SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Metrological Tower, cable installation Landguard Point

Felixstowe, Suffolk

Client:
Harwich Haven Authority

Date:
September 2015

FEX 330
Archaeological Monitoring Report
SACIC Report No. 2015/068
Author: M. Sommers
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Metrological Tower, cable installation Landguard Point, Felixstowe

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Report Date: September 2015

HER Information

Site Code (event no.)	**FEX 330 (ESF23241)**
Site Name:	**Metrological Tower, Landguard Point, Felixstowe**
Planning Application Nos:	**n/a**
Dates of Fieldwork:	**11th to 16th September 2015**
Grid Reference:	**TM 2818 3153**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolka1-223980**
Curatorial Officer:	**Dr. Abby Antrobus**
Project Officer:	**M. Sommers**
Client/Funding Body:	**Harwich Haven Authority**

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

Prepared By: M. Sommers
Date: 21st September 2015

Approved By:
Position:
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of works associated with the installation of underground cables between the radar tower and a metrological tower at Landguard Point, Felixstowe, was undertaken during September 2015. A total of *c.*125m of trench was excavated, mostly by machine, but no significant artefacts, features or deposits were encountered. (Mark Sommers, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for Harwich Haven Authority).

1. Introduction

As part of an upgrade to a metrological tower located on Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk, it was necessary to install a pair of cable ducts. The work entailed the excavation of *c.*125m of trench within the designated area of a Scheduled Monument (List Entry Number: 1018969), which encompasses the 18th century Landguard Fort and a large part of the adjacent Landguard Common

To undertake the work Scheduled Monument consent was granted with a condition that archaeological monitoring of the works be undertaken. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief was produced by Dr Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The archaeological monitoring was carried out during September 2015 by Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company (SACIC) who were commissioned by the Harwich Haven Authority.

The National Grid Reference (NGR) for the approximate centre of the works area is TM 2818 3153. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

2. Geology and topography

The underlying geology in this area consists of the Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group, which comprises clay, silt and sand. It is overlain by Marine Beach Deposits of relatively recently deposited sand and gravel and areas of beach shingle (British Geological Survey website).

The local topography is generally flat, although with slight undulations, that gently slopes down to the low water mark to the southeast. To the west of the site the coastline is protected by concrete sea defences.

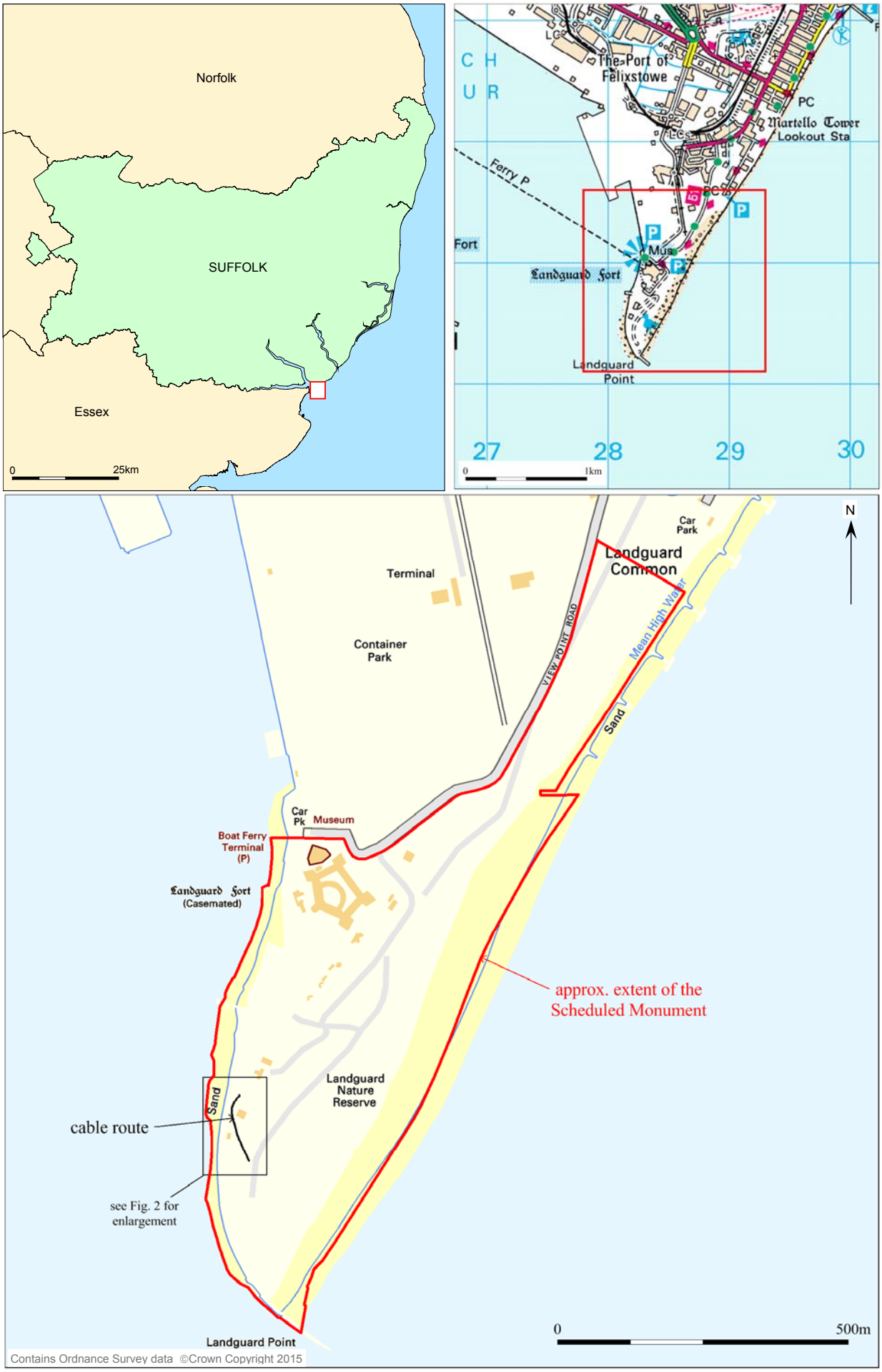

Figure 1. Location map

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the Landguard Nature Reserve and in an area designated as a Scheduled Monument (no. 1018969; old SAM no. 21407). The scheduled area consists of an area of numerous forts, gun emplacements and other structures relating to the defence of the harbour at Harwich and Felixstowe. The most obvious of these defences is Landguard Fort, a substantial brick-built structure that overlooks the entrance to Harwich Haven. The earliest known works in this area consisted of a small gun battery built during the reign of Henry VIII, the site of which has now been lost to coastal erosion. The present fort was built in 1745 and incorporated part of an earlier battery of 1716. It also partially overlies an earlier fort of 1626 which was the site of an unsuccessful attack by the Dutch in 1667. The fort was extensively remodelled during the 1870s but with the development of long range naval gunnery it was found to be wanting as the majority of its guns faced across the harbour entrance and were unable to engage ships at sea. Consequently two additional gun batteries were added in the 1880s and 1890s (The Left and Right Batteries). Two further emplacements for large guns were added to bolster defences during World War II and the site remained in military use until the 1950s.

Landguard Common has long been an area of military activity and a number of other gun batteries, defensive earthworks and redoubts have been built on the peninsular to provide further lines of defence for the fort. In addition to the fort numerous other military structures such as barracks, searchlight emplacements, experimental and practice batteries, command posts, etc. have been built in the area. This development has been carried out throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and continued up to 1940s.

Two defensive structures lie close to the route of the cable duct, a World War II pillbox and the minefield control station building (plate 1), also known as an Extended Defence Officer (EXDO) post, which appears to have been constructed on the site of an earlier building. Nearby are the remains of a Coastal Artillery Searchlight (CASL) and a rectangular structure of which only the concrete floor remains. The remains of an associated concrete track or roadway runs around the EXDO post before terminating although it probably continued further as an unsurfaced track.

4. Methodology

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the excavated trench whilst the work was underway, in order to identify and record any significant archaeological features and/or deposits that may be exposed. Scaled plans and sections would have been drawn had any significant remains been exposed, but in the event the prime method of recording was through the use of digital photography.

5. Results

The site was visited on the 11th, 14th, 15th and 16th September 2015 to monitor the works that were then underway.

The excavated trench ran from the Metrological Tower (NGR TM 28217 31451) to the radar tower (NGR TM 28199 31566), a distance of just under 125m, and was dug using a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket (plate 2). The trench measured 0.6m in width and was cut no deeper than 0.6m. The trench was excavated in lengths of just over 6m, which corresponded to the length of the plastic ducts being used. Once a section was excavated two parallel lengths of duct were inserted and the trench then backfilled and compacted using a small vibrating packer.

The soil profile exposed by the excavated trench comprised a dark thin topsoil with turf which overlay a homogenous deposit of slightly ‘dirty’ yellow sand with occasional lenses of gravel and shingle (plate 3). The trench passed over a linear earthwork running up to the site of the ruined CASL but no obvious evidence relating to its construction was noted in the exposed soil profile. The only feature encountered was a different modern cable in a service trench.

6. Finds

Only one artefact of any significance was encountered during the excavation of the trench. It comprised a length of heavily corroded iron bar, 0.5m in length and *c.*20mm in diameter and threaded at one end (plate 4). It was not retained and was returned to the trench upon backfilling. Other artefacts, generally small, heavily corroded, and unidentifiable iron fittings were occasionally noted but these were also returned to the trench upon backfilling.

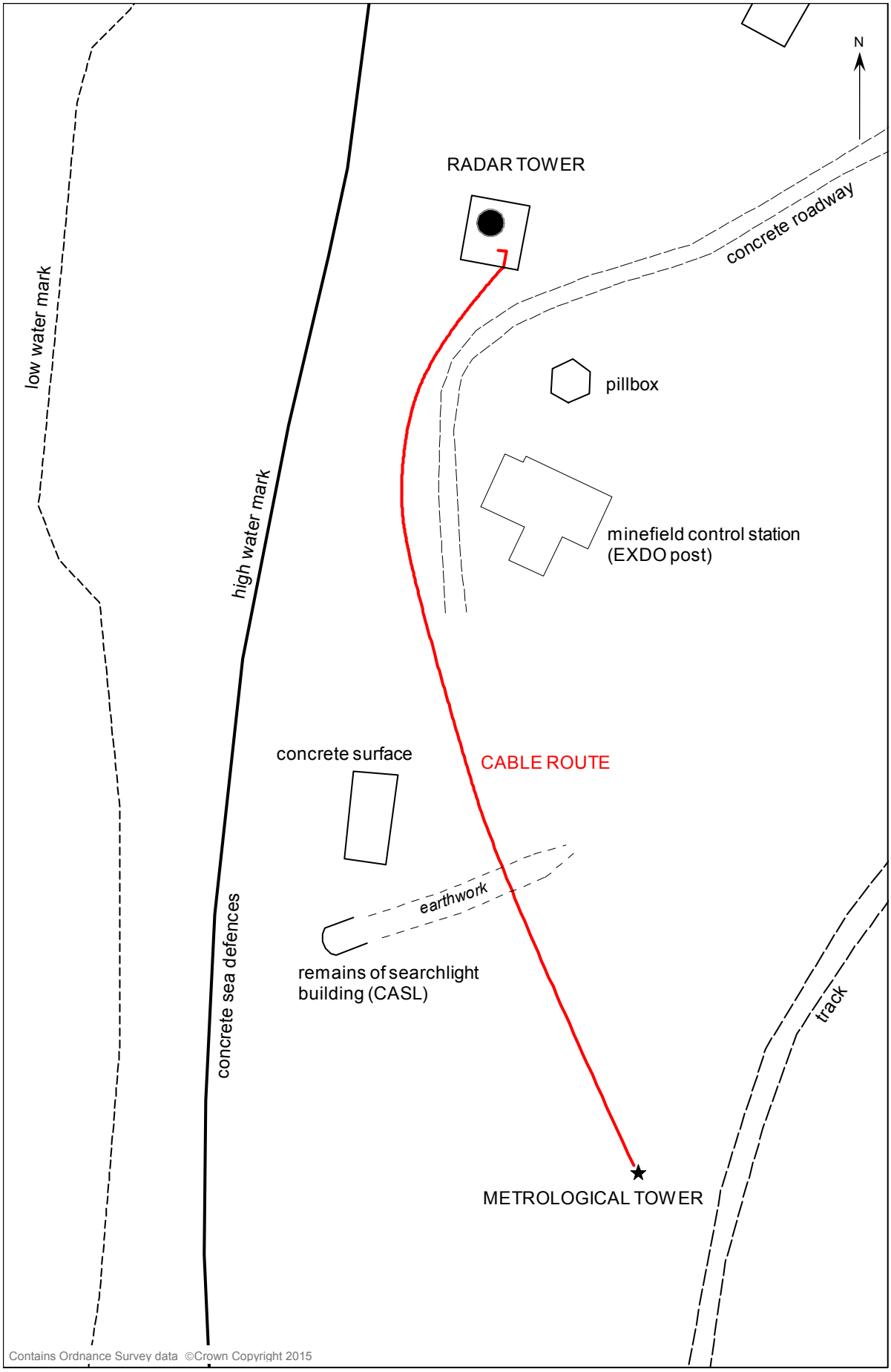

Figure 2. Route of monitored trench

7. Discussion

No significant archaeological evidence was noted during the monitoring of the cable duct trench. Only what was presumably a naturally accrued topsoil with turf was seen overlying the sand and shingle. Other than a modern electrical cable in a narrow service trench, no obvious features of any period were identified.

8. Archive deposition

The site archive will be sent to the County Historical Environment Record, under the HER reference, FEX 330. A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolka1-223980.

9. Bibliography

Kent, P. 1988 *Fortifications of East Anglia,* Lavenham

10. Plates

Plate 1. Minefield control station/EXDO post, camera facing south.
The backfilled trench runs across in the foreground

Plate 2. General view of works underway, camera facing north

Plate 3. Soil profile as revealed in the excavated trench, camera facing north

Plate 4. Iron bar with threaded end (red section of scale = 0.5m)

Appendix 1. Brief

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

MET TOWER, LANDGUARD POINT, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	English Heritage
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	To be confirmed
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 281 315
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	120m cable route trenching
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Senior Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel: 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	24 July 2015

Archaeological Background

1.1 The cable route will be excavated on Landguard Point, in an area where there is particular potential for archaeological remains relating to World War 2 defences.

1.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of cable trenching, 0.6m wide and deep. The proposed works would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

Planning Background

2.1 Scheduled Monument Consent will be granted with a condition relating to a programme of archaeological, involving supervision of groundworks, recording and controlled excavation where necessary.

2.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement to English Heritage and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

2.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

2.4 The WSI is not a sufficient basis for the full discharge of the condition relating to archaeological investigation, which will require the full implementation of the scheme, including fieldwork and reporting.

2.5 The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

3.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that it will be adequate for the groundworks undertaken by the building contractor to be continuously monitored and recorded by a trained archaeologist.

3.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits or features which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

3.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

4.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.

5.3 It is usual for the landowner to deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON).

5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). Reporting should be commensurate with results. When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: location (grid ref., parish, address), planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.

5.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.

5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).

5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded.

5.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual

'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.

5.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-223980

Project details

Project name	Met. Tower, Landguard Point, Suffolk
Short description of the project	monitoring of trench excavated for the installation of electrical cables did not identify any significant archaeological remains or artefacts.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2015 End: 21-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FEX330 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Coastland 3 - Above high water
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'"Salvage Record"'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FELIXSTOWE Metrological Tower, Landguard Point
Study area	70 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 28199 31566 51.935151221627 1.320049996076 51 56 06 N 001 19 12 E Line
Site coordinates	TM 28217 31451 51.934111487361 1.320235120543 51 56 02 N 001 19 12 E Line

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC

Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID	FEX330
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID	FEX330
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Report"

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Metrological Tower cable installation, Landguard Point
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sommers, M.
Other bibliographic details	SACIC Report No. 2015/068
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Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Unit 5 | Plot 11 | Maitland Road | Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market | Suffolk | IP6 8NZ
Rhodri.Gardner@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk

01449 900120
www.suffolkarchaeology.co.uk