Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk

RGV 055

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/189

Client: Gooderham Bros

Author: Kieron Heard

December 2012

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Report Date: December 2012

HER Information

Site Code:	**RGV 055**
Site Name:	**Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk**
Report Number	**2012/189**
Planning Application No:	**3498/09**
Date of Fieldwork:	**03 December 2012**
Grid Reference:	**TM 0439 7812**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1-138244**
Curatorial Officer:	**Dr. Jess Tipper**
Project Officer:	**Kieron Heard**
Client:	**Gooderham Bros**
Client Reference:	**n/a**

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Prepared By: Kieron Heard
Date: December 2012

Approved By: John Craven
Position: Senior Project Officer
Date: December 2012
Signed:

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Summary

RGV 055, Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave: An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development on the site. One trench (23.4m^2) was excavated, equating to 27% of the area affected most by the proposed building work.

The site was on gently sloping ground at a maximum height of 42.8m AOD. The natural stratum was glaciofluvial sand and gravel.

The trench revealed modern dumped deposits overlying the natural stratum. No archaeological deposits or features were seen and no artefacts were recovered.

In the light of these negative results no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the proposed development. This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

1. Introduction

An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in relation to a planning application for a residential development at Street Farm, The Street, Redgrave. Iain Wright Associates Ltd commissioned the project on behalf of their clients Gooderham Bros. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team, conducted the fieldwork.

The proposed development is for a single dwelling located within the farmyard complex of Street Farm on the site of an extant modern barn. The evaluation trench was located adjacent to the barn (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

Chalk bedrock is overlaid by superficial deposits of Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation and Lowestoft Formation (Undifferentiated), 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 and well-drained sandy soils of the Newport 4 Series.

The site is on gently sloping ground at a maximum height of 42.8m OD. It is 1km to the south of Redgrave and Lopham Fen and the sources of the Rivers Little Ouse and Waveney. It is in a village setting in an area of Ancient Plateau Claylands, as shown in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk). The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- Flat or gently rolling arable landscape of clay soils dissected by small river valleys
- Field pattern of ancient enclosure – random patterns in the south but often co-axial in the north
- Small patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens
- Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin

- Villages often associated with medieval greens or tyes
- Farmstead buildings are predominantly timber-framed, the houses colour-washed and the barns blackened with tar. Roofs are frequently tiled, though thatched houses can be locally significant
- Scattered ancient woodland parcels containing a mix of oak, lime, cherry, hazel, hornbeam, ash and holly
- Hedges of hawthorn and elm with oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees

3. Archaeological and historical background

Street Farm lies within the Redgrave historic settlement core and in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). An excavation in 2003 at nearby Dudleys Close revealed medieval building remains and associated features (RGV 043), and medieval artefacts are recorded at RGV 030 and RGV 041/ RGV 044, *c.*150m to the northwest of the site. An evaluation in the western part of the Street Farm farmyard complex (RGV 053) revealed post-medieval deposits and features. These HER entries are located on Figure 1.

The farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (List ID 1261238), fronting onto The Street. It is of timber-framed construction and dates to the mid 17th century with 19th-century alterations. The farmyard complex to the rear of the farmhouse includes an early 19th-century stable range, a mid 19th-century brick-built malt house and 20th-century covered yards. The farm buildings have been the subject of a historic building survey (RGV 049; Alston 2011).

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out broadly in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Tipper, 2009; Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by John Craven of SCCAS, Field Team (Craven, 2012).

The trial trenching took place on 03 December 2012 and was conducted by SCCAS, Field Team. One trial trench was dug using a small, 360º excavator, with mechanical excavation continuing to the surface of the natural stratum. The trench measured 13m long x 1.8m wide and was up to 0.40m deep. The trench had an area of 23.4m^2, equating to 27% of the area of the site most affected by the proposed building work.

Site records were made in a field notebook and have been reproduced in full in this report. Due to the limited nature of the results no context numbers were allocated and no drawn records were made.

Heights were calculated by reference to a temporary bench mark of 41m AOD on the road surface adjacent to the site entrance.

A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images (archived as HRW 094–096) and all images are reproduced in this report.

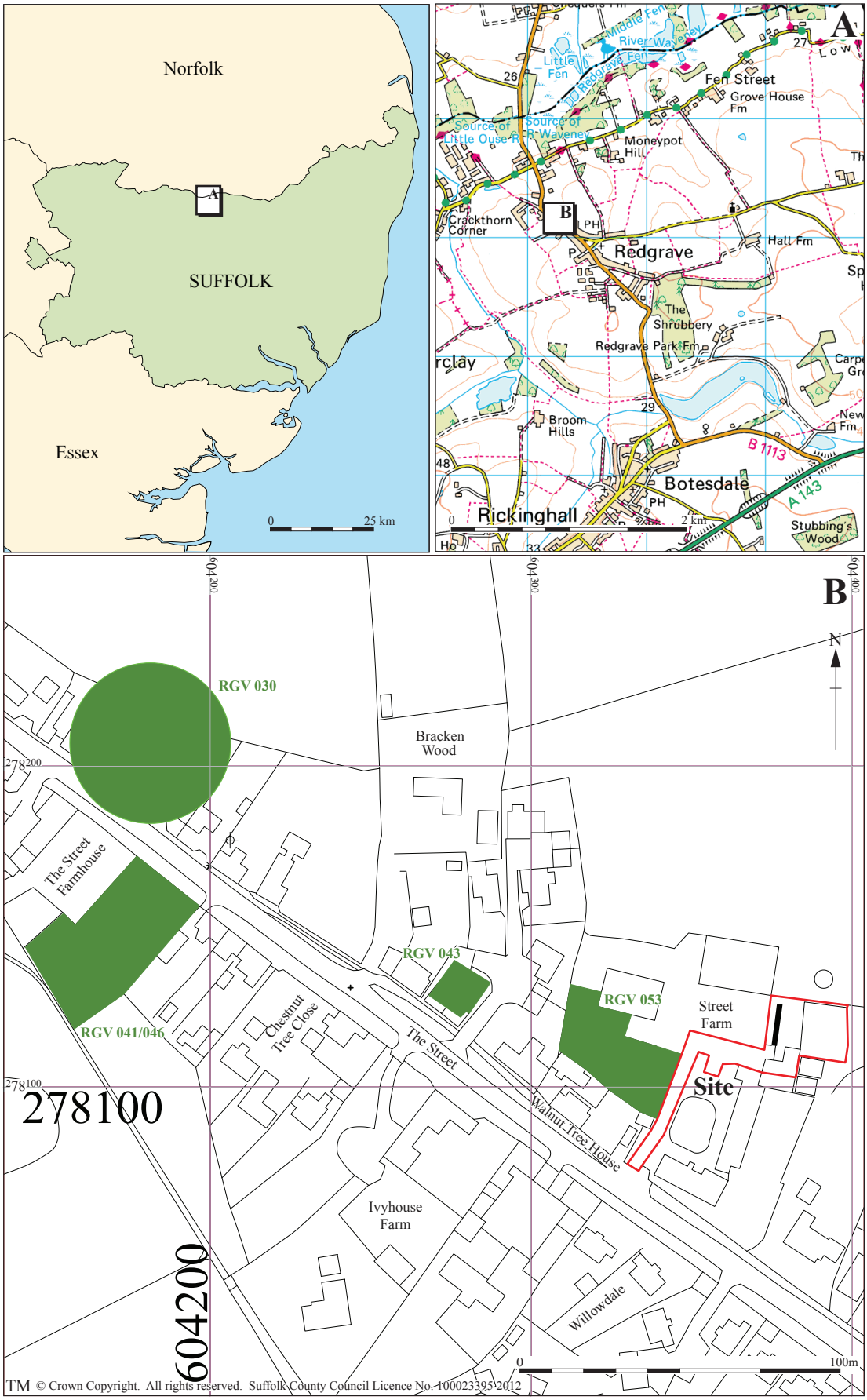

Figure 1. Site location with trench position, and HER entries mentioned in the text

5. Results

Trench summary

Dimensions: 13m long (NNE–SSW) x 1.80m wide x up to 0.40m deep

Ground level (G.L): 42.77m AOD (NNE), 42.50m AOD (SSW)

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Turf and topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
Modern dumping	0.10m	Trench-wide
Natural stratum	0.40m (NNE); 0.30m (SSW)	Trench-wide

Table 1. Summary of deposits

The natural stratum was a heterogeneous deposit of loose, light yellowish brown sand with frequent fine to medium pebbles and occasional cobbles. It had a sharp interface with overlying deposits.

The natural sand was sealed by mixed deposits of crushed chalk, sandy gravel and grey clay/silt with flint cobbles, with a combined thickness of up to 0.30m. These deposits contained fragments of obviously modern building material.

The modern dumps were sealed by topsoil and turf, up to 0.10m thick, forming the current ground surface.

Discussion

Developed soil profiles were not present and modern dumped deposits directly overlay the natural stratum, indicating that there had been considerable truncation in this part of the site. This probably occurred when the adjoining barn was built.

Plate 1. General view of the evaluation trench, looking north (1m scale)

Plate 2. Oblique view of the south end of the evaluation trench

Plate 3. West-facing section at the south end of the trench (0.3m scale)

6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work

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

This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

7. Archive deposition

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\ Redgrave\RGV 055 evaluation

Digital photographic archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\ Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HRA-HRZ\HRW\094–096

8. Acknowledgements

Digby Townshend of Iain Wright Associates Ltd commissioned the project on behalf of Gooderham Bros.

Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification and monitored the project. John Craven managed the project and Kieron Heard carried out the fieldwork with the assistance of John Sims (SCCAS, Field Team).

Graphics are by Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy

9. Bibliography

Alston, L., 2011, *Agricultural buildings at Street Farm, Redgrave, Suffolk, RGV 049: Heritage Asset Assessment*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Craven, J., 2012, *Street Farm, Redgrave: Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment,* SCCAS (unpubl)

Tipper, J., 2012, *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at Street Farm, Redgrave*, *Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

STREET FARM, REDGRAVE, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission is to be sought from Mid Suffolk District Council for the construction of a new dwelling (following demolition of an existing barn) at Street Farm, Redgrave, Suffolk (TM 043 781). Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the proposed development.

1.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

1.3 The proposed development area is located on the eastern side of The Street in the centre of Redgrave. It is situated on glaciofluvial drift (deep sand) at *c*. 40 - 45.00m AOD.

1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core. Archaeological excavations immediately to the north have defined medieval settlement remains (HER no. RGV 043). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as a first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, the following work is required:

Collation and assessment of historic documentation, including all cartographic sources, relevant to the site to identify historic landuse and the siting of old boundaries and which would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site. Where possible copies should be included in the report.

A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place, informed by the results of the documentary survey.

1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

1.11 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. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

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 the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

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 SCCAS/CT (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: Assessment of Historic Documentation

3.1 Collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and any earlier buildings. Where possible copies should be included in the report.

3.2 Collation and assessment of historic documentation relevant to the site that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 25.00m2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 14.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.

4.2 The trial trenches should be excavated prior to the demolition of the existing farm building, to avoid any disturbance to underlying deposits, which might be of archaeological importance.

4.3 If excavation is mechanised a toothless ‘ditching bucket’ at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

4.4 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

4.5 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

4.6 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. For guidance: 4

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

4.7 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.

4.8 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 show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

4.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

4.12 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.

4.13 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 SCCAS/CT.

4.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

4.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4.16 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made. 5

5.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

5.6 The Institute of Field 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.

6. Report Requirements

6.1 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).

6.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

6.4 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.

6.5 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.

6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of 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).

6.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

6.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

6.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

6.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. 6

6.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

6.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

6.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

6.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

6.15 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

6.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

6.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

6.18 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.

6.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive). 7

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Date: 19 May 2009 Reference: / StreetFarm-Redgrave2009

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.

Suffolk County Council

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