Archaeological Evaluation on land at The Limes Diss Road Botesdale Suffolk

BOT 054 Event No. ESF 25874 Oasis No.: 306245 HER Inv: 9209115

Prepared for: Simon Burgess

Burgess Homes Ltd

Prepared by:

Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA Archaeoserv (Dennis Payne Archaeological Services) Great Heath 351 High Road Trimley St Martin Suffolk

February 2018

Contents

Summary	
1. Site Geology Location and Description	4
2. Planning Background	5
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	5
4.0 cartographic Information	6
5. Results	
6. Interpretation and Discussion	
7. Conclusion	
8. Archive Deposition	
9. Acknowledgements	
Bibliography	
Appendix I: Digital Images	

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by way of trial trenching; the work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated January 2018.

Three trenches were excavated to the extent of 10m by 1.80m width to cover the area of the development.

During the evaluation no archaeology was noted, nor any finds made from the upcast spoil.

1. Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Ref: TM 050762

1.1 The superficial geology of the site is undivided, chalky, pebbly, sandy clay interspersed with Bytham sands (BGS: 190; 1990).

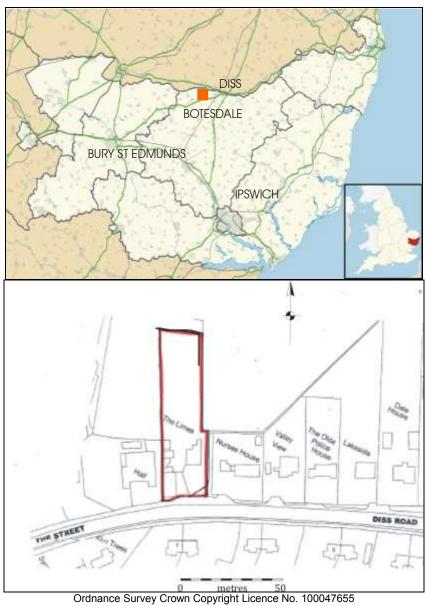


Figure 1. Botesdale location and site location in Botesdale

1.2 The site is located within the north-east of the medieval core of Botesdale.

2. Planning Background

The planning application No., (DC/17/05076) was granted by Mid Suffolk District Council, for the erection of 4 new dwellings with a detached garage on land at The Limes Diss Road Botesdale Suffolk (TM 050762).

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

Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development. This condition is required to be agreed prior to the commencement of any development to ensure matters of archaeological importance are preserved and secured early to ensure avoidance of damage or lost due to the development and/or its construction. If agreement was sought at any later stage there is an unacceptable risk of lost and damage to archaeological and historic assets.

(MSDC grant of permission ref: (TM 050762).

This condition is in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Background

The SCCA/CT brief states: `This site lies in an area of high archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. Prehistoric and medieval finds have been discovered immediately to the west of the proposed development area (HER 3 no. BOT 015 and 030), with Roman and Saxon finds recorded further west (BOT 004). As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area.' (Abraham, R.,SCCA/CT Brief, 2018)

Interventions

In 2004 trial trenching on land rear of the *Homestead* (HER: ESF 19813) produced several pits, undated but included post-medieval pottery and an undated ditch (2005, SCCAS,) Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service). In 2009, on the same site (HER: ESF 19973) evidence for quarrying during an evaluation was recorded. A further evaluation at Osmond House, The Street, (ESF 20279). produced two pits, one with pottery wasters of the medieval period, suggesting a kiln site close by.

(2009, SCCAS). In 2013, an evaluation at The Drift, 70m west of the current proposal located a post-medieval ditch and pit, which contained residual medieval pottery. At 100m south-west of the current proposal an evaluation (HER: ESF 25479) at Simonds garage, High Street located pits and a possible ditch containing late Saxon pottery (SCCAS, 2006). At 150m east of the proposal, a Geo-physics survey identified a number of potential features (Mola, Northants, 2015).

3.2 Historical Background

Botesdale is named after St Botolph, to whom a chapel here was built in c. 1500, thus giving rise to the name Botolph's dale (Pevsner, N., 1974). Botesdale is part of Rickinghall Superior and Rickinghall Inferior and at one time the three villages were separate but are now amalgamated in to one although they are still today referred to by their separate names. Botesdale is not mentioned in the Domesday Book separately from the Rickinghalls, presumably the name Botesdale, being a corruption of *Botolph's dale* only existed from Tudor times due to the saint's veneration from that period.

4.0 cartographic Information



Figure 2. Hodskinson's map of Botesdale, 1783



Figure 3. Tithe map of Botesdale dated 1839



Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of Botesdale, 1904

5. Results

5.1 Fieldwork

5.11 Three trenches were excavated across the area of the development at 10m by 1,80m width each.

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

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

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

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

5.16 The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ClfA 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

5.2 The Evaluation Trenches

Three trenches were cut across the development area, (see fig. 5). Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.70m; trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.58m and trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 0.55m.

In all three trenches no archaeology was noted. Trench 3, however did contain a pit of modern date which contained asbestos sheeting fragments.

0.0 001110/13			
Context No.	Description	Comments	
(1000)	Top soil	n/a	
(1001)	Sub soil	n/a	
(1002)	Natural sandy clay	n/a	

5.3 Contexts

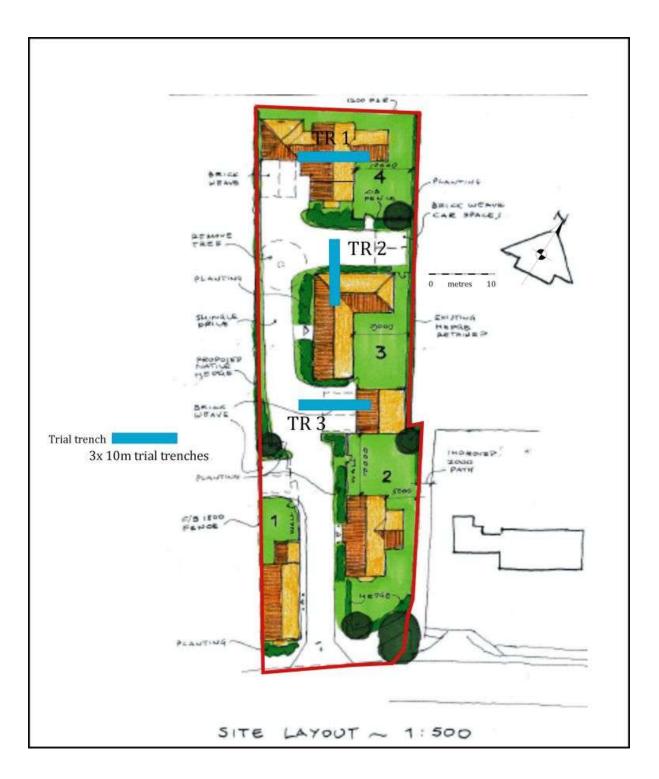
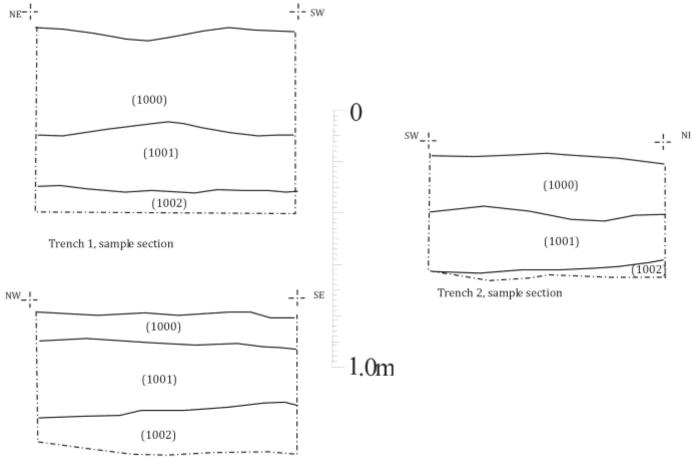


Figure 5. Trench location plan-post-excavation

5.3 Sections



Trench 3, sample section

Figure 6. Sample Sections

6. Interpretation and Discussion

6.1 This evaluation was designed to locate any archaeological features within the development area. No features were seen throughout any of the three trenches.

7. Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in demonstrating that no archaeology was present within the development and therefore no archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development.

8. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Hollow Road, Bury St Edmunds.

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

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr S. Burgess 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. Rachael Abraham of the SCCA/CT produced the brief for this project.

Bibliography

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Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Trench 1 from the east



Plate 2. Trench 2, from the south



Plate 3. Trench 3, from the west (with modern pit)



Plate 4. trench 1, sample section



Plate 5. Trench 2, sample section



Plate 6. Trench 3, sample section



Plate 7. Modern pit containing 20th c. waste

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation on land at The Limes Diss Road Botesdale Suffolk

Grid reference: TM050762 Planning Application No: DC/17/05076

> HER no: BOT 038 Oasis No.: 306245

Prepared for: Simon Burgess Burgess Homes Ltd

Prepared by:

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January 2018

Contents

Non-technical summary	19
1. Site Geology Location and Description	20
2. Planning Background	20
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	21
4.0 cartographic Information	6
5. Methodology of Evaluation	24
6. Aims and objectives of the project	
7. Environment and Health & Safety	29
8. Back Filling & Reinstatement	29
9. Ownership of Finds, Storage and Curation of Archive	29
10. Monitoring arrangements	29
11. Archive preparation and deposition	
12. Reporting Procedures	
13. Publication and Dissemination	
14. Other factors (including contingency)	31
15. Resources	
16. Insurance Statement	
17. Copyright	
18. Ownership	32
Appendix 1: Consultant specialists	34

Non-technical summary

This is a written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of four new dwellings with one detached garage and one attached garage on land at The Limes Diss Road Botesdale Suffolk. This written scheme of Investigation applies only to plots 3 & 4; plots 1 & 2 have already been previously built upon. It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 12th of January 2018.

This WSI complies with the SCCAS/CT standard Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2017), 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.

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Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

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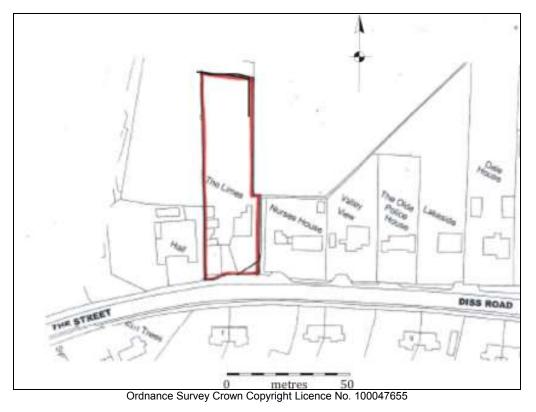


Figure 2. Block plan showing site location in Botesdale

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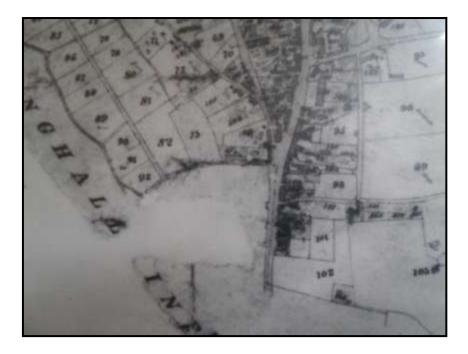


Figure 4. Tithe map of Botesdale dated 1839



Figure 5. Ordnance Survey map of Botesdale, 1904

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 Records Office and the Historic Environment Record.

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 developer (Simon Burgess), 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 practises, 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 ARCHAEOSERV 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.



Figure 5. Trench plan

The Evaluation Trenches

5.7 Three 10m by 1.80m linear trenches will be excavated to cover the footprints of plots 3 & 4 and to allow for area sampling, 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 backacting 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 For discrete features such as pits, 50% of their fill will be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

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.

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

extraction of monolith samples, whether by the site team or the specialist. If rich or unusual features are encountered, further advice will be sought from the RSA before any attempt to remove them is made.

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 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 from Britannia Archaeology.

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 high resolution digital images, which will include 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 using single context numbering.

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 Prehistoric, Roman and early medieval archaeological finds and successive period evidence; in particular the possible Saxon to medieval origins of the village, which may be evident at this location.

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 five days).

10.2 Access is required to the site at all reasonable times to allow for monitoring by SCCA/CT or their agents and ARCHAEOSERV -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, 2017) with the county store (SCCA/CT Hollow Rd 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 Rachael Abraham (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 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 that may be 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.

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

13. Publication and Dissemination

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

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

Towergate Insurance	Employers Liability Insurance	Public Liability	Professional Indemnity
Insurer	Towergate	Towergate	Towergate
	Insurance	Insurance	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 reported to the local Portable Antiquities Officer who in turn will inform the Coroner and will be subject to the `Treasure Act 1996` and investigations of the Coroner in accordance within that act.

Bibliography

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Pevsner, N., 1974 The Buildings of England: SUFFOLK

Appendix 1: Consultant specialists

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

Bricks	Atkins, R., Mola Northampton
Lithics	Sarah Bates (independent)
Post-Medieval ceramics	Sue Anderson (Spoilheap Archaeology)
Animal Bone:	Julie Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human Bone:	Julie Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Environmental:	Anna West (Suffolk Archaeology)
Pollen and Seeds:	Dr Steve Boreham (University of
Cambridge) Charcoal and Wood:	Dr Roderick Bale (University of Trinity St David)
Pre-historic , Roman pottery Archaeology)	Ioannis Smyrnaiof (Suffolk -
Medieval ceramics Archaeology)	Richenda Goffin (Suffolk -
Soil Micromorphology: Cambridge)	Dr Steve Boreham (University of -
Carbon-14 Dating:	Beta Analytic Inc
Conservation:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Metalwork and Leather:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Glass:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Small Finds: (coins, metalwork: AE; AR or AV)	Ruth Beveridge (Suffolk Archaeology)
Prehistoric Pottery	Ruth Beveridge (Suffolk Archaeology)
Prehistoric and Roman pottery Medieval pottery (regional fabrics)	Andy peach (Britannia Archaeology
Illustration:	Dennis Payne (Independent)
Slag:	J