

**Brook Farm, Bures Road, Great Cornard
COG 036**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/042

Client: The Layzell Bures Charity

Author: Simon Cass

April 2012

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HER Information

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<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.

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Date: 13/04/2012

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Brook Farm, Bures Road, Great Cornard in April 2012 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team. Several post-medieval features were identified, thought to be related to previous farm buildings on the site which dated to the middle or later part of the nineteenth century. No further work is recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the planning condition placed on the proposed development.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr M. Crawford, Secretary of the Layzell Bures Charity on land at Brook Farm, Bures Road, Great Cornard in relation to a condition placed on planning application (B/11/00804/OUT) concerning the demolition of the extant farm buildings on the site and the erection of four new dwellings.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on the edge of the River Stour floodplain, at a height of between 20m and 25m OD (Fig. 1). Bures Road, forming the eastern boundary of the site connects Sudbury to the north and Bures to the south, with the River Stour running almost parallel to the road on the west of the site. The railway also passes to the west of the site, adjacent to the river, connecting Sudbury with Marks Tey to the south. The underlying geology is recorded as deep loam glaciofluvial drift deposits, characterised by deep well-drained fine loamy to coarse loamy and sandy soils with outcroppings of flint, frequently overlying gravels. This accords with the geology observed in the trenches.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the south-west of a group of three Bronze Age burial mounds (HER nos. COG 004, COG 005 and COG 006), of which two have been recently excavated. It was believed that there was a high potential for encountering further heritage assets of archaeological interest within the area encompassed by this site.

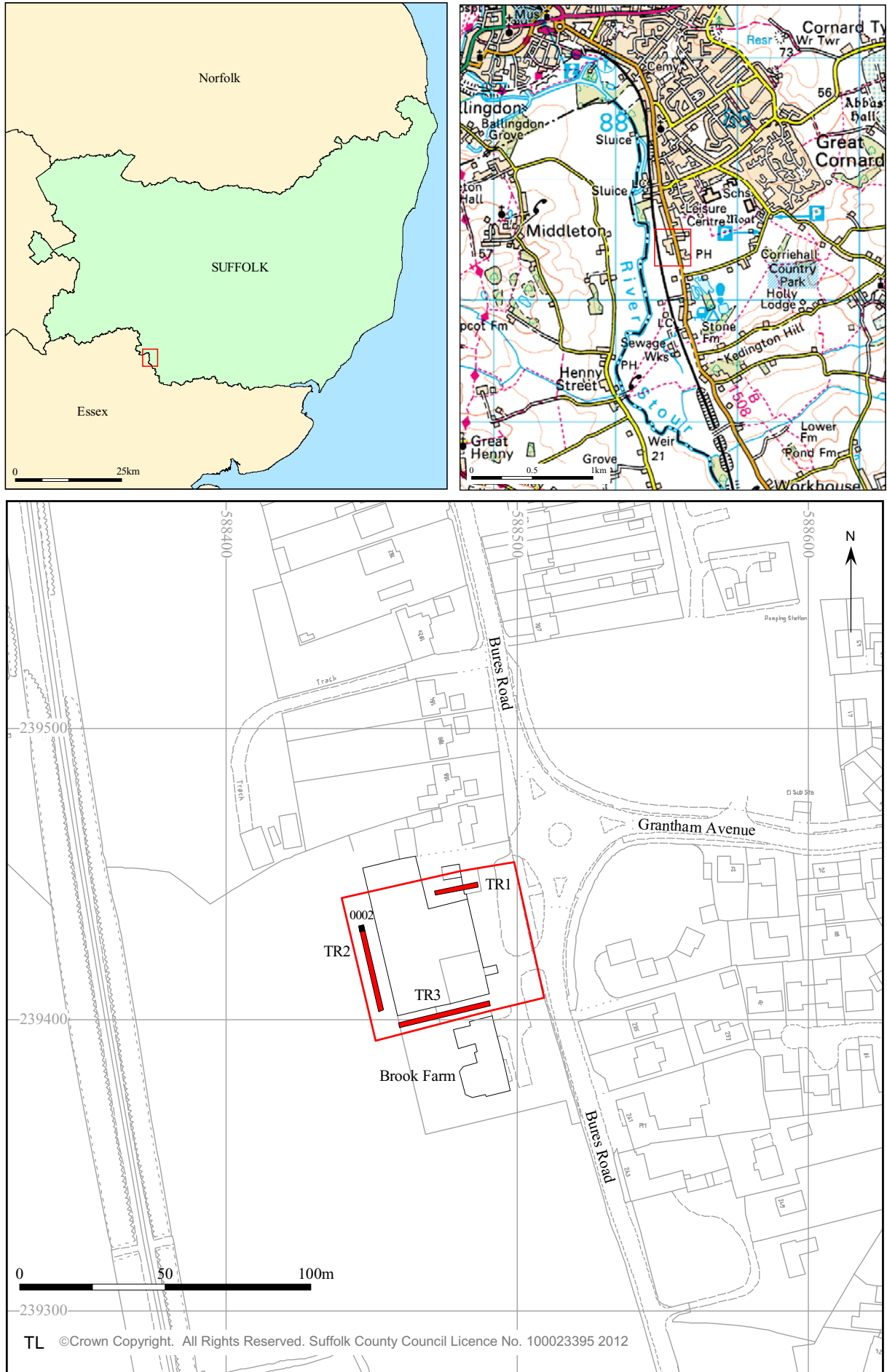


Figure 1. Location map, showing trenches and feature 0002

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 124 sq m) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to c.80m of trenching, at 1.5m wide. The trenches were located in and around the standing farm buildings within the area of the proposed development. In total, approximately 69.5m of trenching at 1.8m wide was excavated (c.134 sq m).

The trenches were excavated by an 8-tonne 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. The concrete slab overburden was broken out prior to arrival of SCCAS personnel in pre-marked locations for the trenches, after which 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. Post-medieval deposits were recorded and then excavated further in order to ascertain if any deposits of significant archaeological interest were situated below.

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 camera (12 megapixels).

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using hand-tapes working off the standing buildings, with adjustments being made to take into account the location of buried services (live domestic electricity cables and water pipes).

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. COG 036.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 15m long, split into two sections to accommodate a standing wall, 1.8m wide and up to 1.2m deep, orientated east-west and to the north-east of the development area. In the eastern part of the trench, the stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of modern surfacing (0.1m of concrete slab over 0.15m of demolition rubble and/or ceramic building material (CBM) and rough stone hogging) overlying c. 0.1m of mid greyish brown disturbed subsoil with moderately frequent CBM fragments and other modern inclusions – potentially just the upper disturbed horizon of the layer below. Below this disturbed layer was 0.7m of mid greyish red/brown (fading to pale yellowish reddish brown at the base) silty clay with intermittent small rounded stones – appearing to be a possibly naturally deposited colluvium layer. Below this thick silty layer were mid reddish brown natural silty gravels.

In the western part of this trench (PI. 1) the remains of the previous barn structures were encountered. A rammed chalk floor was noted directly below the concrete (at 0.15-0.35m deep), which overlay the mid greyish brown silty clays. Ten postholes were observed penetrating the chalk floor, of various sizes and dates but the six largest were in alignment straight down the centre of the trench and appear to relate to the southern wall of a building visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the site (c. 1880). They were between 0.4 and 0.8m wide and the deepest was cut to c. 1.0m below current ground level. Some elements of wooden posts survived and all of the posts had modern CBM fragments and in some cases whole bricks within the packing deposits.



Plate 1. Trench 1 facing west, showing postholes in centre of trench.

Trench 2

This trench was 25m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.2m deep, orientated approximately north-south along the western edge of the development area adjacent to the existing barn structure. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of modern overburden (brick rubble, sand and building debris mixed with dark brown silty topsoil) over 0.15m of buried topsoil with rounded flint cobbles which are suspected to have been displaced from a yard surface, coal fragments, CBM and demolition debris. This layer sealed fine grey/green clayey silt streaked with iron panning, interpreted as an alluvial deposit up to 0.7m thick – cut by an undated ditch in the north and several modern features to the south. This overlay pale grey river gravels in the northern end, fading to a more yellowish orange gravel and sand mix to the south.

A single ditch (0002, Fig.1 and Pl. 2) was identified in the northern end of the trench, cutting through the alluvial deposit but with no dating evidence recovered. It was filled

with a fine grey clayey silt and was hard to distinguish from the alluvial deposit it was excavated through apart from at the base where it cut into the natural river gravels. The ditch was at least 1.2m wide (where clearly defined) and may have been up to 2.6m wide originally (a slight concentration of stones may have marked the interface between the ditch and the alluvial silt) and was up to 1.3m deep from current surface levels (though only 0.7m below the buried topsoil deposit).



Plate 2. Trench 2 facing south-east, showing Ditch 0002 (2m scale)

Modern truncations were observed towards the southern end of this trench which were potentially contaminated with hydrocarbons and believed to be connected to the construction of the present buildings and drainage on the site. They were recorded but are not discussed further here.

Trench 3

This trench was 32.5m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.35m deep (at the western end), orientated approximately east-west on the southern boundary of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered towards the west (where there was no concrete slab) was

0.2m of topsoil over 0.3m of mixed topsoil, crushed brick, hogging and flints (the trench runs along the only access to the field to the west so this is likely to be modern consolidation as well as demolition debris dispersal). Below this layer was 0.6m of pale greyish brown silt with iron panning streaks (similar to the colluvial deposit seen in Trench 1). This sealed green/grey river gravels and silts at a depth of c.1.35m in the westernmost half-metre of the trench, with a soft yellow sand deposit rising away from this to the east to a depth of 1.1m below current surface level 1m from the western end of the trench. This is believed to mark the approximate edge of the floodplain deposits as they rise up from the valley floor (Pl. 3).

The eastern end of the trench was shallower, with gravel deposits occurring at a depth of 0.8m, and the stratigraphy there consisted of 0.25m of reinforced concrete slab over 0.2m of disturbed topsoil and CBM detritus. This sealed brown silty colluvium with intermittent iron panning c. 0.35m thick.

No deposits indicative of archaeological activity were observed in this trench.



Plate 3. Trench 3, west end facing north

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological significance were encountered during this evaluation. The post-medieval artefacts associated with the previous farm buildings on the site were not retained.

7. Discussion

The features encountered during the course of this evaluation are, with one exception, all of modern date and relate to the construction of farm buildings on the site within the last 150 years. The Tithe Map of Great Cornard, dated 1838 (Fig. 2), shows the site as a clear field but by the time of the 1880 Ordnance Survey, a complex of seven structures occupies the northern part of the development area and the property immediately north (Fig. 3).



Figure 2. Tithe Map of Great Cornard (1838) showing site outline (red)

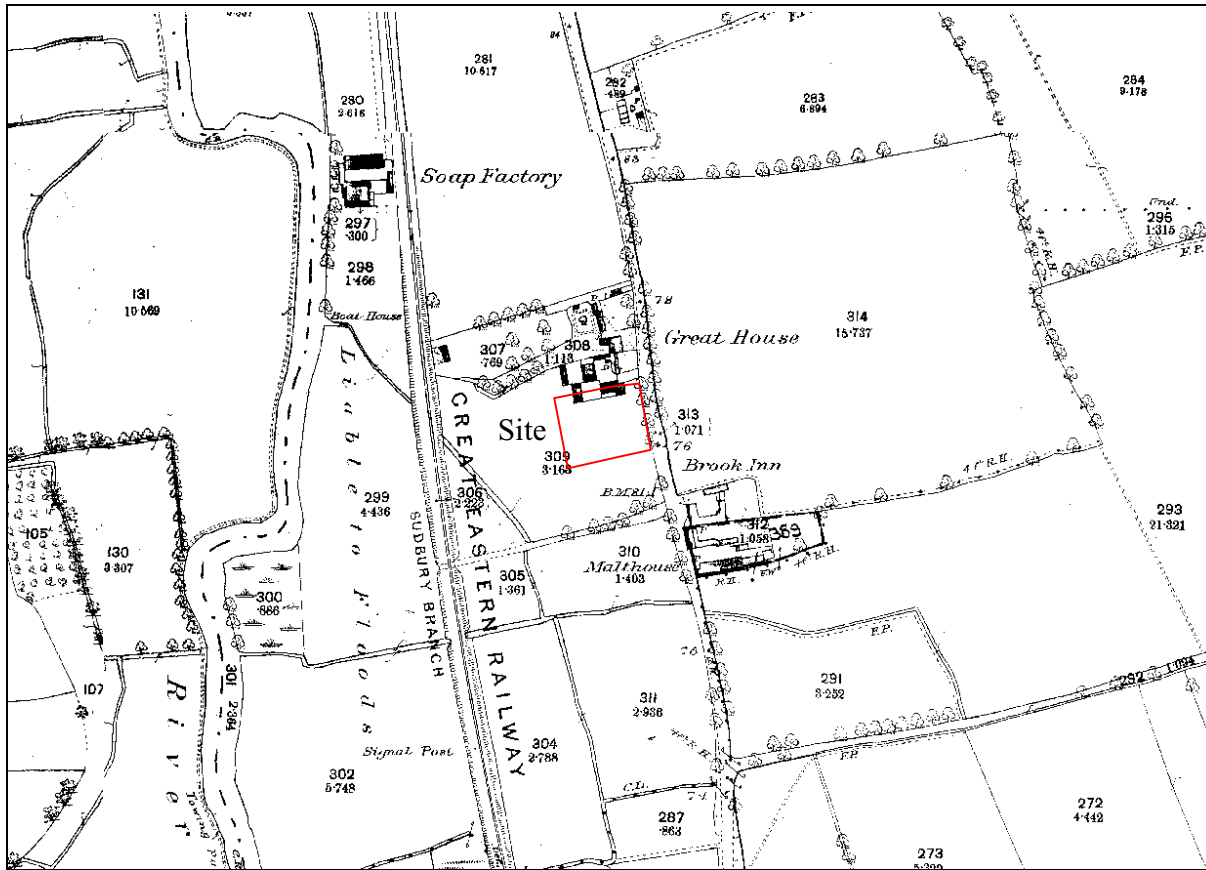


Figure 3. First edition Ordnance Survey map showing site outline (red)

Although the interior of the barn was not trenched, a short record of the basic layout was made (Fig. 4) and an assessment of its likely subsurface footprint suggests that there was little deep or widespread penetration involved in its foundations. These were concrete footings under the major structural uprights and a relatively shallow concrete pad that in places may have been laid directly on top of the previous cobbled/stone yard surface.



Figure 4. Internal structure of barn, showing concrete slab floor (outlined in red)

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further works are recommended as being necessary in order to satisfy the condition placed on this proposed development. The features that were identified are likely to be of minimal archaeological interest, or survive outside the development area and will not be significantly damaged by the proposed development. It should be noted however that it is possible that future developments may attract further archaeological conditions due to the changing state of knowledge about the archaeological resource.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Cornard Great\COG 036 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HPA-HPZ\HPA 15-40

Finds and environmental archive: None

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and David Gill.

Project management was undertaken by David Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The report illustrations were created by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation
at
Farm Buildings, Brook Farm, Great Cornard, Suffolk

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Babergh District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	B/11/00804/OUT
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 884 393
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Residential development (erection of 4 dwellings) following demolition of existing farm buildings.
AREA:	0.25 ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Brownfield (former farm buildings)
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Assistant Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	08 February 2012

Summary

- 1.1 The Planning Authority has been 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 1.2), 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.

- 1.3 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 This application concerns the erection of four new dwelling, and access, following demolition of existing farm buildings. The proposal lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the south-west of a group of three Bronze Age burial mounds (HER nos. COG 004, COG 005 and COG 006), of which two have been recently excavated. There is high potential for encountering further heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists

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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% of the area to be affected by development under the current proposal. 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 array which is also informed by information in the DBA for the site (produced by FVP). Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c 69m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
 - 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

- 5.1 Parts of the development site are currently unavailable with buildings that will be demolished to allow redevelopment of the site. In order to sample all parts of the site, the archaeological evaluation should be undertaken after the demolition of the current buildings, which should be to ground level only at this stage.
- 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. Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Other	Unstratified finds from Trench 1. All modern and none retained.	No		No	1
0002	0002	Ditch Cut	Shallow remains of ditch, orientated approx E-W in the northern end of trench 2. No finds, no cultural material present. Ditch cut the natural river gravels by c. 0.15m and is suspected of being up to 2.8m wide though fill is indistinguishable from alluvial silts it is cut through. Undated ditch - probably drainage, pre-C19th.	No		No	2
0003	0003	Posthole	Posthole visible in the eastern face of trench 2. Modern feature/hydrocarbon contaminated. Modern posthole/truncation	No		No	2
0004	0004	Pit Cut	broad sand-filled hollow in South end of trench 2.. Possibly a natural feature.	No		No	2
0005	0004	Pit Fill	Mid/pale creamy yellow sand deposit - very settled with iron panning streaks Possibly natural sand accumulation deposit.	No		No	2
0006		Linear Cut	E-W orientated ditch(?) cut through 0004 - very contaminated with hydrocarbons.	No		No	2

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