

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT MANOR FARM, BAWDSEY

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Summary

The village of Bawdsey, in eastern Suffolk, is known to have medieval origins. Despite numerous archaeological investigations having taken place within the village, mostly ahead of development projects, little clear evidence for medieval activity has been recorded. However, recent work in the area, including an archaeological excavation conducted by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS; now Wardell Armstrong) in 2019, is beginning to change this picture. Work by AS identified medieval activity of the type that may be found at the edge of domestic occupation. This includes possible horticultural or small-scale arable cultivation, the corralling of livestock, and the deposition of refuse material generated in a domestic setting.

INTRODUCTION

THE FREE-DRAINING SAND PROMONTORY of Bawdsey, in the east of Suffolk, is rich in archaeological sites. This density of occupation and exploitation from the later prehistoric periods onwards reflects the area's easily cultivated soils, the rich coastal and estuarine environments in close proximity, and its strategic position close to the mouth of the river Deben, a major point of entry for travel further inland via the Lark Valley and the river Gipping. This area has been identified as the location of the medieval port of Goseford, a busy, thriving port engaged in coastal trade and trade with continental Europe operating between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries which, at its peak, was one of the most important shipping centres in England.¹

An excavation conducted by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) in March 2019 at Manor Farm, Bawdsey, has added to what is known of the historic occupation of the Bawdsey promontory, identifying evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity.

The site at which this excavation was carried out consisted of a field on the western side of The Street (B1083) on the northern edge of Bawdsey village (NGR TM 345 405; Fig. 215). The eastern edge of the site was bounded by The Street and the southern end by a trackway leading from The Street to Bawdsey Manor Farm, which is located to the west of the site. Dividing the excavation site in two was a recently constructed paved trackway.

Bawdsey forms a dispersed village extending c.1km along the B1083, which follows a slight 'promontory' of sand (c.10–14m aOD), extending southwards and parallel to the Suffolk coast, towards the northern side of the mouth of the river Deben (c.2.5km south of Bawdsey), the other side of which is the Felixstowe peninsula (Fig. 215). Bawdsey is the last settlement along the coastal promontory, which is bounded to the east by low-lying, former coastal tidal flats, and to the west by Bawdsey and Alderton Marshes (Fig. 215). The Manor Farm site is located c.1.2km from the present-day coastline.

The underlying geology consists of superficial deposits of coarse yellow sands with areas of reddish-brown sands, intermixed with outcrops of marine fossil-bearing red crag sands. The British Geological Survey (BGS) does not provide any information on the superficial deposits present on the site, but they may belong to the Crag Formation sands found locally. This material overlies a sedimentary bedrock of Thames Group clays, silts, and sands, formed in the

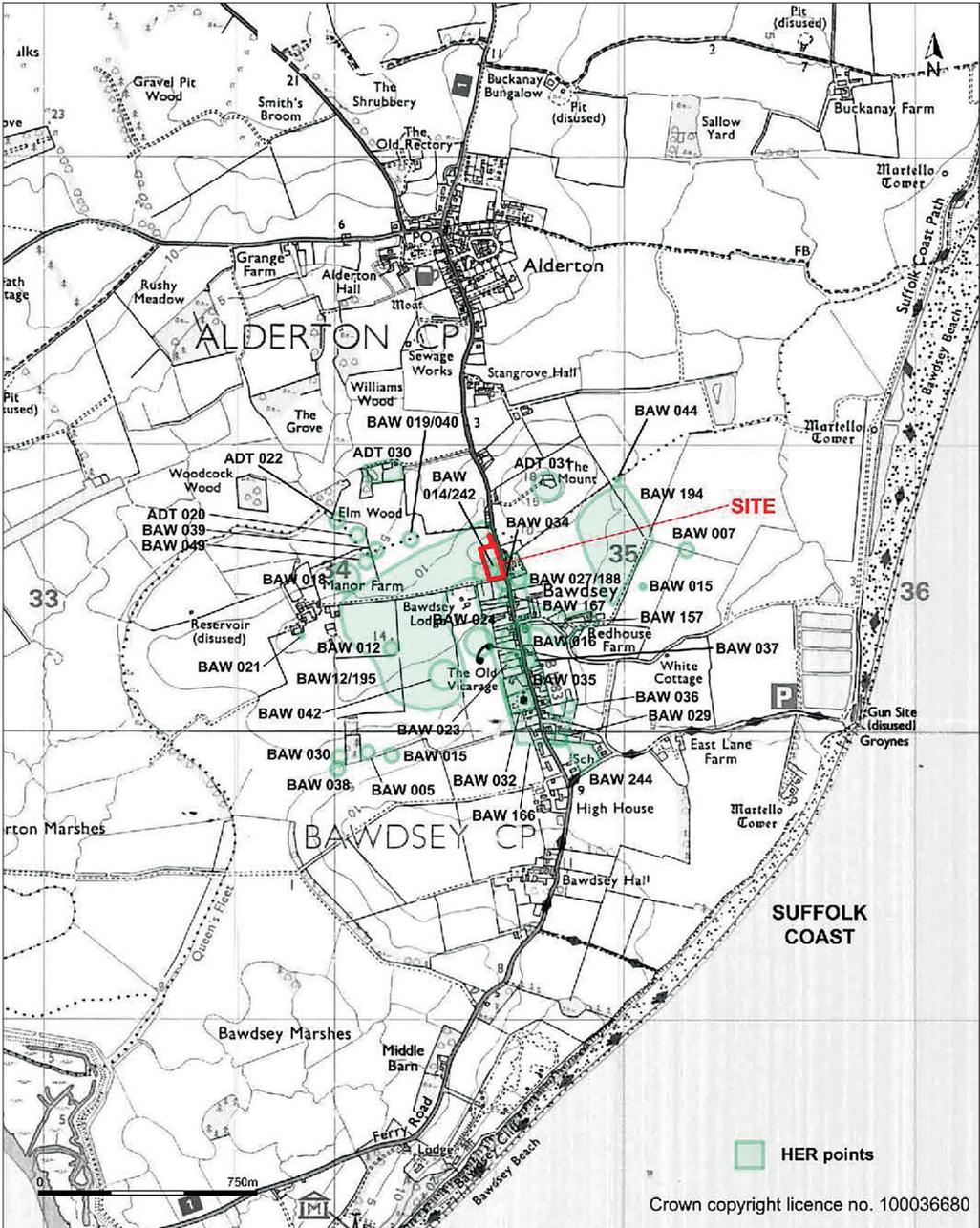


FIG. 215 – Site location plan.

Palaeogene Period.²

The topography immediately to the north of the excavation site is dominated by a large, hollow depression. It primarily occupies the northern area of the site measuring approximately 130m from north to south, and around 100m from east to west. The base of the hollow area

is roughly oval, with The Street forming the straight eastern edge of the feature. The sides of the hollow fall steeply towards the base, the ground surface at the lowest point within the depression being 6.31m aOD, which is approximately 5m deeper than the surrounding surface. The southern end of the site was around *c.*11.35m aOD, whilst the land just to the north of the hollow was *c.*11m aOD. Evidence obtained during the trial trench evaluation suggests that the depression represents an infilled post-medieval quarry pit.³

The local soils correspond to the underlying superficial geological deposits, with freely draining slightly acidic sandy soil overlying the coarse sands of the promontory, and loamy/clayey soils over the coastal/tidal flats to the east and west where there is naturally high groundwater.⁴

Known medieval activity in the surrounding area

The site lies on the northern periphery of Bawdsey village, where aerial photography has identified evidence of numerous cropmarks (Suffolk HER BAW 012), a number of which lie within the site. The most prominent of these is a circular feature, measuring *c.*30m in diameter, and falling partially within the south-western corner of the site, Fig. 216). A dense scatter of thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery was recovered to the south-east of the cropmark (BAW 014), possibly indicating that this is the remains of a medieval windmill rather than a prehistoric barrow. Evidence from medieval documents suggests that a windmill known as 'Tothyll' lay close to Manor Farm.⁵ Several smaller linear cropmarks are also evident within the site which might be the remains of boundary and drainage ditches. Of these, the largest is a linear cropmark running east to west across the centre of the site (Fig. 215).

The southern half of the excavated site lies just to the north of the area designated as the historic core of Bawdsey village (Figs 215 and 216, BAW 166), which is of medieval origin. Numerous archaeological evaluations and watching briefs within the historic village area of Bawdsey have recorded only small assemblages of medieval pottery and have failed to locate sites with intact medieval archaeological remains.⁶ In addition, the location and character of the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval manor of Bawdsey, its sub-manors and religious institutions, remains unknown. Little more is known than the scant historic details of the transfer of ownership. The present-day Bawdsey Manor estate located on the north side of the mouth of the river Deben dates to the late nineteenth century. However, to the south of Bawdsey, two sites excavated as part of the archaeological work conducted ahead of the construction of the East Anglia ONE cable route have revealed significant evidence for medieval occupation. A series of enclosures were recorded extending back from the existing east to west aligned road along the Bawdsey ridge. It is considered possible that these represent medieval tofts observing the line of a route that was in existence from at least the medieval period. They are associated with clear evidence for medieval occupation, including a well of probable fourteenth-century date and fragmentary evidence for structures. To the west, a dense concentration of archaeological features included evidence for five enclosures and associated activity, including possible industrial practices. The occupation appears to have started in the twelfth century and continued into the late fifteenth or possibly early sixteenth centuries. Abandonment of these enclosures may have coincided with the decline of the port of Goseford.⁷

Previous archaeological work at the site

Between 1985 and 1989 local archaeologists Robin and Janet Burrows-Ellis conducted field walking surveys of seven areas in the village of Bawdsey, covering an estimated area of approximately 8.3ha. At Manor Farm, they recorded two distinct areas of flint-knapping

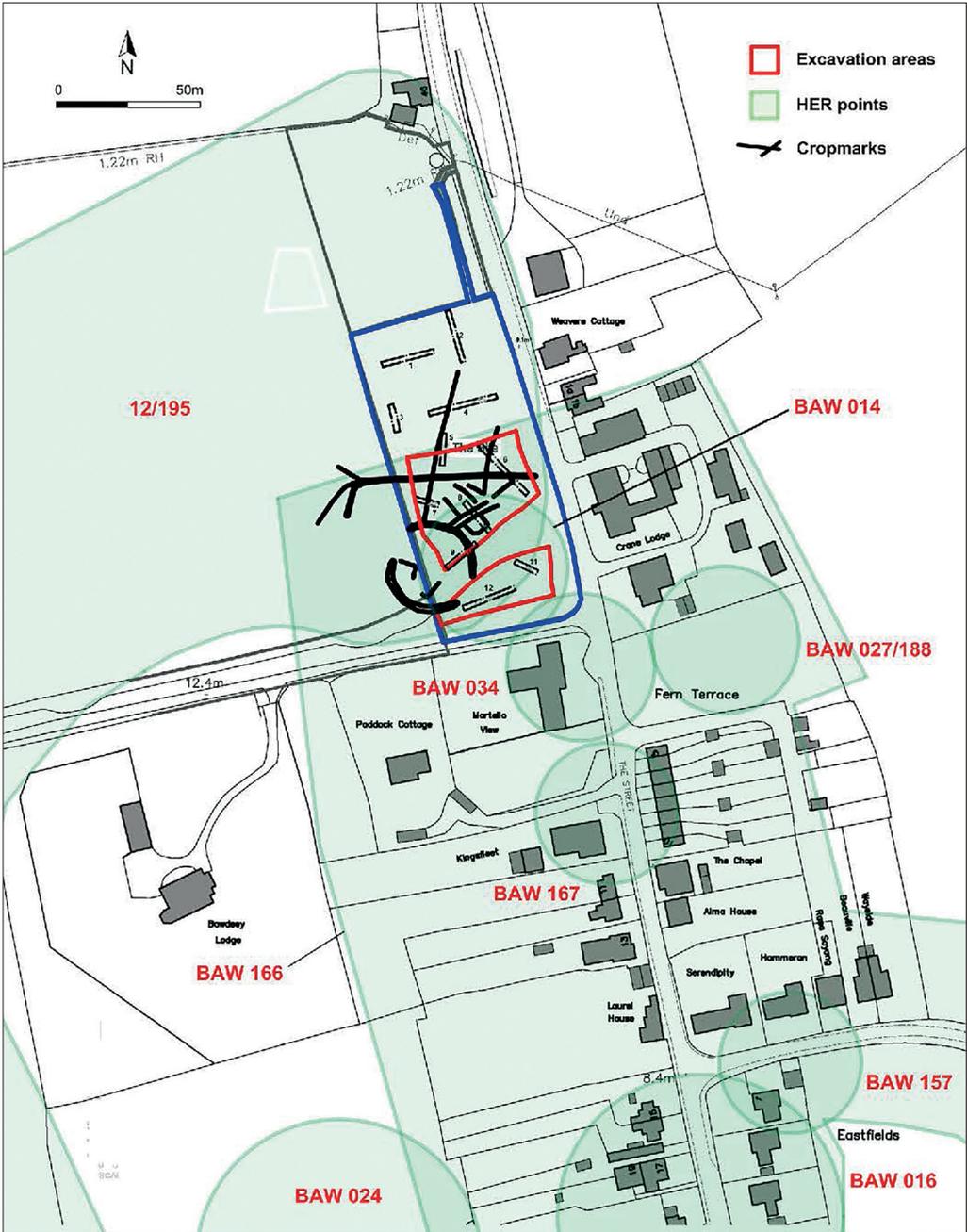


FIG. 216 – HER data.

debris, consisting of hammerstones, waste flakes, cores, finished tools, and large quantities of burnt flint. These areas each covered an area of approximately 1600m². Recovered alongside this flintwork was prehistoric flint-tempered pottery. Manor Farm also produced sherds of

Roman pottery, including greywares, mortaria, and Samian ware. The majority of the pottery recovered during the surveys conducted by Robin and Janet Burrows-Ellis was of medieval date and included local sand-, shell-, and flint-tempered wares, Hollesley Bay ware, Scarborough ware, and continental imports such as Saintonge, Seigburg, and Raeren wares.⁸

Prior to excavation, the site was subject to a trial trench evaluation, undertaken in 2018.⁹ The northern part of the proposed development area was found to contain little pre-modern activity and may have been the location of a large quarry pit. The trenches in the southern part of the site, however, revealed features associated with medieval and early post-medieval activity dating to between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries.

The evidence obtained from the trenches confirmed that at least two of the cropmarks previously identified in aerial photographs represent identifiable archaeological features. Two broad areas of archaeological activity were identified from the trenching. Trenches 1–8, located within the hollow area at the northern end of the site, suggested that this large depression may have been the remains of a previously unrecorded post-medieval quarry pit. Trenches 6–11 at the southern end of the site identified the remains of one or more medieval/early post-medieval enclosure systems, including an associated cultivation soil.

THE EXCAVATION

Introduction

Following on from the results of the archaeological evaluation, a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS-CT) required a programme of open area excavation to further investigate archaeological remains within the site.¹⁰

Based on artefactual evidence, and stratigraphic and spatial relationships between archaeological features, two phases of archaeological activity, stratified beneath later anthropogenic deposits (Fig. 217), were identified (Fig. 218 and Table 1). Phase 1, a period spanning the Saxo-Norman to late medieval period (tenth to sixteenth centuries), has been divided into three subphases of activity. Phase 2 represents activity during the post-medieval period. A small quantity of artefactual evidence relating to earlier activity was also recovered.

Phase	Period	Sub-Phase	Sub-Period	Date
1	Medieval	1.1	Early Medieval	11th – 13th centuries
		1.2	Early Medieval – High Medieval	12th – 14th centuries
		1.3	High Medieval – Transition Period	Late 13th – 16th centuries
2	Post-Medieval	-	-	16th – 19th centuries

TABLE 1 – Chronological phasing of archaeology features at Manor Farm, Bawdsey.

Medieval and post-medieval cultivation/midden layers

Beneath the modern plough soil, layers interpreted as a possible relict medieval/post-medieval cultivated soil, L1002, and an underlying buried medieval/post-medieval subsoil, L1003 (completely stratified beneath L1002), were present across the whole of the southern area of the excavation site and extending c.12.50m from the south-western corner of the northern area

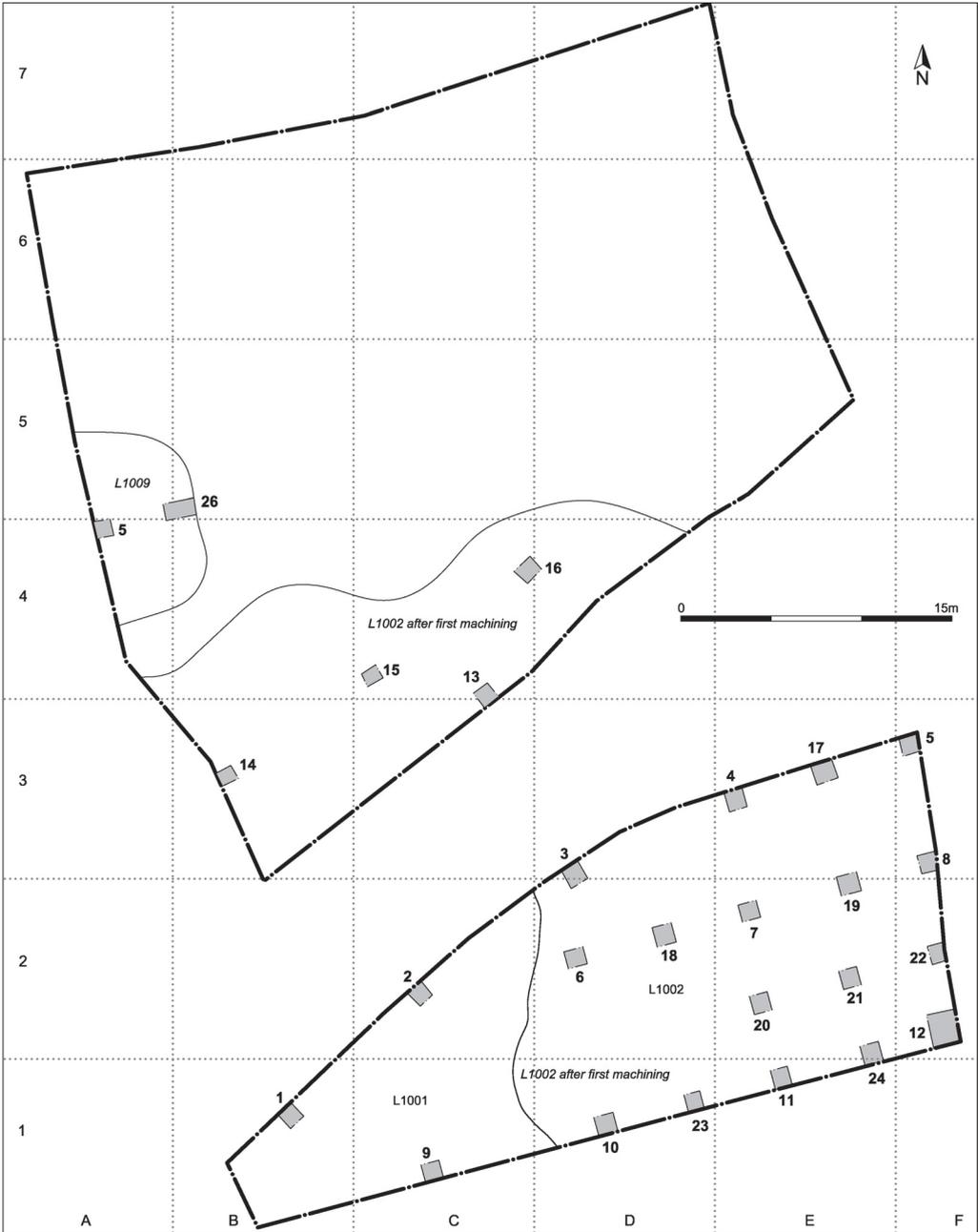


FIG. 217 – Test pit location plan.

(Fig. 217). A discrete patch (c.10m by 6m by a maximum of 0.14m deep) of this relict soil/subsoil was also preserved on the western edge of the northern area, recorded as Layer L1009.

Twenty-five test pits (Fig. 217, TP1–25) were excavated to investigate the depth,

composition, and finds density across their extent. In the main, L1002 was a firm mid-orange-brown silty sand, often identical in colour to the overlying topsoil, but distinguished by a higher sand content. L1003 was a light yellow/orange-brown sandy silt. However, both included patches grading into dark grey clayey silts with moderate charcoal and white lime (shell?) inclusions. Such darker areas are evident in test pits in the south-east area of the site (TP4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 21, 22, 23, 24). The dark grey colour possibly reflects an increased organic content within these soil layers and corresponds to those areas in which the surviving depths of L1002 and L1003 is greatest. This perhaps suggests a deliberate build-up of agricultural soils through the spreading of midden material.

The finds recovered from L1002, L1003, and L1009 varied widely, and the date range of this evidence is also broad, ranging from the twelfth to twentieth centuries. As well as deriving from the spreading of midden deposits, it is likely that some of these finds originated from the archaeological features underlying L1002 and L1003 and were redistributed as a result of agricultural processes during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Evidence for pre-medieval occupation

The earliest dateable pottery evidence recovered during the excavation was a single sherd of grog-tempered early Bronze Age pottery (1;10g) from Ditch F1066 in addition to three sherds of flint-tempered Neolithic and Iron Age pottery from Ditch F1046. These finds were associated with quantities of both twelfth- to thirteenth-century and thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery and are unquestionably residual. A small quantity of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic struck flint was also recovered, sparsely distributed in medieval and post-medieval features. The activity which generated the extensive flintwork assemblage and the Roman pottery assemblage recovered from the Manor Farm area during the Burrows-Ellis' fieldwalking surveys must have been located beyond the limits of excavation.

Phase 1.1: Saxon-Norman to early medieval, tenth to thirteenth centuries

As was the case with the sparse prehistoric material found during excavation, the eight late Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds (tenth to eleventh centuries) recovered from Pit F1081, indicate low-intensity site utilisation, possibly some distance from the 'core' area of contemporary activity/settlement, during the period when present-day Bawdsey took shape.

The earliest formal utilisation of the site took place sometime during the eleventh to thirteenth centuries and has been assigned as Phase 1.1. This phase of activity was characterised by the division of land by two relatively substantial ditches forming a 'T'-junction, extending towards the south and south-east (Fig. 218). The north to south aligned Ditch F1004 appears to define a boundary of activity to the west with the corresponding northern boundary possibly lying between the two areas of excavation. The two main ditches of this enclosure system were of comparable size and shape in profile, and in the organic-rich character of their fills. These fills contained moderate assemblages of charred plant remains including evidence for the cultivation and processing of hulled barley, oats, free-threshing type wheat and rye, as well as pulses. The prominence of stinking chamomile among the non-cereal weed species is indicative of heavy loam and clay soils, suggesting that already in the early medieval period farming had expanded beyond the free-draining sandy soils of the Bawdsey promontory to utilisation of the heavier, loam/clay soils of the coastal flats to the north-east and tidal flats to the south-west; both areas within c.400m of the site.¹¹ Both of the main early medieval ditches, F1004 and F1070=F1106, contained similar dark grey organic-rich fills, but the composition of their charred assemblages varied slightly, suggesting the repeated localised dumping of processing waste, rather than the

mixing of widespread waste/agricultural processing debris over time. This picture of a ‘well-kept’ area with discrete localised dumps of waste into reasonably sized boundary ditches chimes with the paucity of faunal remains in early medieval ditches. The absence of animal remains when compared to later periods suggests a separation of arable and animal food-processing, as well as the separate removal and dumping of their respective waste products and general (mixed) domestic waste. The deposition of waste in this area suggests that the early medieval ditch system recorded at the Manor Farm site may represent enclosures peripheral to the main core of settlement to the south.

The presence of a further linear feature assigned to this phase, F1093, which was aligned parallel with F1004, may indicate subdivision of this enclosure. In section, it had fairly steep sides and could potentially have acted as a beam-slot, although any ground beam that it contained is more likely to have been removed than allowed to rot *in situ*. Alternatively, it could conceivably have had a drainage function. Whatever its purpose, its presence demonstrates the possibility that there was some kind of activity within the putative enclosure defined by Ditches F1004 and F1070=F1106, and that this enclosure was used for something other than arable agriculture or open grazing.

The arrangement of the features suggests that the enclosure forms a small part of a wider system of enclosures arranged on a similar axis, perhaps appended to other grid systems to the south. It is possible that these represent yards used for a variety of purposes, located in regularly utilised areas, but removed to some extent from locations of domestic occupation.

Phase 1.2: medieval expansion

The many scatters of twelfth- to fourteenth-century medieval pottery in and around the village of Bawdsey (Fig. 216) provide evidence for a period of population increase and a resultant expansion of the settlement. The Manor Farm site can be considered to have been part of this expansion as the majority of pottery from the site dates to this period. Established models for the expansion of medieval settlements describe the spread of housing and other building types along approach roads and watercourses.¹² The current site is located to the west of The Street, upon which the area considered to represent the historic medieval core of Bawdsey (HER BAW166) is also located, to the south. The relative positioning of these two locations suggests that the increase in activity observed at the Manor Farm site represents expansion radiating out from this central core.

Despite this expansion, the utilisation of the site appears to remain agricultural, with no structural remains evident. The fairly simple ditch system of Phase 1.1 was replaced, in Phase 1.2, with a more complex system consisting of at least three small enclosures, all possibly contained within a larger landholding defined by a substantial boundary ditch. The processes of settlement expansion that occurred in this period aside, reorganisation of medieval landholdings is not unusual, occurring on a regular basis ranging from once every generation or so, to every 50–60, or 70 years.¹³

Pottery dating to Phase 1.2 represents the bulk of the pottery assemblage recovered during the excavation. The majority is characteristic of Hollesley products, which is perhaps unsurprising as a production site is known approximately 4km to the north. Several Phase 1.2 features also contained quantities of animal bone, some of which exhibits evidence of butchering; these remains largely consisted of cattle, sheep/goat and pig/boar.

Perhaps the most emphatic expression of the rearrangement of the site in Phase 1.2 is the creation of a major east–west boundary ditch which appears to mark the northern extent of activity at this site. The earliest iteration of this boundary was Ditch F1063 which was dated by a single sherd of pottery to the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries. This was recut by Ditch

F1060 which contained a greater quantity of thirteenth–fourteenth-century pottery and also CBM of fifteenth century or later date, which suggests that the feature remained part of the landscape beyond the limit of the activity defined as Phase 1.2. It is possible that these features represent a feature identified as a prominent cropmark on aerial photographs of the area (Fig. 216). However, the cropmark was recorded as running on a slightly different angle to F1060/F1063.

F1060/F1063 measured 1.84 to 3.75m in width and 1.30 to 1.40m in depth. In profile, F1060 was quite irregular and, although steep in places, its depth and width alone would not have formed a completely impassable barrier for the containment of animals. A pair of similarly substantial ditches recorded at Green Road, Woolpit, were initially interpreted as a moat, but the depth of one of these, and the shallow profile of the other, indicated that this could not have been their function.¹⁴ Moat ditches are generally steep sided with concave to flat bases.¹⁵ Another ditch of similar proportions was recorded at Buckingham Road, Bletchley, where it appeared to separate two burgage plots, but also to have functioned as a source of drinking water for livestock.¹⁶ This, however, was characterised by waterlogged fills and no such evidence was recorded in association with F1060/F1063. The use of substantial ditches to define boundaries is not unusual in the medieval period, particularly when this is intended to mark a change in usage or ownership. Such a boundary appears to have been used to mark the limits of Necton Heath, a large area of common land in Norfolk.¹⁷

Phase 1.2 features to the south of F1060/F1063 may represent small-scale agricultural activity. Parallel Gullies F1083=F1073 and F1091=F1048 (F1099 may also be part of F1091=F1048) appeared to form a long strip of land *c.*2–3m wide. The gullies (or possible furrows) may have been excavated to provide earth to be piled up to form a raised cultivation bed, or ridge, on the strip in between. Such an arrangement may be associated with the small-scale growing of cereals, or possibly associated with kitchen or market gardening, as was the case with a series of similar features at Church Street, St Neots.¹⁸

The northern ends of Gullies F1083=F1073 and F1091=F1048 were cut by Phase 1.2 Ditch F1046, which continued a short distance to the west before turning towards a north–north-west to south–south-east alignment and running broadly parallel with F1031=F1066 to the west. Although notably wider, F1031=F1066 appeared to mirror the arrangement of F1046, with its northern end turning towards the west (Fig. 218). This feature might correspond to a circular cropmark, identified from aerial photographs (Fig. 216), which was interpreted as a possible post-medieval windmill or prehistoric ring-ditch. However, it seems more likely that this feature formed the north-eastern corner of a rectilinear enclosure, with the comparable F1046 forming the north-western corner of an adjacent enclosure and defining a narrow corridor of land between the two.

Ditches F1025, F1038 and F1040, in the eastern part of the site, appear to form a small rectangular enclosure or pen measuring at least 45m², with a second possible enclosure of similar form appended to the immediate north. The presence of possible livestock pens or enclosures suggests, in comparison to the preceding phase which was associated only with arable agriculture, a diversification of the agricultural economy and a shift to a mixed farming policy. However, from the late thirteenth century, north-western Suffolk and the extreme east of Suffolk, where Bawdsey is located, were known to have an economy heavily based on pastoral agriculture.¹⁹ In these sheep-grazing regions, the medieval villager is understood to have cultivated only enough crops to satisfy their own needs.²⁰ Despite the site's location in the extreme eastern part of Suffolk, the reported dominance of sheep in the local economy is not reflected in the faunal assemblage as sheep and cattle appear to be present in similar quantities. The deposition of animal remains in twelfth–fourteenth-century ditch fills at this site could represent the increased importance of pastoral agriculture. However, it is perhaps more likely

that greater quantities of refuse material, and hence more animal bone, were deposited at this location as a result of the expansion of settlement and the increased proximity of domestic habitation.

The overall picture of activity in Phase 1.2 is of an intensification of mixed land-use, for agricultural or agricultural-related activity, and which remains beyond the area of domestic settlement in this period. The increased deposition of domestic waste at the site during the twelfth–fourteenth centuries suggests that domestic dwellings were located in reasonable proximity to the excavated site. On the basis of the known distribution of medieval activity in the Bawdsey area, it is most likely that the residences were located to the south-east.

Phase 1.3: change or contraction?

The small enclosures of Phase 1.2 appear to have gone out of use around the fourteenth century, perhaps suggesting that the land within which the excavated site lies was taken out of agricultural production. Such a contraction, mostly evident through a move away from marginal land, is evident in many medieval settlements and their associated rural landscapes,²¹ and often interpreted as a direct result of the dramatic population decline of the fourteenth century and, in particular, the Black Death of 1348–49, an event which is considered to have killed between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the population.²² In many areas, the effect of the combined social and economic changes caused by the huge loss of population was a shift in the input of time and resources towards pastoral husbandry at the expense of arable farming.²³ However, long-term climate deterioration and progressive soil exhaustion (attested by a significant fall in crop yields in the late thirteenth to mid-fourteenth centuries) are also thought to have been factors in this change in farming practice.²⁴

Prior to the fourteenth century, many Suffolk villages contained more residents than at any time before the mid-nineteenth century, but the loss of so much of the population could not be absorbed without major changes to an economy in which land and labour were the main factors in production.²⁵ These changes to the economy could well be reflected in the changes seen within the excavated site at Manor Farm within the period designated as Phase 1.3.

Appearing to replace the ditch systems at some point between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries was a series of three, possibly sequential, large, deep pits, F1103, F1077, and F1118 (Fig. 218). All had steep to near vertical sides and, although no evidence remained of revetting, it is unlikely that the shape of the pits would have remained intact even for a short period of time without some form of structural support, possibly removed once the pit had fulfilled its purpose.

The character of the pits suggest that it is unlikely that they were quarry pits for the extraction of sand. Their lower fills were all similar in appearance, a dark grey to black silt, suggestive of the dumping of a large volume of wet material. The fills contained relatively large quantities of oyster shells and displayed cassy deposits indicative of the presence of toilet waste. The environmental samples from all three pits contained deposits of clean grain and pulses, with some accompanying weeds. It is likely that this was domestic debris, including hearth ash, deposited as part of general refuse.

It is possible that these pits represent the contraction of settlement at Bawdsey, with the peripheral, semi-agricultural function of the site moving away, leaving this land as waste land only used for the deposition of unpleasant refuse. Although the short-term effect of the loss of half of the population had been a significant contraction in land occupancy, by the 1360s and early 1370s, demand for land was on the increase as previously landless labourers became landholders and existing landholders increased the size and number of their holdings.²⁶ Any holdings that remained deserted beyond this date are likely to have been on poor land. With a

reduced population, individuals could be more selective and had no need to take up marginal land which had been brought into production, but which was regarded as unfavourable for cultivation.²⁷

It is possible, however, that the change in the land use and layout at the Manor Farm site was not due to population loss, but the result of other factors, possibly even as mundane as the known regular reorganisation of medieval peasant holdings.²⁸ Indeed, at several sites across East Anglia, such as Scott's Close, Hilton, Cambridgeshire; Cherry Tree Farm, Wortham; and Green Road, Woolpit; a notable shift away from numerous ditched enclosures and boundaries to a more open site layout consisting largely of pits has been observed.²⁹ It is possible that this pattern relates to changes in land use brought about by the Black Death, but it is unusual that these changes would manifest themselves in the same way at several different locations. Instead, it seems more likely that this relates to trends in agricultural practice. The presence of refuse pits within the site in Phase 1.3 does not necessarily represent the abandonment of this land as refuse deposition appears to have occurred here during Phase 1.2. Indeed, it is possible that many of the same activities occurred, but are not visible archaeologically. Furthermore, the fact that the site contained large refuse pits indicates that it remained in relative proximity to areas in which domestic occupation occurred and, therefore, continued to be used for similar purposes.

Phase 2: post-medieval activity

The excavation revealed a relative paucity of post-medieval evidence, with the period being represented by six features (Fig. 218, F1013, F1018, F1020, F1022, F1042, F1068). The Phase 2 features contained Frechen stoneware and early post-medieval red earthenware pottery. These finds were recovered in association with post-medieval brick, floor-tile, and peg-tile all of which is consistent with a post-fifteenth-century date. The relatively sparse distribution of the CBM suggests that it is not directly associated with a significant structure or demolition deposits. The use of the Manor Farm site for the deposition of large quantities of domestic waste into deep pits appears to have continued from Phase 1.3 into the post-medieval period as evidenced by a fourth feature of this type, Pit F1042. It contained a variety of finds, much of which appeared to represent food waste.

Whilst there was an observable continuation of activity from the preceding phase of activity, Phase 2 also saw the possible re-establishment of some elements of the site previously identifiable during the earlier subphases of medieval activity. Ditch F1068 followed the same alignment and was positioned in approximately the same location as Phase 1.1 Ditch F1070 and Phase 1.2 Ditch F1097, which it lay between. This feature might represent the re-marking of the boundary previously represented by these earlier features. Substantial artefactual assemblages from Ditch F1068 and Pit F1042 are suggestive of the continued proximity of domestic habitation to the site. Due to the known historical layout of Bawdsey, it is perhaps most likely that such habitation occurred to the south-east of the current site.

To the east of Pit F1042 were three post-holes of varying size, which were assigned to Phase 2. Although they were all located in the same approximate area in the eastern part of the excavated site, they did not display a clear structural configuration.

At the northern edge of the site, F1060, which had previously delimited the northern extent of activity, was recut and remained in place as an important defining landscape feature well into the post-medieval period, as Ditch F1013. It was within this feature that the most recent finds recovered during the excavation were found. This included seventeenth- to nineteenth-century pottery which may relate to the proximity of a post-medieval kiln (ADT 030) to this site.

CONCLUSION

The excavated evidence from this site appears to consistently represent the kind of activity that can be found at the edges of areas containing domestic occupation. This includes possible horticultural or small-scale arable cultivation and the corralling of livestock. It also clearly includes the deposition of refuse material generated in a domestic setting. The presence of the large Ditch F1060/F1063/F1013 at the northern edge of the excavated area might indicate that this site was located close to a significant boundary, dividing up the medieval and post-medieval landscape. The site clearly underwent changes during the medieval period. It is, however, not possible to identify whether these are the result of the occasional rearrangement and remodelling that might be expected within medieval peasant holdings, or if it can be related to external events such as settlement contraction caused by the Black Death or wider trends in medieval agriculture.

Perhaps the greatest significance of the evidence obtained from the excavation here is that it adds to the evidence recorded during the numerous previous archaeological investigations conducted in Bawdsey and to the south during the excavations associated with the East Anglia ONE cable route.³⁰ Bawdsey is a significant medieval settlement due to its position as one of the primary settlements (and possibly the most significant of these) within the medieval port or haven of Goseford, which incorporated most of the area to the north of the river Deben.³¹ The results of the excavation at Manor Farm contribute to an understanding of the layout of the settlement, the character of activity undertaken within it, and contribute to a wider understanding of medieval settlement morphology and relationships (in this case between Bawdsey and the rest of the area of Goseford), as well as other questions relating to medieval rural settlement, such as agricultural practices, industries, and demography identified within the East of England Research Framework.³²

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NOTES

- 1 Wain 2016, 582.
- 2 BGS 2018.
- 3 Boyles 2018.
- 4 Soilscares 2020.
- 5 Peter Wain pers. comm.
- 6 Archaeoserv 2015; Boulter 1994 (BAW 029); Heard 2010, 2011 (BAW 163); Newman 2012 (BAW 167); Payne 2014 (BAW 188); Revell 2019 (BAW 244).

- 7 Newman 2018.
 8 Burrows-Ellis and Burrows-Ellis undated.
 9 Boyles 2018.
 10 Boyles 2018.
 11 Soilscales 2020.
 12 Schofield and Vince 2003, 34–5.
 13 Hurst 1971, 533; Smith 2010, 72; Gilchrist 2012, 232.
 14 Newton and Podbury 2020.
 15 Le Patourel 1973, 1.
 16 Newton and Sparrow 2009.
 17 Newton 2020.
 18 Newton 2011, 162.
 19 Slavin 2015.
 20 Postan 2008, 238.
 21 Munro 2005, i.
 22 Bailey 2021, 4.
 23 Campbell *et al.* 1996, 178.
 24 Platt 1978, 93.
 25 Bailey 2007, 67, 204.
 26 Bailey 2021, 148.
 27 Bailey 1989, 2; Martin 2012, 237.
 28 Hurst 1971, 533; Smith 2010, 72; Gilchrist 2012, 232.
 29 Scott's Close, Hilton: Woolhouse 2010, fig. 3; Cherry Tree Farm, Wortham: Atkins 2015, fig. 151; Green Road, Woolpit: Newton and Podbury, 2020.
 30 Archaeoserv 2015; Boulter 1994 (BAW 029); Heard 2010, 2011 (BAW 163); Newman 2012 (BAW 167); Payne 2014 (BAW 188); Revell 2019 (BAW 244); Newman 2018.
 31 Wain 2016.
 32 researchframeworks.org/eoe/research-agenda/medieval-rural/.

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