

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/125

Supreme Petfoods Ltd., Stone Street Farm, Stone Street, Hadleigh HAD 124

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HER Information

Planning Application No: B/11/00181/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 4th August 2011
Grid Reference: TM 0152 4375
Funding Body: Supreme Petfoods Limited
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mark Sommers
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-107006

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Supreme Petfoods Limited, Stone Street Farm, Stone Street, Hadleigh, in advance of the proposed construction of offices, a weighbridge and a parking area. Two trenches were excavated across the proposed development site but no archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered. The natural subsoil consisted of an orange/yellow sand with frequent flint and lay either directly below the topsoil at a depth of c. 0.4m. In the north-east corner of the site a thin masking deposit of probable hillwash was present. In this area the natural subsoil lay at a depth of c. 0.5m. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Supreme Petfoods Limited).

1. Introduction

It has been proposed to construct a series of offices, a weighbridge and an area of associated parking on land adjacent Supreme Petfoods Limited, Stone Street Farm, Stone Street, Hadleigh. Planning consent for the development has been granted (B/11/00181/FUL) but with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological work be in place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1), was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may then be deemed necessary.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0152 4375. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned by Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects, on behalf of Supreme Petfoods Limited, who funded the work.

2. Geology and topography

The site consists of an area of roughly level, open grassland lying to the south of the main entrance route into the factory complex. It is bounded by the roadway and a surfaced yard on the northern and western boundaries; a hedge on the eastern side whilst the southern edge of the development comprises an unmarked line across an open field. The development site lies at a height of c. 25.0m OD. The River Brett lies c. 120m to the north-east of the site, which is situated on the edge of the valley floodplain.

The valley cuts through the thick layer of chalky till deposited by the retreating icesheet of the Anglian Glaciation and chalk underlies the whole area. The valley itself is filled with gravel, sand and silt deposits left by the glacial meltwaters.

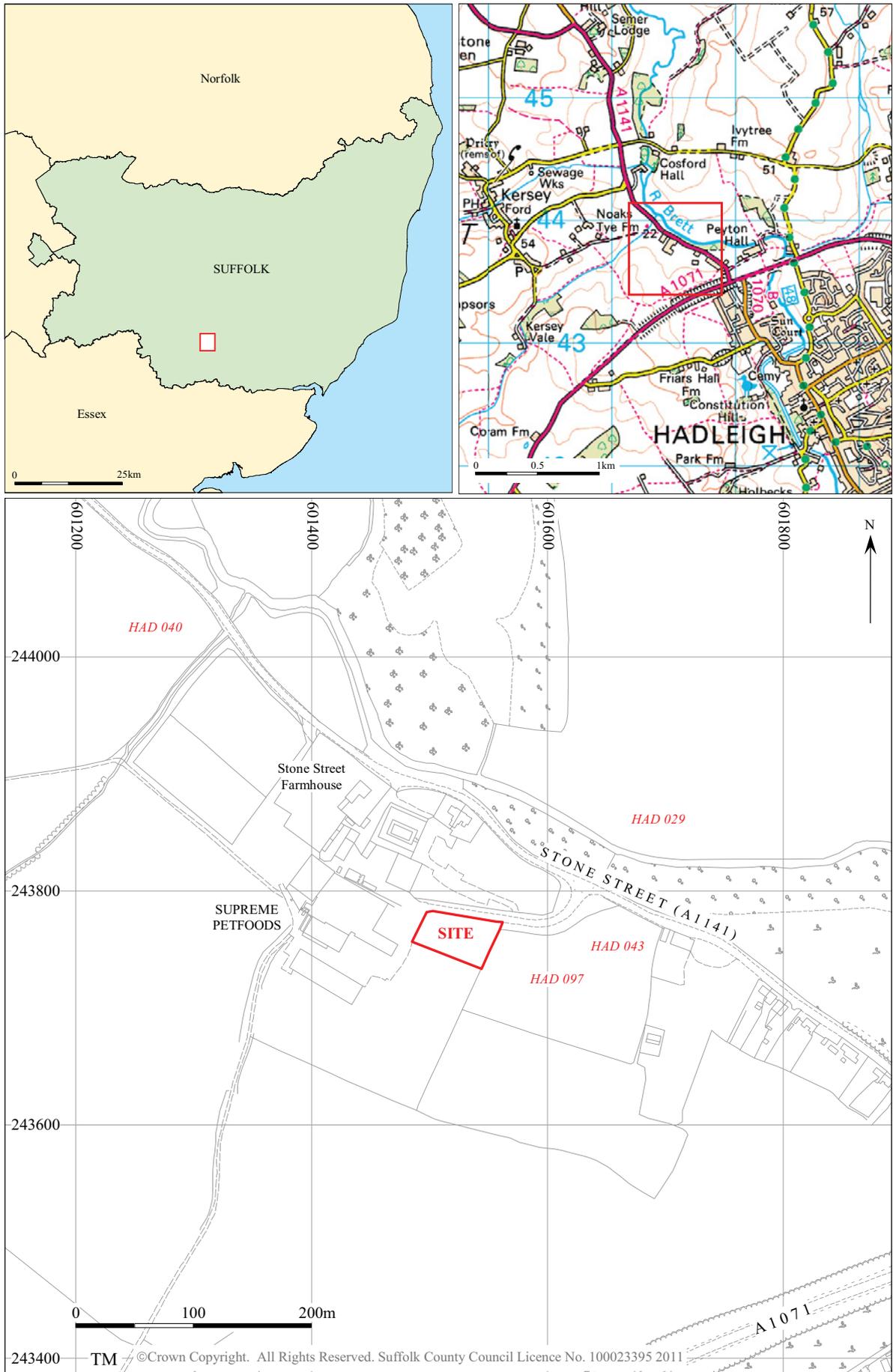


Figure 1. Site location plan
(HER refs. in red italics)

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known archaeological sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within the proposed development area but a small number of significant sites are recorded in the locality (See Fig. 1), these include:

<u>HER ref.</u>	<u>Description</u>
HAD 029:	Ditched trackway, visible on aerial photographs
HAD 040:	Ditched trackway, at least 25m in width, ditches re-cut and realigned on at least one occasion. Visible on aerial photographs
HAD 043:	Flndspot of a medieval bronze seal matrix, faceted cone with suspension loop.
HAD 097:	Area evaluation prior to construction of bowls club revealed undated ditches/gullies and a scatter of prehistoric pottery and worked flint.

The presence of prehistoric and medieval finds in the vicinity indicates a moderate potential for significant archaeological features and deposits to be present. Additionally, the trackway seen in aerial photographs is liable to relate to an earlier alignment of Stone Street that runs close to the proposed development site and is possibly Roman in date.

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a 5 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trenches was broadly in accordance with a plan approved by the County Archaeological Service Conservation Team and was designed to sample all areas of the proposed development site.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify any archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until undisturbed natural deposits were encountered,

the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features. Had any features or significant deposits been identified they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation of the trenches, the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench locations plotted and the depths noted.

A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.

5. Results

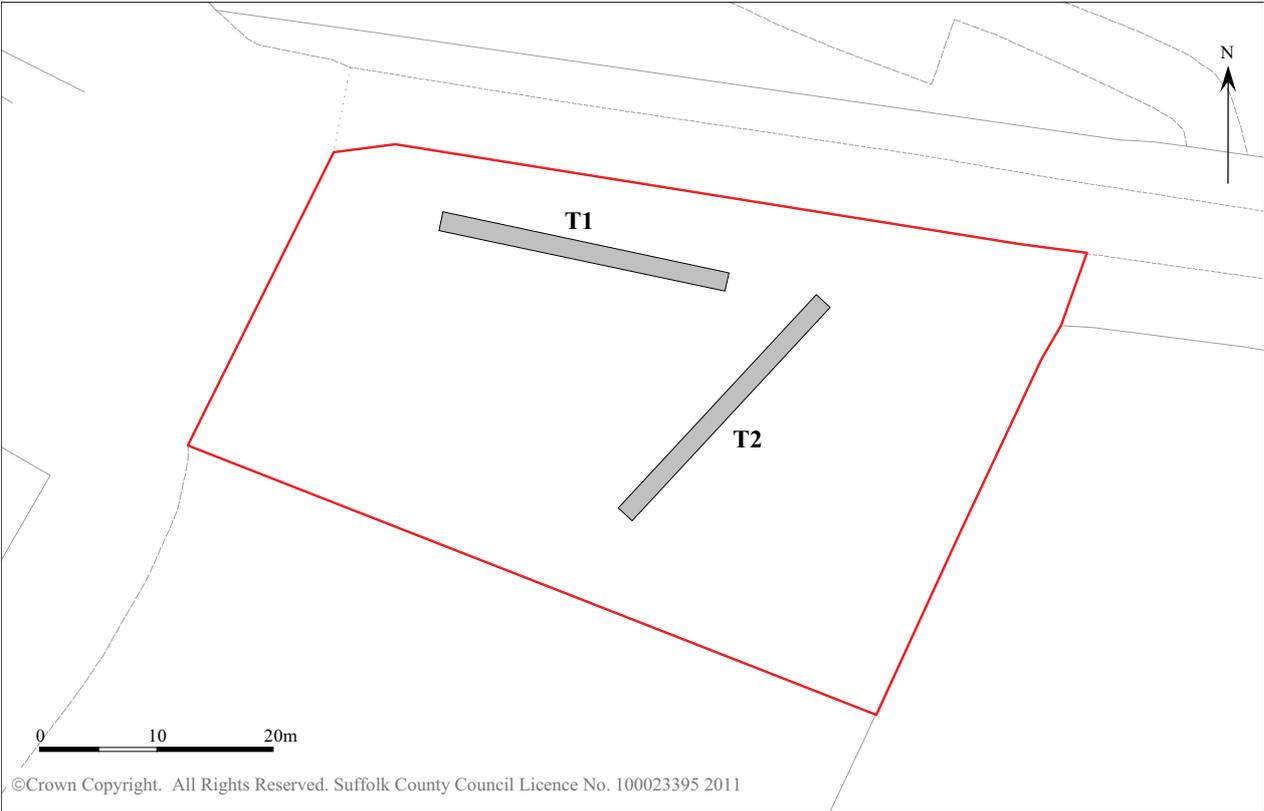


Figure 2. Trench location plan

Figure 2 indicates the locations of the excavated trial trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered. A description of each trench follows overleaf:

Trench 1 - ran approximately east to west and measured 25m in length. The revealed stratigraphy consisted of c. 0.4m of topsoil directly over the natural subsoil which comprised a orange/yellow sand with frequent flint (plates 1 and 2).

Trench 2 - ran approximately south-east to north-west and measured 25m in length. The revealed stratigraphy consisted of c. 0.4m of topsoil over a 0.2m thick layer of pale yellow silty sand with occasional flint which in turn overlay a natural subsoil of orange/yellow sand with frequent flint (plates 3 and 4).

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No artefactual evidence was recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

The results of evaluation failed to identify any significant archaeological features or deposits. The surface of the exposed natural subsoil was cleanly cut and had any features been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological deposits or features that could be under threat from the proposed development. Consequently, no further work is recommended.

9. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: HAD 124.

Digital archive:

*R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Current Recording Projects\
Hadleigh/HAD 124 Evaluation (Supreme Petfoods)*

Digital photographs are held under the references HLE32 to HLE36

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-107006

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Steve Manthorpe and Mark Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mark. Sommers and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

11. Bibliography

Gardner, R. 2011, *Land Supreme Pet Foods Ltd, Stone Street Farm, Stone Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk, Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench, Written Scheme of Investigation & Safety Statement and Risk Assessment* (unpublished document)

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Plates (scales are divided into 0.5m sections)



Plate 1. Trench 1, camera facing north (photo ref. HLE33)



Plate 2. Trench 1, camera facing north-west (photo ref. HLE34)



Plate 3. Trench 2, camera facing north-west (photo ref. HLE35)



Plate 4. Trench 2, camera facing south-west (photo ref. HLE36)