

Land at 105 Cliff Road, Felixstowe
FEX 289

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/150

Client: Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects

Author: Simon Cass

September 2011

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Report Date: September 2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/150
Site Name: Land at 105 Cliff Road, Felixstowe
Planning Application No: C/08/1913
Date of Fieldwork: 09/09/2011
Grid Reference: TM 3218 3615
Client/Funding Body: Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects
Client Reference: -
Curatorial Officer: Jude Plouviez
Project Officer: Simon Cass
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-109127
Site Code: FEX 289

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: Simon Cass
Date: 12th September 2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Planning permission (C/08/1913) was granted for the construction of a block of 10 flats on land at 105 Cliff Road, Felixstowe by Suffolk Coastal District Council. A condition placed on this development required an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to the commencement of development in order to ascertain the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site, as well as attempt to characterise the nature of any archaeological deposits revealed during the course of the works. A single trench was excavated through the centre of the site, revealing a ditch likely to be of mid 20th century date, and a late 20th century service run (possibly some form of surface or foul water pipe). No deposits or artefacts of archaeological relevance were encountered and no further archaeological works are recommended as being necessary.

1. Introduction

Planning permission (C/08/1913) was obtained from Suffolk Coastal District Council for the erection of a new block of flats on an empty plot of land at 105 Cliff Road, Felixstowe. This permission contained a condition relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to commencement of the development in order to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains to be present within the affected area, and if so inform a mitigation strategy to record the remains prior to their destruction during the building process.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on a gentle east-facing slope between 12 and 15m OD, currently some 60m from the cliff edge. The underlying geology is recorded as deep sands of the Newport Series, characterised by glaciofluvial drift over cretaceous sand or crag deposits.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies just north of extensive Roman activity recorded along the northern side of Felixstowe, with the eroded site of a late Roman shore fort (FEX 030) some 300m south-east and Roman burials (FEX 043) recorded as being located immediately east of the present site. A significant amount of WWII activity is also recorded in the near vicinity, with a large anti-aircraft battery (FEX 142) to the north and practice trenches (FEX 136) to the south, although none believed to have impinged upon the site itself. The apparent lack of significant modern truncations and intrusion on the site suggested that there would be some potential for prehistoric activity, along with a moderate potential for Roman remains (potentially including burials) to be present within the site which would be damaged by the proposed development.

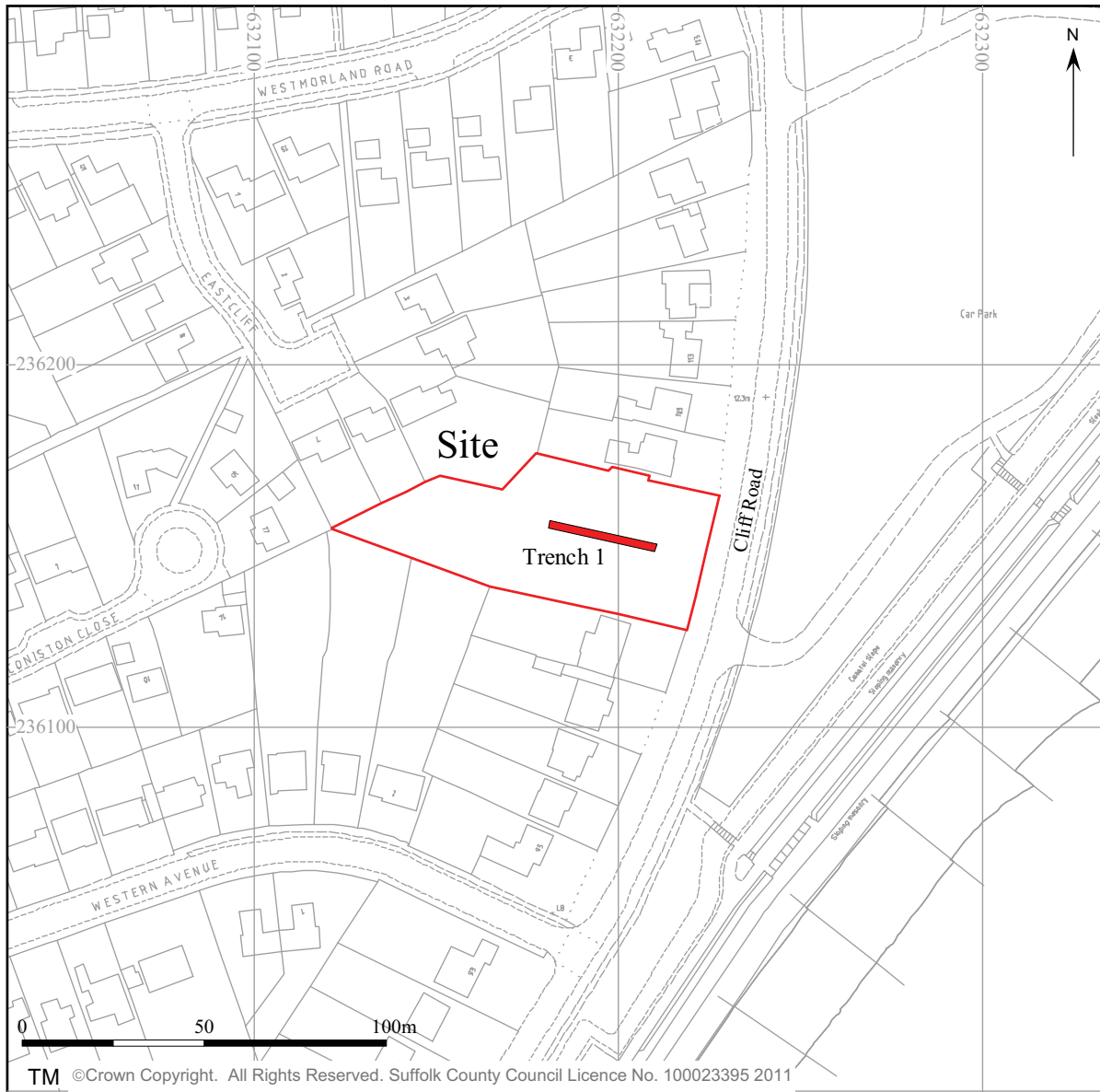
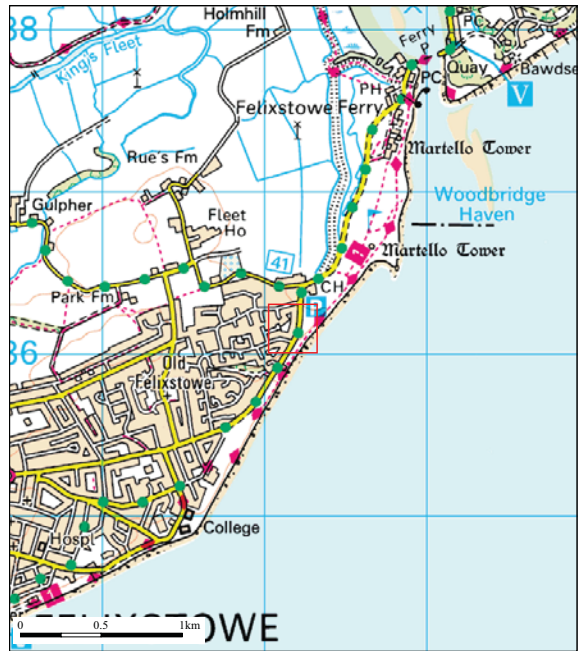


Figure 1. Location map

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to trial trenching. On this occasion a single trench was required to be excavated in the centre of the site, along the line of the proposed access road within the site, 1.8m wide and 50m long. Unfortunately, upon arrival at the site it became clear that the space available for trenching would only permit a 30m long trench to be excavated, with trees covering the western end of the site and a short tarmac driveway at the entrance to the site. The trench was located using hand-tapes from established reference points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site.

The trench was excavated by a 360⁰ mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered, in this case cretaceous crag deposits.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera (6.2 megapixels).

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.1m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2-0.25m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over a layer of loessic silty sand, between 0.4 and 0.9m thick. This sealed the mixed Crag deposits. The trench was 0.65m deep at the eastern end, and 1.1m deep at the western end, with the change in depth due to both a slight rise in the ground level and a slight decrease in the level of the underlying crag deposit. Two modern/20th

century linear disturbances were noted in the trench, a ditch towards the eastern end of the trench (visible in Plate 1 below) which was found to contain a few animal bone fragments and a single sherd of modern pottery (c.3cm by 1.5cm and 0.3cm thick with a dull brown glaze) - suggested to be related to practice trenches known to have been dug on the property immediately south of this one and a modern service trench further west, likely to be either surface or an old foul water pipe. No trace was evident of the previous building on the plot, still shown as present on Ordnance Survey maps from 1990.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing west (2 x 1m scales)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds were retained from the modern ditch encountered in the trench, and no environmental sample was taken.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further works are recommended to be necessary for this development. The absence of any archaeological deposits or finds adds to the evidence suggesting that the Roman town was further eastwards, and the burial grounds did not extend this far. The lack of any subsurface structural evidence of Stowe House (visible on the 1952-68 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey map of the area) is curious since the trench should have encountered some footings; one possibility may be that it had shallow raft-type foundations in this area which were removed without significant ground disturbance.

8. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Felixstowe\FEX 289 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HLJ

Finds and environmental archive: None.

9. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by Rhodri Gardner. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Rhodri Gardner.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench: 105 Cliff Road, Felixstowe

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

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (C/08/1913) has been granted for erection of a block of 10 flats with parking area.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). 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 development area lies at TM 322 361 between 10 and 15m OD facing east, about 200m north of a minor valley on sandy soil, probably with a brickearth component. The topography and soils have some potential for prehistoric activity although none is recorded in the very near vicinity. The area is on the north side of the extensive Roman activity in north Felixstowe, with the eroded site of a late Roman shore fort (FEX 030) some 300m to the south-east and records of Roman burials from the cliffs immediately to the east (FEX 043). There was considerable WW2 activity to the north (anti-aircraft battery FEX 142) and practice trenches (FEX 136) to the south but the only 20th century feature within the development was the previous house, now demolished. There is therefore some potential for prehistoric activity and moderate potential for Roman activity including burials that will be damaged or destroyed by the development.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of

minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

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

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) three working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.6 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3 **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the total development area. A single linear trench within the proposed building footprint and

parking area 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.

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 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).
- 3.10 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.

- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome and colour photographs or high-res digital images (using a minimum 5 megapixel camera).
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 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.

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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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 archaeological work 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. 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 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez, Archaeological Officer

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
9-10 Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR Tel: 01284 352448 Email: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 30th October 2009

Reference: \2008_1913\Spec eval JP_Oct2009.doc

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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