

**LAND ADJACENT TO 41 THE STREET,
KIRBY LE SOKEN, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TM 21795 22157	Report No: 6155
District: Tendring	Site Code: FWTS20
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIFA	Project No: 8581
	Date: 22 December 2020

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CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| APPENDIX 1 | CONCORDANCE OF FINDS |
| APPENDIX 2 | SPECIALIST REPORTS |

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (NGR TM 21795 22157; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the erection of two residential dwellings and associated access (Tendring Approval 19/01845/OUT). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority (LPA) based on the advice of Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed archaeological features in each trench; and their distribution erred towards the eastern section of the site. The features were numerous particularly in Trench 2: Trench 1 (3) and Trench 2 (13). The most common features were pits, and ditches were also present.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest pottery was contained in Pit F1003 (Trench 2) and comprised 18 sherds of prehistoric (Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age) pottery. Ditch F1009 (Trench 2) contained a residual fragment of Roman CBM. Four features, spanning Trenches 1 and 2, consistently contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery. The pottery was noticeably small and abraded but Ditch F1009 contained eight sherds. No associated finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>9th – 10th December 2020</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>8581</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>FWTS20</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Greenfield</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric (BA – MIA) and medieval (11-13th C) pottery; residual Roman CBM</i>		
Project location	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Tendring</i>	<i>Frinton & Walton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.12 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TM 21795 22157</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.8.50m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Parkers Farms</i>		
Full title	<i>Land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Randell, R.</i>		
Report no.	<i>6155</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2020</i>		

LAND ADJACENT 41 THE STREET, KIRBY LE SOKEN, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (NGR TM 21795 22157; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the erection of two residential dwellings and associated access (Tendring Approval 19/01845/OUT). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority (LPA) based on the advice of Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA).

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the core area of the medieval village. Place name evidence suggest the presence of a church here by the 9-10th century Danish Viking period. The site lies next to the entrance to the 16th/17th century Kirby Hall and the later medieval parish church of St Michael, suggesting a nucleus of medieval settlement here. Little archaeological investigation has taken place in this part of the village, but a recent evaluation at 19 The Street found activity of 17th-20th century date and medieval pottery sherds indicative of earlier settlement.

The site thus had a specific potential for remains associated with occupation of the medieval and post-medieval village core.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in each trench; and their distribution erred towards the eastern section of the site. The features were numerous particularly in Trench 1 (3) and Trench 2 (13). The most common features were pits, and ditches were also present.

The earliest pottery was contained in Pit F1003 (Trench 2) and comprised 18 sherds of prehistoric (Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age) pottery. Ditch F1009 (Trench 2) contained a residual fragment of Roman CBM. Four features, spanning Trenches 1 and 2, consistently contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery. The pottery was noticeably small and abraded but Ditch F1009 contained eight sherds. No associated finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (NGR TM 21795 22157; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the erection of two residential dwellings and associated access (Tendring Approval 19/01845/OUT). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority

(LPA) based on the advice of Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by ECC HEA, *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching on Land Adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken* (Teresa O'Connor, dated 17th November 2020), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 18th November 2020) and approved by ECC and the LPA. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2020), and also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The specific aim of the trial trenching was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The project aimed in particular to identify: any evidence of the historic development of the settlement at Kirby-le-Soken, and any evidence of earlier settlement here.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies within the village of Kirby le Soken, which is situated in the parish of Frinton and Walton, the district of Tendring and the county of Essex (Fig. 1). The site lies on the southern frontage of The Street, which forms part of the main B1034 running west to eastwards through the village. The northernmost section of the site, forming its roadside frontage, lies within Kirby le Soken's Conservation Area (CA). The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) also notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the core of the medieval village.

2.2 The site comprises a quadrilateral shaped plot of land covering an area of 0.12 hectares (Fig. 2).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The village of Kirby le Soken is situated 3.25km to the west of the Essex coastline (Fig. 1). It also lies 1.5km to the south of The Wade, which is a tidal, marshland served by Kirby Creek to the west and The Twizzle and Walton Channel to the east. Kirby le Soken lies on a sloping relief, which rises southwards away from the low-lying The Wade. The site is situated at c.7m AOD with the surrounding relief rising to the south.

3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises clay, silt and sand of the Thames Group, which dates to the Palaeogene period (BGS 2015), whilst the drift geology remains undefined. Soils of the Kirby le Soken area comprises those of the Windsor Association, which are described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils, mostly brown subsoils soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric, Romano-British & Anglo-Saxon

4.1 The archaeological record of the Kirby le Soken area is relatively unexplored (Medlycott 2001). There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and is limited to a Mesolithic microlith recorded from the village (HER 47240). However, the former site of the Gunfleet Estuary, which lies to the south-east on the Tendring peninsula between Frinton and Clacton, is a natural feature what has been occupied from the early Mesolithic period onwards (HER 48658).

4.2 The Romano-British period of the Kirby le Soken area is also poorly understood, yet likely occupied a hinterland between the coast, rivers and the Roman town of *Camulodunum* (Colchester) to the west. The possibility of Roman settlement in the vicinity of the site, however, is attested on the basis of Roman tiles incorporated into a bungalow on Norton's Farm (HER 3251). No Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded, but place-name evidence (Reaney 1935) suggests a Viking origin for Kirby, meaning the 'church village'.

Medieval

4.3 The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the core of the medieval village. Place-name evidence (Reaney 1935) suggests the presence of a church at Kirby le Soken by the 9th - 10th century Danish Viking period. The Grade II* listed Church of St Michael is a 14th – 15th century parish church with 19th restoration and rebuilding (HER 34768). All that remains of its medieval fabric is its 14th century chancel and north aisle, and the apparently 15th-century west tower (HER 3572). A watching brief at the church (Orr 2007) did not reveal any evidence of an earlier church, but three water-logged wooden piles radiocarbon dated to the 14th or early 15th century.

4.4 At Domesday, Kirby le Soken formed part of *Ælduluesnasa*, which included the later parishes of Kirby, Thorpe and Walton le Soken (Morris 1983). It was held by the canons of St Paul's in London and consisted of 27 hides, with two mills and two salt-houses. By 1181, *Kyrke-* or *Kirkebi*, *-by* was still held by St Paul's, and later acquired its Old English suffix of Soken or *socn*, meaning the 'land held by right of jurisdiction' (Reaney 1935). The medieval period is also attested by medieval or post-medieval red bricks found within foundation trenches at Norton's Farm Barn (HER 17753). Medieval Grade II listed structures, comprising The Red Lion Public House, Red House and White House, all date to the 16th century (HERs 34764 & 34765).

Post-medieval and later

4.5 The post-medieval period is dominated by a small number of Grade II listed buildings, including Meadow View Cottage, which dates to the 17th century (HER 34766), Norton's Barn, which dates to the 18th century (HER 34767), and an 18th century timber framed barn (HER 34772). The site lies to the immediate west of the entrance drive to- and within the former grounds of Kirby Hall, which stands 200m to the south. Kirby Hall is Grade II listed and comprises a late 17th or early 18th century red brick house (HER 34771). However, at the Dissolution, Kirby Hall was one of four manors within Kirby le Soken. It was held by St Paul's in the early 16th century, but in 1551 Edward VI granted it to Sir Thomas Darcy, later Lord Rochford.

4.6 The village of Kirby le Soken retained its overwhelmingly rural character throughout the early modern period, with the settlement focussed upon The Street until the modern period. To the east of the site stands the Grade II listed The Old Vicarage, which comprises an early 19th century brick house (HER 34770). Grade II listed mid 19th century cast iron memorial plaque and railings are also recorded within the graveyard of St Michael's Church (HER 34769). In contrast, no modern remains are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

The site

4.7 The northernmost section of the site, forming its roadside frontage, lies within Kirby le Soken's Conservation Area (CA). The site lies to the immediate west of the entrance drive to- and within the former grounds of Kirby Hall, which

is Grade II listed and comprises a late 17th or early 18th century red brick house (HER 34771). The site thus has a potential for remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required a 4% sample of the area to be subject to development to be investigated by archaeological trial trenching. Two trenches each 15m x 1.8m were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 2 – 3). The overburden was removed under the supervision of a professional archaeologist.

5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 4

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 8.94m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional root disturbance
0.38 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mixed grey brown with red yellow mottling and occasional small to medium sub-angular flint
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, pale red yellow sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 8.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.46m+	L1002	Natural deposits, as above

Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1003 and F1007 and Ditch F1005.

Pit F1003 was sub-oval in plan, slightly irregular (0.81 x 0.38 x 0.13m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a friable, pale blue grey silty clay. It contained prehistoric (Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age pottery (18; 6g).

Pit F1007 was sub-circular in plan (1.20 x 0.75 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, dark grey

brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. F1007 cut Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (5.50+ x 0.45+ x 0.06m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century pottery (1; 1g). F1005 was cut by Pit F1007.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 – 3 & 5

Sample section 2A		
0.00 = 8.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.22 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil, as above
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits, as above

Sample section 2B		
0.00 = 8.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil, as above
0.19 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil, as above
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits, as above

Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1009, F1011 and F1031; Gully Terminal F1023; and Pits F1013, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1025, F1027, F1029 and F1033.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.05+ x 0.27m), orientated WSW/ENE. It had gently sloping irregular sides and an undulating irregular base. Its fill, L1010, was a friable, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century pottery (8; 30g) and residual Roman CBM (59g).

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.75 x 0.23m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. F1011 cut Pit F1013.

Ditch F1031 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.95 x 0.18m), orientated ESE/WNW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1032, was a firm, mid grey to blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained post-medieval (17th century +) pottery (5; 5g). F1031 cut Pits F1029 and F1033.

Gully Terminal F1023 was linear in plan (1.05+ x 0.40+ x 0.11m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a pale brown grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained medieval (11th – 13th century pottery (2; 17g). F1023 was cut by Pit F1025.

The pits are tabulated below:

Feature	Context	Description	Fill	Comments	Finds
F1013	L1014	Sub-circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.75 x 1.25+ x 0.15m)	Firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut by Ditch F1011	-
F1015	L1016	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.50 x 1.60 x 0.14m)	Firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut Pit F1017	-
F1017	L1018	Circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.50+ x 0.50 x 0.15m)	Firm, light brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut Pit F1015	-
F1019	L1020	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, flat base (0.90 x 0.80 x 0.05m)	Firm, light brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint		-
F1021	L1022	Sub-oval in plan, gently sloping sides, flat base (1.20 x 0.80 x 0.06m)	Firm, light brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint		Medieval (11 th – 13 th C. pottery (1; 6g).
F1025	L1026	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.50+ x 0.60+ x 0.10m)	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint	Cut Gully F1023; Cut by Pit F1027	-
F1027	L1028	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.35+ x 0.60 x 0.10m)	Friable, light grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut Pit F1025	-
F1029	L1030	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.35+ x 0.11m)	Firm, dark grey brown to blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut by Ditch F1031	-
F1033	L1034	Sub-circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.85+ x 0.55+ x 0.13m)	Firm, mid blue grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint	Cut by Ditch F1031	-

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the confines of the evaluation it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional root disturbance. Topsoil L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, mixed grey brown with red yellow mottling and occasional small to medium sub-angular flint.

8.2 At the base of the sequence was Natural deposits L1002, firm, pale red yellow sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1003	Pit	Prehistoric (Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age)
	F1005	Ditch	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C).
	F1007	Pit	
2	F1009	Ditch	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C).
	F1011	Ditch	
	F1013	Pit	
	F1015	Pit	
	F1017	Pit	
	F1019	Pit	
	F1021	Pit	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C).
	F1023	Gully Terminal	Medieval (11 th – 13 th C).
	F1025	Pit	
	F1027	Pit	
	F1029	Pit	
	F1031	Ditch	Post-medieval (17 th C +).
	F1033	Pit	

9.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the core area of the medieval village. Place name evidence suggest the presence of a church here by the 9-10th century Danish Viking period. The site lies next to the entrance to the 16th/17th century Kirby Hall and the later medieval parish church of St Michael, suggesting a nucleus of medieval settlement here. Little archaeological investigation has taken place in this part of the village, but a recent evaluation at 19 The Street found activity of 17th-20th century date and medieval pottery sherds indicative of earlier settlement.

9.3 The site thus had a specific potential for remains associated with occupation of the medieval and post-medieval village core.

9.4 Archaeological features were present in each trench; and erred towards the eastern section of the site. The features were numerous particularly in Trench 2: Trench 1 (3) and Trench 2 (13). The most common features were pits, and ditches were also present.

9.5 The earliest pottery was contained in Pit F1003 (Trench 2) and comprised 18 very small body sherds of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery that could only be broadly dated to the Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age. The scant presence of even very limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of

Kirby Le Soken is indicative of a greater degree of prehistoric activity than was previously evident beyond the Mesolithic period.

9.6 Ditch F1009 (Trench 2) contained a residual fragment of Roman CBM, likely tegulae roof tile similar to those incorporated into post-Roman buildings in the area. No source has as yet been located in the local area

9.7 Four features, spanning Trenches 1 and 2, consistently contained medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery and sparse carbonized cereal grains. The pottery is noticeably small and abraded but Ditch F 1009 contained eight sherds of local coarse ware, including a jar or cooking pot. The low density of cereal grains includes free-threshing wheat. In conjunction with the pottery the grains are consistent with scattered domestic debris reflecting the site's location in the core of the historic village.

9.8 Ditch F1031 (Trench 1) was the most recent feature and it contained five sherds of post-medieval (17th C +) pottery.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Colchester and Ipswich Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Parkers Farms for funding the archaeological monitoring and the assistance of Mr Geoff Parker.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor.

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APPENDIX 1 - Concordance of Finds

FWTS20 - P8581, 61 The Street, Kirby-le-Soken

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1003	1004		1	Fill of Pit	Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age	18	6					
1005	1006		1	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	1	1					
1009	1010		2	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	8	30	59				
1021	1022		2	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	1	6					
1023	1024		2	Fill of Gully Terminal	11th-13th C	2	17					
1031	1032		2	Fill of Ditch	17th C+	5	5					

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 35 sherds, weighing 65g, from six features. The entire assemblage comprises very small mainly abraded sherds. Pit F1003 contained 18 tiny fragments of prehistoric flint tempered pottery that are probably of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. Ditches F1005, F1009, Pit F1021 and Gully F1023 contained thin sherds of early Medieval Sandy Shelly Ware and Early Medieval Shelly Ware containing a little sand which are of 11th- mid 13th centuries date. There was only one rim sherd present from Ditch F1009 comprising a beaded jar rim, a form commonest in the 12th century. Ditch F1031 contained similar sherds of Early Medieval ware, but a small sherd of Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware was also present.

Methodology

The post-Roman sherds were recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Barclay et al 2016). Fabric codes (in brackets) are those used for the Essex County Council pottery type series (Cottar 2000).

KEY:

- PFT: Prehistoric Flint Tempered Ware - Neolithic to iron Age
 EMW (12C): Early Medieval Sandy Ware – common fine and medium rounded quartz, sometimes a little shell and burnt organics 11th-13th
 EMSW (12C): Early Medieval Sandy and Shelly Ware – moderate rounded quartz and moderate to common shell, sometimes burnt organics 11th-13th
 GRE (40): Glazed Red Earthenware late 16th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1003	1004	18x6g PFT	Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age	
Ditch 1005	1006	1x1g EMW	11 th -13 th	
Ditch 1009	1010	8x30g EMSSW	11 th -13 th	EMSW: x1 beaded jar rim 24-26 cm diam (0.05 reve)
Pit 1021	1022	1x6g EMW	11 th 13 th	EMW: iron stained quartz and sparse shell
Gully 1023	1024	2x17g EMW	11 th -13 th	EMW: iron stained quartz and sparse shell, burnt organics; x1 base/body sherd
Ditch 1031	1032	1x1g EMW 3x3g EMSW 1x1g GRE	17 th +	

Table 1: Quantification of Sherds by Context

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a single fragment (59g) of Roman CBM from Ditch F1009 in a highly fragmented condition. The CBM comprises 17mm thick flat tile manufactured in an orange fabric tempered with common rounded quartz sand (<0.5mm) with occasional flint (<2mm); almost certainly derived from tegula roof tile.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation of land at 61 The Street, Kirby-le-Soken, nine bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The samples were largely from deposits spot dated to the medieval period (11th-13th century) but also included pit fill L1004 (F1003), which has a late prehistoric date. The aim of the bulk sampling exercise was to gain an understanding of the preservation and distribution of ecofactual macrofossil remains in archaeological deposits at the site.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2. Preservation of plant macrofossils was by carbonisation only, with no evidence for anaerobic waterlogging or mineralisation. Few shells of terrestrial molluscs were preserved in the samples, probably as a result of slightly acid local soils.

Sample <1> of late prehistoric Pit Fill L1004 (F1003) contained no carbonised plant remains. A few coal fragments were present but these could be intrusive from later activity.

Three of the four medieval deposits contained only sparse carbonised remains. However, Sample <3> of Ditch Fill L1010 (F1009) contained abundant carbonised plant macrofossil remains. A significant number of grains from free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) were recorded, accompanied by smaller numbers of oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). Pea/ bean (large Fabaceae) seeds were also common.

A small number of chaff elements were recorded, including free-threshing type wheat, barley and rye rachis internodes, but were insufficient to indicate the presence of significant quantities of crop processing by-products. Non-cereal arable weed taxa were recorded as abundant, primarily in the form of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) seeds. This was a prolific arable weed of the later medieval period (de Moulins 2007, 395), and likely during the 11th-13th century as well. It thrives on heavy loam and clay soils, such as those in the vicinity of Kirby-le-Soken. Also present were small numbers of vetch/ tare (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.), broad-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella ramosa*) and wild grasses (Poaceae). The abundance of stinking chamomile and a small range of other taxa is unlikely to reflect the diversity of medieval cornfield flora, such as might be derived from fine-sieving waste. Some of the stinking chamomile seeds were fused together in pairs and may have been carbonised within intact seed heads remaining with the processed crop or as contaminants removed by hand sorting of the processed cereal crop. A small number of intact seed heads could account for a large number of individual stinking chamomile seeds in the assemblage.

The remains in sample <3>, dominated by wheat, with a range of other accompanying cereals and pulses, could represent the remains of a stored product that was accidentally carbonised, for example during parching prior to milling, accidental burning of stored crops or the deliberate burning of cleanings from a crop storage location. As noted above, abundant stinking chamomile seeds could be derived from a small number of seed heads retained with the crop. Hand sorting of the crop for larger contaminants is likely to have occurred at a late stage on small batches of cereals prior to final food preparation.

The remaining undated samples contained similarly sparse carbonised plant remains to the other medieval and prehistoric deposits.

Conclusions

The bulk samples from 61 The Street mostly indicate the presence of low concentrations of scattered and wind-blown carbonised debris from medieval activity in the vicinity of the site in archaeological deposits. However, the abundant carbonised remains from Sample <3> of Ditch Fill L1010 (F1009) indicate the probable nearby storage and domestic use of cereal and pulse crops during the 11th-13th centuries. Should further excavation be undertaken at the site in the future, it is possible that additional bulk sampling would allow the recovery of other deposits of carbonised plant macrofossils that would allow a more detailed investigation of the medieval diet and arable economy associated with the site.

References

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- Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 61 The Street. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Flot (g)	Carbonised cereals			Carbonised non-cereal taxa		Carbonised hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains					
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal-Zinn	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules						
1	1004	1003	Fill of Pit	Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age	40	20	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	XX	-	-	-	-	Coal (X)				
2	1006	1005	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	30	20	67%	4	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	XXX	X	-	-	-	-	-				
3	1010	1009	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	40	20	50%	12	XXX	X	Hord (X). FTW (XXX). Oat (XX). Rye (X). Hord rachis (X). FW rachis (X). Rye rachis (X)	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Diffuse porous	-	-	XXX	X	X	-	-	-
4	1016	1015	Fill of Pit	-	40	20	50%	2	X	-	Oat (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-			
5	1020	1019	Fill of Pit	-	10	10	100%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-			
6	1022	1021	Fill of Pit	11th-13th C	10	10	100%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-			
7	1026	1025	Fill of Pit	-	20	10	50%	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-			
8	1032	1031	Fill of Ditch	11th-13th C	40	20	50%	4	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	X	-	-	-	-			

9	1014	1013	Fill of Pit	.	20	10	50%	1	XX
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OASIS ID: archaeol7-410080

Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby le Soken (TT)
Short description of the project	In December 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (NGR TM 21795 22157; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the erection of two residential dwellings and associated access (Tendring Approval 19/01845 /OUT). The evaluation was required by the local planning authority (LPA) based on the advice of Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA). The evaluation revealed archaeological features in each trench; and their distribution erred towards the eastern section of the site. The features were numerous particularly in Trench 2: Trench 1 (3) and Trench 2 (13). The most common features were pits, and ditches were also present. The earliest pottery was contained in Pit F1003 (Trench 2) and comprised 18 sherds of prehistoric (Bronze Age - Middle Iron Age) pottery. Ditch F1009 (Trench 2) contained a residual fragment of Roman CBM. Four features, spanning Trenches 1 and 2, consistently contained medieval (11th - 13th century) pottery. The pottery was noticeably small and abraded but Ditch F1009 contained eight sherds. No associated finds were present.
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2020 End: 10-12-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8581 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	FWTS20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX TENDRING TENDRING Land adjacent to 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken
 Postcode CO13 0EF
 Study area 0.12 Hectares
 Site coordinates TM 21795 22157 51.853286323329 1.220988566681 51 51 11 N 001 13 15 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 8.5m Max: 8.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Essex County Council Historic Environment Team
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Name of sponsor/funding body Parkers Farms

Project archives

Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Contents "Ceramics"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8581)



1
View of site looking east before excavation of
Trenches



2
View of site looking south-east before excavation of
trenches



3
Trench 1 looking north-west



4
Sample section 1A in Trench 1



5
Sample section 1B in Trench 1



6
Ditch F1005 and Pit F1007 in Trench 1



7
Trench 2 looking north-east



8
Ditch F1009 in Trench 2



9
Ditch F1011 and Pit F1013 in Trench 2



10
Pit F1015 in Trench 2



11
Pit F1017 in Trench 2



12
Pit F1019 in Trench 2



13
Pit F1021 in Trench 2



14
Gully Terminal F1023 and Pits F1025 & F1027 in
Trench 2



15
Pit F1029 and Ditch F1031 in Trench 2



16
Ditch F1031 and Pit F1033 in Trench 2



17
Sample Section 2A in Trench 2

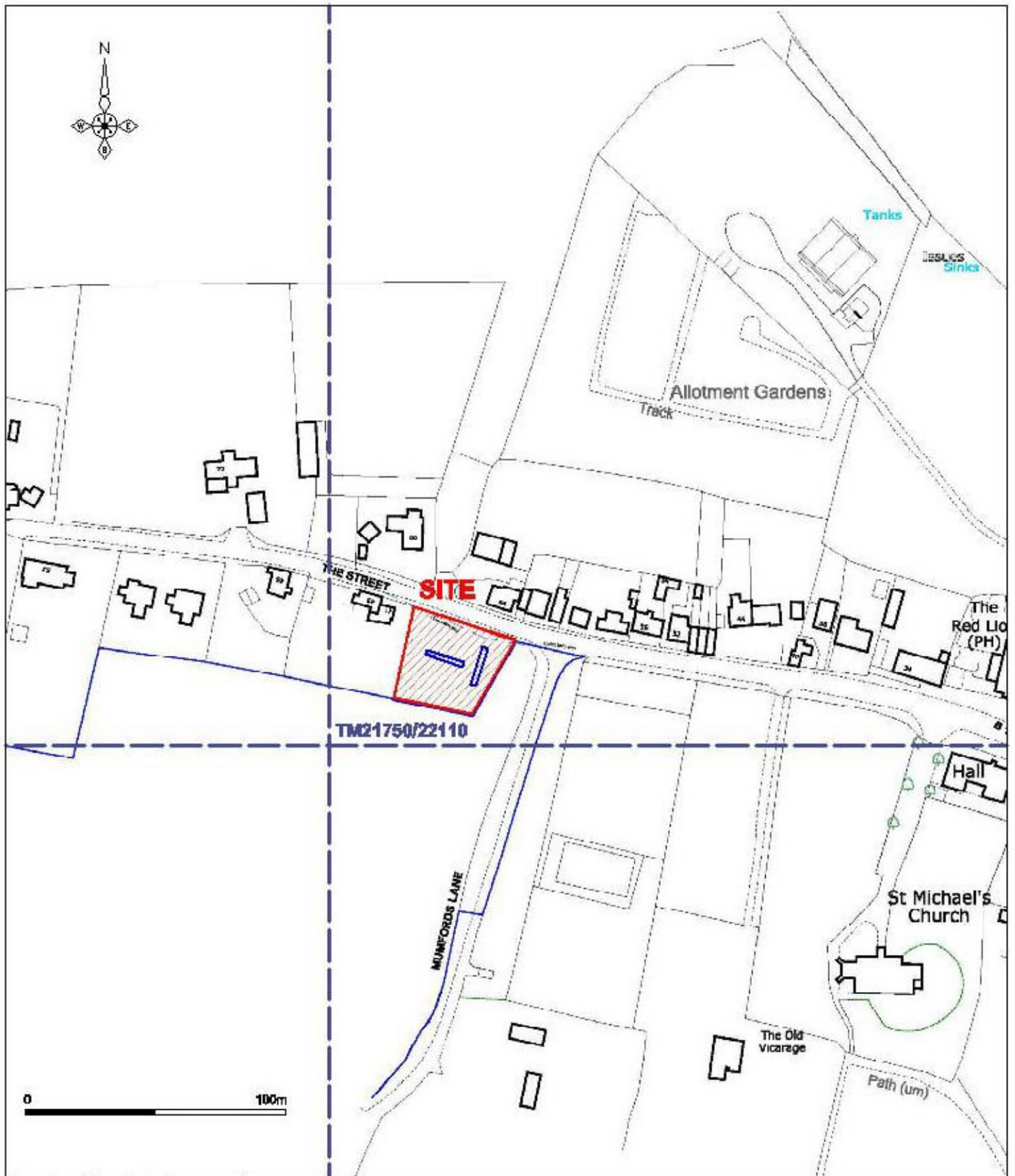


18
Sample Section 2B in Trench 2



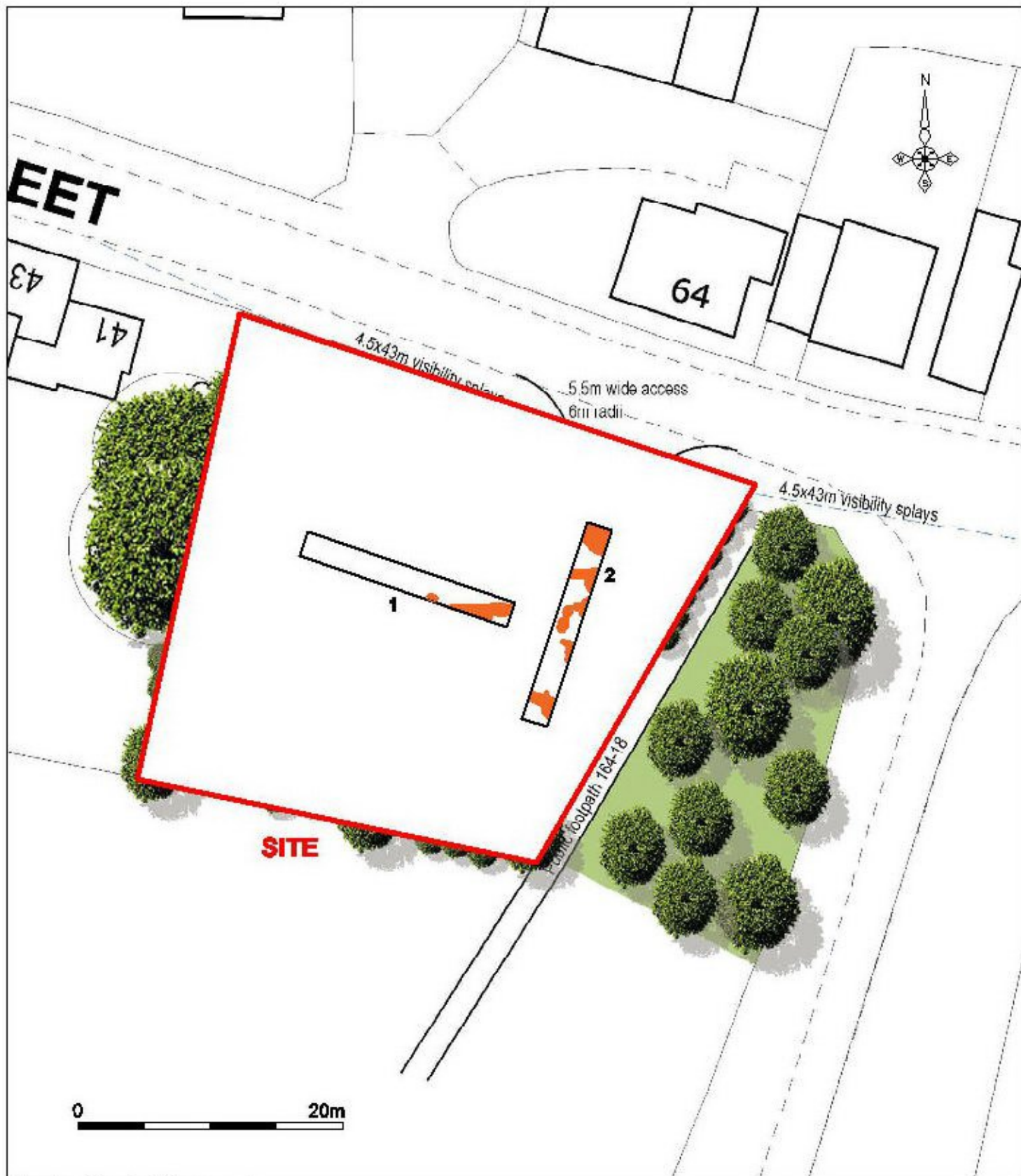
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (P8581)



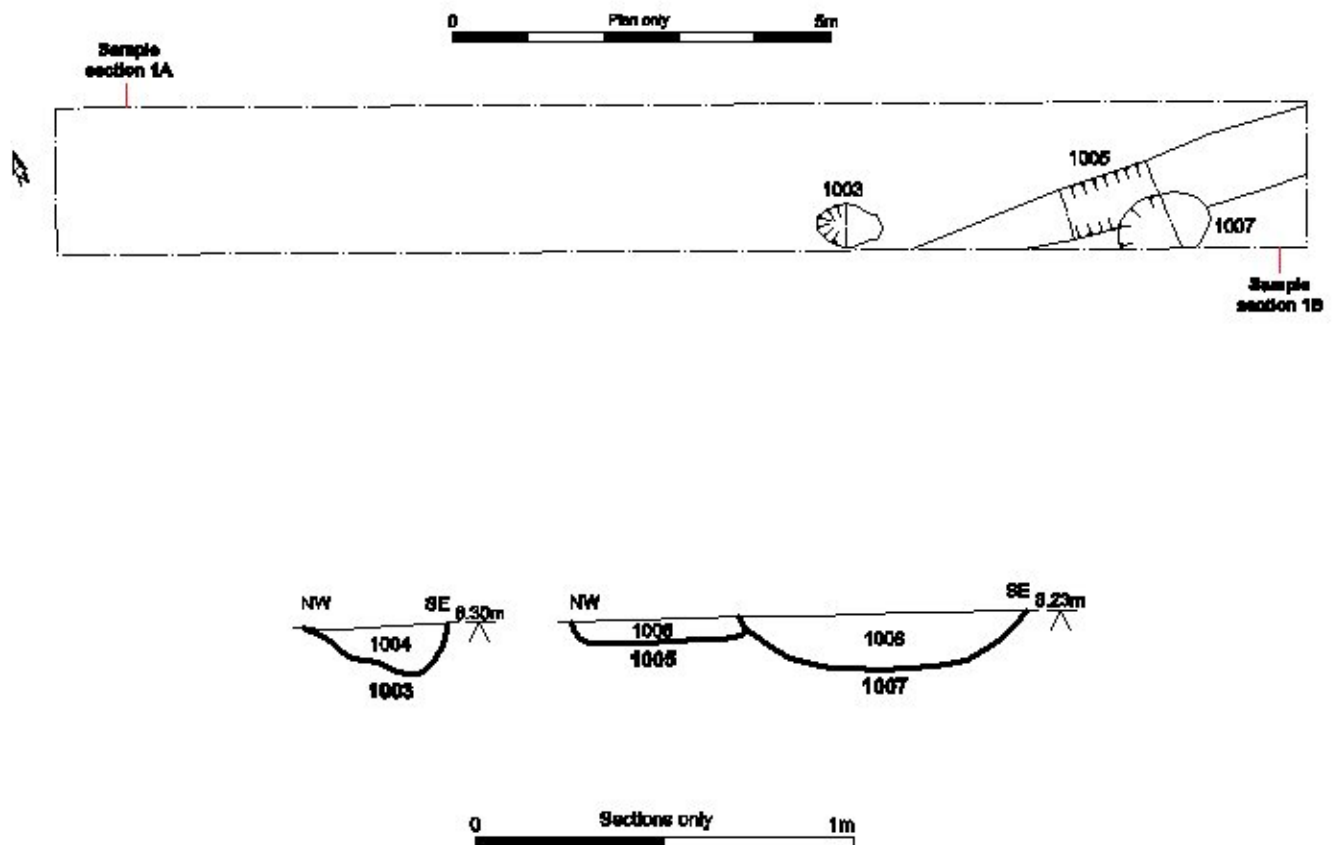
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4
 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (P8581)

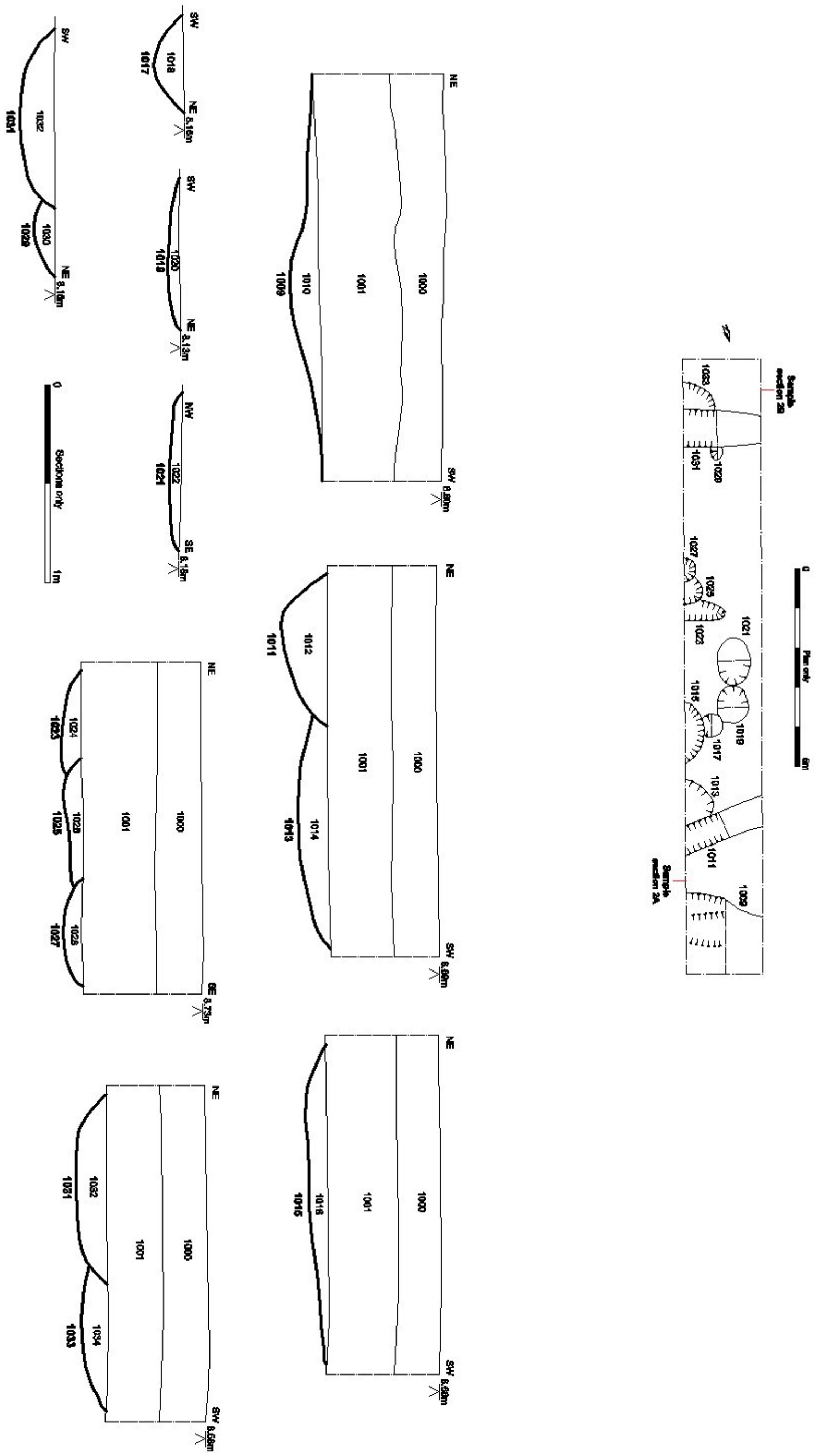


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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:400 at A4
41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (P8581)



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Fig. 4 Trench 1 plan & sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (P8581)



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Fig. 5 Trench 2 plan & sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
 41 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex (P8581)