

Gulpher Farm, Felixstowe, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Mr J. Adams

on behalf of:
Deben Lodge Farms

CA Project: SU0579
CA Report: SU0579_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-515184
HER Ref: FEX 497

July 2023



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Gulpher Farm
Location:	Felixstowe
NGR:	630417 236841
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	23rd – 25th May 2023
Planning reference:	DC/22/3565/FUL and DC/22/3593/FUL
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-515184
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	FEX479

In May 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk. Four trenches were excavated; three trenches revealed archaeological features.

A small assemblage of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, Ceramic Building Material (CBM), fired clay, and heat-affected flint was recovered. The pottery is highly fragmentary and no archaeological feature contained sufficient concentrations to confidently date the deposit or feature from which it was recovered.

The proximity of a possible late prehistoric settlement to the south of the site may account for the residual presence of the prehistoric pottery assemblage in the subsoil, three ditches and one pit at the site.

The parallel ditches revealed in Trench 1 and Trench 3 may represent part of a contemporary field system of post medieval date that was extant during the survey for the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1888 - 1913).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 630417 236841; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Mr J. Adams on behalf of Deben Lodge Farms.
- 1.2. Planning applications (DC/22/3565/FUL and DC/22/3593/FUL) were granted by East Suffolk DC for the construction of a new calf shed and associated feed store with an archaeological condition requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to construction.
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisors (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and detailed in a Brief dated 20th April 2023 prepared by SCCAS archaeologist Hannah Cutler. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2023) and approved by Hannah Cutler.
- 1.4. The evaluation also complied with SCCAS *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2023), *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015a) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015b).

The site

- 1.5. The site occupies part of a single field, to the west of Gulpher Farm and north of Gulpher Road. The site is on generally flat ground at a height of between 5.5m and 6.5m AOD.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock is recorded as Thames Group Clay - silt and sand, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 56 and 33.9 million years ago during the Palaeogene period (www.geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk) (BGS 2023).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Brief states that the site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to possible late prehistoric settlement (FEX 057). Evidence for the settlement is visible as a range of cropmarks of ditch features which include field boundaries, ring ditches and a large D-shaped enclosure located alongside the T-junction of a trackway on a promontory

overlooking a tributary of the River Deben. The ring ditches could represent the remains of Bronze Age barrows or later Iron Age/ Roman period round houses (FEX 057). Finds from the location recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database include a grey polished flint axe and other worked flints, pottery sherds of probable Iron Age date and Roman coins from 3rd and 4th centuries.

- 2.2. Gulper Farm is also recorded on the HER (FEX 420) and is on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1888 - 1913). A drainage system including shingle drains and three different pipe drain types and 18th century 'pipe and tile' are located immediately to the north of the site (FEX 034). To the south, medieval pottery sherds dating to the 13th -14th century have been found in drainage ditches (FEX 032).
- 2.3. Hannah Cutler has confirmed that a formal HER search will not be required for this project with the information above gleaned from the Suffolk Heritage Explorer website.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objectives of the evaluation were to provide further information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable SCCAS to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset within the site, consider the impact of any future development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.2. The Brief (Cutler 2023, 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

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- 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 (Medlycott 2011) and the more recent updated version (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of four 27m long x 1.8m wide trenches (Fig. 2), giving a combined trench length of c.108m.

4.2. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and scanned for live services using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded using Leica GPS.

4.3. Overburden, consisting of topsoil and subsoil, was stripped from the trenches down to the top of the surface geology by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under direct supervision by a CA archaeologist.

4.4. All archaeological features and deposits were hand-excavated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.5. After consultation with Hannah Cutler (SCCAS), two features in Trench 1, ditches 103 and 105 were not excavated as these were interpreted as continuations of ditches 303 and 305 recorded in Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 3).

4.6. All pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the site, which were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.7. A non-discriminating metal detecting survey was undertaken of all trenches prior to excavation, of the stripped trench surfaces and features and the upcast spoil.

4.8. CA will make arrangements with SCCAS for the deposition of the project archive. A digital record will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and*

guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2020b) and SCCAS (2022) guidelines.

- 4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. Archaeological remains were uncovered in three of the four trenches. As the topsoil and subsoil did not vary greatly in composition across the site, a broad description covering all four trenches is given first followed by individual trench descriptions. A full list of all contexts is at Appendix A and the levels of principal deposits at Appendix D.

Topsoil and subsoil

- 5.2. The topsoil was relatively consistent across the site comprising dark greyish brown silty clay, generally around 0.30m thick and containing occasional small to medium sized flints. The underlying subsoil was variable in thickness, consisting of mid-yellowish to greyish brown silty sand, containing a few occasional small to medium sized flints. There was good definition between the subsoil and the underlying superficial geology.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

- 5.3. Trench 1 was orientated north-west to south-east, and measured 27m in length. Beneath topsoil 100, a 0.10m thickness of subsoil (101) was recorded. Fragments of Roman pottery and Ceramic Building Material (CBM) were recovered from the subsoil during machining. Two ditches (103 and 105) were recorded.
- 5.4. Ditches 103 and 105 were located towards the north-west end of the trench, both aligned north-east to south-west. They coincide with the alignment of two ditches present in Trench 3 (303 and 305). Given their similarity, it was agreed with Hannah Cutler (SCCAS) to excavate the ditches revealed in Trench 3 with those in Trench 1 remaining unexcavated. A fragment of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface of ditch 103, fill 104.
- 5.5. Ditch 105 appears to align with a former field boundary present on the 1st edition OS map (1888 - 1913).

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 3)

- 5.6. Trench 2 was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 27m long. Beneath topsoil 200, a 0.02m thick layer of subsoil (201) was recorded.

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- 5.7. During machine excavation, six fragments of prehistoric pottery (Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age) and a 12th – 14th Century pottery sherd were recovered from the north-eastern end of the trench. No features could be discerned in the edges of the trench which would account for their presence.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2, 4 and 5)

- 5.8. Trench 3 was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 27m long. The topsoil (300) was 0.32m thick. The subsoil, (301) was 0.14m thick. Two parallel ditches (303 and 305) were revealed in the north-west end of the trench. These ditches aligned with the two ditches present in Trench 1. Both ditches were relatively shallow in depth. The recent use of the field for agricultural suggests a potential loss in the depth of these features as a result of ploughing.
- 5.9. Ditch 303 had gently sloping sides with a flattish base and was c.0.60m wide and 0.12m deep. The ditch contained a single fill, (304) which was a mid-yellowish grey brown silty clay. Two brick fragments dating to the medieval/post medieval period were recovered.
- 5.10. Ditch 305 had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base and measured c.0.70m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.16m. It contained single fill, (306) a mid-yellowish grey/brown silty clay. This ditch appears to align with a post-medieval field boundary present on the 1st edition of the OS map (1888-1913).

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 6-9)

- 5.11. Trench 4, was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 27m long. The topsoil (400) was 0.30m deep, over a subsoil (401), 0.45m thick. Six features; ditches 403, 405, 409 and 413 and two pits 407 and 411, were recorded.
- 5.12. Parallel ditches 403 and 405 were located towards the north-western end of the trench both exhibiting a north-south alignment. Ditch 403 had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base and measured c.0.35m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained a single fill, 404, comprising pale orange/blueish grey sandy silt. No finds were recovered.
- 5.13. Ditch 405 had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base and measured c.0.37m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill (406) comprising pale orange/blueish grey sandy silt. A sherd of early to middle Iron Age pottery was recovered.
- 5.14. Ditch 409 was aligned east-west, parallel to ditch 413 and continued beyond the extent of the trench in both baulks. It had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base,

measuring c.1.16m wide and 0.41m deep with a single fill (410) comprising pale grey sandy clayey silt from which a small piece of heat-altered flint was recovered. The ditch was recorded as cut by pit 407 on the eastern side.

- 5.15. Ditch 413 was aligned east-west, parallel to ditch 409. The feature continued beyond the extent of the trench in both baulks. It had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base, measuring c.1.26m wide and 0.38m deep with a single fill (414) comprising pale grey sandy clayey silt. One sherd of neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery and three pieces of heat-altered flint were recovered from the fill. Environmental Sample 2 taken from fill 414 did not contain any ecofacts. The ditch cuts an earlier feature, pit 411.
- 5.16. Pit 407 was located towards the middle of the trench where it continued beyond its north-eastern edge. It had moderate to steeply sloping sides with a flattish base and measured c.1m wide and 0.65m deep with a single fill (408) from which a single sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Environmental Sample 1, taken from fill 408 did not contain any ecofacts. The pit cuts an earlier feature, ditch 409.
- 5.17. Pit 411 was located towards the north-west end of the trench where it continued beyond its north-eastern edge. The pit had moderate to steeply sloping sides with a flattish base and measured c.0.89m wide and 0.26m deep and a single fill (412) from which no finds were recovered. The pit was recorded as cut by a later feature, ditch 409.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. A small assemblage of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay, and heat-affected flint was recovered (See Table 1 below and Appendix B). The pottery is highly fragmentary and no archaeological feature contained sufficient concentrations to confidently date the deposit from which it was recovered.
- 6.2. The assemblage mostly comprised residual material; the largest portions are probably indicative of earlier Neolithic and Iron Age activity, with the extremely small medieval and Roman assemblages suggesting very low level of activity in the immediate vicinity during these periods.
- 6.3. The artefacts have been catalogued directly onto an MS Access database and recorded in accordance with guidelines set out in the ClfA Toolkit for Specialist Recording (ClfA, 2021), a summary catalogue listing is provided in Appendix B.

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	12	110
Ceramic building material (CBM)	5	32
Fired clay	6	20
Heat altered flint	4	12

Table 1: Finds summary

Pottery

6.4. A small, fragmentary assemblage of twelve sherds pottery (110g) from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods was recovered through hand excavation, from both archaeological features and overlying subsoils. Fabrics are described and quantified in (Appendix B – Table 1). All the pottery within archaeological contexts appears to be residual, and should not be relied upon for dating deposits.

Prehistoric

6.5. Ten sherds (32g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from Trenches 1, 2, and 4, in four archaeological features and the subsoil of Trench 2. The fabrics appear to indicate a focus on the Early-Mid Iron Age, as well as the earlier Neolithic, though identifications are uncertain given the small and relatively undiagnostic nature of the sherds.

6.6. Singles sherds in sandy fabrics from ditches 103, 405 and pit 407 have been dated as Early-Mid Iron Age, though those in 103 and 405 are too small and fragmentary to allow much certainty in this identification. All of these appear to be residual in their deposits and unsuitable for dating the features.

6.7. Seven sherds of earlier prehistoric pottery were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 2 and the fill of ditch 423. Of those in subsoil 201, three sherds with crushed quartz and calcined flint inclusions are more likely to be earlier Neolithic than Bronze Age. Four sherds (16g) from the same subsoil and the fill of ditch 413 are in flint tempered fabrics and likely also date to the earlier Neolithic, though a later Bronze Age date cannot be entirely ruled out.

Roman

6.8. A single storage jar rim (54g) was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1, likely dating to the mid first-second century AD. This is the only find of Roman date recovered from the site and is not associated with a stratified deposit.

Medieval

- 6.9. A single body sherd of sandy medieval coarse ware (7g) was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 2. This fabric dates from the 12th -14th century (Anderson 2020), though it is a small fragment and broadly undiagnostic in terms of form and function.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.10. Five fragments of CBM (32g) were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1, and ditch 303. All are likely brick fragments. The fabrics range from orange to pinkish orange, and include sand and grog tempers. All date broadly to within the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Fired Clay

- 6.11. Six fragments of fired clay (20g) were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 2. Though only two of these display sufficient diagnostic morphology to identify them as possibly part of a clay lining, the remaining four smaller fragments are of similar fabric and may derive from the same structure.
- 6.12. The clay lining is likely from a structure such as an oven or kiln. Given the subsoil context, it is unclear how the lining fragments entered the archaeological record. They may be redeposited from a nearby context, or could have been introduced with general domestic waste in nightsoils generated from settlement elsewhere. This material is not closely dateable.

Heat-altered flint

- 6.13. Four fragments (12g) of heat-altered flint were recovered from the fills of ditches 409 and 413, the former through hand excavation and the latter from later processing of bulk Sample 2. No significant concentration exists within a single deposit, and the flints have been heated to low and medium temperatures, indicating they may be residual and divorced from the site of heating, or accidentally/naturally heated. This material is not inherently dateable and though the majority of it was found with prehistoric pottery in ditch 413, the single sherd was residual.

Discussion

- 6.14. This small and generally abraded assemblage does not provide sufficient evidence to date the archaeological features. The residual assemblage appears to indicate some ephemeral level of prehistoric activity in the vicinity, in the Early to Middle Iron Age, as well as possibly the earlier Neolithic period. It should be noted that the identification of Early Neolithic material is tentative, and a Bronze Age date cannot be entirely excluded

for some of the flint-tempered pottery. If any further work is carried out at the site, a wider assemblage may make more refined identifications possible. Although heat-altered flint was found with prehistoric pottery in ditch 413, the likelihood is that both are residual and no relationship between them can be assumed. Overall, there is too little evidence to characterise the nature of nearby prehistoric activity.

- 6.15. Small brick fragments from the medieval or post-medieval periods found in ditches 103 and 303 give a broad indication of their earliest possible date. A single pot sherd from the 12th-14th century is likely to have been transported and deposited at the site through various processes of agricultural soil development, possibly originally arriving at the site in nightsoil from settlement elsewhere. A similar interpretation could be applicable for the fired clay oven/kiln lining found in subsoil 201 and the single 1st -2nd century Roman storage jar sherd from the topsoil is clearly removed from its original site of deposition, given the lack of any accompanying evidence from the period.
- 6.16. All finds are recommended for retention with the exception of the heat-altered flint, which offers little benefit to the understanding of the site. In the event of further work being undertaken, these finds should be included in overall analysis.

7. THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1. Two bulk samples (80 litres of soil) were taken from Trench 4, pit 407 and ditch 413. The samples were taken to evaluate the preservation of paleoenvironmental remains with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.2. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (using a 0.3mm mesh for the flot and a 1mm mesh for the residue) (CA Technical Manual No. 2). The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope for the presence of any charred plant remains or ecofacts. (see Appendix C, Table 1.)
- 7.3. Both flots were very small in size and contained no ecofacts. Therefore, the two samples cannot contribute to further understanding of settlement activity in the vicinity.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. A small assemblage of finds dating from the prehistoric to medieval and post-medieval periods were recovered during trial-trenching. The results are discussed below.

Subsoil finds and undated features

- 8.2. Residual finds of prehistoric (6 sherds), Roman (1 sherd) and post-Roman (12th – 14th century) (1 sherd) pottery together with fragments of CBM and fired clay were recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 1 and 2.
- 8.3. Ditches 105, 305 and 403, and pit 411 did not contain any finds. Ditch 409 contained heat-altered flint that might be residual.
- 8.4. A small fragmentary assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from Trenches 1 and 4. Ditches 103 and 405 and pit 407 each contained a single sherd of early-middle Iron age pottery. One sherd of possible early Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery was recovered from ditch 413. None of the finds were in sufficient quantities to confidently date the features in which they were found.
- 8.5. Although no finds were recovered from ditches 105/305 (likely the same ditch), they appear to align with a field boundary present on the 1st edition OS Map (1888-1913) suggesting a post-medieval date for the feature.

Conclusions

- 8.6. The site lies to the north of an area of possible late prehistoric settlement (FEX 057) comprising of crop marks interpreted as the possible remains of Bronze Age barrows or Iron Age/Roman period round houses. The proximity of these features to the site may account for the presence of the small amounts of prehistoric pottery in the subsoil and various ditches and pits revealed at the site. The small number, potentially mixed date and scattered nature of the finds suggest they are residual. The finds are not in sufficient quantity to provide a basis for interpreting the nature and type of prehistoric settlement or activities at this location.
- 8.1. The apparent parallel ditches revealed in Trench 1 and Trench 3 appear to be part of a field boundary system that were extant on the 1st edition OS map (1888-1913).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Randall, assisted by Katie Frisby. This report was written by Rebecca Randall and Claire Halley. The finds and environmental reports were written by Ciar Boyle Gifford and Charlotte Molloy. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and

prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Stuart Boulter.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100		Plough soil	Layer	Dark, grey brown, friable, silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	Plough soil present across entire site			0.30m
1	101		Subsoil	Layer	Pale-Mid yellow/grey brown, firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints and moderate flecks of manganese. Moderate horizon clarity	Subsoil present across entire site, potentially a loess deposit			0.40m
1	102		Natural	Layer	Mid orange brown, friable-firm silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and iron pan and moderate small subangular flints	Natural substrate			0.40m+
1	103		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north-east to south-west. Not excavated, likely same as 303	Cut of ditch	1.8m+		
1	104	103	Ditch	Fill	Not Excavated	Fill of ditch 103	1.8m+		
1	105		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north-east to south-west. Not excavated, likely same as 305	Cut of ditch	1.8m+		
1	106	105	Ditch	Fill	Not Excavated	Fill of ditch 105	1.8m+		
2	200		Plough soil	Layer	Dark, grey brown, friable, silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	Plough soil present across entire site			0.33m
2	201		Subsoil	Layer	Pale-Mid yellow/grey brown, firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints and moderate flecks of manganese. Poor horizon with natural substrate 202.	Subsoil present across entire site, potentially a loess deposit			0.35m
2	202		Natural	Layer	Mid orange brown, friable-firm silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and iron pan and moderate small subangular flints	Natural substrate			0.35m+
3	300		Plough soil	Layer	Dark, grey brown, friable, silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	Plough soil present across entire site			0.32m

3	301		Subsoil	Layer	Pale-Mid yellow/grey brown, firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints and moderate flecks of manganese. Moderate horizon clarity	Subsoil present across entire site, potentially a loess deposit			0.46m
3	302		Natural	Layer	Mid orange brown, friable-firm silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and iron pan and moderate small subangular flints	Natural substrate			0.46m+
3	303		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with gently sloping sides, with a flattish base.	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	0.60 m	0.12m
3	304	303	Ditch	Fill	Mid yellow/grey brown, friable to firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints. Moderate horizon clarity, low contamination risk.	Fill of ditch 103	1.8m+	0.60 m	0.12m
3	305		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately sloping sides, with a flattish base.	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	0.70 m	0.16
3	306	305	Ditch	Fill	Mid yellow/grey brown, friable to firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints. Moderate horizon clarity, low contamination risk.	Fill of ditch 105	1.8m+	0.70 m	0.16m
4	400		Plough soil	Layer	Dark, grey brown, friable, silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	Plough soil present across entire site			0.30m
4	401		Subsoil	Layer	Pale-Mid yellow/grey brown, firm silty clay with occasional small subangular flints and moderate flecks of manganese.	Subsoil present across entire site, potentially a loess deposit			0.75m
4	402		Natural	Layer	Mid orange brown, friable-firm sandy/silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and iron pan and moderate small subangular flints	Natural substrate			0.75m+
4	403		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north to south, with moderately sloping sides, and a concave base.	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	0.35 m	0.13m

4	404	403	Ditch	Fill	Pale orange/blueish grey, friable sandy silt, with occasional flecks of manganese. Moderate horizon clarity and low contamination risk.	Fill of ditch 403	1.8m+	0.35 m	0.13m
4	405		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned north to south, with moderately sloping sides, and a concave base.	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	0.37 m	0.15m
4	406	405	Ditch	Fill	Pale orange/blueish grey, friable sandy silt, with occasional flecks of manganese. Good horizon clarity and low contamination risk.	Fill of ditch 405	1.8m+	0.37 m	0.15m
4	407		Pit	Cut	Sub-oval in plan, moderately sloping sides with a flattish base	Cut of pit	2.73m+	1m+	0.65m
4	408	407	Pit	Fill	Pale orange/blueish grey, friable sandy silt, with occasional flecks of manganese. Good horizon clarity and low contamination risk.	Fill of pit 407	2.73m+	1m+	0.65m
4	409		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned east to west, with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	1.16 m	0.41m
4	410	409	Ditch	Fill	Pale grey, friable sandy/clayey silt, with occasional flecks of manganese and small to large subangular flints. Clear horizon clarity and low contamination risk	Fill of ditch 409	1.8m+	1.16 m	0.41m
4	411		Pit	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of pit	1.7m+	0.89 m+	0.26m
4	412	411	Pit	Fill	Mid orangish grey, friable clayey silt with occasional flecks of manganese. Clear horizon clarity and low contamination risk.	Fill of pit 411	1.7m+	0.89 m+	0.26m
4	413		Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch in plan, aligned east to west, with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of ditch	1.8m+	1.26 m	0.38m
4	414	413	Ditch	Fill	Pale grey, friable sandy/clayey silt, with occasional flecks of manganese and small subangular flints. Clear horizon clarity and low contamination risk.	Fill of ditch 413	1.8m+	1.26 m	0.38m

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1 : Finds concordance

Trench	Feature	Context	SS	Material	Fabric/Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Artefact date	Finds spot date
1	Subsoil	101		Roman pottery	STOR (rim)	1	54	Rom (M1-2C AD)	-
				CBM	Brick fragments, orange with sand and grog	1	3	Med/PM	
					Amorphous fragments, likely brick	2	1	Med/PM	
	Ditch 103	104		Prehistoric pottery	Q1	1	1	E-MIA?	E-MIA? (likely residual)
2	Subsoil	201		Post-roman pottery	MCW	1	7	12-14th	-
				Prehistoric pottery	FQ2	3	8	E Neo?	
					F1	3	14	E Neo? (/LBA?)	
					Clay lining	2	17		
				Fired clay	Small amorphous fragments, likely same as clay lining	4	3		
3	Ditch 303	304		CBM	Brick fragments, pinkish orange with sand and grog	2	28	Med/PM	Med/PM (poss. residual)
4	Ditch 405	406		Prehistoric pottery	Q1 (burnt)	1	1	E-MIA?	E-MIA? (likely residual)
	Pit 407	408		Prehistoric pottery	FQ1 (burnt)	1	6	E-MIA	E-MIA (likely residual)
	Ditch 409	410		Heat altered flint	Low temperature	1	4		-
	Ditch 413	414		Prehistoric pottery	F1	1	2	E Neo? (/LBA?)	E Neo? (/LBA?) (likely residual)
			2	Heat altered flint	Mixed temperatures	3	8		

Table 2: Pottery fabrics by period

	Fabric Code	Fabric Description	Count	Weight (g)	Fabric Date range
Prehistoric	Q1	Common quartz sand, oxidised exterior (and sometimes interior) surface, unoxidized core	2	2	E-MIA
	FQ1	Common coarse sand of quartz and flint	1	6	E-MIA
	FQ2	Sparse med-coarse quartz and calcined flint externally oxidised	3	8	E Neo
	F1	Common fine-coarse calcined flint, externally oxidised	4	16	E Neo (/LBA?)
Roman	STOR	Storage jar fabric, low density coarse greyware with fine grog and voids	1	54	Rom (1-2 nd C)
Medieval	MCW	Medieval sandy coarse ware	1	7	12 th -14 th

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Cut	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm
Trench 4									
Prehistoric pit									
0407	0408	1	40	<1	100	-	-	-	-
Prehistoric ditch									
0413	0414	2	40	<1	100	-	-	-	-

Table 1 Assessment of the paleoenvironmental evidence

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS

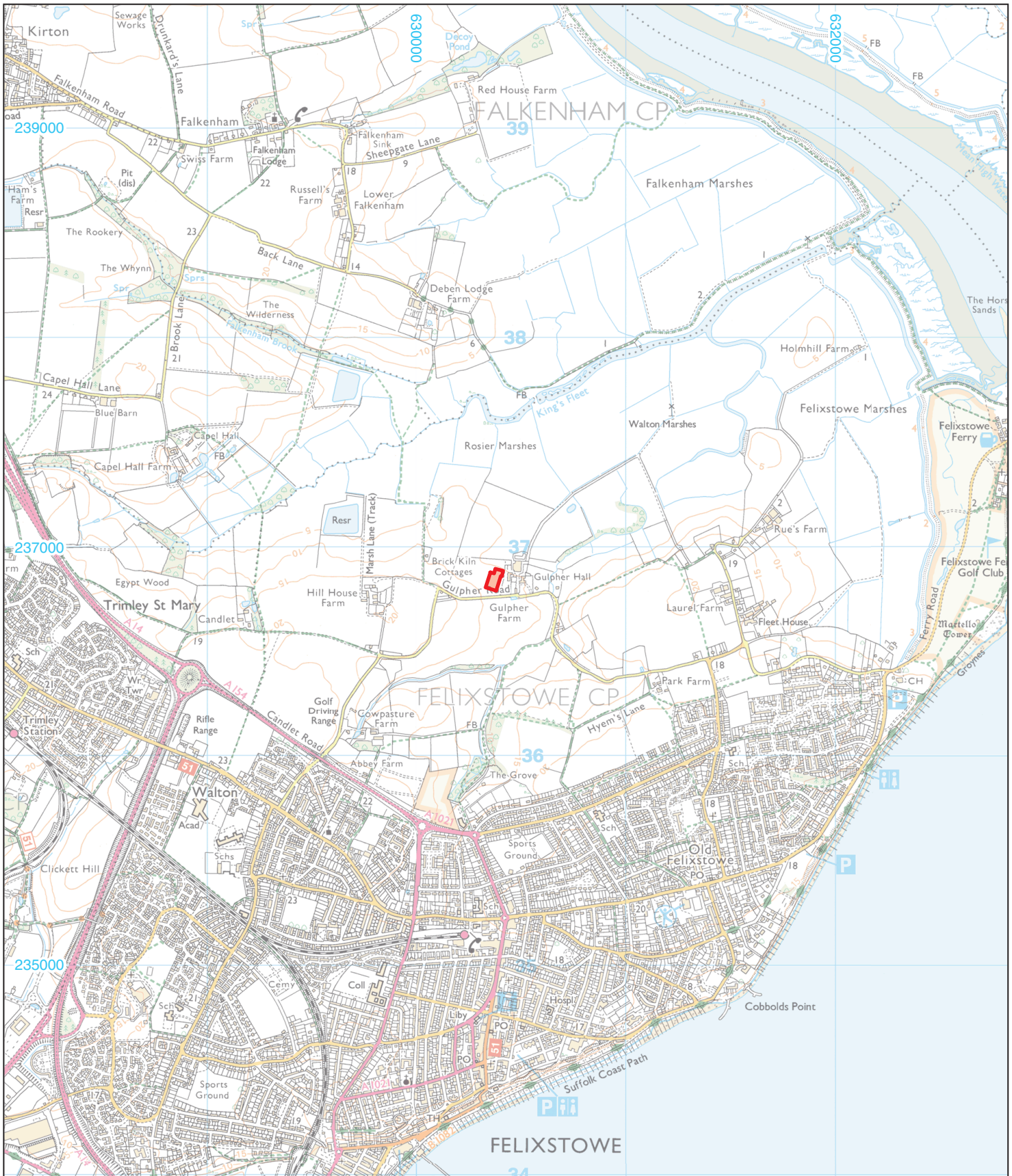
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at location (0m AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4
Current ground level	0.00m (17.49m)	0.00m (17.81m)	0.00m (17.64m)	0.00m (16.99m)
Top of feature deposits	0.40m (17.09m)	0.35m (17.46m)	0.46m (17.18m)	0.75m (16.24m)
Limit of excavation	0.40m (17.09m)	0.35m (17.46m)	0.62m (16.56m)	1.40m (15.59m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Gulpher Farm, Felixstowe, Suffolk	
Short description	In May 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk. Four trenches were excavated. Three trenches revealed archaeological features. A small assemblage of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, and heat-affected flint was recovered. The pottery is highly fragmentary and no archaeological feature contained sufficient concentrations to confidently date the deposit or feature from which it was recovered. The proximity of a possible late prehistoric settlement to the south of the site may account for the residual presence of the prehistoric pottery assemblage in the subsoil, three ditches and one pit at the site. The apparent parallel ditches revealed in Trench 1 and Trench 3 appear to be part of a field boundary system, probably dating from at least the post medieval period and noted on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1888-1913)	
Project dates	23-25 May 2023	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk	
Study area (m ² /ha)	c. 0.38 hectares	
Site co-ordinates	630417 236841	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	SCCAS	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cass	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Randall	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Ceramics, CBM, flint, fired clay	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
	Recipient of each type of archive	Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	SCCAS	Ceramics CBM, flint, fired clay
Paper	SCCAS	Report
Digital	ADS	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk: Archaeological Evaluation CA report SU0559_1</i>		



 Site boundary



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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE
Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/06/2023	1
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



236900

236850

236800

630350

630400

630450



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (unexcavated/excavated)
- Modern

0 1:500 25m

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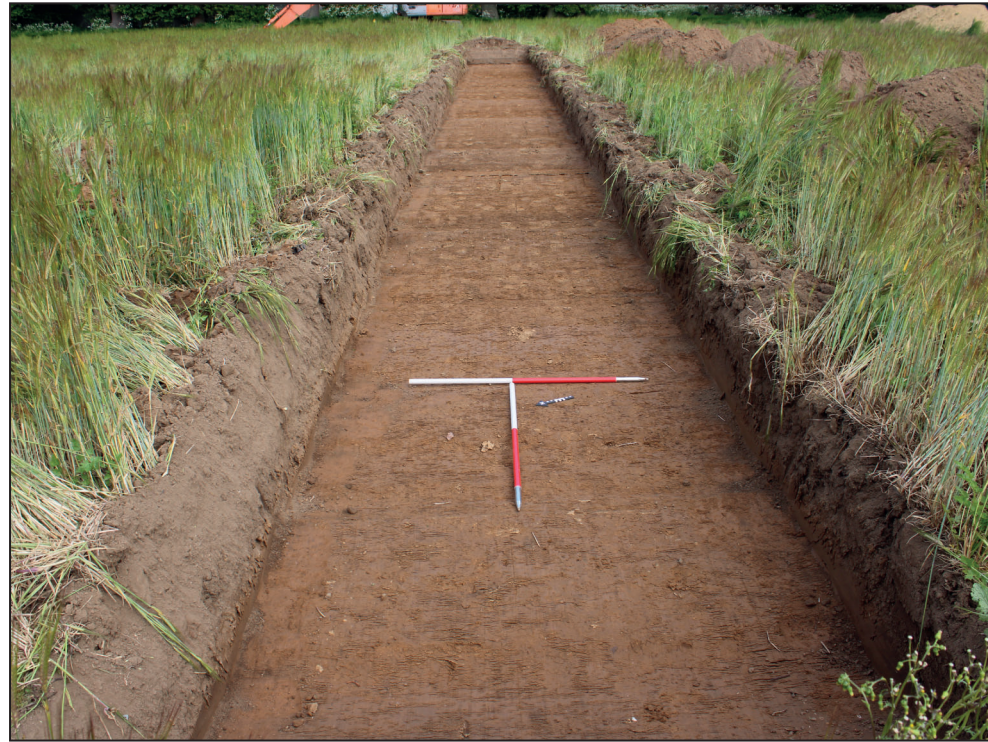
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PROJECT TITLE
 Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench plan showing archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> HMM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0579	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 12/06/2023	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SC	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	

GULPHER ROAD



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



Trench 1, sample section, looking north-east (1m scale)



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



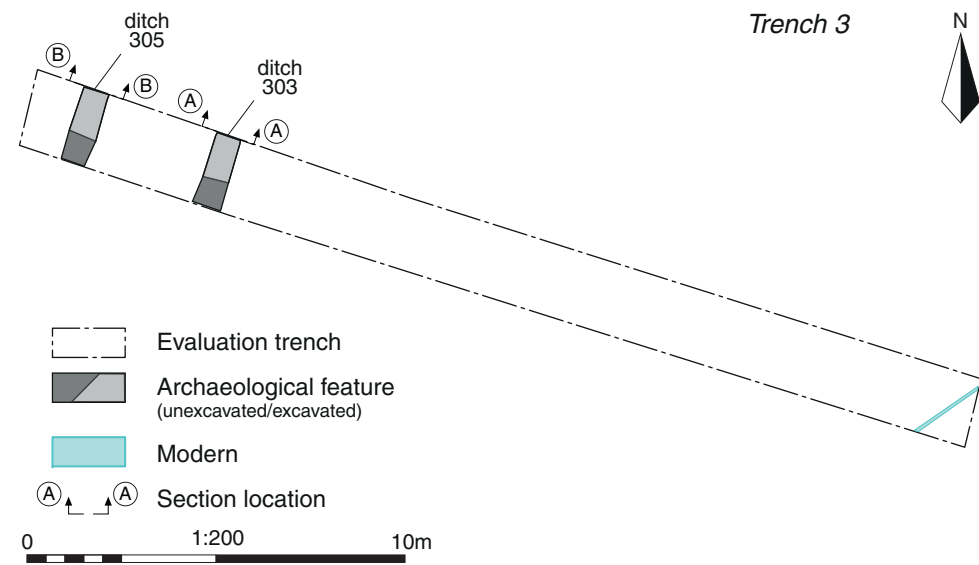
Trench 2, sample section, looking south-east (0.4m and 1m scale)


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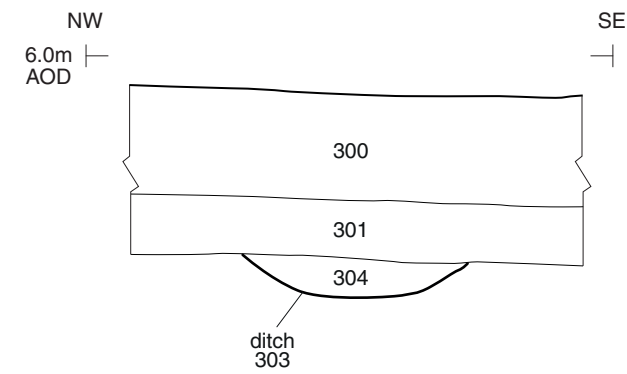
PROJECT TITLE
Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1 and 2: photographs

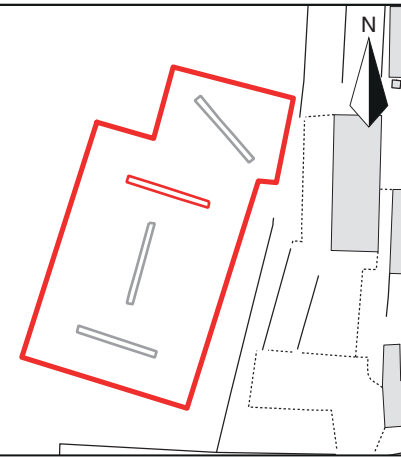
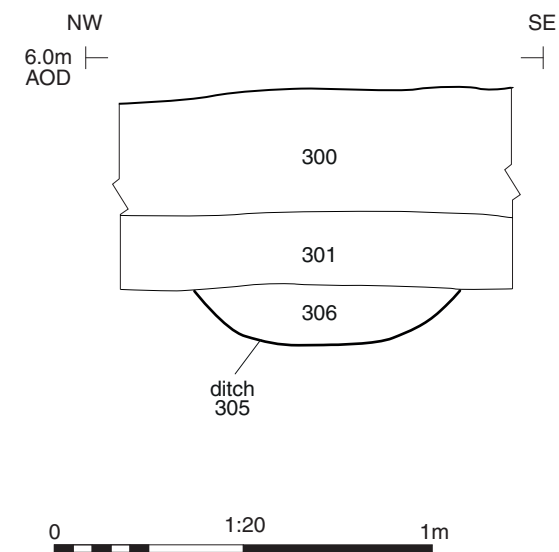
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/06/2023	3
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A3	NA	



Section AA



Section BB



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



Trench 3, sample section, looking south-west (0.5m and 1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE
 Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 3: plan, sections and
 photographs**

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/06/2023
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Ditch 303, looking north-east (1m scale)



Ditch 305, looking north-east (0.5m and 1m scales)



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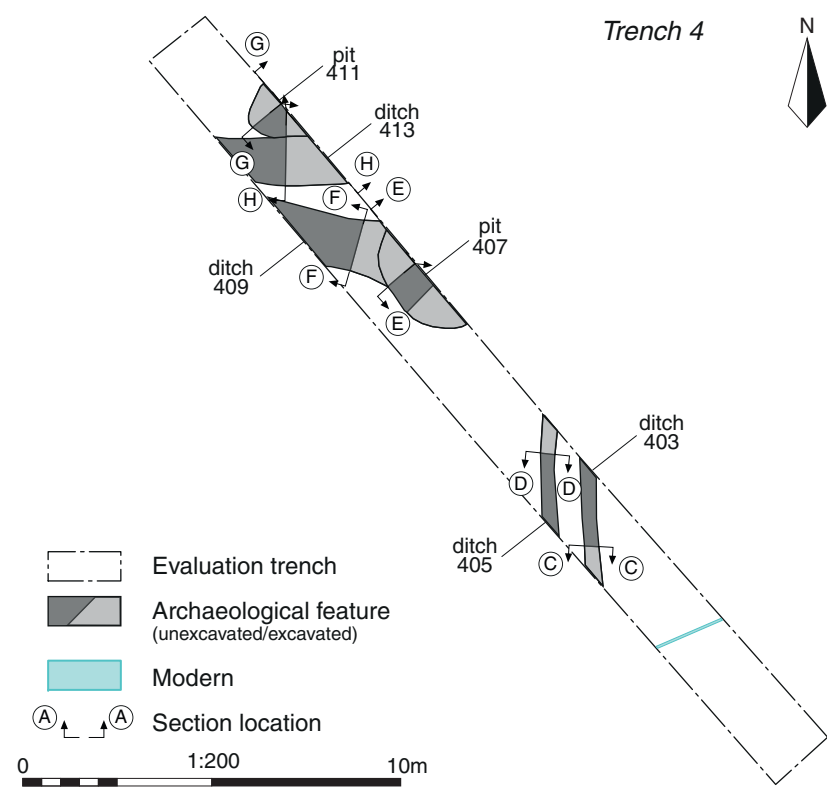
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: photographs

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FIGURE NO.

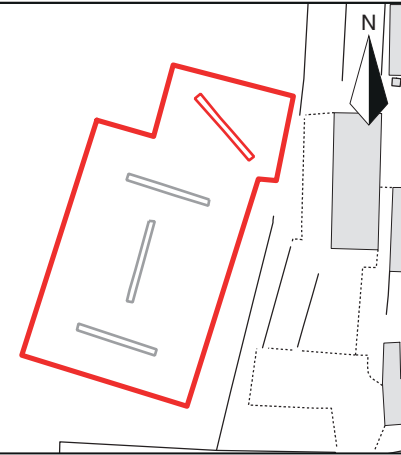
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Trench 4, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 4, sample section, looking north-east (1m scale)



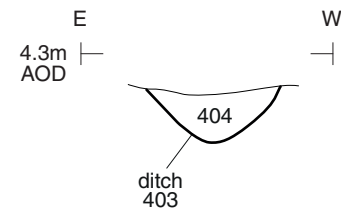
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PROJECT TITLE
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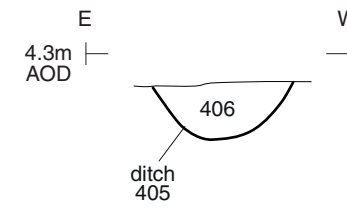
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: plan and photographs

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Section CC



Section DD



Ditch 403, looking north (0.2m scale)



Ditch 405, looking south (0.3m scale)

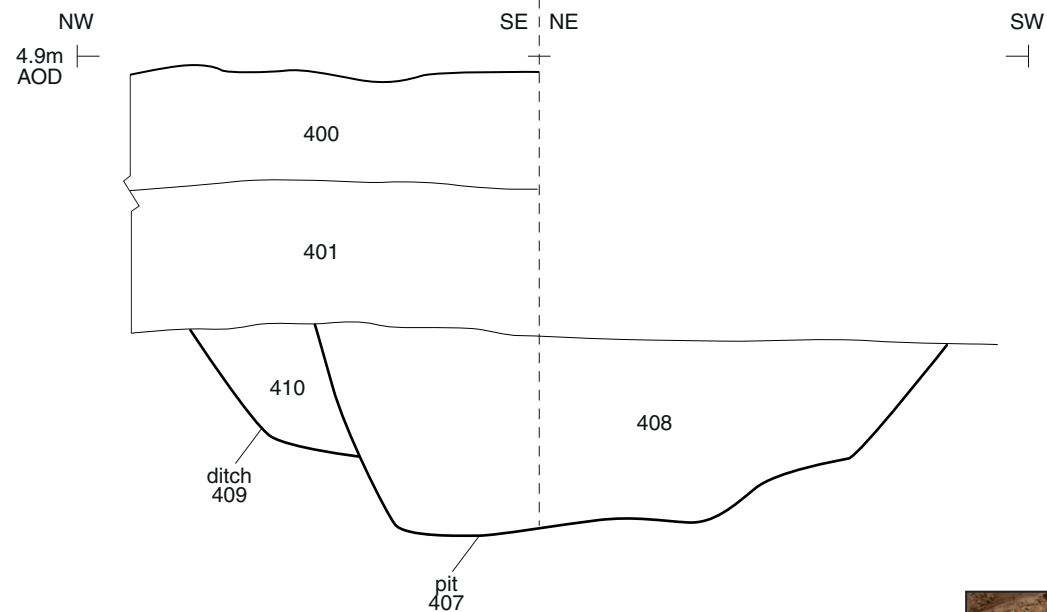

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: sections and photographs

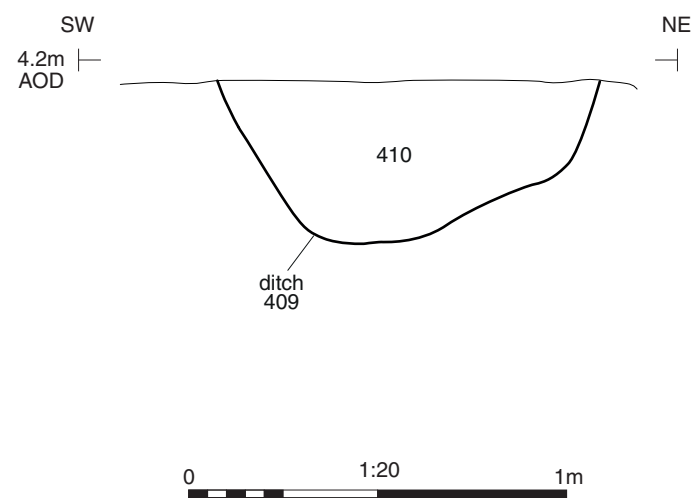
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/06/2023	7
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Section EE



Pit 407, looking north (1m scale)

Section FF

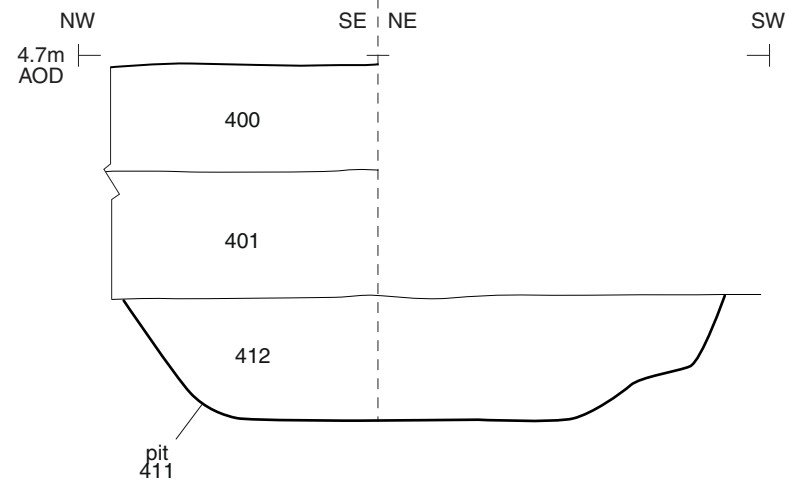


Ditch 409, looking north-west (1m scale)

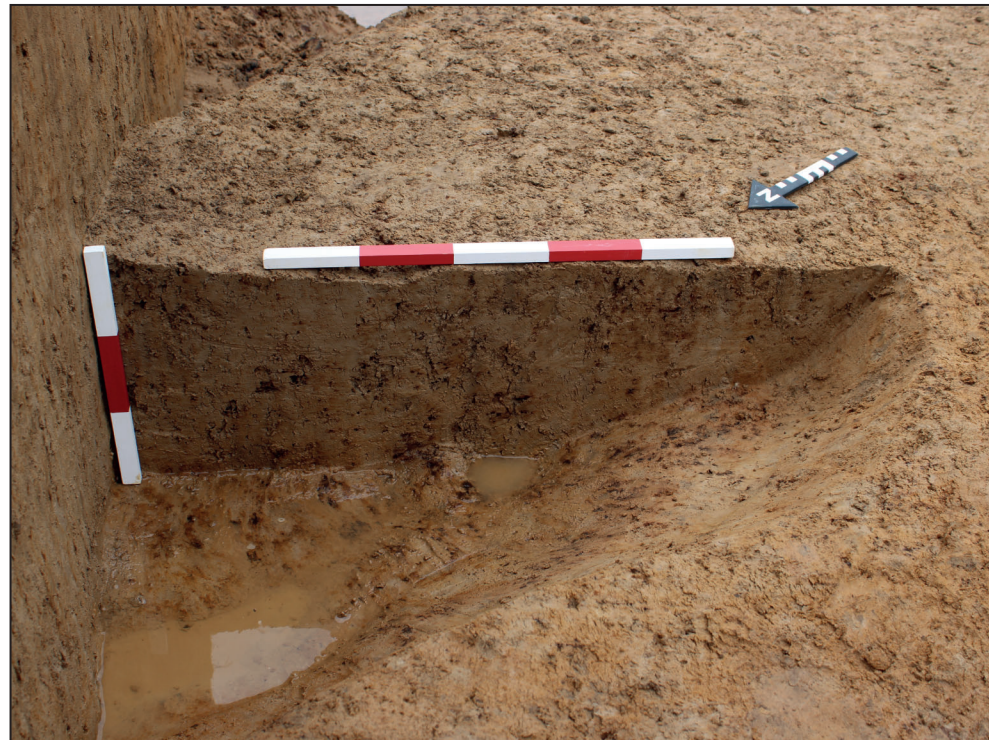
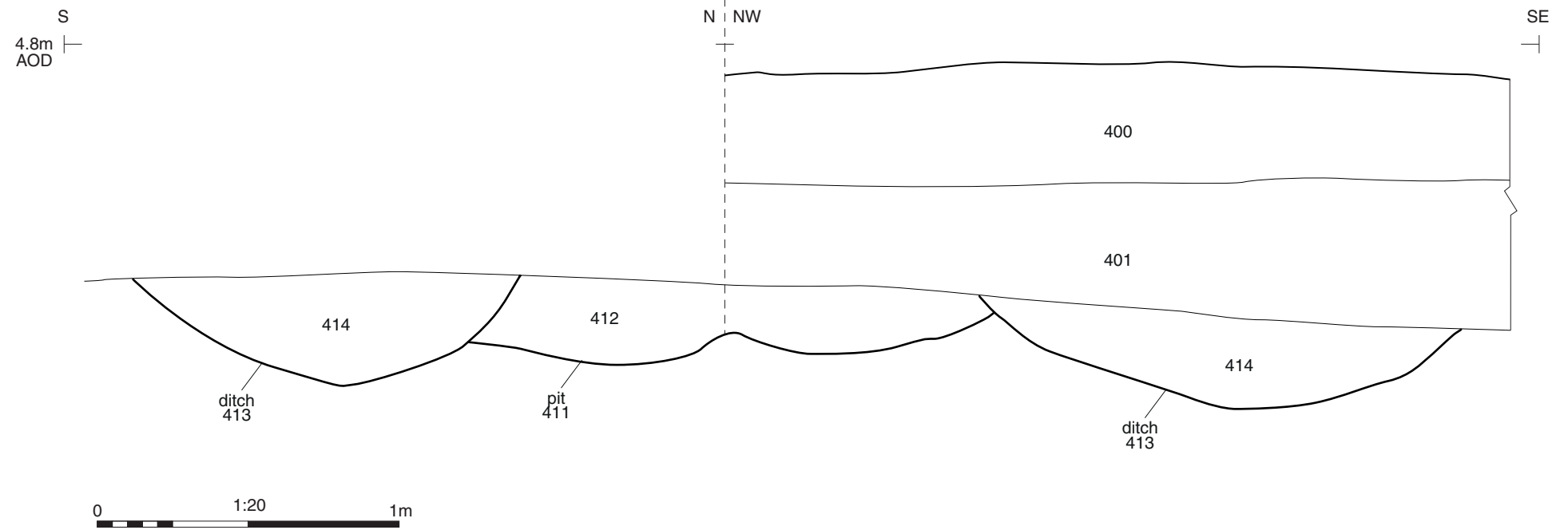


Ditch 409 (left) and pit 407 (centre and right), looking south-east

Section GG



Section HH



Pit 411, looking south-east (0.3 and 0.5m scales)



Pit 411 and ditch 413, looking north-east (0.5m and 1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: sections and photographs

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