

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Land off Bures Road, Great Cornard COG 025

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. B/03/015404/FUL)
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-12724

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David Gill
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Colin Pendleton	County SMR officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Persimmons Homes (Anglia) Limited and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was completed by members of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The excavation was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and Nick Taylor under the direction of David Gill. Finds processing was carried out by Cathy Tester and Anna West who also contributed to the report. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of housing development and the re-location of the rugby ground on land off Bures Road, Great Cornard. A concentration of features including the corner of an enclosure ditch, a linear ditch and a group of pit were found in close proximity to suggest a focus to the activity to the north of the sample area, with a low density of dispersed small pits beyond that. Flint and quartz sand-tempered pottery and struck flint suggested an Early Bronze Age date for the features and a presence on the site from the Palaeolithic period.

SMR information

Planning application no.	B/03/01504/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	February 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 8810 3949
Funding body:	Persimmons Homes (Anglia) Ltd
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-12724

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a parcel of land off Bures Road, Great Cornard as a condition of the consent on planning application B/03/01504/FUL to develop the site for housing. The development is to be completed in stages and ultimately will include two prehistoric burial mounds that are on the present site of the rugby ground. This stage of work sampled only those areas destined for the initial phase of building and the re-location of the rugby ground. The whole of the proposed development area was the subject of a desktop assessment SCCAS Report 2000/50; this identified the areas of archaeological potential and was used to target the sampling. The aim of the evaluation was to define any archaeological deposits that may exist, and provide information in order to construct an appropriate conservation strategy. The work was completed in accordance with the Brief and Specification by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team and undertaken between the 6th-10th February 2006 by members of SCCAS Field Projects Team. The project was funded by the developers Persimmons Homes (Anglia) Ltd.

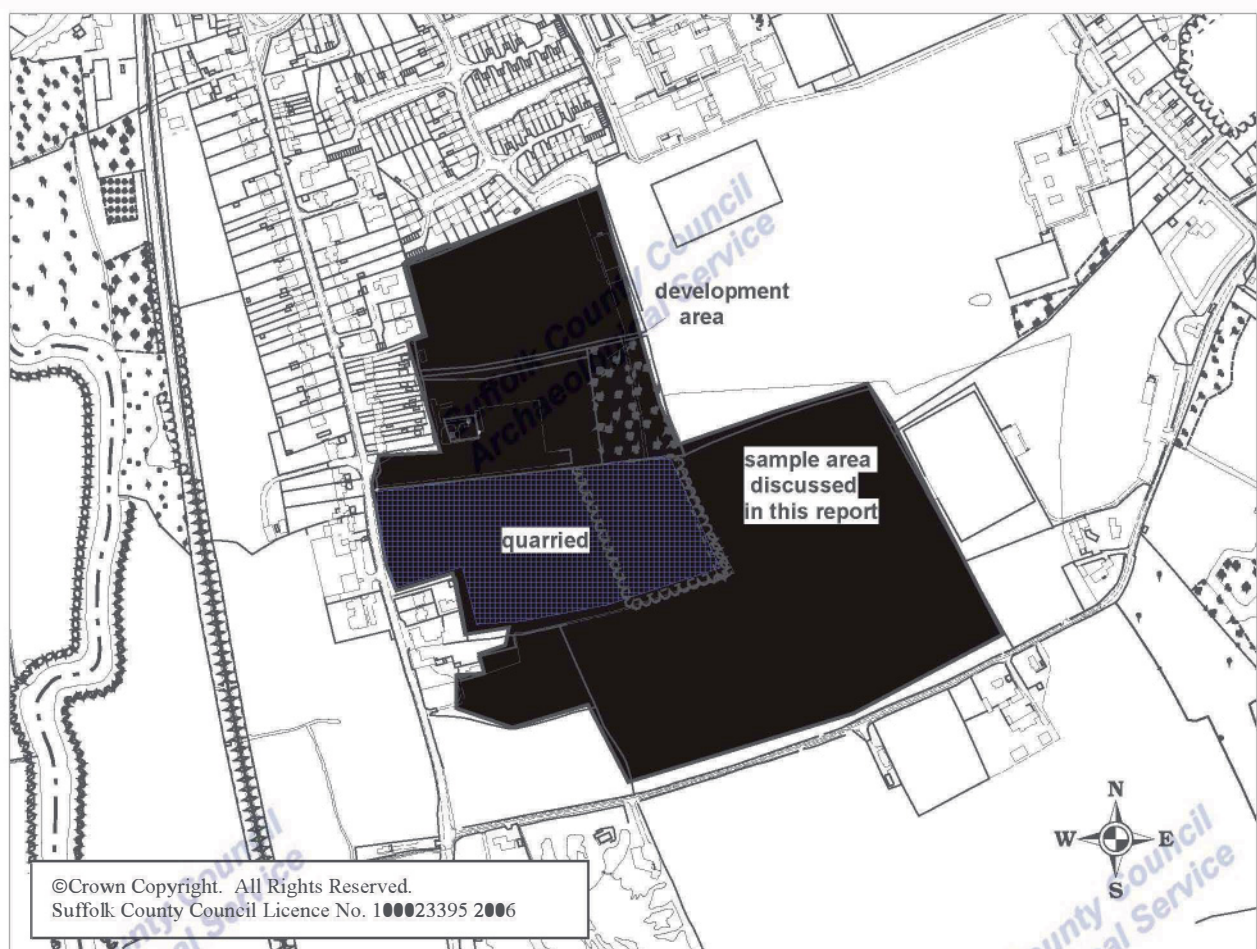


Figure 1. Site location and known archaeological sites

The site

The site is centred at TL 8810 3949 (Figure 1). It is low lying within the flood plain of the River Stour. There is a slope from the northern end (24.8mOD) to a low point (22.2m OD) through the centre of the sample area before rising slightly towards Blackhouse Lane (23.7m OD). The surface geology is gravel sands and the field adjacent to the Bures Road has been quarried extensively and was therefore not included in the sample area.

The field is currently left fallow but the documentary evidence (Breen 2000) suggests that the area has been under cultivation since at least the medieval period. Interestingly it also identified part of the site (the area of quarrying) as a *parochial island*, a part of the parish of Little Cornard within the boundaries of Great Cornard. The origins of this are unknown but it is likely to pre-date the formation of the parishes in the Late Saxon period.

There are no known sites recorded on the County's Sites and Monuments Record within the immediate sample area but the area on the next stage of the development includes ring ditches, indicative of Bronze Age burial mounds, COG 004 and 005 (Figure 1). Part of the potential for the whole of the site is its proximity to the mounds which are often the focus for more widespread prehistoric and later funerary activity.

Methodology

A series of linear trenches were excavated by 360° tracked machine fitted with 2m wide toothless bucket and under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. 1,934sq metres were excavated, c.6% of the application area and followed a trench plan designed to sample all available areas of the site, whilst avoiding an area to the south which is not intended for development, areas near badger sets, and other environmentally sensitive spots.

The machine removed the topsoil and a homogenous silt b-horizon to expose either the top of the archaeological deposit, where it existed, or the surface of the subsoil. All possible archaeological features were sampled by hand excavation to at least the minimum requirements of the specification (Appendix 1). Plans and sections were recorded at 1:20 and the positions of the trenches were plotted against the national grid using a Total Station Theodolite. Digital and film photographs were routinely taken and levels were related to an Ordnance survey spot height. A metal detector was used to search the base of the trenches and all excavated spoil.

All pre-modern finds were retained for analysis. Site data has been input onto an MS Access database, the finds and site records have been archived in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds and with the County Sites and Monuments Record under the parish code COG 025. A copy of the report is lodged with the OASIS on-line database (ref. suffolkl-12724).

Results

Summary

A series of 23 trenches were excavated opening an area of 1,934 sqm; c. 6% of the site. The trenches sampled all available areas and a plan of the trench layout is shown on Figure 2. The south end of the development area was not sampled, as this is to remain an open space, and machine access was prohibited within a 30m radius of several badger sets on the site. Areas close to the hedges and banks that bordered the site were also restricted as these too were sensitive habitats, and avoiding a set of overhead power cables determined the trench locations in the south west corner. A description of each trench is included in Table 1 and the results of the evaluation summarised below.

The surface geology was fine orange gravel and silt with iron staining on the slope changing to coarse yellow sand gravel on the lower parts. The soil profile within the trench sections consistently showed that beneath c.35cm of topsoil was a colluvium of fine, stoneless, pale brown clay silt, masking any features and which covered the top of the surface geology. The silt layer was relatively thin at the top of the slope at the northern end of the sample area, becoming deeper down the slope and filling hollows of the undulating geology up to a depth of 1.1m. An extensive and deep, possibly linear, hollow was recorded in Trenches 14, 16 and 17; this was filled with fine grey clay streaked with iron staining. The interpretation of the aerial photographs suggested that the SW area of the evaluation may have already been quarried but the trenching (Trenches 16-21) demonstrated that this was not the case.

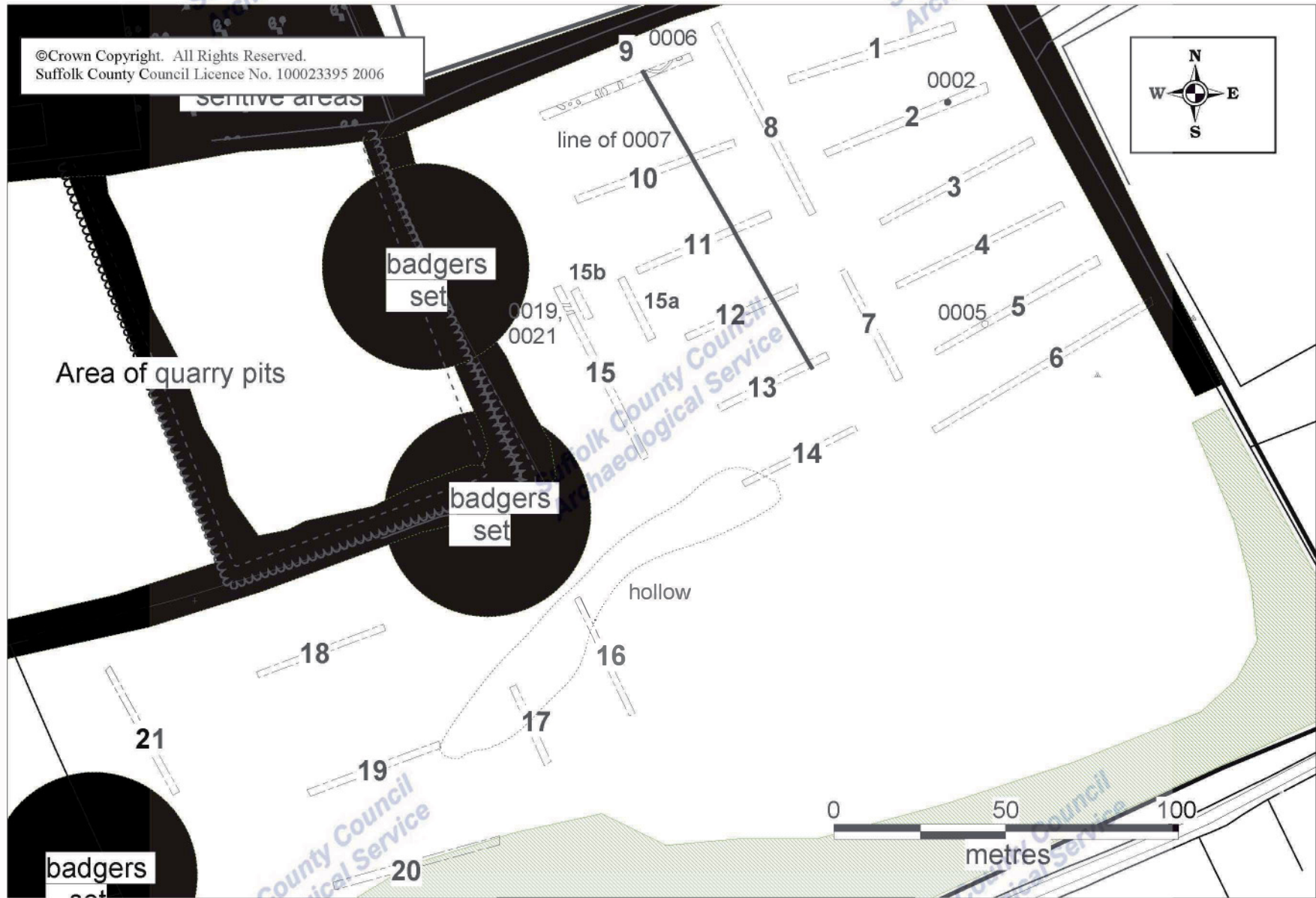


Figure 2. Trench plan

Trench no.	Trench length	Depth to subsoil cms	Trench description	Contexts
1	51m	52-115cm	20cms of homogenous fine silt below topsoil, deepening to 85cms at the east end of the trench. Surface geology orange gravel sand with pockets of pale clay silt. No archaeological features or artefactual material.	
2	51m	66-113cm	As Trench 1, 34cms of silt deepening to 83cms at eastern end. Small, undated charcoal filled hollow, 0002, sealed below silt. Subsoil: orange gravel with pockets of silt.	0002
3	50m	50-93cm	Thin layer of silt below the topsoil at the eastern end deepening to 60cms of silt at the west. Subsoil: orange/brown silt with occasional gravel. No archaeological features/finds.	
4	54m	45-75cm	Thin silt below the topsoil deepening to 40cms at the east end. Subsoil: Orange silt with occasional gravel. No archaeological features or artefactual material.	
5	54m	40cm	Thin silt below topsoil. Subsoil orange mottled silt with occasional gravel. Single irregular and silt filled pit recorded at mid trench producing one sherd prehistoric pottery and EBA flint.	0004
6	74m	40cm	Topsoil directly over gravel fine orange gravel; silt filled hollow at the centre of the trench. No archaeological features or artefactual material.	
7	35m	60cm	25cm of silt below topsoil over orange fine gravel subsoil. Small pockets of natural silt sampled =natural features. No archaeological features or artefactual material.	
8	62m	55cm	Thin silts below topsoil diminishing to nothing at the top of the slope (north end). Subsoil: gravel silt. No archaeological features or artefactual material.	
9	47m		Silt layer overlying and obscuring concentration of features, Two ditches, 0006 and 0007 each containing EBA flint and an undated group of shallow pits.	0006 0007 0013 0023 0025 0028 0030-33
10	49m	60cm	Topsoil over 20-30cms of pale silt. Subsoil: gravelly silt. North-South ditch from T9 continues into this trench.	
11	42m	60cm	Soil profile similar to trench 10 N-S ditch continues	
12	35m	42cm	Topsoil directly over gravelly silt subsoil. N-S ditch continues	
13	35m	43-72cm	Silt below topsoil deepening as the trench drops into silt filled hollow at the western end. N-S ditch continues.	
14	37m	75-90cm	Trench drops into a deep hollow at the western end, filled with fine pale clay silts streaked with iron staining. Overlying the silt is a darker loam silt with heavy iron staining, lead weight and medieval horseshoe from this layer.	
15 15a 15b	56m 19m 9m	45-60cm	N-S trench. Topsoil over thin silt layer, two east-west linear silt filled features recorded, one producing a sherd of EBA pottery. Additional trenches excavated alongside trench 15 without finding a continuation of either feature.	0019, 0021
16	37m	35-160cm	N-S trench crossing a hollow in the low point of the site Section shows a deep accumulation of silt overlying a coarse gravel subsoil. Augmented improved topsoil and early(?) land drains. No archaeological deposit or finds.	
17	24m	44-90cm	Low lying trench, pale orange silt over fine grey clay stained with Fe. Subsoil course gravel sealed below silt layers. No archaeology.	
18	40m	60-80cm	Profile similar to trench 17	
19	41m	70-90cm	Profile similar to trench 17 and 18	
20	50m	90-70cm	Profile similar to trench 17, 18 and 19. Subsoil brown silt with patches of gravel.	
21	42m	45cm	Thin layer of silt below the topsoil, Subsoil: silt and gravel.	

Table 1. Trench descriptions

Trench 9

A concentration of archaeological features was recorded in a Trench 9, close to the northern edge of the evaluation area at the top of the slope. The main density of features appeared to be either localised, or focused to the north, and did not extend into the adjacent trench. They cut the gravel/silt subsoil but were not apparent until the pale brown clay silt below the topsoil had been removed. The features consisted of two ditches and a group of pits, these are described in detail below and shown in Figures 3 and 4.

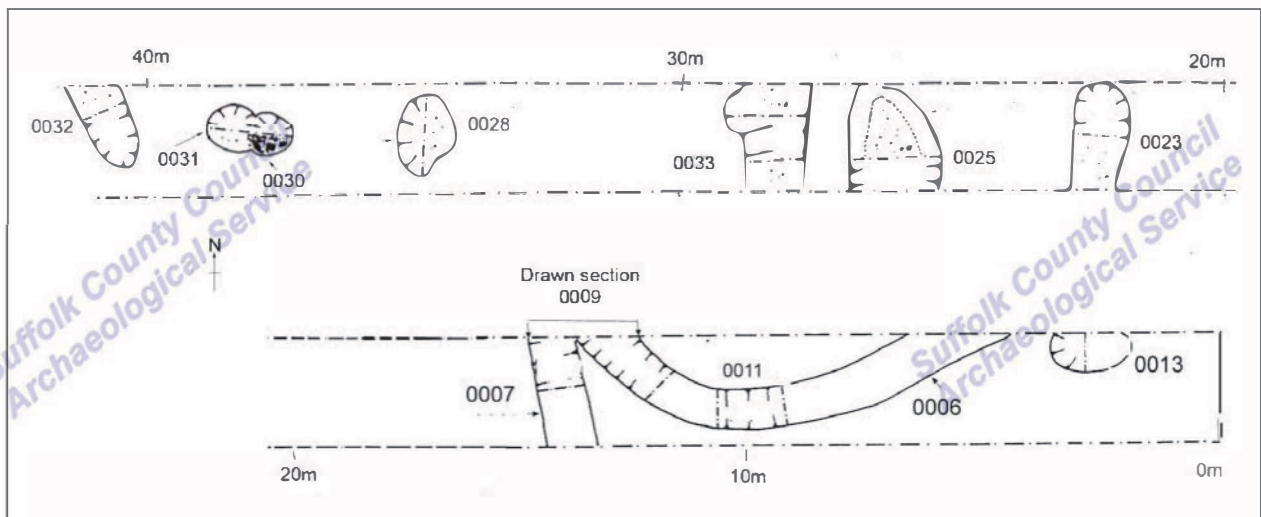


Figure 3. Plan of Trench 9

Ditch 0006 was a narrow curving ditch, 90cm wide and 40cm deep. In plan, it described a rounded right angle and was probably the south western corner of an enclosure that extended into the playing field to the north of the evaluation area. It was filled with a single homogenous fill of pale brown silt, indistinguishable from the overlying layer, the slope of the outer edge was near vertical and steeper than the inner (Figs. 3 and 4). Two sections were excavated producing an assemblage of struck flint. This included a patinated core which is Mesolithic or Neolithic, but the majority are probably Early Bronze Age in date.

Alongside ditch 0006 was a shallow, oval pit 0013. This was filled with a pale silt similar to 0006 and also produced a small collection of Early Bronze Age flint (Figs. 3 and 4).

Ditch 0007 was aligned NW-SE and ran straight and was recorded in all but the lowest (Trench 14) of the parallel trenches in this area. It was excavated in Trenches 9, 10 and 12; had a rounded V-shaped profile and was 60cm wide and 35cm deep. It was filled with pale brown silt similar to the widespread silt layer and, in most cases, it was difficult to determine from what level the ditch had been cut. In Trench 9, ditch 0007 was sectioned where its course coincided with 0006 (Fig 4). In this section the ditch fills were slightly stonier than that of the general silt layer and the pattern of stones although not conclusive, suggests that ditch 0007 is later than 0006 and also post-dates the deposition of the silt layer. The excavation of ditch 0007 in Trench 12 produced a small flint assemblage characteristic of the Bronze Age, but a fragment of brick was also recorded in the section over the line of ditch 0007, in what is arguably the upper fill.

The features west of the ditches in Trench 9 all had a common and distinctive fill type, different from the ditches and possibly indicating that they were a single phase of activity. They were filled with a dark silt loam, suggesting perhaps that the humic content had not yet degraded, and perhaps that they were not of great antiquity. Features 0023, 0025, 0033 and 0032 were all linear in plan but 0023, 0025 and 0032 terminated within the trench and none continued into the neighbouring trench, implying that these were possibly elongated pits or slots rather than ditches. 0028, 0031 and 0032 were shallow (<50cm deep) and contained a single infilling layer of silt loam. 0023, 0025 and 0033 were deeper and also contained re-deposited gravel similar to the coarse gravel of the subsoil in this area. All of the features were sampled by excavation; the loam fills produced no finds but a small assemblage of struck flint was collected from the gravel layers. All of these features appeared to be sealed beneath the silt, although in the area over the pits it was darker here than recorded elsewhere on the site (Figs. 3 and 4).

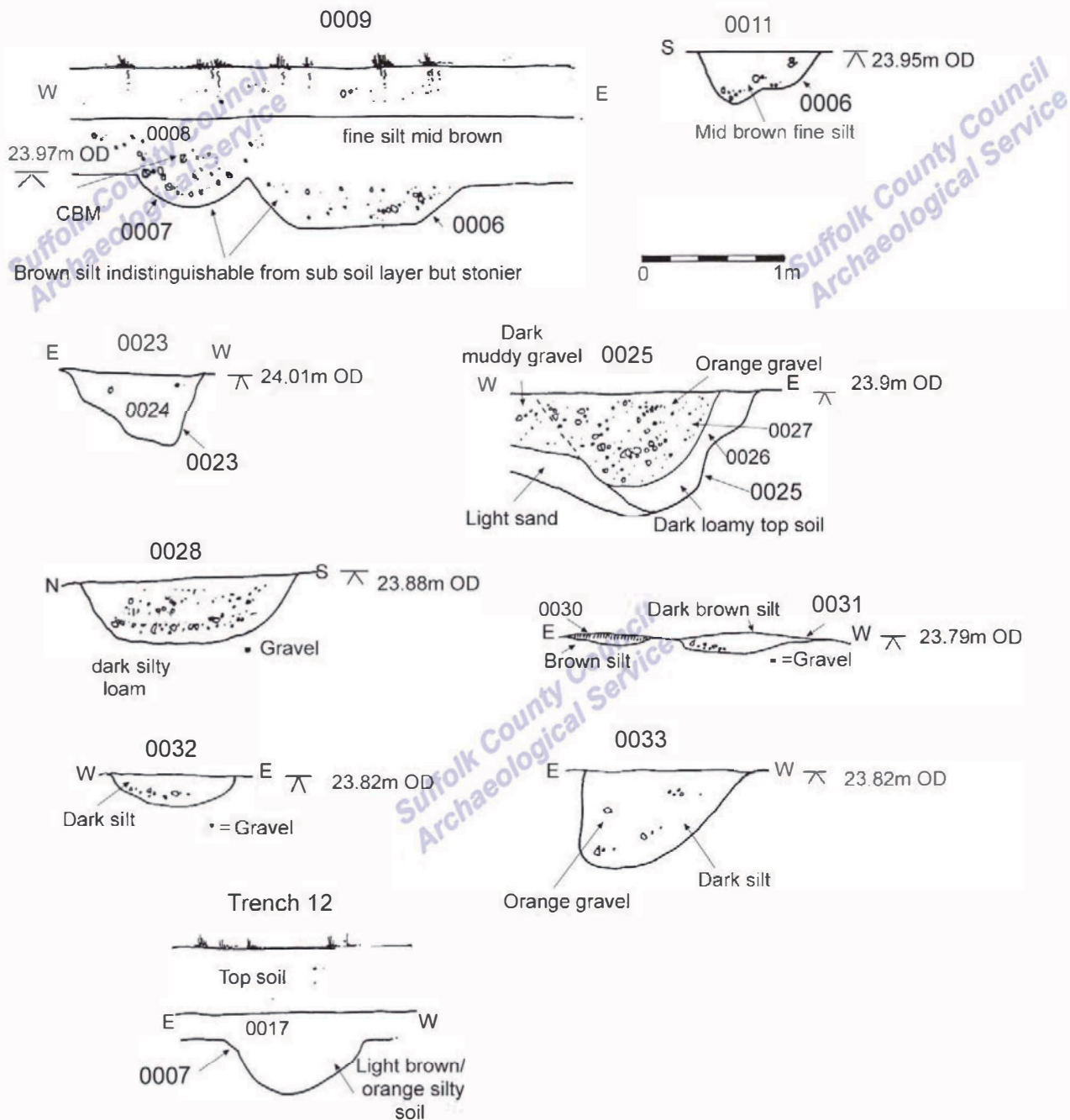


Figure 4. Trenches 9 and 12 excavated sections

Dispersed Features

Pits 0002 and 0004 were recorded as single features in Trenches 2 and 5 respectively (Figs. 2 and 5). 0004 was a small charcoal and grey silt filled pit; which was 40cm in diameter and 30cm deep. It was at the base of a deep, steep-sided hollow and sealed beneath 80cm of fine pale brown silt. It was completely excavated and a sample of the soil collected but produced no finds.

Pit 0004 was an irregular shallow hollow filled with brown silt similar to the overlying silt colluvium. The hollow was 1.3m across and 30cm deep and excavation produced a single sherd of handmade, sand-tempered pottery, tentatively dated to the Iron Age. The flint work however would suggest a feature date of Early Bronze Age.

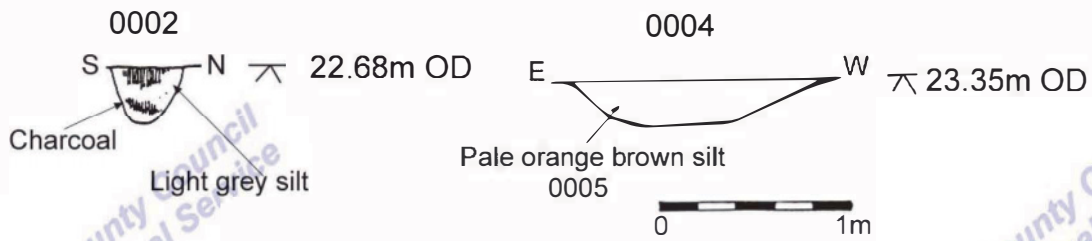


Figure 5. Sections of features 0002 and 0004

Two linear features, 0019 and 0021 were recorded running E-W across the mid-point of trench 15 (Fig. 6). They were filled with a single layer of pale brown silt and had well defined edges, and the impression was that these were ditches. A flint-tempered body sherd was found in 0021 and this has been dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Additional trenches 15a and 15b (Fig. 2) were excavated to trace the course of the putative ditches, but they were not found to the east of trench 15, even in the immediately adjacent trench, 15b; the area to the west of could not be examined as this was within 30m of the badger sets.

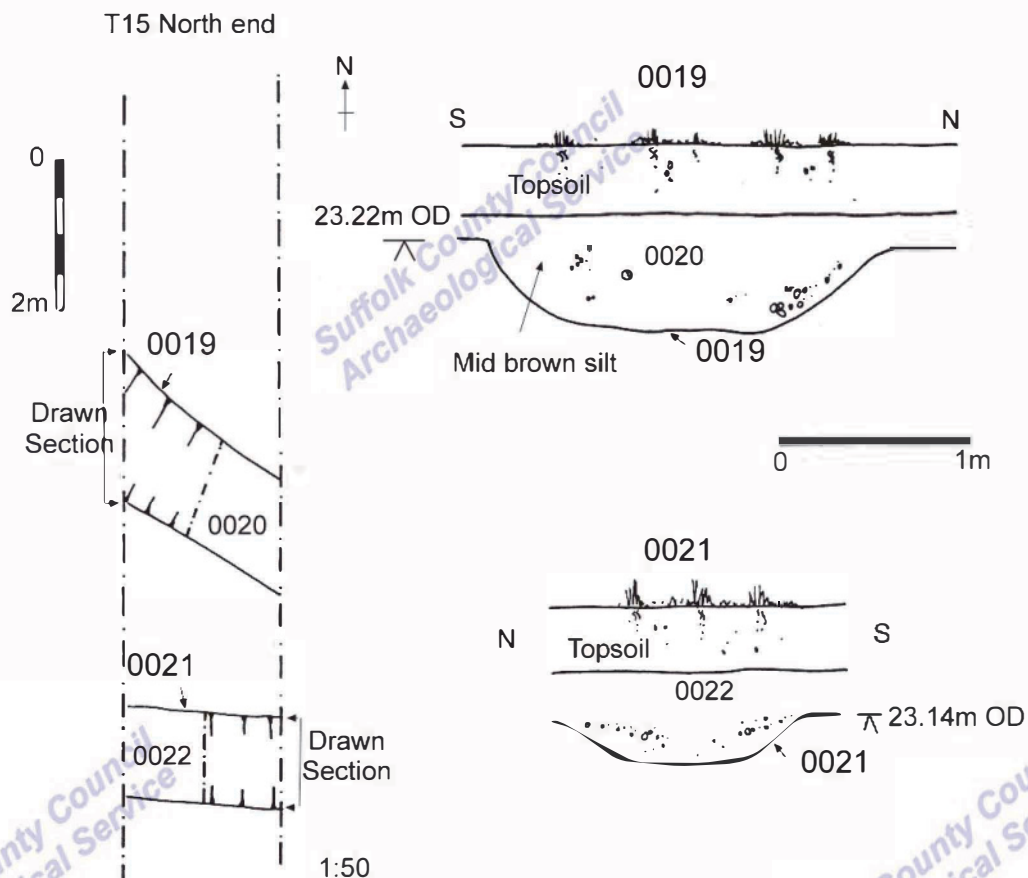


Figure 6. Trench 15 features

Evidence of a deep hollow at the base of the slope was found in trenches 14, 16, and 17 (Fig. 7). The subsoil here is a coarse sandy gravel but this has been overlain by an accumulation of fine clay silt, creating a water trap and evidence of this is demonstrated by thin laminations of silt and iron staining throughout the soil profile. At the top of the section the accumulated topsoil is deeper than elsewhere on the field and at the lowest points this is now deeper than plough depth. The lower part of the topsoil has a high clay content and is flecked throughout with charcoal and chalk, with occasional fragments of tile or brick, suggesting that an effort has been made to improve the soil by manuring and by the addition of lime. Hand-made ceramic field drains,

which were only seen in these trenches, were also evidence of water-logging and the effort to make the ground cultivatable. An early type horseshoe from Trench 14 suggests that the field was under cultivation from the medieval period.

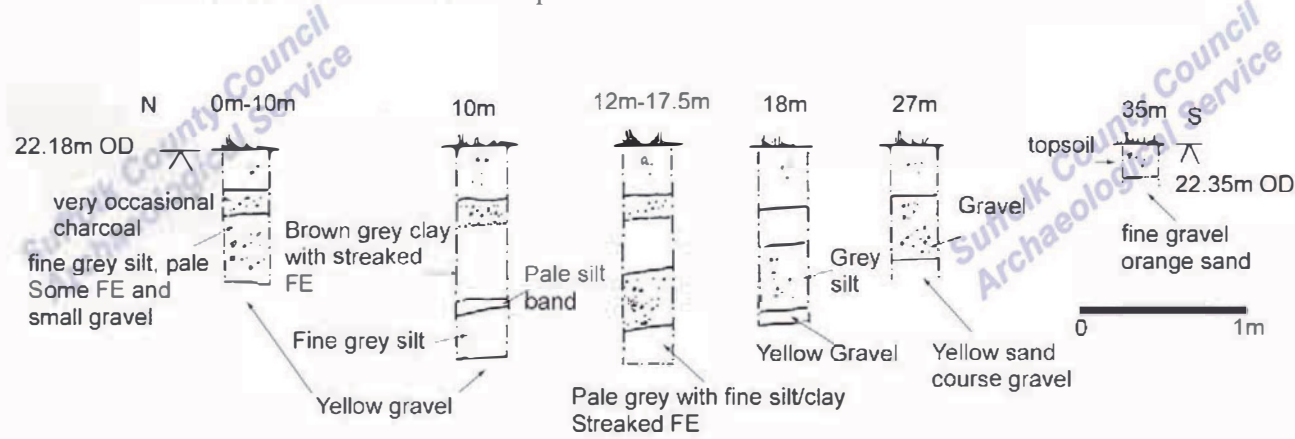


Figure 7. Soil profiles across Trench 16

Finds Evidence by Cathy Tester

Introduction

Finds were collected from seven contexts in four evaluation trenches, as shown in the table below.

OP	Tr No	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint		Spotdate
		No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0005	5	1	8	16	180	1	16	IA, Neo/ EBA
0010	9			5	89	1	67	EBA+
0012	9			14	80	3	85	EBA, Meso/Neo
0014	9			2	42			BA
0017	12			4	63			BA
0022	15	1	10					L. Neo-EBA
0024	9			3	105			Meso-Neo, Palaeo
Total		2	18	44	559	5	168	

Table 2. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Hand-made prehistoric pottery was found in two evaluation trenches.

The fill of pit 0004 (0005) in Trench 5 contained a medium quartz sand-tempered body sherd with common larger chunks (up to 3mm) of angular opaque white quartz. The sherd is undecorated with red-brown surfaces and a dark grey core and probably belongs to the Iron Age. Sand-tempered fabrics are an Iron Age trend but the sherd is not diagnostic enough to be certainly dated to that period.

The fill of ditch 0021 ((0022) in Trench 15 contained a flint-tempered body sherd with quite 'chunky' burnt flint inclusions (up to 8mm) and quartz sand filler. The sherd is undecorated with a brown-orange external surface and margin and a black core and interior surface which is smoothed. Although the piece has the large chunky flint inclusions that are a noted trend of the Neolithic, it too cannot be certainly dated. The appearance of the fabric could also be consistent with later, possibly Bronze Age wares.

Flint

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Forty-four pieces of struck flint were collected from six contexts in Trenches 5, 9 and 15. The assemblage is summarised in Table 3 and the full list by context is shown in Appendix 3.

Type	Patinated	Unpatinated
Blade		2
Blade/ flake	1	2
Core	1	7
Flake		22
Retouched flake		8
Spall		1
Total	2	42

Table 3. Flint types

Eight flake cores were identified. One is a multi-platformed squat flake core, 0005. Two single-platformed long flake or blade cores were also found. One of them has hinge fracture scars, 0005, and the other is a 'double period piece,' patinated, with unpatinated flakes removed from the distal end, 0012. Three single platform squat flake cores were found. One has hinge fracture scars and two of them are irregular with incipient cones of percussion on their surfaces, 0010 and 0017, which indicate poor control of the knapping process. One small fragment of a flake core, 0017, has possible edge retouch.

More than two-thirds of the assemblage consists of flakes and the majority of them are unmodified and predominantly small and thin. Eleven have hinge fractures and four have parallel flake scars on their dorsal faces. Six flakes which are notably thicker have probably been removed from flake cores. One, which is probably a fragment of a core, has twin bulbs of percussion and retouch on one edge, 0005. Two others have incipient cones of percussion. Seven other flakes are slightly retouched.

Two blades and three blades or long flakes were found. All have parallel flake scars on their dorsal faces. A large long flake or blade from 0024 has parallel blade scars on its dorsal face. The piece is patinated, has 'rolled' edges and weathered surfaces and is the oldest in the assemblage, dating to the Palaeolithic.

Dating

Trench 5

Parallel flake scars and the thinness of flakes suggest a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date for the group from pit 0004, fill 0005. However, the latter is more likely because there are so few blades and no retouch. Although irregular pieces may suggest a mixed date, some are more likely to be Early Bronze Age.

Trench 9

The five pieces from ditch 0009, fill 0010, are probably Early Bronze Age but could be slightly later. In the group from ditch 0011, fill 0012, the early period is represented by the patinated core which is Mesolithic or Neolithic, but the rest of group exhibits thin, quite well-controlled flaking and is probably Early Bronze Age. The two flints from feature 0013 (0014) have characteristics of Bronze Age flint assemblages and the flints from linear feature 0023 (0024) are earlier — Palaeolithic, and Mesolithic or Neolithic.

Trench 12

The flints from ditch 0007 (0017) are characteristic of Bronze Age flint assemblages.

Burnt flint

Five fragments of burnt flint were collected from three contexts in Trenches 5 (0005) and 9 (0010, 0012). The flint is crackled and blue-grey to white in colour and represents fragments of 'pot boilers.' Although they are scattered at low density and not closely datable, they are an indication of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Discussion of the finds evidence

The evaluation finds assemblage contains pottery and groups of worked flint which indicate activity on this site during the early and later Prehistoric periods, from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. The pottery is not particularly diagnostic but can be broadly dated to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Apart from one early group (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic or Neolithic) in Trench 9, the flint assemblage as a whole is dominated by Early Bronze Age material but may also contain a later element.

Discussion

The evaluation found evidence of Early Bronze Age features (*c.*2500-1500BC) and the finds indicate a presence on the site from the Palaeolithic period onwards. The concentration of features suggests a focus to the activity to the north with a low density of dispersed features over most of the area sampled. 0006 is probably part of a ditched enclosure and as such suggests a settled occupation rather than a transient one, but is likely to be centred in the playing field to the north of the evaluation. Neither of the ditches found in the evaluation can be identified on the early map and ditch 0006 is completely unrelated to this pattern.

The documentary evidence shows that the pattern of present field boundaries was in existence before the earliest available map (tithe map 1813) and suggests that these have their origins in the medieval period. Indeed it is suggested that the existence of part of the parish of Little Cornard, completely within the bounds of Great Cornard parish may indicate that some predate the formation of the parishes in the Late Saxon period.

The date and the function of the pitting in this area however is unknown and may have occurred in the more recent past, and may even be test pits related to the adjacent gravel quarrying.

The silt below the topsoil is fine textured and stoneless and is either a colluvium or wind blown deposits. It occurs over the whole area but is deeper at the base of the slope where it has collected in what was a deeper hollow. Evidence suggests that the hollow was at least seasonally wet and evidence to improve and drain the soil to make it cultivatable was seen in the trenches in this area and the shape of the hollow can be seen in the earlier field boundaries. The pipes from one of the land drains were handmade, formed from a single slab of clay rolled over and joined at the top, possibly an early method of manufacture and perhaps borrowing from a method of lead pipe manufacture which uses this technique. An early type horseshoe from Trench 14 suggests that the field was under cultivation from the medieval period.

Recommendations

The features in Trench 9 at the top of the slope are close (600mm) to the surface, c. 23.9m OD, and these would be threatened if the area was truncated to level the field for a sports pitch. If this is the intention it is recommended that an area around the Trench 9 features should be subject to an open area excavation. The dispersed features lower down the slope are deeper and less threatened and depending on the proposed ground works these may be recorded with a monitoring condition.

David Gill
February 2006

References

Breen, A.M., Documentary Report in Newman, J., 2004, '*Bures Road, Great Cornard, Archaeological Assessment Report*', SCCAS Report No 2000/50 Unpublished.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND OFF BURES ROAD,
GREAT CORNARD

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (B/03/01504/FUL) has been given for a large residential development on land off Bures Road in Great Cornard.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 A desktop assessment of the proposed development area was carried out by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council in 2000 (report no. 2000/50).
 - The northern part of the proposed development area includes the sites of two ring-ditches (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record nos. COG 004 and 005). These rings are presumed to be flattened prehistoric burial mounds. This area is currently occupied by the Sudbury Rugby Club and is excluded from the current evaluation as it will not be developed for about three years. This area will be the subject of another Brief and Specification at a later date.
 - A large area in the centre of the development area has been the subject of mineral extraction (see the above report for a definition of the area) and is therefore archaeologically sterile. This area is also excluded from the current evaluation.
 - Areas in the development area to the west and south of the mineral extraction site do, however have archaeological potential and are the subject of this evaluation.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.

- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.7 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 this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

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* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (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, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3 Specification for a Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 3.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the relevant parts of the development area, as defined above in para. 1.3, and shall be positioned to provide a comprehensive sample of those areas. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. 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 further 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.

- 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 The contractor shall 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 the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 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 with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* 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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. 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).
- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.11 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.

5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Tel: 01284 352442

Date: 21 Sept. 2005

Reference: Cornard 05

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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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Appendix 2: COG 025 contexts list

<i>context</i>	<i>featur</i>	<i>ditch seg</i>	<i>grsq</i>	<i>identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>soil sample</i>	<i>finds</i>	<i>cuts</i>	<i>cuthy</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>under</i>	<i>small finds</i>	<i>spotdate</i>
0001	0001				unstratified								
0002	0002		T2	pit	Small oval pit at northern end of T2.								
0003	0003		T2	pit fill	Fill of pit 0002 — mid to dark grey silt with bands of light grey silt and black charcoal.								
0004	0004		T5	pit /hollow	Pit/infilled hollow. Irregular cut shape in plan. Base curved and linear. — may be a dug hollow, not specific circular shape, poss. for rubbish. Or soil surface that has naturally accumulated.								
0005	0005		T5	pit fill	Fill of pit 0004. Light orange-brown silty sand, occasional flecks of charcoal present. No stones		y						IA
0006	0006		T9	ditch	Curving ditch at east end of T9								
0007	0007		T9	ditch	North-south ditch at east end of T9								
0008	0008		T9	ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0007 in T9								
0009	0009		T9	ditch section	Section through ditches 0006 & 0007. East end of T9								
0010	0009		T9	ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0006 within section 0009		y						Preh
0011	0011		T9	ditch section	Excavated segment of ditch 0006								
0012	0011		T9	ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0006 withing segment 0011		y						Preh
0013	0013		T9	feature cut	Cut of feature at E end of T9								
0014	0013		T9	feature fill	Fill of feature 0013		y						Preh
0015	0007		T11	ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0007 in T11								
0016	0007		T11	ditch section	Section through ditch 0007 in T11								

<i>context</i>	<i>featur</i>	<i>ditch seg</i>	<i>grsq</i>	<i>identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>soil sample</i>	<i>finds</i>	<i>cuts</i>	<i>cutby</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>under</i>	<i>small finds</i>	<i>spotdate</i>
0017	0007		T12	ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0007 in T12		y						Preh
0018	0007		T12	ditch section	section through ditch 0007 in T12								
0019	0019		T15	ditch	Northern E-W ditch in T15								
0020	0019		T15	ditch fill	Fill of northern E-W ditch in T15								
0021	0021		T15	ditch	Southern E-W ditch in T15								
0022	0021		T15	ditch fill	Fill of southern E-W ditch in T15		y						IA
0023	0023		T9	linear feature	Butt end of linear feature								
0024	0023		T9	linear feature fill	Fill of linear feature 0023		y						Preh
0025	0025		T9	feature	Cut of feature								
0026	0025		T9	feature fill	1st fill of feature 0023								
0027	0025		T9	feature fill	2nd fill of feature 0023								
0028	0028		T9	pit	Oval pit at western end of T9. Steep sides, concave base.								
0029	0028		T9	pit fill	Fill of pit 0028 — very dark brown silty loam								
0030	0030		T9	spread	Discreet spread of charcoal. Not seen until subsoil layer was removed								
0031	0031		T9	pit	Shallow oval pit, filled w brown silt, sealed by silt layer - subsoil horizon.								
0032	0032		T9	linear feature	Butt-ended linear feature extending form the N edge of the trench. Filled with dark silty brown. Not visible until silt subsoil removed.								

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<i>context</i>	<i>featur</i>	<i>ditch seg</i>	<i>grsq</i>	<i>identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>soil sample</i>	<i>finds</i>	<i>cuts</i>	<i>cutby</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>under</i>	<i>small finds</i>	<i>spotdate</i>
0033	0033			T9	linear feature								
					Linear feature running N-S accross trench. East edge vertical, west sloping. Looks like machine bucket scoot. Single fill of fine brown organic silt, dark brown. No finds - recent not visible until removal of silt.								

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Appendix 3. Struck flint

OP No	Type	No	Description
0005	blade	1	Small thin snapped blade w parallel flake scars on dorsal face
	core	1	Single platform, long flake core with hinge fracture
	core	1	Multi-platform squat flake core. Small amount of cortex
	core	1	Single platform, long flake/blade core, half cortex
	flake	1	Small thinnish flake w hinge fracture, snapped. Parallel flake scars on dorsal face.
	flake	1	Small thin flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face
	flake	1	Snapped flake, distal end. Thin
	flake	1	Thin flake, light grey flint
	flake	1	Flake with hinge fracture, NSP. recent chip
	flake	1	Thick flake, probably fragment of a core w retouch on 1 edge, twin bulb of percussion.
	flake	1	Small squat flake w hinge fracture. Light grey flint
	flake	1	Large flake, cortex on all edges, poss. Retouch at bulbar end
	flake	1	Thick irreg. flake w twin bulbs of percussion or incipient cone of percussion (ICP), mainly cortex on dorsal face
	flake	1	Long flake off edge of core. Thick
	flake	1	Small thinnish flake with hinge fracture
flake	1	Small thinnish flake with hinge fracture, snapped	
0010	blade	1	Blade w slight. edge retouch, parallel flake scars on dorsal face
	blade/flake	1	Snapped blade /long flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face
	core	1	Crude, squat flake core. single platform with 2 hinge fracture scars & ICP's
	core	1	Crude, squat flake core. single platform
	flake	1	Small flake w slight retouch on one edge
0012	blade/flake	1	Distal end of small long flake or blade. Thin
	core	1	Long flake and blade core. Patinated, w unpatinated flakes removed from 1 end - double period piece!
	flake	1	Snapped flake, thin
	flake	1	Snapped thin flake w pronounced ripples and poss. slight. edge retouch or use-wear
	flake	1	Thin flake w hinge fracture, slightly irregular.
	flake	1	Thin flake w hinge fracture, limited edge retouch
	flake	1	Snapped flake w limited retouch on snapped edge. Thin
	flake	1	Small snapped flake (both ends)
	flake	1	Small hinge-fractured flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face
	flake	1	Small long flake w hinge fracture and small amt of use-wear on 1 edge
	flake	1	Squat flake w hinge fracture, thin.
	flake	1	Fire-damaged fragment of flake with hinge fracture
	flake	1	Thin flake w limited edge retouch
	spall	1	Thin spall
0014	flake	1	Thick flake, prob. part of flake core w ICP. Some edge damage/use-wear
	flake	1	Thick irreg. squat flake fragment off of flake core. Small amt of cortex
0017	core	1	Irreg. flake core. Incipient cones of percussion, mainly squat flakes removed. Mainly cortex on 1 face
	core	1	Small fragment of a flake core w poss. edge retouch
	flake	1	Irregular thick flake, prob. removed from core. Some slight edge retouch
	flake	1	Snapped flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face
0024	blade/flake	1	Rolled long blade/flake w parallel blade scars on dorsal face. Palaeolithic.
	flake	1	Rolled flake, poss. natural. Weathered surfaces
	flake	1	Squat flake w use-wear on distal end. Prob. unpatinated on bulbar end but pat on dorsal face. Sharp-edged (not rolled) Mesolithic or NEO – uncertain

Archive index: finds are located in 1 bag in the parish box H / 80 / 3