

Landmark House, Whitehouse Road,  
Ipswich, Suffolk  
IPS 656

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2011/202**

**Client: Suffolk County Council Corporate Property**

Author: M. Sommers

November 2011



# Landmark House, Whitehouse Road Ipswich, Suffolk IPS 656

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/202

**Site Name:** Landmark House, Whitehouse Road, Ipswich

**Planning Application No:** 11/00618/FPC

**Date of Fieldwork:** 28th and 29th November 2011

**Grid Reference:** TM 1331 4709

**Client/Funding Body:** Suffolk County Council Corporate Property

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr J. Tipper

**Project Officer:** M. Sommers

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-115103

**Site Code:** IPS 656

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: M. Sommers

Date: 5th December 2011

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner

Position: Contracts Manager (Acting)

Date: 5th December 2011

Signed:



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## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out within the grounds of Landmark House, Whitehouse Road, Ipswich, in advance of the construction of a storage building and the creation of a car park. Two trenches were excavated, one across the site of the proposed building and another across the site of the proposed car park. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified. The results indicated that the two areas had been previously truncated and that any archaeological features that may have existed had been removed, probably during the construction of Landmark House. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Suffolk County Council Corporate Property).



# **1. Introduction**

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It has been proposed to construct a new storage building and create a small additional parking area within the grounds of Landmark House, Whitehouse Road, Ipswich. Planning consent has been granted for the development (11/00618/FPC) with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological work be undertaken in association with this development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1), was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may then be deemed necessary.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1331 4709. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned by Wates Construction, on behalf of their client, Suffolk County Council Corporate Property, who funded the work.

# **2. Geology and topography**

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The site consists of an area of level land, although the area immediately to the south and east slopes gently down, on the edge of an industrial estate on the outskirts of Ipswich. It is bounded by the A14 road to the west and industrial premises to the north, east and south-east. The development site lies at a height of c. 40.0m OD and overlooks the River Gipping, which lies c. 600m to the west of the site.

The underlying superficial geology consists of glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel.

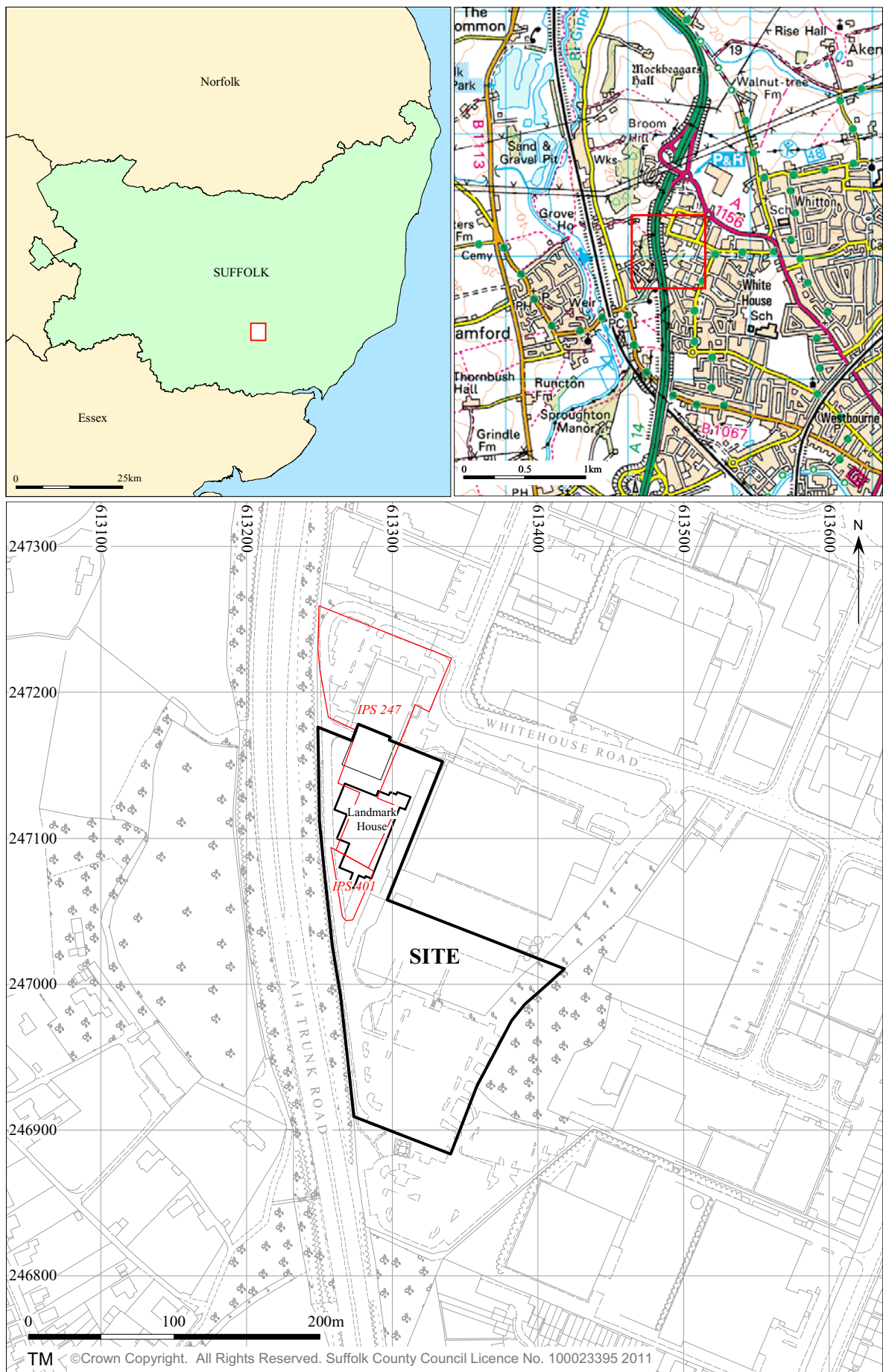


Figure 1. Location map (previous excavation areas outlined in red)

### **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The proposed development areas lie adjacent to Landmark House. Prior to its construction archaeological excavations were carried out within the footprint, and that of the large building immediately to the north, which identified an important multi-period site; recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) under the reference IPS 247 (outlined in red on fig. 1). The excavation revealed evidence for Early Iron Age activity, a Roman ditched enclosure and a post-built structure and, significantly, an enclosed Anglo-Saxon settlement comprising post-built structures, numerous pits and an inhumation cemetery. A second excavation was undertaken to the south of the site of Landmark House (HER ref. IPS 401, see fig. 1) that revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman (pre-conquest) activity which included a human skull, presumably the result of a decapitation, in the backfill of a pit.

A number of other Roman and Anglo-Saxon artefacts have also been recovered in the vicinity by metal detectorists and through other evaluations and monitoring events.

### **4. Methodology**

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The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using the back-acting hoe of a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trenches was in accordance with a plan approved by the County Archaeological Service Conservation Team and was designed to sample both areas of the proposed development.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify any archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until undisturbed natural deposits were encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features. Had any features or significant deposits been identified they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation of the trenches, the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench locations plotted and the depths noted.

A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Introduction

Two evaluation trenches were excavated (fig. 2); Trench 1 was excavated across the site of the proposed storage building whilst Trench 2 was located across the area of proposed car parking. The natural subsoil, where exposed, consisted of a clean yellow sand with occasional gravel.



Fig 2. Trench location plan

## 5.2 Trench results

**Trench 1:** Was to be a single trench 50m in length but due to a presence of a possible service pipe a 4m wide gap was left (between sections A and B in fig. 2). The area of this trench had previously been under concrete hardstanding which had been removed, crushed and then spread over the site. Excavation of the trench revealed this layer of crushed concrete to be c. 0.3m thick. It lay directly on the surface of the natural subsoil, which had clearly been truncated (Plate 1).

At a point 33m from the north-west end of the trench the natural subsoil dipped abruptly down to a depth of 2.1m (plate 2). A possible buried topsoil was present, suggesting the natural subsoil may not have been truncated in this area, which was immediately overlain by a thick deposit of clean orange sand and layers of darker material containing modern debris. Excavation of the trench was stopped at a point 39m from the north-west end due to the increasing depth. A test pit was excavated at the south-east end of the trench which revealed the natural subsoil had continued on a downward slope and now lay at a depth of 2.7m (Plate 3); the overburden present was similar to that seen to the north-west.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

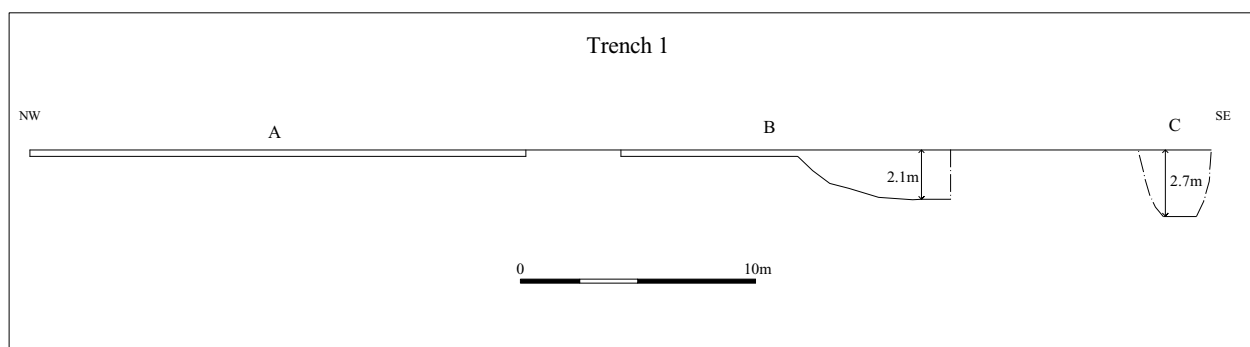


Figure 3. Trench 1 representative section

**Trench 2:** Was a single trench 20m in length in a formerly grassed area surrounded by existing structures. The trench was excavated to a maximum of 0.5m deep at which point a near continuous surface comprising tarmac over an unknown thickness of concrete was encountered (Plate 4). It was not possible to break through this surface to investigate the underlying deposits.

## **6. Finds and environmental evidence**

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No artefacts of any period were recovered during the evaluation.

## **7. Discussion**

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The results of Trench 1 indicate that the natural subsoil over a large part of the proposed storage building site has been previously truncated by an unknown degree. Towards the south-east end of the trench significant deposits of imported material were present. The area to the south of this trench slopes rapidly to the east and it is likely that this material has been deposited in order to create a large, level terrace.

It was hoped that the area of Trench 2 was relatively undisturbed by the recent construction work associated with Landmark House, being an open area of grass, but the presence of the tarmac and concrete surface would indicate that this area has also been truncated.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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No archaeological evidence of any period was identified although the potential for buried remains to be present was high. It is probable that archaeological features and deposits were once present in these areas but these have been destroyed through the truncation of the original land surfaces. It is just possible that buried archaeological features could survive beneath the overburden identified in the south-eastern third of Trench 1 but these will be at depths in excess of 2m.

Assuming the new storage building will be built on piled foundations further archaeological work would not be recommended. If strip foundations cutting into the natural subsoil are proposed then these may warrant archaeological monitoring as they would have the potential to reveal early features or deposits. Monitoring of this work would enable the recording of any deposits or features that may be revealed and make the recovery of datable artefacts possible.



## **9. Archive deposition**

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Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: IPS 656.

The digital archive will be stored on the SCC secure servers at the location:

*R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Ipswich\IPS 656  
Evaluation (Landmark House)*

Digital photographs are held under the references HLR34 to HLR40

A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolkc1-115103

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The evaluation was carried out by Linzi Everett and Mark Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mark Sommers and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## 11. Plates

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Plate 1. Trench 1, camera facing NE showing the truncated natural subsoil (ref. HLR35)



Plate 2. Trench 1, camera facing NW showing the great depth of overburden (ref. HLR38)





Plate 3. SE end of Trench 1 showing great depth of overburden (ref. HLR34)



Plate 4. Trench 2, camera facing SW (ref. HLR40)



## Appendix 1. Brief and specification

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### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

#### LANDMARK HOUSE, WHITEHOUSE ROAD, IPSWICH

*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 Suffolk County Council for the construction three new entrance lobbies, associated alterations to access and landscaping, and also the erection of a new building to the south-east, at Landmark House, Whitehouse Road, Ipswich (TM 132 470). **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 site is located on the south-west side of Whitehouse Road at c.40.00m OD and overlooking the River Gipping (to the west). The underlying geology of the site comprises glaciofluvial drift (deep loam).

1.4 This proposal lies in an area of high archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. In particular, excavations in advance of the erection of Landmark in 1995 defined an important late Anglo-Saxon site (HER no. IPS 247). There are also important Roman sites in the immediate vicinity of this location. The site has good potential for the discovery of important unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its proximity to known remains and also given the landscape setting overlooking the valley of the River Gipping. This location is topographically favourable for early occupation. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 In order to inform the archaeological strategy, the following work will be required:

- A linear trenched evaluation is required of (part 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) 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 the Local Planning Authority that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

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 linear trial trenches are to be excavated to the area of the new building to the south-east of Landmark House (single trench measuring 50.00 x 1.80m wide) and also the new visitor parking to the north-east of Landmark House (single trench measuring 20.00 x 1.80m wide).

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m wide minimum must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench 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 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Bury St Edmunds  
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Tel. 01284 741225  
[Jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk)

Date: 1 September 2011

**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.**

# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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