

**83 High Street, Haverhill
HVH 075**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/051

Client: Havebury Housing Partnership

Author: Simon Cass

May 2012

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Author: Simon Cass

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HER Information

Site Code: HVH 075
Site Name: 83 High Street, Haverhill
Report Number 2012/051
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Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus
Project Officer: Simon Cass
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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.

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Date: 10/05/2012

Approved By: Joanna Caruth

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Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 83 High Street, Haverhill, after demolition of the previous structure on site and prior to the construction of new dwellings in order to fulfil a condition placed on planning permission SE/11/1126/FUL. Three trenches were excavated across the site, all identifying significant post-medieval/modern disturbance and development truncating the archaeological horizon. No archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts were observed and no further archaeological works are recommended as being necessary for this development.

1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the demolition of an existing factory structure (built in the 1960's) and the construction of new social housing at 83 High Street, Haverhill (SE/11/1126/FUL). This permission carried a condition relating to archaeology requiring a program of archaeological investigation in order to assess the nature of the archaeological resource within the site and inform an appropriate mitigation strategy to minimise the potential loss of archaeological deposits and artefacts due to the proposed development. Evaluation by trial trenching was thought to be the most appropriate method of achieving this, and a Brief and Specification issued by Abby Antrobus of SCCAS Conservation Team indicated that three trenches across the site should be sufficient to investigate the area. This was carried out after the demolition of the previous structure, alongside the beginning of intrusive preparatory ground works (sheet piling) on the 17th April 2012.

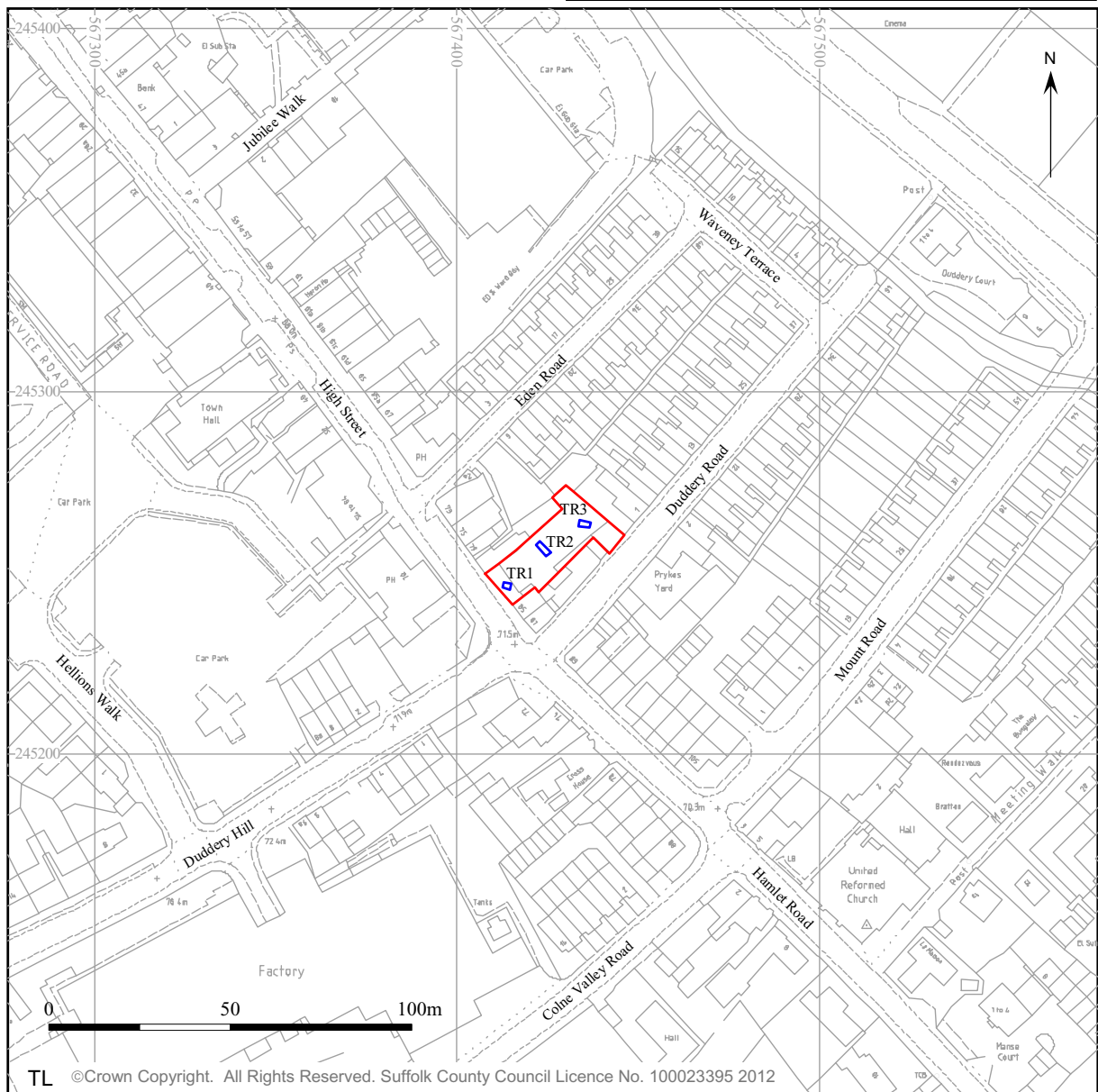
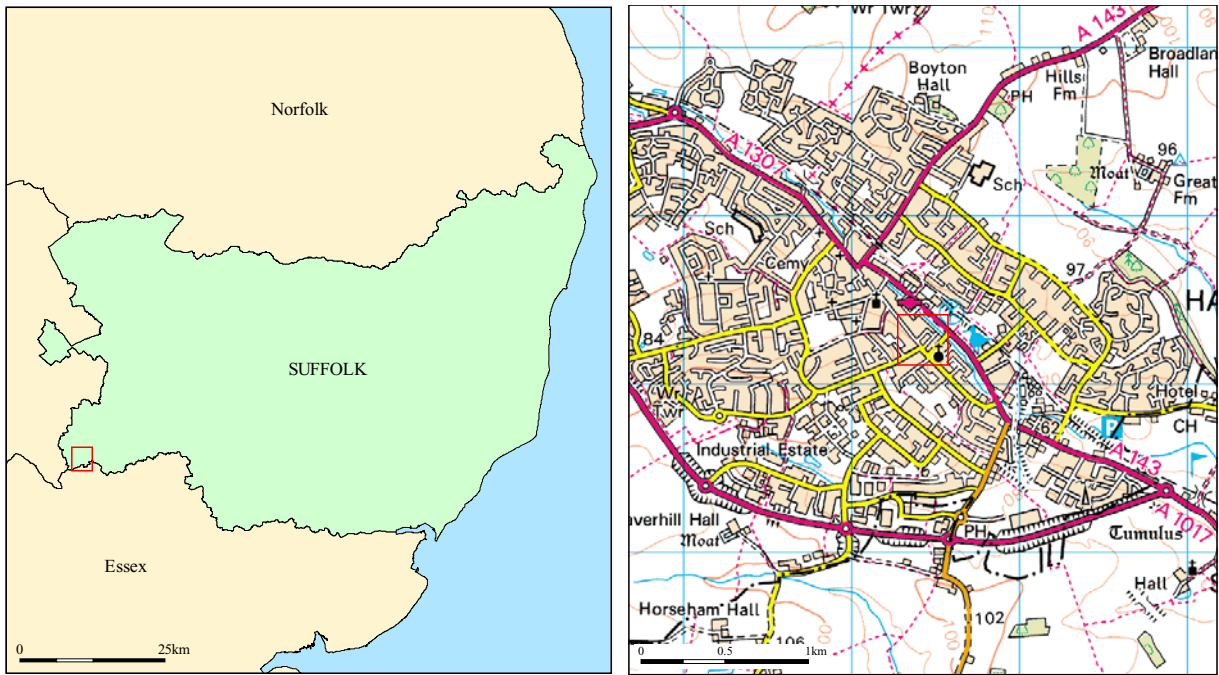
2. Geology and topography

The site fronts onto High Street to the south-west, with access via Duddery Lane at its north-western corner. At the southern edge the site is at approximately 71.5m AOD, falling to the north-east down towards the Stour Brook at a height of c. 63m AOD.

The internal levels within the site were somewhat artificial, since a large amount of hardcore had been deposited in order to form a working surface for large machinery, but Trenches 1 and 2 were both excavated from approximately the same level as High Street, while Trench 3 was c.0.75m below this level.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the historic and medieval town core, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) no. HVH 067 and the ground works for this project were assessed as being likely to impact on deposits relating to potential early occupation in the area.



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Figure 1. Location map

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the proposed development area be subject to trial trenching. On this occasion three trenches were requested to be excavated across the development area, 1.8m wide and 5m long. The trenches were located using hand-tapes and measuring from extant buildings and structural features visible on Ordnance Survey plans of the site.

The trenching was carried out by a 360⁰ mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket, with some large modern concrete obstructions requiring removal/breaking up with a smaller toothed bucket. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and recorded on a whole-site database during post-excavation archiving; plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20 where appropriate. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera (6.2 megapixels) showing both details of the trenches and indicative pictures showing the site conditions.

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.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was situated towards the High Street frontage of the site, measuring 2.4m long, 1.6m wide and c. 1.0m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The trench was shortened from its intended length of 5m due to the presence of a large cement/concrete foundation which had apparently truncated the majority of the remainder of the trench site, with insufficient space to excavate on the far side of it. The observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of paving slabs, bedded on a layer of sand and Type 1 hogging, over a layer of demolition rubble c 0.2m thick. This sealed a disturbed layer c. 0.25m thick of dark grey/brown clayey silt with moderate/frequent modern inclusions such as ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, metallic/ferrous objects and stones. This sat directly on top of mottled mid orange/brown clayey silt with occasional concentrations of gravel, interpreted as the natural geological horizon. The trench was excavated a further 0.4m through this deposit in order to check for any potential masking deposits of colluvium, but none were noted (Pl.1).



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

Trench 2

This trench was situated towards the centre of the site and was 4.3m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.9m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of recent hardcore/demolition crush forming the working platform for the contractors above a block-paved floor associated with the wall visible in Plate 2. This is believed to be an old floor of a building that predated the factory demolished prior to this evaluation being undertaken, and is likely to be part of the one visible on early Ordnance Survey maps of the site. Below this shallow floor was a dark brown deposit with frequent CBM and cement fragment inclusions, interpreted as a disturbed topsoil (visible to the left of the vertical scale in Plate 2) with a varied thickness of between 0.1m and 0.2m which sealed in places a mid greyish brown clayey soil also with CBM inclusions. Several truncations were noted through both of these deposits, which predate the construction of the building represented by the floor layer and foundation wall visible in the photograph but these truncations also contained a large quantity of building detritus.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing north-east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 3

This trench was situated towards the north-eastern edge of the site and was 3.0m long, 1.6m wide and up to 1.5m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of up to 0.5m of freshly deposited hardcore/excavated material

stored in this part of the site resulting from the ground works being carried out elsewhere on the site over 0.2m of demolition rubble working surface (probably related to the demolition of the previous building on site). This sealed c. 0.7m of disturbed subsoil with frequent modern CBM inclusions and the remains of two walls which are believed to relate to structures visible on early Ordnance Survey maps of the site from the 1880's to the 1920's.



Plate 3. Trench 3, facing north (2m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation and the post-medieval/modern CBM fragments and pieces that were observed were not retained.

7. Discussion

The prevalence of modern/late post-medieval disturbance and foundations across all three trenches suggests that the site has been significantly disturbed in the recent past, while the lack of any significant depth of subsoil indicates that any archaeologically relevant deposits that may have been present on the site are likely to have been damaged or destroyed by this activity. Several of the footings seen in the trenches were laid directly over natural silty gravels.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, the absence of any remains of archaeological relevance within this site is suggested to be due to significant truncation and disturbance in more recent years rather than an initial absence of archaeological activity. This appears to be a similar situation to recent archaeological works in towns such as Stowmarket, where late 19th and early 20th century development has had a significant and deleterious effect on the preservation of the archaeological resource. No further archaeological works are recommended as being necessary in relation to this development.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Haverhill\HVH 075 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HPA-HPZ\HPA 97-99 and HPC 64-73

Finds and environmental archive: None

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and John Simms and project management was undertaken by Joanna Caruth.

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

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

83 HIGH STREET, HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK, CB9 8AN (SE/11/1126)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission is being sought from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the erection of a new ground floor office and seven flats, with below ground parking. The site is that of a former warehouse and derelict commercial building at 83 High Street, Haverhill (grid ref. TL 674 452). The existing building is to be demolished. **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The planning authority has been advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that any planning consent granted should be subject to a condition that requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be carried out. This will ensure that the significance of any heritage asset on the site is recorded and understood before it is damaged or destroyed, in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3).
- 1.3 The site (c. 0.04ha in area) is on the east side of the High Street, close to the corner with Duddery Road. The site slopes down to the east, from c. 70m OD, towards the watercourse that runs through Haverhill. The soil is characterised as deep loam over glaciofluvial drift. The rear of the site is largely covered with the base of the warehouse, concrete hard-standing, and there are differences in level/terracing accessed by steps.
- 1.4 The site lies on Haverhill's High Street, within the historic and medieval settlement core, as outlined on the County Historic Environment Record (HVH 067). There is potential for remains relating to early occupation to be present on this site. The evaluation is therefore intended to determine the nature, date, extent, quality and levels of preservation of any archaeological deposits which may survive under and around more modern features. Any groundworks associated with the proposed demolition and subsequent development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits that exist.
- 1.5 The existing building is to be demolished. It will be a requirement that ground disturbance is avoided during demolition, until the archaeological potential of the site has been evaluated and any further mitigation strategies implemented.
- 1.6 In order to understand the significance of any archaeological remains and inform the nature and costings of any further mitigation strategy, a linear trenched evaluation is required.
- 1.6 The results of the evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

- 1.8 Detailed 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.
- 1.9 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny and approval by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).
- 1.10 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of

potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed in untested areas and the final mitigation strategy defined accordingly.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Three trenches of at least 5m long each are to be excavated to evaluate the area affected by development, sampling each level of the site. The trench or trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If deep deposits or made ground is encountered, contingency strategies for working at depth may be applicable.
- 3.2 A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. Where complex sequences of deposits are encountered, however, a single context system is to be adopted. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has

been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place by the SCCAS/CT. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field 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.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 A comprehensive list of all historical sources consulted (with specific references) should be included.
- 5.4 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.5 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.6 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.7 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.8 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). The report should also assess and present information from historic maps and available historical documentation.
- 5.9 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.10 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.11 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.12 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.13 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

- 5.14 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.15 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.16 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.18 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.20 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Abby Antrobus

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Date: 12th October 2011

Reference: Haverhill/2011_1126 and 1125

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued. If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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