

Report 2014/1311stutton



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
at Stutton House, Church Field Road, Stutton, Suffolk**

STU 082



Prepared for
Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects
Market Place
Hadleigh
Suffolk
IP7 5DN



Elizabeth Govier

July 2014



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PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Elizabeth Govier	06/02/2014
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	17/04/2014
Edit Completed	Andrew Crowson	19/06/2014
Reviewed	Jayne Bown	04/07/2014
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E nau.mail@nps.co.uk

W <http://nau.nps.co.uk>

01-04-13-2-1311

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Location:	Stutton House, Church Field Road, Stutton, Suffolk
District:	Babergh
Grid Ref.:	TM 162 343
Planning Ref.:	B/11/01047/FUL
HER No.:	STU 082
OASIS Ref.:	169452
Client:	Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects
Dates of Fieldwork:	5th February 2014

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects ahead of development of a new stable building at Stutton House, Churchfield Road, Stutton, Suffolk.

Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed stable block. No archaeological evidence was recovered during the evaluation, although one trench revealed a 19th-century land drain and a pond. A ground survey trench (percolation test pit) dug in 2012 was exposed in a second trench.

It was intended to excavate two further trenches, sited on a proposed new driveway to the stable block. Assessment of the location, however, revealed the presence of a foul water drain and outlet, a land drain and electrical and water services, and the trench excavations were not carried out.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

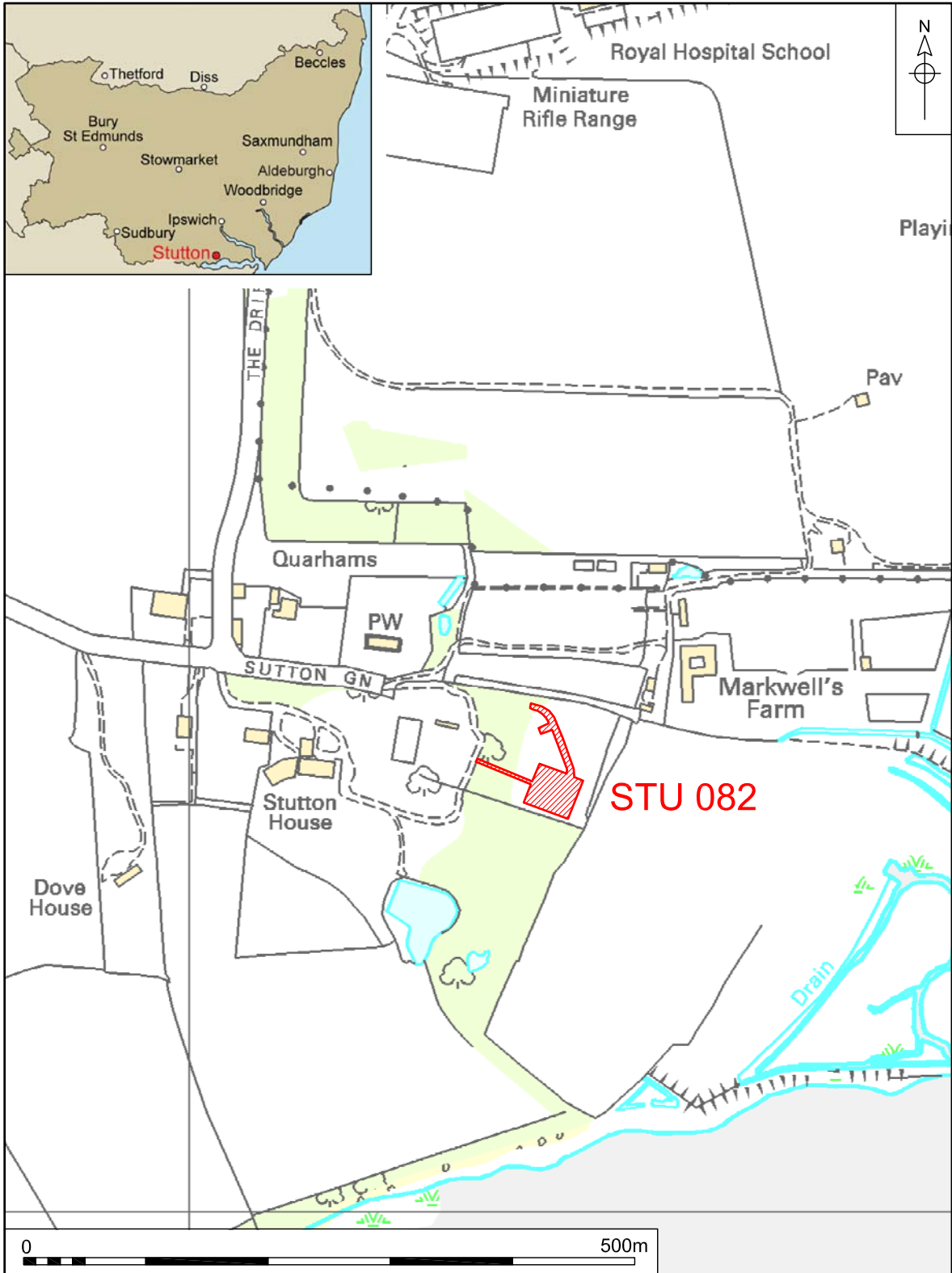
A proposal to construct a new stable block and access drive on an open, grassed area within the grounds of Stutton House, Church Field Road, Stutton, Suffolk (Fig. 1, Plate 1), required a programme of archaeological works to assess the potential impacts of the proposal on the archaeological resource. Four of six intended trenches, each measuring 10.0m long by 1.80m wide were excavated to evaluate a c.5% sample of the footprint of the development.

The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Babergh District Council (Ref. B/11/01047/FUL) and a brief issued by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council (A. Antrobus, 18th December 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. 01-04-13-2-1311/NP). The work was commissioned by Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects.

The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, following 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 Archaeological Services following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

234000



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000



Plate 1. General site view 1

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

The solid geology in the area of the development site is part of the Thames Group – Clay, Silty, a sedimentary bedrock formed c. 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period and indicative of a local environment dominated previously by deep seas. Superficial deposits at Stutton House are part of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup – Sand and Gravel. These formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment dominated previously by rivers.

2.2 Topography

The development site is situated within a historic landscape in the grounds of the Grade II-listed property Stutton House, 0.12km south of a line between St Peter's church (1.60m OD, TM1614,3445) and Markwell's Farm (0.40m OD, TM1638,3448).

The site is currently an open area under grass that is enclosed by trees. The ground is flat and slopes gently southeast towards the River Stour estuary. A modern pre-fabricated barn is located in the northeast corner, and natural springs occur on the west of the site.



Plate 2. General site view 2

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Records held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record have been appraised and the most relevant entries are presented below.

St Peter's church (STU007) is located to the north of the development site. It was recorded in the Domesday Survey and contains 10th- to 11th-century reticulated stonework. Twelfth-century stonework is incorporated in the east wall of the vestry and a modern buttress on the south side of the nave. There is simple 14th-century ironwork to the south door and an early 15th-century tower. The church has been largely restored.

Historic finds associated with St Peter's include an Anglo-Saxon stone architectural fragment (FSF8646), and two Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware pots (FSF4699) are believed to have been found in the churchyard. Formerly kept inside the church, the provenance of the pots has been debated: Mr Phillip Willis (as Chairman of the Stutton Local History Group) considered it unlikely that the vessels were found in 1895 as reputed because no mention is made by contemporary commentator Findley Baker, and more likely that they were found during the northern extension to the churchyard made on 21st May 1908.

The outline of a probable post-medieval field (STU076) is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs (conducted by Ordnance Survey and Sarah Newsome for English Heritage) to the northwest of Stutton Farm House. The cropmark reveals a rectilinear enclosure measuring 100m by 70m that takes in modern farm buildings in one corner. The outline appears to fit into the field pattern of the modern landscape, suggesting it represents a post-medieval hedged field boundary that has since been removed.

To the northwest of Stutton House, Ordnance Survey aerial photographs show positive cropmarks (STU041) of part of a possible ring ditch c.20m in diameter.

Other cropmarks are also visible in the area north of the field boundary STU076, including faint marks of a circular enclosure (STU040) c.70m in diameter which overlaps with a faint (incomplete) cropmark of a large, irregular-oval enclosure measuring c.200m by 70m. The cropmarks are undated. Another possible, undated ring ditch (STU075) appears (probably coincidentally) as a cropmark within the post-medieval field STU076. This example encloses an area 18m in diameter and is incomplete on its southeast side.

Archaeological evidence has been recorded southeast of the site along the intertidal zone of the Stour estuary around Holbrook Bay, compiled in 2002 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services as part of a Rapid Field Survey of the Suffolk Coast and Intertidal Zone. Circular, semi-circular, sub-circular, rectangular and parallel groupings of wooden posts were all recorded. Although their precise function and date are unknown, some may possibly be associated with riverside structures such as moorings and jetties. Additionally, a possible boatyard or quay (STU063) and post-medieval sea banks (HBK031) are all visible as earthworks. Three rectangular pits cut into the salt marsh (HBK033), and a large rim sherd (STU024) of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware were also recorded.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of the 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 c.5% sample of the footprint of the new stable building and driveway be evaluated. Six trenches, each measuring 10.0m by 1.8m were to be excavated. However, ahead of opening the two trenches intended for the driveway, services at shallow depth including foul water drains with an outlet, a land drain and electricity and water supplies were identified. Due to the risk of disturbing these live services it was not feasible to place any trenches along the driveway.

Machine excavation was carried out by 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.

Due to the absence of suitable deposits, 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. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were reasonable although the ground surface was waterlogged, with the work taking place in fine weather.

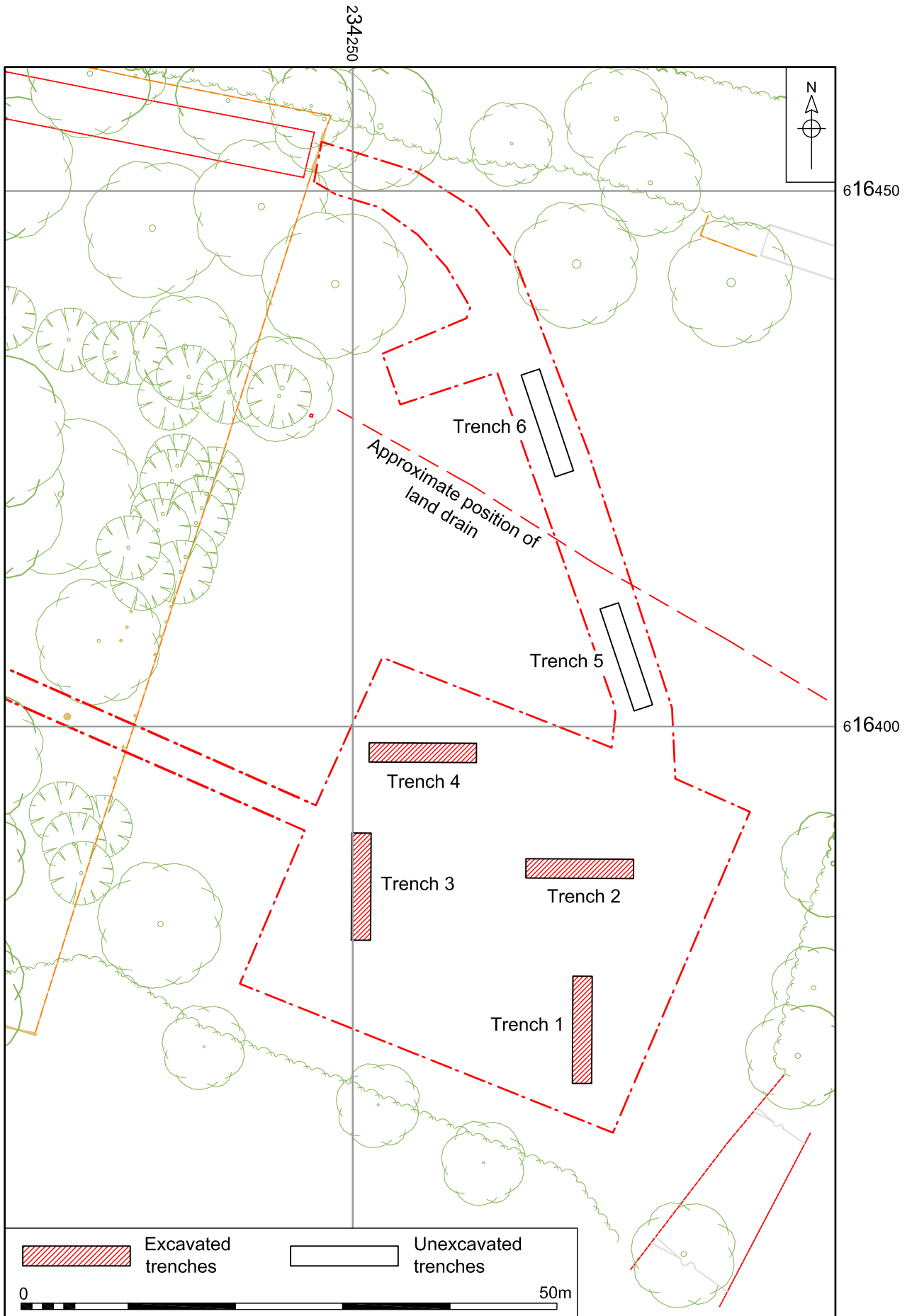


Figure based on Survey Solutions drawing 3946se-02 topographical survey


Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:500

5.0 RESULTS

Overburden consisted of homogeneous topsoil measuring between 0.27m and 0.38m. There was no subsoil present, and the natural geology comprised mid-orange brown silty clay.

Due to the nature of the topography, the waterlogged ground surface and the presence of natural springs west of the site, the trenches filled quite rapidly with water.

Information for each trench is tabulated below.

Trench 1		
 <p style="text-align: center;">Trench 1</p>	Figure 2	
	Location	
	Orientation	North to south
	Dimensions	
	Length	10.00m
	Width	1.80m
Depth	N end: 0.90m S end: 0.30m	
Discussion		
<p>Trench 1 was positioned in the south of the site, in the southeast corner of the stable building footprint. The overburden consisted of a single deposit (topsoil).</p> <p>The topsoil was a homogeneous mid-grey brown silty clay measuring 0.28m deep. Fragments of red clay brick were present along the horizon between the topsoil and natural geology.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were found in the trench and no finds were observed.</p>		

Trench 2



Trench 2

Figure 2

Location

Orientation East to west

Dimensions

Length 10.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth E end: 0.31m
W end: 0.41m

Discussion

Trench 2 was located directly north of and at 90° to Trench 1, in the northeast quadrant of the stable building footprint.

The overburden consisted of a single deposit (topsoil). The topsoil was a homogeneous mid-grey brown silty clay measuring 0.32m deep. Fragments of red clay brick were present along the horizon between the topsoil and natural geology.

No archaeological features or deposits were found in the trench and no finds were observed.

Trench 3



Trench 3

Figure 2

Location

Orientation North to south

Dimensions

Length 10.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth N end: 0.40m
S end: 0.32m

Discussion

Trench 3 was located directly west of Trench 2 in the southwest part of the stable building footprint.

The overburden consisted of a single deposit (topsoil). The topsoil was a homogeneous mid-grey brown silty clay measuring 0.30m deep. Fragments of red clay brick were present along the horizon between the topsoil and natural geology.

A ground survey trench (percolation test pit) dating from 2012 was located halfway along the west edge of the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were found in the trench and no finds were observed.

Trench 4



Trench 4

Figure 2

Location

Orientation East to West

Dimensions

Length 10.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth E end: 0.45m
W end: 0.42m

Discussion

Trench 4 was located north of Trench 3 in the northwest corner of the stable building footprint.

The overburden consisted of a single deposit (topsoil). The topsoil was a homogeneous mid-grey brown silty clay measuring 0.38m deep. Fragments of red clay brick were present along the horizon between the topsoil and natural geology.

A 19th-century land drain and a 7.05m-long pond were revealed at the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were found in the trench and no finds were observed.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the potential archaeological resource of the site and the likely impacts of construction of the stable building and driveway on that resource. The evaluation has demonstrated that no archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the area investigated by trenching. These results, when considered along with the topography of the site and its previous land use (pig farming, rhododendron cultivation and playing field) suggest that the area has been landscaped; an event that in likelihood would have removed evidence of any archaeological remains.

As the excavation of two of the intended trenches was not viable because of live services, suggestions were made to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services that a Watching Brief be conducted during construction of the access driveway to the stable building.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Suffolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects for commissioning the project.

Thanks are given to Holmes Plant and Construction Ltd for supplying the machinery. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author and Rob Brown.

Thanks are extended to Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

Bibliography and Sources

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Suffolk Historical Environment Records 2013

OS Explorer Map 197 2006 *Ipswich, Felixstowe and Harwich, 1:250,000*

www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/ Accessed 06/02/2014

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk Accessed 07/02/2014

Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary

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: norfolka1-169452

Project details

Project name	Stutton House, Stutton
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects ahead of development of a new stable building at Stutton House, Churchfield Road, Stutton, Suffolk. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed stable block. No archaeological evidence was recovered during the evaluation, although one trench revealed a 19th-century land drain and a pond. A ground survey trench (percolation test pit) dug in 2012 was exposed in a second trench. It was intended to excavate two further trenches, sited on a proposed new driveway to the stable block. Assessment of the location, however, revealed the presence of a foul water drain and outlet, a land drain and electrical and water services, and the trench excavations were not carried out.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2014 End: 05-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	STU 082 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH STUTTON Stutton House, Stutton, Suffolk
Study area	2000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 162 343 51.9645165798 1.1474891584 51 57 52 N 001 08 50 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 Rob Brown

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Stutton House, Church Field Road, Stutton, Suffolk
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Govier, L.
 Other bibliographic details Report 2014/1311stutton
 Date 2014
 Issuer or publisher NPS Archaeology
 Place of issue or publication Norwich
 Description A4 paper, double-sided, colour-printed, spiral-bound; pdf
 Entered by J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
 Entered on 4 July 2014

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Appendix 2: Archaeological Specification

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

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

STUTTON HOUSE, CHURCH FIELD ROAD, STUTTON, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Babergh District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: B/11/01047/FUL

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TM 162 343

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of a stable building to provide 12 stables together with tack, workshop, stores and field shelter with new access drive and path.

AREA: Small

CURRENT LAND USE: Grass/lawn

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Abby Antrobus
Assistant Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741231
E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 18 December 2012

Summary

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

‘No development shall take place until 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.’

- 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 1.1), 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 This proposed development affects an area of archaeological potential, very close to the medieval church of Stutton (County Historic Environment Record STU 007). Saxon pottery has been found in the churchyard, indicating early settlement in the vicinity. The proposed development area has not been subject to archaeological evaluation, but there is high potential for archaeological remains to be defined at this location. The site also has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown archaeological features in view of its topographic location overlooking the Stour Estuary.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high 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 was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) 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 systematically sample 5% of the area to be affected by development. 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.
 - 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 1.1.

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.