

Report 3096



nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land Adjacent to 78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk

BRF091



Prepared for
Orwell Housing Association Limited
Crane Hill Lodge
325 London Road
Ipswich
IP2 0BE



Michael Boyle BSc (Hons) AlfA

August 2012



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PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Michael Boyle	01/08/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	03/08/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	06/08/2012
Signed Off	David Whitmore	06/08/2012
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

BAU 3096

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Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology	3
5.0 Results.....	5
6.0 Finds	6
6.1 Glass	6
6.2 Flint.....	6
6.3 Animal Bone	7
7.0 Conclusions	7
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	8
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i>	8
Appendix 1a: Context Summary	9
Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary	9
Appendix 2a: Finds by Context	9
Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary	9
Appendix 3: OASIS Summary.....	10
Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification	14

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Trench location plan
- Figure 3 South west facing representative section

Plates

- Plate 1 Trial trench looking south-east
- Plate 2 Representative section looking north-east

Location:	Land Adjacent to 78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk
District:	Mid Suffolk District Council
Grid Ref.:	TM 1217 4616
Planning Ref.:	0264/12
HER No.:	BRF 091
OASIS Ref.:	131733
Client:	Orwell Housing Association Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	10 July 2012

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd ahead of a residential development at Land Adjacent to 78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk. A single trench measuring 15m by 1.80m was positioned diagonally on the site.

The only archaeological feature located within the area of the trench was a rubbish disposal pit of mid 20th-century date.

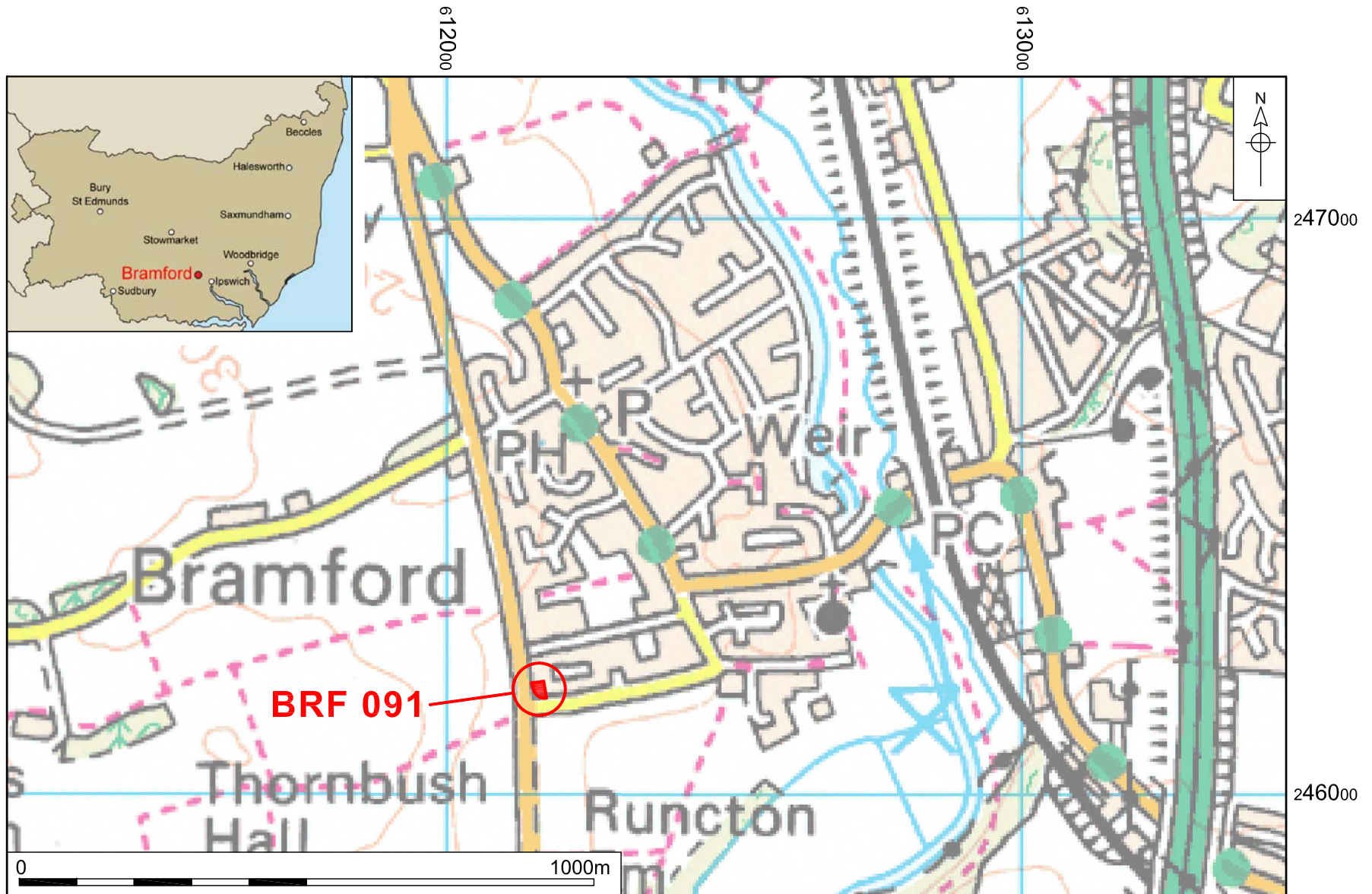
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposed residential development on land adjacent to 78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk prompted the requirement for archaeological trial trench evaluation on the site to establish the potential for the presence of sub-surface archaeological remains. The proposed development site lies just north-east of an area from which artefacts of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have been recorded. It also lies c.30m to the east of the route of the Roman road known as Pye Road, so there was a high possibility that evidence of early activity or settlement remains would be present within the proposed development site.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Mid Suffolk District Council (Ref. 0264/12) following advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS) that 'any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins'. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU3096/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Orwell Housing Association Limited.

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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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 SCCAS, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development is located on the site of a former garden which contains several eucalyptus trees.

The underlying geology is glaciofluvial drift (sands and gravels) over chalk (www.bgs.ac.uk)

Bramford itself is bounded to the east by the River Gipping and to the west by the B1113. The site itself is situated on the junction of the B1113 and the east-west aligned Fitzgerald Road. It lies at some distance from the river at a height of c.13-14.00m OD in the south-west corner of the village (Fig. 1).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located in Bramford adjacent to Loraine Way (the B1113 Roman Road (site BRF023)) which runs north-south immediately to the west of the village.

Information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record indicates that the site has the potential to contain archaeological remains of Saxon through to post-medieval date, especially in the field bounded by Fitzgerald Road and Loraine Way to the south-east of the development site. A collection of metal finds of Roman and Saxon date (BRF037) has been found in the north-east corner of this field and in its south-west corner a scatter of finds (BRF041) which include Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery and a post-medieval Nuremberg token is recorded.

An archaeological evaluation (Hodges 2011) was conducted on land between 72 and 74 Fitzgerald Road in 2011, just a few metres to the east of the present site however no archaeologically significant finds or features were recorded there.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

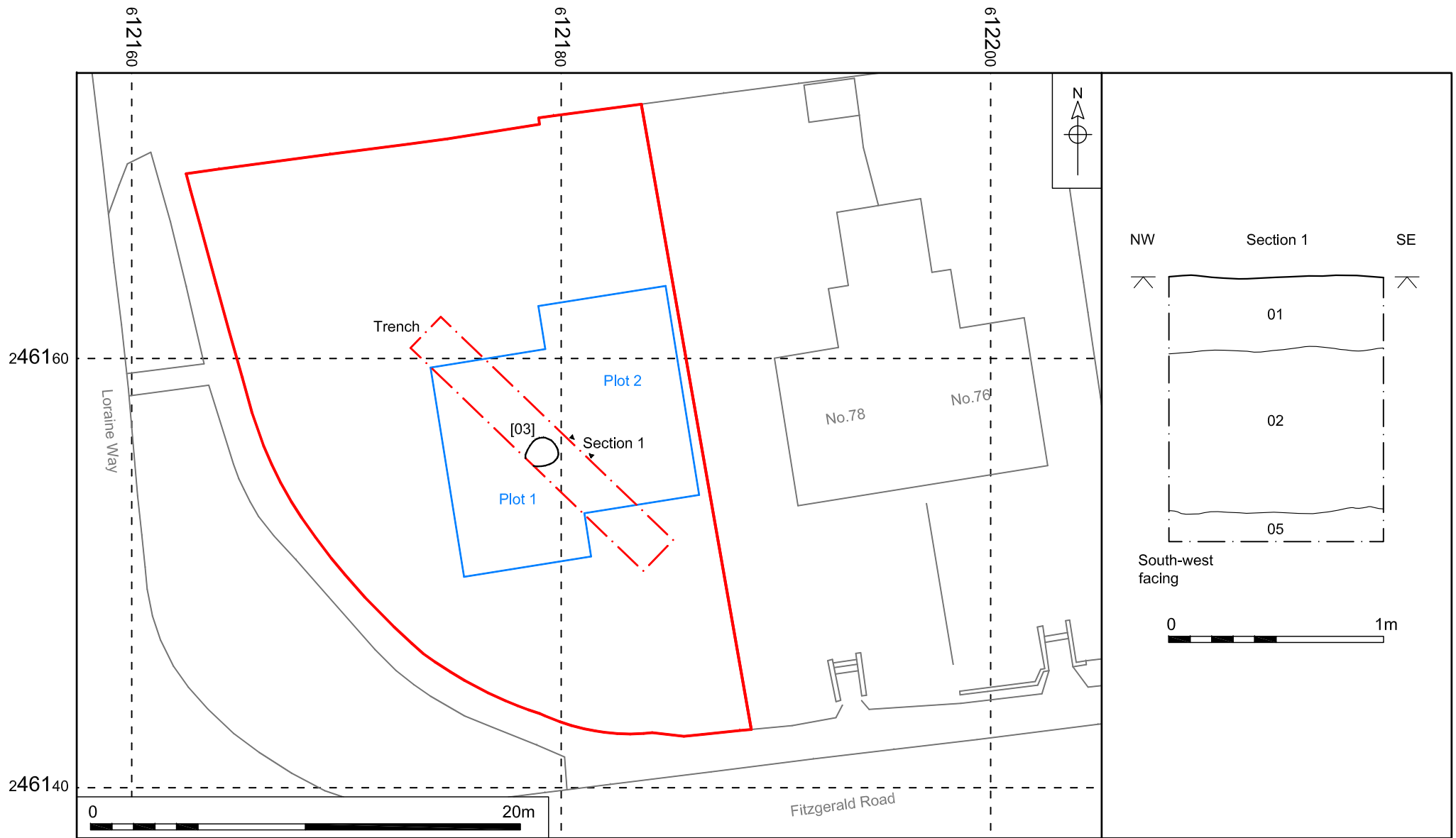
The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required the excavation of a single trench measuring 15m by 1.80m positioned within the footprint of the new building (Fig. 2). Initial excavation was by hydraulic 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This removed deposits of topsoil in 100mm spits until natural ground or archaeological features were identified. The exposed surfaces and spoil were screened by metal detector. Stripped surfaces were manually cleaned where required.

All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Environmental samples were not taken.

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



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Figure 2. Trench location (scale 1:250) and Section 1 (scale 1:20)

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from a spot height with a value of 13.86m OD, located on the pavement to the west of the site.

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

5.0 RESULTS

Upon excavation of the trench the surface of the natural geology [05], which consisted of a pale orange brown fine sand, was found to be at a depth of 1.0m below the current ground level at the north-west end and at a depth of 0.89m at the south-east end (Plate 1).



Plate 1. Trial trench looking south-east

The natural sand was sealed by a thick sub-soil [02] which towards the centre of the trench had a depth of 0.75m (Fig. 2 Section 1, Plate 2). The sub-soil was mid brown silt sand with rare occurrences of chalk and charcoal flecks. Three fragments of butchered animal bone were recovered from the base of the sub-soil. Near to the centre of the trench a large pit ([03]) was observed to truncate the subsoil from immediately below the base of topsoil [01].

Pit [03] was sub-circular in plan and had a diameter of approximately 1.50m (Fig. 2). Its fill comprised a mid to dark grey silt matrix [04] with occasional flint stones.

Several glass bottles, along with a quantity of scrap iron were recovered from the rubbish pit; the bottles were mainly of mid 20th-century date.

The trench was sealed by a 0.30m thick topsoil [01] consisting of mid grey sand silt.



Plate 2. Representative section looking north-east

6.0 FINDS

by Rebecca Sillwood

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each material has been considered separately and is included below organised by material. A full list of all finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Glass

Modern pit [03] produced several complete and incomplete glass bottles, mainly of mid 20th-century date. Most of these pieces were left *in situ*, as they were clearly modern; however one small bottle that appeared to be slightly earlier than the other pieces was retained for additional recording. The piece is a small bottle, measuring 50mm in height, with a diameter of 22mm at the base and 17mm at the neck. The bottle is iridescent green in colour and is moulded with an applied lip to the neck. The piece could feasibly be of Victorian date, or possibly early 20th-century.

6.2 Flint

A single piece of uncorticated worked flint was recovered unstratified from the site (from context [06]). The piece is a tertiary flake of prehistoric date.

6.3 Animal Bone

Three fragments of butchered animal bone were recovered from subsoil [02], all from the same piece of limb bone.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Despite the archaeological potential of the area surrounding the proposed development site based on the proximity of multi-period sites and find spots, no archaeologically significant features were present within the evaluation trench.

The presence of a struck flint suggests some prehistoric activity took place in the vicinity.

Recommendations for mitigation work, if required, based on the evidence presented in this report will be made by Suffolk County Council.

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Mid grey sandy silt topsoil	Modern
2	Deposit			Mid brown sandy silt sub-soil	Uncertain
3	Cut	pit		Rubbish pit	Mid 20th century
4	Deposit		3	Mid to dark grey silt	Mid 20th century
5	Deposit			Pale orange brown fine sand	-
6	U/S Finds			Context number given to unstratified finds	-

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Modern	Pit	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Animal Bone	3	17g	Uncertain	
4	Glass	1	20g	Post-medieval	Bottle
6	Flint – Struck	1	7g	Prehistoric	

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	1
Post-medieval	Glass	1
Uncertain	Animal Bone	3

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-131733

Project details

Project name	78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd ahead of a residential development at Land Adjacent to 78 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk. A single trench measuring 15m by 1.80m was positioned diagonally on the site. The only archaeological feature located within the area of the trench was a rubbish disposal pit of mid 20th-century date.
Project dates	Start: 10-07-2012 End: 10-07-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRF091 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU3096 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BRAMFORD 78 Fitzgerald Road
Study area	226.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1217 4616 52 1 52 04 21 N 001 05 46 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Mick Boyle
Type of sponsor/funding body	Housing Association
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orwell Housing Association Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Glass","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Glass","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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OASIS:

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Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification

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

Philip Isbell
Professional Lead Officer
Planning Services
Mid Suffolk District Council
131 High Street
Needham Market
Ipswich IP6 8DL

Enquiries to: Rachael Monk
Direct Line: 01284 741228
Email: rachael.monk@suffolk.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk>

Our Ref: 2012_0264
Date: 07 February 2012

For the Attention of Ian Ward

Dear Mr Isbell

**PLANNING APPLICATION 0264/12 – LAND ADJACENT TO 78 FITZGERALD ROAD,
BRAMFORD: ARCHAEOLOGY**

This application lies within an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Artefacts of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have been recorded to the south-east of the proposed development (HER nos. BRF 061 and BRF 037), which also lies 30m to the east of the route of the Roman road known as Pye Road (HER no. BRF 023). As a result, there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.

There are no grounds to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any important heritage assets. In accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) any permission granted should be the subject of a planning condition to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.

The following archaeological condition is recommended:

1. 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.

2. 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.

I would be pleased to offer guidance on the archaeological work required and, in our role as advisor to Mid Suffolk District Council, the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service will, on request of the applicant, provide a specification for the archaeological investigation. In this case, an archaeological evaluation will be required to establish the potential of the site and decisions on the need for any further investigation (excavation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks) will be made on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Monk

Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team