

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/43

**Land off The Street, Earl Soham
ESO 018**

HER Information

Planning Application:	Pre-application
Date of Fieldwork:	12th-14th March 2012
Grid Reference:	TM 2366 6341
Funding Body:	Parsons & Whittleby Ltd.
Curatorial Officer:	Jess Tipper
Project Officer:	Linzi Everett
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of The Street, Earl Soham (TM 2366 6341; ESO 018). Various hillwash layers were identified in the trenches, as well as a raised, linear gravel spread believed to be the Roman road known to cut through the site. Roman finds were recovered from a series of post holes adjacent to the road, as well as from a subsoil layer which sealed the road surface. Notable amongst these finds was a complete crossbow brooch of 4th century date, usually associated with male, particularly military, costume.

1. Introduction

The Local Planning Authority have been advised that a proposed development to the north of The Street, Earl Soham, could impact on important archaeological deposits. An archaeological evaluation by trial trench was required prior to consideration of the proposal in order that the nature and significance of any archaeological evidence could be taken into account..

The site is centred on TM 2366 6341 and lies within an area of high archaeological interest, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). The line of a Roman road (ESO 001) is believed to cross the site and it lies within 100m of the medieval St. Mary's church (ESO 007) to the south. There is high potential for the presence of archaeological deposits within the development area.

A Brief and Specification outlining the evaluation requirements was produced by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team (Appendix IV). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work which was funded by Parsons & Whittlely Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

The site occupies a south east facing slope at a height of c.36m OD, dropping to a deep drainage ditch alongside the A1120. The underlying geology of the site comprises chalky boulder clays.

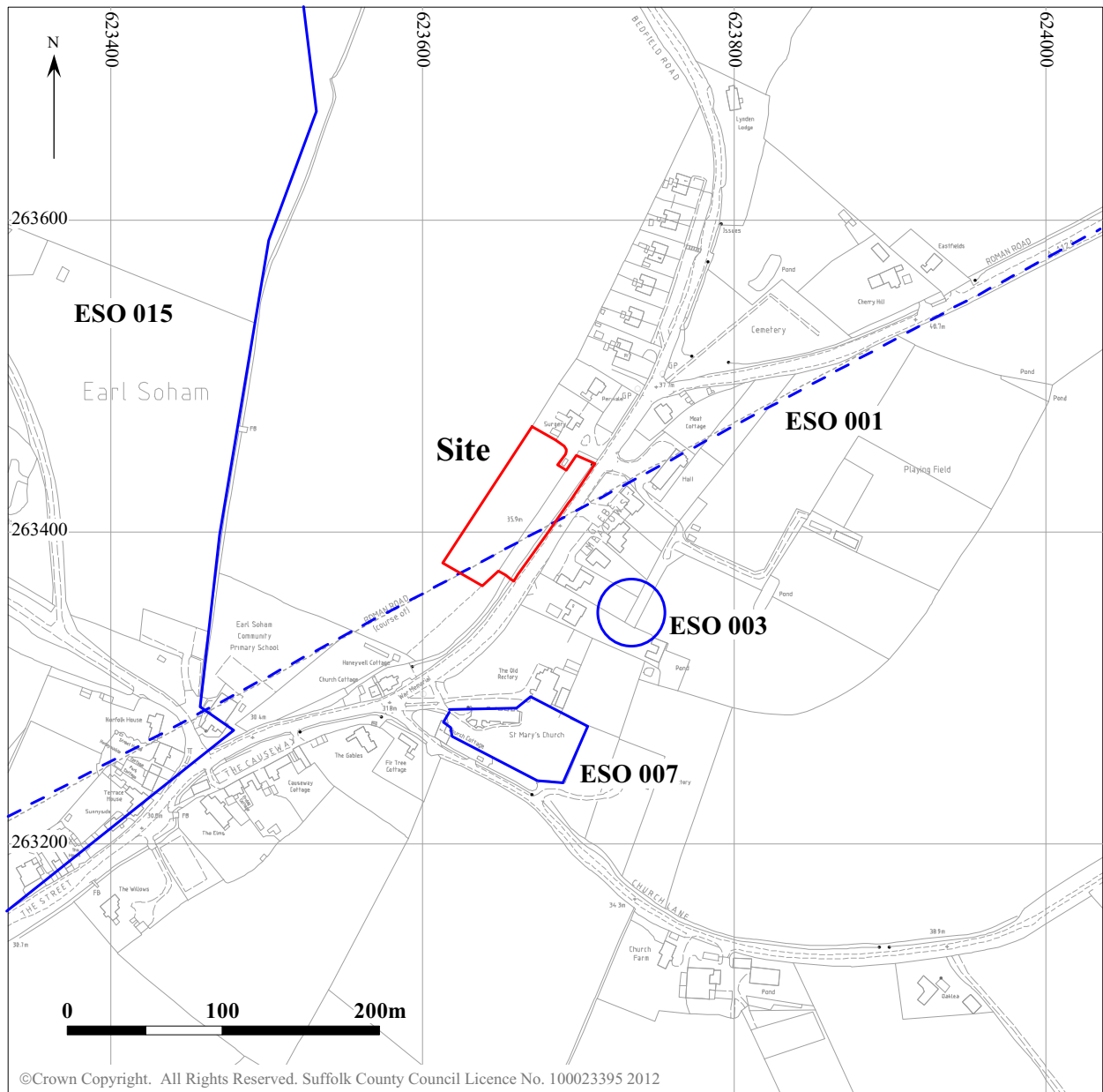
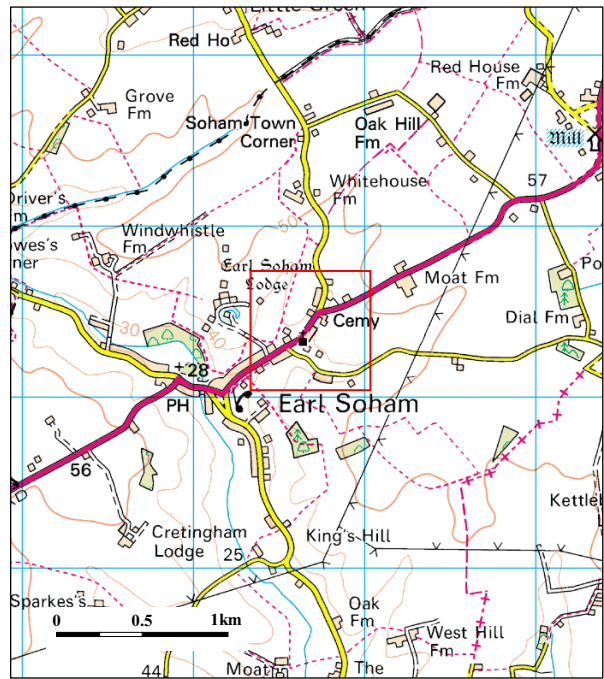


Figure 1. Site location

3. Archaeological and historical background

The high archaeological potential for the site was based predominantly on the projected line of a Roman road (ESO 001) which cuts directly through the site. The findspot of a Neolithic stone axe lies south east of the development area (ESO 003), whilst the medieval church (ESO 007) and site of a medieval deer park (ESO 015) are also within the direct vicinity. There is high potential for encountering occupation deposits at this location and the proposed development will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

4. Methodology

Fieldwork was carried out on 12th-14th March 2012. Prior to trial trenching, the development area was examined for the presence of any visible earthworks. Five trenches were then excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing overburden until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the exposed surfaces was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify cut features. Both the exposed trench surfaces and upcast spoil were examined visually for artefactual evidence, and both were subject to a metal detector survey.

Identified contexts were allocated numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the HER code ESO 018. Context information was recorded on SCCAS 'pro-forma' recording sheets.

A photographic record comprising digital shots was made throughout. The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

In addition to the fieldwork, an examination of all the readily available cartographic sources was carried out, specifically looking for evidence for historic or archaeological sites and the history of previous land uses, boundaries, building and activity on the site.

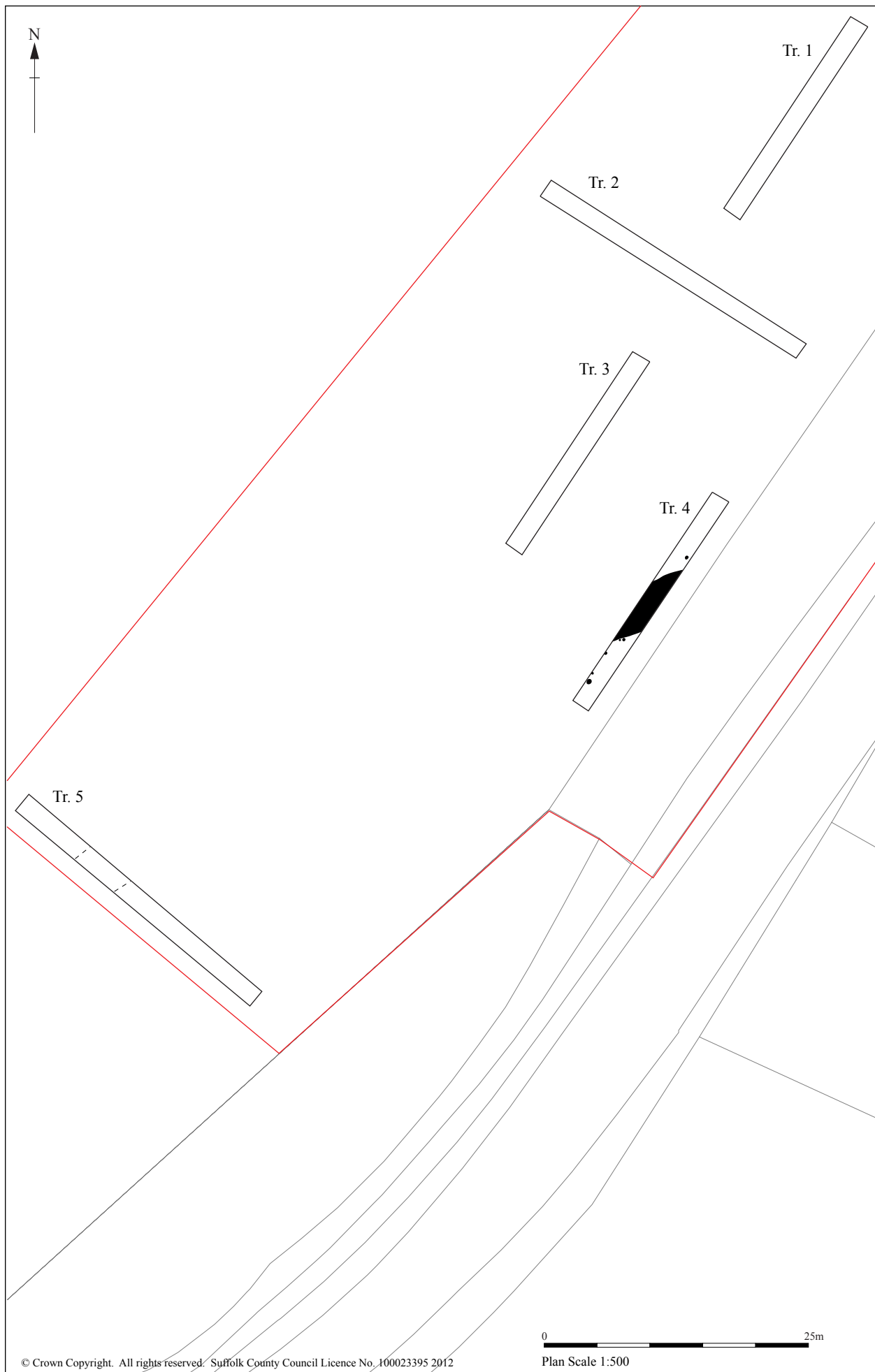


Figure 2. Trench locations showing features

5. Results

No earthworks were present within the target area, the majority of which occupied ploughed agricultural land. Historic maps for the area showed no former buildings nor gave specific indications of former land use, however one field boundary shown on the 1841 tithe map is no longer extant. The relevant maps are included as Appendix III. The five trenches were opened in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team, as shown in Figure 2.

Trench	Length	Area	Depth	Features
1	29.4m	47m ²	0.75m (average)	-
2	28.7m	50m ²	0.38m - 1.28 (NW-SE)	-
3	21.7m	41m ²	0.82m (average)	-
4	23.8m	42.3m ²	0.52m - 1m (SW-NE)	0007; 0008; 0010; 0012; 0014; 0016; 0018; 0020; 0021
5	28.8m	54.5m ²	0.34m - 0.93m (NW-SE)	0006

Table 1. Trench dimensions

A series of subsoil layers were observed during the evaluation, following broadly the following sequence:

- *Topsoil* 0001 Mid-dark brown loamy sandy clay topsoil/ploughsoil present as a uniform 0.3m thick layer over entire site
- *Subsoil* 0002 Mid-pale brown silty sandy clay with occasional small-medium flints, charcoal and CBM flecks. Present throughout trenches 1, 3 and 4, 0.25m-0.3m thick, present in trenches 2 and 5 except at their northern ends. Subsoil layer likely derived from hillwash.
- *Subsoil* 0003 Mid-dark grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and frequent charcoal flecks. Layer identified through trenches 1, 3 and 4 and in the southern ends of trenches 2 and 5. It is its thickest and densest in cultural material (charcoal, pottery) in a discreet area in the east end of trenches 3 and 4, at the base of the natural slope. 0.2m at its thickest point in trench 4.
- *Subsoil* 0004 Mid-pale greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium flints. Up to 0.6m thick at its deepest in trench 4

Figure 4 shows specific soil profiles for each trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was located parallel with the A1120 and situated deliberately to cut across the projected line of the Roman road. A total of seven features were recorded in this trench:

0007 was a NW-SE aligned linear gravel feature with straight edges, believed to be a road surface. It measured c.4.3m wide, with a convex profile. Two opposing sections, 0020 and 0021, were excavated through the feature in order to establish its depth and make up. Both showed a layer of densely packed small rounded and angular flints (<25mm) held in a mid greyish brown silty clay. This measured up to 0.12m thick in the centre of the feature and sealed a layer of larger, irregularly shaped flint nodules (<0.2m) which appear to have been compacted into the underlying subsoils (0004 and 0022). The location and orientation of this feature follows the projected line of the Roman road believed to run through the development area shown on Ordnance Survey maps (ESO 001; Figure 1).

Five closely spaced post holes were identified to the south of 0007:

0008 measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with sloping sides and slightly irregular base. Its fill, 0009, was a mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks, lava quern and Roman pottery fragments. An environmental sample was taken from this fill.

0010 was oval in plan although it continued beyond the northern limit of the trench. It measured 0.26m wide, 0.12m deep, with a rounded profile. It was filled by 0011, a mid-pale greyish brown friable sandy clay with regular charcoal flecks.

0012 measured 0.3m in diameter, 0.13m deep with a steep west side, sloping east side and rounded base. 0013 Pale-mid greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks.

0014 was situated adjacent to post hole 0016 and the southern edge of 0007 and measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.08m deep with a rounded profile. Its fill, 0015, was a pale greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks.

0016 was situated adjacent to post hole 0014 and the western edge of 0007. It measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.2m deep with a rounded profile. It was filled by 0017, a pale-mid greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks.

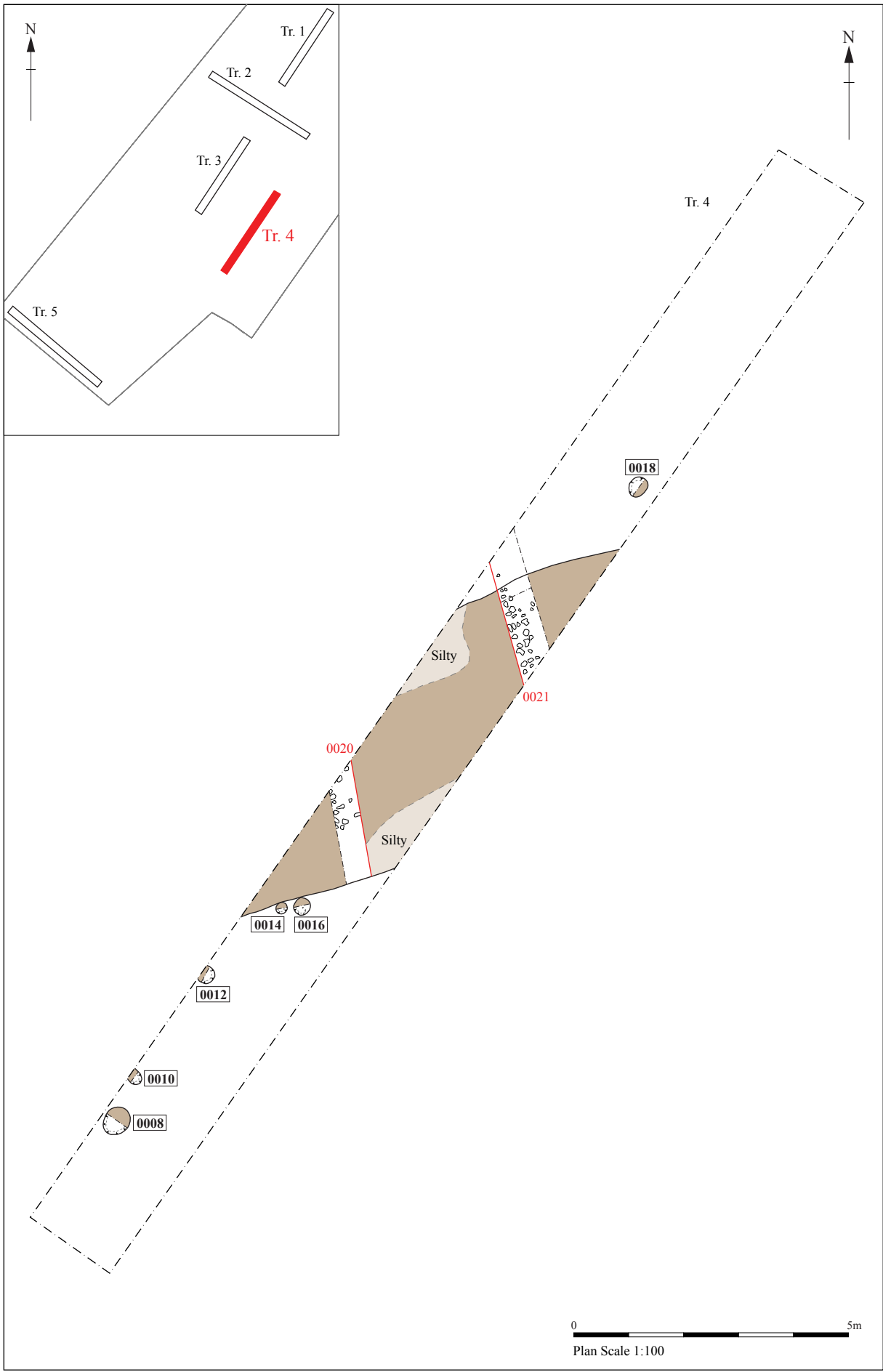


Figure 3. Plan of trench 4

A further post hole was located on the north eastern edge of the road:

0018 measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.11m deep with a rounded profile. Its fill, 0019, was a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, very occasional small-medium pebbles and degraded bone fragments were noted but were not recoverable as bulk finds. An environmental sample was taken from this fill.

0022 was a pale orangey yellow brown silty sandy clay subsoil with occasional small flints. It initially looked like natural subsoil in the western end of Trench 4 but excavation of post hole 0008 revealed the true natural subsoil in its base and similarly, 0021 showed this layer sealing subsoil 0004 in a small area on the eastern side of 0007.

Trench 5

At the northern end of the trench, 0.34m of topsoil was stripped directly off a clean chalky boulder clay natural subsoil. **0006** was a distinct but thin gravel patch bedded into the exposed subsoil. Whilst it was not as dense with gravel, nor as sharply defined as 0007, it is on roughly the same alignment as the road and gravel inclusions were not present in the exposed natural elsewhere in the trench. A small fragment of possible Roman roof tile was recovered from this gravel patch.



Plate 1. View of road 0007 in Trench 4, looking NE



Plate 2. Section through road 0007, looking SW



Plate 3. Trench 1 soil profile, SW end



Plate 4. Trench 2 soil profile, NW end



Plate 5. Trench 2 soil profile, SE end



Plate 6. Trench 3 soil profile, NE end



Plate 7. Trench 5 soil profile, SE end



Plate 8. Trench 5 soil profile, NW end

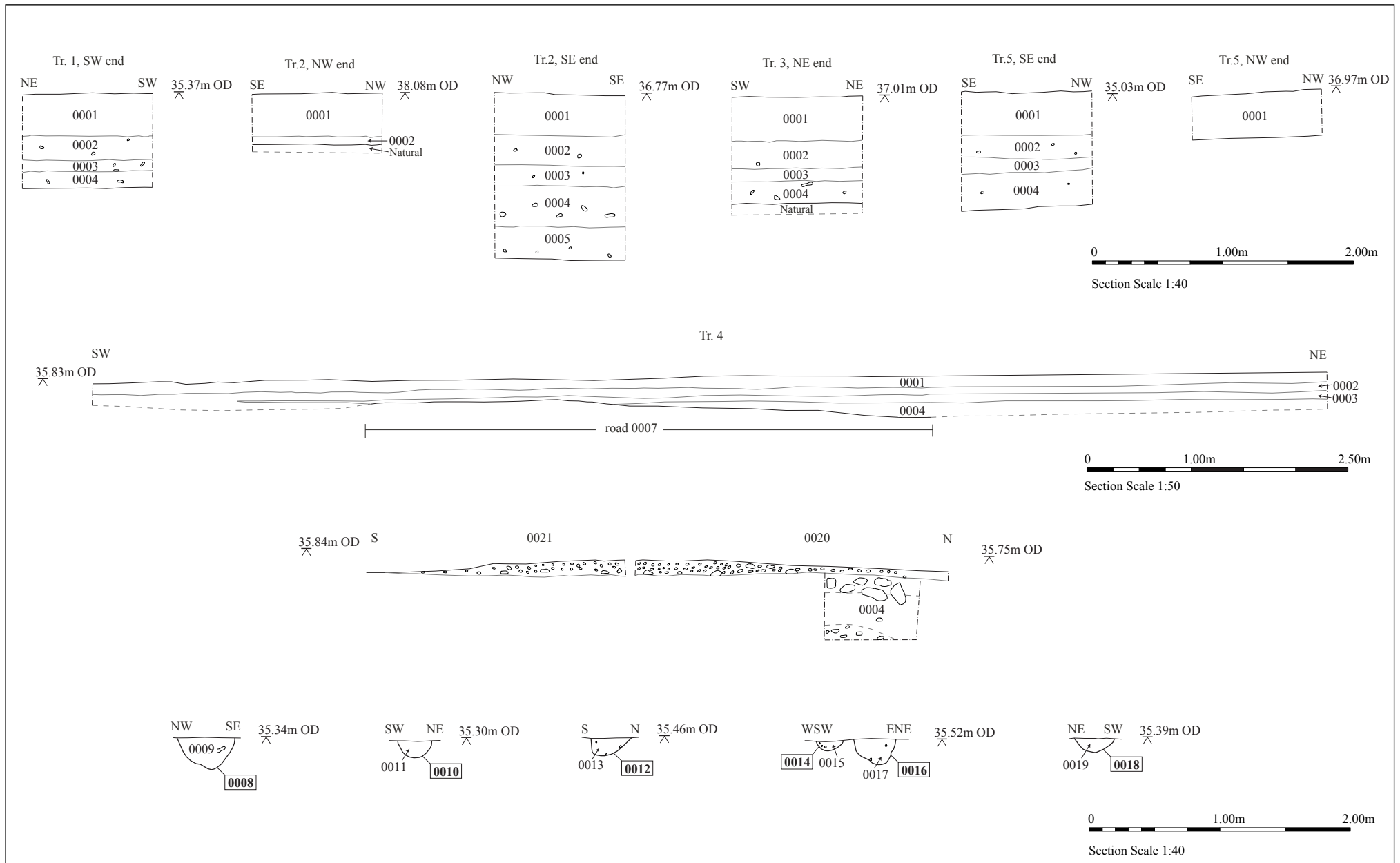


Figure 4. Trench soil profiles, composite section through 0007 and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Introduction

Table 2 shows the quantities of finds collected from the five archaeological evaluation trenches. The finds were retrieved from four contexts which includes topsoil, two layers and a post-hole. Samples were also taken from layers 0003 and 0004 as well as post-hole fills 0009 and 0019. The finds retrieved from this process have been included in the final totals of Table 1. Also present are two small finds and an assessment of the plant macrofossils which have been recorded separately. A detailed breakdown of the bulk finds assemblage forms part of the site archive.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Miscellaneous	Date range
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g		
0001	9	37	1	35	Lead fragment 1 @ 8g	Roman-L14th/E16th C
0003	12	90			Fired clay 1 @ 1g	Roman
0004					Burnt flint 3 @ 4g	
0006			1	6		?Roman
0009	7	20			Lava quern stone 20 @ 48g, Animal bone 1 @ 0.5g, Burnt flint 2 @ 1g	Roman
Totals	28	147	2	41		

Table 2. Finds quantities

The Pottery

Introduction

A total of twenty-eight sherds with a weight of 147g have been recorded in four contexts. With the exception of one late medieval/early post-medieval sherd, the remainder of the pottery assemblage is dated to the Roman period. The condition of the pottery may be described as being mostly small and abraded and the low average sherd weight of 6.30g reflects this. The assemblage is principally composed of body sherds with occasional base fragments also being present. No vessel rims were identified within the assemblage.

Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and divided into fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the SCCAS fabric series. All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE's). A full breakdown by context of the pottery can be seen in Appendix 2.

Roman

Roman pottery was retrieved from three contexts, topsoil 0001, layer 0003 and post-hole 0008. The assemblage is entirely made up of coarsewares, the main types being

Grey micaceous wares with grey or black surfaces (GMG and GMB) and Miscellaneous sandy greywares (GX). The majority of fabrics display considerable mica, as well as black iron ore, and these in particular are most likely to be Suffolk products. None of the sherds can be dated within the Roman period itself.

Late medieval/early post-medieval

A single body sherd of Raeran/Aachen stoneware was recorded in the topsoil context 0001 (10g). The sherd is dated from the late 14th to early 16th century and is accompanied by a small quantity of Roman pottery.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two ceramic building material fragments were retrieved from two contexts, topsoil layer 0001 and layer 0006. The first of these is an extremely abraded fragment, which is possibly part of the flange of a Roman tegula roof tile (35g). The fabric is bright orange, fine and sandy with some red and black iron ore (fsfe). A small quantity of Roman pottery is also present within the context. The second fragment, in context 0006, is a slightly abraded but shattered roof tile fragment (6g). It is oxidised and in a medium sandy fabric with calcite and some grog (msc). It has a depth of at least 10mm. The fragment is too small to be closely dated, however the fabric indicates it is possibly dated to the Roman period. No other finds were recorded in fill 0006.

Fired clay

A single abraded fragment of fired clay was retrieved from layer 0003. The fragment is oxidised and medium sandy with occasional clay pellets that are occasionally streaky (mscp). A small assemblage of Roman pottery is also present within the context.

Burnt flint

Two contexts contained burnt flint, layer 0004 and post-hole fill 0009. The fragments are very small and were retrieved as part of the sampling strategy. The fragments are residual in later contexts and both their quantity and size means they have little archaeological value.

Lava quern stone

Twenty lava quernstone fragments (48g) were recorded in post-hole fill 0009. The pieces are extremely fragmented and only a small number display portions of surface

area. None of these surfaces exhibit marks, for instance grooves associated with the grinding surface. The fragments are possibly Rhenish, a type of stone imported to East Anglia in the Roman period and then from the Middle Saxon through to the post-medieval period. Roman pottery is also present within the context.

Lead

A small rolled scrap of lead was recorded in the unstratified context 0001 (8g). The fragment is undatable, and the context also contains Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval pottery.

Small finds

Identified by Andrew Brown

Two small finds are present within the finds assemblage, a copper alloy brooch and an unknown iron object.

Roman

1. A copper alloy heavy crossbow brooch dated from c.AD320 to 400 (Pl. 9). The brooch is generally in a good state of preservation, with only slight damage to the foot and the pin being bent. The axis bar has been separately cast and inserted into the wings, and the knobs, on either side of the wings and above the head, are onion shaped. The brooch is similar to the Keller types 3 and 4 (Swift 2000, 14-21; fig 6). This type of heavy brooch is often associated with male costume, and particularly with the military (Plouviez. pers.comm). The brooch was recovered from layer 0003 (which also contains Roman pottery) and was found deposited over layer 0007 which is thought to be part of the Roman road surface. SF1001 (Tr. 4, 0003).

Unknown

2. This is an oval shaped piece of heavily corroded iron. Despite being made of iron the object has rather a light feel to it. Two snapped lugs are present at each end of the oval and a small rivet hole can be observed at the centre of the object. The object is at present undatable but it could possibly be part of a box fitting. Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval pottery was also recovered from this context. SF1002 (0001).



Plate 9. Crossbow brooch, SF 1001

Faunal remains

Post-hole 0009 contained a single animal bone fragment retrieved from the sampling strategy. The fragment is extremely small, abraded and unidentifiable.

Plant macrofossils and other objects

Anna West

Introduction and methods

A total of four samples was taken from archaeological features and layers during the archaeological evaluation at The Street, Earl Soham. All four samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The contexts sampled came from layer (0003) and post-hole (0009) which are both dated to the Roman period, as well as one undated layer (0004).

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are

noted in Table 2. Identification of the plant remains is with reference to A New Illustrated British Flora (Butcher 1961).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance;

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

SS No	Context No	Feature/cut no	Feature type	Approximate date of deposit	Flot Contents
1	0003	-	Layer	Roman	Charcoal ++, charred seeds #, modern roots ++
2	0009	0008	Post hole	Roman	Charcoal +, charred grain ##, charred seeds ##, modern roots ++
3	0019	0018	Post hole	Unknown	Charcoal ++, modern roots ++
4	0004	-	Hill wash	Unknown	Modern roots ++, charcoal +

Table 3. Results of analysis

Some of the preservation of the grain and the weed seeds is by charring and is generally poor to fair. The majority of the charred grains are fragmented and/or abraded making identification difficult to impossible. No chaff or processing materials are present that could aid in the identification procedure. Charred weed seeds are rare but consist of Chenopodiaceae, Poaceae and Brassicaceae species in two of the samples processed.

Discussion

Modern contaminants in the form of roots are abundant in all of the flots and represent the majority of the material.

Charred cereals in the form of *Triticum* sp. possibly *aestivum* and *Hordeum* sp. and *Secale* sp. caryopsis are present in Sample 1 (0003), along with two charred fragments of the cereal caryopsis that are too puffed and distorted to identify at this stage of the analysis. There are also a small number of uncharred weed seeds present, *Rubus* sp. and *Caryophyllaceae* sp., which are likely to represent agricultural or way-side weeds.

Sample 2 (0009) contains a small number of *Triticum* sp. caryopsis along with a number of caryopsis fragments that are too fragmented and abraded to identify at this stage. A small number of charred Gramineae (*Poaceae*) sp. are present along with a number of unidentified seeds of *Caryophyllaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae* and *Brassicaceae* sp. that are likely to represent agricultural or way-side weed species. The plant remains within this sample show signs of high temperature combustion.

Sample 3 (0019) contains only modern roots and occasional charcoal fragments; no plant macrofossils are present within the sample.

Sample 4 (0004) was taken from hill wash in the excavated area and again contains only modern roots and occasional charcoal fragments, no plant macrofossils are present within the flot.

The charred plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by charcoal in the form of wood charcoal. All of the samples processed produced moderate to small quantities of charcoal although this may be due to sampling bias (sampling of productive-looking deposits). The small number of cereal grains recovered are charred and abraded but remained identifiable, although no chaff elements have been recovered that may have aided positive identification at this stage. These remains along with charred agricultural weed seeds probably represent waste material from a stage of cereal grain processing or domestic refuse.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples are fair to poor in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal is common in all of the samples in varying quantities. It may be possible in the future to obtain radiocarbon dates from charcoal for those deposits that remain undated. The cereal grains and weed seeds recovered are all reasonably well preserved and identifiable to an archaeobotanist.

If further excavation is planned, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out with a view to the investigation and nature of the cereal waste. The accompanying weed assemblage is likely to provide an insight into the utilization of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site. It is recommended that any further samples taken are combined with the flots from the samples taken during this evaluation and submitted to an archaeobotanist for full species identification and interpretation.

7. Discussion

Trenching identified the Roman road believed to cross the site and showed it to be well preserved by hillwash deposits at the base of the slope. Where the projected line of the road cut through Trench 5 further up the slope, the road was not so obvious but a distinct and discrete patch of gravel directly below the topsoil is very likely to represent the only surviving remnants of the road surface otherwise truncated by plough action and subjected to subsequent natural erosion.

The six post holes in Trench 4 appear to share a close spatial relationship with each other and the road but the nature of any association with each other or the road itself is not clear. What few finds were recovered from the post holes are of Roman date.

The finds assemblage is dominated by Roman pottery, although none of the sherds are closely datable within this period. The remainder of the bulk finds are few in number and in a poor state of preservation, suggesting they have been retrieved from heavily disturbed deposits. However of particular interest is the crossbow brooch dated from AD320-400. This brooch is in a good state of preservation, unlike with the remainder of the finds assemblage. It was retrieved from layer 0003 just above the Roman road

surface in Trench 4. The brooch is likely to represent an individual loss which has remained in its original place of deposition ever since. The Roman pottery recovered from layer 0003 is all abraded. Layer 0003 was present in all of the trenches and the pottery itself was distributed across these and is therefore considered residual.

Although the bulk finds are in a poor state of preservation they represent some form of activity (settlement or other) in or around the immediate vicinity of this stretch of the Roman road. The brooch itself may provide information as to when this stretch of the Roman road actually fell out of use (Plouviez pers.comm). The Roman finds are of particular interest as no other finds dated to this period have yet been recorded in the village. This however, is due to the fact that there has been a lack of archaeological survey within the village as a whole.

Bibliography

Butcher, R. W., 1961, *A new illustrated British flora*, London

Swift, E., 2000, *Regionality in dress accessories in the late Roman west*, Monographies Instrumentum No 11

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.

Appendix I

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Layer	Mid-dark brown loamy sandy clay topsoil/ploughsoil present as a uniform 0.3m thick layer over the trenched area.	Yes	Roman & late	No	
0002	0002	Layer	Mid-pale brown silty sandy clay with occasional small-medium flints, charcoal and CBM flecks. Present throughout trenches 1, 3 and 4, 0.25m-0.3m thick, present in trenches 2 and 5 except at their northern ends. Subsoil layer likely derived from hillwash	No		No	
0003	0003	Layer	Mid-dark grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and frequent charcoal flecks. Layer identified through trenches 1, 3 and 4 and in the southern ends of trenches 2 and 5. It is its thickest and densest in cultural material (charcoal, pottery) in a discreet area in the east end of trenches 3 and 4, at the base of the natural slope. 0.2m at its thickest point in Tr. 4.	Yes	c AD320-400	Yes	
0003	0003	Layer	Mid-dark grey brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones and frequent charcoal flecks. Layer identified through trenches 1, 3 and 4 and in the southern ends of trenches 2 and 5. It is its thickest and densest in cultural material (charcoal, pottery) in a discreet area in the east end of trenches 3 and 4, at the base of the natural slope. 0.2m at its thickest point in Tr. 4.	Yes		Yes	
0004	0004	Layer	Mid-pale greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium flints. Up to 0.6m thick at its deepest in Tr 4	Yes		Yes	
0004	0004	Layer	Mid-pale greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium flints. Up to 0.6m thick at its deepest in Tr 4	Yes		Yes	
0005	0005	Layer	Pale grey brown sandy clay hillwash with occasional small-medium flints. Only observed in Tr 2, may be same as 0004 but leached out?	No		No	2
0006	0006	Linear Layer	Gravel patch bedded into natural clay. Gravel did not outcrop in the natural elsewhere within the trenches, suggesting this may be part of the Roman road line believed to cut through the development area, but truncated- only sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil and towards the top of the natural slope where it would be susceptible to damage from agricultural activity and natural erosion.	Yes		No	5
0007	0007	Linear Layer	NW-SE aligned gravel feature with straight edges. c.4.3m wide, convex profile. Likely to be a Roman road surface. Matches up with the projected line of the road believed to run through the development area shown on Ordnance Survey maps.	No		No	4
0008	0008	Posthole Cut	Small circular post hole 0.44m in diameter, with sloping sides and slightly irregular base. Cuts subsoil layer 0022	No		No	4

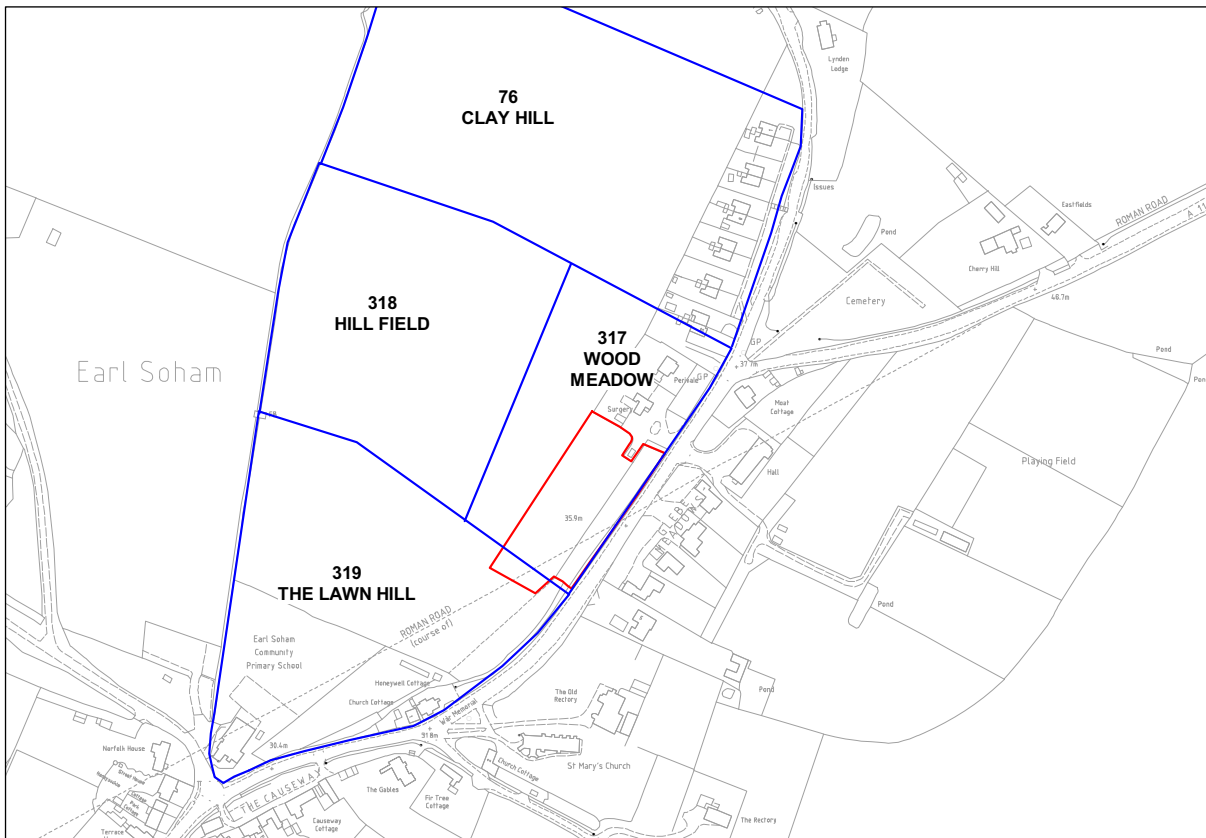
Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0009	0008	Posthole Fill	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Lava quern and pottery recovered. Sealed by subsoil layer 0002	Yes	Roman	Yes	4
0009	0008	Posthole Fill	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks. Lava quern and pottery recovered. Sealed by subsoil layer 0002	Yes		Yes	4
0010	0010	Posthole Cut	Small oval post hole 0.26m wide, with a rounded profile. Cuts subsoil layer 0022, continues beyond the northern limits of the trench.	No		No	4
0011	0010	Posthole Fill	Mid-pale greyish brown friable sandy clay with regular charcoal flecks. Sealed by subsoil layer 0002	No		No	4
0012	0012	Posthole Cut	Small post hole 0.3m in diameter, with a steep west side, sloping east side and rounded base. Cuts subsoil layer 0022, continues beyond the northern limits of the trench.	No		No	4
0013	0012	Posthole Fill	Pale-mid greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks. Relationship with 0002/0003 unclear	No		No	4
0014	0014	Posthole Cut	Small circular post hole adjacent to the western edge of 0007 and 0016. 0.2m in diameter and 0.08m deep with a rounded profile. Cuts subsoil layer 0022.	No		No	4
0015	0014	Posthole Fill	Pale greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks. Relationship with 0002/0003 unclear	No		No	4
0016	0016	Posthole Cut	Small circular post hole adjacent to the western edge of 0007 and 0014. 0.32m in diameter and 0.2m deep with a rounded profile. Cuts subsoil layer 0022.	No		No	4
0017	0016	Posthole Fill	Pale-mid greyish brown friable sandy silty clay with regular charcoal flecks. Relationship with 0002/0003 unclear	No		No	4
0018	0018	Posthole Cut	Small circular post hole, 0.3m in diameter, 0.11m deep with a rounded profile. Cuts subsoil layer 0004	No		No	4
0019	0018	Posthole Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, very occasional small-medium pebbles and degraded bone fragments (not recoverable but may be in sample). Relationship with subsoil 0003 unclear	No		Yes	4
0020	0007	Fill	Very frequent small rounded and angular flints (<25mm) held in a mid greyish brown silty clay. Up to 0.12m thick, overlying a layer of larger irregularly shaped flint nodules (<0.2m) which appear to have been compacted into the underlying subsoil (0022) Equivalent section to 0021, excavated to form a composite section across the width of 0007.	No		No	4

Appendix II

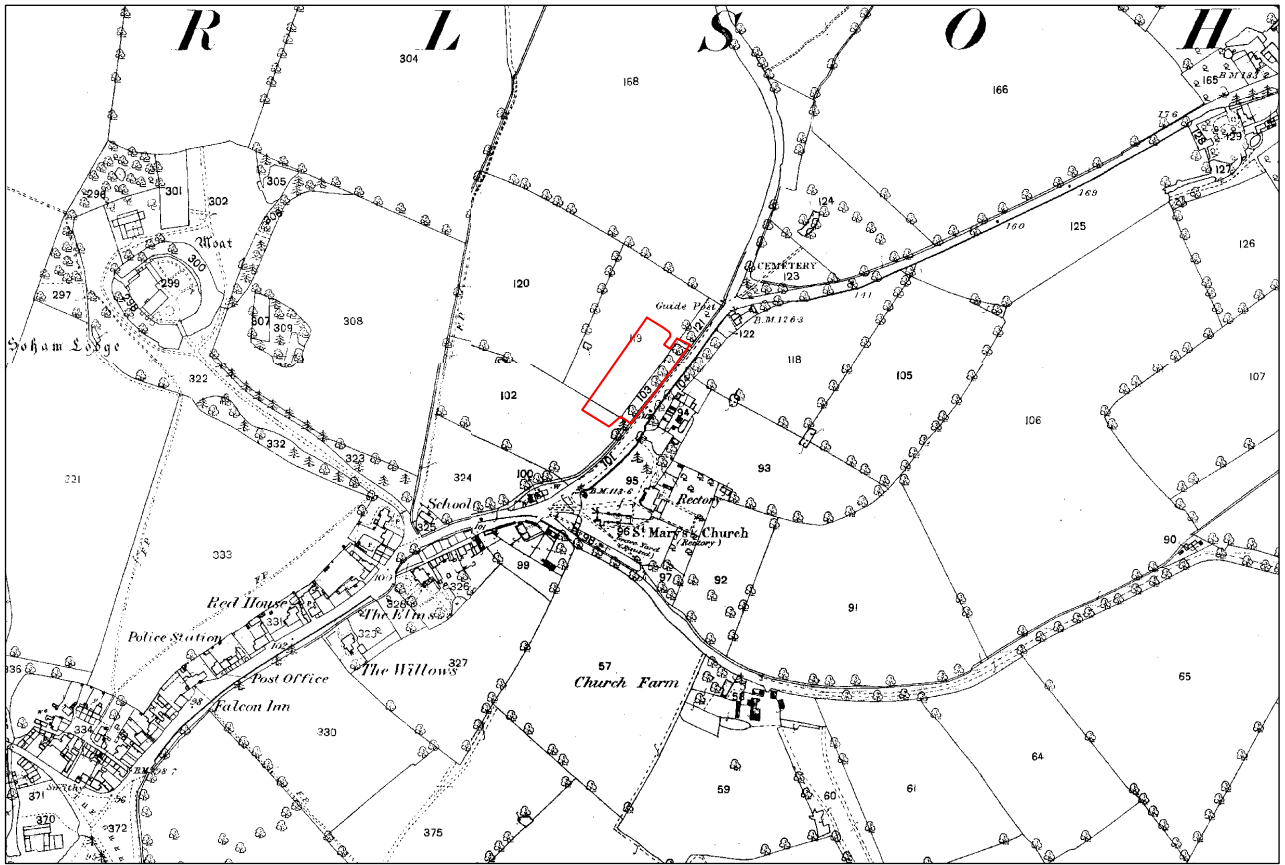
Context	Pottery		CBM		Plaster/ Mortar		Fired Clay		Clay Pipe		Iron Nails		Slag		Post-Med Glass				Flint				Stone		Bone			Notes									
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	No	Wt										
0001	9	37	1	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Ceramic Periods: Rom ?Med ?Pmed Overall Date: Roman & late medieval/early post-																																				
0003	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Ceramic Periods: Rom Overall Date:																																				
0003	11	89	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Ceramic Periods: Rom Overall Date: c AD320-400																																				
0004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Ceramic Periods: Overall Date:																																				
0004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Ceramic Periods: Overall Date:																																				
0006	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods: Overall Date:																																				
0009	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods: Rom Overall Date:																																				
0009	3	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ceramic Periods: Rom Overall Date: Roman																																				



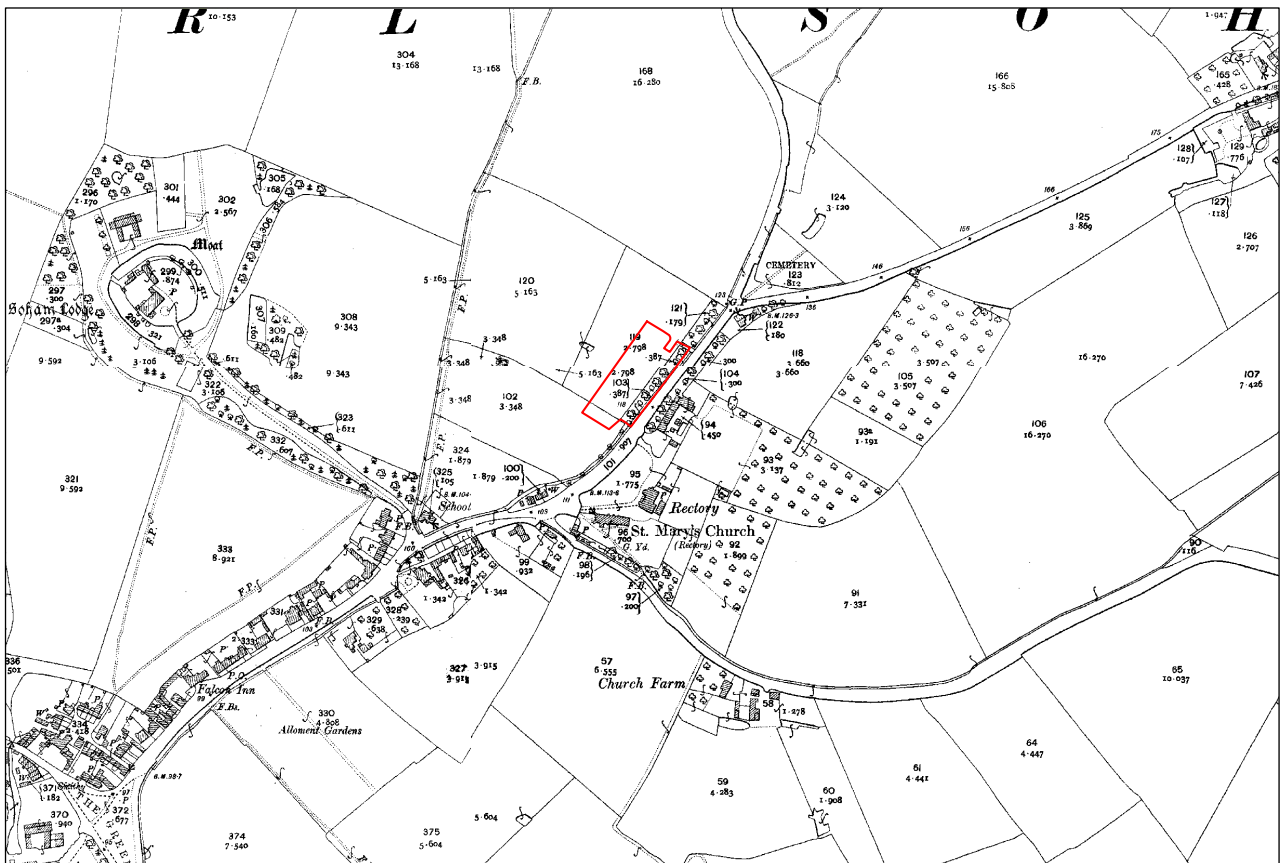
Extract from Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk, 1783



Information from the 1841 Tithe Map and apportionment for Earl Soham



Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1884



Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1904

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

Brief for a Desk-Based Assessment and a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

THE STREET, EARL SOHAM, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk Coastal District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	Pre application
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 236 634
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Residential development
AREA:	0.52 ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Vacant
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	14 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 a

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 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 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place.
- 1.6 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 This proposal is located within an area of high archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. The line of a Roman road is believed to cross the south part of the site, at an acute NE to SW angle (HER no. ESO 001). In addition, it is to the north of the medieval church and churchyard (HER no. ESO 007). There is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological interest.

In addition to potential below-ground remains, the proposed development has the potential to affect the setting of the church to the south, which is a Grade I Listed Building, and also on the setting of Earl Soham Lodge to the west, which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 21297).

Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A desk-based assessment and linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. These should be presented in a combined report.
- 3.2 The desk-based assessment should include:
 - Consultation of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.
 - Examination of all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the Suffolk Record Office). Inclusion of any evidence for historic or archaeological sites and the history of previous land uses, boundaries, building and activity on the site such as will contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
 - Assessment of the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
 - A visual impact assessment of the proposed development on the setting of the church to the south, and Earl Soham Lodge to the west.
 - A site visit to determine any constraints to archaeological survival, e.g. the presence of earthworks that might require topographic survey in advance of trial trenching.

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.
- Establish the suitability of the area for development.
- 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the residential development site, which is c.260.00m². 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.144.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

3.4 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

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 assessment* (revised 2001) and 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.