

Report 2744



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation at Whitehouse Farm,
Wash Lane, Witnesham, Suffolk**

WTN 022

Prepared for
Release Ipswich
c/o KLH Architects
The Old Steelyard
Poplar Farm
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Location:	Whitehouse Farm, Wash Lane, Witnesham
District:	Suffolk Coastal
Planning ref.:	C10/1064/
Grid Ref.:	TM 1893 5135
HER No.:	WTN 022
OASIS Ref.:	105059
Client:	Release Ipswich c/o KLH Architects
Dates of Fieldwork:	3 June 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by NPS Archaeology at Whitehouse Farm, Wash Lane, Witnesham, Suffolk at the site of proposed construction of two accommodation blocks and an associated access road.

Two trenches, each measuring 7m by 1.8m were excavated to investigate the archaeological potential within the footprint of each structure. Both trenches returned negative results with no archaeological features or deposits being present.

The negative results suggests that truncation of soil horizons could well have taken place during the construction of buildings already on the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to develop land at Whitehouse Farm, Wash Lane, Witnesham, Suffolk (Fig. 1) required a programme of archaeological works to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource.

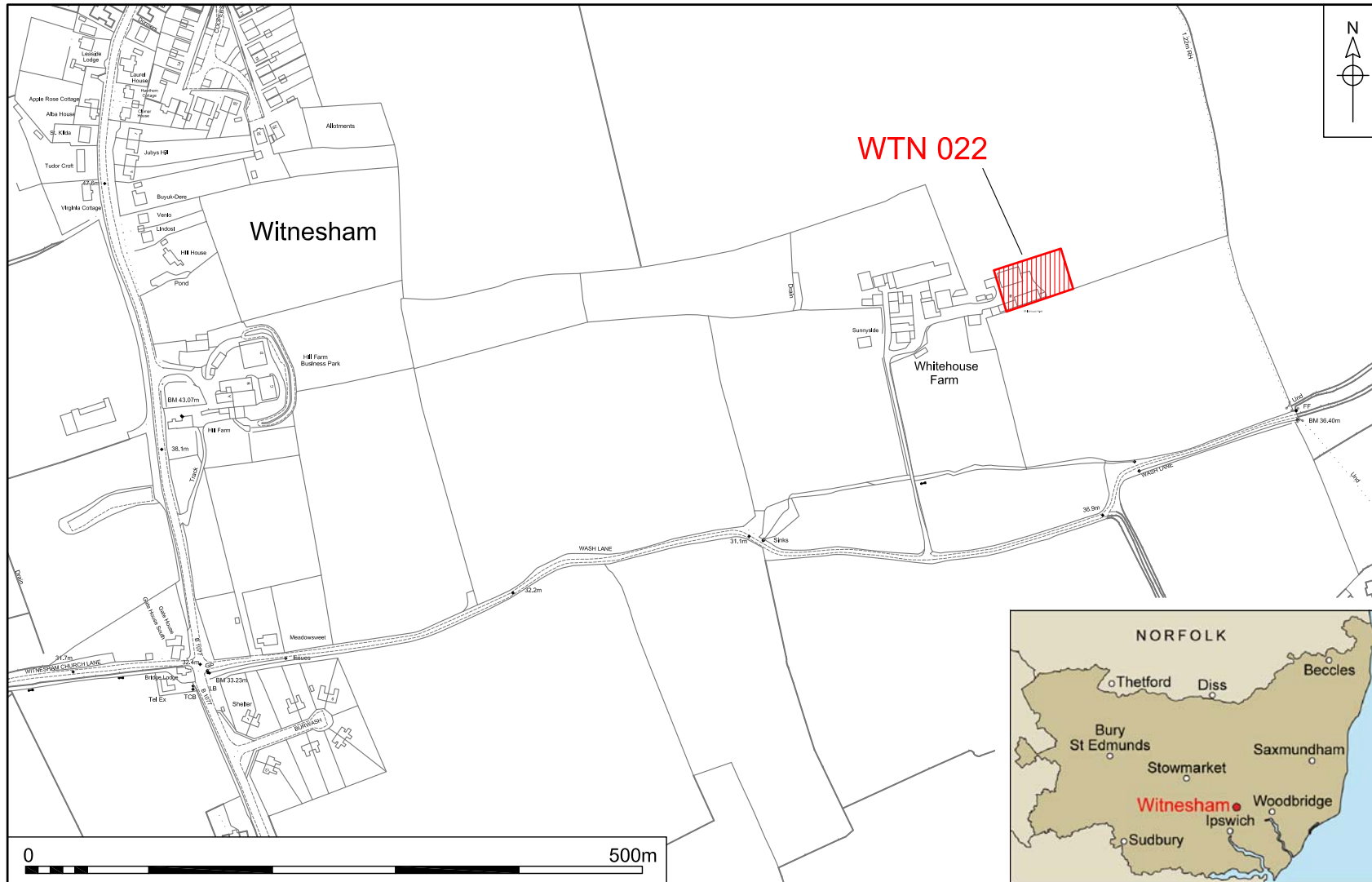
This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team (Jude Plouviez, 8 March, 2011). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2744/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Release Ipswich.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Suffolk Historic Environmental Records.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology at the site of the proposed development consists of Thanet sand formation and Lambeth group of undifferentiated sand and clay overlain by Mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

The parish of Witnesham is situated 4 miles north of Ipswich, 9 miles west of Woodbridge and 10 miles east of Creeting St Mary. The nucleus of the present-day settlement in Witnesham is predominately located to the north-west of the parish at 55m OD.

The development site itself is located c.1km north-east of the medieval core of Witnesham and the site slopes from the north at 57m OD to 43m OD. A shallow east-west valley lies 200m south of the proposed development site. The valley rises to 55m OD at Rookery Farm to the east and descends to 33m OD at St Mary's Church to the west of the site

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site borders an area rich in archaeological evidence. The Suffolk Historical and Environmental Records (SHER) have been consulted, however, only one known site lies within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

Roman

Site MSF 12335 lies to the north of the site and produced a scatter of Roman artefacts which included 6 coins

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that a 5% sample of the development site (460m²) be investigated; this equated to two trenches measuring 7m by 1.8m.

Machine excavation was carried out with a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

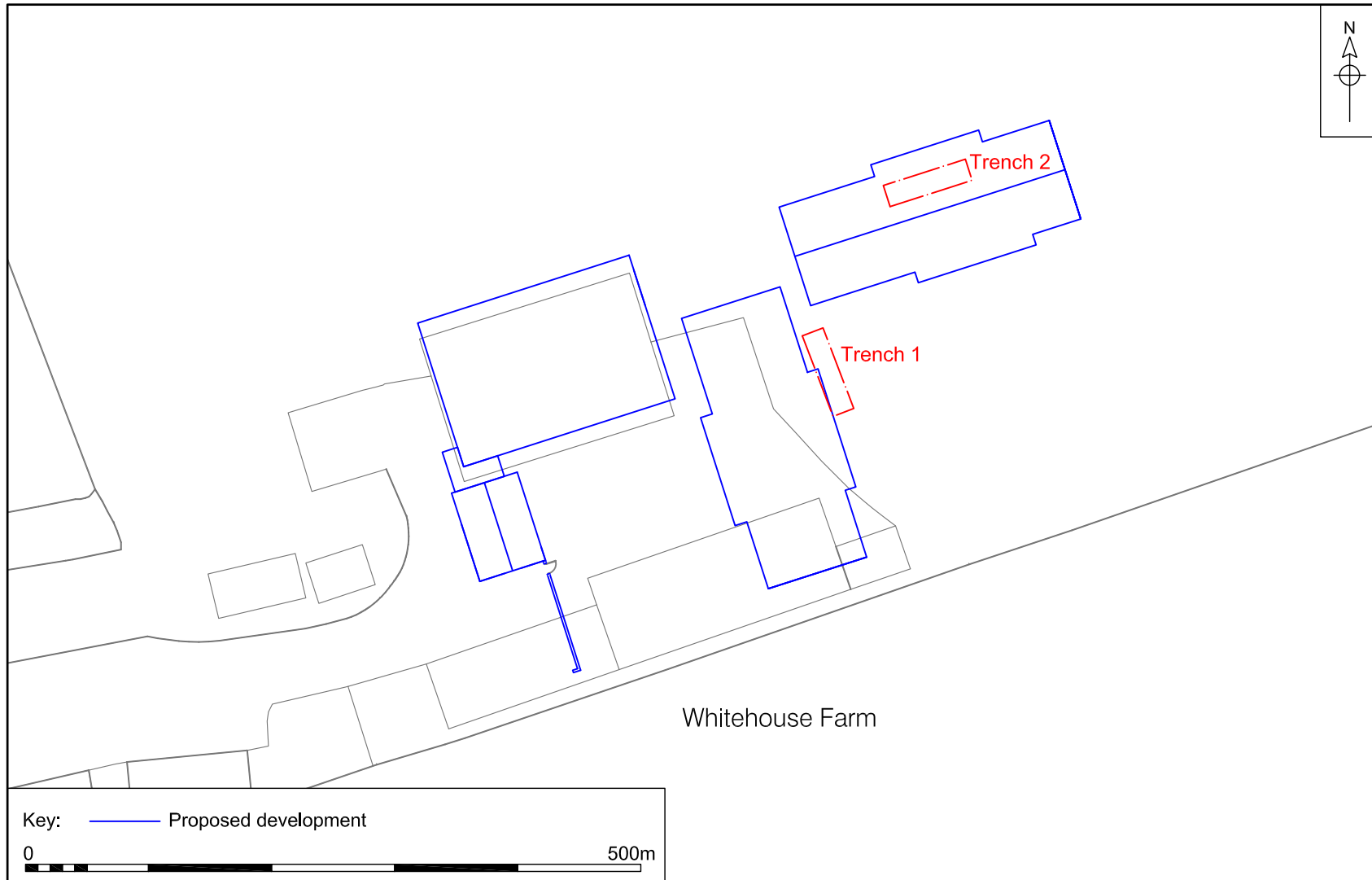
Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour and monochrome were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

All trenches were located using a Leica GPS9000. Temporary benchmarks were positioned at the ends of each trench and were established by the use of Leica GPS9000.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

5.0 RESULTS

(Fig. 2)

Trench 1

The position of Trench 1 was slightly altered from its planned location as a brick wall and a concrete pad were located in the intended position. This placed it just to the east of the proposed new structure it was designed to sample

Trench 1 was orientated roughly north-west to south-east, parallel with the eastern side of the proposed structure. It measured 7m long by 1.80m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. The overburden consisted of topsoil (01) (homogeneous dark brown silty sand); no subsoil was present.

It appears that truncation had probably taken place within this area and may have occurred during the construction of existing buildings. Also it was evident that heavy machinery had disturbed the underlying natural ground probably during wet periods.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south-east

Trench 2

Trench 2 was situated to the north and east of Trench 1 and was located in the centre of the easternmost of the proposed new structures. This trench was orientated roughly south-west to north-east, measured 7m long by 1.80m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. As observed in Trench 2, the overburden consisted of the topsoil (01) (homogeneous dark brown silty sand) with no subsoil surviving.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south-west

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation has proved to have negative results with no archaeological features and deposits being present. The results suggest that truncation of the site probably occurred during the construction of the buildings and associated concrete pads already at the site.

Considering that the site is situated on the lower slopes of a shallow valley it could be anticipated that colluvium or subsoil deposits might be present within the proposed development site. However, no such soils survived (as shown by their absence from the two evaluation trenches, reinforcing the interpretation of heavy truncation with the proposed development site

Recommendations for future work will be based upon the results of this report by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Alan Howard of KLH Architects who commissioned the project on behalf of their client Release Ipswich. Thanks are extended to Jude Plouviez (SCCAS) for her consideration and help during this project.

The author and Lilly Hodges undertook the fieldwork. Sandrine Whitmore surveyed the trenches. The figures and report were produced by David Dobson and the report was edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

British Geological Survey http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html
Accessed 06.07.11

Department for Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* TSO, London

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Type	Description	Period
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Homogeneous dark brown silty sand	Modern

Appendix 2: Archaeological Specification

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

Whitehouse Farm, Wash Lane, Witnesham C/10/1064

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council (C10/1064) for the erection of two accommodation blocks and other works including a new access at Whitehouse Farm, Witnesham (TM 468 671). Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has included a condition (no 6) that an agreed programme of archaeological work take place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The development area is situated on deep clay soils (Hanslope series, 411d) over chalky till, close to an area of lighter soils to the south-west, and is on a south facing slope overlooking a minor valley, between 40 and 45m OD.
- 1.4 As well as topographical potential the application lies near to an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record – a group of Roman coins, ranging in date from 1st to 4th century found in a single metal detecting event (WTN 013) on land to the north of Whitehouse Farm, indicating potential for later prehistoric or Roman period settlement. Although Whitehouse Farm is present on the 19th century OS map there were no buildings in the development area until the 20th century. There is thus moderately high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area (footprint of the accommodation blocks).
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. **Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification. There will also be a requirement for archaeological monitoring and recording of soil stripping operations to provide the new access, particularly the area north of the stream.**
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Waveney District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

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

Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

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

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the accommodation block footprints (each c 23mx10m). Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 150.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

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

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling

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

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

4. General Management

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

5. Report Requirements

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

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

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

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 Date: 8 March 2011 Reference: 08-03-2011_ArchSpecEval_WhitehouseFarm_Witnesham_JP.doc

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

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