

Land to the rear of 131-141, High Street
Wickham Market, Suffolk
WKM 032

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/203

Client: Mrs Hubert-Chibnall and Mr & Mrs Churchyard

Author: M. Sommers

December 2011

Land to the rear of 131-141, High Street
Wickham Market, Suffolk
WKM 032

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/203

Author: M. Sommers

Contributions By: n/a

Illustrator: M. Sommers

Editor: S. Boulter

Report Date: December 2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/203

Site Name: Land to the rear of 131-141 High Street,
Wickham Market

Planning Application No: C/11/1558/FUL & C/11/0869/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 2nd December 2011

Grid Reference: TM 3037 5627

Client/Funding Body: Mrs Hubert-Chibnall and Mr & Mrs Churchyard

Client Reference:

Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-115186

Site Code: WKM 032

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: 6th December 2011

Approved By: S. Boulter

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 6th December 2011

Signed:

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeology and historical background	3
4. Methodology	4
5. Results	5
5.1 Introduction	5
5.2 Trench results	6
6. Finds and environmental evidence	7
7. Discussion	7
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	7
9. Archive deposition	7
10. Acknowledgements	8
11. Bibliography	8

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map	2
Figure 2. 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (rescaled extract)	3
Figure 3. Trench location plan	5

List of Plates

Plate 1. Soil profile as revealed in Trench 1, camera facing north (photo ref. HLR41)	6
Plate 2. Soil profile as revealed in Trench 2, camera facing east (photo ref. HLR43)	6

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief	
-------------------	--

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of 131-141 High Street, Wickham Market, Suffolk, in advance of the construction of a single dwelling and detached garage. Two trenches were excavated, one across the site of the proposed house and another within the footprint of the proposed garage. The natural subsoil comprised a pale yellow silty sand with gravel and was encountered between depths of 0.4 and 0.5m. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in either trench. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Mrs Hubert-Chibnall and Mr & Mrs Churchyard).

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of single dwelling with a detached garage (application numbers C/11/1558/FUL and C/11/0869/FUL respectively) but with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological work be carried out in association with this development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in a Brief produced by Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1), was the undertaking of a desk-based assessment (consultation of HER and simple map regression) and 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 3037 5627. 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 and funded by Mrs Hubert-Chibnall and Mr & Mrs Churchyard.

2. Geology and topography

The site consists of an area of roughly level land situated on a very gentle north facing slope within the urban area of the large village of Wickham Market. It is bounded by the rear gardens of other properties on all sides and is accessed via a narrow roadway off the High Street. The development site lies at a height of c. 15m OD and is c. 200m west of the River Deben.

The local landscape consists of a gently rolling to flat plateau formed from a mixture of glacial deposits with silty and sandy drift deposits.

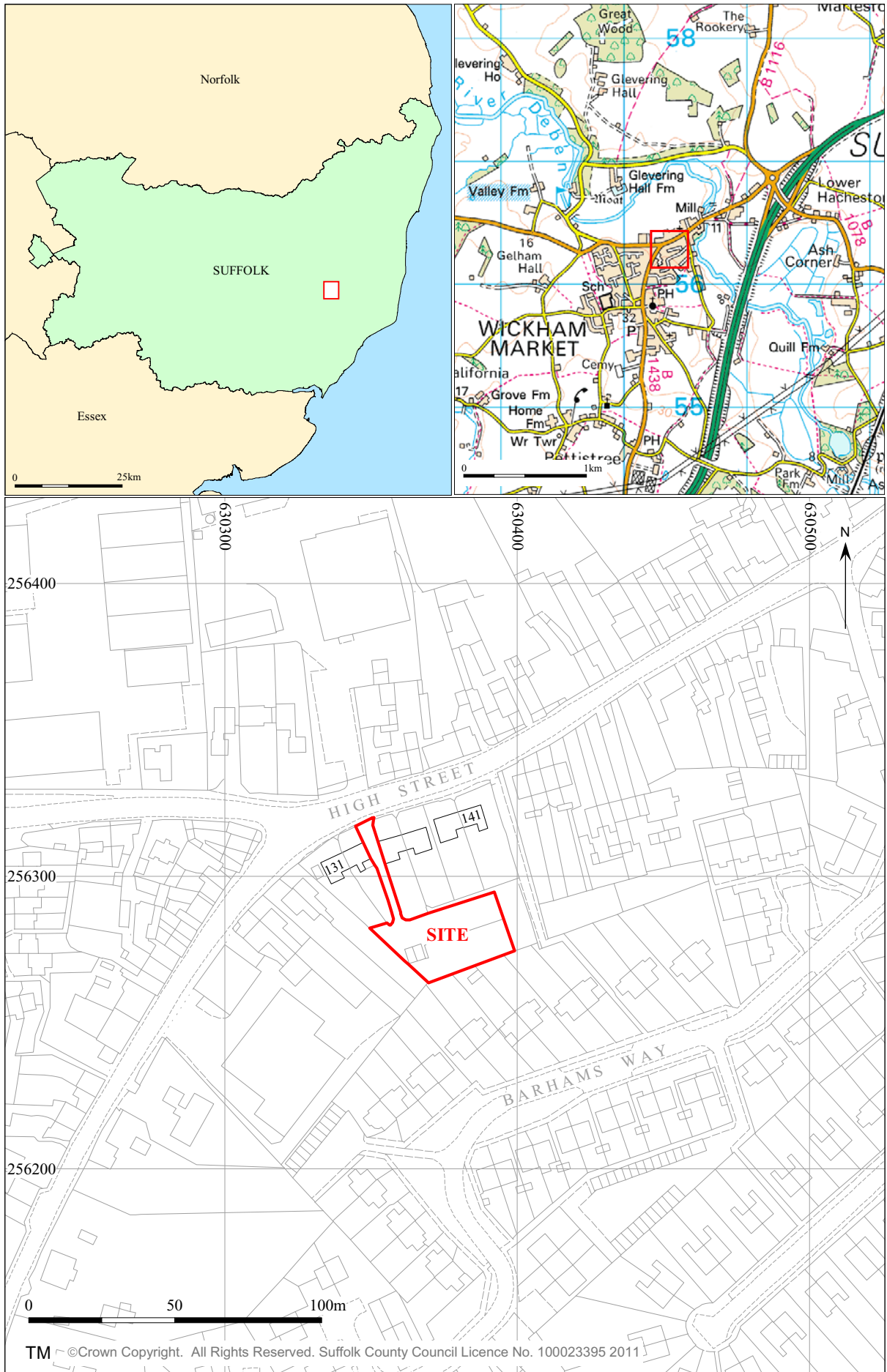


Figure 1. Location map

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the predicted extent of the medieval settlement of Wickham Market, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER), ref. WKM 026. It is also, in the vicinity of an area of possible Roman activity (a 3rd century coin hoard was discovered on a site c. 300m to the north-west (HER ref. WKM 004).

No archaeological sites or findspots are recorded on the HER within the development area itself but the proximity of known sites suggests a relatively high potential for buried features or deposits to be present.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions of the Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 scale sheets, of the area (published 1883, 1904 and 1927 respectively) show the development site as an open area of land adjacent existing dwellings. Figure 2 is an extract from the 2nd edition map

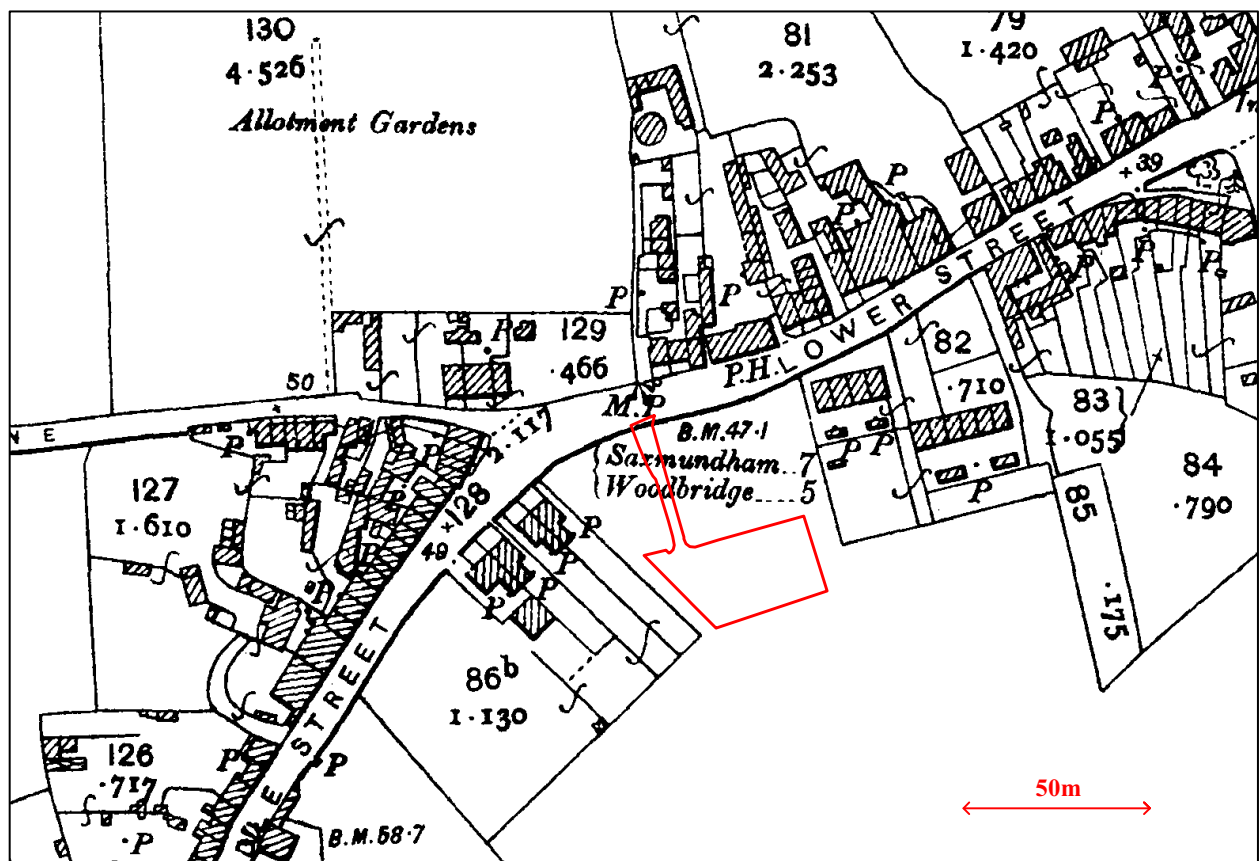


Figure 2. 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (rescaled extract)

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trenches was in accordance with the trench plan included in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Boulter 2011).

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

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Two evaluation trenches were excavated (Fig. 3); Trench 1 was excavated across the site of the proposed dwelling whilst Trench 2 was located across the area of the proposed garage. The natural subsoil, as exposed in both trenches, consisted of a pale yellow silty sand with occasional flints. The interface between the overburden and the natural subsoil was slightly blurred and there was no indication that the natural ground levels had been significantly truncated. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from the excavated spoil.

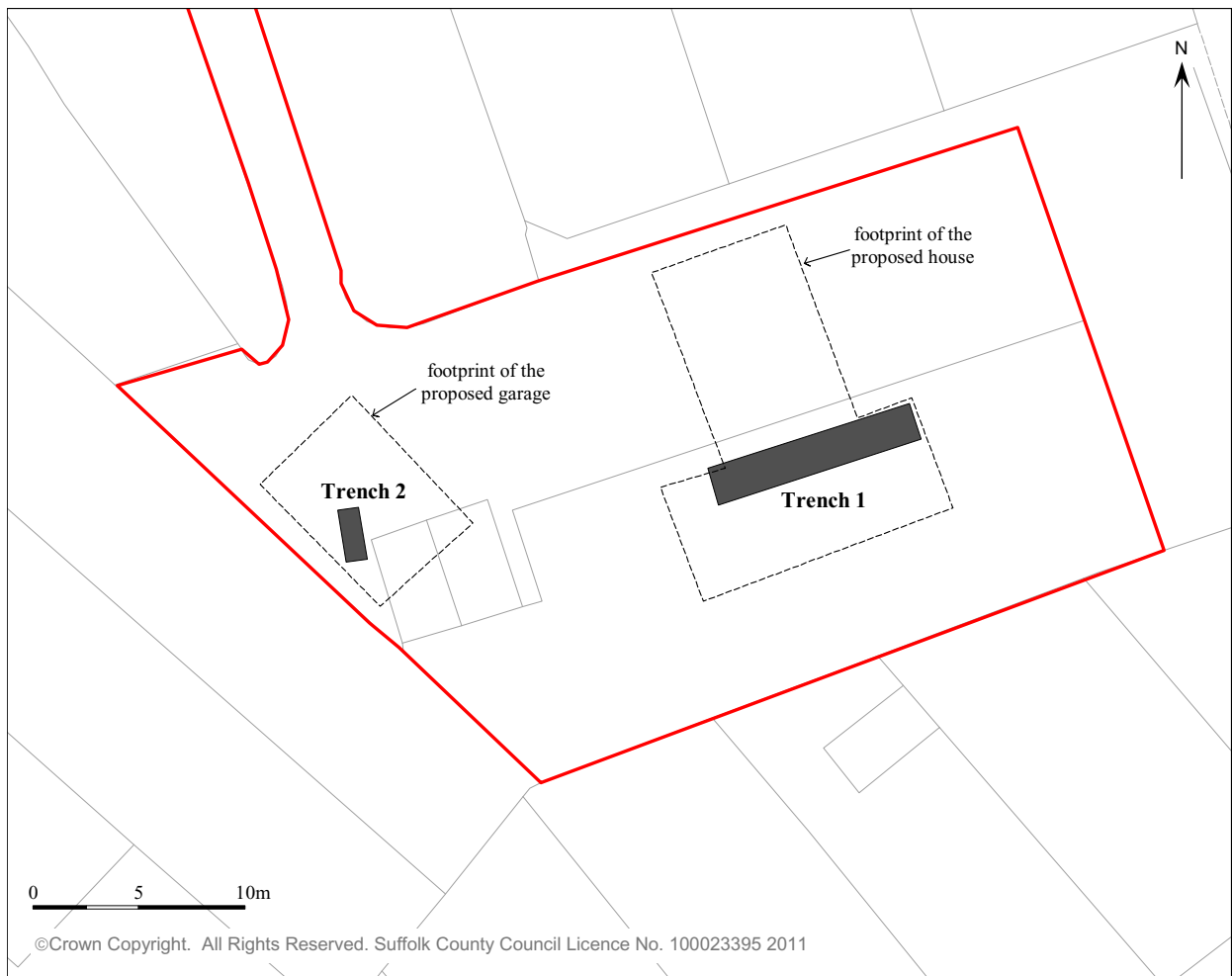


Fig 3. Trench location plan

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1: Measured 10m in length and was 1.8m in width. The natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.4m beneath an overburden of dark garden soil (Plate 1).



Plate 1. Soil profile as revealed in Trench 1, camera facing north (photo ref. HLR41)

Trench 2: Measured 2.5m in length and was 1.2m in width. The natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.5m beneath an overburden of dark garden soil (Plate 2).



Plate 2. Soil profile as revealed in Trench 2, camera facing east (photo ref. HLR43)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No artefacts of any period were recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

The results of evaluation suggest that no significant archaeological features or deposits are present within the site. The surface of the exposed natural subsoil was cleanly cut and had any buried remains been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation did not identify any archaeological deposits or features that could be under threat from the proposed development. Consequently, no further work is recommended.

9. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: WKM 032.

Digital archive:

*R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Wickham Market\
WKM032 evaluation (131-141 High St)*

Digital photographs are held under the references HLR41 to HLR44

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-115186

10. Acknowledgements

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

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

11. Bibliography

Boulter, S., 2011, *Rear of 131-141 High Street, Wickham market, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment* unpublished report

Appendix 1. Brief

Brief for Desk-Based and Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

LAND TO THE REAR OF 131-141, HIGH STREET, WICKHAM MARKET

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk Coastal District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	C/11/1558/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 303 562
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of a house
AREA:	0.08ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Garages/garden
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Assistant Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel: 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	10 November 2011

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 7) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists’ guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not 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 (including the need for any

further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.5 The 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposal affects an area of archaeological interest, on the edge of the High Street of the medieval core of Wickham Market (County Historic Environment Record WKM 026). Roman activity has also been recorded along the line of Border Cot Lane/High Street, (WKM 001, WKM 004). There is potential for archaeological evidence relating to historic occupation to exist in the development area.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was 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 any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 To inform field investigation, desk-based assessment is required, involving:
 - Consultation of the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
 - Examination of all readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those in the County Records Office) to record evidence for historic or archaeological sites and history of previous landuses. Where permitted, photographs, photocopies or traced copies should be presented in the report.
 - Assessment of the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site
- 4.2 Evaluation should proceed sequentially, with desk-based work informing trench design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 4.3 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.4 Trial Trenching is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.5 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.6 A linear trial trench 10m long is to be excavated to sample the area within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. The trench is to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 4.7 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 fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The

results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.

- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1.

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.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.



Archaeological Services Field Projects Team

Delivering a full range of archaeological services

- Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/