Land at Orchard Side, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh, Suffolk

Planning application: C/11/2261

HER Ref: GRU 041

Archaeological Evaluation Report

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(February 2012)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Land at Orchard Side, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh, Suffolk IP13 6UB

Client: Michael Howard Homes

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/2261

Development: Erection of two dwellings following demolition of existing bungalow

Date of fieldwork: 26 January 2012

HER Ref: GRU 041

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-118600

Grid ref: TM 2242 5086

Contents

Summary: Grundisburgh, Orchard Side, Meeting Lane (GRU 041, TM2242 5086) evaluation trenching at the site, some 200m south of the parish church, of a small residential development did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Michael Howard Homes).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Michael Howard Homes commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small residential development on land at Orchard Side, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application C/11/2261, set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the 0.20ha area concerned. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Grundisburgh is located some 4 miles north-west of Woodbridge in south-east Suffolk with the modern village being a moderately large rural settlement close to the northern edge of the parish. The historic core to the village clusters round the parish church and the crossing point of a small stream that runs into the east Suffolk River Lark some 200m north of the proposed development site. Meeting Lane is shown on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 though no buildings were present along its length at that date; similarly no structures are shown along the lane on the parish tithe map of 1842 or the first edition 6in. OS map of 1880 (see Appendix III). The site lies at c30m OD with the ground dropping away gently from south to north; soils are mixed in the area as the parish is on the boundary between the heavy clays of the Till deposits of central Suffolk to the north west and the lighter sands and gravels to the east. Within the village of Grundisburgh the sands and gravels are exposed close to the stream noted above with heavier clay deposits being present as the ground rises to the north and south. Archaeological interest in this development site is generated partly by its location towards the edge of the historic village, where mid/late Saxon and medieval settlement activity is recorded near the church and to the north-west (HER GRU 025 & 029) and partly by Roman period activity (HER GRU 003) to the south (see Fig. 1)..

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1.80m flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. Prior to the evaluation the bungalow at the site had been demolished to ground level though all of the trenches were placed outside this footprint in soft ground. Three 1.80m trenches were opened with their total length coming to the specified length of 57m giving the 5% sample by area of 102.6m^2 for the site.

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trenches, as outlined in the table below, varied between a Till type clay with flints on the western side of the site to very silty sand on the southern side and to a very silty, almost 'loess/brickearth' type deposit in the north eastern quarter. The upcast spoil from the trenches was examined visually and detected for any finds as the work progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the

evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as very little of archaeological interest was revealed:

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological /natural features
1	NE/SW & NW/SE	18m & 9m	300/350	400mm (SE arm) to 250mm (NW arm)	Pale yellowish brown very silty (almost 'loess or brickearth) deposit with narrow bands of degraded chalk fragments	_
2	NE/SW	12	_	300	Pale grey brown quite silty sand with occasional bands of sand with small flints & chalk frags	_
3	NW/SE	18	250	250	Pale orangish brown clay with small flints & chalk frags	19/E20th century ceramic land drain along western edge

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 With no archaeological features being revealed, save a recent field drain, the main point of interest was the variation in the naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits across the site. While Till type clay with flints was anticipated the fine, silty deposits in Trench 1 were a surprise for this area as was the recognition of bands of degraded chalk.

3.3 Throughout the evaluation very few stray finds were noted in the upcast spoil with the few seen being modern or occasional small Post medieval brick/tile fragments.

4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results with regard to past activity at this site it can only be concluded that it was peripheral to the main areas of settlement in the village to the north and away from the main focus of any Roman period site to the south. In all likelihood the area of this site has only been in use as agricultural land or orchard until relatively recently as was the case at the time of the tithe map and early Ordnance Survey mapping of the area.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site at Orchard Side, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. GRU 041.

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 John from Michael Howard Homes for his skilful machine operation)**

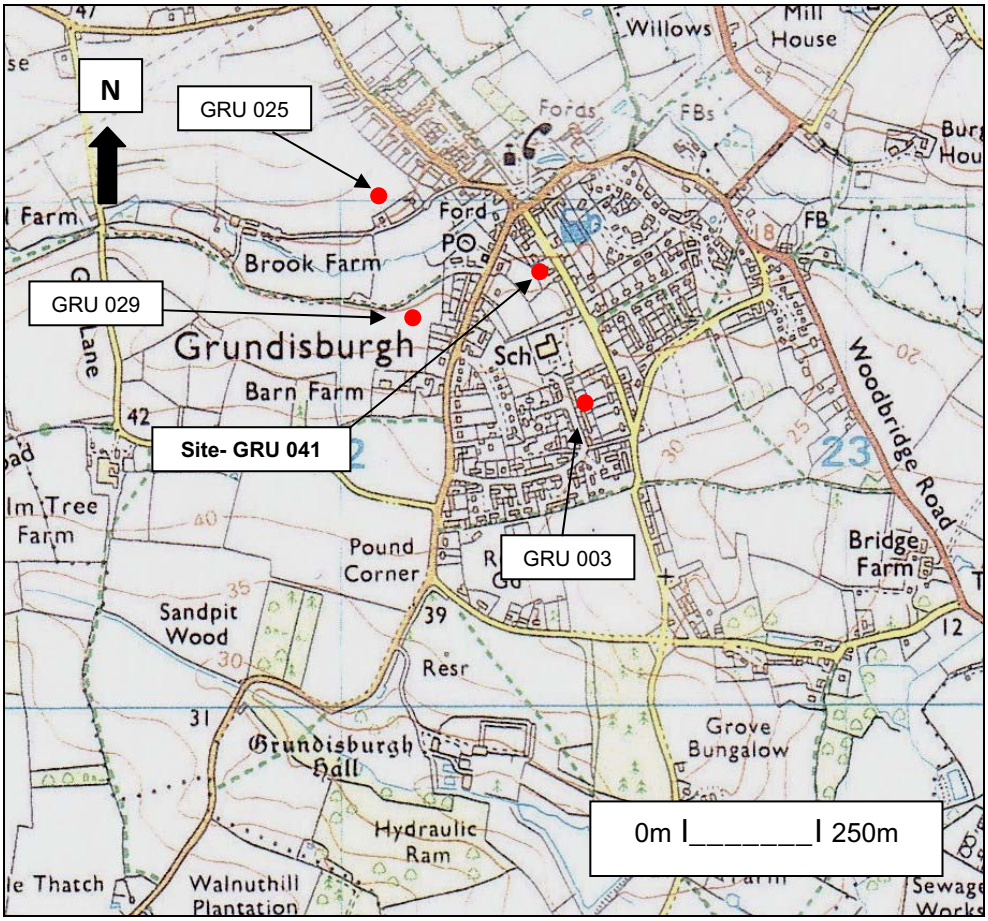

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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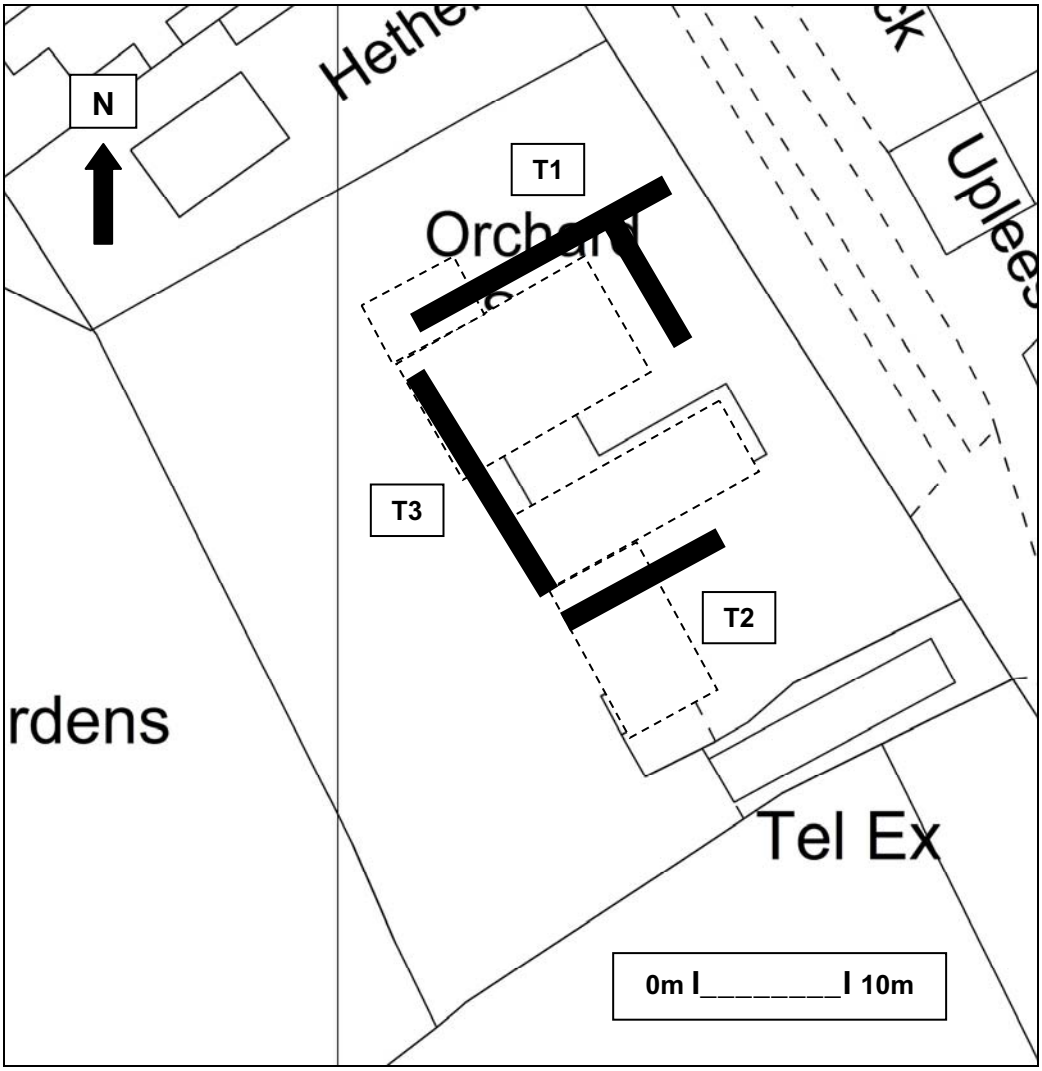


Fig. 2: Location of trenches (dashed outlines- proposed house footprints)

Appendix I- Images

General view from south with trench 3 in foreground & church in background

North-south arm of trench 1 from south

East-west arm of trench 1 from west

Trench 2 from west

Trench 3 from south

Orchardside, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details

Name: Orchardside, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh, Suffolk, IP13 6UB

Client: Michael Howard Homes Ltd

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/2261

Proposed development: Demolition of existing bungalow & redevelopment of site to provide two houses, cart lodge/store, parking & landscaping

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief: 2011_10_13_SCCAS_Evaluation_Orchardside

Grid ref: TM 224 508

Current land use & area: Bungalow & garden, c0.20ha

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Michael Howard Homes Ltd have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application C/11/2261 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of two houses with associated cart lodge/store, parking and landscaping of within the plot of land currently containing Orchardside, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh following the demolition of the existing bungalow. The evaluation trenching will be carried out before the demolition causes any ground disturbance.

1.2 The evaluation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003),* locally in *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.2 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Grundisburgh is located some 4 miles north-west of Woodbridge in south-east Suffolk with the modern village being a moderately large rural settlement close to the northern edge of the parish. The historic core to the village clusters round the parish church and the crossing point of a small stream that runs into the east Suffolk River Lark some 200m north of the proposed development site (PDS). Meeting Lane is shown on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 though no buildings were present along its length at that date. The PDS lies at c30m OD with the ground dropping away gently from south to north; soils are mixed in the area as the parish is on the boundary between the heavy clays of the Till deposits of central Suffolk and the lighter sands and gravels to the east. At Grundisburgh the sands and gravels are exposed close to the stream noted above with heavier clay deposits being present as the ground rises to the north and south.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant specification- 'This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment

Record (HER). It is located on the edge of the historic settlement core of Grundisburgh, and in proximity to finds of Mid-Late Saxon and Roman date (HER refs GRU 003, GRU 025 and GRU 029). There is high potential to encounter important heritage assets of archaeological significance at this location.'

3.2 The presence of Roman period activity close to the PDS is suggested by the find of a coin of that date (HER GRU 003) some 180m to the south. The Mid-Late Saxon and later archaeological evidence from Grundisburgh is more definite with pottery scatters having been identified (HER GRU 025 & 029) close to the church and on the north-western fringe of the village. In addition archaeological excavation recorded evidence for a structure of Mid-Late Saxon date during the redevelopment of The Old School immediately to the west of the church. These findings are of particular interest as Grundisburgh is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 though a settlement clearly existed and it appears likely that it was included under the entry for the adjacent parish of Burgh with the combined entry possibly forming the remnant of a significant Mid-Late Saxon land holding.

3.2 The site is therefore seen as having high potential for archaeological deposits to be present and the proposed development works would cause significant ground disturbance. Therefore the LPA has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological works taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and allow the assessment and study of any heritage assets at the site before they are damaged or destroyed. The initial stage of this programme of works is the evaluation by trial trenching to an agreed trench plan of a 5% by area sample of the site.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential relates to the proposed development area's close proximity to areas where evidence for Roman, Mid-Late Saxon and medieval activity has been recorded. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the site under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed, a strategy can be formulated for the possible preservation in situ or, failing that, systematic recording and sampling of deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost before any other ground works commence following the issuing of an additional specification.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a small scale residential development of two houses on what is largely soft ground though part is covered by the existing bungalow. The overall area of the development area is c0.20ha giving a 5% sample target of 106m^2 which equates to c57m of 1.8m wide trenches. It is intended to place all of the trenches in soft ground.

5. The attached map extract shows the proposed trenching layout designed to sample each proposed footprint area with 28.5m of trench and avoid buildings and hard surfaces. With a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 360 machine, operated by an experienced driver, this will give a sample size of 5% of the proposed development area. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images and monochrome film will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to

the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, road surfaces, kilns or ovens, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%- possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed (this is assessed as being a low possibility on this site) the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating.

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and RSA if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be

systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the evaluation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for pottery production or iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work)

- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.

- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)

- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will

be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required in the evaluation on such deposits this will be covered within the resources agreed for the first date but will take time to obtain, however examination of the topographic location and a site visit indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is very unlikely).

- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk'* (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008*)*. As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding

the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3 & 8, 1997 & 2000). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be for the County HER and for the client if requested. The site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. A vector plan in .dxf format will be provided of the trench locations for integration into the County HER Mapinfo base.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Discussion with the client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely, the only known one being water mains on along the southern boundary. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

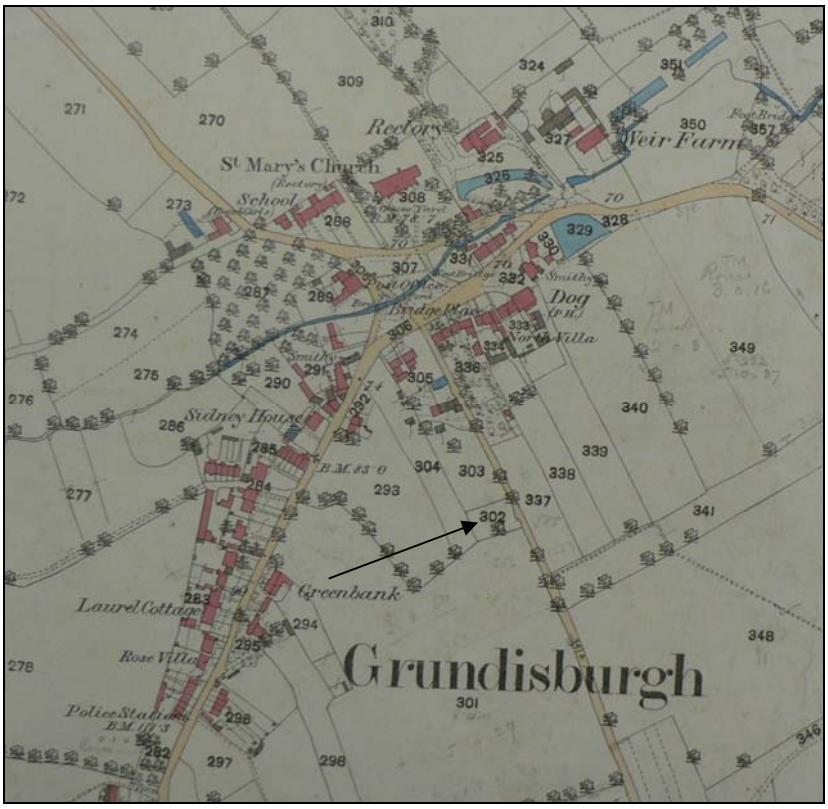
Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Later IA & Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

Proposed trial trenching

Appendix III- Historic maps

(North to top on both maps, arrow indicates area of site)

Extract from parish tithe map of 1842 (Suffolk RO ref. P461/115)



Extract fom 1st edition OS map of 1882 (Suffolk RO 67/10)