

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LAND AT EASTWAY BUSINESS PARK EUROPA WAY, IPSWICH

(SMR Ref. IPS 487)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF AN AREA OF PROPOSED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO
THE NORTH OF EUROPA WAY, IPSWICH

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Brief and Specification

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©March 2006

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Land at Europa Way, Ipswich

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Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during March 2006 to investigate the potential for buried archaeology within an area of land north of Europa Way, Ipswich (NGR ref. TM1364 4565), in advance of a proposed residential development. Three linear trenches were machine excavated to the depth of the undisturbed natural subsoil but no archaeological deposits or features were identified. The surface of the natural subsoil had been disturbed and was truncated to an unknown degree. This evaluation is recorded on the County SMR, reference no. IPS 487. The evaluation was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service who were commissioned and funded by Gardner Weller Solicitors on the behalf of their client.

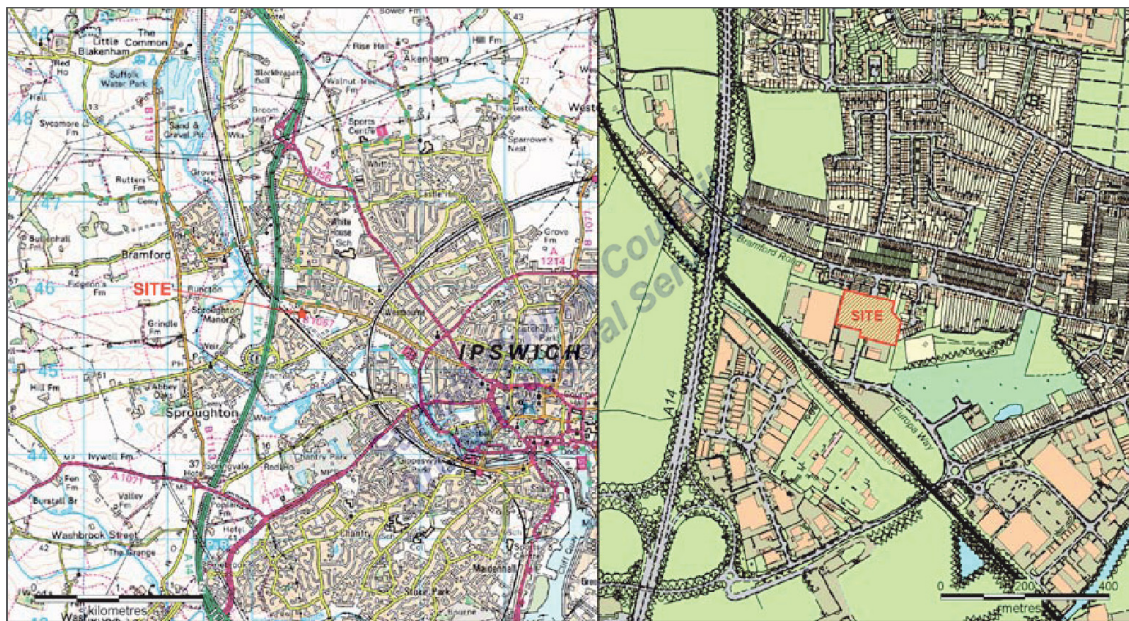


Figure 1: Location Plan

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1. Introduction

A residential development has been proposed for an area of land lying to the north of Europa Way, Ipswich. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the evaluation area is TM 1364 4565.

The development area lies within an area of high archaeological potential being part of a complex ritual landscape, as recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Finds include a Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age material from a former quarry to the east and south of the site (SMR ref. IPS018). Other nearby sites comprise the remains of a Bronze Age burial mound (SMR ref. IPS400) and an Early Saxon cemetery (SMR ref. IPS397). A systematic programme of archaeological works is to be implemented for this development as a condition of the planning consent (application no. IP/05/00893/FUL) of which the first stage is to be a trenched evaluation for which a Brief and Specification has been produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team detailing the work required. This report details the results of the evaluation.

The actual evaluation area comprises Plot 3 of the total proposed development. Plots 1 and 2 lie within an area of quarrying which has undoubtedly destroyed the original ground surface and any archaeological evidence that may have been present and consequently planning consent has been granted with no archaeological condition for these areas.

The former quarries have been partially backfilled with material including Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA) which has also been deposited within Plot 3. It is thought the plot originally sloped gently down to the west although through the dumping of the PFA a level terrace of c.13000 square metres has been formed. A Site Investigation Report based on boreholes and test pits indicates the site has been covered by a layer of PFA which varies in thickness from 0.15m on the western side and up to 2.5m on the eastern side of the evaluation area. The development proposal also involves further raising of the existing ground levels and it was agreed with the Conservation Team that any archaeological deposits that lay c.0.9m below the existing levels would be protected from damage by the great depth of overburden that would be present once site levels had been raised. Consequently it is only in the western half of the plot that a potential threat to buried archaeology exists.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Gardner Weller Solicitors on behalf of their client who ultimately funded the work. The evaluation was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and was carried out during March 2006. The evaluation archive is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Sites and Monuments Record reference, IPS 487. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-13125.

2. Methodology

Trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil (or the top of any significant archaeological deposits if encountered) using the rear arm of a 'JCB' type wheeled excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with an approved plan. Three trenches were to excavated commencing c.20m from the western edge of the plot to avoid high voltage cables running to a sub-station close to the southwest corner of the plot. Excavation of the trenches was to proceed towards the eastern edge of the site until the depth of natural subsoil exceeded c.0.9m (an allowance for c.0.3m of topsoil and 0.6m of PFA).

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to recover any artefacts that may be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered which was then examined for archaeological deposits and features. A small number of digital photographs using 4megapixel camera were taken.

In the event of features being revealed, a 1:50 scale surface plan would have been constructed and context numbers issued to each feature starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site, and sample sections excavated.

Following archaeological investigation the trench locations were plotted and their depths were noted. Upon completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled.

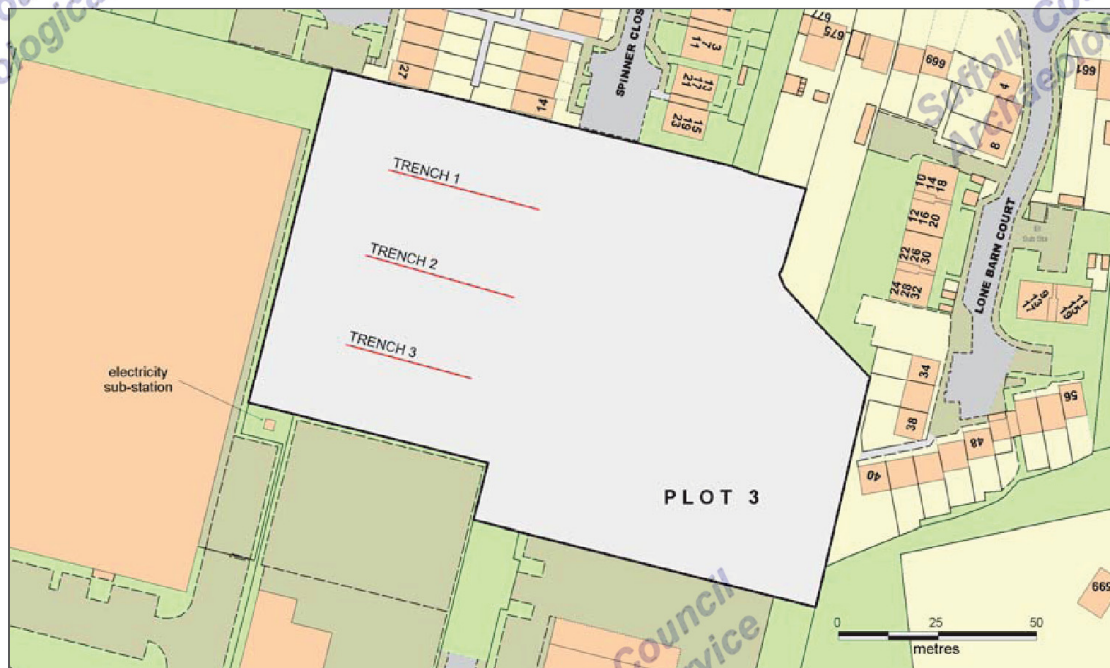


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

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3. Results

Three trenches totalling 115m in length were excavated across Plot 2; see figure 2 for a plan of their locations. The results for each trench were consistent across the site with *c.*0.1m of light sandy topsoil overlying a deposit of PFA which varied in thickness from *c.*0.1m to 0.8m before the natural subsoil, which comprised yellow sand and gravels with occasional areas of brown gravel, was encountered.

Upon excavation of **Trenches 2 & 3** the natural subsoil was immediately encountered at a depth of *c.*0.1m. This was followed until a depth of *c.*0.9m was attained, an event which occurred after *c.*40m of trench had been excavated.

In the western end of **Trench 1** a large pit, at least 7m in diameter, was revealed. The trench was excavated to a depth of *c.*0.9m within this pit but no sign of the base was noted. The pit was backfilled with PFA and very modern rubbish (carpet, aluminium-sheeting etc.). Once beyond this disturbance the subsoil depths were identical to those noted in trenches 2 and 3.

The resultant spoil from the trenches was carefully examined but only late 20th century rubbish was noted and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered.

The interface between the overburden and the natural subsoil was very abrupt and in two or three places modern debris lay on the surface of the natural subsoil. This can be seen as positive proof that the surface of the natural subsoil has been previously truncated although there was no indication as to how much material had been

removed. No archaeological features were noted in any of the trenches although they were cleanly cut and had any features/deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been recognised.

4. The Finds

No finds were recovered from any of the trenches or the resultant spoil tips.

5. Discussion

No archaeological deposits or features relating to any period earlier than the 20th century were noted in the trenches excavated. Evidence for truncation of the natural subsoil was noted in all three trenches and this is likely to have destroyed any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. The former topsoil and any archaeological evidence it may have contained in the form of finds scatters/concentrations had been previously removed.

No artefacts were recovered from the resultant spoil but as the overburden on the site is imported material no conclusions relevant to the early history of the site can be drawn.

6. Recommendations for Future Work

Based on the results of the evaluation it is unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits are under threat from the proposed development. Consequently no further work is recommended.

M. Sommers
Suffolk County Council, Field Projects Team

3rd March 2006

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors. 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.

APPENDIX**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM*****Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*****EASTWAY BUSINESS PARK, EUROPA WAY, IPSWICH**

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (application IP/05/00893/FUL) has been granted for the erection of flats and houses with associated roads, car parking, landscaping and associated works on land at Eastway Business Park, Europa Way, Ipswich (TM 136 456) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be 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 evaluation. Furthermore, this brief applies only to the current development proposal, which has the intention to raise site levels; any change or variation from this plan will require a new archaeological brief.
- 1.3 The development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, part of a complex ritual landscape, recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. In particular, palaeolithic, Neolithic and also Bronze Age finds were recovered from the area of former sand and gravel workings (IPS 018), which lies to the east and also covers the southern half of the development site. In addition, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow containing four burials (IPS 400) and Early Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery sites (IPS 101, IPS 231 and IPS 397) are recorded on the south side of the former Bramford Road pit. Furthermore, the landscape setting of the site, above the River Gipping, has high potential for early occupation.

The southern half of the site (Plots 1 and 2) lies almost entirely within the area of the old sand and gravel pit; the grading plant occupied the eastern half of Plot 2. This pit was subsequently used as a refuse tip. Therefore, there is no archaeological potential within these two plots and the evaluation will be limited entirely to Plot 3, the northern part of the site measuring c. 1.30 ha.

- 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.

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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

- 2.4 Establish whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.

- 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: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of Plot 3 (see Figure 1). However, the information provided within the Site Investigation Report, from bore holes and trial pits, shows that the thickness of recent made-up ground (pulverised fuel ash) varies from c. 0.15m on the western side up to c. 2.50m on the eastern side of Plot 3. In addition, it is the intention of the current development

proposal to raise existing site levels. The significant ground disturbance that has potential to destroy any archaeological deposit that exists (foundations and service trenches) should occur only on the western half of this plot. Therefore, the trenching design should concentrate towards that half of the plot.

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; this will result in a minimum of c. 363m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. The detailed trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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 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 J. Heathcote, 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 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).
- 3.10 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.

- 3.11 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 the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 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, including 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).
- 5.7 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 30 January 2006
2006

Reference: / EastwayBusinessPark-Ipswich

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.