

Report № 1969

An Archaeological Evaluation at 283 Whapload Raod, Lowestoft, Suffolk

SHER LWT 165

Produced for

A D Utting (Construction) Limited
The Chapel
Richmond Place
Lowestoft
Suffolk NR33 0EW



Suzanne Westall

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BAU1969

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NAU ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project overseen by	Nigel Page	
Draft completed	Suzanne Westall	14/11/2008
Graphics completed	Michael Feather	17/11/2008
Edit completed	Richard Hoggett	17/11/2008
Signed off	Andrew Hutcheson	21/11/2008

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

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Location: 283 Whapload Road, Lowestoft
District: Waveney
Grid Ref.: TM 5525 9403
SMR No.: LWT 165
Dates of Fieldwork: 22–29 September 2008

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 283 Whapload Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, where planning consent has been granted for the construction of 8 houses. The development site extends to the rear of several adjacent properties. As the development will involve extensive ground disturbance, planning consent was granted on the condition that a programme of archaeological work be implemented prior to the commencement of construction work. An archaeological evaluation of the application area was required as the first part of that programme, and decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation, as described herein.

Five archaeological trial trenches were opened, which revealed a small number of post-holes or shallow pits and a stake-hole of possible late medieval to post-medieval date and two modern brick wells. The information recovered does not indicate particularly extensive past use of the site, although more modern development, particularly along the street frontage may have obliterated or obscured any evidence that may have been present.

1.0 Introduction

Planning consent has been granted for the construction of eight houses at 283 Whapload Road, Lowestoft (DC/08/0774/ARM), on a site which lies within the boundaries of the medieval town (Figs 1 and 2). This consent contains a condition requiring that a programme of archaeological work be carried out before development begins and a brief for archaeological evaluation was issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Wade 2008).

The fieldwork reported here was commissioned and funded by A.D. Utting Construction and was carried out in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU1904/NP).

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 is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.



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Figure 1 Site location

2.0 Geology and Topography

The underlying geology of north-eastern Suffolk is predominantly estuarine or marine shelly sands, known as Crag. These are overlain in the Lowestoft area by clay (Lowestoft Till) mixed with chalk and by glacial outwash gravels (Wymer, 1999, 17). These are, in turn, overlain by the sandy soils of the Sandlings (Martin 1999, 20).

The topsoil at this particular site was a dark brown sandy clay silt with a scattering of modern rubbish across the surface and frequent brick inclusions throughout (01). In places this overlay a deliberate deposit of rubble and gravel, laid down as a levelling layer (02), in other places it lay directly over a sandy subsoil (03).

While much of the East Anglian coastline has been lost to erosion, deposition at Lowestoft has caused the shoreline to move eastwards. The Whapload Road and Denes area is at a lower level than the High Street and would once have been part of the beach. The archaeological natural in this area is a pale beige beach sand, and the fact that it was uncovered at a higher level on the eastern side of the site than on the western side suggests that this sand was deposited here in dunes (as is perhaps indicated by the name 'Denes').

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site proposed for development is close to the centre of Lowestoft and lies within the limits of the medieval town (Figs 1 and 2). Lowestoft was granted a market and fair in 1308 and was a relatively important regional market town during the medieval and early post-medieval periods (Butcher 1995, 32). By the mid-16th century, a large proportion of the population was employed in the fishing industry and a drawing of the town of c.1580 shows a line of herring smokehouses alongside the Denes (Butcher 1995, 44). However, it was only in the 1830s, when a lock was constructed connecting Lake Lothing to the sea, that a proper harbour was created (Butcher 1995, 17; Malster 1999). Prior to that time, goods were loaded and unloaded from ships drawn up close beside the beach. It is this early system that is reflected in the street plan of Lowestoft, with steeply sloping or stepped narrow alleyways along the shorefront, called 'Scores', linking the High Street to Whapload Road.

According to Butcher (1995, 25), much of the land on the western side of Whapload Road served as industrial premises for businesses along the High Street. Many of the plots on the eastern side of the High Street were very large, sometimes as much as 150 metres long, the residents' houses standing above terraced yards and the work premises below.

One of the smokehouses shown in the c.1580 drawing is still extant (LB 391367). Now used as a warehouse, it is situated about 160m north-west of the present development site, behind 317 Whapload Road. It is thought to date from the 16th century, although it was rebuilt in the 17th century and extended at later dates. A number of buildings along the High Street also date from this period, including No. 27 (LB 391293) (dated to 1551), Nos 30 (LB 391296) and 31–32 (LB 391297), Nos 43–44 (LB 391303) and No. 45 (LB 391304). The majority of these buildings would have been shops.

There are several earlier medieval buildings within a 300m radius of the site. These include a timber-framed property at 36 High Street which dates from c.1440 (LB 391300), a cellar beneath 160 High Street which has been dated to c.1400–32 (LB 391324), another (slightly earlier) brick cellar at 41 High Street dating from 1367–99 (LB 391302), and a 15th-century tithe barn at 34 Crown Street West (LB 391279).

A separate entry in the Suffolk HER describes the aforementioned cellars at 40, 41 and 160 High Street as ‘vaulted crypts’, representing the possible remains of a medieval priory dedicated to St Bartholomew. There are references to a church or chapel on the site of the Town Hall and illustrations of the town support this (Butcher 1995, 26 and 44), but no religious houses are listed for Lowestoft in the survey carried out by Peter Northeast (Northeast 1999, 70–71). No other reference to a priory in the town has been forthcoming. A church at Lowestoft (probably St Margaret’s) was granted to the priory of St Bartholomew in Smithfield, London, by Henry IV; perhaps the reference to a priory is erroneous and the features concerned are simply vaulted medieval cellars.

Post-medieval buildings along the High Street include the above-mentioned 16th-century houses, a 17th-century shop at No. 35 (LB 391299) and a public house at No. 150 (LB 391323), and a large number of 18th- and 19th-century structures (LBs 391278, 391290–2, 391294–5, 391298, 391301, 391305–11 and 391320–1). The first lighthouse on (what is now) the Yarmouth Road was also erected in the 17th century (LB 391372).

During the Second World War, extensive coastal defences were established on the Denes (LWT 090 and 091), but, as the western side of Whapload Road was occupied by houses, this area was not affected.

The building at No. 283 Whapload Road (now demolished) served as a shop in the 1940s and receipts for confectionery, dated 1947 and 1948, were found among the rubble. To the rear of the property, four more houses had apparently stood until 1953, when they were destroyed by flooding.

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.

Five trenches were excavated. The trenches were positioned to try to gain maximum coverage of the site within all existing physical constraints (Fig. 2). The extant building (and sheds) at 283 Whapload Road had not been demolished prior to arrival of the archaeological team on site. Due to the need for space to allow space for the demolition crew to work and the location of demolition debris and a container there was a very limited area available in which to work. The result was that the evaluation was split into two phases, with Trenches 1 and 2 opened in one phase and Trenches 3, 4 and 5 opened after the demolition was completed. Even after completion of the demolition work, the area which could be investigated was limited by the presence of a cellar to 283 Whapload Road, close to the road, and by the remains of four former dwellings in the south-western corner of the property. Only the rear wall of these latter buildings survived the flood of 1953, but it is thought that their foundations still remain.

In addition to the above, utility pipes for gas, water, and electricity were present on the eastern (i.e. road) side of the site. A small, lead water pipe was also uncovered to the south, at the edge of Trench 3.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales, and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Finds which were not obviously modern, were retained for inspection. No soil or other environmental samples were taken, as there were no suitable deposits.

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



Plate 1 Trench 1, looking east

Range bar = 2m



Plate 2 Trench 2, looking north

Range bar = 2m

5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned east–west (Plate 1) and adjoined Trench 2, which was aligned north–south (Plate 2), at its eastern end (Figs 2 and 3).

Trench 1 was 12.5m long x 1.8m wide, was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.9m for the majority of its length and 1.2m at its western end, where it was deliberately overcut to confirm the identification of the underlying natural.

A pit or post-hole (07) was uncovered in the base of Trench 1. It was partially covered by the southern baulk of the trench, but measured 0.5m by an estimated 0.7m and was by 0.26m deep (Plate 3). The sides were fairly steep (45–50°). No finds were associated with this feature and it is not datable, but a U-shaped outline of moderate charcoal flecking in the fill (06) perhaps reinforces its interpretation as a post-hole.



Plate 3 Cut 7 half-sectioned, looking south

Range bar = 50cm

Two relatively modern wells (09) and (12) were uncovered along the northern edge of Trench 1. These were only partially within the excavated area and the northern sides of each remained covered by the baulk. Both were brick-built and circular, with domed tops, although the upper portion of (12) had partially collapsed.

The brick shaft of well (09) was c.1.35m in diameter. It was exposed to a height of 0.8m (ten courses) on the outside (Plate 4), but on the inside was c.3.5m deep. The lower four courses were of red brick, while the upper six, which formed a dome over the shaft, were a mix of red and yellow (or buff) brick, bonded by a light grey to cream mortar, which had also been used to partially render the exterior of the dome. The bricks were evenly coursed, but the pointing was uneven. The cut for the well shaft (11) was approximately 1.65m in diameter at the base of the exposed bricks, was vertical for most of its height, but widened out to 2m in diameter towards the top of the subsoil (03). The cut was backfilled with sand (10) that was slightly darker than the natural. The top of the well rose above the level of the subsoil by c.0.25m and a layer of rubble (02), which overlay the subsoil, also appeared to partially overlie the well. The well still contained water and the shaft was free of rubble or debris, so it is likely that it had been capped with a stone or concrete removed by the machine when the trench was opened.

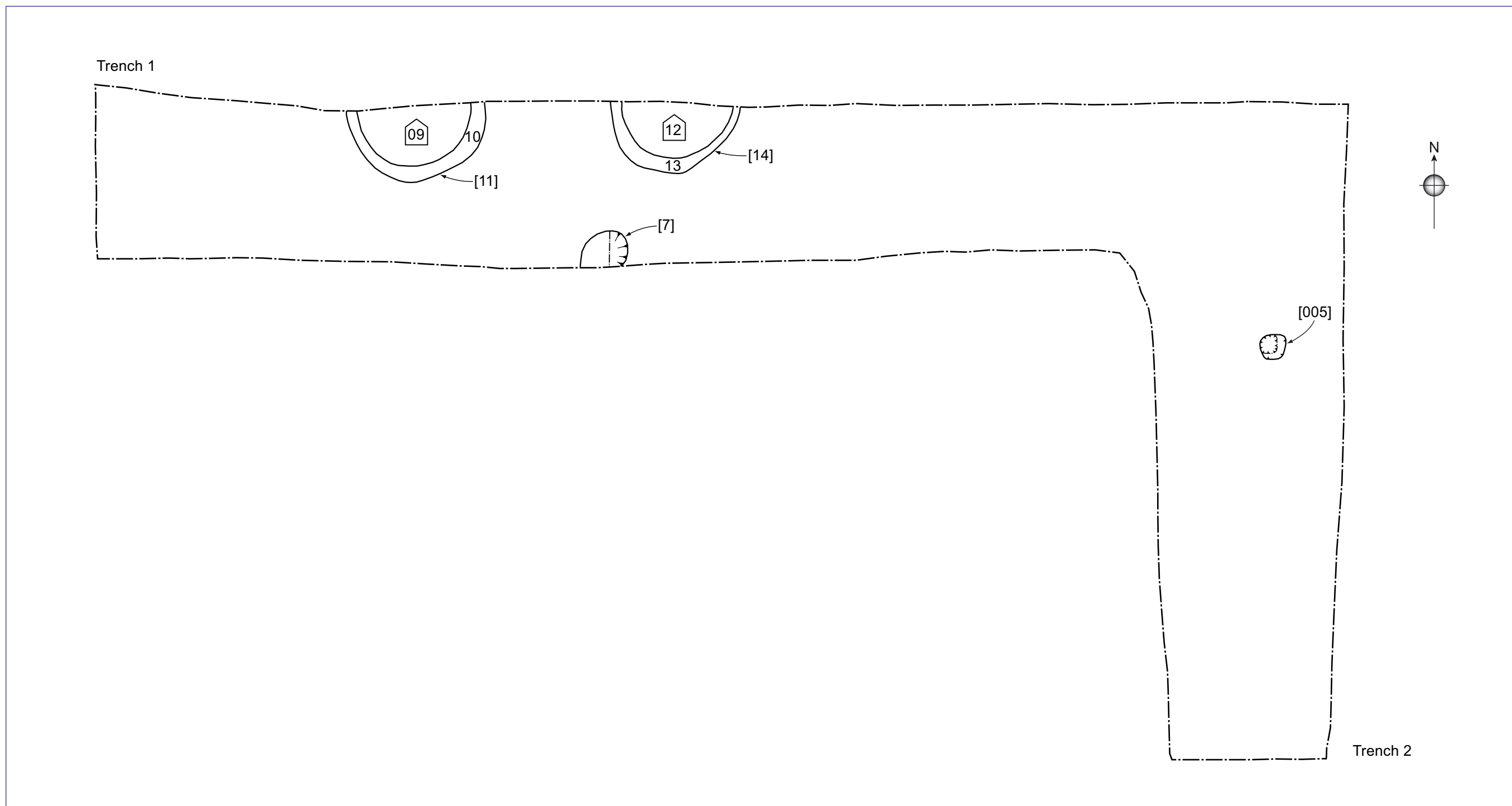


Figure 3 Plan of Trenches 1 and 2



Plate 4 Trench 1; Well 9, looking north
Range bar = 2m



Plate 5 Trench 1; Well 12, looking north
Range bar = 2m



Plate 6 Post-ex of cut 5, facing north, looking down

Range bar = 50cm

The brick shaft of well (12) was c.1.3m in diameter, within a vertical construction cut (14) c.1.5m in diameter. The shaft was exposed to a height of c.0.6m (six or seven brick courses) on the outside. It was constructed of evenly made, smooth red bricks, with a thick layer of pale grey–off-white concrete mortar between each course (these mortar layers were each about half the thickness of a brick) and the courses themselves were even. The upper five courses of bricks formed a dome over the well shaft (Plate 5), but the western side of the dome had collapsed and the upper portion of the shaft was rubble-filled. The well had been sealed with a concrete capstone, but the collapsed bricks had not fallen very far down the shaft and it is likely that it had already been backfilled with rubble or soil prior to being sealed. The backfill of the construction cut (13) was a mid-brownish-orange clayey sand with frequent pebbles and moderate amounts of powdered mortar.

A large concentration of clay tobacco pipe debris was noted close to the surface of Trench 1, but this was in the topsoil (01) and therefore unstratified. The density of

pipe debris suggested production or trade, rather than personal use, but, as the deposit was in an unsealed context, the pipes were not retained for inspection. Butcher (1995, 25) notes that premises on Whapload Road were utilised as workshop areas for High Street businesses in the medieval and post-medieval periods and a search of the Suffolk HER in 2007 produced a record stating that the 1851 census refers to a (possible) clay pipe producer on the High Street, in the form of one 'Thomas Brooks' (born 1820). This was recorded under LWT-Misc and was not included in the information provided for the current report. It may therefore not be accurate and, as the pipes were noted in the topsoil, it is likely that they were re-deposited.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 7.8m x 2m and extended south from the eastern end of Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 2). The pale yellow, medium-grained sand natural was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.8m.

The only archaeological feature in Trench 2 was post-hole (05) (Plate 6). It was roughly square, 0.3m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with very steep sides. The base of the feature formed a rounded point. The fill (04) was peaty and suggestive of decayed wood, indicating that the original post (or at least the base of the post) had rotted *in situ*. The fill also contained three rusty iron nails, which are likely to have come from the post. The appearance of the nails and the fact that the wood within this feature had not properly decayed, suggests that the post-hole was relatively modern.



Plate 7 Trench 3 (south end) looking south

Range bars = 1m

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 ran roughly north–south, close to the extant cellar of 283 Whapload Road, and measured 11m x 2m (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 7). The trench contained a number of archaeological features.

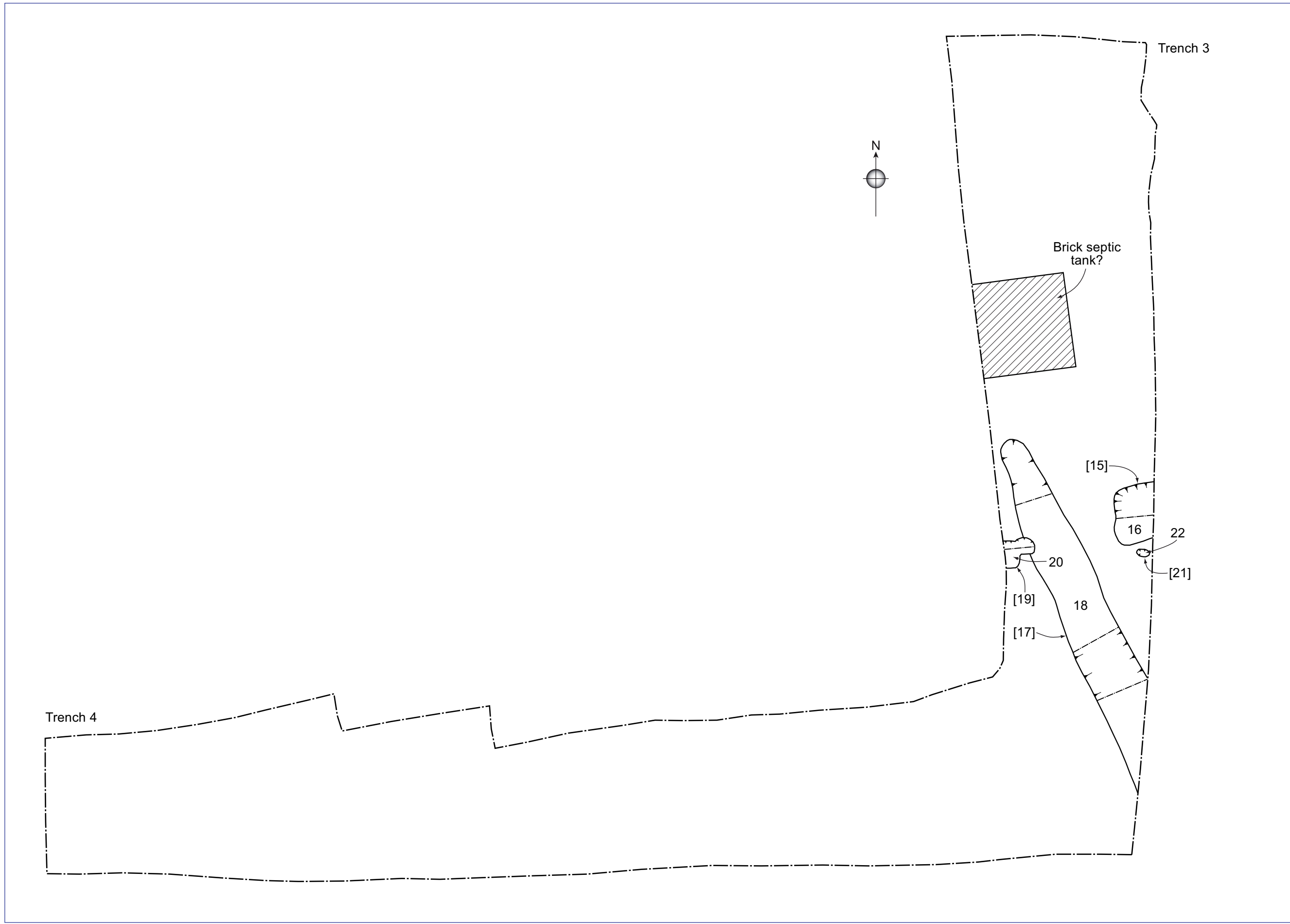
The first was a brick ‘tank’ of uncertain purpose and date, 1.2m to 1.3m wide and capped with concrete slabs. Three ceramic pipes and one lead pipe ran into the sides of the structure, which was revealed to a height of one metre but continued below ground. The lid of the tank was below the modern ground surface, but the walls were constructed of smooth, evenly fired red brick, indicating a relatively modern date and the structure was interpreted as an old septic tank or similar and was not investigated further. It was too small to have been a cellar attached to any previous building on this site.

To the south of the brick structure, four archaeological features were identified (Plate 7). These were the base of a ditch (or linear feature), two squarish pits or post-holes, and a small stake hole. The ditch (17) ran north–west–south–east across the trench and was exposed for a length of 4m. It continued into the eastern baulk at its southern end. The ditch was only 0.09m deep at its deepest point and became gradually shallower and narrower towards the north, where it petered out just short of the western baulk. This northern terminus was rounded and only 0.35m wide. Where the ditch ran into the southern baulk, it was 0.75m wide. In profile, the ditch formed a shallow bowl, with very gently sloping sides. Its fill (18) appeared to be slightly ashy and spread across the southern half of Trench 3.



Plate 8 Trench 3: Post-hole 19, Fill 20 (+ ditch 17, fill 18), looking west

Range bar = 1m



0 3m

Figure 4 Plan of Trenches 3 and 4

On the western side of the trench, ditch (17) and its fill (18) were cut by a probable post-hole (19) (Plate 8). This post-hole was 0.35m wide, at least 0.4m long and, 0.31m deep. Its southern side was a vertical cut, while the northern side was steeply sloping. It was filled with a dark grey-brown sandy silt (20), the excavated portion of which contained a small fragment of animal bone and some broken brick. The bone was in poor condition and a small fragment, but was thought likely to be from a sheep. The brick was identified as an early type, made from estuarine clay and dated from the 13th–15th centuries.

A large post-hole or shallow pit (15) on the opposite side of the trench contained a similar assemblage of animal bone and degraded brick, along with a fragment of roof tile (Plate 9). The brick and tile dated from the 15th–16th centuries. Feature (15) was 0.75m long and 0.5m wide, although it extended into the eastern baulk and its full width was not established (Plate 9). It was shallow, only 0.06m deep, and had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill (16) was a mid-brown to dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles. The main part of the fill was loose, but it was more firmly compacted around the edges of the feature, where it also contained occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. It is possible that the material in the looser part of the fill had been introduced following disturbance and the feature may be earlier than the CBM contained within it suggests.



Plate 9 Trench 3: Cut 15, Fill 16 and Cut 21, Fill 22 half-sectioned, looking east

Range bar = 1m

A small feature interpreted as a stake hole (21), measuring 0.1m by 0.2m and 0.1m deep lay adjacent to the south (Plate 9). This was filled with dark brown, compact deposit (22) and had steeply sloping sides, consistent with a sharpened stake. The fill looked slightly organic and it may be that the stake had rotted *in situ*; it is also possible that this was the bottom of a root hole.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 ran westward from the southern end of Trench 3, along the southern edge of the development site, and measured 15m x 2m (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 10). The northern edge of Trench 4 could not be machined straight, because of obstructions to the mechanical excavator.

Trench 4 contained no archaeological features.



Plate 10 Trench 4, looking west

Range bars = 1m

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 ran parallel to Trench 3, several metres to the west, and measured 14.5m x 1.8m (Fig. 2; Plate 8).

Trench 5 contained no archaeological features.



Plate 11 Trench 5, looking north

Range bars = 1m

6.0 The Finds

6.1 Ceramic Building Material

By Sue Anderson

Three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from two contexts. From pit-fill (16) there was a piece of red-firing late brick in a medium sandy fabric and a small fragment of roof tile in a dense fabric with sparse coarse quartz inclusions, both probably late medieval (15th/16th century). From post-hole fill (20) there was an abraded fragment of early brick in an estuarine clay fabric (13th–15th century), covered with patches of lime mortar.

6.2 The Metal Artefacts

Two iron nails and a possible iron tack were recovered from fill (04) of post-hole (05) in Trench 2. They are all modern and will not be considered further here.

6.3 The Faunal Remains

By Julie Curl

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. Where possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context examined. A table giving a summary of the information is included in Appendix 5.

A total of 9g of bone, comprising of two pieces, was recovered. The remains were produced from two contexts. The assemblage is in good condition, although fragmentary from butchering and wear. The bone is stained a darker brown, which is characteristic of material that has lain in waterlogged and organic deposits.

The fill (16) of shallow pit (15) in Trench 3 produced a butchered scapula from a sheep and a shaft fragment from a medium-sized mammal (?sheep) was recovered from the fill (20) of post-hole (19), also in Trench 3.

This is a very small assemblage that consists of butchering and food waste. No further work is needed on this particular assemblage.

7.0 Conclusions

Documentary sources suggest that land in this area was used for industrial purposes during the medieval and post-medieval periods by merchants and/or workers in the fish trade. The results of the evaluation indicate that some form of medieval activity took place on the site, but they are largely inconclusive in terms of the type of activity that occurred or its extent.

The two wells in Trench 1 were modern or post-medieval, probably associated with the former residence on this site, and the extant buildings on adjacent plots. The function of a square, brick-built structure in Trench 3 is unknown, although it is likely to have been some sort of cistern or septic tank. Also identified were a ditch, two small pits or post-holes and a stake hole in Trench 3, a post-hole in Trench 1, and a post-hole in Trench 2. The latter was thought to be modern due to the presence of some metal nails and semi-decomposed wood, but the others may all date from the medieval period. Finds and fill patterns from the features in Trench 3 suggest that they were not contemporary and they may span a period of several hundred years, from the 13th–16th centuries.

Of the two pieces of animal bone found in Trench 3, only one was able to be identified with any certainty, although no date could be assigned to it. Brick and tile from post-holes (15) and (19) indicated a late medieval date for the fill of (15) and a slightly earlier date for the fill of (19). The latter post-dated ditch (17), so, despite a lack of finds, it is possible that this ditch of 15th century or earlier. This is the earliest of the datable features uncovered.

Post-hole (07) in Trench 1 and stake-hole (21) in Trench 3 are also thought to be medieval, but could not be positively dated.

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

Acknowledgements

The work was commissioned and funded by A.D. Utting Construction and the project was managed by Nigel Page. Fieldwork was carried out by Helen Stocks and Suzie Westall, with machining carried out and storage facilities provided by Utting Construction. HER information for Lowestoft was provided by Colin Pendleton of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Further background information was provided by John Percival of NAU Archaeology. The finds were examined and reported on by Sue Anderson (CBM), Julie Curl (animal bone) and Lucy Talbot (metalwork). The report was illustrated by Michael Feather and edited by Richard Hoggett.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Post-medieval / Modern
02	Deposit	Make-up	Post-medieval / Modern
03	Deposit	Subsoil	Post-medieval
04	Deposit	Fill of (5)	Post-medieval
05	Cut	Post-hole	Post-medieval
06	Deposit	Fill of (7)	Post-medieval
07	Cut	Post-hole	Post-medieval
08	Deposit	Feature or disturbance?	Post-medieval
09	Masonry	Well	Post-medieval / Modern
10	Deposit	Fill of (11)	Post-medieval / Modern
11	Cut	Cut for well. Filled by (9) and (10)	Post-medieval / Modern
12	Masonry	Well	Post-medieval / Modern
13	Deposit	Fill of (14)	Post-medieval / Modern
14	Cut	Cut for well. Filled by (12) and (13)	Post-medieval / Modern
15	Cut	Shallow pit (or base of post-hole)	Medieval/Post-medieval
16	Deposit	Fill of (15)	Medieval/Post-medieval
17	Cut	Linear ditch	Medieval?
18	Deposit	Fill of (17)	Medieval?
19	Cut	Post-hole	Medieval
20	Deposit	Fill of (19)	Medieval
21	Cut	Small stake-hole adjacent to (15)	Medieval/Post-medieval
22	Deposit	Fill of (21)	Medieval/Post-medieval

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539)	Ditch	1
	Post-hole	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539) to Post-medieval (1540 to 1900)	Pit or post-hole	1
Modern (1900 to 2050)	Post-hole	1
	Well	2
	Cistern / Septic tank	1
Unknown	Post-hole	1
	Stake-hole	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
04	Iron	3	–	Modern
16	Ceramic Building Material	2	43	Medieval/Post-medieval
16	Animal Bone	–	8	Undiagnostic
20	Ceramic Building Material	1	130	Medieval
20	Animal Bone	–	1	Undiagnostic

Appendix 2b: HER Finds Summary Table

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Animal bone	2
Medieval (1066 to 1539)	Ceramic Building Material	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539) to Post-medieval (1540 to 1900)	Ceramic Building Material	2
Modern (post 1900)	Iron	3

Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
16	Brick	1	–	Medieval/Post-medieval (1400 to 1599)
16	Tile	1	–	Medieval/Post-medieval (1400 to 1599)
20	Brick	1	130	Medieval (1200 to 1499)

Appendix 4: Metal Objects

Context	Material	Qty	Description	Period
04	Iron	2	Nails	?Modern
04	Iron	1	?Tack	Modern

Appendix 5: Faunal Remains

Ctxt	Wt (g)	Total Quantity	Species	Species Quantity	Comments
16	8	1	Sheep	1	Scapula, chopped
20	1	1	Mammal	1	Shaft fragment

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

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

283 WHAPLOAD ROAD, LOWESTOFT

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted for the construction of 8 houses at 283 Whapload Road, Lowestoft (DC/08/0774/ARM).
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.3 The proposal lies within the area of medieval Lowestoft, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance and will involve extensive ground disturbance.
- 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. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based assessment will precede the field evaluation. The results of the desk-based work are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 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.

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
- 3.4 If appropriate, provide a transcription of archaeological features from all available air photographs held by Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport Department and its HER, the National Monuments Record and the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs, at a scale of 1:2500.

4 Specification B: Field Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area / entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 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.

- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The contractor shall 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 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).
- 4.10 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. “*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.11 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. **General Management**

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. 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).
- 6.7 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 HER 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.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 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.

- 6.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 20 August 2008

Reference: /283 Whapload Road

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

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