

New irrigation reservoir, Hill Farm,
Tuddenham
TDD 026

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/032

Client: Frederick Hiam Ltd

Author: Simon Cass

March 2012

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Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: March 2012

HER Information

Report Number: 2012/032
Site Name: New irrigation reservoir, Hill Farm, Tuddenham
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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: 14/03/2012

Approved By: Jo Caruth

Position: Contracts Manager

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Hill Farm, in March 2012, in order to satisfy a condition placed on the proposed construction of a new irrigation reservoir. Twenty-one trenches were excavated on land covering approximately 2.3ha. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in any of the trenches and it is suggested that no further archaeological investigation of this land is necessary to fulfil the condition.

1. Introduction

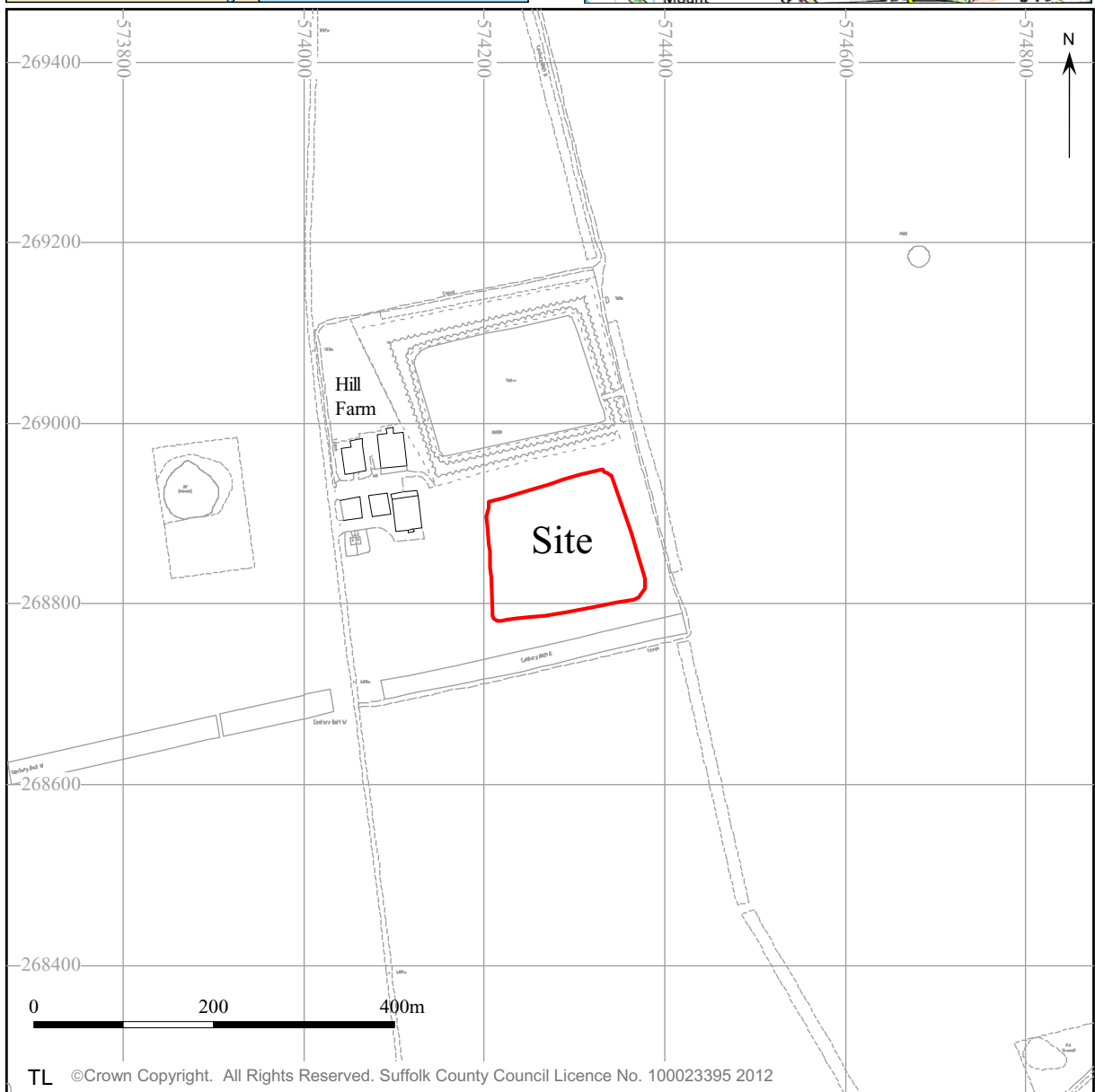
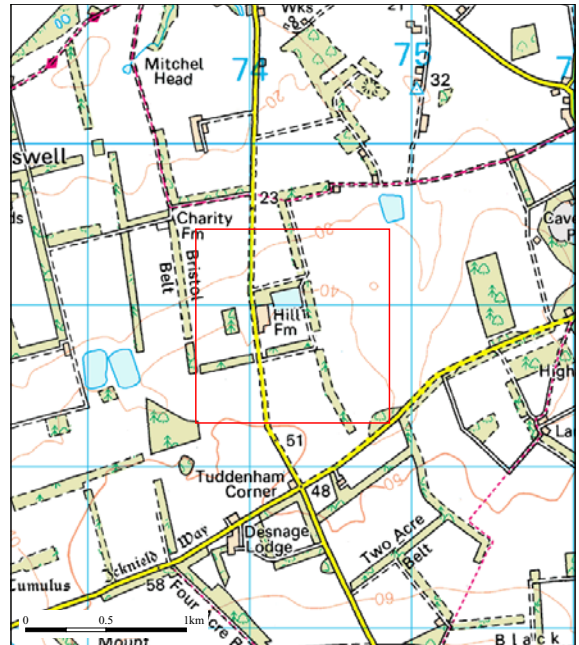
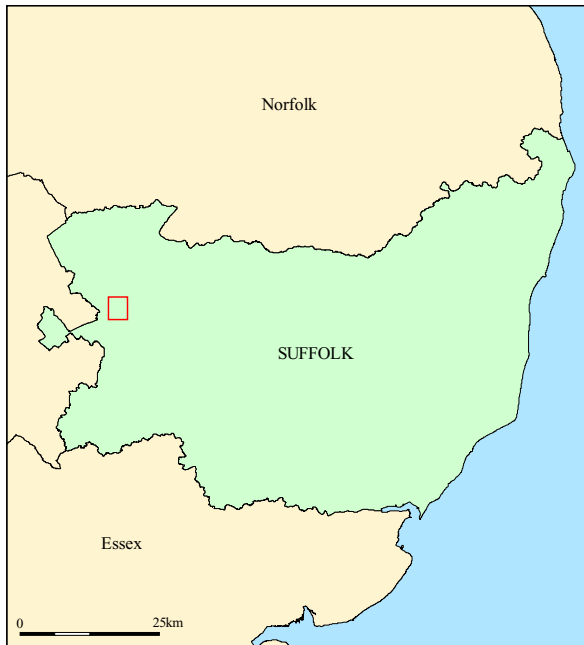
An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of an irrigation reservoir on land to the rear of Hill Farm, Tuddenham in March 2012 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Field Team. This was in order to satisfy a condition placed on the planning permission (F/2011/0750/AGN) requiring a program of archaeological investigation prior to development in order to ascertain the presence and/or absence of archaeologically significant deposits within the site and, if found to be present, inform a mitigation strategy in order to create an appropriate record of those deposits prior to their destruction.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies just within an area of well-drained calcareous chalky soils, adjacent to more loamy deposits to the west, at a height of between 40-45m AOD on a slight slope down to the west. The general area surrounding the site is farmland, with the northern boundary formed by a pre-existing reservoir and the farm buildings of Hill Farm to the north-west.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site was believed to have a high potential to contain archaeological deposits due to its topographical similarity with, and close location to, the site of TDD 009 – an area of prehistoric occupation including a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age hearth some 700m to the north-east. The site appears to have been used as arable land as far back as the first edition Ordnance Survey map issued in the 1880's.



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Figure 1. Location map showing site boundary (red)

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 1116m²) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to 620m of trenching, at 1.8m wide. The trenches were located in a standard grid array covering the area of truncation within the proposed reservoir. In total, approximately 650m of trench was excavated (c.1170m²).

The trenches were excavated by a 17-tonne 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

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

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using GPS surveying equipment to an accuracy of within 0.05m. Trench 8 was opened up adjacent to its intended position but this is not thought to have unduly affected the coverage of the evaluation trenches as a whole.

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.

The site archives are kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds under HER No. TDD 026.

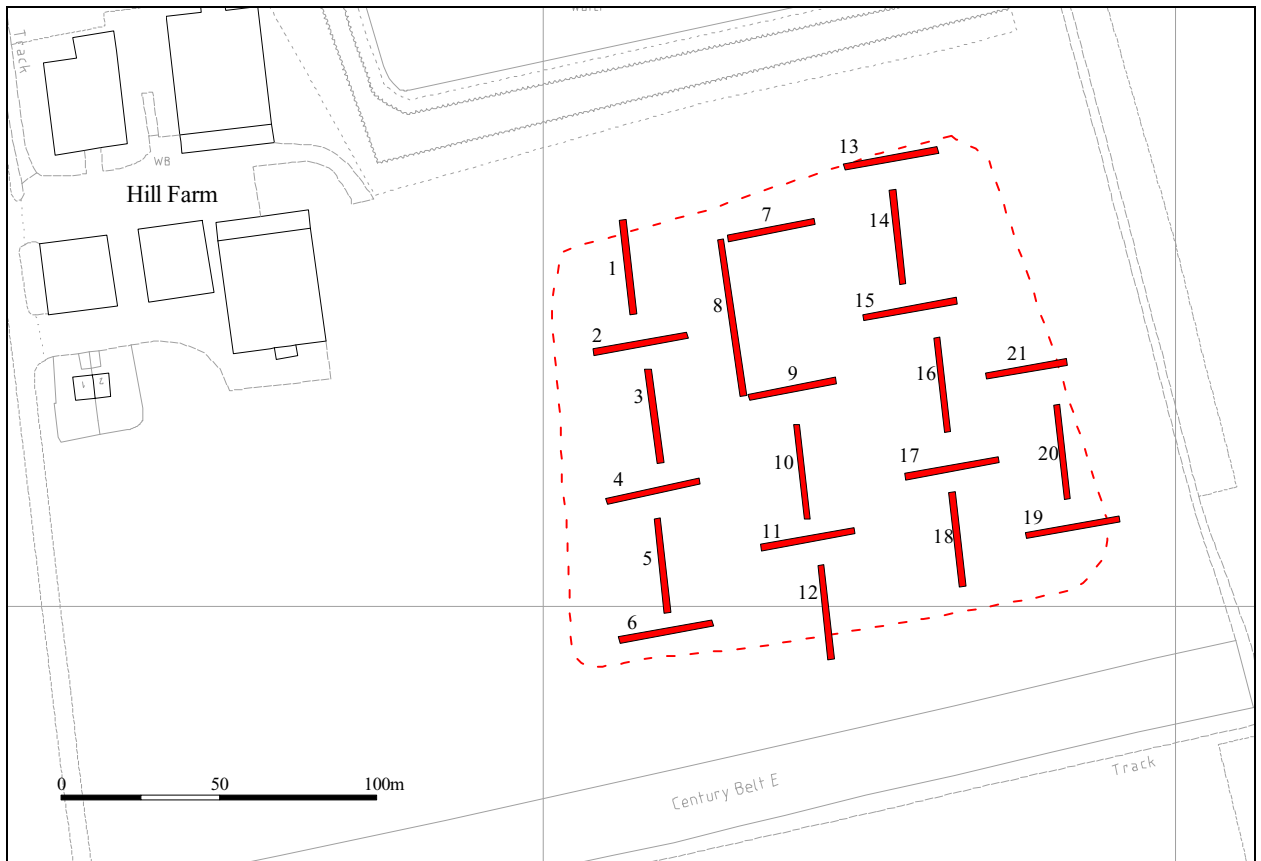


Figure 2. Trench locations within site area

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.45m deep, orientated approximately north-south in the north-western corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 2

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately east-west towards the north-western corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 3

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south adjacent to the western edge of the site (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.05m of weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 1. Trench 3, facing south (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 4

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately east-west adjacent to the western edge of the site (Pl. 2). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.05m of weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 2. Trench 4, facing west (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 5

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the south-western corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.4m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 6

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately east-west in the south-western corner of the site (Pl. 3). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.4m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits

and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 3. Trench 6, facing west (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 7

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately east-west in towards the northern edge of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 8

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the centre of the site (Pl. 4). The stratigraphy encountered

consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 4. Trench 8, facing south (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 9

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately east-west in the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 5. Trench 9, facing east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 10

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep, orientated approximately north-south near the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 11

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep, orientated approximately east-west towards the southern edge of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 12

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south crossing the southern boundary of the site (Pl. 6). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.4m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 6. Trench 12, facing south (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 13

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately east-west in the north-eastern corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits

and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 14

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the north-eastern corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.4m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 15

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep, orientated approximately east-west to the east of the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 16

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the north-eastern corner of the site (Pl. 7). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.35m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 7. Trench 16, facing east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 17

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately east-west towards the southern edge of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 18

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately north-south by the southern boundary of the site (Pl. 8). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits

and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.



Plate 8. Trench 18, facing east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 19

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated approximately east-west in the southern corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.35m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 20

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep, orientated approximately north-south by the eastern boundary of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.38m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

Trench 21

This trench was 27m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately east-west by the eastern boundary of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.36m of mid greyish/orangey brown sandy silt topsoil over weathered chalk and mid orangey brown silty deposits interpreted as natural geological deposits and water-eroded natural drainage channels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No artefacts of archaeological relevance were observed during the course of this evaluation.

7. Discussion

The absence of any archaeological activity in the trenches, coupled with the shallow depth of natural geology suggests that this area has probably only ever been used as arable land, only leaving ephemeral traces of activity (such as the plough scarring visible in several trenches), much of which appears likely to be modern.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The results from this evaluation must conclude that there is little chance of the ground works associated with the construction of the new reservoir having a detrimental effect on any archaeological remains. No further work is recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the planning condition placed on this development in relation to archaeology.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Tuddenham/TDD 026 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HOA-HOZ\HOX 68-78

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by Andrew Tester. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and John Simms from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics production and final editing of the report was carried out by Simon Cass.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

**HILL FARM, HIGHAM ROAD, TUDDENHAM,
SUFFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Forest Heath District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	F/2011/0750/AGN
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 740 689
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Irrigation reservoir
AREA:	4.50ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Greenfield
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	23 December 2011

Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that the location of the proposed development could affect important below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance.
- 1.2 The applicant is required to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with policies HE6.1, HE6.2, HE6.3 and HE7.1 of PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment*, in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 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 1.2), 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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief 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 site of the proposed reservoir has high potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown heritage assets of archaeological interest in view of its location to the southwest of a scattered prehistoric occupation site in a similar topographical position recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER no. TDD 009) and its large size. However, the site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the development site (4.50ha. in area), which is c.2,250.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.1,250.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.5 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

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.

- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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*.
- 5.10 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 1.2.

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.

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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- Graphics design and illustration

Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

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