

**Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road,  
Great Cornard, Suffolk**

*Archaeological Evaluation*



*for:*  
David Clarkson

*of:*  
20 Gainsborough Ltd.

CA Project: SU0392  
CA Report number: SU0392\_1  
OASIS ID: cotswold2-505170  
HER Ref: COG 089

April 2022





# Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

CA Project: SU0392  
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OASIS ID: cotswold2-505170  
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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road
<b>Location:</b>	Great Cornard, Suffolk
<b>NGR:</b>	588379 240320
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	30th March 2022
<b>Planning reference:</b>	DC/21/02500
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	cotswold2-505170
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and the Archaeological Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	COG 089

In March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk. Four trenches were excavated.

The trenches were excavated within the overgrown garden area to the east of the Inn through deep overburden layers containing modern material. No archaeological features were revealed, and a single prehistoric struck flint was recovered from the subsoil.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 588379 240320; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for David Clarkson of 20 Gainsborough Ltd.
- 1.2. A planning application (DC/21/02500) for a small residential development was determined with an archaeological condition requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation. The need for the work was identified by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 1.3. The initial scope of the work was detailed in a Brief prepared by SCCAS archaeologist Hannah Cutler (in a document dated 25th February 2022), the archaeological advisor to Suffolk County Council. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Hannah Cutler.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with the Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014; updated 2020), the SCC Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2021), the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Planning Note 3 (English Heritage 2008), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006).
- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.16ha in extent. It lies to the east of the Five bells Inn, behind the car park area accessed by Bures Road. The site currently comprises an overgrown area once used as the pub garden and is bounded by fencing to the north, east and south and open to the car park for the Inn to the west. The site is relatively flat at c.31m AOD, overlooking the valley of the River Stour with the river itself 150m to the west.
- 1.6. The surface geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits - Sand And Gravel, formed up to three million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by rivers. These sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin, detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits

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reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting). The underlying bedrock comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation a sedimentary rock formed approximately seventy-two to ninety-four million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. They are shallow-marine in origin, biogenic and detrital, generally comprising carbonate material (coccoliths), forming distinctive beds of chalk. The onsite observed superficial deposits comprised mid orange sand with coarse gravel (BGS 2022).

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Brief states that the site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the county Historic Environment Record (HER). It is close to the medieval church of St. Andrew (COG 007). Material of various dates has also been found in the vicinity (COG 023, 027 and 042). These previous finds suggested that there was a high probability for the discovery of below ground heritage assets within the development site. SCCAS agreed that a HER search is not required and further detail on sites in close proximity is provided below
- 2.2. The five bells pub was constructed c.1830 with red brick gables and white brick detailing fronting to Bures Road.
- 2.3. The church of St Andrew lies 80m north-west of the development site. It is medieval in date with a 14th century tower, 15th century features and was heavily restored in the 20th century.
- 2.4. A possible Bronze Age ditch (COG 042) was recorded 250m south-east of the development, a finds areas COG 023 (200m north of the site) recorded possible Roman Inhumations in the near vicinity and later post-medieval remains (COG 027) were discovered 100m east of the site.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable SCCAS to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological

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heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

3.2. The SCCAS Brief (Section 4.2) states the specific aims of the evaluation are 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.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and order of costs.

3.3. Any archaeological remains that are identified will be put into their local and regional context with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Agenda (Medleycott 2011) and the more recent updated version (2021) (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches (Fig. 2):

- 4no 11m x 1.8m trenches

4.2. The excavated trenches were widened slightly, up to 2m in width for safe excavation due to deep overburden deposits.

4.3. Trench 4 was moved to the west (on the edge of the development area) due to obstructions preventing excavation in the desired location.

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- 4.4. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 4.5. Following machining, no archaeological features were revealed. Possible features were hand investigated and were found to be natural in origin. Natural and modern features were digitally planned using a Leica GPS. Photographs (high resolution digital images; unprocessed Raw files of at least 10 megapixels with a APS-C sensor or larger) were taken as appropriate.
- 4.6. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.7. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.8. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.9. Metal detector searches (non-discriminating against iron) were undertaken by an experienced metal-detectorist throughout the project. This included prior to the trenches being dug, during the machine excavation and the subsequent hand-excavation phase as well as scanning the upcast spoil.
- 4.10. CA will make arrangements with SCCAS for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (SCCAS and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.11. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C has been entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.

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- 5.2. The archaeological evaluation revealed no archaeological features within the four excavated trenches. Natural features were discovered in Trench 3 and modern features were present within Trenches 1 and 2.
- 5.3. The topsoil (0100, 0200, 0300 and 0400) varied in depth between 0.4m to 0.7m in thickness, being deeper within the norther trenches (Trenches 1 and 2). It was a mid-brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions and contained modern plastics, concrete and glass bottles.
- 5.4. Subsoil (0101, 0201, 0301 and 0401) was present within all four trenches and measured 0.2-0.3m in thickness. It was a light orange brown soft silty sand with frequent small flint inclusions and occasional modern glass, concrete and plastic.
- 5.5. The geological horizon (0102, 0202, 0302 and 0402) was a mid-orange sand and coarse flint gravel.

#### **Trench 1 (Fig. 2 and 3)**

- 5.6. Trench 1 measured 11.1m in length, up to 2m in width and was aligned east to west. Topsoil 0100 (0.7m thick) was seen overlying subsoil 0101 (0.3m thick) which in turn overlay the geological horizon 0102.
- 5.7. The topsoil and subsoil deposits were heavily disturbed within this trench and a modern backfilled well and cess pit were present cutting the geological horizon. No finds were recovered.
- 5.8. The modern features contained plastic waste, concrete, tarmac and glass and were not excavated.

#### **Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and 3)**

- 5.9. Trench 2 measured 11.4m in length, 1.8m in width and was aligned north to south. Topsoil 0200 (0.7m thick) was seen overlying subsoil 0201 (0.2m thick) which in turn overlay the geological horizon 0202.
- 5.10. A single modern pipe trench was seen at the southern end of the trench and no finds were recovered.



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### Trench 3 (Fig. 2 and 3)

- 5.11. Trench 3 measured 11.7m in length, 1.9m in width and was aligned east to west. Topsoil 0300 (0.4m thick) was seen overlying subsoil 0301 (0.2m thick) which in turn overlay the geological horizon 0302.
- 5.12. Two tree throws were hand excavated within this trench. They were under 0.1m in depth and contained no finds. They were mapped but not recorded.
- 5.13. A single piece of prehistoric struck flint and a single heat-altered flint were recovered from subsoil 0301. They were residual within the context which also contained modern plastics and concrete.

### Trench 4 (Fig. 2 and 3)

- 5.14. Trench 4 measured 12m in length, 1.9m in width and was aligned north to south. Topsoil 0400 (0.5m thick) was seen overlying subsoil 0401 (0.2m thick) which in turn overlay the geological horizon 0402.
- 5.15. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Modern material including glass, porcelain and brick was found throughout the topsoil and subsoil deposits. This material was not retained. A single struck flint and a single heat-altered flint were recovered from subsoil 0301 in Trench 3 which are residual and likely date to the Bronze Age period. Bulk finds are listed in Table 1 (Appendix B).

### Lithics

- 6.2. A single flake (7g) and a single heat-altered flint (23g) were recovered from subsoil 0301 in Trench 3.
- 6.3. The single struck flint flake was fine, moderately patinated and edge damaged. It was struck using hard hammer techniques and is likely to be Bronze Age in date. It is residual within the context.
- 6.4. The single heat-altered flint was discoloured white grey and was highly fragmented and was high temperature heat-altered. It is residual within the context.

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## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The excavated trenches revealed no features of archaeological interest. The finds recovered were residual and likely show a low level of prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity near to the river.
- 7.2. The overburden depths suggest that additional topsoil was used to level the north area of the site. The original topography would have been a gentle slope to the north towards the church. The levelling of the area and modern activity seen within Trenches 1 and 2 may have destroyed any archaeological features if they were present.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork and report writing was undertaken by Michael Green. The finds report was written by Michael Green. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled by Michael Green and prepared for deposition by the Archives Officer. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter who also edited the report.

## 9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2022 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 29th October 2021

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- SCCAS, 2019, *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk, Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Feature Type	Trench	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under
0100	Topsoil	1	Layer	Mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions and modern material.	Topsoil in Trench 1			0.7	0101	
0101	Subsoil	1	Layer	Light orange brown silty sand with frequent small flint inclusions and modern material.	Subsoil in Trench 1			0.3	0102	0100
0102	Natural	1	Layer	Mid orange sand and coarse gravel geological natural.	Natural in Trench 1			-		0101
0200	Topsoil	2	Layer	Mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions and modern material.	Topsoil in Trench 2			0.7	0201	
0201	Subsoil	2	Layer	Light orange brown silty sand with frequent small flint inclusions and modern material.	Subsoil in Trench 2			0.2	0202	0200
0202	Natural	2	Layer	Mid orange sand and coarse gravel geological natural.	Natural in Trench 2			-		0201
0300	Topsoil	3	Layer	Mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions and modern material.	Topsoil in Trench 3			0.4	0301	
0301	Subsoil	3	Layer	Light orange brown silty sand with frequent small flint inclusions and modern material.	Subsoil in Trench 3			0.2	0302	0300
0302	Natural	3	Layer	Mid orange sand and coarse gravel geological natural.	Natural in Trench 3			-		0301
0400	Topsoil	4	Layer	Mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions and modern material.	Topsoil in Trench 4			0.5	0401	
0401	Subsoil	4	Layer	Light orange brown silty sand with frequent small flint inclusions and modern material.	Subsoil in Trench 4			0.2	0402	0400
0402	Natural	4	Layer	Mid orange sand and coarse gravel geological natural.	Natural in Trench 4			-		

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## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Flint		HA Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0301	1	7	1	23	Prehistoric
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	

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## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

### Summary for cotswold2-505170

OASIS ID (UID)	cotswold2-505170
Project Name	Evaluation at Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard
Sitename	Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	SU0392
Planning Id	DC/21/02500
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Dates	30-Mar-2022 - 30-Mar-2022
Location	Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard NGR : TL 88379 40320 LL : 52.0292920313647, 0.744582085397083 12 Fig : 588379,240320
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Babergh Parish : Great Cornard
Project Methodology	Trenched evaluation
Project Results	In March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Five Bells Inn, 63 Bures Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk. A total of four trenches were excavated. The trenches were excavated within the overgrown garden area to the east of the Inn through deep overburden layers containing modern material. No archaeological features were revealed, and a single prehistoric struck flint was recovered from subsoil layers.
Keywords	
Funder	20 Gainsborough Ltd
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - COG 089
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Physical Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service







 Site boundary

0  1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE

Five Bells Inn, Great Cornard, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

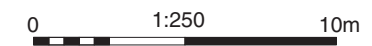
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	SU0392	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	31/03/2022	1
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Modern
- Tree throw



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Five Bells Inn, Great Cornard, Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b> KM	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> SU0392	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> RP	<b>DATE</b> 31/03/2022	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> SB	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:250	







Trench 1, looking north-east (scales 1m)



Trench 2, looking north-west (scales 1m)



Trench 3, looking south-west (scales 1m)



Trench 4, looking north-west (scales 1m)


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Five Bells Inn, Great Cornard, Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	<b>KM</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>SU0392</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>RP</b>	DATE	<b>31/03/2022</b>	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>SB</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>NA</b>	









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