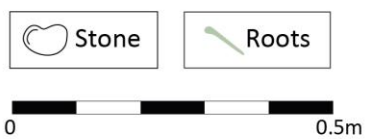
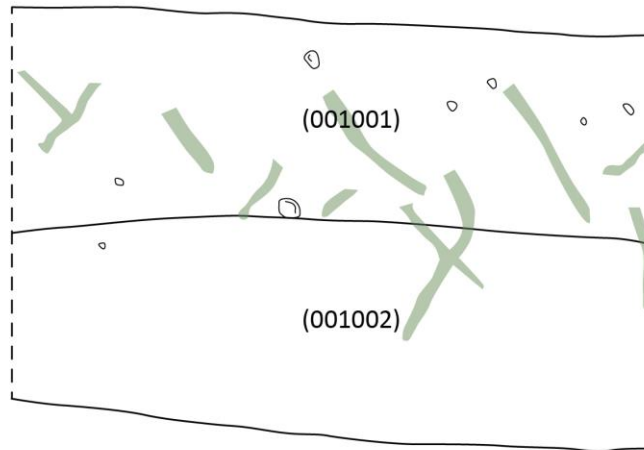
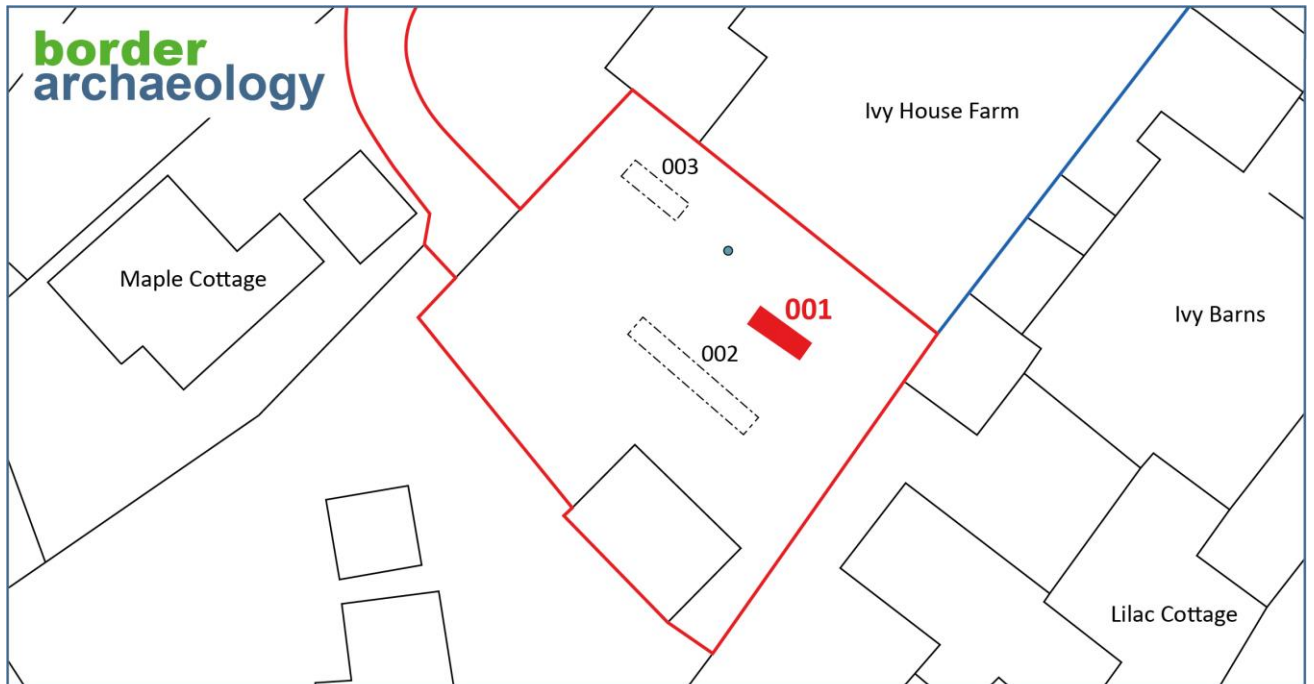


Fig: 2	
Drawing Name:	Trench 001: Representative section
Site:	Ivy House Farm, The Street, Redgrave
Project type:	Archaeological Field Evaluation
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7.2 Trench 002



Plate 2. Trench 002 facing SE

Trench 002 (*Plate 2*) was located in the S of the proposed development area, running NW-SE. It had an average depth of 0.48m but was deeper at the SE end due to the removal of a large tree stump which had drastically altered the depth in this area to c. 1m. The trench revealed three deposits, topsoil (002001), subsoil (002002) and natural geology (002003), all of which were once again heavily affected by the root activity of the orchards fruit trees. A ceramic pipe, possibly a service pipe, was also uncovered in the middle of the trench, therefore, the natural geology (002003) in this location could not be reached. No archaeological features were identified.

The topsoil (002001) was composed of a dark brown sandy silt, which measured 0.25m in thickness and contained occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions and a mixture of Victorian, Edwardian and modern pottery, glass and metal objects. A metal token <003>, Medieval button <004>, late 4th Century AD bronze coin <005>, Fe nail <006> and a pocket watch <007> were also recovered by Mr Brandeys.

The subsoil (002002), which had a maximum thickness of 0.23m, comprised a mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; this was situated above the natural geology (002003), which consisted of a light brown orange silty sand with occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stones.

7.3 Trench 003

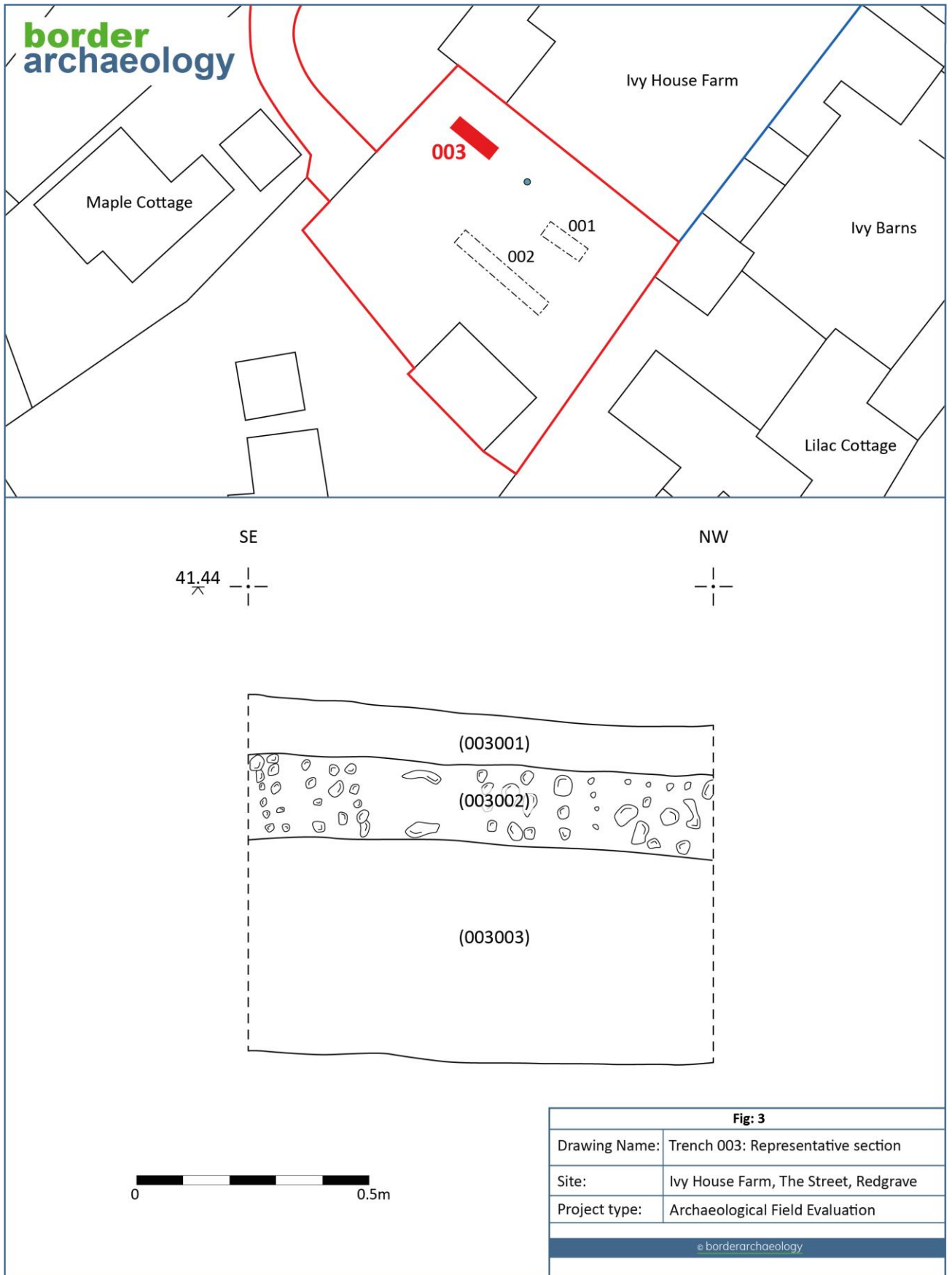


Plate 3. Trench 003 facing SE

Trench 003 (*Plate 3; Fig. 3*) was also orientated NW-SE and was located in the N corner of the site on the footprint of the proposed cart lodge. This trench revealed a total of four deposits – topsoil (003001), made-ground (003002), subsoil (003003) and natural geology (003004) – and had a maximum depth of 0.77m. No features of archaeological interest were identified.

The dark brown sandy silt topsoil (003001) had a maximum thickness of 0.12m and contained occasional medium to small-sized sub-angular stone inclusions. Very few artefacts were present within this trench, however the recovered assemblage included: two CBM fragments; one shotgun cartridge; and one Fe object, possibly part of a gate. Underlying the topsoil was made-ground (003002) composed of a layer of stones and gravel 0.18m deep. This was overlying the subsoil (003003), which measured 0.48m thick and consisted of a mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions. The natural geology (003004) comprised a light brown orange silty sand with occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stones.

The on-site metal detecting located a mid-4th Century AD bronze coin <001> in the topsoil to the SE of Trench 003 (*Fig. 3*), indicating that Romano-British activity had taken place in the vicinity of the site. However, its recovery from the topsoil in close proximity to a modern coin indicates that it was likely brought to the area via agricultural activity.



8 Discussion and Conclusion

The programme of works undertaken at Ivy House Farm confirmed that no features of archaeological significance were present on site. All of the artefacts recovered from Trenches 001-003 were from the topsoil and consisted of a mixture of Victorian, Edwardian and modern objects. Mr Brandeys also located seven artefacts of varying date, the earliest of which were two 4th Century AD coins; these are consistent with similar Romano-British finds recovered from the Redgrave area (see section 4.2) and suggest that activity of this period was taking place in the vicinity of the site.

In light of these results, no further archaeological works are unnecessary.

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11 Appendix 1: Context Tabulation

11.1 Trench 001

Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Small Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
(001001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft dark brown sandy silt; occasional medium to small-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.32m; overlies (001002).	Topsoil	Pottery Glass Metal objects	<002>	-	Modern
(001002)	Deposit	-	-	Soft mid orange brown sandy silt; occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.35m; underlies (001001); overlies (001003).	Subsoil	-	-	-	Post-medieval
(001003)	Deposit	-	-	Soft light brown orange silty sand; occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; underlies (001002).	Natural geology	-	-	-	Unknown

11.2 Trench 002

Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Small Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
(002001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft dark brown sandy silt; occasional medium to small-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.25m; overlies (002002).	Topsoil	Pottery Glass Metal objects	<003> <004> <005> <006> <007>	-	Modern
(002002)	Deposit	-	-	Soft mid orange brown sandy silt; occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.23m; underlies (002001); overlies (002003).	Subsoil	-	-	-	Post-medieval
(002003)	Deposit	-	-	Soft light brown orange silty sand; occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; underlies (002002).	Natural geology	-	-	-	Unknown

11.3 Trench 003

Context	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Small Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
(003001)	Deposit	-	-	Soft dark brown sandy silt; occasional medium to small-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.12m; overlies (003002).	Topsoil	CBM Fe object Shotgun cartridge	-	-	Modern
(003002)	Deposit	-	-	Hard dark brown mottled stones and gravel; thickness 0.18m to 0.36m; underlies (003001); overlies (003003).	Made-ground	-	-	-	Modern
(003003)	Deposit	-	-	Soft mid orange brown sandy silt; occasional small to medium-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; (max.) thickness 0.48m; underlies (003002); overlies (003004).	Subsoil	-	-	-	Post-medieval
(003004)	Deposit	-	-	Soft light brown orange silty sand; occasional medium to large-sized sub-angular stone inclusions; underlies (003003).	Natural geology	-	-	-	Unknown

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Editing	Lyndsey Clark BSc (Hons.) ACIfA		
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