Archaeological evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk, CO10 0NL

July 2017

by Dr Elliott Hicks
with contributions by Stephen Benfield and Lisa Gray
figures by Sarah Carter and Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Harvey Furniss, Ziya Eksen and Jane Roberts

commissioned by E&M Design on behalf of PG Bones

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Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

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Cover: general site shot

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings. The evaluation uncovered a medieval ditch, which was possibly a field boundary. The discovery of a number of sherds of medieval pottery also suggests activity or occupation at this site, or in close proximity to it, during the late 14th/15th to the early 16th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk which was carried out on 17th July 2017. The work was commissioned by E&M Design, in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: planning references B/14/01487/OUT & B/16/01511) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Rachael Abraham (SCCAS 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (CAT 2017) in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14** and **24**). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9199804:

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale[1]) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation with superficial River Terrace Deposits, 1 (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard is in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment[2]. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map[3], it is defined as Landscape sub-type 2.1, 18th-century and later enclosure, former common arable or heathland. The landscape immediately around the development site is characterised as sub-type 10.3 (built up area – village,

[1] British Geological Survey – http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?

[2] http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/

[3] The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characteristion Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

substantial groups of houses associated with a parish church), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow), and sub-type 9.3 (post-medieval park and leisure – modern leisure).

Archaeology[4] (Fig 2)
Prehistoric: A palaeolithic hand-axe was discovered on the edge of the Wells Hall Primary School playing field in the mid 1980s (COG 008: 575m N). Several prehistoric ring-ditches are known from the area of the Great Cornard Rugby Club (COG 004-006: 420-620m NW). Evaluations and excavations at the Rugby Club over the last 10 years have revealed a number of Bronze Age ring-ditches in a funerary landscape with a possible phase of earlier occupation in the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (COG 025, COG 028 and COG 030). A possible Bronze Age ditch aligned NE/SW is also located 1km to the NNW (COG 042) and prehistoric find scatters have been located 1.15km to the NE (COG 026).

Roman: Roman finds include scatters of pottery, tile, coins and metalwork (COG 056: 600m ESE; COL 007-008: 820-980m SE; COL 025: 670m SSE)

Anglo-Saxon: In 1868 an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery with sword, spear and buckles was found in a gravel pit (COL 002: 830m SW). Anglo-Saxon finds also include three sceattas (COL 024: 130m ESE).

Medieval: Medieval sites include a trapezodial medieval moat (COG 002: 350m NE).

Medieval/post-medieval: A medieval/post-medieval watermill and leat existed approximately 1.05km to the NW (COG 24). The place named 'Mill Tye' on Hodskinson's 1783 map of Suffolk suggests a possible medieval green and medieval date for water mill (Cornard Mills). Extent unknown but positioned at crossroads with buildings including Kings Head Pub (*c* 1900) (COG 018: 700m NW). Medieval/post-medieval artefact scatters have been recorded 1.06km to the NE (COG 049) and 1.08km E (COG 043).

Post-medieval/modern: The Stour Valley Railway Line (Great Eastern) opened between 1849-1865 (SUF 075: 720m W). The Cornard Brick and Tile Company was located 980m SSW (COL 013). Post-medieval field boundaries were identified *c* 450m NNW at Thomas Gainsborough School during evaluation and geophysical survey (COG 039). A windmill was present on the 1840 tithe map *c* 970m NW (COG 015), built 1805. Post-medieval finds also include three 16th century coins (COG 050: 200m W).

Undated/various: Evaluation 1.15km to the NE (COG 029) revealed pits, a large hollow (possibly a remnant of a prehistoric pond barrow), post-medieval boundary features and debris associated with post-medieval tile production. Monitoring to the rear of 157 Bures Road (COG 033: 695m NW) revealed a large quarry pit or natural feature, and an evaluation on Kidington Hill revealed a single undated ditch (COL 034: 620m SE).

Listed buildings[5]
Fifteen listed buildings are located within a 2km radius of the development site, all dating from the late 16th-19th centuries.

[4] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).
[5] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, 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 orders of costs.

5 Methodology

Four trial-trenches were laid out across the development. Each trench measured 10m long by 1.6m wide (totalling 64m²).

The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

6 Results (Fig 3-4)

Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.6m wide

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, *c* 0.19-0.2m thick, loose dry moist dark grey/brown sandy-silty-loam) sealing subsoil (L2, *c* 0.47-0.58m thick firm dry medium brown silty-loam with occasional stone and very occasional flint), which sealed natural sands and soils (L3). Medieval ditch F2 was uncovered at the western end of T1. It measured 2.1m in width and 0.76m in depth, was aligned NW-SE, and continued to the northwest as ditch F1 in T2.

Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking northeast

Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.6m wide
Trench T2 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.17-0.22m thick), L2 (0.48-0.55m thick), onto L3. Medieval ditch F1 was uncovered at the western end of T2. It measured 2.48m in width and 0.77m in depth, was aligned NW-SE, and continued to the southeast as ditch F2 in T1.

Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking northeast

Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.6m wide
Trench T3 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.19m thick), L2 (*c* 0.56-0.6m thick), onto L3. No archaeological remains were uncovered.

Trench 4 (T4): 10m long by 1.6m wide
Trench T4 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.18-0.2m thick), L2 (*c* 0.51-0.55m thick), onto L3. No archaeological remains were uncovered.

7 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction
A significant quantity of finds, primarily medieval pottery, was recovered from the fill of a ditch (F2) located in T1. A small quantity of Roman finds consisting of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) together with a single, small sherd of medieval pottery were recovered from a second ditch (F1) located in T2. In addition a small quantity of animal bone, oyster shells and a single iron nail were recovered. All of the finds are listed by count (number) and weight in Table 1.

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	146	2105
Ceramic building material (CBM)	1	322
Nail (iron)	1	-
Animal bone	5	356
Shell (marine shell)	14	99

Table 1 Types and quantities of bulk finds

Pottery
By far the largest quantity of finds recovered from the site were those of pottery. Most of this is medieval in date (144 sherds weighing 2087g) with just a few small Roman sherds that are probably all from one pot. All of the pottery is listed by period and by fabric in Table 2. The fabrics used refer to the Suffolk Roman and post-Roman pottery fabric series.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.	EVE
Roman:				
GX	Miscellaneous Roman sandy greywares	2	18	
Medieval:				
MCW	Medieval coarsewares (general)	95	1471	0.78
CLOC	Colchester-type ware	2	14	
COLL	Late Colchester-type ware	40	444	
LMT	Late Medieval and Transitional Ware	7	158	0.30
Medieval total		144	2087	1.08

Table 2 Pottery by fabric

Roman
The Roman pottery comes from the middle fill of ditch F1 (3) in T2. The two sherds recovered, probably from the same pot, are not closely datable within the Roman period. This limited representation of Roman pottery appears likely to represent incidental background manure scatter away from the focus of occupation during this period. It can be noted that a small sherd that is almost certainly a medieval coarseware was also recovered from the same context (see below).

Medieval
A significant quantity of medieval pottery consisting of medieval sandy coarsewares (Fabric MCW) and Colchester-type wares, primarily late Colchester-type ware (Fabric COLL), were recovered from the middle and lower fill of a ditch F2 (3 & 4) in T1. A single small sherd of medieval coarseware (1 g) was also recovered from the middle fill of ditch F1. In total there are 144 sherds with a combined weight 2087g and an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) of 1.08. There does not appear to be any significant difference in the pottery from the lower and middle fill in terms of fabrics or composition so that all of the medieval assemblage can be discussed together.

The presence of significant numbers of sherds that can be described as Late Colchester-type ware (Fabric COLL), including white slip painted sherds and a large number of sherds of this type with reduced surfaces (*CAR* **7**, 108-109) indicate that the assemblage dates no earlier than the early-15th century. The date range given in *CAR* **7** for the currency of this pottery is *c* 1400-1550 (108).

However, the larger proportion of the assemblage consists of sherds with a few recognisable vessel types that are typical of medieval coarsewares (Fabric MCW) broadly current in the period of the late-12th to the 14th century including a necked cooking pot (4) and sherds from bowls (3). There are also sherds from the neck and rim of a large cooking pot or jar with a broad triangular section rim that is undercut/lipped internally (3). The interior surface is worn/pitted and this may be connected to the life/function of the pot as this pitting in only present on the interior. The pot has some similarities in form with some cooking pots from Norwich (Jennings 1981, fig 15, nos. 302-305 & 390) but is not closely paralleled. The large size and good average size of the sherds of Medieval coarseware do not suggest any residuality in relation to the Late Colchester-type wares and the broken sherds from the upper part of the jar/cooking pot show that a significant portion of this pot was deposited together as sherds or broken in the ditch. A few glazed sherds, including one with white slip

painted decoration (3) are probably Colchester-type ware (Fabric COLC) also dating broadly to the period of the 13th-14th century; although it is acknowledged that similar pots may also have been made in Ipswich during this same period (Ipswich glazed ware – Suffolk Fabric code IPSG). In addition there is a rim probably from a large squat jug with a brownish-red sandy fabric with brown-grey surfaces, recovered from the same context (F2 (3)), has a small area of faintly blue-white slip paint.

Of interest are a number of sherds (15 sherds, weight 112g) from one slip painted, necked pot where the relatively thin painted slip is a medium blue in colour (Photograph 3). These were recovered from the middle fill (finds no. 3) and lower fill F2 (finds no. 4) of ditch F2 and there are sherd joins between the two finds numbers. The sherds themselves have a brownish-red sandy fabric with brown-grey surfaces. The fragments from the slip pattern suggests part of a foliate design similar to that of Late Colchester-type ware. It appears most likely that these sherds represent a red (iron oxide) based slip which has accidentally fired to a dark colour of blue appearance (pers com. Richenda Goffin – Suffolk Archaeology). The sherds can be broadly compared with Late Medieval and Transitional ware (Fabric LMT) with iron oxide slip as seen among published pottery from Norwich (Jennings, 1981, fig 27, nos 451 and 452). At Norwich Jennings suggests that the use of an iron oxide slip is one of the earlier facets within this broad pottery tradition (ibid 61).

In terms of dating and what the medieval pottery represents, overall it suggests occupation here or close by during the period of the late-14th or 15th to the early-16th century. Although some of the pottery could date earlier and might possibly be residual, the assemblage in the ditch was not deposited prior to the early-15th century. That all of this pottery can be treated as essentially one assemblage is indicated by two factors. There appears to be no significant difference between the nature (size/abrasion) of any of the sherds belonging to both the potentially earlier or later dated of the fabrics recovered from both the middle and lower fill. Also, sherds from one distinctive pot painted with a misfired (blue-looking) iron oxide slip decoration occur in among the finds assigned to both the middle and lower ditch fills.

Photograph 3 F1 (3) & (4) Fabric LMT, sherds from a slip-painted necked pot with a probable iron oxide slip decoration that has miss-fired resulting in a blue appearance to the slip

Ceramic building material (CBM)
Just a single piece of CBM was recovered. This is a piece from a Roman tegula (roof) tile (weight 322g) which came from the same context as the only Roman pottery recovered on the site (F1 (1) in T2). The piece has some abrasion and, in the absence of any significant quantity of Roman finds from the site, suggests it is likely to be part of manure scatter material.

The absence of any post-Roman (medieval) CBM, notably peg-tiles, can be noted, especially given the quantity and relatively late date assigned to much of the medieval pottery (see above).

Animal bone
One half of a cow (bovid) mandible, broken in two pieces, is the largest and only animal bone recovered which is species-identifiable. This comes from the fill of ditch F1 (1) in T2. With this were two other pieces of large mammal bone consisting of part of a humerus and a small piece from a rib. A single small piece from a large mammal rib was also recovered from ditch F2 (1) in T1.

Shell
A small number of oyster shells (9 in total) were recovered from contexts associated with late medieval pottery in ditch F2 in T1. In addition a few small pieces of oyster shell were also recovered from ditch F1 in T2.

Nail
A small complete iron nail (45 mm in length) was recovered during processing a bulk soil sample from ditch F2 (5) in T1.

8 Environmental report

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives
Two samples were presented for assessment. They were taken from two medieval ditches.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods
Fifty litres of soil samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al*. 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separated from charcoal flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charcoal flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger then 2mmØ were present.

Results (Table 3)

The plant remains

Charcoal flecks too small to identify and fragments of identifiable size were found in both samples. No other charred plant macro-remains were found in any of the samples.

Abundant uncharred root/rhizome fragments were found in each sample. Sample 1 contained low numbers of uncharred/dried waterlogged orache-type (*Atriplex* sp.) seeds and sample 2 contained low numbers of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) seeds. The abundant root/rhizome fragments in both of these samples could indicate that these seeds are intrusive.

Fauna

Terrestrial mollusca were present in both samples. *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) snails were present in both samples. This snail burrows well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149) and can be indicative of bioturbation and oxygenation of the soil. Conditions like these tend to provide preservation conditions best suited to robust plant material such as those evident here, charred plant remains and uncharred plant remains with robust testas as evident in the samples.

Inorganic remains

No inorganic artefactual remains were found in any sample.

Sample	Finds No.	Sample description	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Charcoal <4mmØ	Charcoal >4mmØ	Dried waterlogged seeds			Modern root/rhizomes	Terrestrial mollusca	Earthworm cocoons	Comments
					a	a	a	d	p	a	a	a	
1	2	F1 Medieval ditch	30	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	*Ceciliodes* snails, uncharred elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and orache (*Atriplex* sp.) seeds
2	5	F2 Medieval ditch	40	5	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	-	*Ceciliode*s snails and uncharred elderberry seeds.

Table 3 Environmental results

Key: a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; 3 = abundant >100]
d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]
p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus), 3 = good (species identification possible)

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. On microscopic examination it was clear that bioturbation was likely due to the presence of abundant root/rhizome fragments in each sample and low number of terrestrial snails, particularly *Ceciliodes*.

Quality and type of preservation

No waterlogged, mineralised or charred plant remains were found.

Significance of the samples and recommendations for further work

The uncharred plant remains are likely to be intrusive and no charred plant remains were present. No further work is recommended on these samples.

9 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at this site uncovered a medieval ditch, aligned northwest-southeast, running parallel to the existing field boundary. Historic maps of the site do not indicate that the ditch represents an older boundary surrounding the field, but this does not preclude the possibility. The presence of the medieval pottery suggests occupation or activity at this site or close by during the late-14th/15th to the early-16th century, perhaps associated with the medieval moated site located 350m to the northwest.

10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to E&M Design and PG Bones for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen, H Furniss and J Roberts. Figures are by S Carter and BH. The project was monitored by Rachael Abraham for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

11 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at http://cat.essex.ac.uk

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CIfA	2008b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
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Jennings, S	1981	*Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich*, EAA Report 13.
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SCC	2008	*The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3*
SCCAS	2017	*Archive Guidelines*
SCCAS	2017	*Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (version 1.3)
SCCAS/CT	2016	*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard.* Rachael Abraham, September 2016
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12 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from *c* 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1500
Mesolithic	period from *c* 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from *c* 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	**O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from *c* AD 1500 to 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *c* AD 410
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: half a box
Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1137)
SCCAS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, trench record sheet, finds record)
Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD
Sundries (attendance register, benchmark data, risk assessment).

14 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number COG 063.

Distribution list:
E&M Design
PG Bones
Rachael Abraham, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ
tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 15.8.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context no.	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
F1	1, 2(s)	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey-brown silty with flecks of charcoal	Medieval, late-14th/15th-early 16th century
F2	3, 4, 5(s)	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey-brown silty with flecks of charcoal	Medieval, late-14th/15th-early 16th century
L1		Topsoil	Loose, dry-moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silty loam with occasional stone	Modern
L2		Subsoil	Firm, dry, medium brown silty-loam with occasional stone, rare flint and some chalk flecks	-
L3		Natural	Natural sands	-

(s) = environmental sample

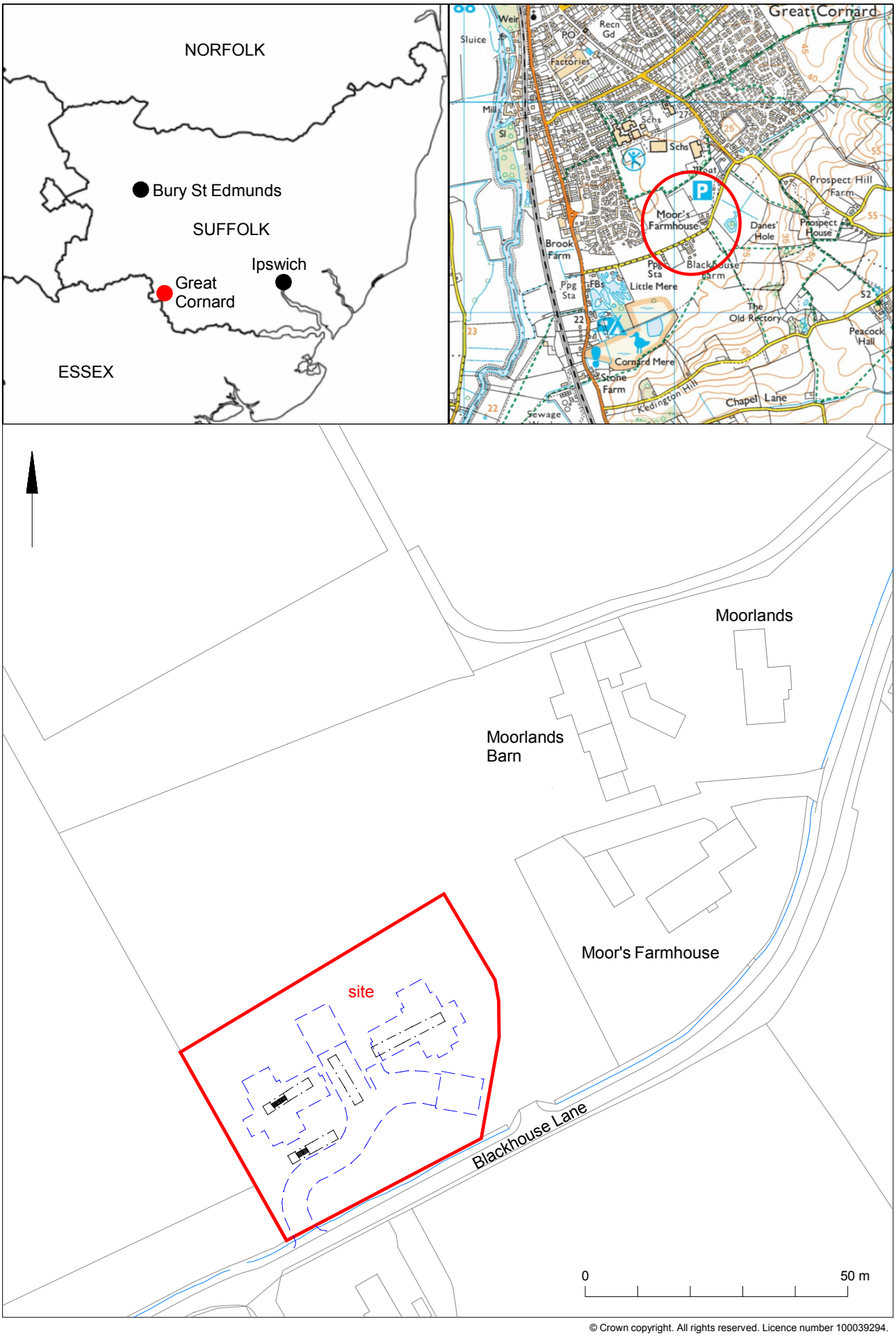

Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological sites

0 200 m

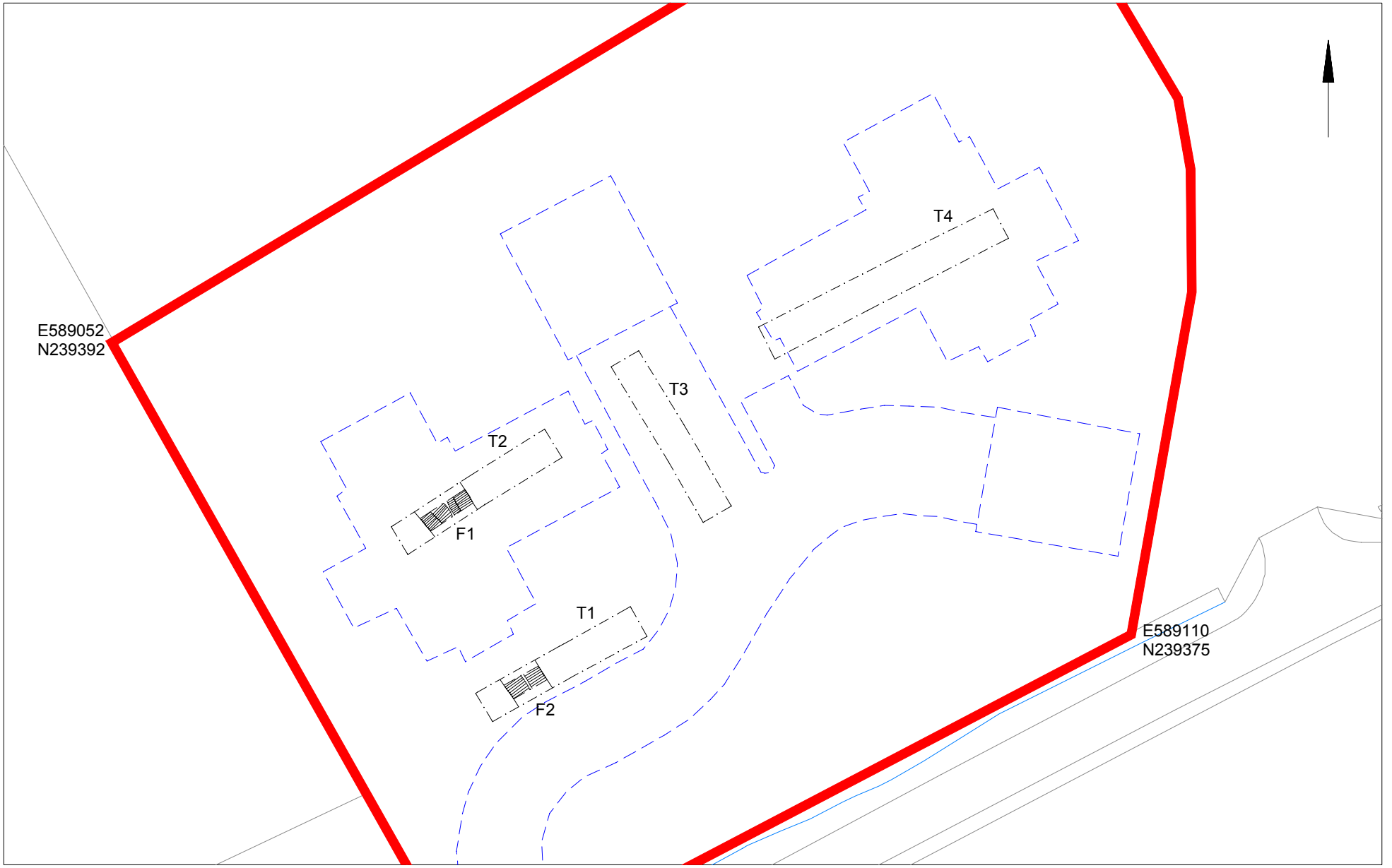

Fig 3 Results (proposed development dashed blue)

0 20 m

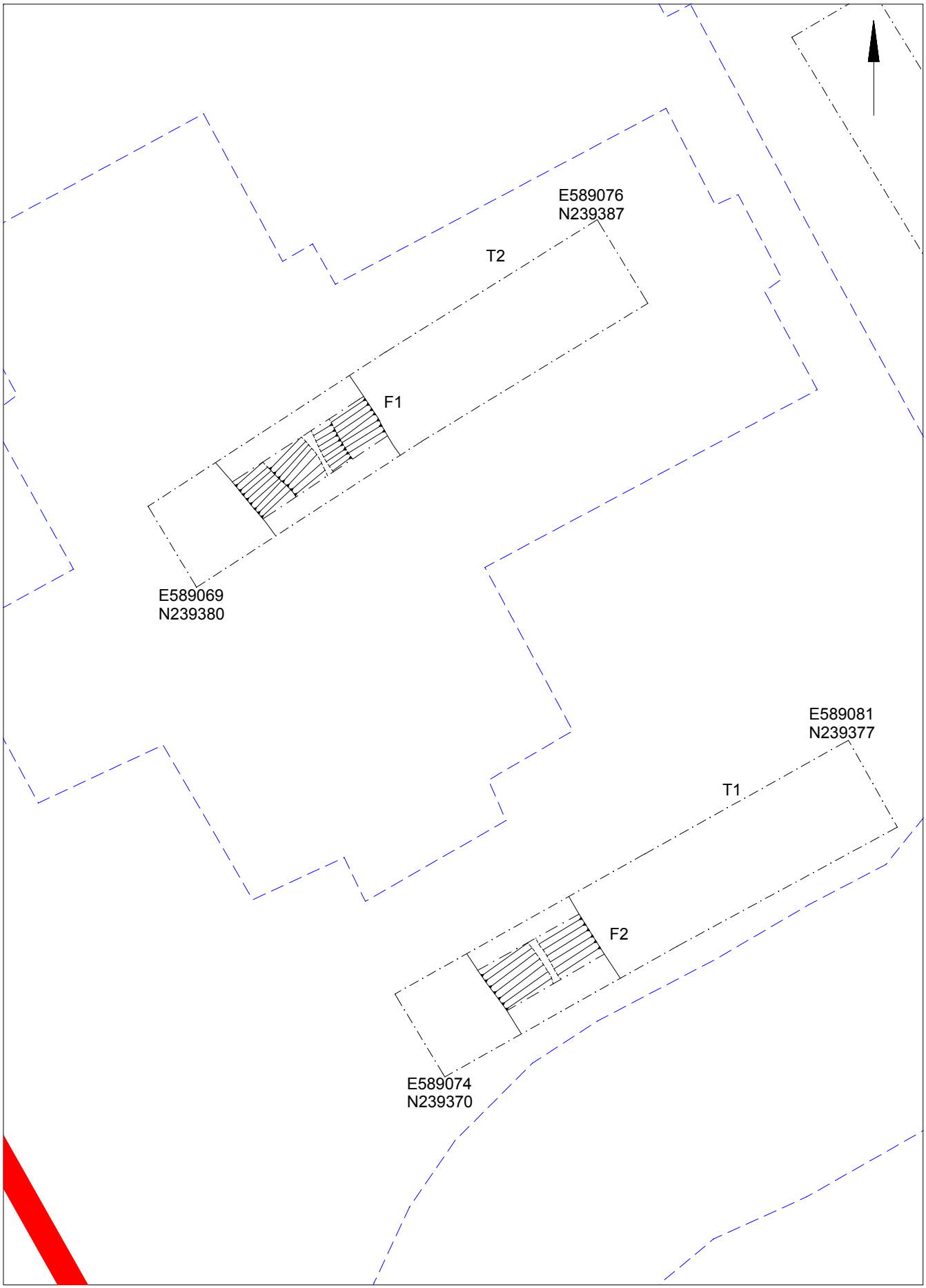

Fig 4 Close-up of trenches T1-T2 showing medieval ditch (proposed development dashed blue)

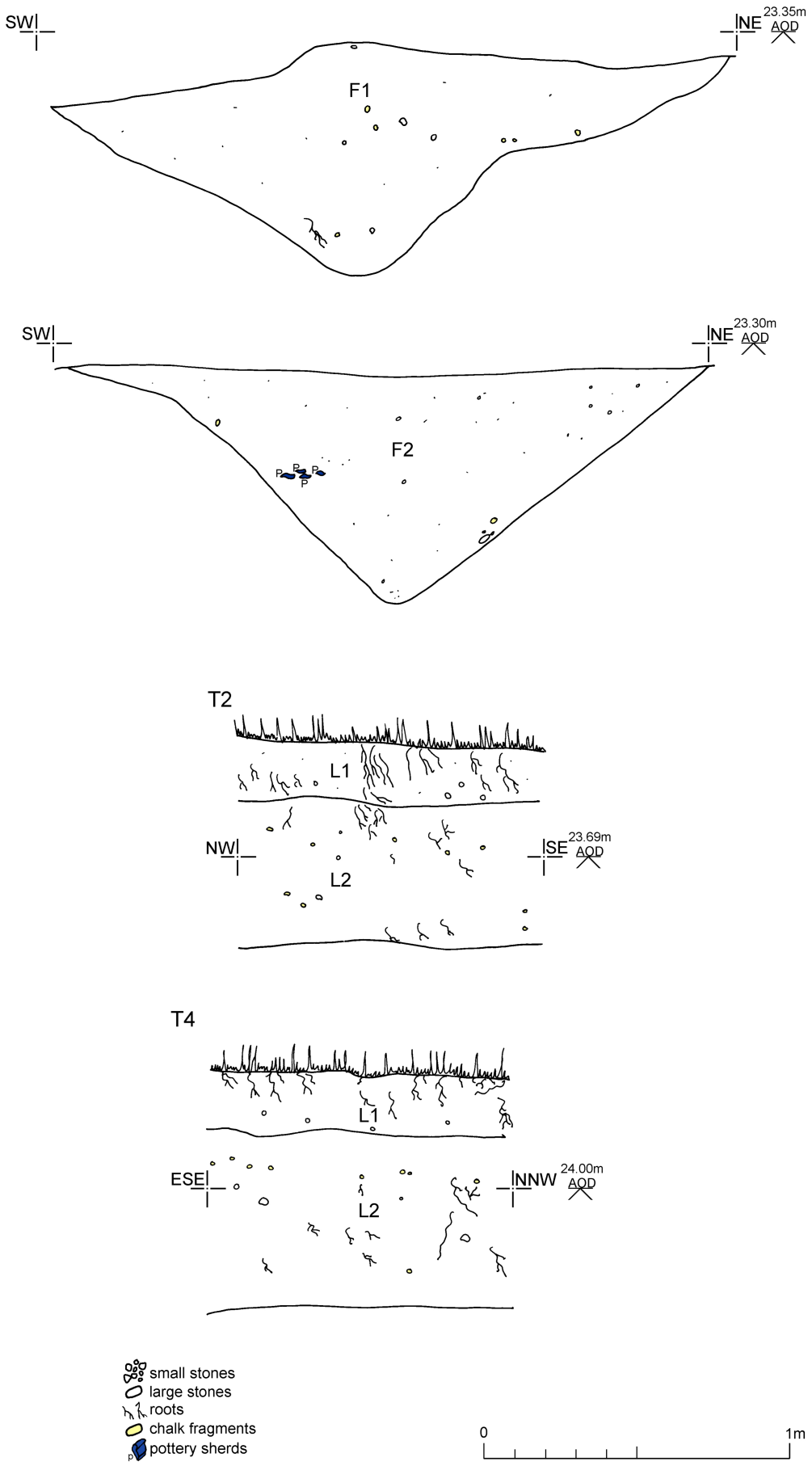

Fig 5 Feature and representative sections

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk, CO10 0NL

NGR: TL 891 394 (centre)

Planning references: B/14/01487 & B/16/01511

Commissioned by: E & M Design

Client: PG Bones

Curating museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk HER parish code: COG 063
Suffolk event number: ESF25482
CAT project code: 17/03i
OASIS reference: colchest3-280043

Site manager: Chris Lister

SCCAS/CT monitor: Rachael Abraham

This WSI written: 6.4.2017

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

Site location and description

The development site (0.2ha) is located on land to the front of Moorlands Barn, fronting onto Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 891 394.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of two new detached dwellings

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9199804:

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale[1]) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation And Culver Chalk Formation with superficial River Terrace Deposits, 1 (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard is in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment[2]. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map[3] it is defined as Landscape sub-type 2.1, 18th-century and later enclosure, former common arable or heathland. The landscape immediately around the development site is characterised as sub-type 10.3 (built up area – village, substantial groups of houses associated with a parish church), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow), and sub-type 9.3 (post-medieval park and leisure – modern leisure).

Archaeology[4] (Fig 2)

Prehistoric: A palaeolithic hand-axe was discovered on the edge of the Wells Hall Primary School playing field in the mid 1980s (COG 008: 575m N). Several prehistoric ring-ditches are known from the area of the Great Cornard Rugby Club (COG 004-006: 420-620m NW). Evaluations and excavations at the Rugby Club over the last 10 years have revealed a number of Bronze Age ring-ditches in a funerary landscape with a possible phase of earlier occupation in the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (COG 025, COG 028 and COG 030). A possible Bronze Age ditch aligned NE/SW is also located 1km to the NNW (COG 042) and prehistoric find scatters have been located 1.15km to the NE (COG 026).

Roman: Roman finds include scatters of Roman pottery, tile, coins and metalwork (COG 056: 600m ESE; COL 007-008: 820-980m SE; COL 025: 670m SSE)

Anglo-Saxon: In 1868 an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery with sword, spear and buckles was found in a gravel pit (COL 002: 830m SW). Anglo-Saxon finds also include three sceattas (COL 024: 130m ESE).

Medieval: Medieval sites include a trapezodial medieval moat (COG 002: 350m NE).

Medieval/post-medieval: A medieval/post-medieval watermill and leat existed approximately 1.05km to the NW (COG 24). The place named 'Mill Tye' on Hodskinson's 1783 map of Suffolk suggests a possible medieval green and medieval date for water mill (Cornard Mills). Extent unknown but positioned at crossroads with buildings including Kings Head Pub (*c* 1900) (COG 018: 700m NW). Medieval/post-medieval artefact scatters have been recorded 1.06km to the NE (COG 049) and 1.08km E (COG 043).

Post-medieval/modern: The Stour Valley Railway Line (Great Eastern) opened between 1849-1865 (SUF 075: 720m W). The Cornard Brick and Tile Company was located 980m SSW (COL 013). Post-medieval field boundaries were identified *c* 450m NNW at Thomas

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[1] British Geological Survey – http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?

[2] http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/

[3] The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characteristion Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

[4] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Gainsborough School during evaluation and geophysical survey (COG 039). A windmill was present on the 1840 tithe map *c* 970m NW (COG 015), built 1805. Post-medieval finds also include three 16th century coins (COG 050: 200m W).

Undated/various: Evaluation 1.15km to the NE (COG 029) revealed pits, a large hollow (possibly a remnant of a prehistoric pond barrow), post-medieval boundary features and debris associated with post-medieval tile production. Monitoring to the rear of 157 Bures Road (COG 033: 695m NW) revealed a large quarry pit or natural feature, and an evaluation on Kidington Hill revealed a single undated ditch (COL 034: 620m SE).

Listed buildings[5]
Fifteen listed buildings are located within a 2km radius of the development site, all dating from the late 16th to the 19th century.

Planning background
Planning applications were submitted to Babergh District Council in November 2014 (B/14/01487/OUT) and November 2016 (B/16/01511) for the erection of two new detached dwellings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and in this case in section 3 of the planning permission:

" No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."

Requirement for work (Fig 1)
The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard* – SCCAS, September 2016).

Four trial-trenches will be laid out across the development site, targeting the footprints of the two new dwellings and the new driveway. Each trench will measure 1.8m wide with one measuring 15m long and three 10m long (totalling 45m linear) (Fig 1).

Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS/CT, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation will also be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Aims
As per section 4 of the brief a linear trenched evaluation is required on the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

Trial-trenching is 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

[5] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional research frameworks (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011).

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus three archaeologists for one days.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by SCC Historic Environment Officer (SCCAS/CT 2016)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCC 2012) to be used alongside the Project Brief

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS/CT one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a parish code and event number will be sought from the HER team. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to SCCAS. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Evaluation trial-trenching methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have

50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site.

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be sufficiently defined for recording, but will not be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS/CT, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS/CT.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

- animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter
- small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter
- flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

- animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
- environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
- conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
- Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2010).

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS/CT when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS/CT.

Final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA**8**, EAA**14** & EAA**24**).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final reports are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2010).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS/CT.

Monitoring

SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS/CT will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. A magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 28* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

References

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	*Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy,* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA **8**)
CAT	2014	*Health & Safety Policy*
CIfA	2008a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*
CIfA	2008b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
DCLG	2012	*National Planning Policy Framework*
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**).
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)
SCC	2008	*The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3*
SCCAS	2010	*Archive Guidelines*
SCCAS	2012	*Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (version 1.3)
SCCAS/CT	2016	*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard.* Rachael Abraham, September 2016

L Pooley

Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

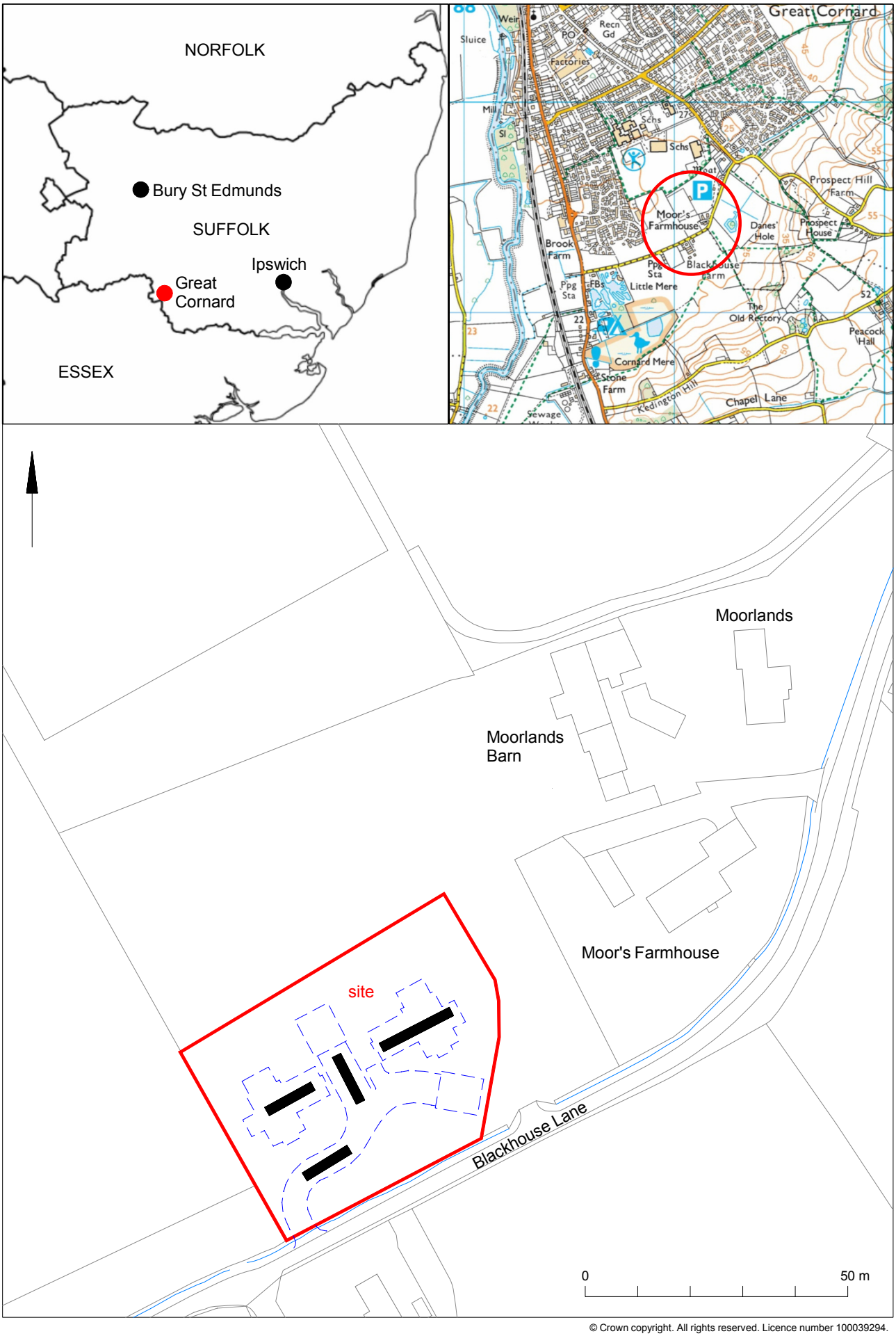

Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological sites

0 200 m

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-280043

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 0NL
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk in advance of the construction of two detached dwellings. The evaluation uncovered medieval ditch, which was possibly a field boundary. The discovery of a number of sherds of medieval pottery also suggests activity or occupation in the vicinity of the site, in close proximity to the current 14th/15th century.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2017 End: 17-07-2017
Previous/future work	Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/00 Contracting Ltd No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/14/01487/OUT Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/16/01591 Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF25488 HER Event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLCM Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current land use	Residential Garden Residential
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Medieval
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches'"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH GREAT CORNARD Moorland Barn, Blackhouse Lane
Postcode	CO10 0NL
Study area	0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 91994 42.020249987989 0.756301 923866 0 0 Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.31m Max: 23.59m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HER Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator	Laura Rooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	COG 63
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	COG 63
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	COG 63
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Moorlands Barn, Blackhouse Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk, CO10 0NU: 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1137
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issuer or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html

Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	15 August 2017