

**Braholme, Fornham Road,  
Great Barton, Suffolk**

**BRG 055**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/169**

**Client: Mothersole Builders**

Author: Kieron Heard

November 2012



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Great Barton, Suffolk**

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Report Date: November 2012



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** BRG 055  
**Site Name:** Braholme, Fornham Road, Great Barton, Suffolk  
**Report Number** 2012/169  
**Planning Application No:** SE/12/0912/FUL  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 01 November 2012  
**Grid Reference:** TL 885 665  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-136670  
**Curatorial Officer:** Abby Antrobus  
**Project Officer:** Kieron Heard  
**Client:** Mothersole Builders  
**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: Kieron Heard  
Date: November 2012

Approved By: Joanna Caruth  
Position: Senior Project Officer  
Date: November 2012  
Signed:



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## Summary

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BRG 055, Braholme, Fornham Road, Great Barton: An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development on the site. Two trenches (total area 48m<sup>2</sup>) were excavated, representing approximately 3.4% of the whole site and 17% of the area most affected by the proposed development.

The site was on level ground at approximately 59.3m OD. The natural stratum consisted of superficial deposits of Cover Sand.

Prior to the archaeological evaluation a detached house (Braholme) had occupied the site. Within the footprint of the former house disturbed soil deposits overlay the natural sand. Elsewhere, layers of sandy subsoil and modern garden soil overlay the natural sand. Some modern services were encountered but no archaeological features or deposits were seen and no artefacts were recovered.

In the light of these negative results no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the current development. This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.



# 1. Introduction

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An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development at Braholme, Fornham Road, Great Barton. Mothersole Builders commissioned the project and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team, conducted the fieldwork.

The proposed development site is roughly trapezoidal in plan and has an area of approximately 1400m<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded to the southwest by Fornham Road, to the northwest and northeast by the gardens of neighbouring properties and to the southeast by a grass verge (Fig. 1).

## 2. Geology and topography

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Chalk bedrock is overlaid by superficial deposits of wind-blown Cover Sand, as shown on the British Geological Survey's on-line Geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). These superficial deposits support deep loam to clay soils of the Melford Series.

The site is on fairly level ground at approximately 59.3m OD, as estimated from an Ordnance Survey spot height of 59.6m OD on the road surface adjacent to the site.

The site is on the edge of a village setting in an area of Plateau Estate Farmlands, as shown in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment ([www.suffolklandscape.org.uk](http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk)). The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- Flat landscape of light loams and sandy soils
- Large scale rectilinear field pattern
- Network of tree belts and coverts
- Large areas of enclosed former heathland
- 18th–20th century landscape parks
- Clustered villages with a scattering of farmsteads around them
- Vernacular architecture is often 19th century estate type of brick and tile

### **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, as defined in the county Historic Environment Record. It is approximately 150m to the southwest of the recorded find spot of a Bronze Age hoard (BRG 006). Large spreads of Bronze Age material have been found c. 300m to the east (BRG 041) as well as frequent multi-period finds c. 250m to the south (BRG 036). These indicate significant early occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The site is located within the former Barton Park, c. 500m to the south of Barton Hall (BRG 015) and 160m northeast of Barton Lodge (BRG 046).

### **4. Methodology**

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The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Abby Antrobus of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Antrobus, 2012; Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by John Craven of SCCAS, Field Team (Craven, 2012).

The trial trenching took place on 01 November 2012 and was conducted by SCCAS, Field Team. Two trial trenches were excavated within the footprints of two proposed new houses. The trenches measured 15m long x 1.6m wide, and were up to 0.40m deep (Fig. 1). They had a combined area of 48m<sup>2</sup>, representing approximately 3.4% of the whole site and 17% of the area most affected by the development.

All recording (written descriptions and drawings) was done on a single sheet of gridded drawing film. A representative vertical section in Trench 1 was drawn at a scale of 1:10 and some modern features in Trench 2 were planned at a scale of 1:50.

A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images (archived as HQP 045–050) and most of these are reproduced in this report.

A metal detector was employed on all mechanically-excavated topsoil.

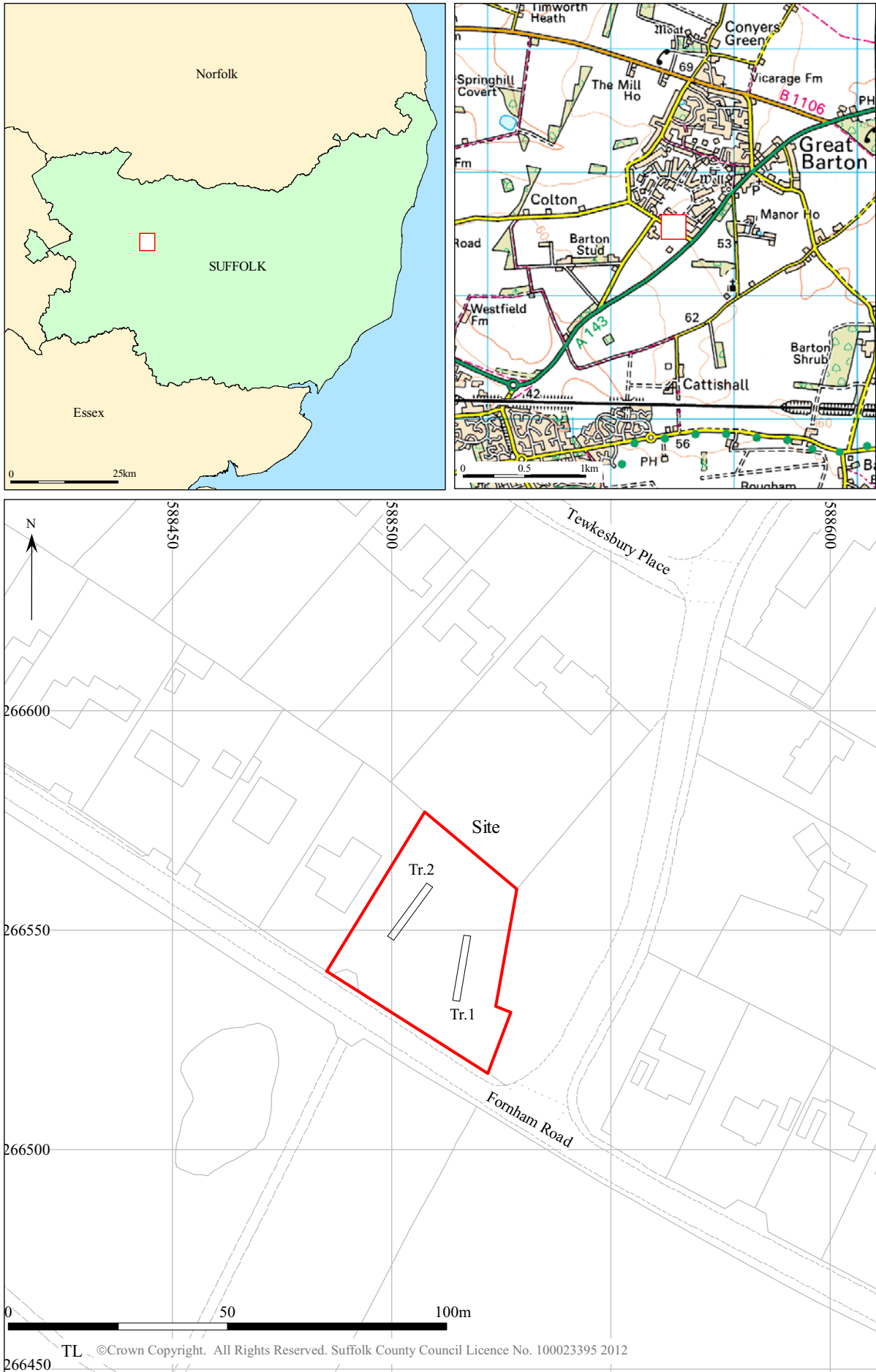


Figure 1. Site location with trench positions

## 5. Results

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### Trench 1

*Dimensions: 15m long (N–S) x 1.60m wide x 0.40m deep*

*Ground level (G.L): 59.3m AOD*

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil	0.00m	Trench-wide
Subsoil	0.25m	Trench-wide
Natural stratum	0.38m	Trench-wide

Table 1. Summary of deposits in Trench 1

Trench 1 revealed a straightforward sequence of horizontal deposits, as described below and shown on Plates 1 and 2. No archaeological or modern features were found.

The natural stratum was a heterogeneous deposit of soft, mottled orangey brown/yellowish brown/greyish brown slightly cohesive silty sand, with moderate fine to medium pebbles and occasional cobbles. It had an indistinct interface with an overlying subsoil layer.

The subsoil was a layer of soft, mottled light yellowish brown and light greyish brown sand with occasional pebbles. There was much root disturbance throughout the deposit, which was generally about 0.15m thick and had an indistinct interface with an overlying garden soil. No cultural material was seen in the subsoil.

The garden soil was soft, mid brownish grey sandy loam with occasional pebbles and some obviously modern material such as brick fragments, plastic and metal objects. It was about 0.20m thick and supported a layer of turf.





Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2. Typical section in Trench 1, looking east (0.3m scale)

## Trench 2

*Dimensions: 15m long (NE–SW) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.30m deep*

*Ground level (G.L): 59.3m AOD*

<b>Feature/deposit type</b>	<b>Depth below G.L</b>	<b>Location</b>
Garden soil	0.00m	NE half of trench
Disturbed soil horizon	0.00m	SW half of trench
Modern features	0.20–0.25m	Trench-wide
Natural stratum	0.20–0.30m	Trench-wide

Table 2. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2

Trench 2 was located partially within the footprint of the recently demolished house. This accounted for a disturbed soil horizon (mixed sand and soil with some brick rubble), up to 0.20m thick, overlying the natural sand in the south-western half of the trench. In the north-eastern half of the trench, outside of the footprint of the former building, the natural sand was sealed by 0.25–0.30m of garden soil. There was no evidence for the subsoil layer seen overlying the natural sand in Trench 1.

There were four modern, linear features in Trench 2, as shown on Plates 3 and 4, and Figure 2.

At the northeast end of the trench was a five-inch diameter ceramic drain, at a depth of only 0.20m below ground level. This was obviously associated with the recently demolished house.

Near the centre of the trench was a land drain – a narrow trench (0.15m wide) filled with angular flint pebbles. This was probably an agricultural feature pre-dating the house.

Two linear features, 0.60m and 0.80m wide, were filled with mixed sand and brick/concrete rubble. They were probably service trenches associated with the house.





Plate 3. General view of Trench 2, showing modern features, looking NE (1m scale)



Plate 4. Modern ceramic drain at the northeast end of Trench 2

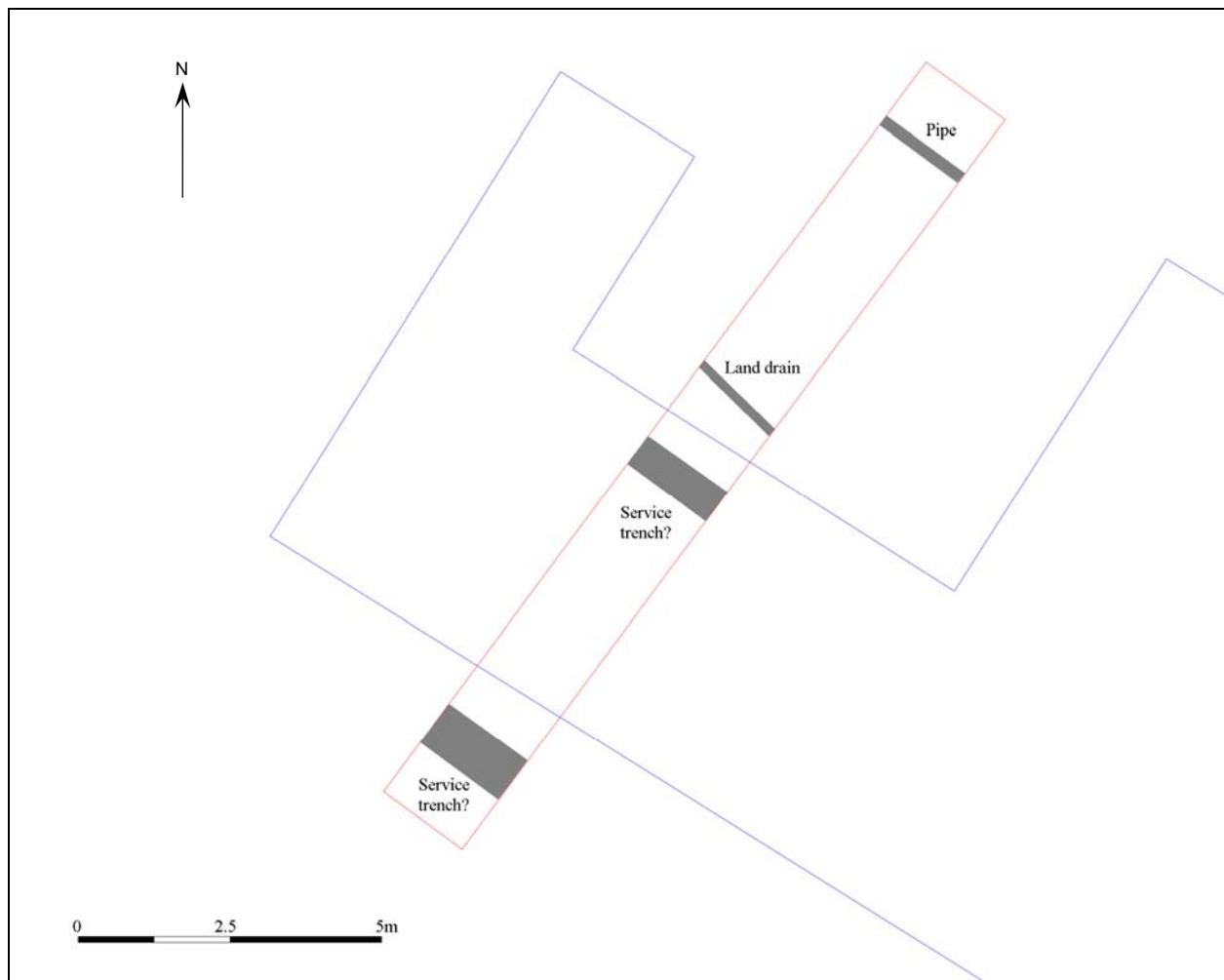


Figure 2. Modern features in Trench 2, in relation to the former house (blue)

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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No archaeological deposits or features were found and no artefacts were recovered. Consequently no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the current development of the site.

This evaluation report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

## **7. Archive deposition**

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Paper archive: SCCAS office, Ford House, Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Barton Great\BRG 055 Braholme Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\ HQP 045–050)

## **8. Acknowledgements**

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Mr. Graham Mothersole of Mothersole Builders commissioned and funded the project.

Abby Antrobus (SCCAS, Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification and monitored the project. Jo Caruth managed the project and Kieron Heard carried out the fieldwork (SCCAS, Field Team).

Rob Brooks produced Figure 1 and Kieron Heard produced Figure 2.

## **9. Bibliography**

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Craven, J., 2012, Braholme, Fornham Road, Great Barton: Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment, SCCAS (unpubl)

Antrobus, A., 2012, *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Braholme, Great Barton, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)



## Appendix 1. Brief and specification

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### Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

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### BRAHOLME, GREAT BARTON, SUFFOLK

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	SE/12/0921/FUL
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TL 885 665
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Erection of two dwellings
<b>AREA:</b>	0.14 ha
<b>CURRENT LAND USE:</b>	Residential
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Abby Antrobus Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel: 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	19 September 2012

#### Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition \*\*) 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 Evaluation is required to inform the scope of the programme of works. The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), 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 for the first stage of works. 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 The proposal for the erection of two houses following the demolition of the existing dwelling affects an area of archaeological potential, c150m from the recorded find spot of a Bronze Age hoard (BRG 006). Large spreads of Bronze age (BRG 041) and multiperiod finds (BRG 056) have been found to the east, suggesting significant early occupation in this immediate topographic context. There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest and importance in the 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 PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.



- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.4 Two 15m trial trenches are to be excavated to sample parts of the site that will be affected by development. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.161.00m 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.
- 4.6 Any demolition on the site should be to ground level only until evaluation has taken place.

### **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 1.1.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **Notes**

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