



The Medical Centre and Dental Practice

RAF Honington, Honington,
Suffolk

Client:
Interserve Construction

Date:
November 2015

HNN 023
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2015/077
Author: Michael Green
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The Medical Centre and Dental Practice, RAF Honington HNN 023

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Report Date: November 2015

HER Information

Site Code: HNN 023

Site Name: The Medical Centre and Dental Practice, RAF Honington

Report Number 2015/077

Planning Application No: SE/13/0447/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 26th to the 28th of October 2015

Grid Reference: TL 8920 4970

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-221203

Curatorial Officer: Rachael Abraham

Project Officer: Michael Green

Client/Funding Body: Interserve Construction

Client Reference: N/A

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Michael Green

Date: 09/11/2015

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner

Position: Managing Director

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

A program of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the site of a new medical centre and dental practice at RAF Honington, Honington (Fig. 1) for heritage assets in accordance with a condition imposed on planning application SE/13/0447/FUL and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

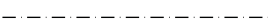









The evaluation was requested by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), and detailed in a Brief (dated 12/11/2014). The project was funded by Interserve Construction.

The site consisted of part of the old runway and hard standing (0.7 ha) located to the south of the current runways. The area was cleared of concrete and tarmac which in places was up to 1m in depth, a covering of 0.15-0.3m of concrete crush was then placed on the exposed deposits.













Trial Trenching revealed deep deposits of made ground below the removed tarmac in excess of 1.2m in places. This is thought to be levelling deposits for the construction of the runway. Where the natural geology was seen no archaeological features were present, most likely due to the levelling of the area.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD 

1. Introduction

A program of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the (Fig. 1) for heritage assets in accordance with a condition imposed on planning application SE/13/0447/FUL and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Six trenches were excavated in a grid pattern to sample all areas of the site. Some trenches were cut shorter due to modern power cables and drains and Trench 4 was not fully excavated due to safety concerns relating to the depth of the deposits seen.

The trial trenching revealed a thick deposit of made ground (in excess of 1.5m in places) from modern levelling for the construction of the 2nd World War runway (seen on aerial photography, 1945). This deposit overlaid the truncated natural geology with pockets of mixed topsoil also present. No archaeological features or finds were present on site, most likely due to the truncation from the runway construction.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of c.49m above Ordnance Datum, on a flat plateau of concrete with no visible undulations of slopes.

The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation sand, gravels and clays which in turn overlie sedimentary bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk formation (British Geological Survey website).

The observed geology on site was a light orange and yellow white firm clay with sand and gravel patches.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The application is within an area of significant archaeological potential, as suggested by the presence of sites recorded in the County HER. A previous evaluation carried out in an area adjacent to the current site recorded a post-medieval boundary ditch (HER No. HNN 016). The site is also close to a number of Bronze Age barrows and findspots (HER Nos. HNN 002, FKM 006, FKM 003 and FKM 008). As a result there was believed to be a high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.

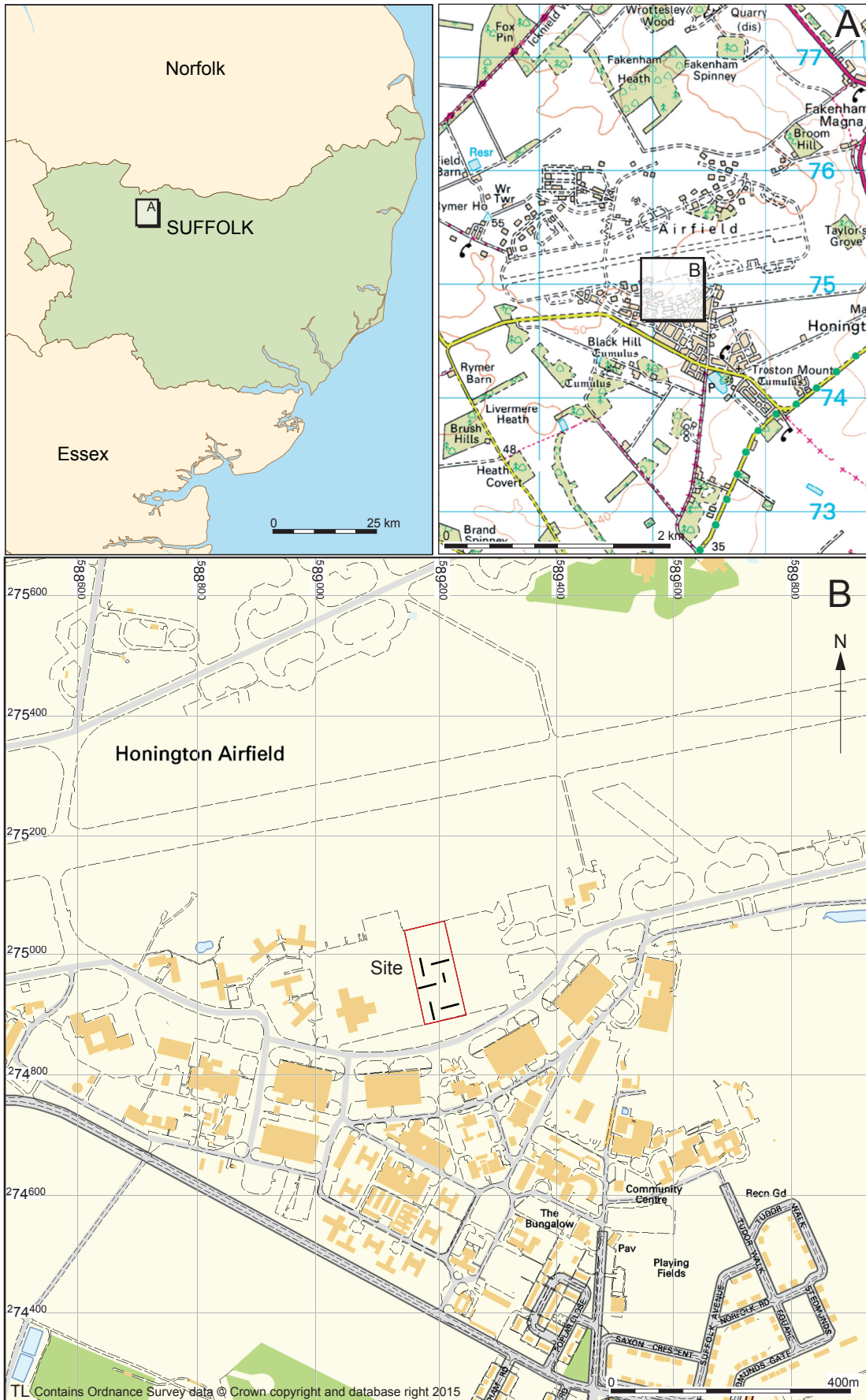


Figure 1. Location of site

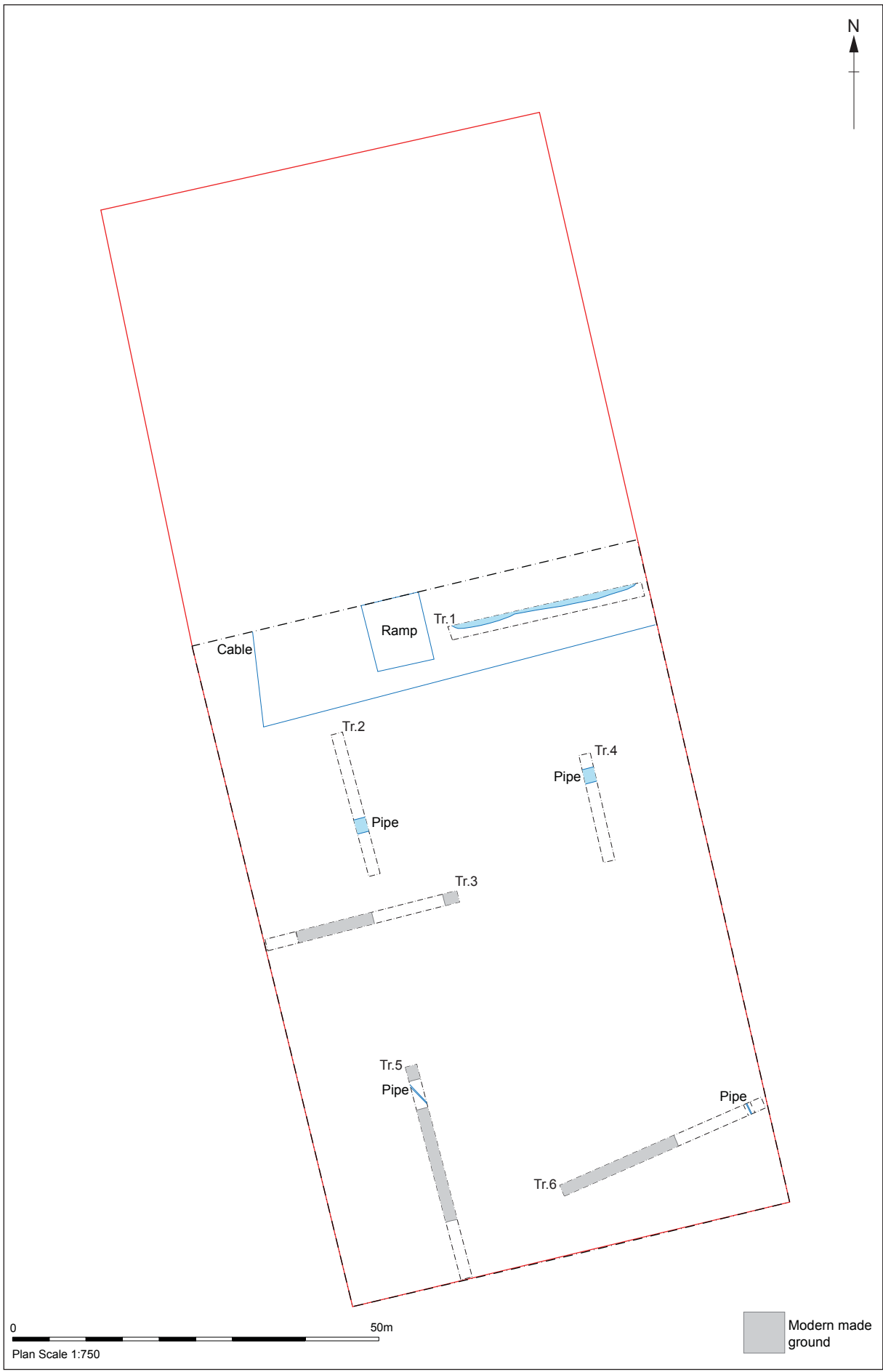


Figure Trench plan

4. Methodology

Six trenches, measuring 149m in total length were excavated on a grid pattern across the development area on the 26th-28th of October 2015. The position of some trenches was shifted slightly from that proposed to avoid services and accesses routes and Trench 4 was excavated to 15m due to the depth of the deposits (Fig. 4).

The trenches were excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring 1.6m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or to a maximum safe depth of 1.2m. A 5m wide surface strip was required to remove the concrete crush present on the site so that the removed deposits did not contaminate the clean crush. Where required the trench was cleaned, and potential features investigated, by hand. The trench and spoilheap were visually scanned and metal-detected for artefactual material.

A single continuous numbering system was used to record all layers, features and other deposits on SACIC pro forma sheets. Trench data was entered onto separate SACIC pro-forma sheets and photographic, drawing and soil sample registers were maintained. Site data has been input onto an MS Access database, labelled with the HER site code. An overall site plan showing trench location, feature positions, sections and levels was made using an RTK GPS. An individual detailed trench plan at a scale of 1:50 and excavated sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 were drawn on an A3 pro-forma pre-gridded permatrace sheet. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive. All site drawings have been scanned and digitised and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form (Appendix 3) has been completed for the project (Reference No. 221203) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, is to be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service under HER No. HNN 023. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006), and ICON guidelines and will meet the requirements of SCCAS.

5. Results

Michael Green

5.1 Introduction

Six trenches were excavated 1.6m wide across the site running roughly north to south and east to west with depths of 0.7-1.5m seen.

Concrete crush 0001 was present across the entire site; it measured 0.15-0.3m in depth and was recently placed on the site to avoid dust and mud movement onto the current runway and air base area.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was aligned east to west located at the northern edge of the site. It measured 27m in length and had a maximum depth of 1m. Two layers were present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was seen throughout the trench. No archaeological features were seen.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east (1x2m scale)

Layer 0002

This deposit was a firm mixed mid orange, grey and brown silt, sand and clay with moderate amounts of large and medium sized flint inclusions, it had a diffuse horizon with the natural geology. This deposit is modern made ground associated with levelling of the area for runway construction. The layer contained sparse modern finds of concrete and tarmac. In this trench this deposit had a maximum depth of 1m.

Layer 0003

A buried patchy topsoil was seen below made ground 0002. This layer was a mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions. It had a maximum depth of 0.2m and was only seen in this trench. As with made ground 0002 it is most likely associated with levelling of the area for runway construction.



Plate 2. Trench 1, showing layers 0001, 0002 and 0003. Looking north (1x1m scale)

Trench 2

This trench was aligned north to south located at the northern edge of the site. It measured 20m in length and had a maximum depth of 1.2m. One layer was present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was not seen at this depth. No archaeological features were seen and a modern large concrete drain was seen in the middle of the trench.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north (1x2m scale)

Layer 0002

This deposit was the same as in Trench 1. In this trench this deposit had a depth in excess of 1.2m.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned east to west located at the western edge of the site. It measured 27m in length and had a maximum depth of 1m. One layer was present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was only seen at the western end of the trench. No archaeological features were seen and a modern small ceramic drain

was seen at the eastern end of the trench.

Layer 0002

This deposit was the same as in Trench 1. In this trench this deposit had a depth of 1m at the western end and in excess of 1m at the eastern end.

Trench 4

This trench was aligned north to south located at the eastern edge of the site. It measured 15m in length and had a maximum depth of 1.3m. One layer was present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was not seen at this depth. No archaeological features were seen and a modern large concrete drain was seen in the middle of the trench.

Layer 0002

This deposit was the same as in Trench 1. In this trench this deposit had a depth in excess of 1.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4 machine sondage to 1.2m, looking west (1x1m scale)

Trench 5

This trench was aligned north to south located at the southern edge of the site. It measured 30m in length and had a maximum depth of 1m. One layer was present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was only seen at the southern end. No archaeological features were seen and a small modern ceramic drain was seen at the north end of the trench.

Layer 0002

This deposit was the same as in Trench 1. In this trench this deposit had a depth in excess of 1m.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned north-east to south-west located at the southern edge of the site. It measured 30m in length and had a maximum depth of 1m. One layer was present under the concrete crush and the natural geology was seen at the north-east end at this depth. No archaeological features were seen and a modern concrete drain was seen at the north end of the trench.

Layer 0002

This deposit was the same as in Trench 1. In this trench this deposit had a depth in excess of 1m.



Plate 5. Trench 6, looking south-west (1x2m and 1x1m scale)

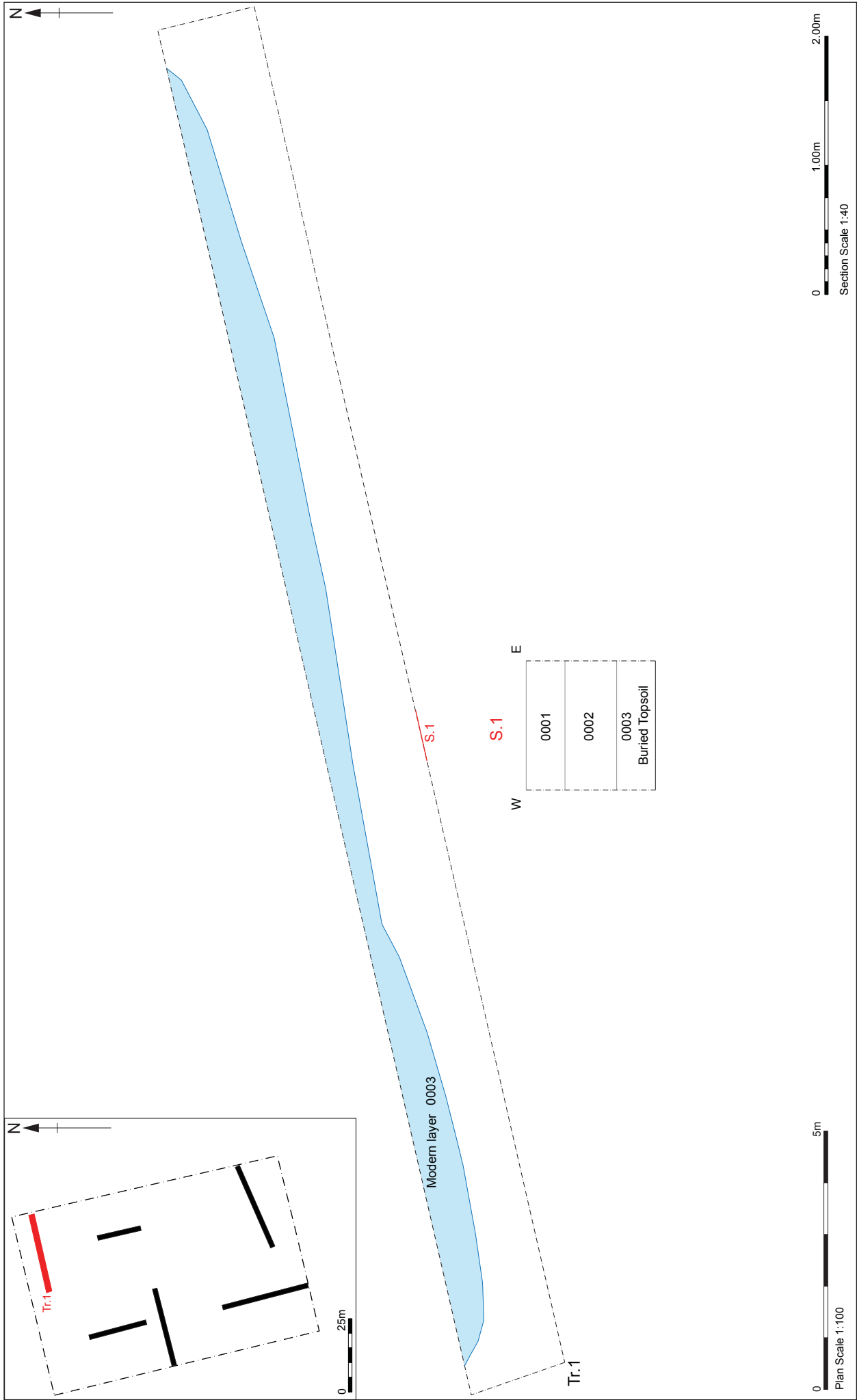


Figure Trench 1 plan and sample section.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No archaeological finds were present on the site. No residual material was found within any deposits and the metal detecting survey produced no finds from spoil heap scans or surface scans of layer 0002.

Made ground layer 0002 contained tarmac and concrete which was not kept.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation showed that the site has been heavily truncated and disturbed by modern activity which is most likely to be associated with the construction of the runway.

The made ground 0002 was seen across the entire site with varying depths from 1m to in excess of 1.3m. This material was a mix of natural deposits and topsoil making it likely that the undulating ground was levelled and then built up by machinery.

The lack of residual material within made ground 0002 suggests that it is unlikely that archaeological features were present on site before the area was levelled and truncated by the construction of the runway.

Where the natural geology was seen no archaeological features were present suggesting that they have either been completely removed by the modern levelling or were not present.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SACIC, Needham Market, Suffolk

Digital archive: R:\Current Recording Projects\Honington\HNN 023 RAF Dental Practice

Digital photographic archive: R:\Current Recording Projects\Honington\HNN 023 RAF
Dental Practice\Photographs

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Michael Green and directed by Michael Green. Project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardener who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Monitoring and advice was provided by Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Team.

The report illustrations were created by Ellie Cox and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

10. Bibliography

Abraham, R., 2015, *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation At The dental practice, RAF Honington, Honington, Suffolk*, grey literature issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, dated 12th November, 2014

BGS, 9th of November 2015, Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.

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SCCAS, 2011, *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011, ver 1.2*.

Appendix 1. WSI and brief



RAF Honington, Green Lane, Honington

Written Scheme of Investigation

Trenched Evaluation

Date: August 2015

Prepared by: Rhodri Gardner

Issued to: Rachael Abrahams (SCCAS Conservation Team)

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Summary Project Details

Site Name	RAF Honington Dental Centre
Site Location/Parish	Honington
Grid Reference	TL 8920 4970
Access	Off Green Lane
Planning Application No	SE/13/0447/FUL
HER code	HNN 023
Event No.	ESF23220
OASIS ref.	Suffolkc1-221203
Type:	Trial trench evaluation
Area	0.7 ha
Project start date	12 th October 2015
Fieldwork duration	Up to 2 days (estimated)
Number of personnel on site	Up to 3

Personnel and contact numbers

SACIC Project Manager	Rhodri Gardner	01449 900120
Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)	TBC	
Curatorial Officer	Rachael Abraham	01284 741232
Consultant		

Emergency contacts

Local Police	Mildenhall Police Station, Kingsway, Mildenhall, IP28 7HS	01473 613500
Location of nearest A&E	West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QZ	01284 713000

Hire details

Plant:	Holmes Plant & Construction	01473 890766
Toilet Hire	Capel Plant	01206 844004
Tool hire:	n/a	

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2. Fieldwork
3. Post-excavation
4. Additional Considerations
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1. Health and Safety Policy
2. Insurance Documentation

1. Background

- 1.1 Suffolk Archaeology have been asked by Interserve Construction to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers this trenched evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.
- 1.2 The proposed development area (PDA) covers c. 0.7ha, and is located at NGR TM 1745 4797 (Figure 1).
- 1.3 The present stage of work is being requested as a condition of planning application SE/13/0447/FUL. The LPA has been advised that a programme of archaeological work should take place prior to development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Para 141). The purpose of such work being the recording and advancement of understanding of any heritage assets present at the location before they are damaged or destroyed in the course of the development.
- 1.4 The archaeological investigation will be conducted in order to comply with a Brief produced for this specific planning condition by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) (dated 12th November 2015).
- 1.5 The application is within an area of significant archaeological potential, as suggested by the presence of sites recorded in the County HER. A previous evaluation carried out in an area adjacent to the current PDA recorded a post-medieval boundary ditch (HER No. HNN 016). The PDA is also close to a number of Bronze Age barrows and findspots (HER Nos. HNN 002, FKM 006, FKM 003 and FKM 008). As a result there is believed to be a high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.
- 1.6 The development proposal is for the construction of a new medical/dental centre. The groundwork such construction would entail is liable to damage or destroy any potential heritage assets that may be present within the site. The purpose of the trial trenching is therefore to assess the archaeological potential of the development site prior to the commencement.
- 1.7 Trial trenching to cover 5% by area of the development site has been specified. This amounts to c. 350m². Linear trenches arranged in a systematic grid pattern are the most suitable way to sample a site of this nature. The detailed trenching rationale will be outlined in Section 2, below.
- 1.8 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 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation' (IFA, 1995, revised 2001) and 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occasional Papers 14, 2003).

1.9 The research aims of this trial trench evaluation are as follows, as described in Section 4.2 of the SCCAS Conservation Team brief:

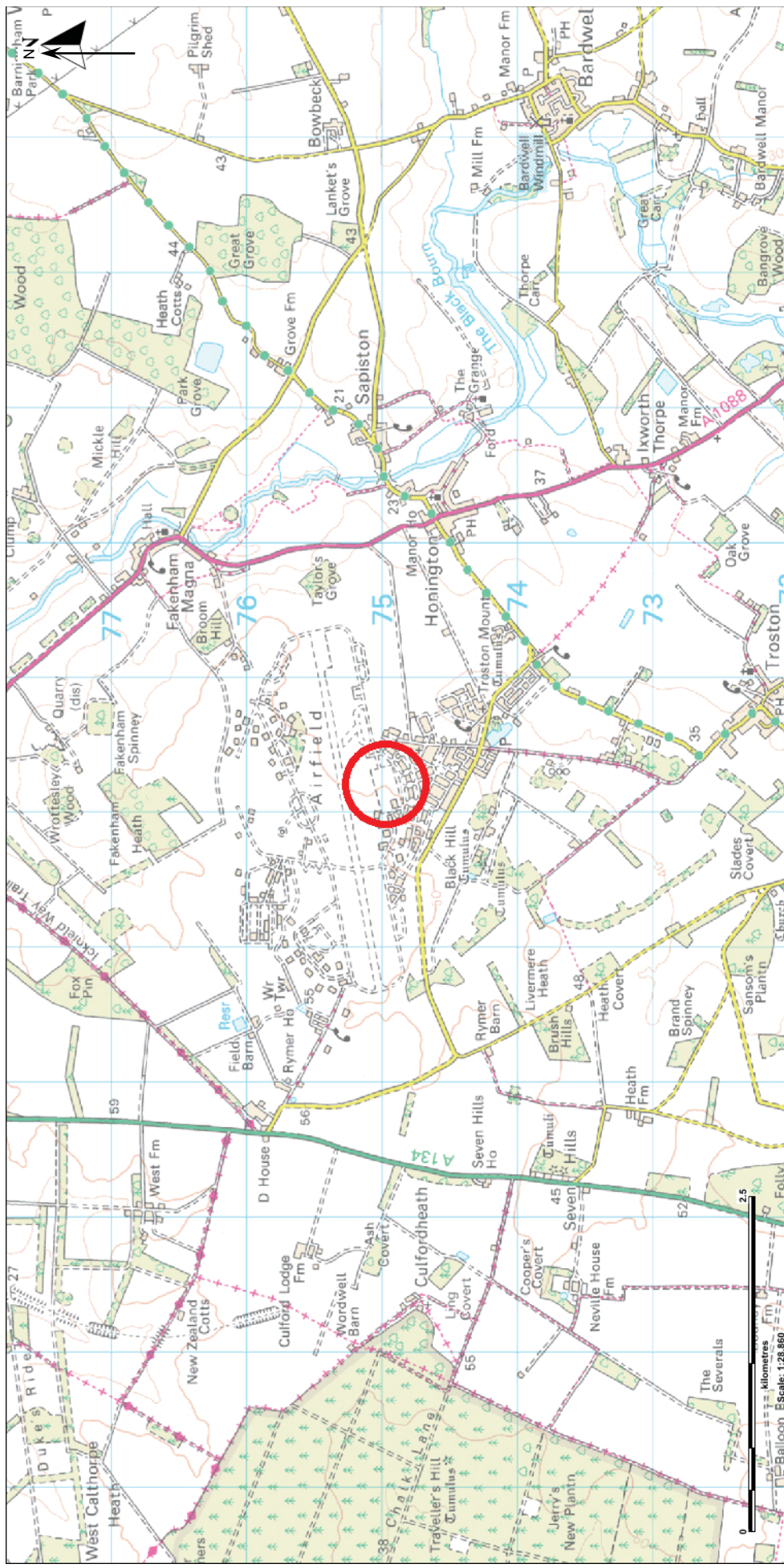
RA1: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

RA2: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

RA3: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

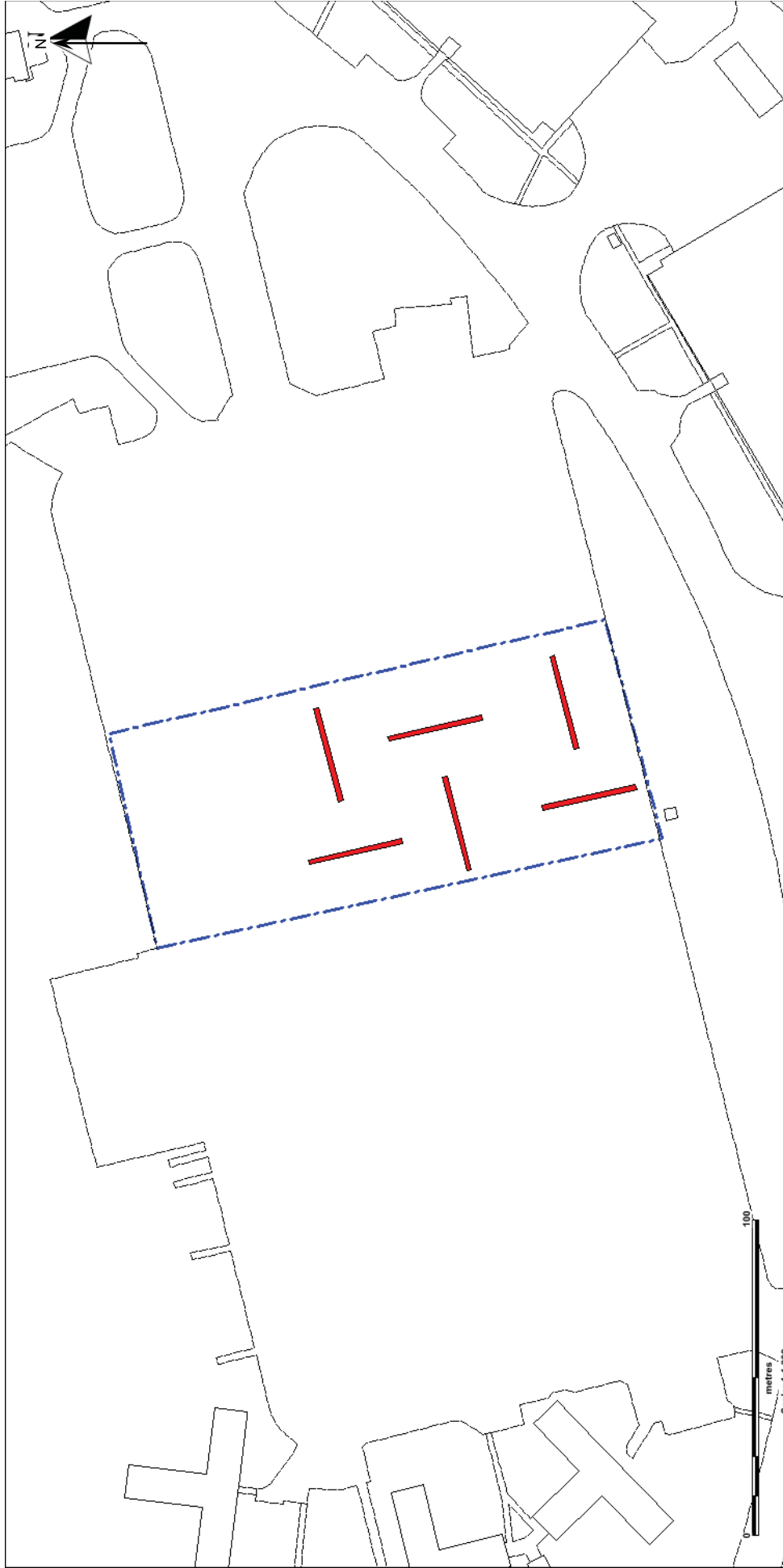
RA4: Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

In addition to these specific aims the potential of the site to address any relevant themes outlined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000; Medleycott, 2011).



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Figure 1. Site Location



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Figure 2. Proposed trench layout (trenches in red)

2 Fieldwork: trial trench evaluation

- 2.1 All archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by full-time professional employees of Suffolk Archaeology. The project team will be led in the field by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer grade/experience. The excavation team will comprise a Project Officer and up to 2 experienced excavators and surveyors (to include metal detectorist).
- 2.2 Evaluation of the development area in this instance will employ six (6) trenches, each 1.8m by 30m, to give a total length of 180m, with a contingency of an additional 15m of trenching to be inserted in a suitable location to further clarify any features which are located. This will equate to a 5% sample of the development site. The proposed trench location plan is shown in Figure 2.
- 2.4 No information has currently been provided about the presence or otherwise of services by the developer. Therefore if previously unknown services or similar restrictions are encountered during work on site then trench layout may have to be amended accordingly.
- 2.5 The trenches will be excavated by a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Spoil will be stored adjacent to each trench and topsoil, subsoil and concrete/overburden will be kept separate for sequential backfilling.
- 2.6 Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and the trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims and also comply with the SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation, 2012.
- 2.7 If a trench requires access by staff for hand excavation and recording, it will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. If this depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief and Specification it will be brought to the attention of the client or their agent and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA so that further requirements can be established. Deeper excavation can be undertaken provided suitable trench support is used or, where practicable, the trench sides are stepped or battered. However such a variation will incur further costs to the client and time must be allowed for this to be established and agreed.
- 2.8 All features will be investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features and deposits.
- 2.9 A site plan showing all trench locations, feature positions and levels AOD will be recorded using suitable surveying equipment, depending on the specific requirements of the project. A minimum of one to two sections per trench will be recorded at 1:20. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:20 and trench and feature plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All recording conventions used will be compatible with the County HER.

- 2.10 The site will be recorded under a unique HER number acquired from the Suffolk HER Office and archaeological contexts will be recorded using pro forma Context Recording sheets and entered into an associated database.
- 2.11 The HER number in this instance is HNN 023, and the event number ESF23220.
- 2.12 A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.
- 2.13 Metal detector searches will be made at suitable stages of the excavation works.
- 2.14 All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed.
- 2.15 All finds will be brought back to the Suffolk Archaeology premises for processing, preliminary assessment, conservation and packing. Most finds analysis work will be done in house, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in other parts of the country.
- 2.16 Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from suitable features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions can then be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- 2.17 In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains in situ. During the evaluation any exposed human remains will be securely covered and hidden from the public view at all times when they are not attended by staff. At the conclusion of the work backfilling will be carried out in a manner sensitive to the preservation of such remains.
- 2.18 If circumstances dictate that the lifting of human remains is unavoidable then a Ministry of Justice Licence for their removal will be obtained prior to their removal from site.

3 Post-excavation

- 3.1 A unique HER number will be acquired from the Suffolk HER. This will be clearly marked on all documentation and material relating to the project.
- 3.2 The post-excavation work will be managed by Suffolk Archaeology's Post-excavation and Finds Manager, Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff whether in-house personnel or external specialists are experienced in local and regional types of material in their field.
- 3.3 All artefacts and ecofacts will be held by Suffolk Archaeology until analysis of the material is complete.
- 3.4 All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on archivally stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued.
- 3.5 All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.
- 3.6 Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context with a clear statement on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- 3.7 Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- 3.8 Pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994) and to The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for analysis and Publications, Occasional Papers No.1 and No. 2, 3rd Edition (Revised 2010, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group).
- 3.9 Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor with a clear statement of potential for further analysis and significance.
- 3.10 Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- 3.11 An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).

- 3.12 A report on the results of the evaluation will be completed within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The report will be commensurate with the level of results but will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should no further work be required on the site.
- 3.13 The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual "Archaeology of Suffolk" section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 3.14 The Suffolk HER is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. Suffolk Archaeology will complete a suitable project-specific OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. The completed form will be reproduced as an appendix to the final report.
- 3.15 A draft of the report will be submitted to SCCAS for approval.
- 3.16 On acknowledgement of approval of the report from SCCAS hard and digital copies will be sent to the Suffolk HER.
- 3.17 Upon completion of reporting works ownership of all archaeological finds will be given over to the relevant authority. There is a presumption that this will be SCCAS, who will hold the material in suitable storage to facilitate future study and ensure its proper preservation.
- 3.18 The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the SCCAS (2010). The client is aware of the costs of archiving and provision will be made to cover these costs in our agreement with them. The archive will be deposited with the County Archaeology Store unless another suitable repository is agreed with SCCAS.
- 3.19 If the client does not agree to transfer ownership to SCCAS they will be required to nominate another suitable repository approved by SCCAS or provide funding for additional recording and analysis of the finds archive (such as, but not limited to, additional photography or illustration of objects).
- 3.20 The law dictates that client can have no claim to the ownership of human remains. Any such remains must be stored by SCCAS, in accordance with the relevant site's Ministry of Justice licence.
- 3.21 In the rare event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.
- 3.22 If an object qualifies as Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible if this is the case and the find(s) will be reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer (who then reports to the Coroner) within 14 days of the

objects discovery and identification. Treasure objects will immediately be removed to secure storage, with appropriate on-site security measures taken if required.

- 3.23 Any material eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroner's Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of Suffolk Archaeology, their subcontractors or any volunteers under their control will not be eligible for any share of a treasure reward.

4 Additional considerations

4.1 Health and Safety

- 4.1.1 The project will be carried out in accordance with Suffolk Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy at all times. A copy of this policy is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 All Suffolk Archaeology staff are experienced in working under similar conditions and on similar sites to the present site and are aware of Suffolk Archaeology H&S policies. All permanent Suffolk Archaeology excavation staff are holders of CSCS cards.
- 4.1.3 A separate Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) document will be prepared for the site and provided to the client. Copies will be available to SCCAS on request.
- 4.1.4 All staff will be aware of the project's risk assessment and will receive a safety induction from the Project Officer.
- 4.1.5 It may be necessary for site visits to be made by external specialists or Suffolk County Council monitors. All such staff and visitors must abide by Suffolk Archaeology's H&S requirements for each particular site, and will be inducted as required and made aware of any high risk activities relevant to the site concerned.
- 4.1.6 Site staff, official visitors and volunteers are all covered by Suffolk Archaeology's insurance policies. Policy details are shown in Appendix 2.

4.2 Environmental controls

- 4.2.1 Suffolk Archaeology is committed to following an EMS policy. All our preferred providers and subcontractors have been issued with environmental guidelines. On site the Project Officer will police environmental concerns. In the event of spillage or contamination reporting procedures will be carried out in accordance with Suffolk Archaeology's EMS policies.

4.3 Plant machinery

- 4.3.1 A 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a full range of buckets will be required for the trial trenching. The sub-contracted plant machinery will be accompanied by a fully qualified operator who will hold an up-to-date Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) card (approved by the CITB).

4.4 Site security

- 4.4.1 Unless previously agreed with the client this WSI (and the associated quotation) assumes that the site will be sufficiently secure for archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 4.4.2 In this instance all security requirements including fencing, padlocks for gates etc. are the responsibility of the client.

4.5 Access

- 4.5.3 The client will secure access to the site for Suffolk Archaeology personnel and subcontracted plant, and obtain all necessary permissions from landowners and tenants. This includes the siting of any accommodation units/facilities required for the work.
- 4.5.2 Any costs incurred to secure access, or incurred as a result of access being withheld (for example by a tenant or landowner) will not be the responsibility of Suffolk Archaeology. Such costs or delays incurred will be charged to the client in addition to the archaeological project fees.

4.6 Site preparation

- 4.6.1 The client is responsible for clearing the site in a manner that enables the archaeological works to go ahead as described. Unless previously agreed the costs of any subsequent preparatory works (such as tree felling, scrub/undergrowth clearance, removal of concrete or hardstanding not previously quoted for, demolition of buildings or sheds, removal of excessive overburden, refuse or dumped material) will be charged to the client in addition to the archaeological project fees.

4.7 Backfilling

- 4.7.1 The trench will be backfilled sequentially in reverse order of deposit removal. Where present topsoil will be returned as the uppermost layer. The backfilled material will then be compacted by the machine tracking along the line of trench.
- 4.7.2 No specialist reinstatement is offered, unless by specific prior agreement.

4.8 Monitoring

- 4.8.1 Arrangements for monitoring visits by the LPA and its representatives will be made promptly in order to comply with the requirements of the brief and specification.

5 Staffing

5.1 The following staff will comprise the Project Team:

- 1 x Project Manager (supervisory only, not based on site full-time)
- 1 x Project Officer (full time)
- 2 x Site Assistant (as required)
- 1 x Site Surveyor (as required)
- 1 x Finds/Post-excavation manager (part time, as required)
- 1 x Finds Specialist (part time, as required)
- 1 x Environmental Supervisor (as required)
- 1 x Finds Assistant or Supervisor (part time, as required)
- 1 x Senior Graphics Assistant (part time, as required)

5.2 Project Management will be undertaken by Rhodri Gardner and the Project Officer will be confirmed nearer to the project start. All Site Assistants and other staff will be drawn from Suffolk Archaeology's qualified and experienced staff. Suffolk Archaeology will not employ volunteer, amateur or student staff, whether paid or unpaid, to undertake any of the roles outlined in 5.1.

5.3 A wide range of external specialists can be employed for artefact assessment and analysis work as circumstances require.

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

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

RAF Honington, Green Lane,
Honington

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/13/0447/FUL

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: TBC

GRID REFERENCE: TL 892 744

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Medical centre

AREA: 0.7ha

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Rachael Abraham
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741230
E-mail: rachael.abraham@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 12 November 2014

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following two-part condition relating to archaeological investigation:

3. No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole 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.

The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

No building shall be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under part 1 and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition.

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not 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 (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site of the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. A post-medieval field boundary ditch was discovered during an archaeological evaluation carried out adjacent to the development site (HNN 016), which is also situated close to a number of Bronze Age round barrows and findspots (HER nos. HNN 002, FKM 006, FKM 003 and FKM 008). As a result, there is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by development.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

- 3.2 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Paragraph 141), to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, 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.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the development site, which is c.350.00m². Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.195.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

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

Appendix 2. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Findings	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001		Crush Layer	concrete crush laid on top of the site Seen in all trenches	No		No	
0002		Made ground Layer	made ground seen in all trenches. Mixed mid orange, grey and brown compact sand, silt and clay. Diffuse clarity Made ground over the entire site. Most likely leveling layer for construction of the runway	No		No	
0003		Topsoil Layer	Mid brown soft sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions. Clear clarity. Patchy burried topsoil seen only in trench 1, most likley part of the leveling material seen over the entire site	No		No	1

Appendix 3. Oasis form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: suffolka1-221203

Project details

Project name	RAF Honington Medical Centre and Dental Practice
Short description of the project	A program of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the site of a new medical centre and dental practice at RAF Honington, Honington (Fig. 1) for heritage assets in accordance with a condition imposed on planning application SE/13/0447/FUL and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The evaluation was requested by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), and detailed in a Brief (dated 12/11/2014). The project was funded by Interserve Construction. The site consisted of part of the old runway and hard standing (0.7 ha) located to the south of the current runways. The area was cleared of concrete and tarmac which in places was up to 1m in depth, a covering of 0.15-0.3m of concrete crush was then placed on the exposed deposits. Trial Trenching revealed deep deposits of made ground below the removed tarmac in excess of 1.2m in places. This is thought to be levelling deposits for the construction of the runway. Where the natural geology was seen no archaeological features were present, most likely due to the levelling of the area.
Project dates	Start: 26-10-2015 End: 28-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SE/13/0447/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	LAYER Modern
Monument type	CONCRETE Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	

SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY HONINGTON RAF Honington Medical Centre
and Dental Practice

Study area 0.7 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 892 744 52.334547378935 0.77728171408 52 20 04 N 000 46 38 E Point

Height OD /
Depth Min: 48m Max: 49m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation Suffolk Archaeology CIC

Project brief
originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design
originator Rachael Abraham

Project
director/manager Rhodri Gardner

Project
supervisor Michael Green

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Client

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Interserve construction

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? No

Digital Archive
recipient Suffolk HER

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media
available "Database","Images raster / digital
photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive
recipient Suffolk HER

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media
available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous
Material","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Entered by Michael Green (Michael.Green@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 9 November 2015

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