

16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich
IPS 651

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/142

Client: Chapel New Homes Ltd

Author: Jezz Meredith

September 2011

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Report Date: September 2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/142
Site Name: 16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich
Planning Application No: IP/11/00114/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 25th August 2011
Grid Reference: TM 1431 4552
Client/Funding Body: Chapel New Homes Ltd
Client Reference: n/a
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Officer: Jezz Meredith
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-108608
Site Code: IPS 651

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: Jezz Meredith
Date: 5th September 2011

Approved By: Stuart Boulter
Position: Senior Project Officer
Date: 5th September 2011

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Summary

The site is close to known findspots of prehistoric and Saxon date. A probable Saxon chapel is within a 100m radius and significant burial sites of Bronze Age and Saxon date are within a 500m radius. A 5% sample of the site was undertaken using trial trenching, but no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recognised. Trenching revealed that the underlying geological deposits were of firm clay, a soil type often avoided by settlement in the prehistoric and Saxon periods. It is probable that the majority of the sites in the vicinity belonging to these periods were situated on the raised sand and gravel terraces along the northern edge of the nearby River Gipping.

1. Introduction

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of 16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich (Fig.1; grid reference TM 1431 4552). This work was in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission granted by Ipswich Borough Council (Planning Application number: IP/11/00114/FUL) for a proposed development of three houses. A Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Appendix 1) specified the manner of the fieldwork and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Jez Meredith (August 2011). The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), during the morning of Thursday 25th August 2011.

2. Geology and topography

The majority of the plot is situated just below the 10m contour and slopes gently southwards with a sharp drop to pavement level. A spot height on the road to the south is 7m Ordnance Datum. The site is located on the elevated end of Sproughton Road with the majority of the land to the south and west lying at a lower level.

The site is close to the boundaries of two separate drift geology types. According to the British Geological Survey (2006) the site is located within an area of sand and gravel river terrace with Lowestoft till of sandy clay with chalk and flint pebbles lying close to the north of the site. Excavation revealed natural deposits of clay sand with chalk so it is likely that Lowestoft till extended into this area.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site is close to a number of areas of archaeological importance (Fig 1), as identified in the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record. The Anglo-Saxon site of St Albur's chapel (IPS 241) lies approximately 100m to the east. A Saxon brooch was discovered c.150m to the north-east (IPS 025). Slightly further away was discovered the rich and important Early Saxon cremation and inhumation cemetery at Boss Hall Industrial Estate (IPS 231). This was located c.300m to the west-south-west, on the other side of Sproughton Road. A Bronze Age ring-ditch with internal burials was revealed during the construction of the car park for Morrison's Supermarket, approximately 430m to the south-west (IPS 400). Previous quarry activity at Bramford Road pit (IPS 018), which extended between c.200m to c.700m to the west of the site, revealed a variety of prehistoric artefacts including Palaeolithic flint tools and pottery of Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

Early editions of the Ordnance Survey map (of c.1880, 1890 and 1920) show the site to be within an open plot to the west of the small row of terraced houses (2-14 Sproughton Road). The house occupying the site at the moment is likely to be of mid Twentieth Century date.

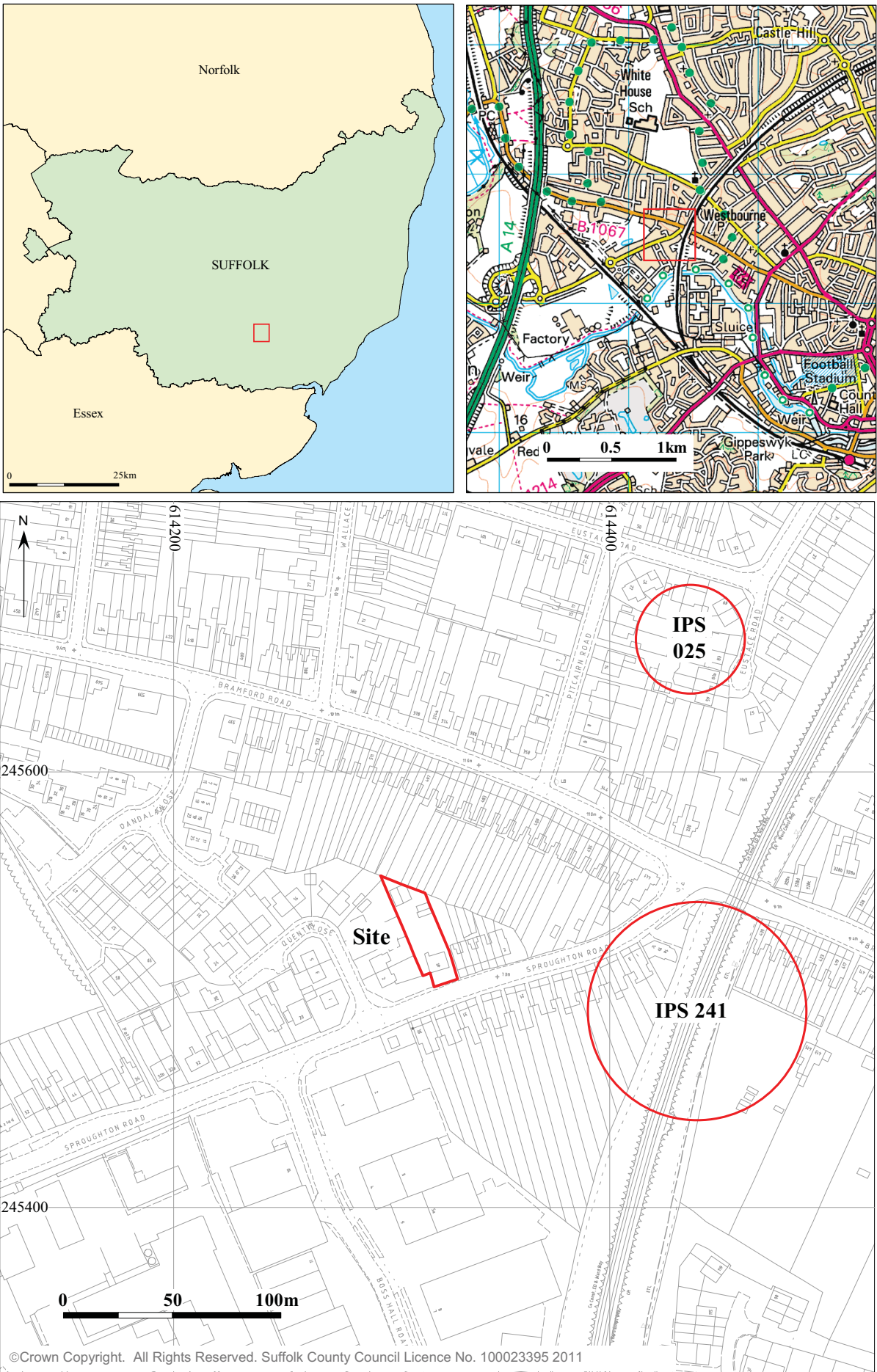


Figure 1. Location of site with nearby important archaeological locations

4. Methodology

The originally proposed trench plan (Meredith 2011) had intended to trench along the street frontage but this area was found to be within a raised garden with quite high retaining walls so that the machine could not enter. Therefore trenching was restricted to the back of the plot and this was highly limited by the presence of trees, sheds and an extensive tarmac area (Fig 2).

The Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Appendix 1) required a 5% sample by trial trenching. Two trenches were dug; Trench 1 was c.16m long and was positioned running approximately north to south across the garden between the house and sheds. As at least 20m of trenching had to be achieved to fulfil the 5% sample, Trench 2 was placed to the west (also approximately north to south running) and was c.4.5m long.

Trenching was conducted using a mini digger equipped with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket, but due to the hardness of the ground a 0.5m wide toothed bucket was used to break the upper levels of deposit. All machining was observed by an archaeologist, with topsoil and other overburden removed by bucket to reveal undisturbed natural deposits (hereafter referred to as 'the natural') or potential archaeological deposits. The natural was tested to a depth of 1.1m at the southern end of each trench. The upcast soil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

The locations of trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:200 and specimen sections along each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:20 on gridded drawing film. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

The site has been given the Historic Environment Record (HER) code IPS 651. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1-108608 has been used for this project.



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Figure 2. Location of Trenches (shaded areas were inaccessible to trenching)

5. Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located towards the eastern edge of the site, ran approximately north-south and was positioned between the main house and a large garden shed (Fig. 2). This trench was c.16m in length and with a depth of c.0.5m, except at the southern end where it was tested to a depth of 1.1m.

The following deposits were encountered:

0 – 0.2m. Garden topsoil.

0.2 – 0.35m. Topsoil mixed with hardcore and with frequent chalk lumps (south end only for c.5m).

0.35 – 0.5m. Mid brown clay sand with occasional coal and oyster shell fragments.

0.5m – base of trench. Natural geological deposits of firm mid orange brown clay sand with occasional small stones and chalk flecks (tested to a depth of 1.1m).

No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was to the west and parallel to Trench 1 and was only c.4.5m (Fig. 2). Natural was encountered at a depth of c.0.5m and was tested to a depth of 1.1m at the southern end. A modern rubble-filled soakaway was encountered at the extreme southern end of the trench

The following deposits were encountered:

0 – 0.4m. Garden topsoil.

0.4 – 0.5m. Mid brown clay sand with occasional coal and oyster shell fragments.

0.5m – base of trench. Natural geological deposits of firm mid orange brown clay sand with occasional small stones and chalk flecks (tested to a depth of 1.1m).

No archaeological features or finds were observed.

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No archaeological evidence for ancient use of the site has been recorded. Although archaeological remains of prehistoric and Saxon date are known in the vicinity, no features or finds of these periods have been identified. It seems likely that the majority of the prehistoric and Saxon occupation and land-use probably took place on the better drained and easier worked soils of the raised gravel terrace to the south of the site, towards the nearby River Gipping. The heavier clay soils encountered within the site were probably avoided or left as woodland during these periods.

It is recommended that no further archaeological work be undertaken at this site.

7. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference IPS 651. Digital photographs have been given the codes HLE 42-45. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-108608.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Current Recording Projects\Ipswich\IPS 651 16 Sproughton Rd eval.

8. Acknowledgements

Keith Wade produced the Brief and Specification. The project was managed by Stuart Boulter. The fieldwork was carried out by Jez Meredith. Steve Easterbrook opened the site up and provided assistance during the morning while his son Stevie Easterbrook operated the mini digger.

9. Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 2006, *Sheet 207 Ipswich, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*, 1:50,000 Scale Geology Series England and Wales. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham

Meredith, J., 2011, *Written Scheme of Investigation, Safety Statement and Risk Assessment: 16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk*. SCCAS, Ipswich, Suffolk

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted for the erection of three dwellings at 16 Sproughton Road, Ipswich (IP/11/00114/FUL).
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (condition 55 in Circular 11/95). In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation is required of the site. **The evaluation is the first part of the programme of archaeological work and decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.3 The proposal lies within an area of high archaeological potential, being part of a complex ritual landscape, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age finds were recovered from the area of former sand and gravel workings which lies to the west of the development site. In addition, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow containing four burials and an Early Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery have been excavated south-east of the site. It also lies less than 100 metres from the site of St Albert's Chapel.
There is, therefore, high potential for encountering further heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location. Any ground works associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RX; telephone: 01284 741230 or fax: 01284 741257) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has

approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will normally precede the field evaluation unless agreed otherwise. The results of the desk-based work is to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report. *Please remember that copyright permissions should be sought from Suffolk Record Office, or other relevant institution, for anything included in the report.*
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. A single linear trench down the site is thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration into 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.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. **General Management**

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 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.

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

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1RX

Tel: 01284 741227

Date: 2nd August 2011

Reference: 16 Sproughton Road

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

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

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