

Honington Primary School, Honington HNN 020

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/168

Client: SCC Corporate Property

Author: Rob Brooks

November/2012

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Honington Primary School, Honington

HNN 020

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SCCAS Report No. 2012/168

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Report Date: November/2012

HER Information

Site Code: HNN 020
Site Name: Honington Primary School
Report Number 2012/168
Planning Application No: Pre-planning
Date of Fieldwork: 29th October, 2012
Grid Reference: TL 9126 7455
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-135240
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Rob Brooks
Client/Funding Body: Suffolk County Council Corporate Property
Client Reference: N/A

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: Rob Brooks

Date: 13/11/2012

Approved by: John Craven

Position: Project Officer

Date: 13/11/2012

Signed:

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

Summary

Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the grounds of Honington Primary School, to the west of the main school buildings. These revealed one small undated pit/posthole. Unstratified later prehistoric flint flakes, as well as one sherd of medieval pottery were recovered. The archaeological levels were well preserved.




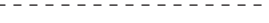







The original trenching plan had to be altered due to the presence of a concrete path and several underground services.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a new classroom block at Honington Primary School, Honington, in Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to inform the planning application. Suffolk County Council Corporate Property funded the work that was carried out on 29th October, 2012. The site is located within an area of grass, immediately south of the playground, west of the main school buildings and north-west of Malting Row, at grid reference TL 9126 7455.

2. Geology and topography

The site's localised topography is fairly flat, with spot heights near the site recorded at 24.9m to 25.6m above the OD. The topography of the wider area forms a gentle slope from the west down to the east, overlooking the Black Bourn River.

The recorded superficial geology for the site consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, overlying a bedrock formation of Chalk Rock (BGS, 2012). On site, the geology presented itself as yellowish-orange sand with abundant small rounded and angular stones.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the historic settlement core of the village, recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) as HNN 018 (Fig. 1). It is also positioned 50m west of the medieval church (HNN 005) and is close to the street frontage; a likely area for medieval and post-medieval occupation. The First and Second Editions of the Ordnance Survey map show the site within an undeveloped area of the grounds of the school. To the north-east of the site Neolithic settlement, Bronze Age cremations, Roman finds and Anglo-Saxon settlement have been recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HNN 004), whilst a lava quern and a possible old road were noted to the west (HNN 006), along with medieval settlement evidence (HNN 014). On fields to the east of Mill Road, finds of Anglo-Saxon and later medieval pottery have been previously collected (HNN 008).

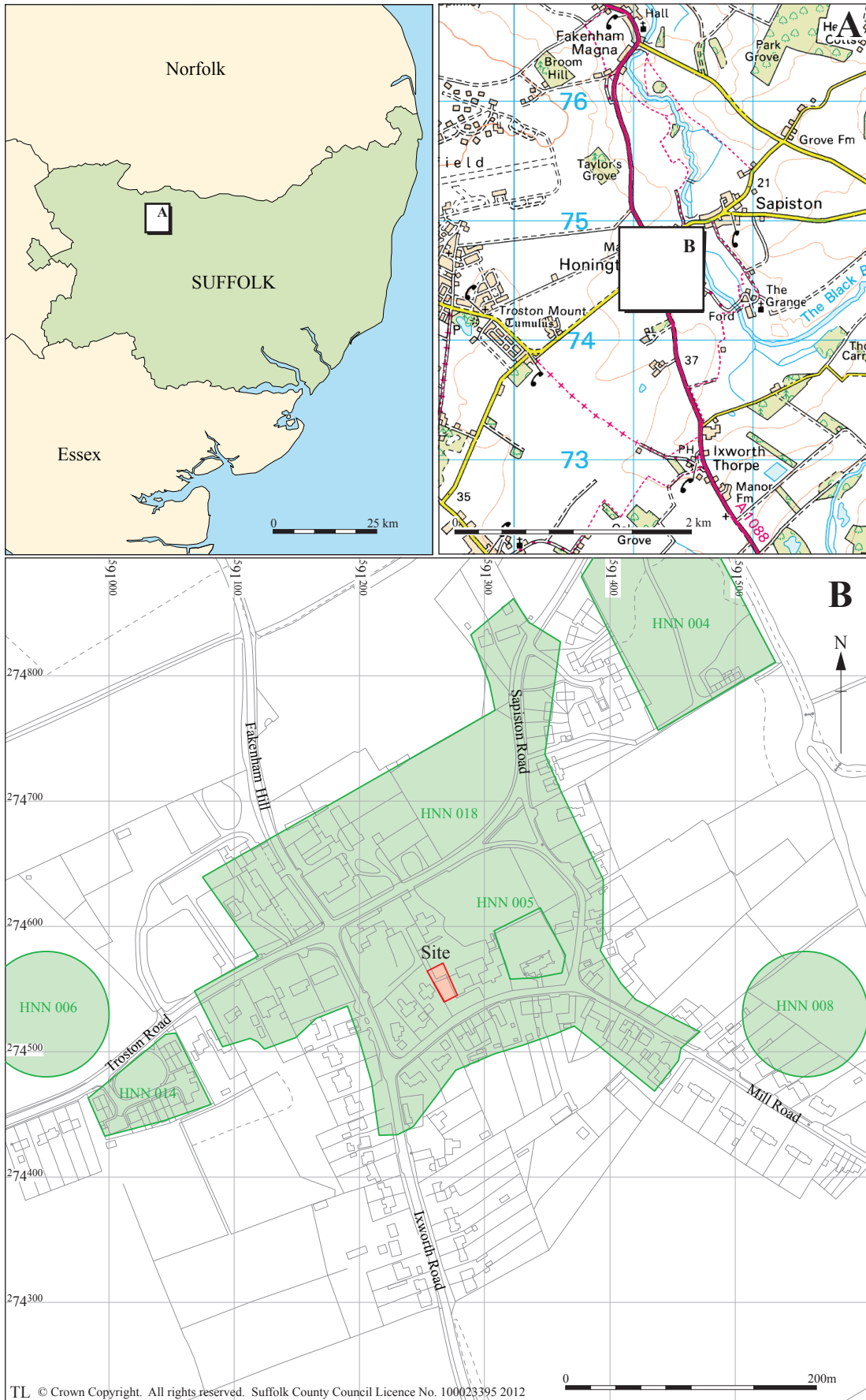


Figure 1. Location of site (approximate outline) showing HER entries as mentioned in the text

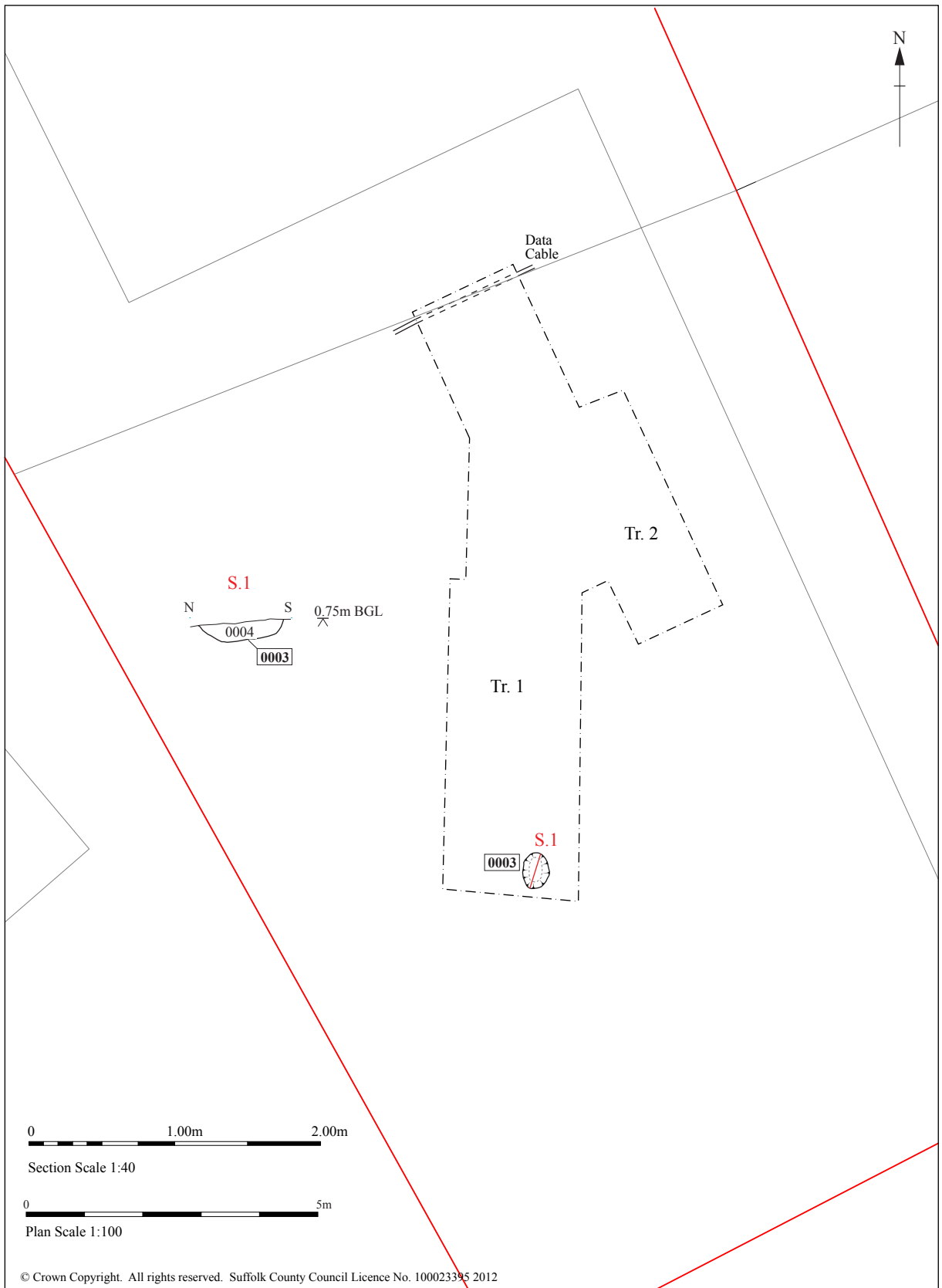


Figure 2. Trench plan and section, with approximate site outline (red)

4. Methodology

Two trenches, aligned north to south and north-west to south-east were excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket, with the excavation being constantly monitored by an experienced archaeologist. The topsoil was removed, followed by the remaining overburden layers, to expose the natural geological layer. All of the upcast spoil was monitored for finds. The trenches were excavated largely within the footprint of the new classroom block (Fig. 2) and were between 1.6m to 2.3m wide x 6.8m to 7.25m long. A concrete path and shed base were present along the south-east edge of the site, whilst a large grassed-over brick soak-away chamber was found in the centre of the site with associated drainage pipes running east to the school. Cable scanning of the site also picked up a possible electrical cable running north-west to south-east across the south-west corner of the site. Subsequently the original trench plan had to be modified and reduced to sample the area as fully as possible without disturbing these services.

When the trench excavations were finished soil profiles were cleaned and then recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* trench sheets, including descriptions and measurements. Colour digital photographs at 4288 x 3216 pixel resolution were taken of feature, the trenches and the site. Plans of the site were hand drawn at 1:50 from known OS points. The pit recorded within Trench 1 was 50% excavated, at which point its section was drawn at 1:20, photographed and recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* context sheets (Appendix 2). It was then fully excavated and planned. No environmental bulk samples were taken from the feature, because it was not securely dated.

Site data regarding the trench has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code HNN 020. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-135240, Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code HNN 020.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

An archaeological feature was found within Trench 1 (Fig. 2). No features were recorded in Trench 2. A layer of topsoil, c.0.3m deep, overlaid buried topsoil/plough soil 0001, which was c.0.4m deep. Underlying this was subsoil/B-horizon 0005, which was up to 0.25m thick and on top of the localised geology. This soil profile was present in both trenches. Unstratified finds from the trenching comprised one sherd of 12th-14th century Bury medieval coarseware pottery and seven pieces of prehistoric flint.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

Pit/posthole 0003

At the southern end of Trench 1 was pit/posthole 0003 (Fig. 2). This was oval in plan, measuring 0.55m (north to south) x 0.44m x 0.13m deep, with 45-75° concave sides and a sloping base down to the north. The fill, 0004, was mid brownish-grey silty-sand, contained frequent small flints and appeared to be partially derived from the natural geology. No finds were recovered from the fill, which was 100% excavated, and it was unclear whether the cut was that of a posthole, or a small pit.



Plate 1. Pit 0003, facing east, 0.3m scale

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

One sherd of pottery (30g) and seven fragments of worked flint (239g) were recorded as unstratified (0002) during the evaluation.

6.2 The Pottery

Medieval

A single body sherd of Bury medieval coarseware (BMCW), dated from the late 12th to 14th century was noted in context 0002. The sherd is only slightly abraded and exhibits some sooting on its outer surface.

6.3 Worked flint

Colin Pendleton

The worked flint assemblage is described below:

1. A later prehistoric patinated flake with unpatinated flake scars and retouch on the dorsal face.
2. An unpatinated irregular and crude hammer stone (and possibly a core). The piece has a few small poor quality flakes removed from it and displays ten percent cortex. It is dated to the Bronze or Iron Age.
3. An unpatinated large oval scrapper with a prepared striking platform that is possibly dated to the Neolithic period.
4. A large unpatinated, but partly stained, snapped flake that is dated to the later prehistoric period and within that, possibly the Neolithic.
5. A later prehistoric unpatinated squat flake with a hinge fracture and around forty per cent cortex on the dorsal face.
6. An unpatinated squat flake with limited edge retouch and a thick sub-triangular cross section. It is dated to the later prehistoric period, probably the Bronze Age or Iron Age.
7. A later prehistoric unpatinated natural flake with limited crude edge retouch.

6.4 Discussion of material evidence

The worked flint assemblage is generally dated to the later prehistoric period. Other sites with activity of this date nearby are seen to the north (FKM 003) and north-east of the current site (HN004).

The site lies within the historic centre of Honington and therefore the presence of medieval pottery is not unexpected. Previous investigations less than a quarter of a kilometre to the south-east (HNN 008) and east of the site (HNN 14) have also registered medieval features and finds.

7. Discussion

The evaluation has revealed that archaeological deposits survive on the site and are preserved below topsoil and buried topsoil/plough soil layers. An undated pit or posthole was excavated, which could be evidence of medieval or post-medieval occupation along the street frontage, or of prehistoric activity, as suggested by the presence of seven unstratified later prehistoric (Neolithic to Iron Age) struck flints.

Whilst the recovery of one sherd of 12th-14th pottery from the site is unremarkable given its position within the village core, the number of unstratified late prehistoric flints may be more significant, suggesting possible activity of this date in the vicinity of the school, rather than just representing a scatter of redeposited material. However, the nature of this occupation is unclear, although the presence of Bronze Age and Neolithic sites to the north-east may suggest that the general area was a favoured area of settlement.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Judging by the deposits encountered within the trenching, it is possible that within the proposed development area further archaeological deposits survive, with the feature and finds recovered indicating low levels of prehistoric and medieval activity. Further groundwork during the site's development may require archaeological monitoring, in order to record any features or finds that may be uncovered and/or destroyed. The need for any further work is ultimately to be determined by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Honington\Honington\HNN 020 Primary School

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQP 54-61

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: H/80/4

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by and directed by Rob Brooks. Project management was undertaken by John Craven, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett, with additional specialist advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

BGS, 2012, Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

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

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation
AT
Honington Primary School, Honington

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk County Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	To be arranged
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 912 745
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of new classroom block
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	10 September 2012

Summary

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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 a Trenched 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 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.

- 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 The application, for the erection of a new teaching block, lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic settlement core (HER no. HNN 018) and close to the medieval church (HER no. HNN 005), defined in the County Historic Environment Record. There is high potential for early occupation 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.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 A single linear trench 20.00m long x 1.80m wide is to be excavated to cover the areas of the proposed classroom block (a further 20.00m trench will be required for the Phase 2 Hall extension).
- 3.5 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

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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*.
- 5.10 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 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.

Appendix 2. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001			Buried soil Layer	Mid brownish-grey silty-sand of a friable compaction. Inclusions of frequent small angular flints and occasional small rounded flints. Root disturbed. Diffuse horizon clarity with subsoil/B-horizon 0005. Either a poor quality topsoil sealed by imported topsoil, or maybe a plough soil?			c.0.4				0005		No	No			
0002			Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds from the site, collected from the topsoil, and buried topsoil/plough soil 0001.									No	No			
0003	0003		Pit/posthole Cut	Oval feature in plan, aligned north to south. 45-75° concave sides, with curving break of slope to base. Straight base, which slopes down to the north. Unclear relationship with layer 0001. Small pit or posthole cut.	0.55	0.44	0.13					0004	No	No			
0004	0003		Pit/posthole Fill	Mid brownish-grey silty-sand of a friable compaction. Frequent small rounded to angular flints. Clear horizon clarity with natural geology. Single fill of feature. 100% excavated. Pit or posthole fill.			0.13				0003		No	No			
0005			Subsoil Layer	Mid greyish-orangish silty-sand of a friable compaction. Frequent small rounded to angular flints throughout, and dense patches of these stones too. Clear horizon clarity with underlying geology. Subsoil/B-horizon of discoloured geology.			c.0.25					0001	No	No			

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-135240

Project details

Project name	HNN 020 Honington Primary School Evaluation
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the grounds of Honington Primary School, to the west of the main school buildings. These revealed one small undated pit/ posthole. Unstratified later prehistoric flint flakes, as well as one sherd of medieval pottery were recovered. The archaeological levels were well preserved. The original trenching plan had to be altered due to the presence of a concrete path and several underground services.
Project dates	Start: 29-10-2012 End: 29-10-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HNN 020 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	HNN 020 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2012/168 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENTS Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY HONINGTON HNN 020, Honington Primary School Evaluation

Postcode	IP31 1RE
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9126 7455 52 0 52 20 06 N 000 48 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28.00m Max: 28.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Suffolk County Council Corporate Property

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	H/80/4
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	HNN 020
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	HNN 020
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Honington Primary School, Honington, HNN 020, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.

Other bibliographic details SCCAS Report No. 2012/168

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher SCCAS

Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Description A4, comb bound, white card covers, in colour, with three appendices. Also available as a pdf.

Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 12 November 2012

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