

**Archaeological Evaluation
Wideham Farm
West Stow
Suffolk**

Grid reference: TM 798 716

Planning Application No: DC/19/1682/FUL

HER No: WSW 224

Oasis No.: 394138

Prepared for:

Leigh

Prepared by:

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June 2020

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Summary

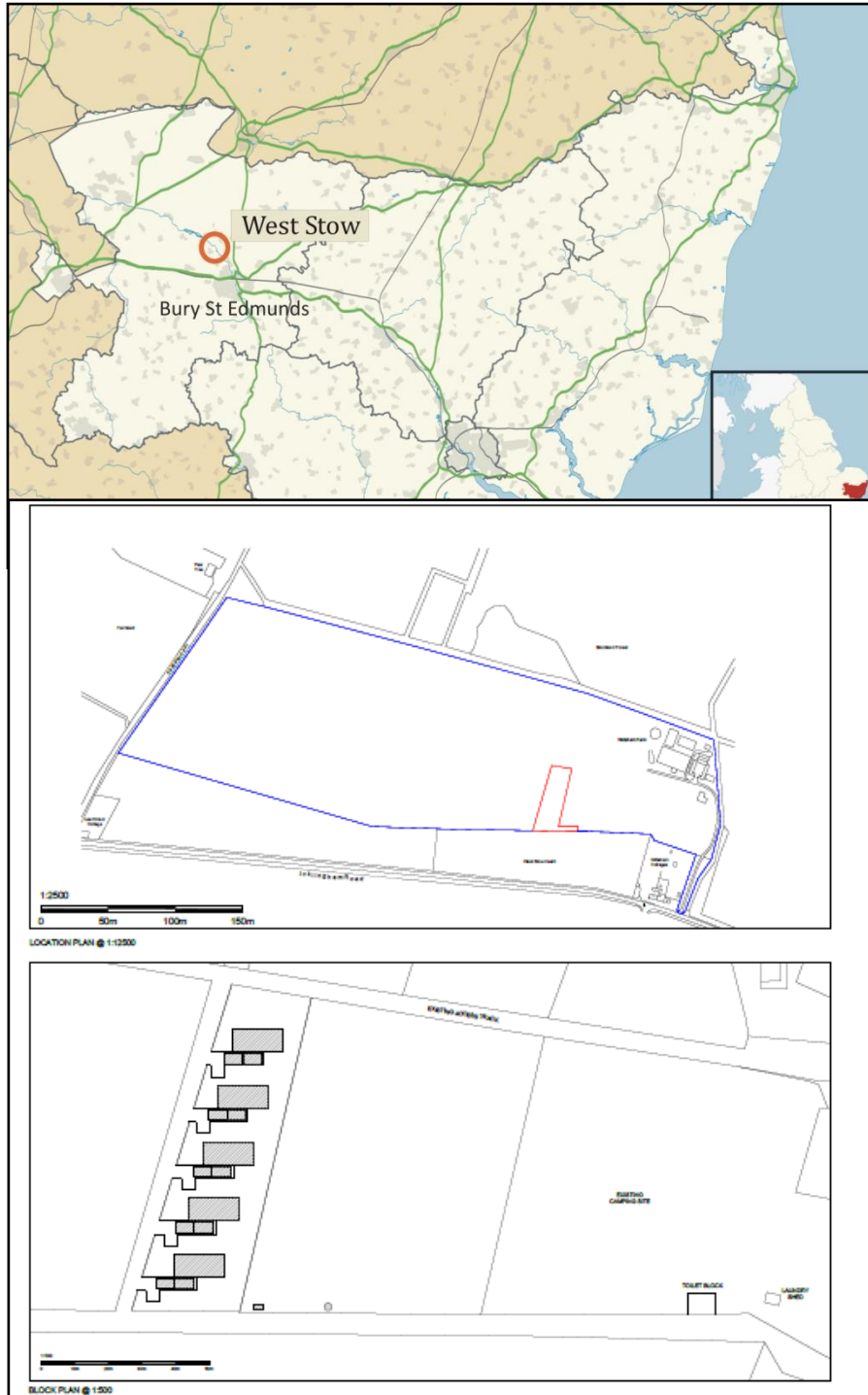
An archaeological evaluation was carried by trial trenching; the work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by James Rolfe of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 29th of April 2020.

Five trenches were excavated to cover the proposed five log cabin footprints.

All trenches were 15 metres long by 1.80 metres wide; no archaeology was discovered in any of the trenches.

1. Site Location, Description and Geology

NGR: TM 798 716



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Figure 1. West Stow, Site and development locations

1.1 Geology

The superficial geology is 'River Terrace Deposits, 2 - Sand And Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers (U).' (BGS online)

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Background

The SCCA/CT Brief for this application states: '*This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record, along the line of a Roman Road (WSW 036), in close proximity a scatter of Roman coins, an Anglo Saxon cemetery (WSW 003) and to the findspot of 50 Neolithic arrowheads (WSW 022). As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.*' (Rolfe, James, SCCA/CT Brief, April, 2019).

There are 299 entries for West Stow on the Suffolk Heritage Explorer. Whilst too numerous to list here, it is without doubt an area of highly concentrated archaeological remains and monuments from most periods, but in particular the Roman Saxon and pre-historic.

The site did not yield any archaeology whatsoever. The adjacent Anglo Saxon cemetery to the immediate south, therefore does not extend into the area of the development.

3.2 Historical Background

West Stow is a scattered village today and is home to the Anglo Saxon village recreation and visitor centre. Again, despite the close proximity to the A.S. village, no evidence for further occupation exists at this location.

4. Results

4.1 Fieldwork

Five trenches on an east-west alignment and north-south alignment alternately, c. 15m long by 1.80m wide, were excavated to cover the proposed five log cabins (see fig. 3) trench location plan.

The Trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections of the trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:10.

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

A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

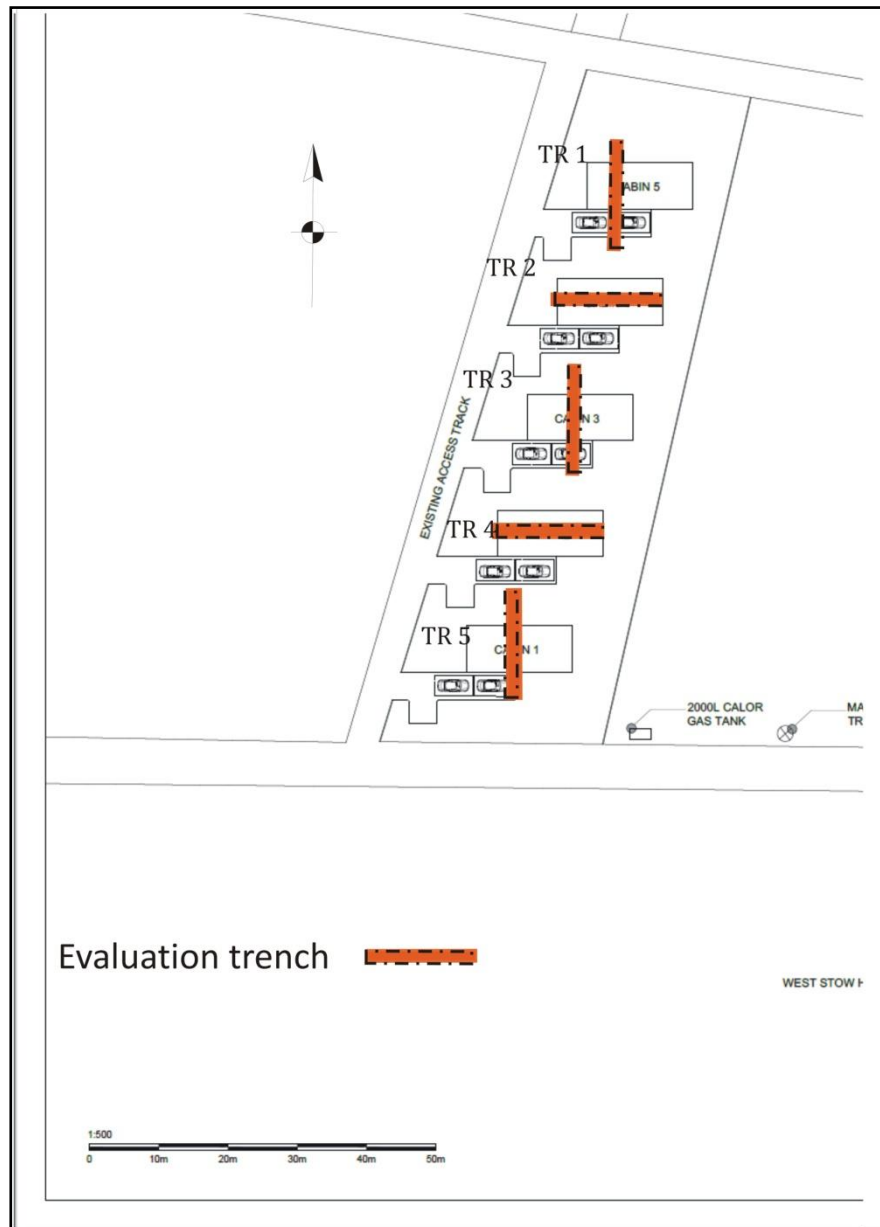
Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ACIfA 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.

4.2 The Evaluation Trenches

Trench 1, on a north-south alignment revealed no archaeology

Trench 2, on an east-west alignment revealed no archaeology



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Figure 3. Post-excitation Trench Plan

Trench 3, on a north-south alignment revealed no archaeology

Trench 4, on an east-west alignment revealed no archaeology

Trench 5, on a north-south alignment revealed no archaeology

4.3 Contexts- Deposit Model

The top soil (1000) was c. 0.10m deep; a subsoil of light to mid brown silty sand, (1001) was 0.20m deep; the natural, (1002) was exposed at c. 0.40m deep, being a very compacted sandy fill with flint nodules with an age of 2.2 million years ago during the 'Great Ice Age' which began around 2.6 million years ago.

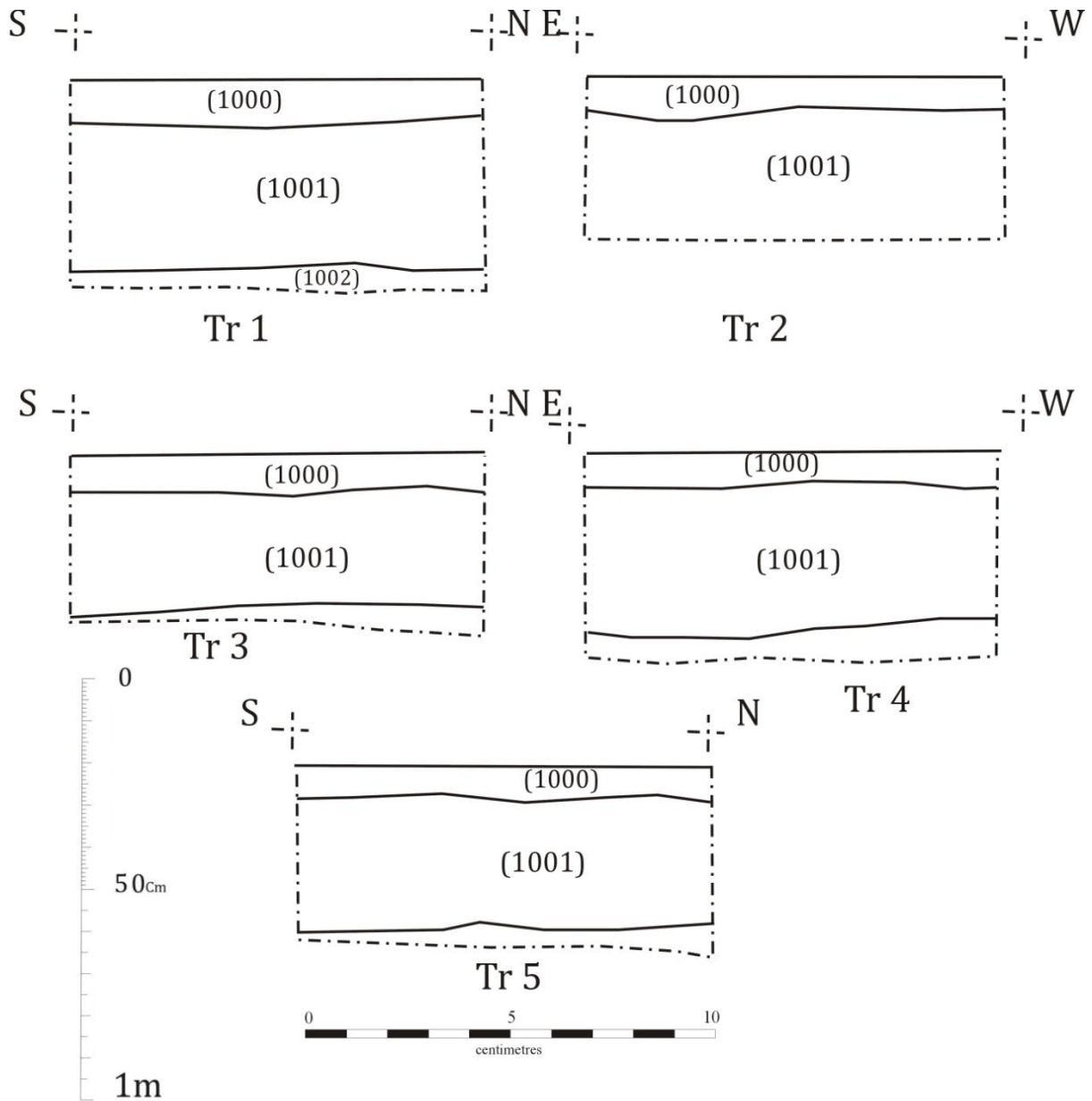


Figure 4. Sample Sections at 1:10

7. Interpretation and Discussion

No archaeology was noted throughout the five evaluation trenches, therefore a negative result for this project.

8. Conclusion

This evaluation was therefore successful in demonstrating that no significant archaeology was present within the development area and therefore no significant archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development

9 . Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Bury Resource Centre, Hollow Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7AY.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, at the *Bury Resource Centre Hollow Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7AY* and online at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

10. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Leigh of Wideham Farm who funded the project and commissioned this work.

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

James Rolfe of the SCCA/CT produced the brief for this project.

Bibliography

British Geological Society, sheets 208 & 225,

1990 DCLG, 2012. National Planning Policy

Framework.

**DCLG, DCMS and English Heritage, 2010. PPS5 Planning for the
Historic Environment: Historic Environment Practice Guide.**

English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects.

**Medlycott, M., (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A
Revised Framework for The East of England*, East Anglian
Archaeology Occasional Paper 24**

Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excavation of the log cabin site



Plate 2. General view over trench 1, looking north



Plate 3. Trench 1, sample section



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking west



Plate 5. Trench 2, sample section



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking north



Plate 7. Trench 3, sample section



Plate 8. Trench 4, looking west



Plate 9. Trench 4, sample section



Plate 10. Trench 5, sample section



Plate 11. Trench 5, looking west

**Specification for Archaeological Evaluation
Wideham Farm
West Stow
Suffolk**

Grid reference: TM 798 716

Planning Application No: DC/19/1682/FUL
HER no:tba
Oasis No.: 394138

Prepared for:
Leigh
Wideham Farm

Prepared by:
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May 2020

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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 five new log cabins at Wideham Farm West Stow.

It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written by James Rolfe of

the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 29th of April 2020.

This WSI complies with the SCCAS/CT standard Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2012, Ver 1.1), as well as the following national and regional guidance and 'Standards for. Archaeological Excavation' (IFA, 1995, revised 2001) '*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

NGR: TM 798 716

1.1 The superficial geology is ' River Terrace Deposits, 2 - Sand And Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers (U).' (BGS online)



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Figure 1. West Stow and Site locations

1.2 Site Location

West Stow is a small village and civil parish in West Suffolk, England. The village lies north of Bury St. Edmunds, south of Mildenhall and Thetford and west of the villages of Culford and Ingham in the area known as the Breckland. This area is located near the Lark River Valley.

heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist. (Rolfe, James, SCCA/CT Brief, April, 2019).

There are 299 entries for West Stow on the Suffolk Heritage Explorer. Whilst too numerous to list here, it is without doubt an area of highly concentrated archaeological remains and monuments from most periods, but in particular the Roman Saxon and pre-historic.

A full dissemination, as a background, of these results will be included in the report, particularly those which are within 500m radius of the current site.

In conclusion, there is a high potential for finding further archaeological evidence close to and on the site.

3.2 Historical Background

A full historical background will appear in the report.

4. Cartographic Information

A full map regression will appear in the report.

5. Methodology of Evaluation

5.1 This specification has been prepared in response to the above SCCA/CT brief, incorporating information of the available sources from the Suffolk Heritage Explorer website.

5.2 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.

5.3 A risk assessment will be carried out in consultation with the owners of the site, to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

5.4 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 made by the SCCA/CT and based upon the result of the evaluation, this will be then subject to an additional specification.

5.5 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 practices, timetables and orders of costs.

5.6 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 ARCHAEOSEV 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 Trenches

5.7 Five 16m by 1.80m linear trenches will be excavated to cover the footprints of the new cabins (5). The trenches will be positioned as per the trench design, (fig.5) and will allow for spoiling and access by staff and visitors

5.8 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.

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

5.10 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.

5.11 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.

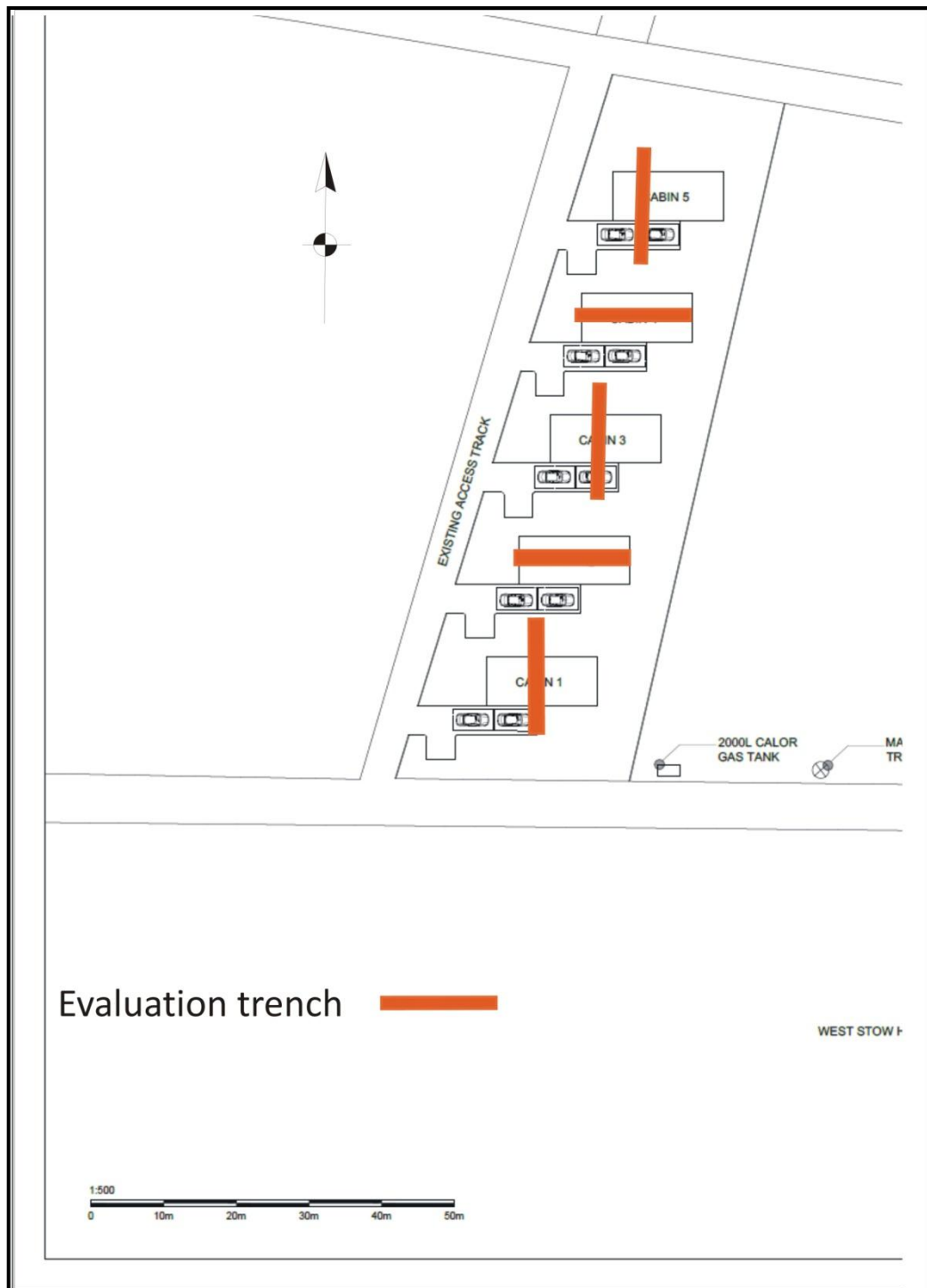
5.12 For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min) will be excavated across their width.

5.13 Certain features such as pits, 50% of their fill will be sampled (in some cases 100%).

5.14 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.



Figure 3. Trench Plan



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Figure 3b Trench plan

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

5.16 All levels will relate to Ordnance Datum.

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

5.18 Best practice 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.

5.19 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. A copy is held for viewing by SCCAS/CT. Advice will also be sought from Zoe Outram, English Heritage Regional adviser for Archaeological science (East of England), should the need arise.

5.20 All trench areas will be scanned by metal detector at all stages of the project, over trench sites, features, before excavation begins and any spoil from the excavation also.

5.21 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.

5.22 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation). Any finds deemed treasure will be reported to the FLO who will refer it to the coroner within 14 days.

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

5.24 Any human remains discovered during the course of the evaluation will be left in situ unless it can be shown that removal is necessary. In the event that human remains have to be removed, then proper respect will be accorded any remains encountered. Possible human remains will be cleaned to allow positive identification and fully recorded upon skeleton context sheets. Any remains observed will be related to the relevant authorities before removal takes place.. The client will make contingency for a Licence to disturb the remains, and DPAS will also inform SCCA/CT before any removal takes place. The Ministry Of Justice states the following guidelines for encountering human remains:

'In the event of discovery of any human remains the archaeological contractor should inform the client, the County Archaeological Service, the Coroner, the Police and the Ministry of Justice via the submission of an application form for the 'Archaeological/Accidental/Site Investigation Licence regarding the disturbance of

human remains'. The Human remains should be left in-situ, covered and protected. Where a licence for their excavation is issued by the Ministry of Justice, the requirements of that licence should be followed. Where the Ministry of Justice is unable to issue a licence and it is reasonably determined that the remains are likely to be subject to further unavoidable disturbance or deterioration the archaeological contractor should inform the client and Ministry of Justice of their intention to excavate the remains with due decency and in accordance with the general 5 conditions formerly attached to licences issued for excavation of human remains under similar circumstances. ' (MOJ)

5.25 All work will be undertaken to Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (Mola) standards.

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

5.27 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.

5.28 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.

5.29 Finds will be conserved where required.

5.30 All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive.

6. Aims and objectives of the project

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

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

6.3 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.

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

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

6.6 Assess the condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological

remains encountered.

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

6.8 Research questions allied to this project will focus upon: the potential for locating archaeological evidence from prehistoric times through to the medieval at Wideham Farm; any archaeological remains relating to previous and successive periods which increases our understanding of the origins and settlement within West Stow.

6.9 An objective account and interpretation of any potential finds will be made in conjunction with the known data to allow for a more informed interpretation of the overall evidence. Questions arising from information gained will seek to highlight research questions within the scope of the East Anglian Research Agenda: *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24. (Medlycott. 2011).

7. Environment and Health & Safety

7.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities will be carried out during the lifetime of the project, a copy of the risk assessment will be given to and signed by the developer or site owner.

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

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

8. Back Filling & Reinstatement

Backfilling of all trenches will only be carried out when approval to do so by the SCCA/CT has been confirmed.

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

9. 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.

10. Monitoring arrangements

10.1 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 ten days).

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

10.3 Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Archaeoserv.

11. Archive preparation and deposition

The archive will be presented to the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Department, Hollow Road, Bury St Edmunds, to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief. This will respect the SCCAS Conservation Team Archive guidelines, (Archaeological Archives in Suffolk, revised: August, 2017) with the county store (Hollow Road Bury St Edmunds) being the intended depository.

12. Reporting Procedures

12.1 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 with a WSI appended will be submitted to James Rolfe (SCCAS/CT) for approval.

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

12.2A 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).

12.3 An opinion may be given within the report for further evaluation or excavation work based upon the findings but the final decision for any further work rests with the SCCA/CT. A mitigation strategy will be written to how best preserve any archaeological deposits or finds encountered.

12.4 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 assessment of the finds, including tabulation of data by context, including non-technical summaries.

12.5 One copy of the report with the WSI appended will be sent to the client. One draft copy will be sent to Suffolk County Council, Archaeology Conservation team for comment - approval. Upon approval, a final hard copy version will be issued to the SCCA/CT.

In addition an online version of the report will be submitted into the OASIS project. A CD Rom will be submitted of the report including word and pdf format versions along with the digital image archive.

13. Publication and Dissemination

13.1 The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the specification written by James Rolfe (Senior planning archaeologist) of the Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

13.2 If positive results are yielded a summary will be produced for the PSIAH annual round up.

14. Other factors (including contingency)

14.1 Contingency costs will be made for operational delays including weather.

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

14.3 Contingency costs will be expected of the client for any specialist report that the relevant authority deems appropriate that cannot satisfactorily be produced by Archaeoserv or their agents.

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

15. Resources

15.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA and additional staff as necessary using standard archaeological field techniques.

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

16. Insurance Statement

Employers Liability Insurance Public Liability Professional Indemnity
Insurer: Towergate Insurance

Extent of Cover £2,000,000 £2,000,000 £2,000,000

Policy Number UN/010052 UN/010052 HUPI9129989/1372

17. 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.

18. Ownership

18.1 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.

18.2 All material deemed Treasure Trove will be subject to the `Treasure Act 1996` and investigations of the Coroner in accordance within that act.

Bibliography

British Geological Society (online resources)

DCLG, 2019. National Planning Policy Framework (par. 191).

Historic Environment Practice Guide.

English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects.

Medlycott, M., (ed.) 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for The East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

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

Bates, Sarah, Lithics

Biddle, Justine Animal Bones

Boreham, Steve, Geoarchaeologist

Cowgill, Jane, Slag /metal working residues

Curl, July, Human bone and animal bone

Crummy, Nina Roman Metalwork

Doig, T Drainpipes, underground structures, social history

Fawcett Andrew, Regional ceramics from the prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods

Anna West, Environmental

French, Dr. C.A.I Soil micromorphology

Goffin, Richenda, Post Roman Pottery

Outram, Z. Environmental advice

Percival, Sarah Prehistoric pottery

Precious, B, Roman Ceramics

Atkins, Robert, Medieval-post-medieval bricks

