

Brantham Hall Farm, The Chase, Brantham

BNT 062

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/100

Client: Mr. R. Keeble

Author: Kieron Heard

June 2011

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HER Information

Report Number: 2011/100
Site Name: Brantham Hall Farm, The Chase, Brantham
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Date of Fieldwork: 27 June 2011
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Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
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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.

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Date: June 2011

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Date: June 2011

Signed:

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Summary

BNT 062, Brantham Hall Farm, Brantham: an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a new farm reservoir.

The evaluation revealed natural deposits of glacio-fluvial sand and gravel sealed by modern topsoil. No archaeological deposits or features were found and no artefacts were recovered.

In the light of these negative results it is recommended that no further fieldwork is required in relation to the proposed development of the site. This report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out at Brantham Hall Farm, The Chase, Brantham (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to a planning application for the construction of a new farm reservoir (planning application number: B/11/00440/AGD). Hawes Associates commissioned the fieldwork on behalf of their client Mr R. Keeble. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation Team) and is appended to this report.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located in an area of glacio-fluvial drift deposits overlain by deep loams of the Ludford Series. It is on fairly level ground at 29m AOD, on the northern slopes of the River Stour valley.

3. Archaeological background

The site is in an area of high archaeological potential, as recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. It is located immediately north of a probable prehistoric crop mark complex, characterised as ditched trackways and possible field boundaries (HER number: BNT 058) and south of an area where Anglo-Saxon and medieval metalwork was found during a metal-detecting rally in 2002 (BNT 038).

4. Methodology

The proposed reservoir has maximum dimensions of 94m north–south by 52m east–west and covers an area of approximately 4500m², which includes peripheral areas where topsoil will be removed prior to the construction of the surrounding bank.

The archaeological evaluation took place on 27 June 2011 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation Team.

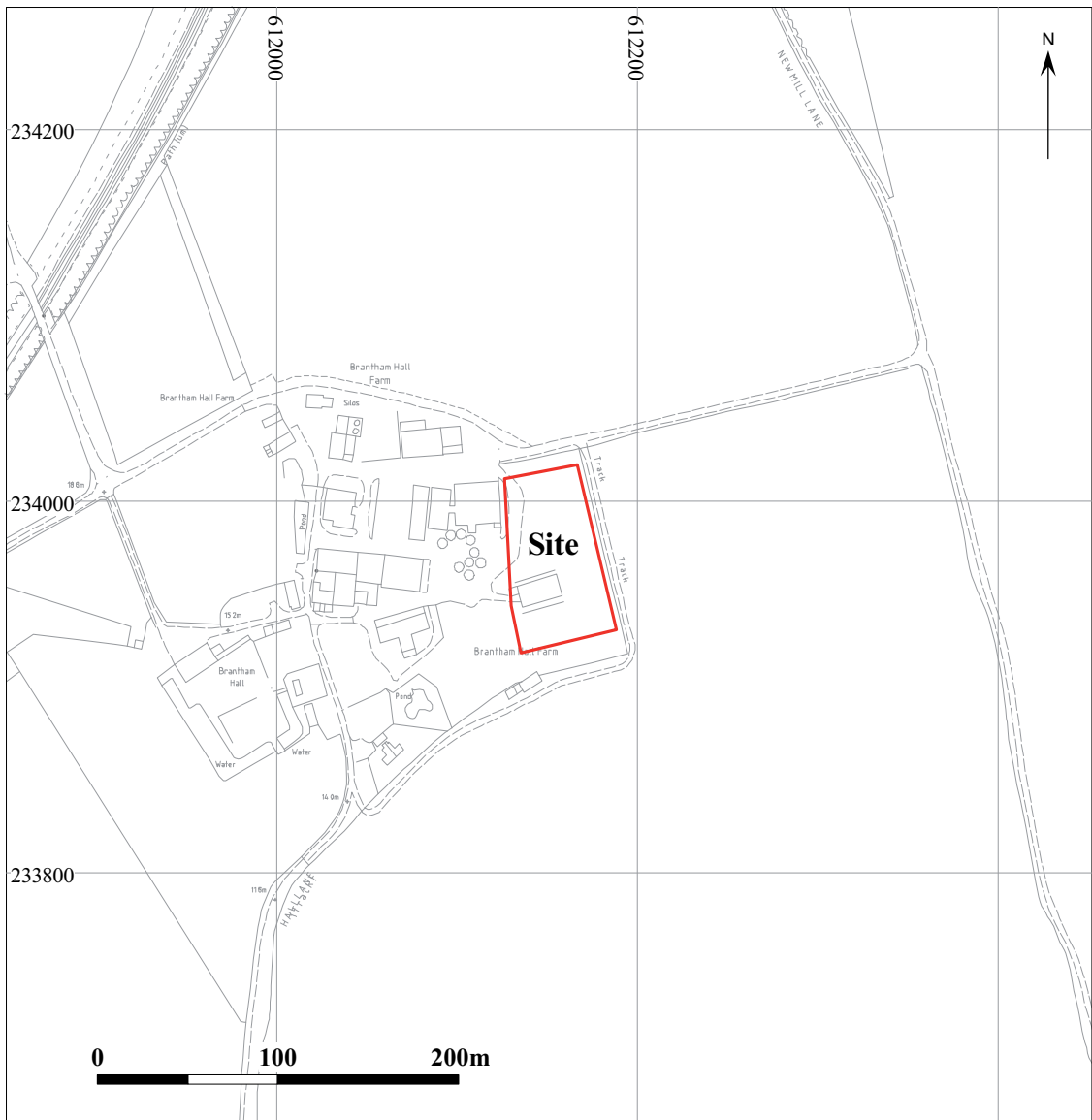
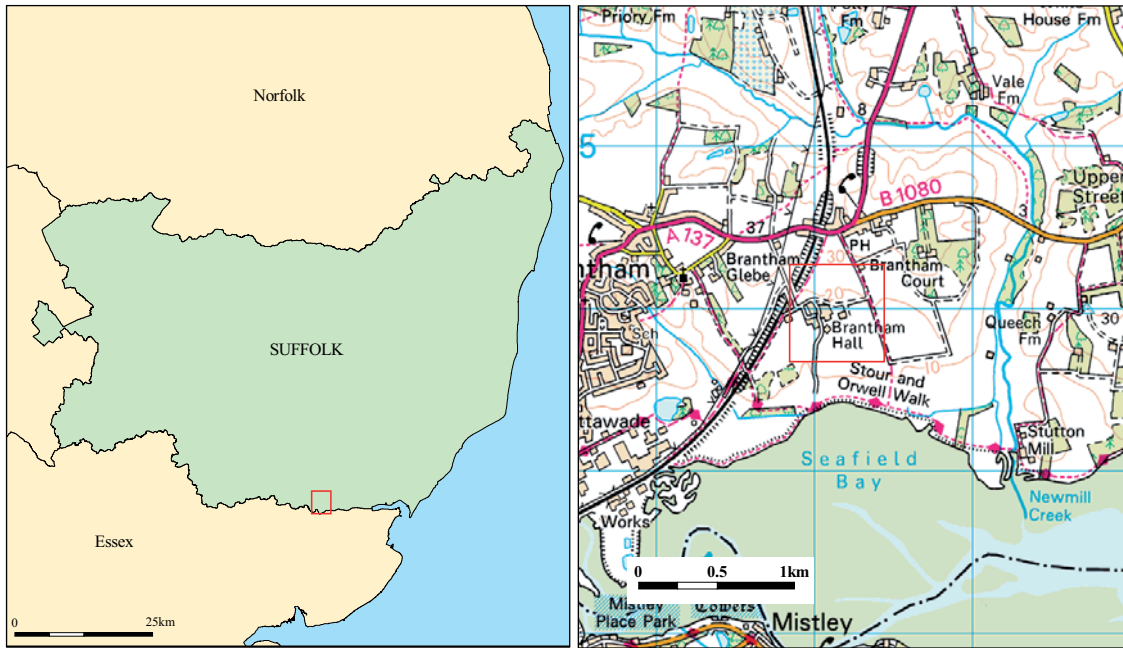
A linear evaluation trench was excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a tracked 360⁰ mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide ditching bucket. The trench measured 191m long and was up to 0.50m deep, and was aligned on the long axis of the proposed reservoir (Fig. 2). It was positioned in such a way as to avoid areas of modern disturbance. Mechanical excavation continued to just below the surface of the geological stratum.

Exposed deposits were described in a field notebook; these notes have been incorporated into this report, which represents therefore the complete written archive for this site. A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images; these have been incorporated into the SCCAS photographic archive.

The evaluation trench covered an area of 162m², representing 3.6% of the area threatened by the construction of the reservoir.

As part of the evaluation of the site, a metal-detecting survey was carried out on mechanically excavated topsoil.

A trench for the insertion of a new drain was excavated by the land owner shortly before the archaeological evaluation. The trench measured 1.8m wide x up to 0.50m deep, and ran along the eastern and southern sides of the proposed reservoir. The eastern part of the drainage trench (Fig. 2) was examined by the attending archaeologist on the day of the evaluation. Consequently, a total area of approximately 320m² was investigated archaeologically, representing 7% of the area threatened by the construction of the reservoir.



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Figure 1. Site location

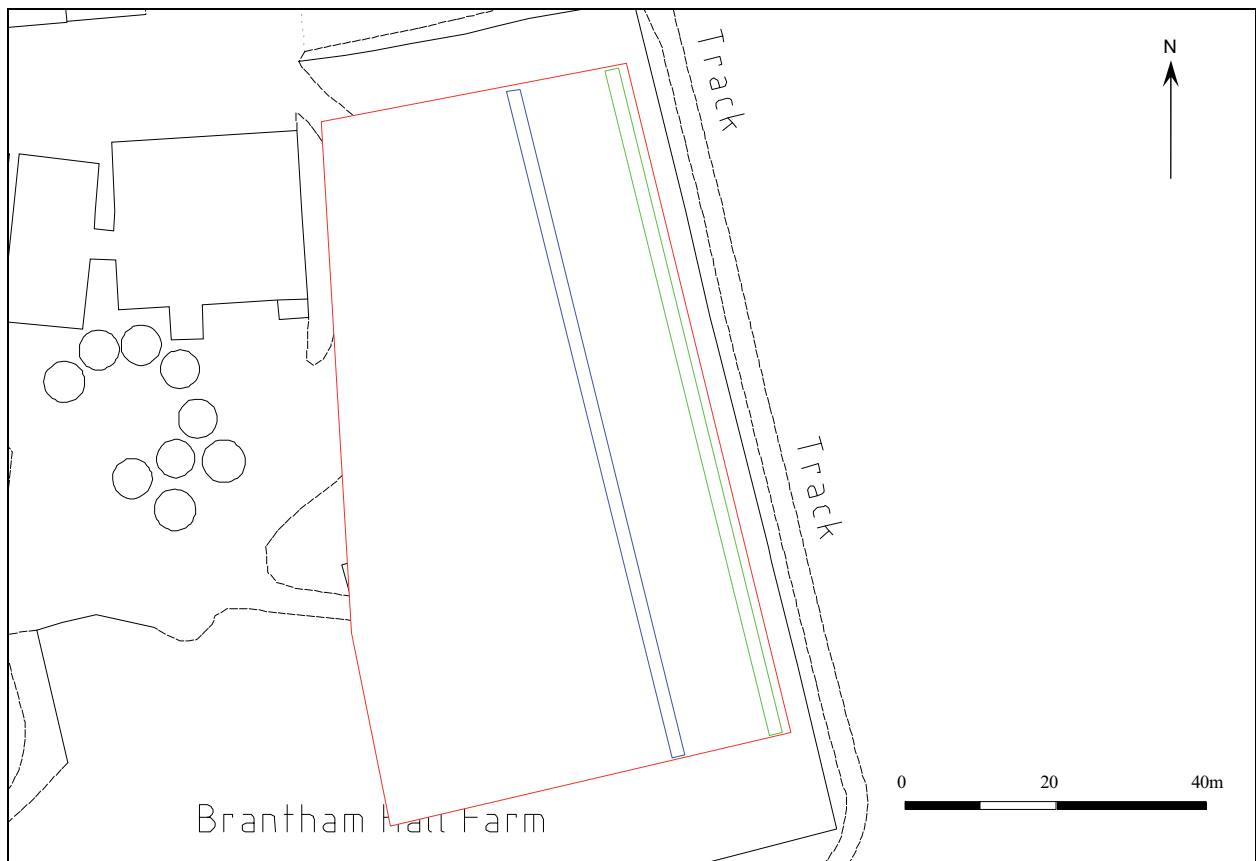


Figure 2. Plan of the evaluation trench (blue) and the drainage trench (green)

5. Results

The natural stratum was generally firm, mottled light reddish brown and light grey silty sand with moderate pebbles. Towards the south end of the evaluation trench it was overlain by loose, yellowish brown sand and flint gravel.

These natural deposits were sealed by modern topsoil – compacted, light greyish brown sandy loam, up to 0.40m thick and with an indistinct interface with the underlying natural stratum.

No archaeological deposits or features were found, and no artefacts were recovered.

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has had negative archaeological results, and there are no recommendations for additional fieldwork. This report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

7. Archive deposition

This report represents the full written archive for this site. One copy will be provided for inclusion in the county Historic Environment Record, and another will be retained at the SCCAS office in St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich.

8. Acknowledgements

The archaeological project was commissioned by Hawes Associates and funded by the land owner Mr. R. Keeble. Mr. Keeble is thanked for his assistance during the fieldwork.

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner and carried out by Kieron Heard. Linzi Everett prepared Figure 1.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

BRANTHAM HALL FARM, THE CHASE, BRANTHAM (B/11/00440/AGD)

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 A planning application has been made to Babergh District Council (B/11/00440/AGD) for the construction of a new farm reservoir on land at Brantham Hall Farm, The Chase, Brantham, CO11 1PT (TM 121 339). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The applicant has been advised that the location of the proposed reservoir 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 PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with policies HE6.1, HE6.2, HE6.3 and HE7.1 of PPS 5, in order for the Local Planning Authority to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of the heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 The proposed reservoir is located on the east side of Brantham Hall Farm at c.20–25.00m AOD. The soil is deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift. The area affected by new reservoir measures c.0.40 ha. in extent.
- 1.4 The proposed reservoir is located in an area of high archaeological potential, recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. It is located immediately north of a prehistoric cropmark complex (HER no. BNT 058), with finds of medieval and Anglo-Saxon metalwork also recorded adjacent to the proposed development (HER no. BNT 038).
- 1.5 The site has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its proximity to known remains. The proposed development has the potential to cause damage and destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.6 The following archaeological evaluation work is required across the application area:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of 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 will be based on the results of this work. The evaluation will also provide information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost. The need for any further evaluation, for example geophysical survey and fieldwalking/metal detecting, will be based upon the results of this evaluation 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.
- 1.8 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) 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 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the new development, which is 200.00m². These 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 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 111.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m 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 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.
- 5.12 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 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.
- 5.14 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.

5.19 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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