

**NAU Archaeology**

Report No. 1220

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Hadenham Road,  
Gisleham, Lowestoft, Suffolk**

GSE Misc

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December 2006

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BAU 1427



# Contents

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## ***Summary***

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 Conclusions

## ***Acknowledgements***

## ***Bibliography***

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Appendix 2: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Brief

## **Figures**

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench plan
- Fig. 3 Sections



Location: 5 Hadenham Road, Gisleham.  
District: Lowestoft, Waveney District Council.  
Grid Ref: TM 5257 8948  
Suffolk SMR No.: GSE Misc.  
Date of fieldwork: 12th October 2006  
Planning No.: W/16848/5

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## **Summary**

*An evaluation was undertaken at 5 Hadenham Road on a site where a proposed workshop is to be built. An evaluation trench 7.5m long and 1.8m wide was excavated in order to establish if there were archaeological remains present that would be affected by the building development. The trench was dug slightly shorter than the 14m originally proposed due to the conspicuous presence of modern activity, discovered within the trench during machining after a visit by the monitor. No significant archaeological remains were discovered.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

The site (Fig. 1) was located on land within the south Lowestoft industrial estate at 5 Hadenham Road, Gisleham, where there is a proposed development of a workshop and office. A single linear trench measuring 7.5m long and 1.8m wide was excavated (13.5 sq. m). It was orientated north-to-south.

Mr P.S. Knights funded this report and the fieldwork.

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (ref: 1427/KJP) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Dr Jess Tipper, October 2006).

The 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 and Policy Guidance 16 – Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive will be passed on to Suffolk County Council SMR, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

## **2.0 Geology and Topography**

The site lies near the intersection between the Corton formation and Lowestoft Till formation. The former consists mainly of sands and gravels and the latter of mainly chalky, pebbly, sandy clay till (British Geological Survey 1996). The site is positioned on land that gently slopes from east to west, dipping away from the higher Lowestoft Till down towards the Waveney valley several miles to the west. At the base of the evaluation trench natural sand was encountered at a level of 11.04m OD. This was a loose gravelly coarse sand. Above this lay a mid-brown silty sand containing occasional small rounded stones and flints. This subsoil was 0.30m in depth and covered the entire trench. The natural geology allowed for good drainage on the site.

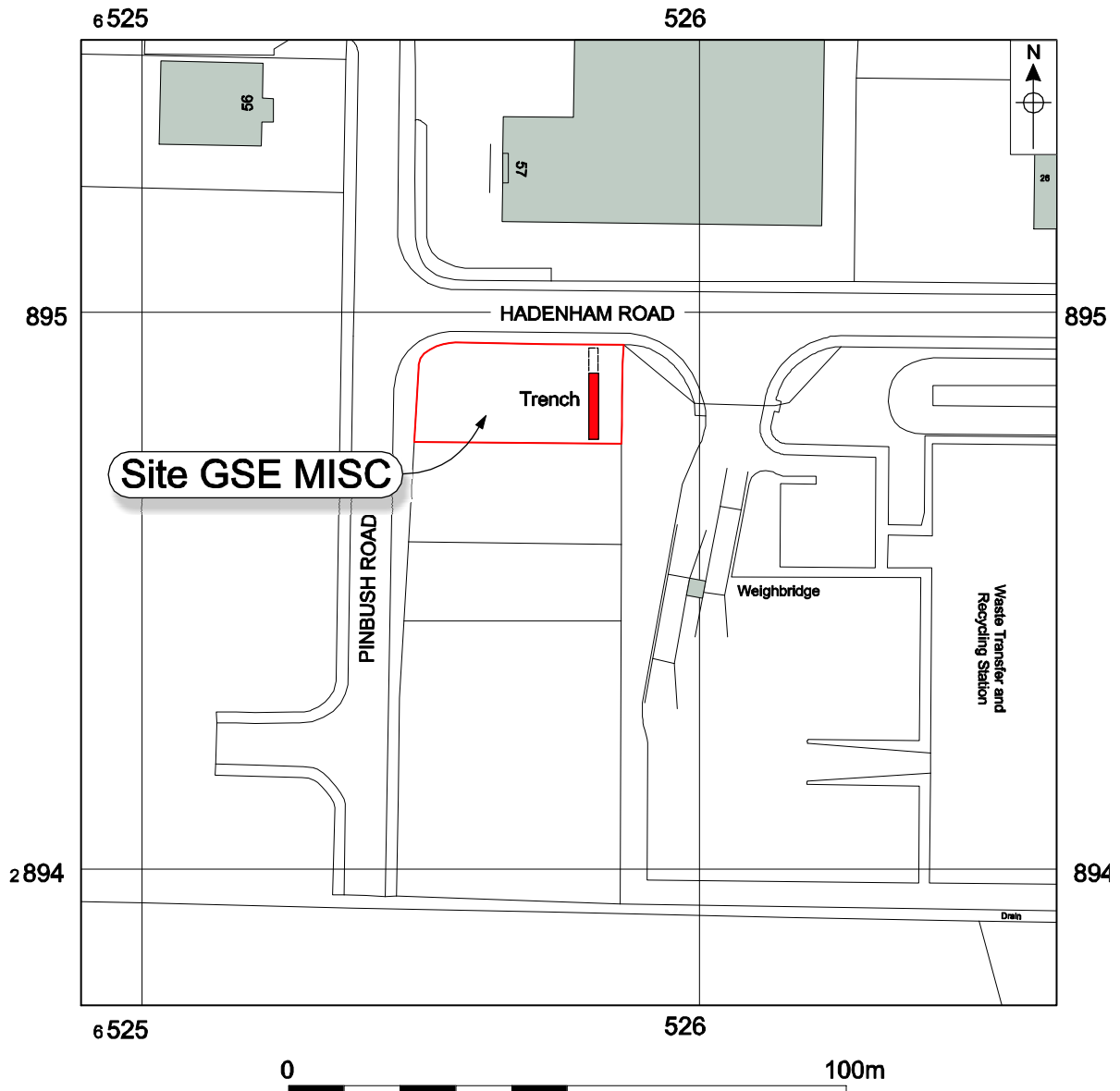


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:1250

Local Authority No.100019340

Fig. 1 is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings' Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich (05/01/05). Reference copy: no further copies to be made.

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### 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Around 100m directly east of the site excavations at Carlton Colville in 2006 (CAC 035) revealed a multi-period occupation site. A range of features were found, including a Neolithic pit, Bronze Age pits (one of which produced a lozenge-shaped jet plaque and a flint knife), undated large possible clay quarrying pits, and a probable Iron Age ditched enclosure with associated roundhouse. Further work based on trial trenching across Hadenham Road, to the north of this excavation, has

results outstanding. SMR information in both cases is currently being prepared (<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ONESUFFOLK>).

An SMR search was undertaken and the following results produced.

Around 500m to the west of the present evaluation, the site 'East of Bloodmoor Hill' (SMR CAC 016) produced evidence of multi-phase activity, with features of Late Iron Age, Early Roman, Late Roman and Early Saxon date. The features included ditches, post-holes and pits. Many of these features were overlain by hill-wash deposits. The site also produced some earlier prehistoric and medieval finds, though the Late Roman/Early Saxon period predominated.

Three hundred metres to the north-north-east a polished flint axe head of Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date was found (SMR GSE 006).

Also 300m to the north-east, was the findspot of a Bronze Age triple ribbed socketed axe, found whilst digging with a machine excavator in 1972 (SMR GSE 017). A Neolithic worked flint object was found at approximately the same location at a later date. Almost immediately next to GSE 017 was a well defined circular earthwork (GSE 042) located to the east of London Road, which may represent brick kilns. It is possible that these were still in use in 1904, but the date of their origin is unknown.

Metal detecting in 1998 found metal items of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date (SMR GSE 060) 500m to the north of the site.

A length of World War Two tank trap is known to have existed next to London Road (SMR GSE 045), 500m to the south-east of the present evaluation; and, 1000m to the south-east of the present site, a line of World War Two anti-tank cubes was seen on aerial photographs from June 1941 (SMR GSE 046).

## **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 trench 14m long by 1.80m wide be excavated through the centre of the proposed building footprint in a north-to-south direction (Fig. 2). It was discovered during machining that there had been a great deal of modern activity in the area and it was suggested by the monitor, Jess Tipper, that the trench could be stopped at 7.5m in length.

Machine excavation was carried out with a small 3-tonne hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Just over 10% of the area to be developed was evaluated.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. No metal-detected finds were retained because they were obviously modern. No finds were unearthed during this evaluation.

NAU Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used to record the layers and the modern feature present in the trench. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of the trench.

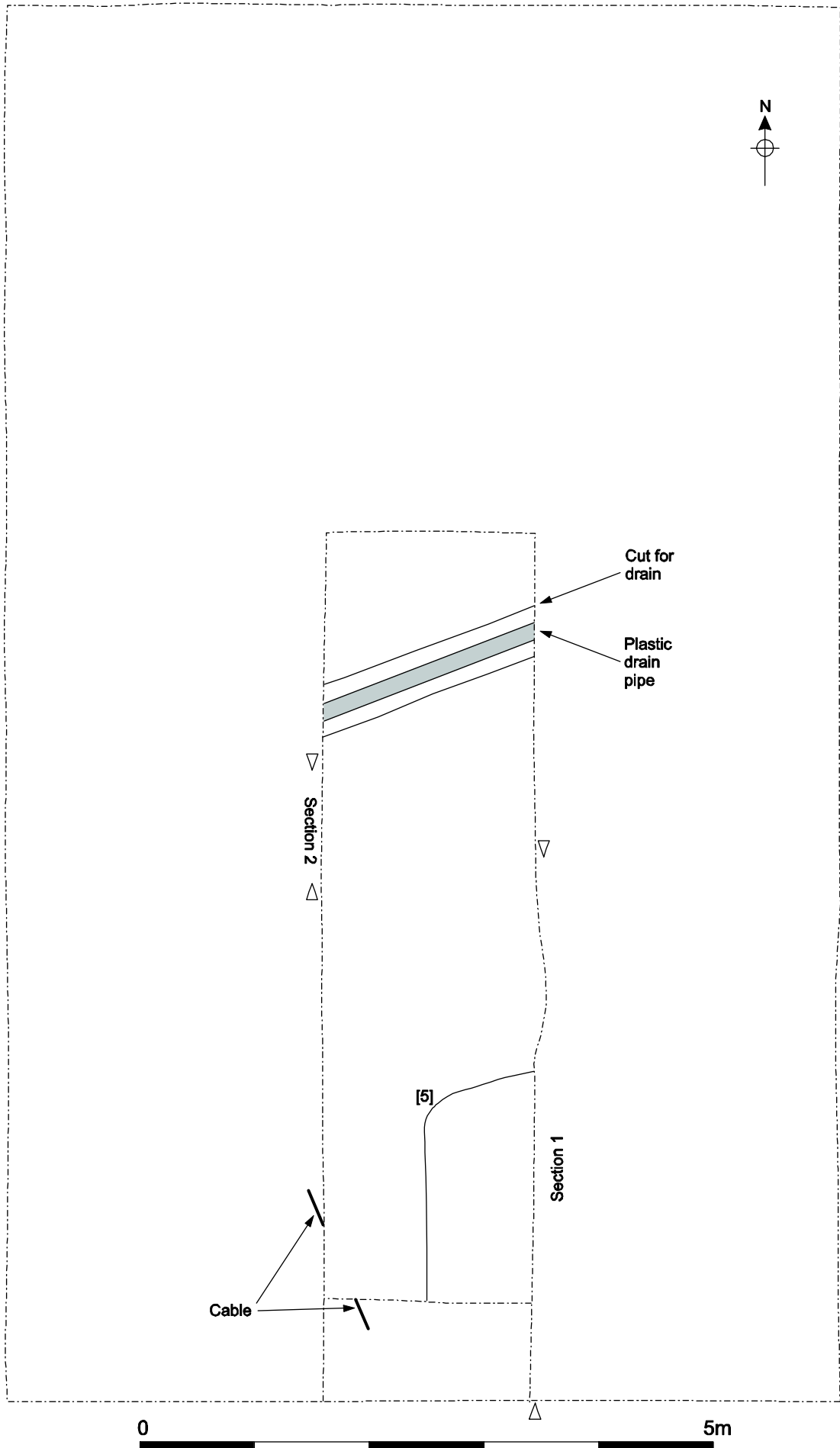


Figure 2. Trench plan. Scale 1:50



A level was transferred from a known height of 16.04m on the road at the junction between Cook Road and Tower Road, around 500m north-west of the site at the edge of the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. A temporary benchmark of 11.52m OD was created adjacent to the site on the kerb at the side of Pinbush Road.

Due to the lack of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

The weather was dry for the duration of the evaluation and site access was good. Mr Knights helpfully assisted towards the successful completion of the project.

## **5.0 Results**

The 7.5m by 1.8m trench (Figs 2 and 3) was excavated to natural sand, which was at 0.85m from the top of the yard surface. The natural ([4]) was a yellowish-orange sand that was loose and had within it patches of flinty gravel.

Above the natural was a subsoil ([3]) which was at 0.55m from the top of the yard surface and was 0.30m in depth. This deposit was a light orange-brown coarse sand that had occasional flint gravel and no finds.

Sitting above the subsoil at 0.30m from the top of the yard surface was a mid-grey-brown deposit ([2]) that was firm and compact in character and 0.25m in depth. Within this deposit there were occasional chalk and charcoal flecks along with some angular and rounded gravel, roots and organic matter. Again, no finds were retrieved. This mid-grey soil may once have been a plough-soil, compacted by the modern activity that has taken place above it for a number of years.

Cutting through this deposit, the subsoil and natural was a sub-rectangular feature ([5]) which had sloping sides at the top with a slightly irregular profile. The fill of this feature was a mix of modern gravel containing plastic sheeting and rubbish such as crisp packets, mottled sand that was similar to natural in character but had silty lenses within it and a firm grey silty sand sitting on top of redeposited subsoil. This mixed fill containing modern plastic indicated that the feature was modern and, as a result, the excavation was halted at 0.86m.

Other activity within the trench was also modern. A cable was located at the south end of the trench and a plastic drainpipe cut through the north part of the trench.

Sealing the feature and the other deposits mentioned was a crushed crumbly tarmac that formed the yard surface ([1]) and was 0.30 m in depth.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

During this evaluation a significant amount of modern activity was discovered. This included a large modern pit that cut through natural, the subsoil and ploughsoil/topsoil, a modern drainpipe at the northern end of the trench, and a modern cable at the south end of the trench.

An evaluation carried out on the 11th and 12th of October 2006 around 50m to the south, at 61 Pinbush Road (GSE 065), revealed two prehistoric features, a collection of debitage and several worked flints. It seems possible that any potential archaeology at 5 Hadenham Road may have been disrupted by modern activity, if it existed here in the first place. While the limited nature of the trench has successfully evaluated the footprint of the proposed building on the plot, its small size may have missed archaeological features by several metres. Other work in the area has shown that this well-drained land has been intensively settled through most historic periods.

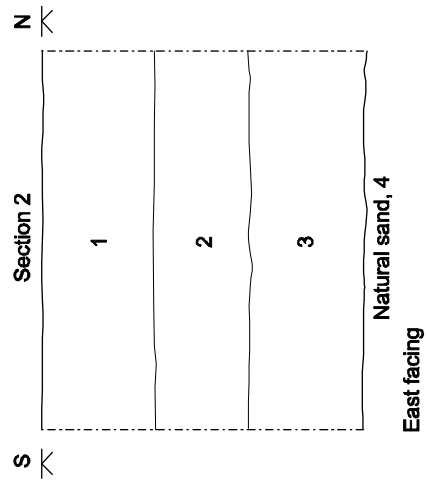
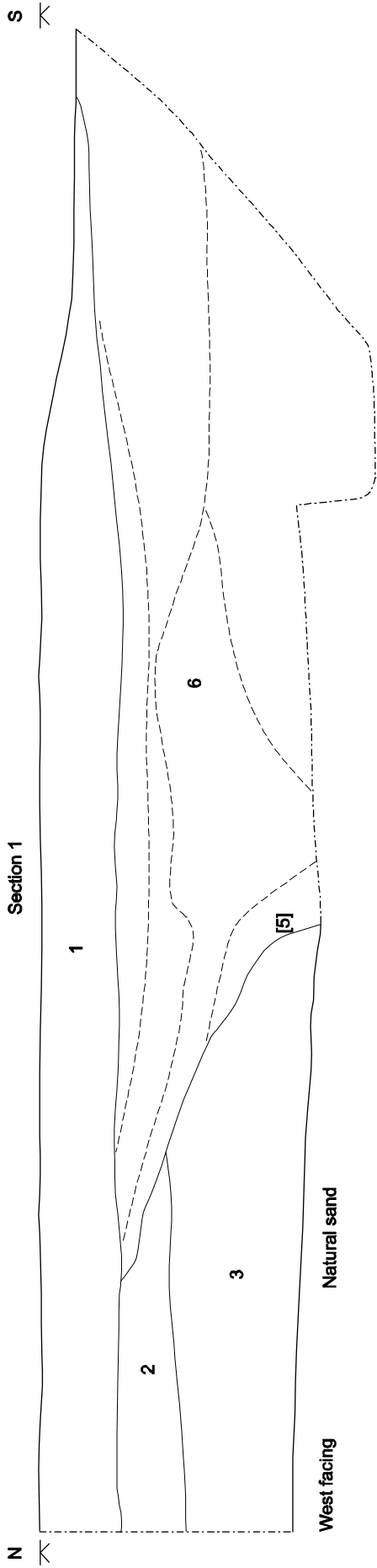


Figure 3. Sections. Scale 1:20

This evaluation trench has not added any new information to this known fact, but I believe this is due to its limited size. The original dimensions of the evaluation trench were compromised by the modern activity so the scope for any archaeology to be detected was reduced.

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

### ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank the following: Peter Crawley, who undertook the machining and fieldwork, and contributed to this report; David Dobson, who prepared the illustrations and Julie Curl formatted the report, which was edited by Jayne Bown and Sarah Harrison; and Ken Penn, who prepared the logistical research. Thanks also to the client, Mr Knights, for his interest in the project and help towards its successful completion.

### ***Bibliography***

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|--|------|--|
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### ***Appendix 1a: Context Summary***

<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Period</b>
1	deposit	made-ground	modern
2	deposit	old topsoil?	—
3	deposit	subsoil	—
4	deposit	natural sand	—
5	cut	pit	modern
6	fill	fill of [5]	modern

### ***Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table***

<b>Period</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
modern (1900 to 2050AD)	pit	1

**Appendix 2: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team Brief: -**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

***Brief and Specification for an Trenched Evaluation***

**LAND AT 5 HADENHAM ROAD, GISLEHAM**

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.*

**1. Background**

- 1.1 A planning application (W/16848/5) has been approved by Waveney District Council for the construction of a new building, measuring 12.1 x 7m in area, on land at 5 Hadenham Road, Gisleham (TM 5257 8948).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon this stage of the work.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of high archaeological interest. Archaeological investigation c. 100m to the east has defined an area of multi-period prehistoric occupation (CAC 035). In addition, archaeological evaluation of about 40 hectares to the north-west has identified four previously unknown sites, which included the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery (CAC 016) of national importance. 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 (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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.7 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.

## 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* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground 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. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

## 3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 A single linear trial trench 12m long will be excavated N-S across the area of the new workshop (Figure 1). The trench is to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench should be included in the Project Design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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 J. Heathcote, 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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 the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service. The archaeological contractor will give not less than ten 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 project 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.



- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* 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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 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 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 9 October 2006

Reference: / 5HadenhamRoad-Gisleham2006

**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.**

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

**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.**