

**Former Lime Tree Bungalow,
Back Street, Lakenheath**

LKH 345

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/174

Client: Mrs. M. Sambridge

Author: Kieron Heard

November 2012

Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street, Lakenheath

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HER Information

Site Code: LKH 345

Site Name: Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street,
Lakenheath

Report Number 2012/174

Planning Application No: F/2012/0382/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 08 November 2012

Grid Reference: TL 7146 8295

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-136853

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Client: Mrs. M. Sambridge

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

LKH 345, Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street, Lakenheath: An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development on the site. Five trenches (total area 80m²) were excavated, representing approximately 4.5% of the area of the site.

The site was on sloping ground at a maximum height of approximately 11.2m OD. The natural strata consisted of weathered chalk bedrock overlaid in places by superficial deposits of alluvial sand and gravel.

A thin layer of sandy subsoil and thicker deposits of modern garden soil overlay the natural strata. Some 19th- and 20th-century pits and a 20th-century foundation were encountered but no archaeological features or deposits were seen and no artefacts were recovered.

In the light of these limited 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 submitted to the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

1. Introduction

An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development at Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street, Lakenheath. Mrs. M. Sambridge 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 1800m². It is bounded to the west by Back Street, to the north by a neighbouring garden, to the east by a football ground and to the south by an electricity sub-station (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

Chalk bedrock (part of the Holywell Nodular Chalk and New Pit Chalk Formations) is shown on the British Geological Survey's on-line Geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Although no superficial deposits are recorded in the area of the site, undifferentiated alluvial deposits of sand and gravel are shown nearby. These natural strata support deep sandy soils of the Methwold Series.

The site is on gently sloping ground draining towards the Cut-off Channel located approximately 300m to the west. Ground level falls from 11.2m AOD at the eastern end of the site to 10.0m AOD at its western boundary.

The site is in a village setting in an area of Settled Chalklands, as shown in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk). The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- Chalk and gravel outcrops on the fen edge
- Small farms and small holdings
- Regular pattern of fields consistent with late enclosure

- Tree belts of poplar and pine
- Scattered small plantations
- Comprehensively settled with small hamlets
- Considerable recent settlement expansion
- Airbase dominant in the landscape

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site is located within the historic core of Lakenheath village (LKH 254), as defined in the county Historic Environment Record. Consequently the site was identified by the Conservation Officer as having high potential for archaeological deposits relating to medieval and earlier occupation. Additionally a post-medieval lime kiln (LKH 151) is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1880 in a former chalk pit to the east of the site. The chalk pit is occupied today by the Lakenheath football ground.

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Tipper, 2012; Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by Joanna Caruth of SCCAS, Field Team (Caruth, 2012).

The trial trenching took place on 08 November 2012 and was conducted by SCCAS, Field Team. Five trial trenches were excavated within the footprints of two proposed new houses and associated garages. The trenches measured 10m long x 1.6m wide, and were up to 0.70m deep (Fig. 1). They had a combined area of 80m², representing approximately 4.5% of the whole site.

Trench descriptions were made on *pro forma* Trench Recording Sheets. Plans of some deposits and features in Trench 1 were drawn at a scale of 1:20 on a single sheet of gridded drawing film, accompanied by written descriptions. Six context numbers were allocated.

A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images (archived as HRE 028–041). Many of these are reproduced in this report and a catalogue of digital images is included as Appendix 2.

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

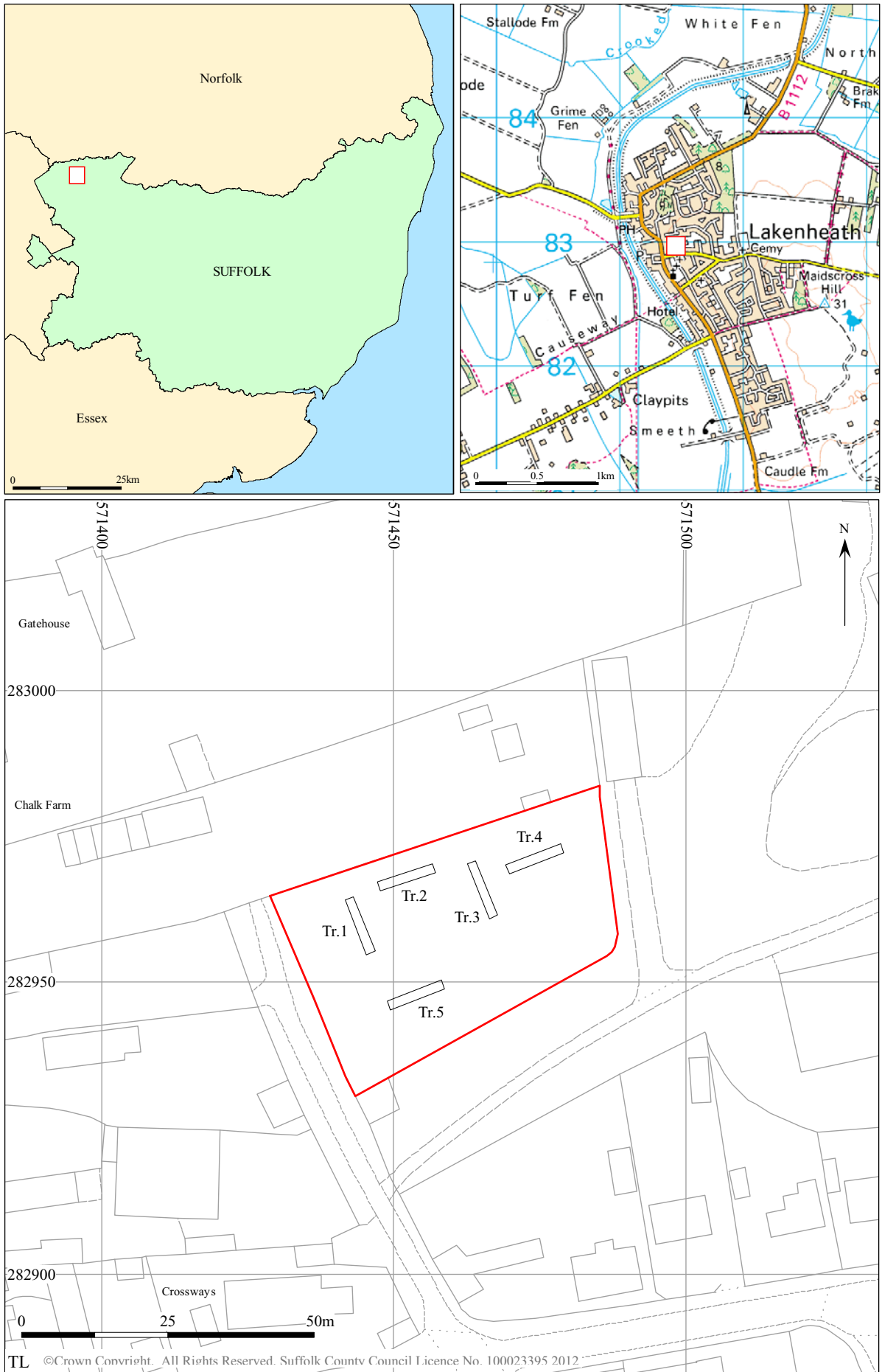


Figure 1. Site location and trench plan

5. Results

Introduction

Generally the evaluation trenches revealed straightforward sequences of horizontal strata, comprising natural deposits of chalk and sand sealed by thin and discontinuous deposits of sandy subsoil and a thicker, ubiquitous deposit of modern garden soil and turf.

The natural chalk had a broken and weathered surface and contained occasional to moderate flint nodules. It included patches and sinuous veins of light yellowish brown, fine sand. In some areas the chalk was overlaid by deposits of soft, mid reddish brown fine sand with moderate angular to sub-rounded pebbles; these deposits were generally horizontal but also filled probable solution hollows in the surface of the chalk.

The subsoil (context 0005) was a loose deposit of mid brown silty sand with moderate pebbles, up to 0.10m thick and having an indistinct interface with the underlying natural sand. No cultural material was seen in this deposit.

The garden soil (context 0006) was a site-wide layer of friable, dark brownish grey sandy loam with moderate pebbles and much recent rooting. It was generally 0.35m thick and had an indistinct interface with underlying subsoil 0005 and the natural sand.

Several cut features were noted or recorded below the garden soil, and these are described below.

Trench 1

Dimensions: 10m long (NNW–SSE) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.75m deep

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil 0006	0.00m	Trench-wide
Foundation 0001	0.35m	North end of trench
Pit 0004	0.35m	North end of trench
Animal burial	0.35m	South end of trench
Natural strata	0.35m	Trench-wide

Table 1. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 1

Comments

Natural strata consisted mainly of sand with a localised outcrop of weathered chalk in the centre of the trench. Three cut features were recorded, as illustrated on Figure 2 and shown on Plates 1–3.

Pit 0004, at the north end of the trench, measured >1.7m north–south x >1.6m east–west and was at least 0.65m deep. Only the southeast corner of the pit was within the evaluation trench and its eastern edge had a very irregular, stepped profile.

Upper fill 0002 was a deposit of firm, mid brownish grey clayey sand, up to 0.50m thick. It contained moderate chalk and mortar rubble and occasional fragments of Victorian or later china (including transfer-printed wares), bottle glass, clinker, brick, tile and 19th-century clay tobacco pipe stems. None of these finds were retained.

Middle fill 0003 was a friable mixture of mid grey sandy clay and chalk and mortar lumps, up to 0.10m thick. It contained one fragment of ‘willow pattern’ pottery, which was not retained. A thin, basal fill of ‘dirty’ sand, devoid of finds, was not numbered separately.

Pit 0004 was cut by the construction trench for a linear chalk and flint foundation 0001. It was built mainly of small chalk fragments (clunch) with occasional flint nodules and brick rubble, all bonded heavily with an off-white lime mortar. The foundation was >3.6m long x 0.30m wide x 0.62m deep. It was traced beyond the north end of Trench 1 for a distance of at least 2.3m.

A small, sub rectangular pit at the south end of Trench 1 (not numbered) contained some articulated mammal bones (sheep, probably), though not obviously a complete skeleton. The pit fill contained some ‘willow pattern’ pottery, brick fragments, an unidentified iron object and a 19th-century clay tobacco pipe stem fragment.

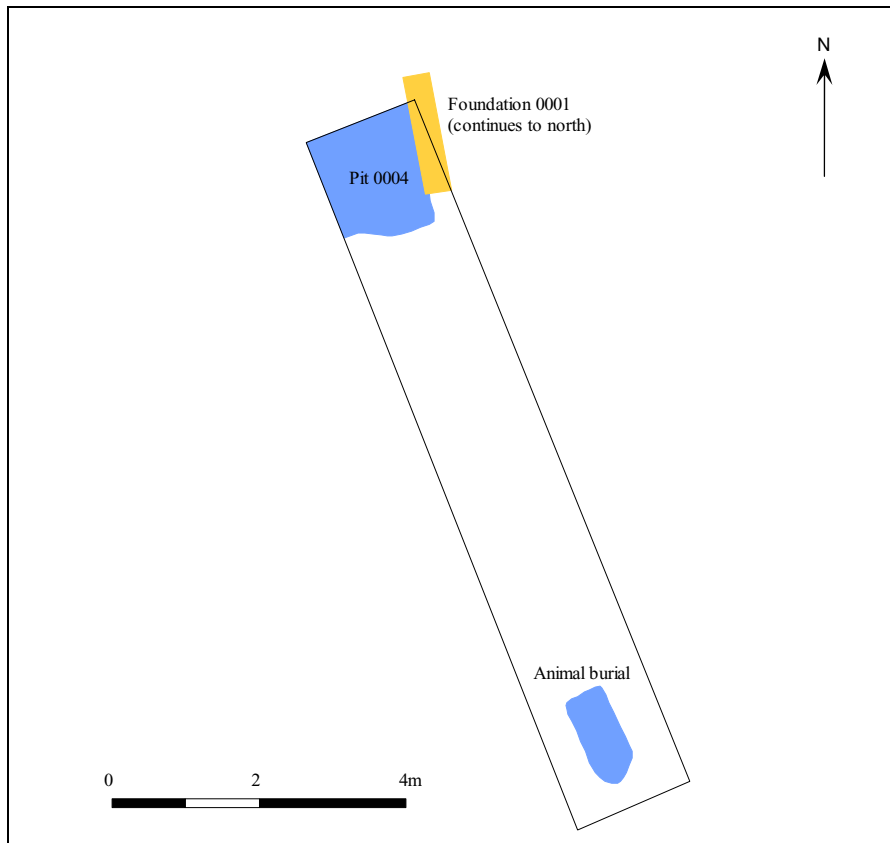


Figure 2. Plan of features in Trench 1



Plate 1. Foundation 0001 cutting pit 0004, looking east (0.5m scale)



Plate 2. Foundation 0001 cutting pit 0004, looking north



Plate 3. Animal burial at the south end of Trench 1, looking east (0.5m scale)

Trench 2

Dimensions: 10m long (WSW–ENE) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.45m deep

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil 0006	0.00m	Trench-wide
Modern pit	0.35m	Centre of trench
Subsoil 0005	0.35m	Trench-wide
Natural strata	0.45m	Trench-wide

Table 2. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 2

Comments

Generally Trench 2 contained a straightforward sequence of natural chalk or sand, subsoil and garden soil, as shown on Plate 4. A large pit was noted in the centre of the trench, below garden soil 0006; it was not recorded as it contained modern material such as window glass and rubber tubing.

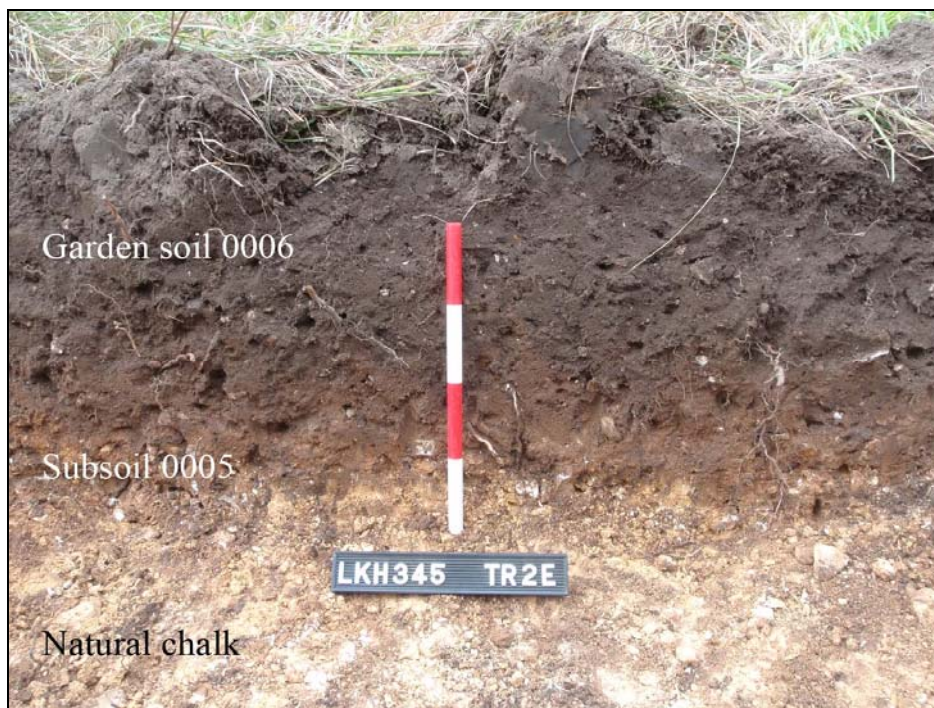


Plate 4. South-facing section at the east end of Trench 2 (0.4m scale)

Trench 3

Dimensions: 10m long (NNW–SSE) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.70m deep

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil 0006	0.00m	Trench-wide
Modern pipe trench	0.35m	Southern half of trench
Subsoil 0005	0.35m	Trench-wide
Natural sand	0.45m	Trench-wide
Natural chalk	0.60m	Trench-wide

Table 3. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 3

Comments

Generally Trench 3 contained a straightforward sequence of natural chalk, natural sand, subsoil and garden soil, as shown on Plates 5 and 6. A modern sewer pipe trench was noted at about 7m from the north end of the trench, running towards a septic tank to the east of the evaluation trench.



Plate 5. General view of Trench 3, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 6. West-facing section at the north end of Trench 3 (0.5m scale)

Trench 4

Dimensions: 10m long (WSW–ENE) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.50m deep

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil 0006	0.00m	Trench-wide
Subsoil 0005	0.35m	Trench-wide
Natural sand	0.50m	Trench-wide

Table 4. Summary of deposits in Trench 4

Comments

Trench 4 revealed a straightforward sequence of natural sand (with occasional patches of weathered chalk), subsoil 0005 and garden soil 0006. No features (modern or otherwise) were present.

Trench 5

Dimensions: 10m long (WSW–ENE) x 1.60m wide x up to 0.60m deep

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Garden soil 0006	0.00m	Trench-wide
Modern cut features	0.40m	Centre of trench
Natural strata	0.40m	Trench-wide

Table 5. Summary of deposits and features in Trench 5

Comments

Garden soil 0006 was disturbed greatly by large tree roots, which penetrated the underlying natural strata. Subsoil 0005 was not apparent in this trench. Some irregular cut features in the eastern half of the trench (Pl. 7) contained modern brick and glass fragments and were not recorded archaeologically.



Plate 7. General view of Trench 5, looking east (1m scale)

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Some 19th- and 20th-century features were recorded but no archaeological deposits or features were found and no artefacts were retained. The chalk foundation 0001 in Trench 1 was perpendicular to the existing boundary wall; investigation of a contractor's test pit against the boundary wall indicated that it too was built on a chalk foundation.

In the light of these limited results 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 submitted to the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

7. Archive deposition

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

Digital archive: R:\Environmental

Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Lakenheath\LKH 345 Former Lime Tree Bungalow Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\ HRE 028–041)

8. Acknowledgements

Mrs. M. Sambridge commissioned and funded the project.

Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification and monitored the project. Joanna Caruth managed the project and Kieron Heard carried out the fieldwork with the assistance of Rob Brooks (SCCAS, Field Team).

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

9. Bibliography

Caruth, J., 2012, Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Lakenheath: Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment, SCCAS (unpubl)

Tipper, J., 2012, *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street, Lakenheath*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Former Lime Tree Bungalow, Back Street, Lakenheath

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Forest Heath District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	F/2012/0382/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 285 671
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of two dwellings and garaging
AREA:	0.18 ha.
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	1 October 2012

Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been that any permission granted should be the subject of a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation.
- 1.2 In this case, an archaeological evaluation will be required to establish the potential of the site and decisions on the need for any further investigation (excavation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks) will be made on the basis of the results of the evaluation.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement for archaeological evaluation, 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 The proposed development lies within the historic core of Lakenheath (County Historic Environment Record no. LKH 254). There is high potential for encountering archaeological deposits relating to medieval and earlier occupation in this 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 the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 141) 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 90.00m². 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 50.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
 - 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench, in relation to the proposed new development, 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 reissued 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. Digital image catalogue

Code/number	Description
HRE 028	South-facing section at the east end of Trench 2 (0.4m scale)
HRE 029	General view of Trench 2, looking east (1m scale)
HRE 030	General view of Trench 3, looking south (1m scale)
HRE 031	West-facing section at the north end of Trench 3 (0.5m scale)
HRE 032	General view of Trench 4, looking east (1m scale)
HRE 033	General view of Trench 5, looking east (1m scale)
HRE 034	North-facing section at the west end of Trench 5 (0.5m scale)
HRE 035	19th C pit with articulated animal bones, at the south end of Trench 1. Looking near vertical from west side (0.5m scale)
HRE 036	Working shot, Trench 1, looking north
HRE 037	Working shot, Trench 1, looking north
HRE 038	Foundation 0001 and pit 0004, in Trench 1. Looking east (0.5m scale)
HRE 039	Foundation 0001 and pit 0004, in Trench 1. Looking east (0.5m scale)
HRE 040	Foundation 0001 and pit 0004, in Trench 1. Looking NE (0.5m scale)
HRE 041	Foundation 0001 and pit 0004, in Trench 1. Looking NE, wider view (0.5m scale)