

**Saxon House, Writtle Road,
Ipswich,
Suffolk.
IPS 671**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/83

Client: Suffolk County Council County Grounds Dept.

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June 2012

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HER Information

Report Number: 2012/83
Site Name: Saxon House, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate
Planning Application No: IP/12/00237/FPC
Date of Fieldwork: 31st May 2012
Grid Reference: TM 1472 4505
Commissioned by: Suffolk County Council County Grounds Dept.
Curatorial Officer: Sarah Poppy
Project Officer: Linzi Everett
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1- 128087
Site Code: IPS 671

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: June 2012

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner

Position: Acting Contracts Manager

Date:

Signed:

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeology and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	4
6. Discussion	5
7. Archive deposition	5

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location, showing Historic Environment Record entries	2
Figure 2. Location of trenches	3

List of Plates

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south	4
Plate 2. Trench 2, looking east	4
Plate 3. Trench 2, soil profile and possible pit	5

List of Appendices

Appendix I. Brief and specification	7
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Summary

An area of 0.16 hectares was evaluated by trial trenching as a condition of consent to construct a car park. Two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area which revealed at least 2.5m of modern material in places, possibly filling a large pit, and no pre-modern interventions or artefacts were observed.

1. Introduction

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Saxon House, Writtle Road, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate (IPS 671; TM 1472 4505). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consisted of an area of c.0.16 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 31st of May 2012.

The site has been recorded with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) code IPS 671.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located on deep sand deposits and occupies generally level ground just above the 5m OD contour that falls away on the north east side towards the adjacent River Gipping. The 1st-3rd Ordnance Survey maps show the development area within floodplain.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The sites potential was based on its location within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER. It lies close to findspots of a Bronze Age burial urn (IPS 087), Saxon remains (IPS 395) and Palaeolithic artefacts (IPS Misc).

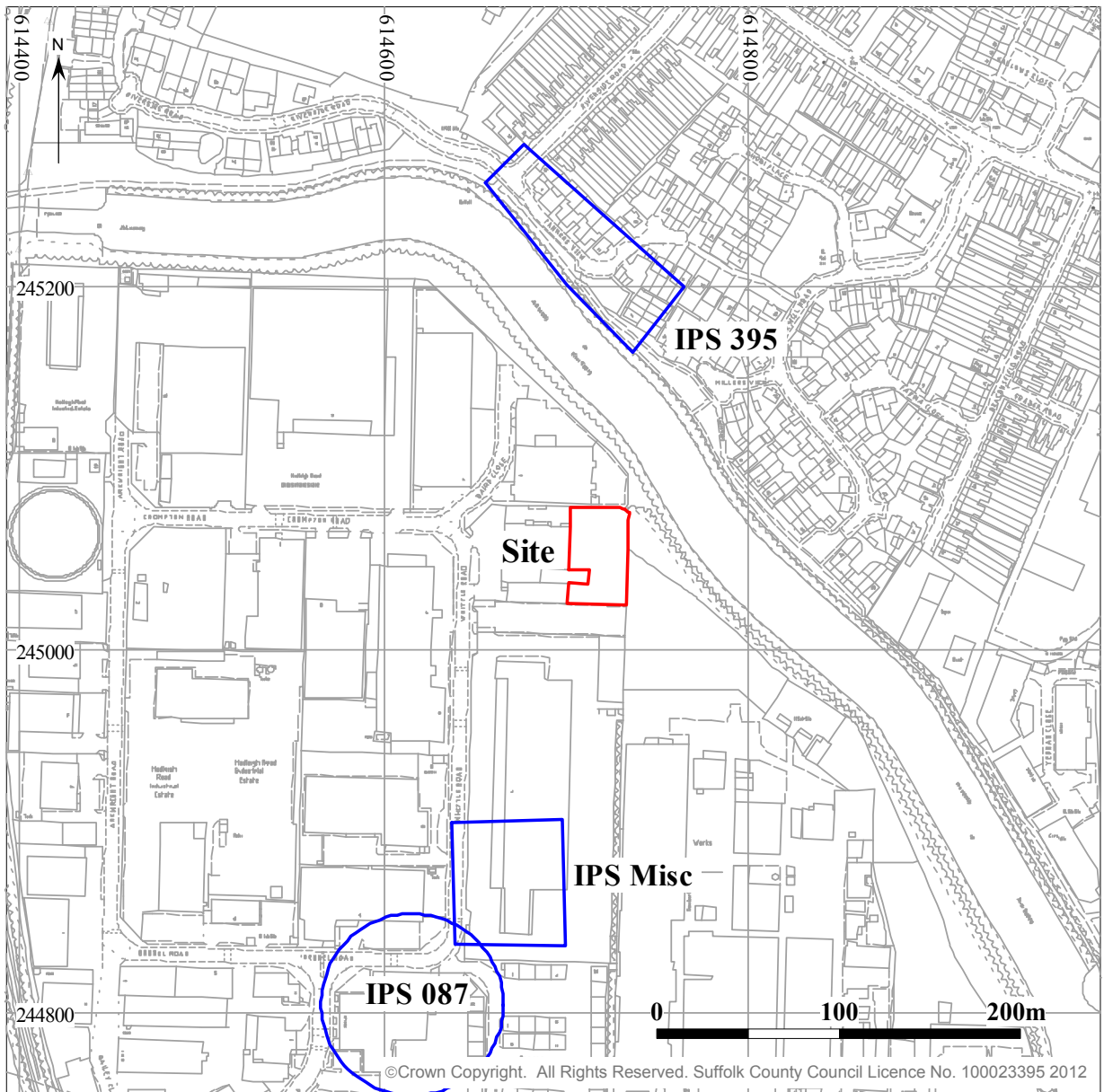
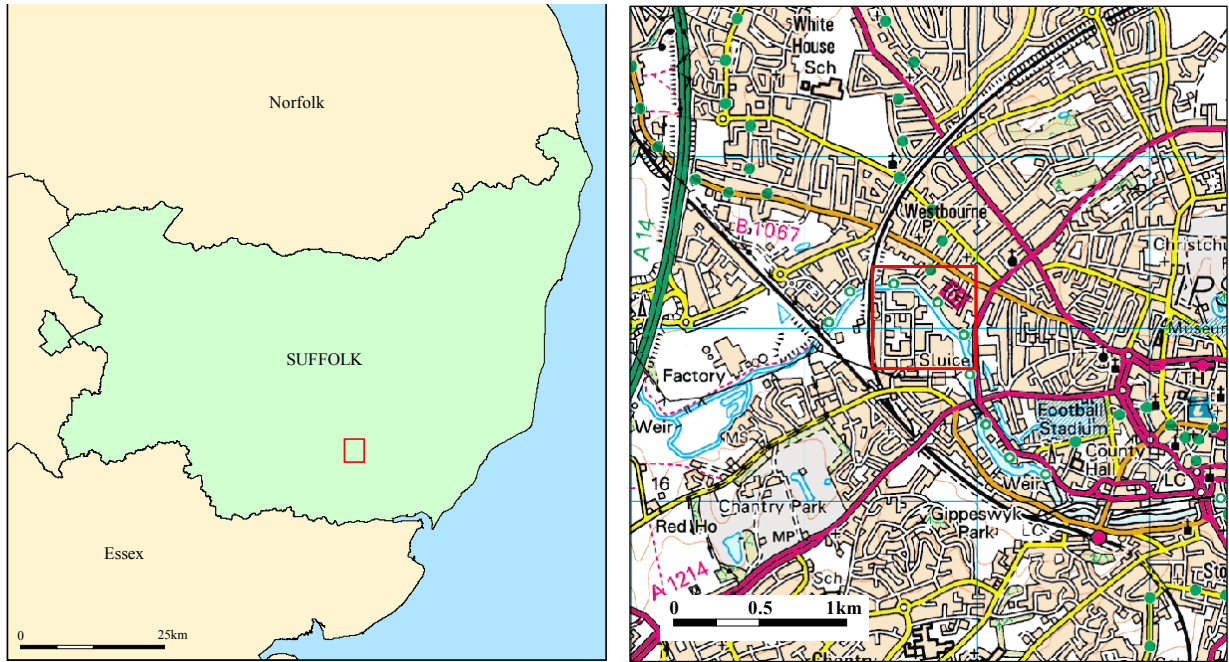


Figure 1. Site location, showing Historic Environment Record entries

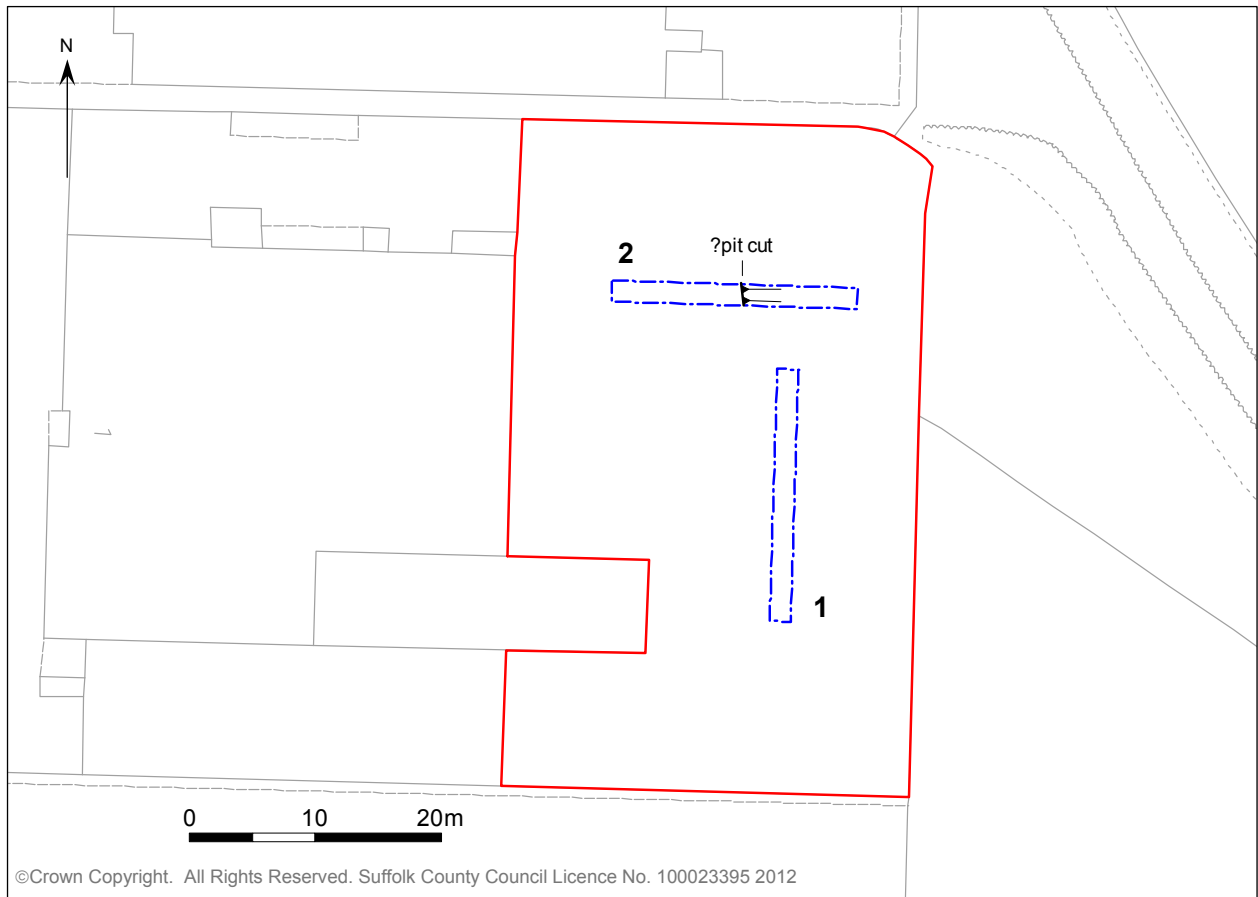


Figure 2. Location of trenches

4. Methodology

Trenching was conducted using a tracked mechanical digger equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. 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 IPS 671. 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- 128087 has been used for this project.

5. Results

Two trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2), trench 1 measuring 20m long and trench 2 measuring 19.2m. This equated to a total area of 70.5 square metres. In trench 1 (Plate 1), 0.25m-0.3m dark brown sandy loam sealed a sandy layer with regular modern rubbish which lay over a thick, homogenous layer of bluish grey fine ashy/silty material c.0.7m at the eastern end increasing to c.1.5m at the west end. In trench 2, this grey ashy layer was visible throughout, filling a possible pit to a depth of over 2.5m at the north end, with various sandy tip lines above it (Plates 2 and 3). In the southern end of the trench, a thin layer of ashy deposits was present but natural subsoil was revealed beneath it at a depth of c.0.75m.

The natural subsoil was exposed in the base of both trenches and comprised a mid orangey brown silty gravelly sand. No pre-modern cut features were observed, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the upcast spoil.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking east



Plate 3. Trench 2, soil profile and possible pit

6. Discussion

Trenching revealed a significant depth of made-up ground. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the area was used to deposit fly-ash from a local power station, possibly intentionally building up the site. No archaeological evidence was recorded within the trenches.

7. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference IPS 671. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1- 128087.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\
Ipswich\IPS 671 Saxon House

Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

**SAXON HOUSE, 1 WRITTLE ROAD, HADLEIGH ROAD INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk County Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	IP/12/00237/FPC
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 147 450
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Car park
AREA:	0.16 ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Scrub
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Sarah Poppy Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741226 E-mail: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	17 May 2012

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 2) relating to archaeological investigation:

'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3), 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.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the

discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). The proposed development is located in proximity to finds of a Bronze Age burial urn (HER ref IPS 087), and archaeological evaluation at Tanner's View, in a similar location to that of the proposed development, revealed Saxon remains (HER ref IPS 395). There is high potential for hitherto unknown heritage assets to be located within the proposed development area.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with Development Plan Policy BE47.

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.80.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array.

Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.45.00m 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) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.