

Learning Resource Centre, Culford School, Culford, CUL 049

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/023

Client: Culford School

Author: Rob Brooks

February/2012

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Author: Rob Brooks

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Report Date: February/2012

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HER Information

Report Number: 2012/023
Site Name: Learning Resource Centre
Planning Application No: Pre-planning
Date of Fieldwork: 16/02/2012
Grid Reference: TL 8335 7051
Client/Funding Body: Culford School
Client Reference: N/A
Curatorial Officer: Dr Abby Antrobus
Project Officer: Rob Brooks
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-118799
Site Code: CUL 049

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: Rob Brooks
Date: 17th February, 2012

Approved By: Dr Abby Antrobus
Position: Conservation Officer
Date: 17th February, 2012
Signed:

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Summary

Excavation of a single evaluation trench at Culford School in Suffolk revealed no archaeological features or finds. Topsoil immediately overlaid slightly disturbed geological strata of orange sand and gravel. It has been recommended that no further archaeological investigation is required.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of the Learning Resource Centre at Culford School, Culford, in Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Abby Antrobus, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to inform the planning application. Culford School funded the work that was carried out on 16th February, 2012. The site is located within the school grounds, west of The Street and between two tracks in open ground at grid reference TL 8335 7051 (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

The site's localised topography is generally flat and is sited at between 31m and 31.3m above the OD. The geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of alluvium, which usually comprise silty-clay with further layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel, overlying bedrock formations of chalky till (BGS 2011). On site, the geology presented itself as a layer of pale greyish-orange gravel and sand, overlying mid-orange sand.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies to the west of the modern village of Culford within the grounds of Culford School, formerly Culford Hall. The site is approximately 120m north of the post-medieval village of Culford (CUL 033), where a scatter of medieval pottery was found (CUL 023), and 190m to the north of the medieval church of St Mary (CUL 024). It is also 190m to the north-east of Culford Hall, which is now part of the school (CUL 021). Approximately 200m to the south-east of the site an excavation took place (CUL 045) which uncovered an area of Late Bronze Age activity including a child inhumation with complete food vessel and a group of seventeen pits. Approximately 625m to the east-south-east, two scatters of worked flint from the Bronze Age have been found (CUL 039 and CUL 040). Along with the Bronze Age flints at CUL 039 a single rimsherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware was found. To the west approximately 300m from the site a Saxon *sceatta* was found (CUL 011). Another scatter of possible Bronze Age worked flints was found 760m to the north (CUL 041). The early Ordnance Survey maps show the site as being within woodland that was part of the Culford estate.

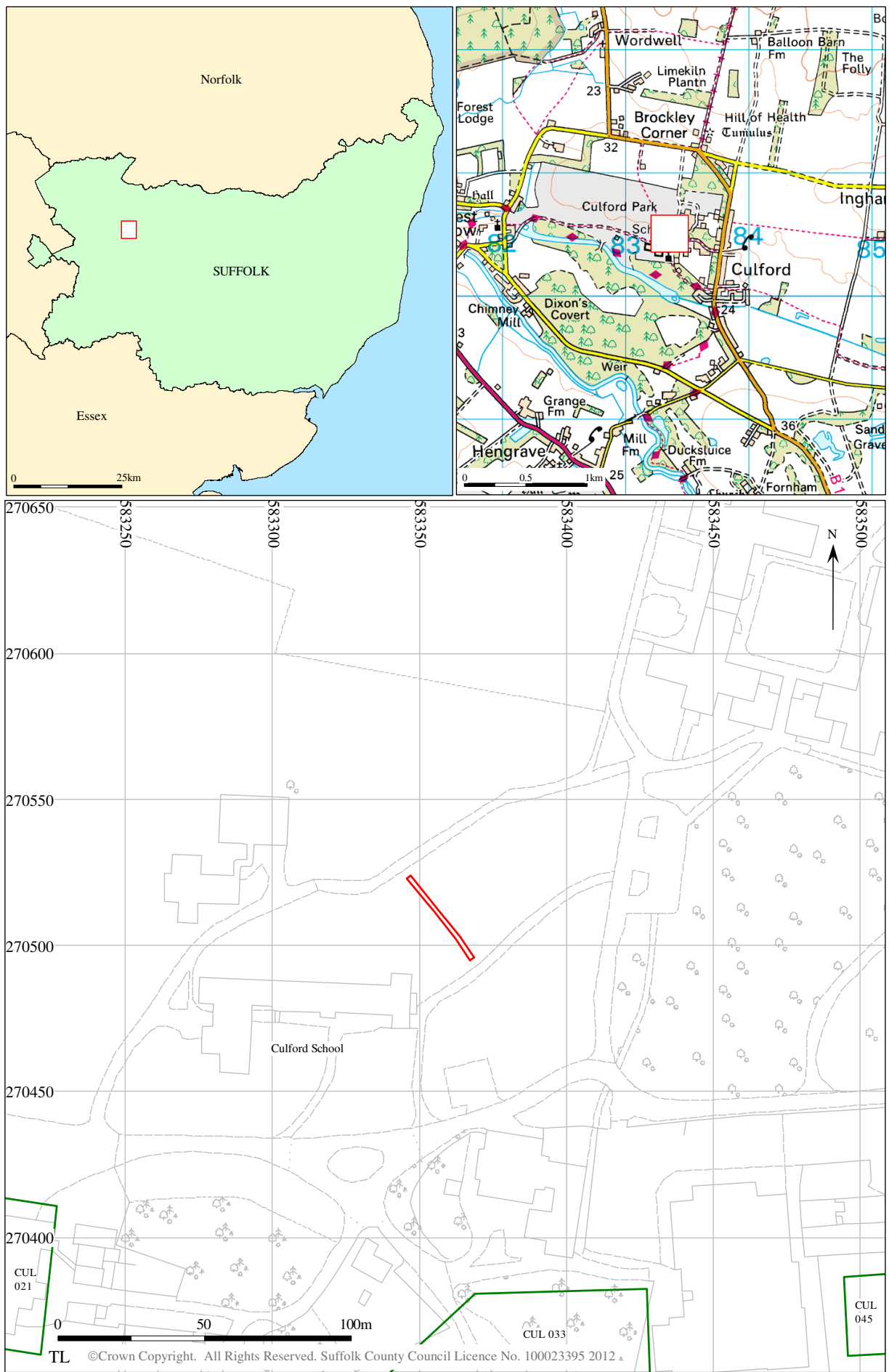


Figure 1. Site location showing trench (red) and HER entries mentioned in the text

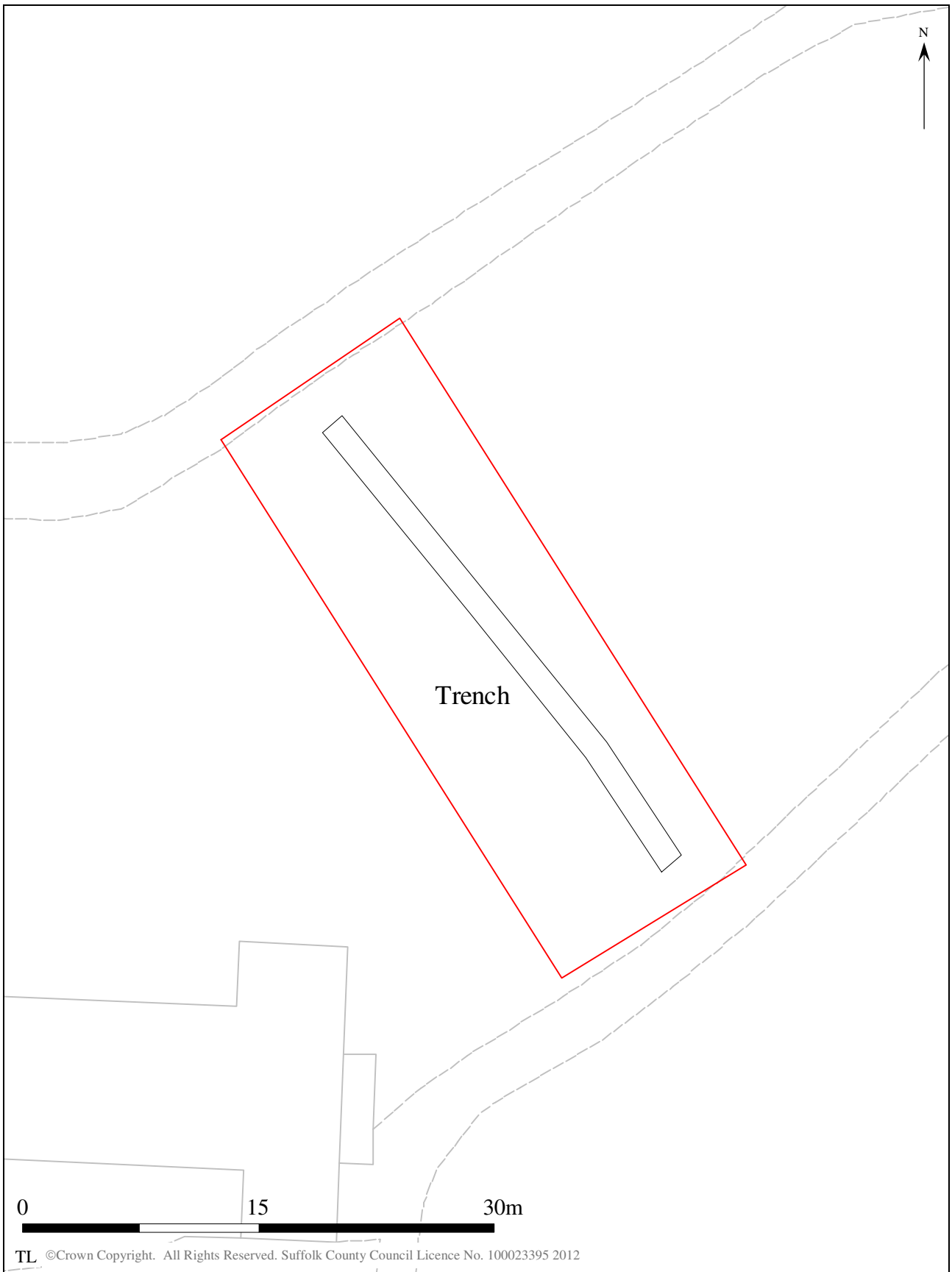


Figure 2. Site plan showing trench (black) and approximate development outline (red)

4. Methodology

One trench was excavated by a JCB with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The position of the trench and its associated levels were recorded using a Leica GPS. The trench was recorded on a SCCAS *pro forma* trench record sheet and photographs of the trench were taken with a digital camera (314x314dpi resolution). An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-108060, Appendix 2) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>. The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code CUL 049.

5. Results

The trench measured 35m x 1.8m and covered 63sqm. It was aligned north-west to south-east and was 0.35-0.5m deep with topsoil accounting for the first 0.2m. Below the topsoil was a 0.15-3m thick layer of evenly mixed pale greyish-orange sand and gravel, which was interpreted on site as a naturally derived layer into which leaching had occurred from the topsoil. Below this layer was largely pure mid orange sand with occasional stones.

No features were recorded and no finds were recovered. Low levels of disturbance were present immediately underlying the topsoil, most of which related to tree roots, or groundworks in the area.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-west, 1x1m and 1x2m scales

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The trench revealed largely preserved soil horizons, despite occasional disturbances, but the lack of features and finds suggests that there is very low potential for archaeological deposits being found in future work. These groundworks indicate that the development area is likely to be outside the Bronze Age activity identified at site CUL 045.

Due to the lack of any features or finds, as well as any evidence for use of the area on the early Ordnance Survey maps, it is recommended that this site does not require further archaeological fieldwork.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

8. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Rob Brooks and Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Rob Brooks and managed by John Craven. The report was written and the graphics produced by Rob Brooks.

The report was checked by John Craven and Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2011 Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

at

CULFORD SCHOOL, CULFORD, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	n/a at present
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 833 705
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	New library building
AREA:	Small
CURRENT LAND USE:	Parkland
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Assistant Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	1 November 2011

Summary

- 1.1 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation 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.
- 1.2 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 any 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 a 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 proposed library site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the extent of Culford Park, a Registered Park and Garden (number 3173, County Historic Environment Record CUL 022). It is less than 200m from both St Marys Church and the site of the former village of Culford (CUL 033), and the significant Bronze Age settlement and funerary site excavated prior to construction of the tennis courts which lies to the south west (CUL 045). Any groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may exist.

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.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 A single linear trial trench is to be excavate down the length of the proposed building. The trench is to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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) 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.

Appendix 2. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-118799

Project details

Project name	CUL 049, Learning Resource Centre Evaluation, Culford School, Culford
Short description of the project	Excavation of a single evaluation trench at Culford School in Suffolk revealed no archaeological features or finds. Topsoil immediately overlaid slightly disturbed geological strata of orange sand and gravel. It has been recommended that no further archaeological investigation is required.
Project dates	Start: 16-02-2012 End: 16-02-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CUL 049 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CUL 049 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2012/023 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY CULFORD CUL 049, Learning Resource Centre Evaluation, Culford School
Postcode	IP28 6TX
Study area	575.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8335 7051 52.3016051105 0.689393074966 52 18 05 N 000 41 21 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 30.50m Max: 30.80m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team

Project director/manager John Craven

Project supervisor Rob Brooks

Type of sponsor/funding body Private school

Name of sponsor/funding body Culford School

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Archive ID CUL 049

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Paper Archive ID CUL 049

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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