

Report 3147

# nps archaeology

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 67-69 Robeck Road, Ipswich, Suffolk

IPS 682

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

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Location:	Land to the rear of 67-69 Robeck Road, Ipswich, Suffolk
District:	Ipswich District
Grid Ref.:	TM 17634 42203
Planning Ref.:	IP/12/00426/FUL
HER No.:	IPS 682
OASIS Ref.:	134783
Client:	Orwell Housing Association Limited
Date(s) of Fieldwork:	20 August 2012

## Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd ahead of the proposed development of three dwellings at 67-69 Robeck Road, Ipswich in Suffolk.

A single trench measuring 20.0m by 1.6m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench revealed a series of modern intrusions and make-up layers overlying two ditches, one of which may be prehistoric in date.

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Proposals to develop three dwelling at land to the rear of 67-69 Robeck Road, lpswich, Suffolk (Figs 1 and 2), required a programme of archaeological evaluation to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by (Planning Ref. IP/12/00426/FUL) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), (Jude Plouviez 29 June 2012).

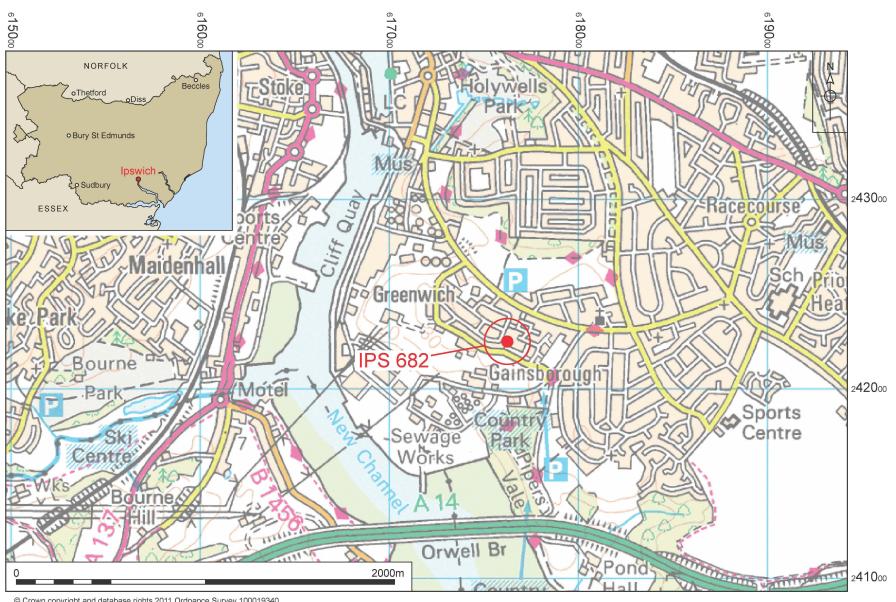
The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3147/NP). This work was commissioned by Greg Dodds and funded by Orwell Housing Association Limited

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 Suffolk County Council following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

# 2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology is Red Crag Formation – sand. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 2 to 4 million years ago in the Neogene Period. The local



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:20,000

environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS 1985). The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup – sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS 1991).

Robeck Road is located on the Gainsborough Estate on the south-eastern side of Ipswich. The site lies to the south-west of the Orwell Estuary at a height of approximately 30.0m OD and to the north of known as Pipers Vale Country Park.

# 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) produced evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. The Historic Environment Records are discussed below in broad chronological order.

#### Prehistoric

Site IPS 060 - MSF4836, known as Hog Highland in an area of extraction pits lies to the north-west of the site and produced various flint implements including an Acheulian hand-axe, quartzite flake, ?Solutrean-type implement dating to the Palaeolithic

Site IPS 001 – MSF16604 lies to the south of the site and produced a flint sickle dated to the Neolithic period. The flint sickle was found in the mud on the river bank of River Orwell, close to Orwell Bridge.

Site IPS 058 - MSF4834 lies to the north-west of the site and produced worked flints dating to the Neolithic period. To the west of IPS 058 at Orwell Works IPS 059 – MSF4835 a polished greenstone axehead also dated to the Neolithic period was recovered.

Site IPS 060 - MSF4837 known as Hog Highland lies to the north-west of the site and produced an axehead dated to the Neolithic period.

Site IPS 007 – MSF4724, lies to the south of the site in an area of Pipers Vale known as Brazier's Wood and produced possible Bronze Age and an Iron Age pottery scatter in 1946.

Site IPS 617 - MSF2475 lies to the south east of the site. An evaluation at Morland Road identified ditches and pits. Subsequent excavations demonstrated that an Early to Middle Iron Age settlement and later Early Roman ditches existed in this area.

#### Roman

Site IPS 088 - MSF4871 lies to the south of the site and produced a Roman brooch of 'Colchester Type' recovered by metal detector.

#### Medieval

Site IPS 131 - MSF4923, lies to the east of the site produced a sword pommel with arms of England on both sides and was dated to the 13th–14th century.

A large area to the south-east of the site, IPS 262 - MSF17926, is the location of ancient woodland known as Brazier Wood.

#### World War II

Site IPS 434 - MXS20273 lies to the south of the site and was a World War II military site. The site was visible on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s and shows a series of structures and earthworks surrounding a group of buildings in Pipers Vale. The structures include pillboxes, possible gun emplacement, slit trenches and possible air raid shelters.

## 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.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 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 taken.

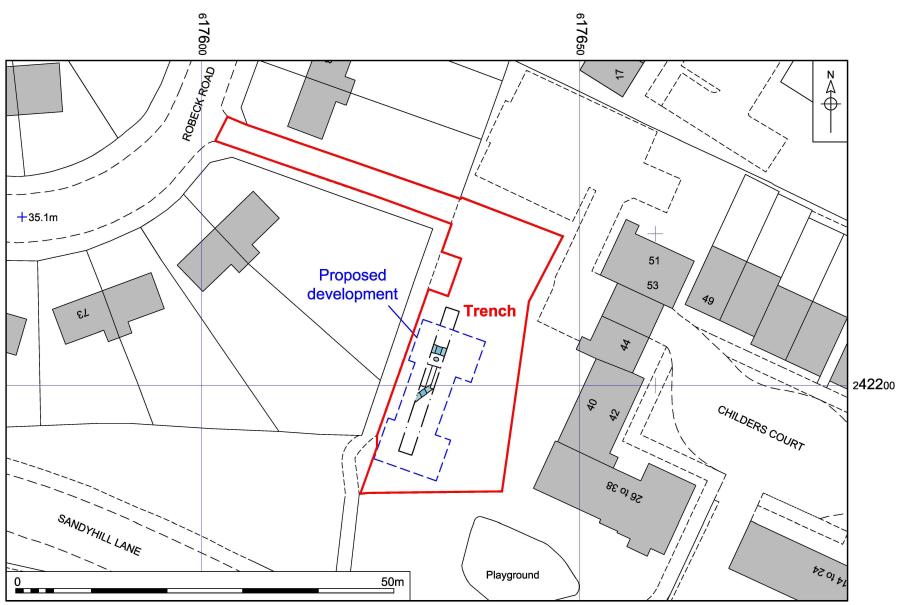
The Brief required that one trench measuring 20m in length should be excavated across the proposed buildings (Fig. 2) to gain as much information as possible on the form, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains.

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.

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.

The temporary benchmark at 34.95m OD was used during the course of this work. The temporary benchmark was transferred from a topographical survey undertaken by Architects Barefoot and Gilles.

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

(Figures. 3, 4, 5 and 6)

#### Trench 1

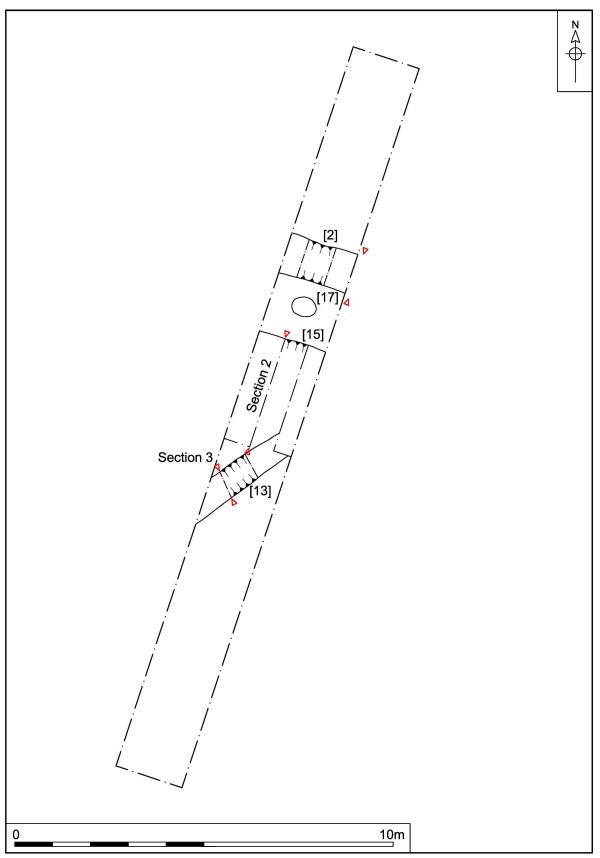
Trench 1 was orientated north-south and measured 20.00m long by 1.60m wide (Fig. 3). It was excavated to a depth ranging between 1.20m (north end) to 1.00m (south end). The height of the ground surface at the northern end of the trench was 35.48m OD and 35.52m OD at its southern end.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing south-east

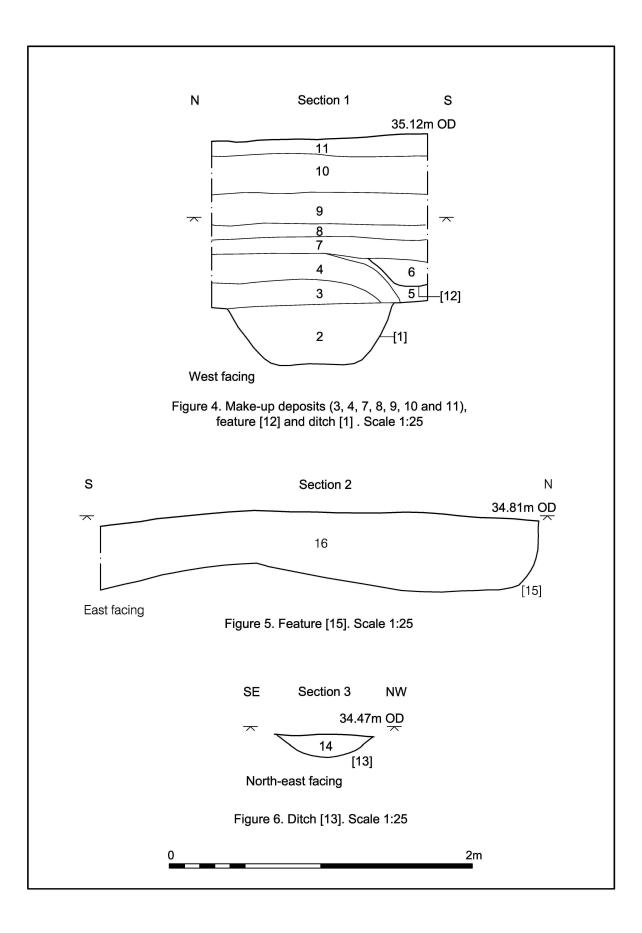
A series of five make-up layers ((7), (8), (9), (10) and (11)) were identified in the trench (Fig. 4); this overburden measured approximately 0.80m from the current ground surface. The upper deposit measuring 0.15m was consisted of mid to pale brown silty sand (11) with frequent lumps of charcoal, occasional fragments of brick rubble and modern rusted iron objects (not retained), deposit (10) measured 0.25m deep and consisted of pale brown sandy silt, deposit (9) was 0.20m deep, consisting of mid brown sandy silt, deposit (8) measured 0.10m consisting of mid brown sandy silt, deposit (7) measured 0.15m in depth and consisted of a mixed brownish black sandy silt with frequent brick fragments. (Fig. 4).

Below these make-up deposits was a possible cut feature [12] which was only seen in section (Fig. 4). It is likely that feature [12] was aligned east-west and may have been associated with landscaping activities in modern times. Cut [12] contained a single fill (6) consisting of mixed brown, black and yellow sandy silt. It appears in section that [12] cut an original land surface (4) which may have been a topsoil layer overlaying subsoil deposit (3) - a mid brown sandy silt. Below cut [12] was deposit (5) which resembled a deposit of redeposited natural consisting of mid orangey brown sand (Fig. 4)



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Figure 3. Trench plan. Scale 1:100



Below the possibly original ground surface deposits (3) and (4) were two ditches. The northernmost ditch [1] was aligned east-west and measured at least 1.60m in length by 1.10m wide and was excavated to a depth 0.40m(Figs 3 and 4). This ditch contained single fill (2) consisting of mid brown sandy silt, no finds were recovered from the fill. The southernmost ditch [13] (Figs 3 and 6) was seen to partially underlie a deposit which was contained within northern cut [15] (Figs 3 and 5) - although no cut was seen to the south. It is likely that cut [15], like feature [12] was also a 'feature' created as a result of modern landscaping activities; it may well have not been a distinct cut at all. Ditch [13] was aligned north-east to south-west and was at least 2.50m long by 0.60m wide by 0.15m deep. It contained single fill (14) which consisted of mid ginger brown silty sand with occasional rounded flint. Recovered from the upper surface of deposit (14) was a worked flint, not retained.

To the north of [12] was modern pit [17] (Fig. 3). This pit was seen to cut the natural ground which demonstrated that modern disturbance went down to a least 1.20m from the current ground surface. The pit measured 0.70m in diameter and contained fragment of modern brick and several broken sherds of glass - one of the pieces of glass was retained for identification.

# 6.0 FINDS

#### by Rebecca Sillwood

The single find was processed and recorded by count and weight, and the information is presented below in Appendix 2a.

## 6.1 Glass

A single fragment of bottle glass was recovered from pit fill (18), and consists of the base and part of the body of a small rectangular bottle. The glass is clear, and the piece is likely to be no older than 1950s in date, and has been subsequently discarded.

# 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although, there has been obvious modern activity such as ground build-up and intrusive interventions across the site, the presence of the ditches demonstrates that archaeological features survive below modern make-up deposits.

Dating of these ditches is difficult to achieve with any confidence, however the recovery of the worked flint from the upper surface of ditch [13] would suggest that prehistoric activity occurred at least within the vicinity of the site.

The site's location, close to the Orwell Estuary and the numerous prehistoric find spots recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record within the vicinity of Robeck Road demonstrates that prehistoric occupation would not be out of place here.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to Greg Dodds of Orwell Housing Association Limited for commissioning and funding the project. Craig Western of Barefoot and Gilles supplied the ACAD drawing.

Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) who devised the archaeological brief is thanked as is James Rolfe (SCCAS) for issuing the HER number and supplying the Historic Environmental Record data.

Site machining was undertaken by Peter George of Bryn Williams Civil Engineering. Fieldwork was undertaken the author and Rachel Cruse

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

# **Bibliography and Sources**

BGS (British Geological Survey)	1991	East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series
BGS (British Geological Survey)	1985	East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series
Department for Communities and Local Government	2012	National Planning Policy Framework

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Cut		Ditch	Uncertain
2	Deposit	[1]		Uncertain
3	Deposit		Subsoil	Uncertain
4	Deposit		Make-up layer	Uncertain
5	Deposit		Redeposited natural	Uncertain
6	Deposit	[12]		Uncertain
7	Deposit		Make-up layer	Modern
8	Deposit		Make-up layer with redeposited natural	Modern
9	Deposit		Make-up layer	Modern
10	Deposit		Make-up layer	Modern
11	Deposit		Topsoil	Modern
12	Cut		Elongated 'feature' created as a result of modern landscaping	Uncertain
13	Cut		Ditch	Uncertain
14	Deposit	[13]	Fill of ditch [13]	Uncertain
15	Cut		'Feature' created as a result of modern landscaping	Uncertain
16	Deposit	[15]	Landscaping deposit in 'feature' [15]	Uncertain
17	Cut		Modern pit	Modern
18	Deposit	[17]	Fill of pit [17]	Modern

# Appendix 1a: Context Summary

# Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Modern	Pit	1
Uncertain	Ditch	2
	Feature	2

# Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
18	Glass	1	63g	Modern	Bottle fragment

# Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Modern	Glass	1

Appendix 3: Oasis Record

# 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: norfolka1-134783

#### **Project details**

Project name	Robeck Road
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd ahead of the proposed development of three dwellings at 67- 69 Robeck Road, Ipswich in Suffolk. A single trench measuring 20.0m by 1.6m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench revealed a series of modern intrusions and make-up layers overlying two ditches, one of which may be prehistoric in date.
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2012 End: 20-08-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 682 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU3147 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH Rear of 67-69 Robeck Road
Study area	32.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 17634 42203 52 1 52 02 05 N 001 10 24 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	David Whitmore
Project supervisor	John Ames
Type of sponsor/funding body	Housing Association
Name of sponsor/funding body	Prwell Housing Association Ltd

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	SCCAS
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 67-69 Robeck Road, Ipswich, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ames, J.
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Entered by	Jayne Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	2 October 2012



Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification



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

# Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

Land to rear of 67-69 Robeck Road, Ipswich IP3 0HS

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Ipswich District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	IP/12/00426/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 176421
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of three dwellings
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jude Plouviez Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741235 E-mail: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk
Data	00 June 2012

Date:

29 June 2012

#### Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 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 a Trenched Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.3, <u>http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-andculture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/</u>) to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the 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 This site lies in an area of potential archaeological interest on a spur overlooking the Orwell estuary to the south west. Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity has been recorded in the general area. There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location and aspects of the proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that could damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

#### Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Linear trial trench(es) 1.80m wide are to be excavated to sample archaeological deposits in the area to be affected by development. The total length of trenching should be such that 5% minimum of the area is evaluated.
- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench(es) should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

#### Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 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.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <u>http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/</u> 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.
- 5.9 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*.

5.10 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 reissued 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. 1.3 – downloadable on this webpage: <a href="http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/">http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/</a>

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 (<u>www.archaeologists.net</u> 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.