

**Archaeological Evaluation at
36-38 HIGH Street Wrentham Suffolk**

Grid reference: TM4991282842

Planning Application No: DC/13/0603/FUL

HER no: WRE 028

Oasis No.: 162413

DRAFT

Prepared for

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by a single trial trenching on land at 36-38 High Street Wrentham Suffolk, between the 10th on the 18th of June 2014. This was in advance of the erection of a single new dwelling. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 24th October 2013

One linear trench 10.00m long x 1.8m wide was excavated to cover the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeology or finds of any kind were made.

1. Introduction and Planning Background

1.1 An application has been made by the client, Anglia designs on behalf of Mr N Harvey for the construction of one new dwelling on land at 36-38 High Street Wrentham Suffolk (TM 4991 8284). The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

1.2 *The Waveney Local Plan (1996) and Interim Local Plan (2004)* have been wholly superseded by the *Waveney Local Development Framework*: while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary. As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Suffolk Records Office Ipswich and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record office was consulted. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Suffolk HER and an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/project oasis.

2. Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TM 4991 8284

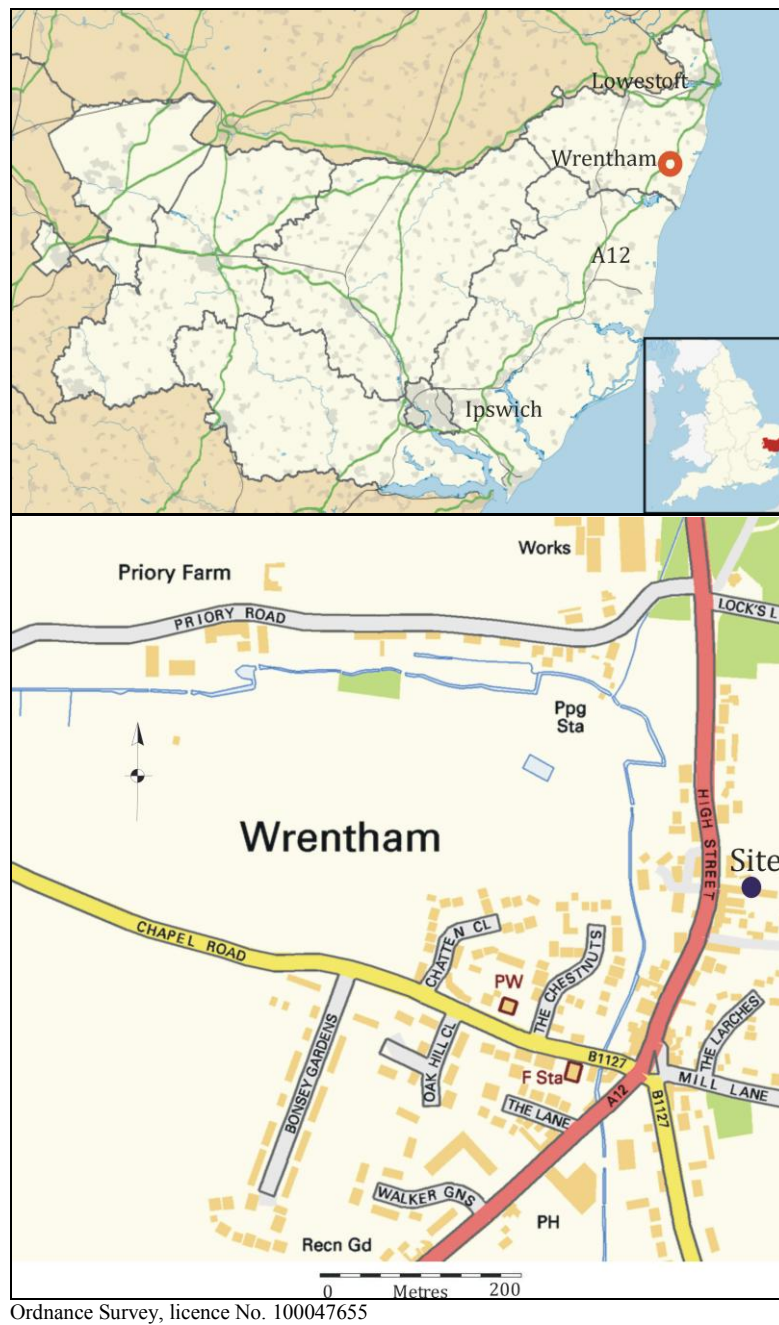
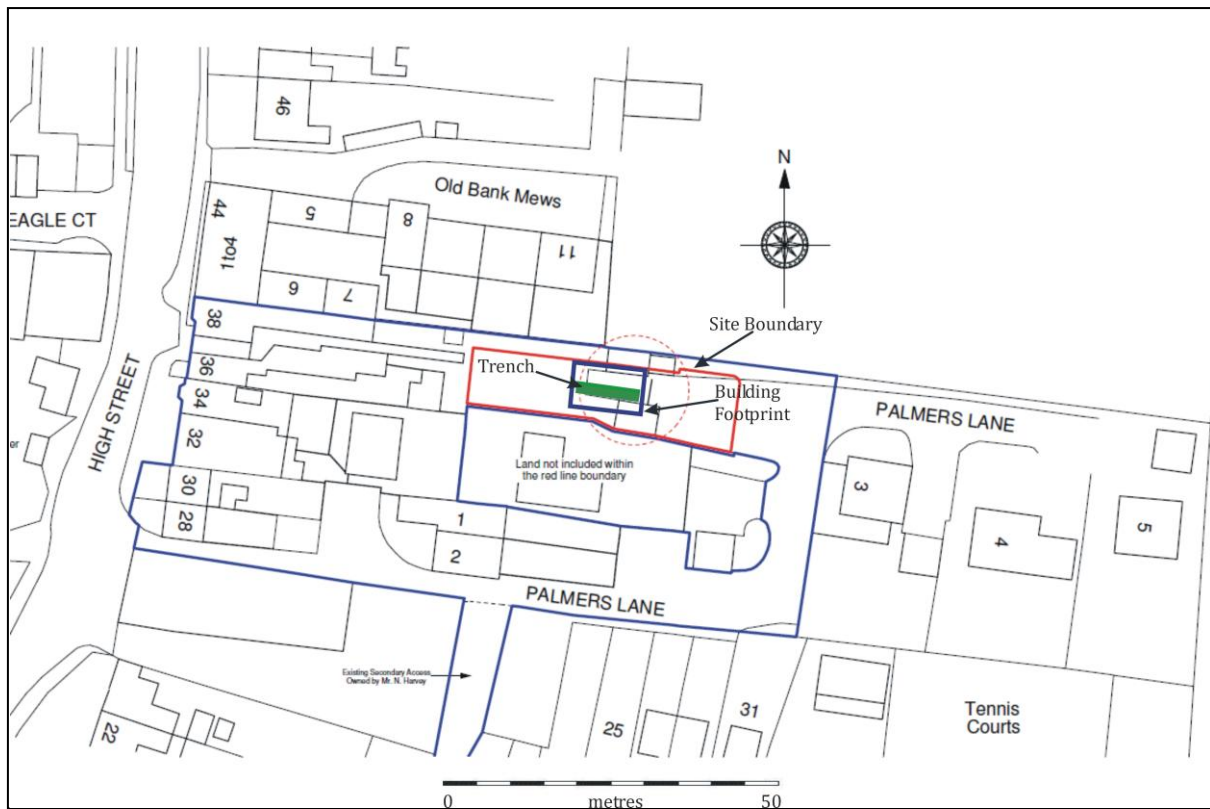


Figure 1. Location of the site in Wrentham

Wrentham is a large village established along the A12 trunk road from Ipswich to Great Yarmouth, at its junction with the B1127 road.

3. Results



Ordnance Survey Licence 100047655

Figure 2. Plan of Trench location

3.1 Fieldwork

The single trench was drawn to a scale of 1:50; a section was drawn to a scale of 1:20.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to IFA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

3.2 The Evaluation Trench

A single trench, orientated east-west, was excavated over the footprint for the new dwelling, measuring 10 m long by 1.8 m wide, to a maximum depth of 0.85 m..

.The topsoil (001) was removed by machine to reveal a light orangey-brown subsoil (002) interpreted as an old agricultural soil. At the base of the trench the deposit was the natural drift geology (003) of orangey-brown sand and gravels with variable mottled brown, silty clay of the *Lowestoft Formation*, (BGS 176).

On inspection of the layers as revealed, no archaeology was located within the trench.

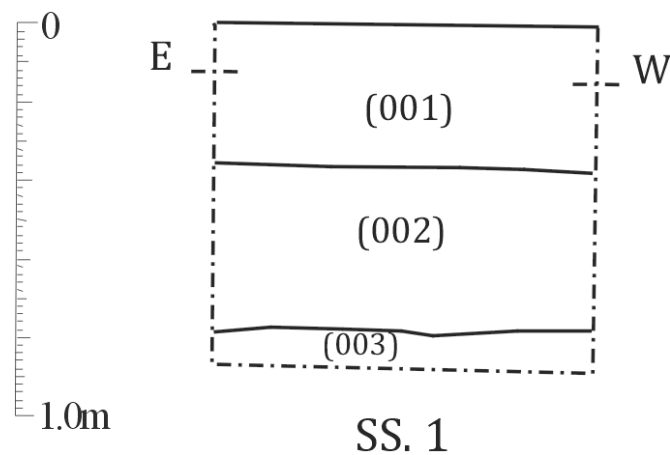


Figure 3. Trench Section at 1:20

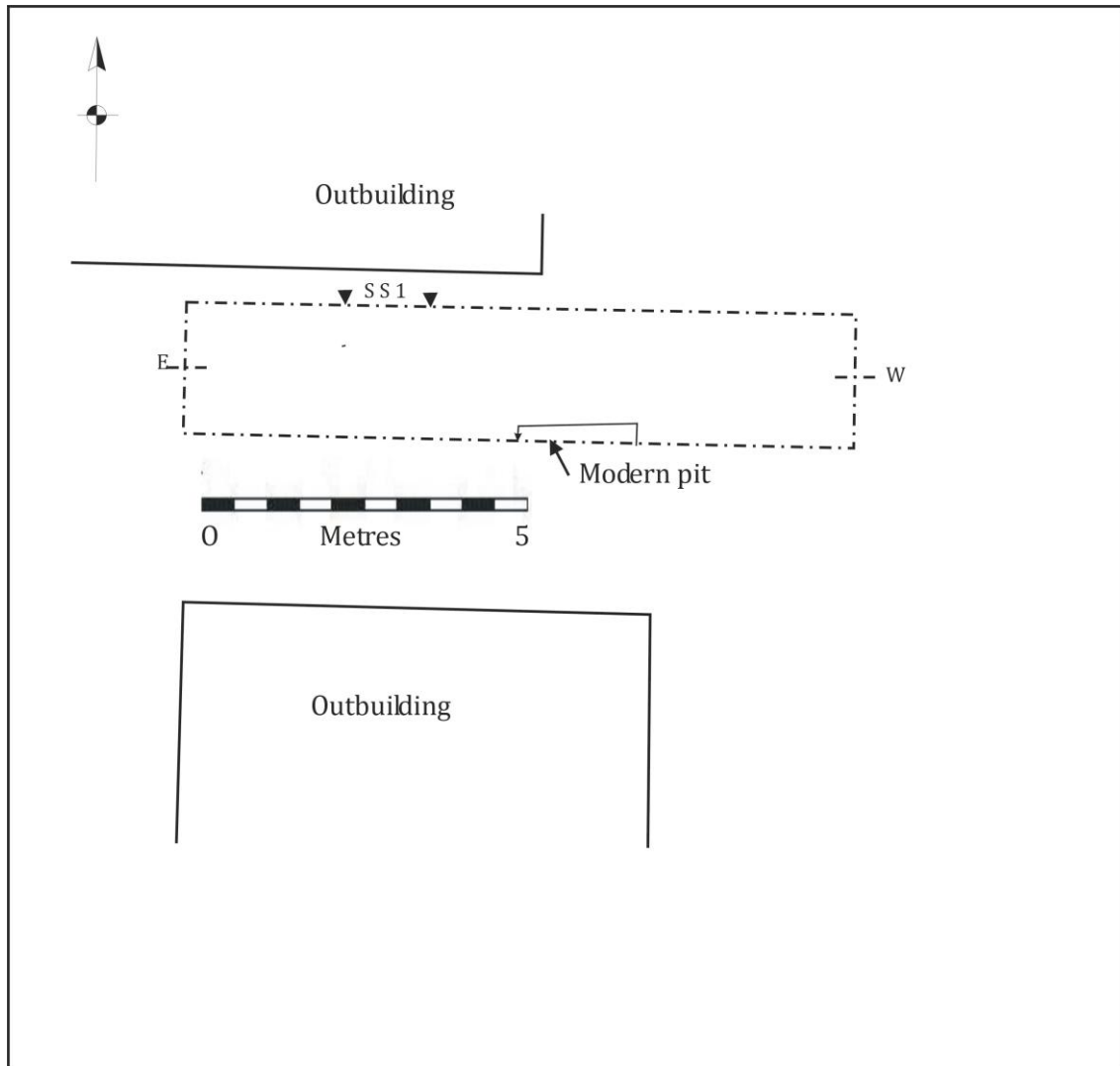


Figure 4. Plan of trench at 1:50

5. Interpretation and Discussion

The single evaluation trench confirmed that no archaeology was present at this location. This was surprising in view of its close proximity to the high street and being within the central historic core of the village of Wrentham. This evaluation, however has shown that no previous occupation is now known to have existed here, but that does not rule out that occupation evidence is not very close by. The subsoil (002) has also showed that this location was set aside for agriculture until building began in the post-medieval period.

6. Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in demonstrating that no archaeology was present within the area sampled and it is therefore unlikely that any archaeological features will be affected by the current development proposal.

7. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

8. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr N Harvey and Anglia Designs who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) AlfA (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Bibliography

British .Geological. Survey. 1990; sheet 176

Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

ONLINE REFERENCES

PastScapes <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excavation, general site view, from the east



Plate2. Sample Section



Plate 3. Deposit model



Plate 4. Trench view from the west



Plate 5. Trench view from the west

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November 2013

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Non-technical summary

This is a written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the erection of a new dwelling. It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Monk of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 24th October 2013.

The application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The development site is situated within the area defined as being the location of Saxon and medieval occupation within Wrentham (WRE 077). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area.

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief will be sought in standards for '*Field Archaeology in the East of England*,' (East Anglian Occasional papers 14, 2003). In addition, this brief has been compiled respecting the following standards: Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008; and Medlycott, M., 2011.

1 Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Reference: TM4991282842

1.1 **Geology:** The local geology is made up from glacio-fluvial sands and clay (BGS 176).

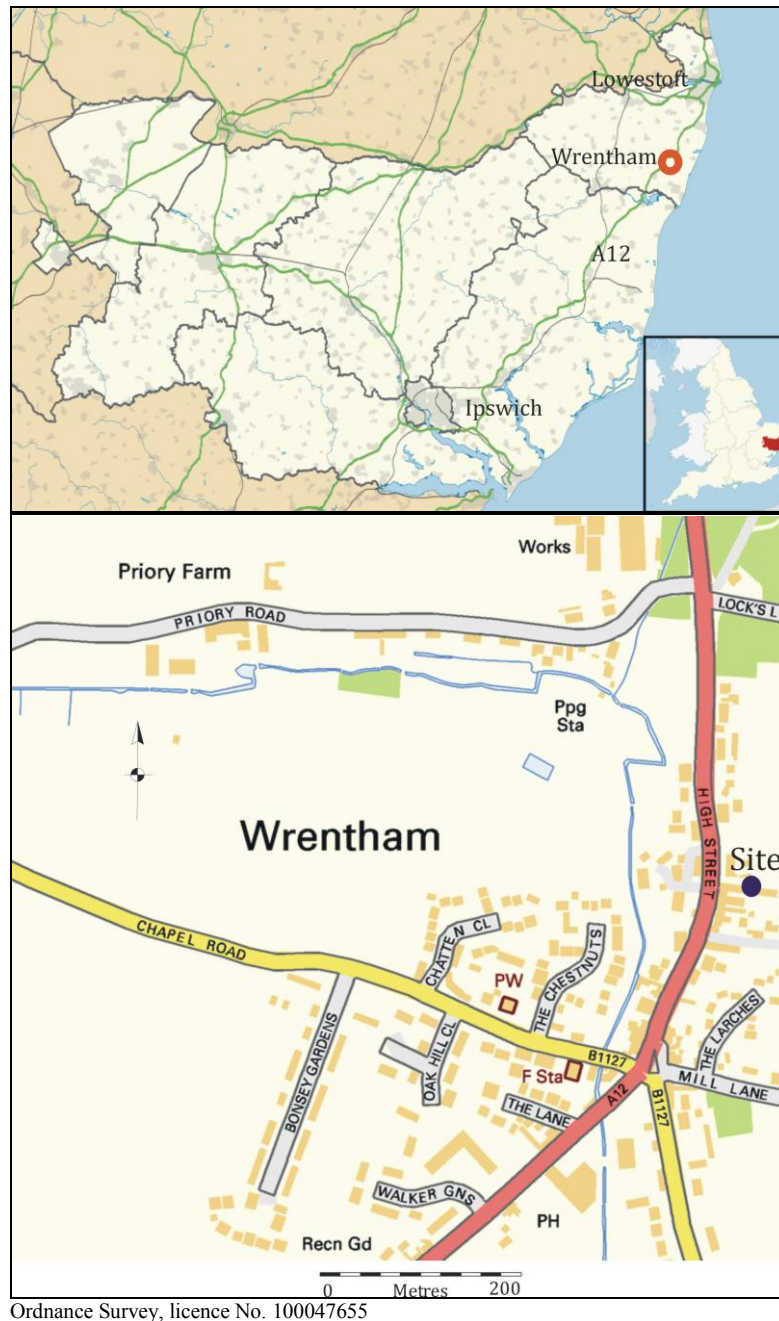


Figure 1. Location of the site in Wrentham

1.2 Wrentham is a large village established along the A12 trunk road from Ipswich to Great Yarmouth, at its junction with B1127.

2 Planning Background

The planning application DC/13/0603/FUL, was granted by Waveney District Council, for the erection of a single dwelling off Palmers Lane, High St Wrentham Suffolk (TM 3359 89580).

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, the condition states *"No development shall take place within any part of the application site until the applicant, or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority."*

Reason: To allow proper investigation and recording of the site, which is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.

The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Interventions

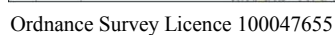
A watching brief on land off Chapel Road (WRE 018) revealed some post-medieval finds and a few medieval sherds including Late Saxon *Ipswich ware*.

Monitoring (WRE misc.) at the Wren Business Centre, Priory Road, Wrentham of groundworks revealed no archaeological features or finds (Everett, L., 2008).

An archaeological evaluation (WRE 025) at Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk, located post-medieval features at c 1km west of the village (Newman, J., 2013).

A trenched evaluation at Cedar Cycles, Tower Mills, Wrentham revealed two undated ditches (probably post-med) and part of the foundation of a tower mill (WRE 027) (M.Sommers, SCCAU, 2013).

In the past Wrentham has been called Wrancham, Wrantham, Wretham and Wrettingham. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book. In 1086 the whole of the lands of Wrentham were held by William de Warrens of Varennes, who was one of William the Conqueror's great knights who fought at the Battle of Hastings, 1066.



4

4. Methodology of Evaluation

4.1 This specification has been prepared incorporating information from, a desk-based assessment; data from the available sources from the Suffolk Records Office and the Historic Environment Office and consultation of the relevant planning policies to produce a baseline assessment.

4.2 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.

4.3 A risk assessment will be carried out in consultation with the site owner (Mr N Harvey), to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

4.4 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be carried out: to provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological find of significance, will be based upon result of the evaluation and will be subject to an additional specification.

4.5 This evaluation will 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. Also, to establish the potential of the survival of environmental evidence. Sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and orders of costs.

4.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP 2). Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive and report with an assessment of any potential archaeological or environmental evidence. Any further excavation required as mitigation will be the responsibility of SCCAS/CT to advise. Each stage will be subject of a brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage. The developer or DPAS will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, to enable the archaeological work to be monitored.

The Evaluation Trench

4.7 A single linear trench 10.00m long x 1.8m wide will be excavated to cover the area of the new development. The trench will be positioned to target the building footprint as per the trench design (fig.2) and will allow for spoiling and access by staff and visitors.

4.8 The Excavation will be by mechanised using a toothless 'ditching bucket'. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenching shown above and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins. The top soil will be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface.

4.9 All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil will be examined for any archaeological material.

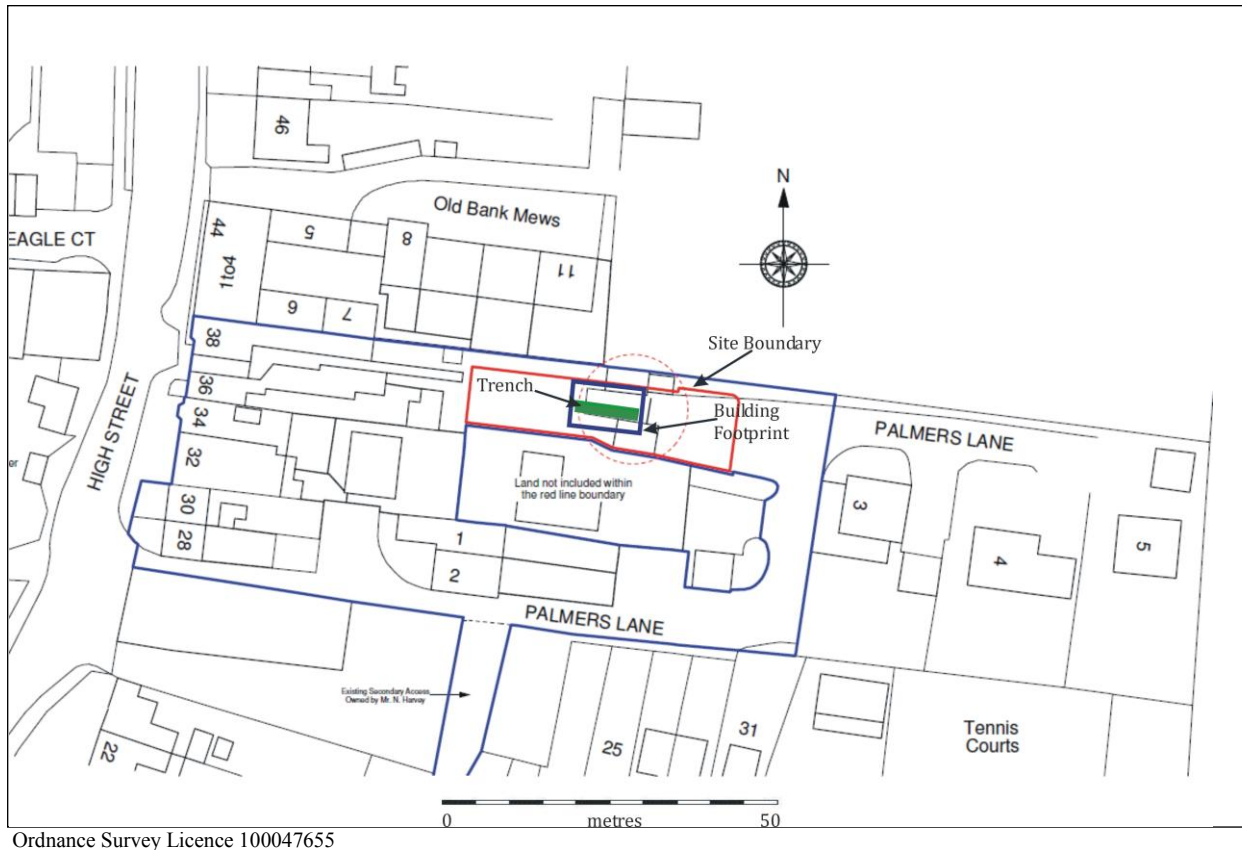


Figure 4. Plan of Trench location

4.10 The top of the first archaeological deposit will, if necessary, be initiated by machine, but further cleaning will be done by hand. The excavation of any archaeological deposits will be continued by hand unless it can be shown that there will be no loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist, taking into account the nature of the deposit.

4.11 As in all evaluation excavation work there is the need to cause the minimum of disturbance to the site so that significant archaeological features e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

4.12 For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min) will be excavated across their width.

4.13 For discrete features such as pits, 50% of their fill will be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

4.14 Sufficient excavation will be made to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. All archaeological features exposed will be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 or 1:20 on a plan. Any stratigraphic sequences encountered will be recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Any structures, for example, hearths, kilns and other significant finds will be excavated and recorded in plan and by single context recording where required.

In the event that no stratigraphic sequences are encountered, sections and features in plan will be hand cleaned and will be drawn to either 1:10 or 1:20 scale depending on the size, and details of any features and deposits will be fully recorded.

4.15 All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context.

4.16 All levels will relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.17 All contexts will be recorded using numbered context sheets containing descriptions and sketches of the deposits and finds that might be encountered.

4.18 Best practise will be employed to allow for the sampling of archaeological deposits. All archaeological contexts will, where possible, be sampled for the potential of the site, taking, at a minimum, 40 litre bulk samples (using sealable containers designed for the purpose) or 100% of smaller features. These containers, before leaving site, will be clearly marked by the site team showing from which context they were taken. Environmental samples will be sent to the relevant specialist for flotation and analysis resulting in the specialists report for inclusion into the final report. Where waterlogged 'organic' features are encountered, advice will be sought from a geoarchaeologist or environmental specialist, and if necessary, will be invited to the site to consider all options available. This should include the extraction of monolith samples, whether by the site team or the specialist. If rich or unusual features are encountered, further advice will be sought from the RSA before any attempt to remove them is made.

4.19 Should it be deemed necessary, the guide to sampling Archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L & Wiltshire., P.E.J., 1994). A guide to Sampling Archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) will be consulted. Copy held for viewing by SCCAS/CT. Advice will also be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional adviser for Archaeological science (East of England), should the need arise.

4.20 Any natural subsoil surface revealed will be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character

4.21 Metal detector searches of the site will be undertaken at all stages of the excavation, this will be undertaken by Mr D Payne or other staff given the task.

4.22 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

4.23 The data recording methods and conventions used will be consistent with, and approved by, the County HER

4.24 Proper respect will be accorded any disturbed human remains encountered. Possible human remains will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Any remains observed will be related to the relevant authorities. The client will make contingency for a Licence to disturb the remains, and DPAS will inform SCCA/CT before any removal takes place.

4.25 All work will be undertaken to Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (Molas) standards.

4.26 The project will be managed and undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) with extensive experience in undertaking archaeological evaluations. One further site assistant, with the relevant experience, will be appointed as deemed necessary.

4.27 The Post excavation work will be carried out in part by Dennis Payne along with the appropriate specialists that may be appointed for this project.

4.28 A photographic record will be compiled, comprising an overview of the site prior to work starting, as well as after completion of the work using black and white photographs, colour transparencies and high resolution digital images, and will be included with any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

4.29 Finds will be conserved where required.

4.30 All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive.

5 Aims and objectives of the project

5.1 To provide as much information about the archaeological resources within the proposed development site.

5.2 To comply with SCCAS/CT request for an archaeological evaluation as part of the planning process for the new development.

5.3 To obtain information about the archaeological resources within the development site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

5.4 To identify and establish the approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area together with its likely extent localized depth and quality of preservation.

5.5 To evaluate the likely impact of land uses in the past and the possible presence of colluvial/alluvial deposits.

5.6 Assess the condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

5.7 To preserve by recording, any evidence of the potential for survival of any environmental deposits of the area.

5.8 Research questions allied to this project will focus upon the known Saxon and early medieval settlement core for Wrentham, evidence for which, may be present at the current development site.

6 Health, Safety and Environment

6.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities will be carried out during the lifetime of the project.

6.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

6.3 Every care will be taken to minimise the environmental impact.

7 Back Filling & Reinstatement

Backfilling of trenches is included in the cost unless otherwise agreed with the client.

8 Ownership of Finds, Storage and Curation of Archive

All artefactual material recovered will be held in long term storage by the archaeological service Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to SCC to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all such artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to the Treasure Act (1996), separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.

9 Monitoring arrangements

9.1 Curatorial responsibility lies with Suffolk County Council Archaeology (Conservation Team). They are to be notified of each stage of work. They will be notified in advance of the date of works on the site (minimum of five days).

9.2 Access is required to the site at all reasonable times to allow for monitoring by SCCA/CT or their agents and ARCHAEO SERV -DPAS.

9.3 Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Dennis Payne.

10 Archive preparation and deposition

The archive will be presented to the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Department, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief. This will respect the ``SCCAS Archive guidelines, 2010`` for the county store, being the intended depository.

11 Reporting procedures

11.1 The report will be completed within three months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities. A summary report will be produced with the final report. A draft of the report will be submitted to Rachael Monk (SCCAS/CT) for approval.

11.2 The report will reflect the aims of the WSI by giving an objective account of the archaeological evidence, clearly distinguished from its interpretation.

11.2A A discussion and interpretation of the archaeological evidence including environmental and palaeoenvironmental recovered from palaeosoils and cut features and its conclusions will include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3&8, 1997 and 2000) and Medlycott, M., 2011.

11.3 An opinion may be given within the report for further evaluation or excavation work based upon the findings. A mitigation strategy will be written to how best preserve any archaeological deposits or finds encountered.

11.4 Reports on specific areas, for example, ceramic or bone evidence will be included within the report to allow for a fully informed interpretation of any archaeology encountered. Sufficient detail will be placed upon the specialists findings to permit a detailed of assessment of the finds, including tabulation of data by context, including non-technical summaries.

11.5 One copy will be sent to the client.

One copy will be sent to Suffolk County Council, Archaeology Conservation team.

One copy will be sent to the Mid Suffolk District Council Conservation officer.

In addition a summary report will be submitted into the OASIS project.

A CD Rom will be submitted of the report.

12 Publication and dissemination

The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the specification written by Rachel Monk of the Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

13 Other factors (including contingency)

13.1 Contingency will be made for operational delays including weather.

13.2 Contingency will be expected of the client for significant archaeology discovered as a result of the evaluation.

13.3 Contingency will be expected of the client for any specialist report that the relevant authority deems appropriate that cannot satisfactorily be produced by Dennis Payne or his agents.

13.4 Contingency will be expected of the client in the event that human remains are discovered in the course of the trench excavations.

14 Resources

The evaluation will be undertaken by Dennis Payne and additional staff as necessary using standard archaeological field techniques.

Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the trench excavations.

15 Insurance statement

Public indemnity of £1,000,000 with Towergate Insurance is in place for this project.

16 Copyright

Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

17 Ownership

17.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the brief be donated with the archive.

17.2 All material deemed Treasure Trove will be subject to the investigations of the Coroner.

Bibliography

British Geological Society, sheet 176, 1990

Appendix 1: Consultant specialists

Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Archaeoserv-DPAS and where required, specialist analysis and advice from:-

Barnett, Dr. Sarah	Luminescence Dating
Biddle, Justine	Animal Bones
Bishop, Barry	Lithics
Boreham, Steve	Pollen and soils (Geoarchaeologist Holly, Duncan
Cowgill, Jane	Slag /metal working residues
Crummy, Nina	Roman Metalwork
Doig, T	Drainpipes, underground structures, social history
Duhig Corrinne	Human bones
Fletcher, Carol	Medieval ceramics
Fosberry Rachel	Environmental
French, Dr. C.A.I	Soil micromorphology
Goffin, Richenda	Post Roman Pottery
Murphy, Peter	Environmental advice
Percival, Sarah	Prehistoric pottery
Precious, B	Roman Ceramics
Seeley, Paul	Iron Age pottery
Spoerry, Paul	Medieval ceramics
Atkins, Robert	Medieval-post-medieval bricks

