

Report 2458



nau archaeology

**An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
on Land off Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk**

Prepared for
St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd
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draft

Location:	Land off Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk
District:	Waveney
Grid Ref.:	TM 3918 8349
OASIS Ref.:	78690
Client:	St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd

Summary

A proposal by Oaktree Environmental Limited on behalf of their client St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd to develop a field to the south of Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk, for the erection of an anaerobic digester plant and broiler unit, required an archaeological desk-based assessment as part of an archaeological evaluation prior to any construction works. This was to identify the extent of the archaeological resource of the site and to assess the likely impacts of the proposals on that resource.

The desk-based assessment has shown that the site has low potential for any archaeological remains to be present on the site. The lack of archaeological work in the area may have contributed to the paucity of evidence in the vicinity.

Cartographic evidence indicates that the field under study was once divided into five fields, which aerial photographic evidence indicates were amalgamated into one field between 1966 and 1973. It is likely that these obsolete field boundaries will survive as archaeological features.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd is currently seeking to develop a field to the south of Hog Lane, Westhall for the erection of an anaerobic digester plant and broiler unit. The field is to be found in the extreme north-west of the parish of Westhall (TM 3918 8349), some distance from the village centre, and nearer to the village of Ilketshall St. Lawrence. The field is currently in use as arable farmland, and was under a crop of peas during the site visit. The field is bounded by Hog Lane to the north, Butt's Road to the east, a dried up stream to the south and a stand of young trees to the west.

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service prepared a brief and specification for the work required prior to the granting of planning consent (S. Poppy; 18 May 2010), in accordance with the guidelines set out in **Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010)**. The Brief stated that the site marked for development was in an area where little previous investigation had taken place. The brief specified that a desk-based assessment and an archaeological evaluation, entailing non-intrusive systematic fieldwalking and metal-detecting, would be required prior to any work, in order to understand the significance of the heritage assets present in the area. The desk-based Assessment was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU\BAU2458\DW, May 2010). This work was commissioned and funded by St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd.

The redevelopment of the site is in line with a number of regional, county and local plans and strategies.

1.1.1 The East of England Plan

The East of England Plan (May 2008) sets out the development strategy for the east of England. The Plan identifies the importance of maintaining and enhancing the historic environment. The balance between the need for development and the protection of the historic environment is set out in Policy ENV6 of that document which states

'In their plans, policies, programmes and proposals local planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region its archaeology, historic buildings, places and landscapes...'

The need for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment is articulated thus:

'To conserve the wider historic environment, local authorities and other agencies should afford the highest level of protection to historic and archaeological areas, sites and monuments of international, national and regional importance. Plans and policies should ensure new development preserves or enhances historic buildings and landscapes, conservation areas and important archaeological features and their settings. Policies and programmes should work towards rescuing buildings and monuments at risk, and take an active role in promoting repair and re-use of historic buildings, especially where this would assist urban renaissance and regeneration. The landscape context and setting of buildings and settlements is an essential component of their quality and should be safeguarded in policies relating to historic assets.' (paragraph 8.20)

1.1.2 The Waveney District Council Adopted Core Strategy

County and local policies and guidance also identify the importance of sustainable development and highlight the need to protect and enhance the historic environment.

The Waveney District Council Adopted Core Strategy sets out the approach to the management of the built and historic environment within the longer-term development strategy for the region. Policy CS17 deals with the Built and Historic Environment and covers Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets.

The Waveney District Council Development Management Policies Proposed Submission (Final Draft): Archaeological Sites

'recognises that archaeological remains are a non-renewable resource, which are valuable for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.'

It also states that:

'full archaeological assessment must be included with any planning application affecting areas of known or suspected archaeological importance to ensure that provision is made for the preservation of important archaeological remains'.

All of these documents recognise that archaeological remains are a finite, non-renewable and fragile resource and highlight the need for robust and appropriate assessment to identify the extent and character of the archaeological resource in order to ensure either its preservation *in-situ* or preservation by record to mitigate any loss or damage of that resource through development.

To comply with the all relevant policies, strategies and guidelines, St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd commissioned NAU Archaeology to carry out an archaeological

desk-based assessment as the first stage of archaeological works to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

1.2 Regulatory and Advisory framework for Cultural Heritage

The treatment of archaeological remains, and the Historic Environment was regulated by *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)*, which stated government policy on archaeological remains and how they should be preserved or recorded. This policy has now been superseded by *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (March 2010)*. For any projects begun before March 2010 *PPG16* still applies, for any after that date, *PPS5* is the relevant document.

PPG 16 provides advice on the proper treatment of archaeological remains and discoveries, through the development plan and development control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and planning conditions. It also explains the importance of archaeology and outlines the process to be undertaken to adequately assess and protect any remains.

PPG 16 (para. 19) specifically states that:

'prospective developers should in all cases include as part of their research into the development potential of a site, which they undertake before making a planning application, an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains.'

PPG 16 (para. 20) also outlines the appropriate methods of assessment:

'assessment normally involves desk-based evaluation of existing information: it can make effective use of records of previous discoveries, including any historic maps held by the County archive and local museums and record offices.'

PPS5 (policy HE6.1) outlines the new requirements for planning applications, and states that:

'Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance...As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary...local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation'

PPS5 goes on to state (policy HE6.2):

'This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required)...It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted'

PPS5 also states that (policy HE6.3):

'Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of an heritage assets affected cannot be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents'

1.3 Aims and Methodology of the Assessment

This assessment has a range of aims, key among them being the need to provide enough information to support the redevelopment of the site. The assessment will seek to provide that information in a way that allows an appropriate evaluation of the likely archaeological implications of the proposals and providing an overview of the historical development of the site in its local context and its broader position

within the area. Where appropriate the information can inform a mitigation strategy to manage and protect the archaeological resource during any subsequent development.

In order to achieve the assessment aims a wide range of source material was examined. The material included unpublished reports on previous archaeological work, maps, published material and information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record and the Suffolk County Records Office in Lowestoft. The Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) and the National Monument Record (NMR) were also consulted on any aerial photographs they hold of the area.

The material was examined to provide an overview of the historical development of the areas under study, to identify known archaeological sites and features or areas of archaeological potential and to assess, as far as possible, the likely impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The assessment followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 and 2008).

1.4 Abbreviations Used in the Text

Previously known archaeological sites are identified by their Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) reference number.

Cartographic sources are noted by their unique Suffolk Records Office (SRO) number.

References to previous archaeological reports and published works are given in brackets throughout the text, with full bibliographic details listed in the sources.

OD refers to the height of a surface above ordnance datum level.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Site Location

The field marked for development is to be found to the east of Stone Street, a Roman road running roughly north to south, connecting Bungay and Halesworth (the A144). Hog Lane runs east to west and leads off Stone Street into the village of Redisham, further to the north-east of the site.

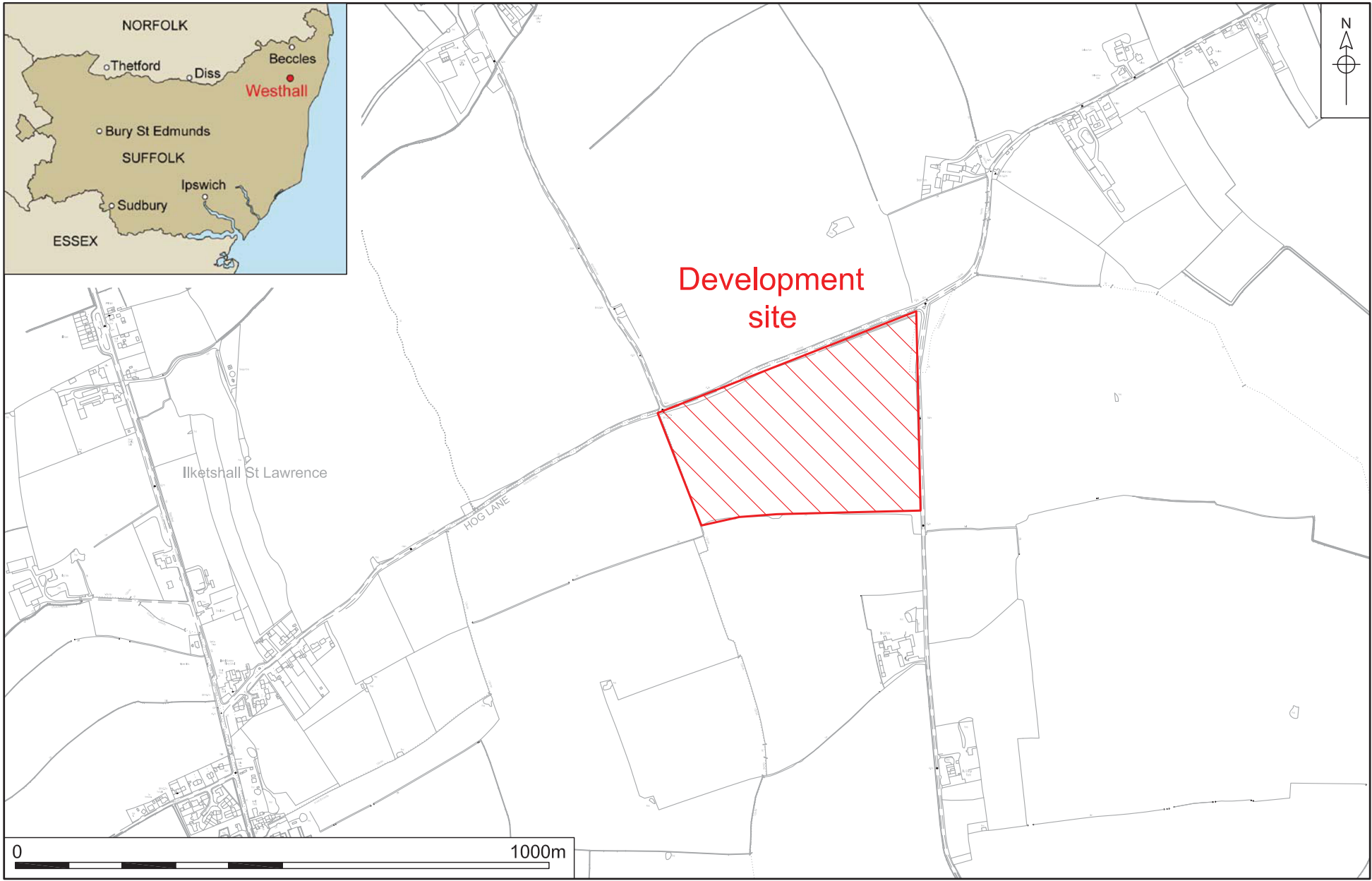


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

The field itself lies at the junction between Hog Lane and Butt's Road, which runs south and leads to Cox Common, Mill Common and the village of Westhall (Fig 1). The field occupies land at a height of c.39m OD, and has a total area of c.13.2ha (32.6 acres).

2.2 Historical Topography

On Hodskinson's map of 1783 the area of the development is shown as one large open area, with a few buildings visible along Butt's Road, likely to be Slough Farmhouse. No dividing boundaries are seen in the area, although it is unlikely that this is a true depiction of the topography of the time.

It is on the Tithe Map of 1840 that the first accurate internal divisions can be seen within what is now one large field. The area in 1840 is five smaller fields, and this same pattern can be seen through to the 1884 Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, again on the 2nd edition of 1904, and also on the 3rd edition of 1927. The fields were made into one between 1966 and 1973, which is evidenced by aerial photographic evidence. Photographs taken from the 1940's all show the five field system. The aerial photographs show no cropmarks in the area under study, although the fields around it show evidence of old field boundaries, all on a similar plan to those seen in the study field on historic maps.

The bedrock geology of the area under study is Neogene to Quaternary rocks (undifferentiated) and gravel, sand, silt and clay. Superficial geology in the area is deep loam to clay, over chalky till.



Plate 1. Northern end of field, looking west

2.3 Modern Topography

The field occupies a gentle slope, with the highest point being at the northern end of the field near to Hog Lane (Plate 1), and the lowest point at the south-eastern

corner of the field. The height of the area is c.39m OD. The field is bounded by trees on all sides, with the denser portions along Hog Lane, with more evenly spaced trees along Butt's Road and along the southern boundary of the field. A dried up stream course runs along the southern edge of the field. The western boundary of the field is a dense stand of young trees, which are visible from Hog Lane.

3.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

3.1 Historic Evidence

The parish of Westhall was in the hundred of Blything, and was not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but was known to consist of four manors, Westhall Hall, Empole's, Barrington's and Bacon's al Wingfield. The parish church of St. Andrew is certainly Norman in origin, with several original features still extant. Westhall Hall is a building erected c.1570, and was part demolished in 1808 and remodelled. During the reign of King John (1199–1216) the manor of Westhall was in the hands of the Crown, and was granted in c.1215 to Nicholas de Dunwich. This Nicholas sold the manor to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, who had a grant of Henry III (1216–1272) to confirm the purchase in 1243 (Copinger, 1908, 186). A market and a fair were granted to Westhall in 1229, formerly held at Sotherton. After the death of Hubert in 1247, the estate passed to his widow, Margaret, Countess of Kent, daughter of William, King of Scotland, in trust for their son, John de Burgh. John then sold the manor to Richard de Belhus and Hugh Le Parker in 1275, and Hugh le Parker appears to have acquired the whole manor later, as his name alone appears on the Hundred Rolls. The estate passed through several hands in the following years, through Avis, the wife of Hugh le Parker on his death, and thence to his son, William. A Robert Asphale held the lordship in 1316, and in 1376, William Pannes de Naburne granted the estate to his uncle, Sir Robert de Swillington. The Swillington's owned the estate for a time, and passed by blood to the Hoptons, who continued to own the manor through to the late 1500s. Certainly a Sir Anthony Hopton, who died 5th August 1555, was one of the last Hopton owners. In 1589 William Roberts sold the estate to Thomas Feltham, who passed it to Edmund Knevitt in 1613 for three hundred pounds, and whom then sold it on (at a small profit) to Edmund Bohun in 1622. It is during the incumbency of the Bohun family that the other manors in the parish of Westhall become subsumed into one, with Empole's combining in 1533, Barrington's in 1562 and Bacon's al Wingfield in 1535.

The Bohun family are of note, both locally and nationally, as the grandson of the aforementioned Edmund, another Edmund became an author of some note. This Edmund was born nearby in Ringsfield, in 1644 or 1645, and owned Dale Hall in Whitton and lands in Brampton. Edmund went to Queen's College, Cambridge, and stayed for three years, although he did not take a degree, after which he returned to his lands at Westhall for fourteen years of his life. In 1684 the pull of the big city and the possibility of public office took him to London, where he devoted himself to literature, and became licenser of the press. His radical views meant that he only remained in this post for five months, after which he was appointed Chief Justice of South Carolina, and died there in 1699. The last of the Bohuns to inherit Westhall was the Reverend John Francis Browne Bohun, who sold the manor to Alexander Adair in 1806.

The other estates in Westhall, as has been mentioned above were subsumed into the main manor in the 16th century, but before then they, too, went through several hands. Empole's was so named after one of the earlier owners, although the first owner was William le Parker, with this gentleman releasing the manor to William de Empole and his brother John in the late 13th century. In 1328 the Empoles gave up their lands at Westhall, and moved on, with the land passing in 1423 to Thomas Crofts, and in 1474 to Thomas Cause, from whose family Nicholas Bohun purchased it in 1533.

The Barrington's estate was owned by Sir John Barrington, knight, in 1375, and continued in the Barrington family until it was sold to Francis Bohun in 1562. The final estate in Westhall was the manor of Bacon's al Wingfield, which was the manor of Simon Bacon in 1305. It is said that it was in the reign of Henry IV (1399–1413) that the estate became vested in the Wingfield family, and it is possible that the family had land in Westhall before then. The Wingfields owned the manor until 1535, when it passed to Nicholas Bohun, and was absorbed into the Empole's estate.

The history of the parish of Westhall is similar to that of many rural communities, it never held great estates or gentry; in fact many of the gentry had greater residences elsewhere. The area is notable in that it had four commons or greens; Cox Common, Mill Common, Bacon's Common (or Beck's Green) and Nethergate Green. The population was engaged in trades such as tailoring, shoemaking, blacksmithing and, of course, farming. Wheelwrights, corn millers and merchants, fruit sellers, and other trades related to the land were the norm for the area. A railway ran through the parish, part of the Great Eastern railway; this was opened in 1854 and closed in 1964. The parish also had an endowment left by the Reverend Gregory Clarke and his wife (bequeathed in 1717 and 1726), to be used for education of poor children, and this was used in 1844 for a schoolmistress to teach five children to read. In 1776 the parish had ten inmates in the Blything Union Workhouse, which was situated at Bulcamp, near Blythburgh. The parish had two public houses, The Greyhound and The Racehorse, for recreation. In 1855 a National School was built, at a cost of £830, raised by subscription, which could accommodate 120 children. In 1878 a Primitive Methodist Chapel was built here, and was enlarged in 1898. In 1900 a police station with a constable in residence is recorded as being on Cox Common.

3.2 Past Land-use

The past land-use of the site under development has been shown to be purely agricultural, although there are possibly two extraction pits within the Devonshire Farm development area. The divisions may have changed but the use of the land for farming has not.

3.3 Cartographic Evidence

The first printed map of Suffolk was published in 1579, in *An Atlas of England and Wales* by Christopher Saxton (Fig. 2), and 'Westall' is clearly shown on the map, although at this point there is no real detail as to field boundaries or topographical features.



Figure 2: Saxton's Map of Suffolk, 1579.

The next map of the area is from 1783, by Hodkinson, and shows the area where the field now lies as a large open area to the east of Stone Street. Some buildings visible along Butt's Road are likely to be Slough Farmhouse and its associated outbuildings. This map is unlikely to be true depiction of the area, as relatively small fields were the norm for the period.

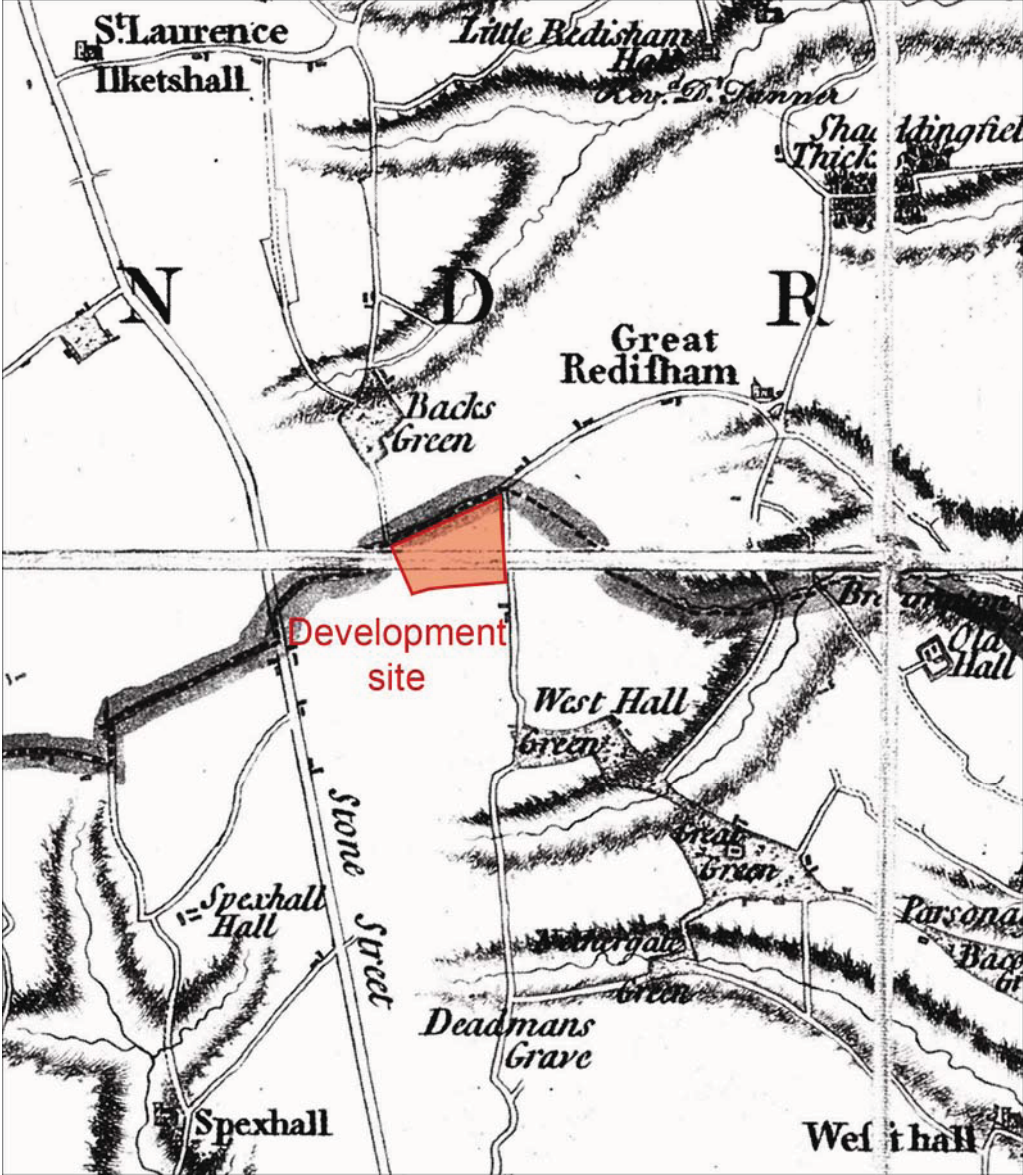


Figure 3: Hodkinson's Map of 1783, with field outlined

The Tithe Map for Westhall, drafted in 1840, shows the area as five fields, with two features depicted, which are possibly ponds, in the area. The Tithe Apportionment lists all the fields, and several surrounding, including the house nearby, as belonging to Samuel Fuller, with the occupier of the land listed as William Fuller. The fields are all listed as either arable or pasture land.

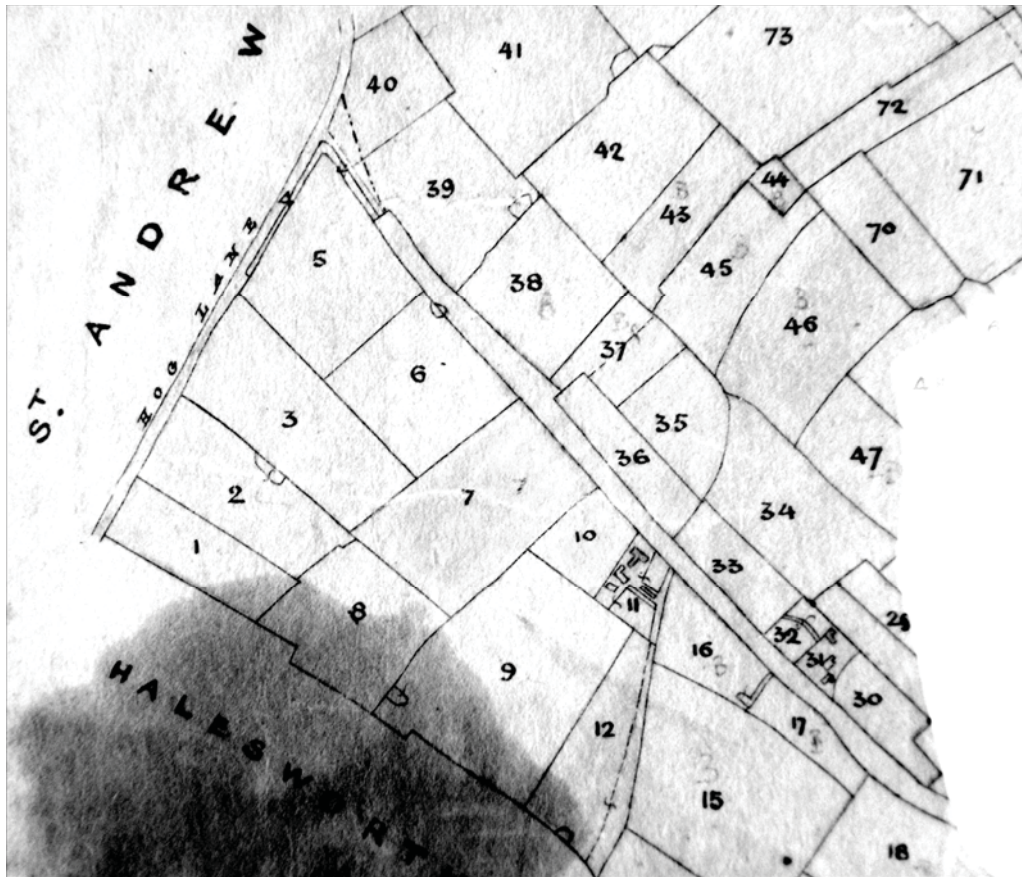


Figure 4: Tithe Map of Westhall Parish 1840

The next available map is the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1884, which shows the same configuration of fields, with the addition of another possible pond in the north of one of the fields and more trees depicted.

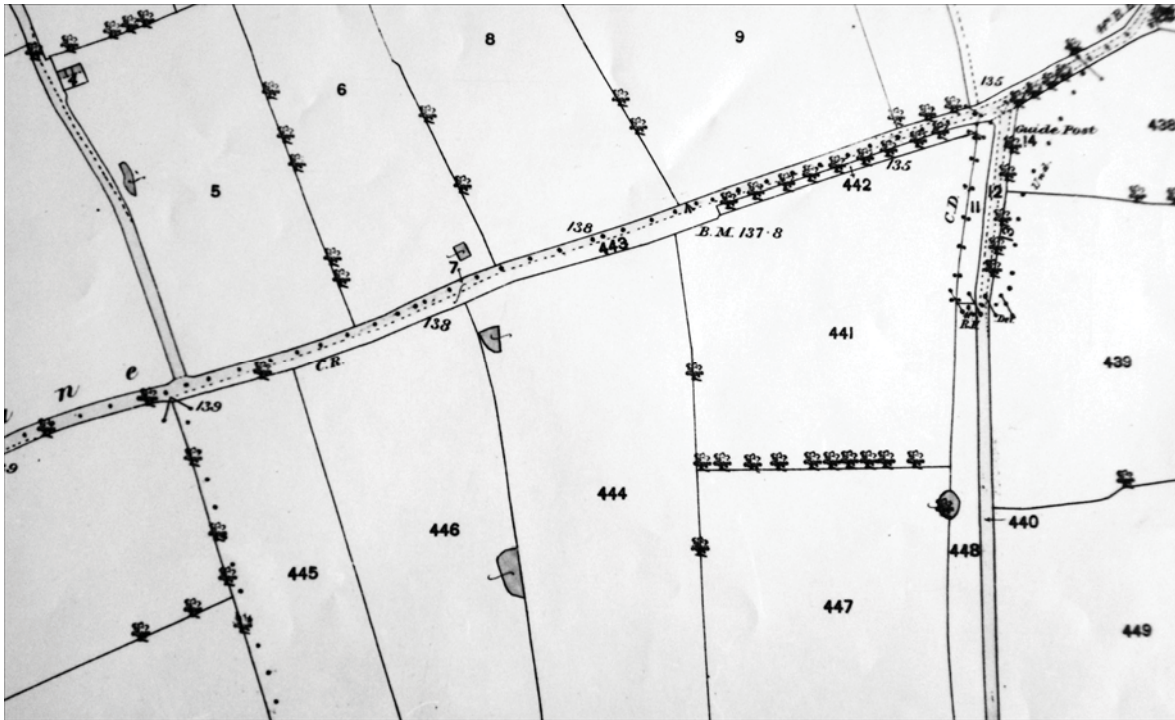


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey map, 1st edition 1884

The two remaining maps of the area, the 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps, show little change in the fields.

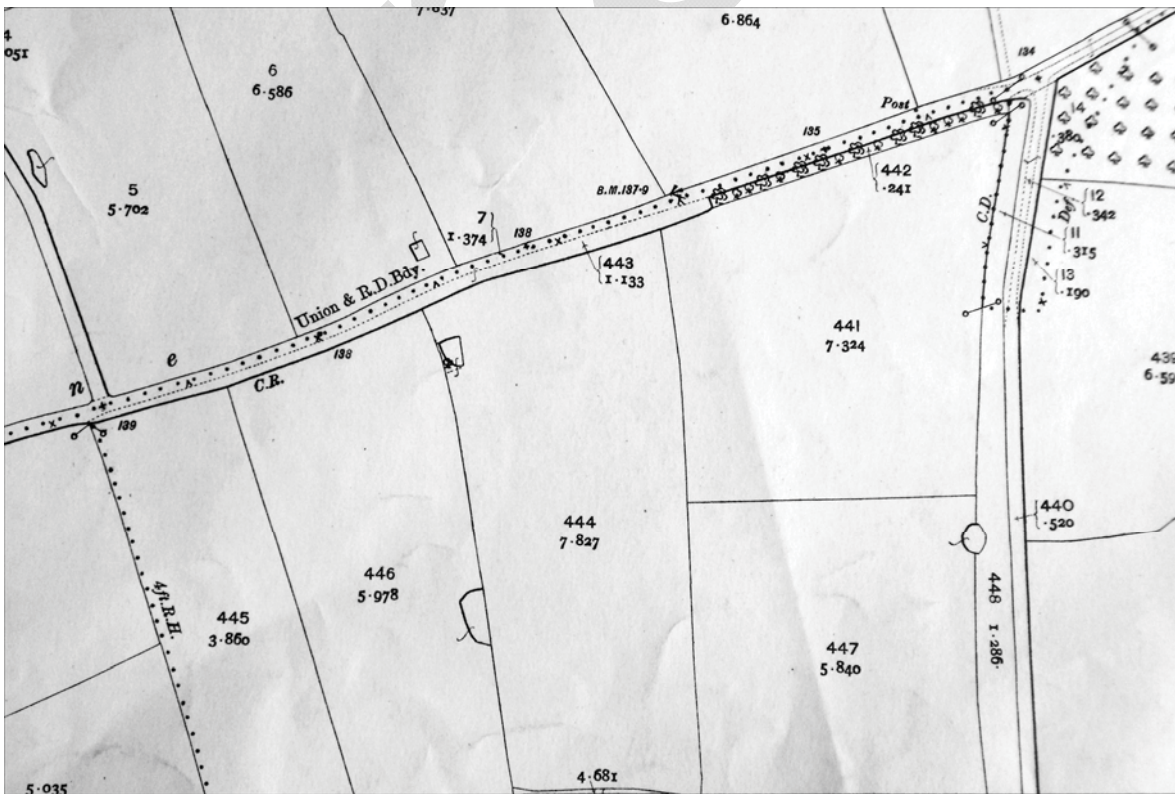


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey map, 2nd edition, 1904

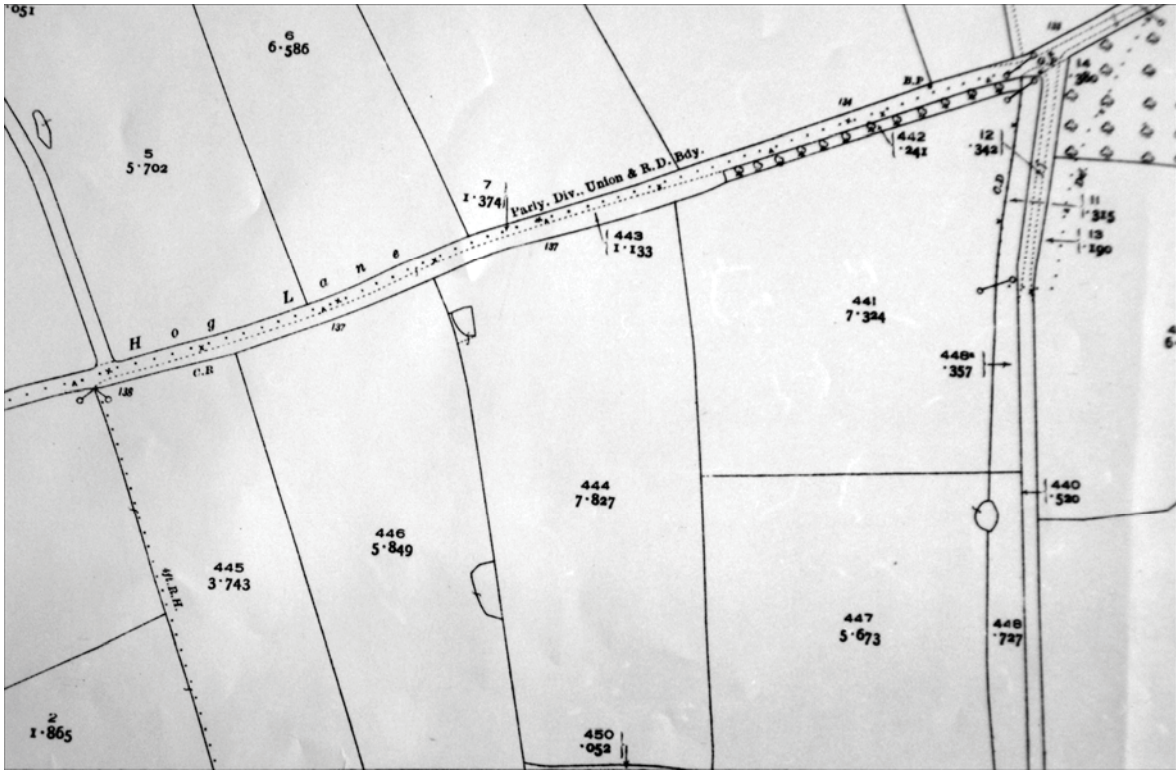


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey map, 3rd edition, 1927

No aerial photographs of the field have been located; a search of both Cambridge University's Collection (CUCAP) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) returned negative results for the area surrounding the site. Some cropmarks have been recorded further away, but still within the 1.5km search area, on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (see below Paras 4.1.2.1 and 4.1.2.2).

4.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

This assessment is based on a search area of 1.5km radius from the site. There are no Scheduled Monuments within or close to the proposed development site. A total of sixteen listed buildings, seventeen SHER entries, and three sites to be listed on the SHER have been recorded.

4.1 The Known Archaeological Resource

This section concentrates on sites recorded on records obtained from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

4.1.1 *Previously recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development site*

There are no previously known archaeological sites recorded within the development area.

4.1.2 *Previously recorded archaeological sites within 1.5km of the proposed development site*

4.1.2.1 *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon*

The evidence for these periods in the area studied is very scarce, with the prehistoric represented by an Iron Age coin found at RSM 003 (a medieval site, mentioned below) and another coin of Iron Age date noted on the [Portable Antiquities Database](#). Most of the rectangular cropmarks recorded for the area are undated, and could feasibly be of prehistoric date, most of them are listed below under the medieval period, as it is thought that the sites may be moated sites.

The Roman period is also very poorly represented in the archaeological record, especially given the presence of the Roman road (Stone Street, ISL 007) 1.2km to the west. The road links Ilketshall St. John and Spexhall, and may have originally linked Halesworth and Caistor St. Edmund (Norfolk). The line of the road disappears in Norfolk, south of Caistor, however it is reputed to be of substantial construction in its surviving segments. The only other record is that of a puddingstone quern found at Shingle Hall (RSM 005) to the north-east of the site.

The Saxon period is similarly poorly represented in the area, with a single find from the entire period. The find is that of a Late Saxon stirrup strap mount (RSM 010).

4.1.2.2 *Medieval*

The medieval period is the busiest period archaeologically in Westhall, as this is the time when the area coalesces into a settlement. The field under study lies at a slight remove from the centre of the village, although it is in the vicinity of two of the four greens or commons of the settlement.

Nearest to the site lies a probable mill mount (RSM 001), comprising a small circular mound with a slight depression in middle of the summit. The SHER lists the monument as being surrounded by a fosse with a counterscarp measuring 4 feet at the highest point, with a breadth of 10 feet. The site is now reportedly flattened by agriculture.

Possible settlement activity, in the form of a manorial quadrangular bank to the south-west of Redisham church (RSM 003), and also the remains of shallow gullies, low mounds and banks, which are not said to form any coherent pattern have been recorded. These earthworks are vaguely visible on aerial photographs, and may be due to village shrinkage, and probably part of the medieval settlement of Redisham. The possible site of Redisham Magna deserted medieval settlement has also been posited as being located here.

Further medieval evidence comes in the form of moated sites, of which there are several in the area. These moated sites tend to lie nearer to the settlements, with one near to Westhall, to the north of Cox Common (WHL 001). This site is near to Moat Farm, a 16th-century house, and comprises two sides of a rectangle, with part of it occupied by the house. Another probable moated site lies near to Spexhall (SPX 006), and is also a rectangular enclosure noted on aerial photographs. Very close to the previous site is another one at Spexhall Wood (SPX 002), again comprising two sides of a rectangle. This site is now under cultivation. Partly within Ilketshall St. Lawrence parish and partly in Ilketshall St. Margaret parish, and at the very furthest west of the search area lies the final moated site (ISL 001). This site is occupied by Moat Farm, and is a small square enclosure.

Further cropmarks, mostly undated, may also belong to this period. To the north of the site, in Redisham parish lie two areas of cropmarks. At RSM 004 there are rectangular enclosures south-west of possible strip fields and the site of Brook Farm, and at RSM 008 more rectangular enclosures are recorded, and are possibly a farmstead. Also in Redisham, to the east of the site, at RSM 009, the cropmarks of enclosures are probably associated with a farmstead near Shingle Hall.

Two medieval greens fall within the search area, that of Beck's Green (ISA 006) and Cox Common (WHL 020). Beck's Green (formerly Back's Green) is recorded as a green of fifteen acres, and may be related to the name of the manor in the area, i.e. that of Bacon's al Wingfield, named after the Bacon family. The green is shown on Hodskinson's map of 1783 as is Cox Common.

Two finds of a medieval date have been recorded in the area, that of a medieval seal (RSM 010) and a 14th-century dagger (ISL 002).

4.1.2.3 Post-Medieval

The post-medieval period mostly consists of listed buildings, with sixteen in total dating to this period.

Other archaeological evidence comes in the form of a mound which is thought to mark the site of Redisham Hall (RSM 002 and RSM Misc).

The listed buildings within the search area are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| LB No. 282099 | The Huntsman and Hounds, timber framed, mid-16th century |
| LB No. 282101 | Barn immediately adjacent to Wood Farmhouse, timber framed, late 16th century |
| LB No. 282102 | Wood Farmhouse, timber framed, late 16th century |
| LB No. 282103 | Rooksyrd Farmhouse, timber framed, early 17th century |

LB No. 282108	Slough Farmhouse, mid-16th century and later
LB No. 282109	Barn to the rear of Slough Farmhouse, timber-framed, early 17th century
LB No. 282117	Moat Farmhouse, late 16th century, partially moated
LB No. 282118	Oak Tree Farmhouse, c.1600
LB No. 282119	Paradise Farmhouse, late 16th century
LB No. 282186	Wood Farmhouse, 16th century
LB No. 282187	Shingle Hall, timber framed, early 17th century
LB No. 282218	Manor Farmhouse, 16th century
LB No. 282219	Little Beck Farmhouse, early 16th century
LB No. 282241	Kings Fene, late 16th/early 17th century
LB No. 282242	Laurel Farmhouse, timber framed, 17th century

4.2 Factors Affecting the Archaeological Resource

The potential of the archaeological resource on any site is affected by later land-use and development.

4.2.1 *The current uses of the site*

The current use of the parts of the sites as arable land will have had some impact on the archaeological record, as agricultural practices are likely to have impacted on buried remains.

4.2.2 *Previous development of the site*

The site appears to have always been open land. Aerial photographs indicate several field boundaries were removed sometime between 1966 and 1973, turning the field from five fields into one large field.

4.3 Archaeological Potential

This section outlines, albeit in broad terms, the archaeological potential of the site and its environs and, where appropriate, identifies areas that may require further assessment and evaluation to try to elucidate the archaeological resource.

4.3.1 *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon*

The paucity of evidence from the surveyed area in these periods is mainly due to the lack of archaeological work in the vicinity. It would not be unusual to find remains of any of these periods within the field under study, and the proximity to a Roman road may make the potential of Roman remains being present somewhat higher.

4.3.2 *Medieval to Post-Medieval*

The medieval and post-medieval centre of the village of Westhall is located to the south-east of the site. The proximity of the field to former Commons or Greens may make the possibility of locating remains of either period possible however it is considered that the potential of the site to yield medieval or post-medieval remains is low.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Westhall has remained a rural parish for many centuries. The medieval period seems to have been when the area really coalesced as a village or settlement, with little evidence for any Saxon forerunners in the area. The presence of large commons, and several large farmhouses and halls indicate a certain amount of prosperity, at least with the landed classes. Westhall remains a quiet and relatively untouched part of the Suffolk countryside.

The field earmarked for development here could lend much needed information to the archaeological resource of the area, with the possibility for the presence of archaeological remains of any period, or possibly no archaeological evidence present at all. The area lies in the vicinity of a Roman road, and in an area where several cropmarks of moated enclosures or farmsteads are visible. The field was once five smaller fields, certainly on the Tithe Map of 1840 through to the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1927. Between 1966 and 1973 the current day the fields have been made into one large one. It is certainly likely that evidence of those features will be present as archaeological evidence below the ground surface, although the location of these features will not add greatly to the knowledge of the history of the area. Any finds recovered from these boundaries may provide an earliest date for the features, and help chart the development of field systems in the area.

The potential of this field to the south of Hog Lane to contain archaeological remains is low, although it must be stressed that this conclusion is only reached after analysing the known archaeological record. It is not possible to discount any unknown or undiscovered elements and the archaeological background of the area indicates that there is a possibility of something being found.

Any recommendations for further work will be made by Suffolk County Council.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the staff of Lowestoft Record Office for their help and Colin Pendleton SCCAS HER Officer who provided the HER data. David Dobson produced the figures and Jayne Bown edited the report.

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draft

draft

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR PLANT AND BROILER UNIT, WESTHALL, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission is to be sought from for the construction of an anaerobic digester plant and broiler unit at St Lawrence Hall Farm Ltd, Westhall, Beccles (TM 438 885). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority will be advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that the location of the proposed area could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest. The applicant should be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE6).
- 1.3 The site (c. 11 ha. in area) is located to the east of Ilketshall St Lawrence at c. 40.00m AOD. The underlying geology comprises deep loam to clay, over chalky till.
- 1.4 This proposal affects a large area which has not been the subject of previous investigation. There is high potential for archaeological sites of all periods to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to understand the significance of the heritage assets, and to assess the impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets of archaeological interest, the following work will be required as the first stage of a programme of archaeological evaluation:
 - A desk-based assessment; and
 - Systematic non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
- 1.6 This information should be incorporated in the Environmental Statement in order to inform the development to ensure preservation *in situ* of any previously unknown nationally important archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. **Decisions on the suitability of the area for development, and also the need for and scope of any further evaluation or mitigation measures will be based upon the results of this assessment and will be the subject of an additional specification.**
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.

- 1.10 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).
- 1.11 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.12 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.13 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.14 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

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*.
- 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 SCCAS/CT (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: Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.1 The assessment shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Field Archaeologists.
- 3.2 Collation and assessment of the County Historic Environment Record to identify known sites and to assess the potential of the application area.
- 3.2 Collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and any earlier buildings. Where possible copies should be included in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for historic documentation that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
- 3.4 Re-assessment of all available aerial photographic evidence and, where relevant, a replotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist with relevant experience at a scale of 1:2500. It should be possible to obtain residual errors of less than $\pm 2\text{m}$. Rectification of extant mapped features such as field boundaries and buildings shall be undertaken in order to give additional indication of accuracy of the transcription.
- 3.5 Examination of available geotechnical information to assess the condition and status of buried deposits and to identify local geological conditions. Relevant geotechnical data should be included as appendices to the report.
- 3.6 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. SSSI, County Wildlife Site, AONB, etc).
- 3.7 A site visit to determine any constraints to archaeological survival.

4. Specification for a non-destructive Field Survey

- 4.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area of the proposed development (11ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

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 SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 5.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor 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. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.6 The Institute of Field 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.

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 report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 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, 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).
- 6.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

- 6.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 6.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 6.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.15 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.18 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 6.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 6.20 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.
- 6.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Date: 18 May 2010

Reference: / WestHallanaerobicdigester 2010

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.

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.