

Recreation Ground, Great Thurlow

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/080

Client: Great Thurlow Parish Council

Author: Rob Brooks

June/2011

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Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: June/2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/080
Site Name: Recreation Ground
Planning Application No: SE/11/0049
Date of Fieldwork: 26th May, 2011
Grid Reference: TL 6788 5016
Client/Funding Body: Great Thurlow Parish Council
Curatorial Officer: Sarah Poppy
Project Officer: Rob Brooks
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-101721
Site Code: TUG 024

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Rob Brooks

Date:

Approved By:

Position:

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An evaluation was carried out in the existing car park of the Recreation Ground at Great Thurlow, Suffolk. Two trenches were excavated in order to sample the site, which revealed a soil profile of topsoil, above subsoil, above the natural clay geology. No features or finds were uncovered.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the laying of a car park at the Recreation Ground, Great Thurlow, Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a condition on planning application SE/11/0049. Great Thurlow Parish Council funded the work that was carried out on 26th May, 2011.

The site is located south-east of the crossroads of Bury Road and Wratting Road at grid reference TL 6788 5016 (Fig. 1). The entrance to the site was from Wratting Road on to the existing parking area of the site.

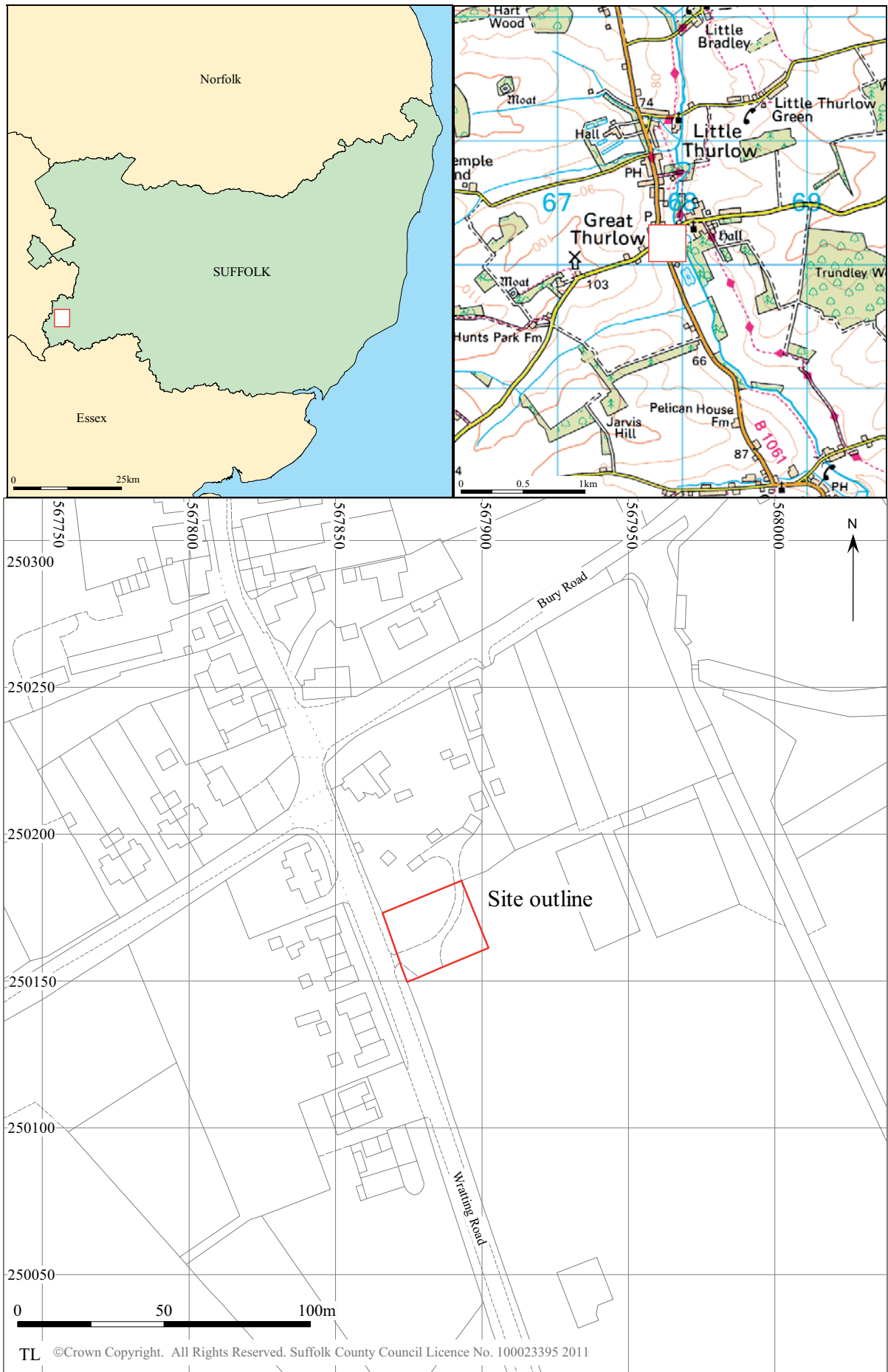


Figure 1. Site location

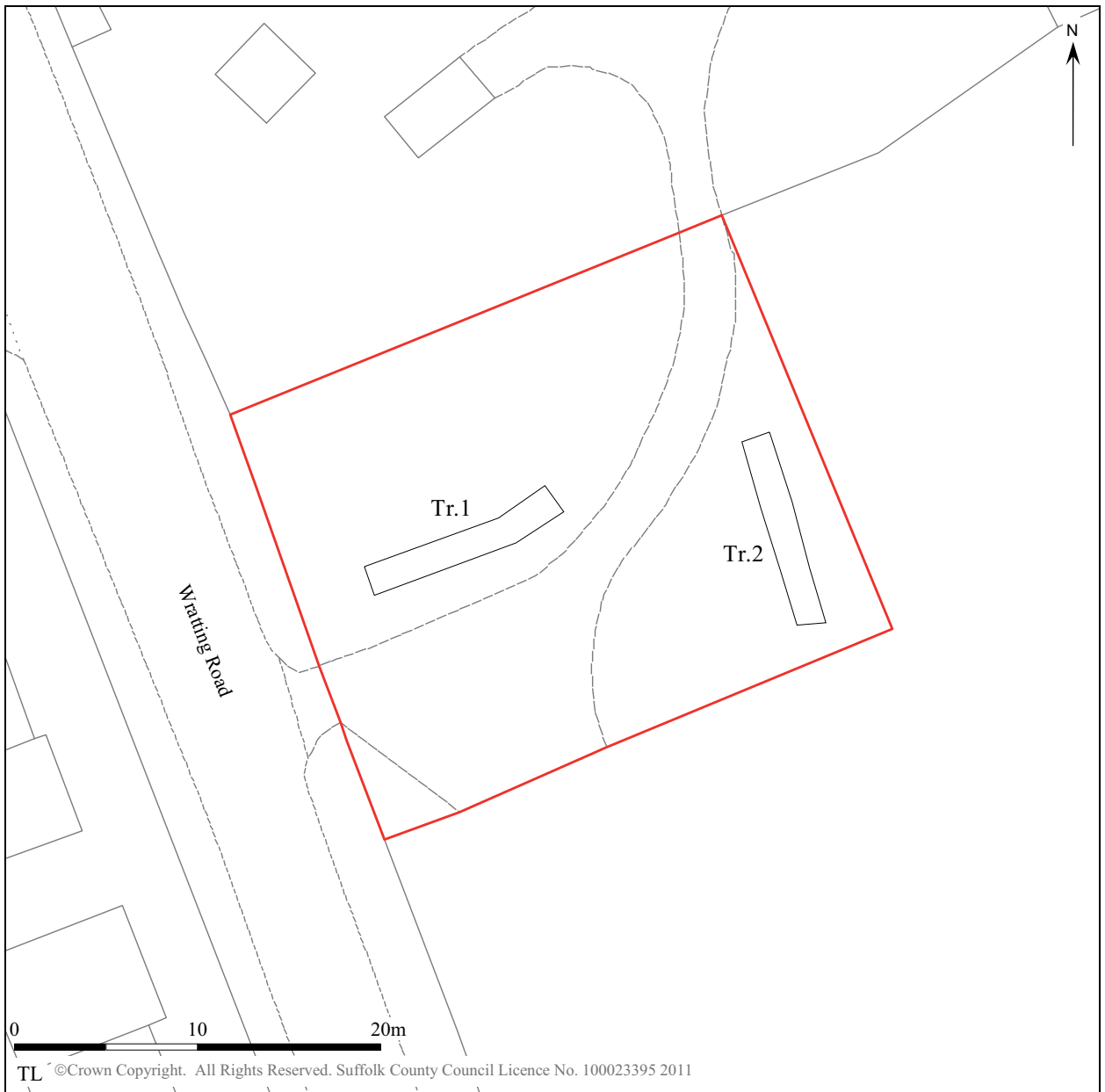


Figure 2. Trench plan

2. Geology and topography

The geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of alluvium, which usually comprise silty-clay with further layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes and Seaford nodular chalk (BGS, 2011). On site, the geology presented itself as mid-dark orange silty-sandy-clay.

The site sloped down to the east from the site entrance on Wrating Road towards the River Stour. Outside of the development area, the south-eastern corner of the recreation ground had clearly been levelled at some point for the creation of sports pitches. The highest recorded point within the development area was immediately west of the end of Trench 1, with a ground level height of 70m above the Ordnance Datum, whilst the ground level at the southern end of Trench 2 was measured at 68.65m above the Ordnance Datum.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the medieval core of the village near to the crossing point for the River Stour, which must have held some importance as a local trading route. It is also close to two listed buildings (LBUID 283142 & 283146), the Church of All Saints (TUG 007) and a scatter of medieval metal finds (including two silver short cross coins and a bronze enamelled mount – TUG 012).

The First and Third editions of the Ordnance Survey map (1886 and 1926) show that the site was either a field or grassland, with the entrance from Wrating Road in the same place as it is today.

4. Methodology

The trenches were excavated using a JCB equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket and the excavation was constantly monitored by an experienced archaeologist, with the topsoil being removed, followed by the subsoil to expose the natural geological layer. All upcast spoil was constantly monitored for finds and it was also metal-detected. The total

area of the development was 552sqm and within this two trenches were excavated, covering a total area of 19.4sqm, or 3.5% of the development area. Trench 1 was 11m long, whilst Trench 2 was 10.75m long. The trenches were positioned to sample the areas of the site that were available for excavation, including the street frontage, whilst avoiding the existing car parking area and trees.

When the trench excavations were finished soil profiles were cleaned and then recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* record sheets, including descriptions and measurements. Colour digital (314 by 314 dpi resolution) and monochrome film photographs were also taken, both of soil profiles and the trenches. Plans of the site were made using a Real Time Kinematics Leica 1200 Smart Rover GPS, working within accuracy tolerances of 0.05m. This was also used to obtain levelling information. This survey was processed using LisCAD S.E.E. and MapInfo.

Site data has been input onto the MS Access database and recorded using the County Historic Environment Record code TUG 024. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-101721) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code TUG 024.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The trenches were excavated to depths of 0.3-0.5m below ground level in order to reveal the natural geology 0003. This involved the removal of varying depths of topsoil 0001 and subsoil 0002, both of which were in places root disturbed and had also been disturbed by recent human activity. Detailed context descriptions are given in Appendix 2.

5.2 Trench 1

Although Trench 1 sloped down to the eastern side of the site the soil profile remained fairly consistent throughout. The top layer was 0.25m of dark grey silty-sandy topsoil

0001. This was heavily disturbed by rooting and also contained fragments of modern bricks and pieces of modern Iron. This layer had a poorly defined lower horizon, before revealing mid-greyish-orange sandy-silt subsoil 0002, which was also 0.25m deep and contained common charcoal flecks. Below this natural geology 0003 was revealed. This was mid-dark orange silty-sandy clay with occasional small stones and hard compaction. In the west-south-west end of the trench a further 0.45m of the geology was machine excavated, revealing no further changes in the soil horizon. No features or finds were uncovered.

5.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 had a very similar soil profile to Trench 1. However, in this case topsoil 0001 was slightly shallower at 0.2m deep and contained fewer modern objects, whilst subsoil 0002 was up to 0.3m deep and contained only occasional charcoal flecks. The natural geology, 0003, was identical mid-dark orange silty-sandy-clay.

6. Discussion

The lack of features or finds uncovered in the evaluation, as well as on the First and Third edition Ordnance Survey maps, would suggest that this site may well not have been within the built-up area of the medieval core of Great Thurlow. It was noted during the fieldwork that the houses on the opposite side of Wrattling Road were built in 1888 and appeared to be part of the Thurlow Estate. This may indicate that this part of the village only began to be developed at around that time, although it may just be that these houses were replacements for earlier dwellings. The soil profiles uncovered in the trenches are not atypical and the presence of a certain level of charcoal in the subsoil is to be expected close to known settlements.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Due to the lack of any features or finds, as well as any evidence for use of the area on the early Ordnance Survey maps, it is recommended that this site does not require further archaeological fieldwork.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

9. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Rob Brooks and Adam Yates from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Rob Brooks and managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The report was written and the graphics produced by Rob Brooks.

The report was checked by Andrew Tester and Richenda Goffin.

10. Bibliography

BGS, 2011 Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation THE RECREATION GROUND, GREAT THURLOW (SE/11/0049)

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 has been granted by St Edmundsbury District Council (SE/11/0049) for the extension of a car parking area at The Recreation Ground, Great Thurlow (TL 678 501). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The area of the development measures c.0.06ha. on the east side of Wratting Road at c.70.00m OD. The soil is deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift.
- 1.4 The proposed development is located in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core of Great Thurlow and in proximity to listed buildings (LBUID 283142 & 283146). There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location. Any groundwork associated with the development could damage or destroy any hitherto unrecorded archaeological remains.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (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 (9-10 The Churchyard, 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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise St Edmundsbury District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged (assuming planning permission is forthcoming).
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Two trenches each measuring 10.00 long x 1.80m wide are to be excavated within the footprint of the car park extension.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 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. For guidance: For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width; For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by 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.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 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 depository 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.
- 5.12 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.13 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive

resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.

- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 An unbound hardcopy 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 hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 07 March 2011

Reference: /RecreationGroundGreatThurlow2011

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.

Appendix 2. Context List

Context Number	Category	Description
0001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey silty-sandy topsoil. Contained occasional small flints, as well as modern brick fragments and Fe objects. Friable compaction. Diffuse-clear horizon clarity. Above 0002. Interpretation – very recently disturbed topsoil.
0002	Layer	Mid-greyish-orange sandy-silt, which contained common charcoal flecks, although not so many were present in Trench 2. Firm compaction. Below 0001, above 0003. interpretation – subsoil containing some typical occupation material.
0003	Layer	Mid-dark orange silty-sandy clay with occasional small stones. Hard compaction. Root disturbed in places. Below 0002. Interpretation – geology.



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