

Land to the rear of High Banks,  
Grundisburgh,  
Suffolk.  
GRU 043

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

SCCAS Report No. 2012/71

**Client: Merchant Projects (Ipswich) Ltd.**

Author: Linzi Everett

May 2012

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2012/71  
**Site Name:** Land to the rear of High Banks, Grundisburgh  
**Planning Application No:** Pre-application  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 17th May 2012  
**Grid Reference:** TM 2235 5076  
**Commissioned by:** Merchant Projects (Ipswich) Ltd.  
**Curatorial Officer:** Sarah Poppy  
**Project Officer:** Linzi Everett  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1- 126905  
**Site Code:** GRU 043

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Linzi Everett  
Date: May 2012

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Acting Contracts Manager  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

An area of 0.4 hectares was evaluated by trial trenching as a condition prior to seeking planning permission to develop the site. Five trenches were excavated in areas chosen not to impact on the protected trees within the proposed development area in which no pre-modern interventions were found, nor was any artefactual evidence of any age recovered from the upcast spoil.





## **1. Introduction**

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A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of High Banks, Grundisburgh (GRU 043; TM 2235 5076). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consisted of an area of c.0.6 hectares and trenching was undertaken with a view to investigating a 5% sample of the site.

The evaluation was carried out prior to submission of a planning application for development, according to a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy (Appendix I), which outlined the manner of the fieldwork, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the archaeological methodology and risk assessment (Gardner 2012).

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) on the 17th of May 2012.

The site has been recorded with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) code GRU 043.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site is located on glacial chalky clay deposits and occupies generally level ground south of the River Lark, with a slight slope down towards the north west, at a height of approximately 31m OD. It is bounded by housing or gardens on all sides.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The sites potential was based on its location within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER. It lies on the edge of the historic settlement core of Grundisburgh and close to finds of Mid-Late Saxon and Roman date (GRU 003, GRU 029).



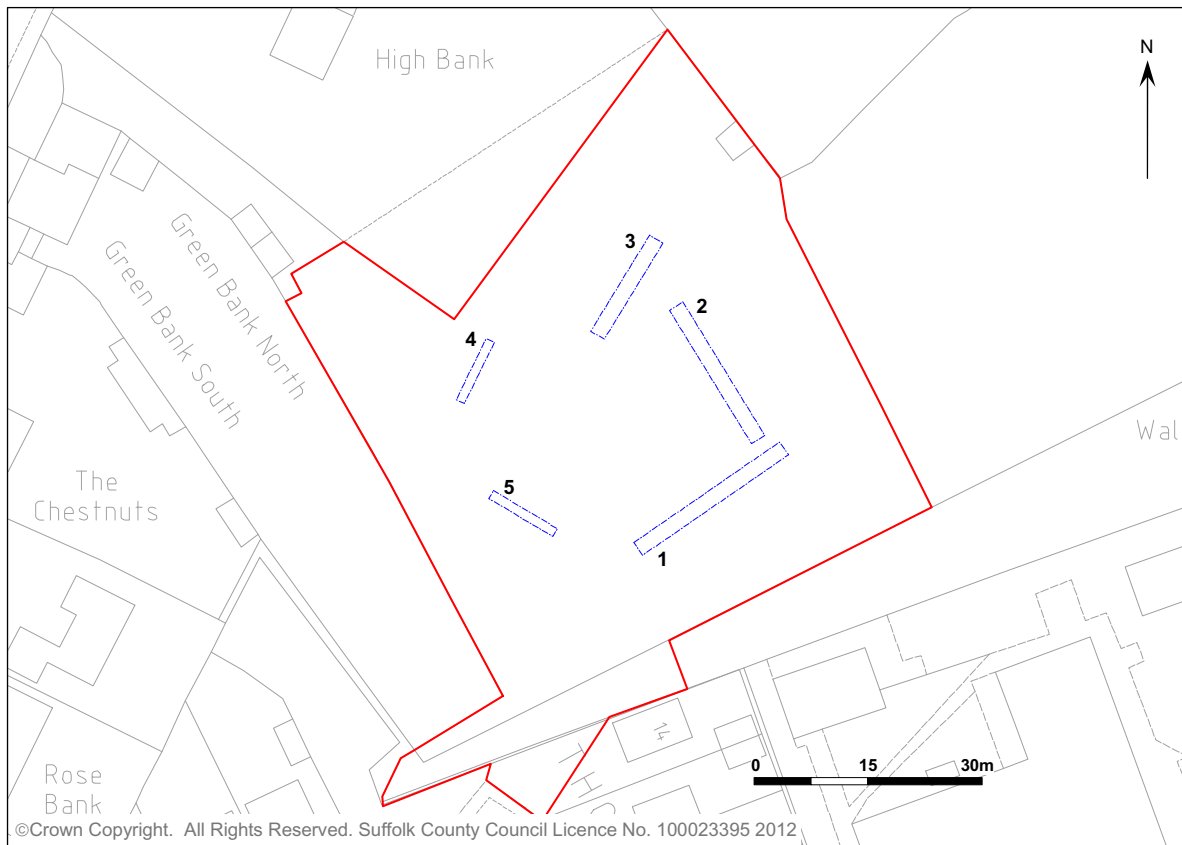


Figure 2. Location of trenches

## 4. Methodology

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Trenching was conducted using a tracked mechanical digger equipped with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket. A small machine was required as the only access to the site was through a single fence panel. The presence of several protected trees within the development area dictated where trenches could be placed so as to avoid damage to the trees root systems.

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. Topsoil was removed by machine to reveal undisturbed natural subsoil and/or archaeological deposits.

The base of each trench was examined for features or finds of archaeological interest. The upcast soil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

The site has been given the Suffolk HER code GRU 043. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record (for the Archaeological Data Service) has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1- 126905 has been used for this project.

## 5. Results

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Five trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2) through broadly the same soil sequence:

- *Topsoil* 0.25m-0.3m dark brown silty clay loam with occasional chalky flecks and occasional flints. Heavily rooted, notable absence of artefacts, modern or otherwise. Graduates into:
- *Subsoil* 0.15m mid brown silty clay with occasional chalky flecks and occasional flints.

A total area of 130.3 square metres was excavated.

The natural subsoil comprised a pale yellowish brown silty chalky boulder clay with seams of orangey brown and greyish brown silty clay. These seams shared a roughly south east - north west alignment, the same as the natural slope of the site. No pre-modern cut features were observed within the trenches, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the upcast spoil.

## 6. Discussion

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Despite the potential for archaeological evidence within the development area, none was present in the trenches. The stratigraphy revealed by trenching suggests that the site has been subject to minimal disturbance over time, either by agriculture or activity associated with occupation. The negative results do not preclude the possibility that discrete features could still exist within the unexcavated areas of the site.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east



Plate 2. Trench 1, soil profile

## 7. Archive deposition

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The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference GRU 043. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1- 126905.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\  
Grundisburgh\GRU 043 Land Rear of High Banks



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

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

### LAND REAR OF HIGH BANKS, GRUNDISBURGH

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	Suffolk Coastal District Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	Pre application
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TM223 507
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Redevelopment of site
<b>AREA:</b>	0.4 ha
<b>CURRENT LAND USE:</b>	Scrub/trees
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Sarah Poppy Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741226 E-mail: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	17 April 2012

#### Summary

- 1.1 A planning enquiry has been made regarding development at land to the rear of the High Banks, Grundisburgh.
- 1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

## **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). It is located on the edge of the historic settlement core of Grundisburgh, and in proximity to finds of Mid-Late Saxon and Roman date (HER refs GRU 003, GRU 025 and GRU 029). There is high potential to encounter important heritage assets of archaeological significance at this location.

## **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 will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Paragraph 141), which replaced PPS 5 in March 2012, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before it is 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% by area, which is c.205.00m<sup>2</sup>. 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.114.00m 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 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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**

- 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 1.3.

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](http://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.