

# **Land at 84 Barton Road, Thurston, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 2950/10**

**HER Ref: THS 019**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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(May 2011)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land at 84 Barton Road, Thurston, Suffolk, IP31 3PG

Client: Valedene Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2950/10

Development: Erection of four bungalows & two car-ports

Date of fieldwork: 27 April, 2011

HER Ref: THS 019

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-100593

Grid ref: TL 9146 6575

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*Summary: Thurston, land at 84 Barton Road (THS 019, TL 9146 6575) evaluation trenching did not reveal any features or significant finds on a small residential development located close to the line of a Roman road route (John Newman Archaeological Services for Valedene Ltd).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Valedene Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on the plot of land at 84 Barton Road, Thurston (see Fig. 1) that is to be developed as required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 2950/10. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification (see Appendix II) set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition. This development concerns the erection of four bungalows and two car-ports on the plot of land formerly occupied by 84 Barton Road, Thurston.

1.2 Thurston parish is some 6km east of Bury St Edmunds in central Suffolk with a formerly scattered settlement pattern now largely dominated by two areas of modern development to the north of the railway line that bisects it on an east-west alignment. The site at 84 Barton Road is located towards the western side of the parish, 1500m west of the parish church and c900m south-east of Barton Mere and at 44m OD on generally flat ground with a slight south-westerly aspect. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 shows this area as Thurston Heath, a largely open area with few dwellings depicted and in all probability used mainly for grazing until the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the light, sandy loam soils of the Swaffham Prior series 511E lie over natural chalk giving little soil moisture retention for any arable land use before the modern installation of irrigation systems. The development area, which covers an area of c1,300m<sup>2</sup>, previously contained a bungalow of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date within a large garden. This bungalow was demolished some time ago and the vegetation across the site had been scraped away prior to the start of the evaluation leaving bare ground which under the recent dry conditions had a very dusty and loose surface.

1.3 Archaeological interest in the development area is due to its location just to the east of the site where significant evidence for Neolithic period activity was recorded at Marley Close (HER- THS 011, see Fig. 2). In addition the proposed development area at 84 Barton Road lies on, or very close to the line of a Roman road route (HER- THS 002, Margary 33a). A Roman period road line that can be traced on its north-east/south-west alignment from the known small Roman town at Ixworth/Pakenham to a point c500m to the north of the PDA before re-appearing as the line of a parish boundary to the south-west (see Fig. 1) heading towards another small Roman town at Long Melford.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area at 84 Barton Road was trenched to a previously agreed plan so that each of the four bungalow footprints would be sampled in addition to one of the car-ports and with the aim of testing the site as a whole for any evidence of a north-east/south-west orientated Roman road line (see Fig. 2). The only, minor, change to the agreed trenching plan relates to the proposed bungalow footprint in the south-western quarter of the site where the existence of a concrete drive necessitated a re-orientation of the planned L shaped trench. In total 36m of trench at a width of 1.8m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying naturally occurring orange sand with flints fluvioglacial deposit using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket giving a sample of 64.8m<sup>2</sup>, or some 5%, of the development area. The exposed sand and gravel surface was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas

were hand cleaned. The upcast spoil from the trenches was examined visually and by an experienced detector user. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation on a warm, dry day. The trenches were recorded in relation to existing mapped details. A full photographic record in digital format was taken of the trenching works (see Appendix I).

### 3. Results

3.1 By trench the evaluation results can be summarised as follows (see Fig. 2 & Appendix I- Images):

Trench 1: south-west/north-east orientated and 9m long across the proposed bungalow footprint in the north-western quarter of the plot, removal of 300mm of mid brown sandy topsoil revealed the naturally occurring orange sand with flints at the site. No archaeological features were revealed and the only finds were fragments of modern debris related to the bungalow that previously stood nearby.

Trench 2: south-west/north-east orientated and 9m long across the proposed bungalow footprint in the north-eastern quarter of the plot, removal of 250mm of mid brown sandy topsoil revealed the naturally occurring orange sand with flints at the site. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Trench 3: south-east/north-west orientated and 5m long across the proposed bungalow footprint in the south-eastern quarter of the plot, removal of 250mm of mid brown sandy topsoil revealed the naturally occurring orange sand with flints at the site. No archaeological features or finds were revealed though regularly spaced, parallel cultivation marks could be seen at the base of the topsoil. These cultivation marks were 200mm apart and contained small fragments of tile or brick of recent date; their alignment was north-west/south-east and making them parallel with the Barton Road to the west.

Trench 4: south-west/north-east orientated and 4m long across the proposed carport footprint close to the mid-point on the southern boundary of the plot, removal of 250mm of mid brown sandy topsoil revealed the naturally occurring orange sand with flints at the site. No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Cultivation marks similar in character and alignment to those seen in Trench 3 above were also noted at the base of the topsoil in this trench.

Trench 5: an L shaped trench around the edges of an existing concrete drive over the area of the proposed bungalow in the south-eastern quarter of the plot. The longer south-east/north-west orientated arm was 6m long with the shorter, south-west/north-east arm being 3m in length, removal of 300mm of mid brown sandy topsoil revealed the naturally occurring orange sand with flints at the site which in this area was mixed with degraded chalk. The topsoil contained debris from the demolished bungalow, no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

### 4. Conclusion

4.1 The lack of any archaeological features or significant finds from a 5% sample of the proposed development area indicates that this site, though close to a recorded Neolithic site and the line of a Roman road, does not directly impinge on deposits of archaeological importance. The cultivation marks noted in trenches 3 and 4 being

parallel to the nearby Barton Road and containing small fragments of recent brick or tile can be interpreted as evidence of what was the first major arable use of the Thurston Heath area using modern fertilisers in the post World War II period and prior to construction of the bungalows, as once stood on this site, in the mid/late 20<sup>th</sup> century. From an examination of the modern OS map (see Fig. 1) it seems likely that the anticipated Roman road route that crosses this area is probably a little to the south of 84 Barton Road.

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations be carried out on the proposed development site to at 84 Barton Road, Thurston.

***Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. THS 019.***

***Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.***

***(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to James Armes for the metal detector search and to Colin Arnold and his machine operator for their close cooperation on site).***

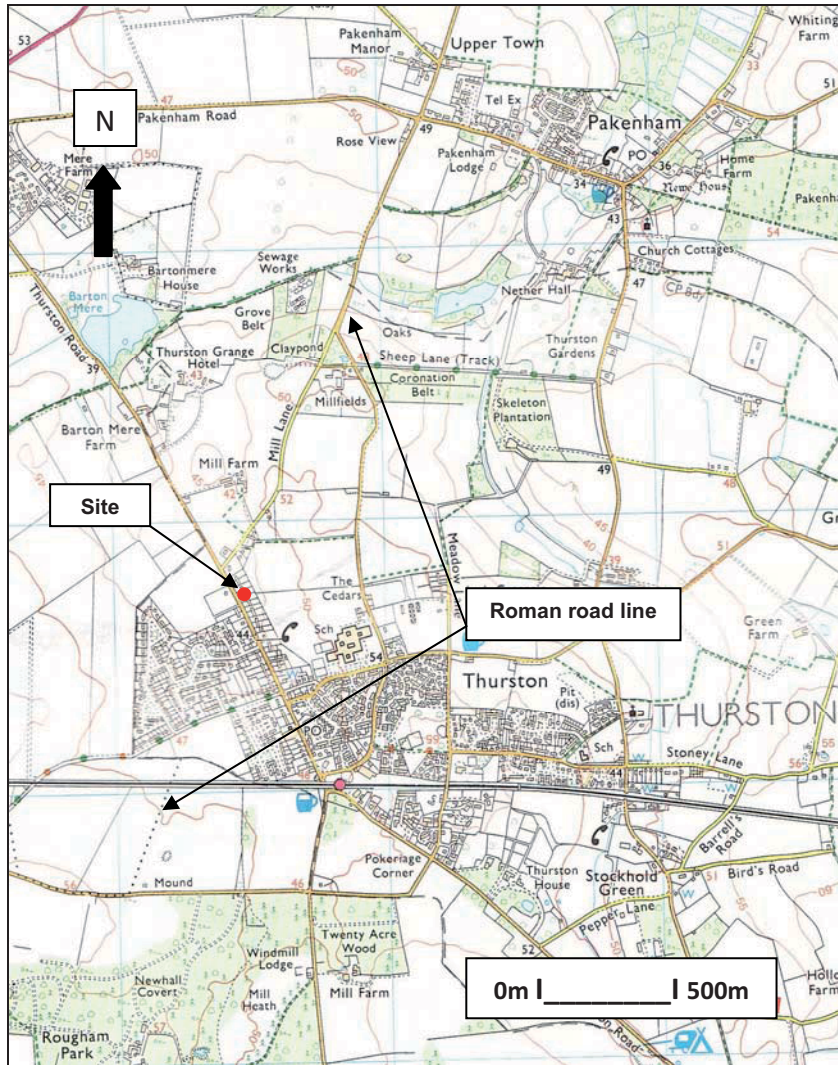


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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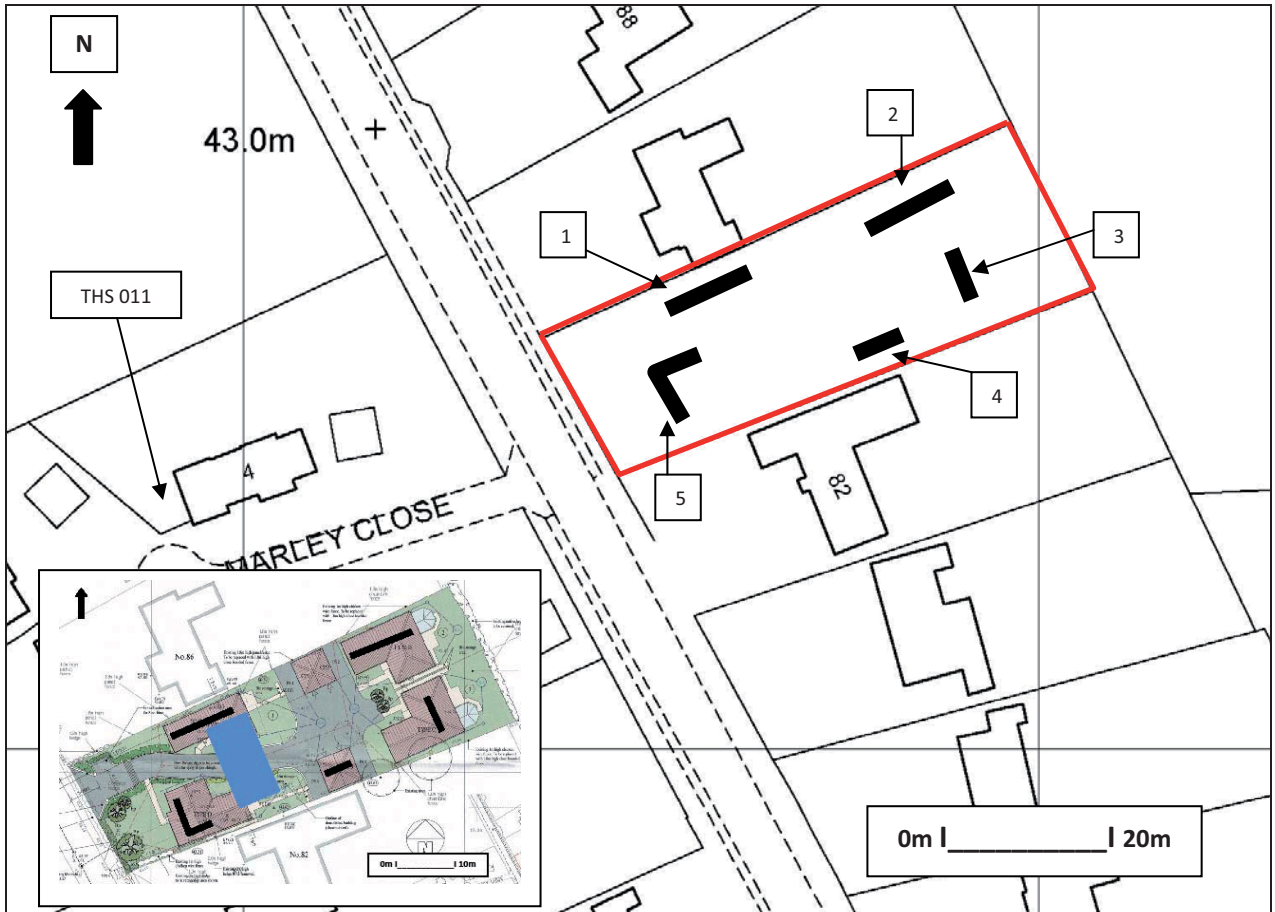


Fig. 2: Development area with location of trial trenches (inset proposed development layout)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved Licence No. 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from east

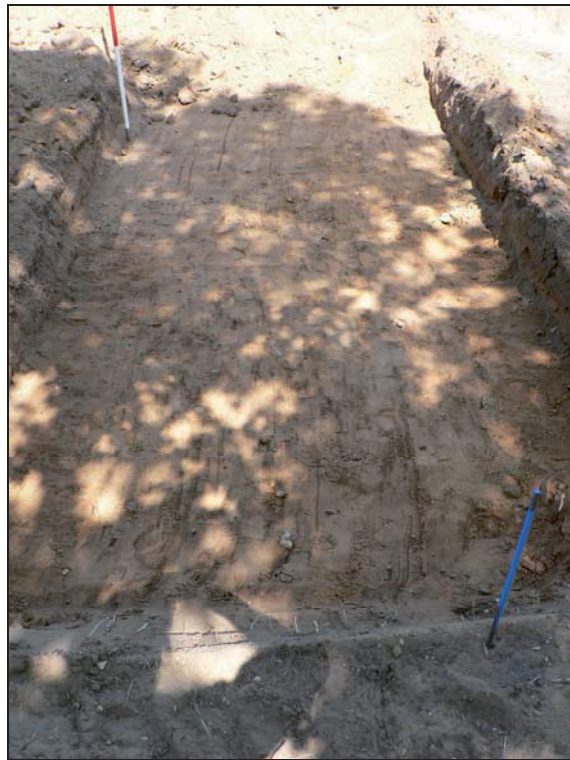


Trench 1 from west





Trench 2 from west



Trench 3 from south



Trench 4 from east



Trench 5 from south

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
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## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

84 Barton Road, Thurston (2950/10)

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.*

### **1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council (2950/10) for residential development (replacing one former building) at 84 Barton Road, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3PG (TL 914 657). Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The area of the proposed residential development measures c.0.13 ha. in size, and lies on the east side of Barton Road. It is situated on loam soils (Swaffham Prior series, 511e) over chalk and chalky drift (but close to deep sandy soils of Worlington series) and it is on high ground at just below 45m AOD.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Archaeological investigation of an area c.50 west revealed well-preserved Neolithic deposits (THS 011) of unknown extent and there is a Roman road route shown as passing through the development area although the precise location has not been confirmed (THS 002); 1<sup>st</sup> century finds were also discovered around 350m to the south of the development area. There is high potential for significant archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 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 finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.**
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Mid Suffolk District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### **3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the development site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches must be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; 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. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling

archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should 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.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit should be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

#### **4. General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.
- 5.13 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.14 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear

statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.15 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.16 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within three months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez, Archaeological Officer

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Date: 17 March 2011

Reference: 2011-03-17\_ArchSpecEval\_84BartonRd\_JP.doc

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**