

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

## Proposed Reservoir, Place Farm, Ingham, ING 026

**OASIS ID: suffolkc1 – 13858**

A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006  
(Planning app. no SE/05/01888)



Figure 1: Showing site location

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Jezz Meredith  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service  
© April 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

## Summary

A trenched evaluation revealed no archaeological features or deposits. A small unstratified collection of worked flints indicates casual loss in the prehistoric period. Oyster shell and pottery of medieval and post-medieval date recovered as surface finds probably indicate past manuring.

### SMR information: ING 026

Planning application no. SE/05/01888  
Date of fieldwork: 28<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006  
Grid Reference: TL 8499 7036  
Funding body: Ingham Place Farms

### List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Jezz Meredith	Project Officer
Cathy Tester	Finds Officer
Anna West	Finds supervisor
Colin Pendleton	County SMR officer

### Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Ingham Place Farms and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was completed by members of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The excavation was carried out by Rob Atfield and Jezz Meredith. Finds processing was carried out by Cathy Tester and Anna West and the specialist finds report was produced by Cathy Tester. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Dr Colin Pendleton, SCCAS Conservation Team. The project was managed by John Newman

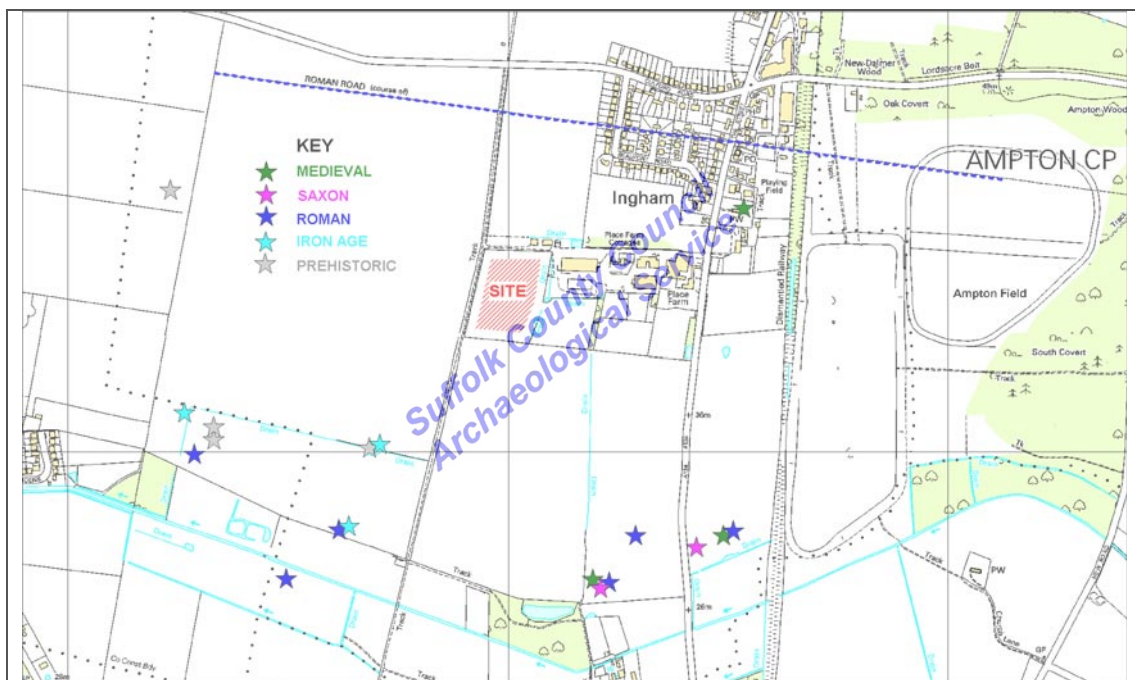
### Introduction

Ingham is located approximately 4 miles north of Bury St Edmunds with Place Farm situated to the south of the village (see figure 1). The location for the proposed reservoir at Place Farm is a site of approximately 200m by 150m (3 hectares). The site is located on a gentle south-facing slope between the 30m and 40m contours with a ridge of higher ground to the north and the valley of a small tributary of the River Lark to the south.

The soils are a heavy clay loam with frequent small flints over a stiff chalky clay natural with some sandy patches. An area of deep excavation within the centre of the site (for previous sand extraction) showed a capping of clay (of c.1m) over c.2m of sand before encountering chalk.

The site is within 450m of the medieval church of St Bartholomew's to the north-east, which would indicate the medieval core of the village. An east to west Roman road runs 300m to the north of the site along the hill ridge. Within the valley to the south findspots and cropmarks of archaeological interest have been recorded. Finds scatters of Roman, Saxon and medieval date have been noted c.600m to the south-east. Iron Age and Roman pottery and cropmarks of likely prehistoric age have been recorded between 400 and 800m to the south-west. A scatter of prehistoric flints have been detected 700m to the west (see figure 2).

As a condition of planning consent the site was investigated by archaeological trial trenching to establish if any archaeological deposits or finds were present (see Appendix 1: Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation). A 5% sample by area was undertaken between the 28<sup>th</sup> February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 by members of the Field Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.



**Figure 2: Site location and nearby archaeological findspots (north to the top).**

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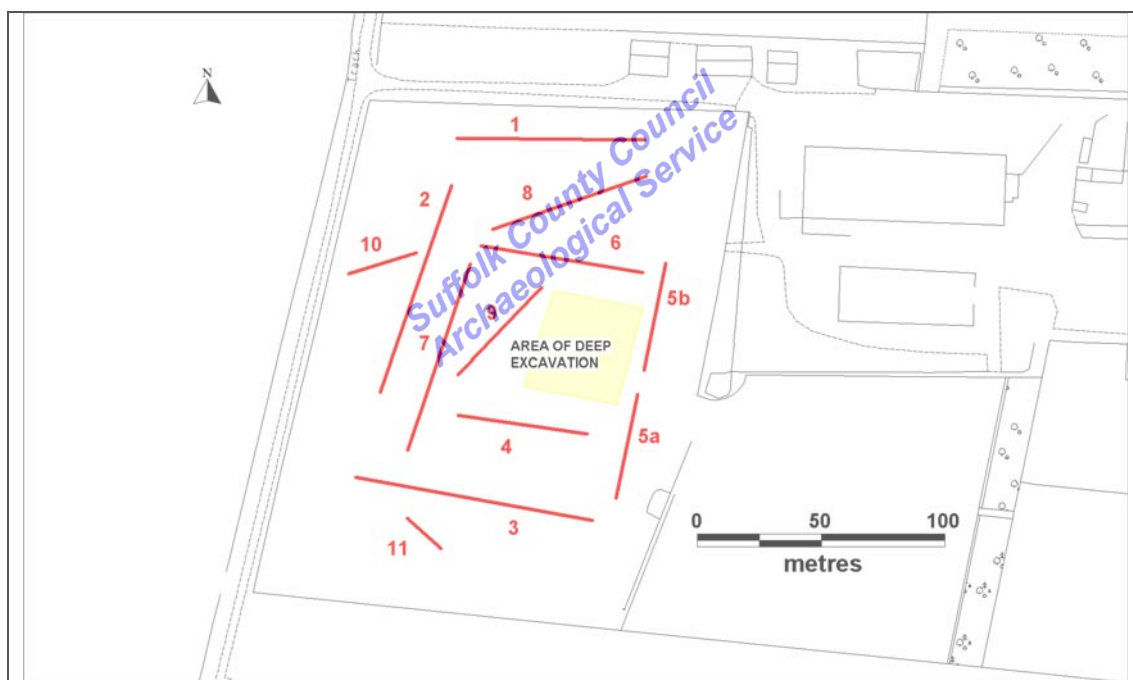
## Method

Trenching was conducted using a 180° machine (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were spaced across the site to provide a 5% sample of the area under investigation. An area of deep excavation in the centre of the site had to be avoided. Approximately 700m of trench were opened (see figure 3).

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits in the base of the trench. Any possible archaeological features were investigated at this level. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated - all proved to be of natural origin. Separate deposits (topsoil, subsoil etc) were given O.P. (observable phenomena; sometimes referred to as context) numbers (see Excavation Results below).

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds. The site code ING 026 will be used to identify all elements of the archive associated with this project.



**Figure 3: Trench locations**

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## Excavation Results

No archaeological features or deposits were recognised during the evaluation. A small quantity of surface finds (pottery, flints and shell) were recovered from the surface of the ploughsoil and were given the context number 0001 (see finds report below).

Details of trench orientation, dimension and depths and character of deposit are given in Table 1. Across the site the following layers and deposits were recognised:

Ploughsoil 0002. Dark brown clay loam with frequent small, angular flints. Variable in thickness between 250 and 400mm with the deepest deposits across the northern edge of the site area.

Subsoil 0003. Mid orange brown sandy clay. A thick deposit in most trenches of 200mm or more thickness. In trenches 1, 9 and 11 this deposit was between 300 and 400mm deep and probably consisted of a quantity of hillwash (colluvium), i.e. material that has travelled down-slope, accumulating in slight depressions or at the base of steeper sections of the slope.

Subsoil 0004. Coarse gravel and stones in a sandy clay matrix similar to 0003. Between the base of subsoil 0003 and natural clay / sand within the south-east corner of the site, probably associated with natural sand and gravel outcropping in the vicinity of Trench 4.

Natural. The natural, undisturbed drift geology in most trenches consisted of pale brown chalky clay with pockets of mid orange brown sandy clay. This overlay orange sand and gravel which appeared through the clay within Trench 4 and the south-west end of Trench 9.

Trench No	Orientation	Length	Max. Depth	Depth 0002	Depth 0003	Depth 0004	Type of natural
1	E-W	76.5m	700mm	400mm	300mm		Clay
2	NNE-SSW	86.0m	450mm	350mm	100mm	-	Clay
3	WNW-ESE	98.0m	750mm	350mm	200mm	200mm	Clay
4	WNW-ESE	51.0m	800mm	300mm	250mm	250mm	Sand
5a	NNW-SSE	41.0m	800mm	300mm	250mm	250mm	Clay
5b	NNW-SSE	41.0m	500mm	300mm	200mm	-	Clay
6	WNW-ESE	66.0m	500mm	300mm	200mm	-	Clay
7	NNB-SSW	76.0m	500mm	250mm	250mm	-	Clay
8	NE-SW	69.0m	450mm	250mm	200mm	-	Clay
9	NE-SW	47.0m	600mm	300mm	300mm	-	Clay, sand SW end
10	NE-SW	29.0m	500mm	300mm	200mm	-	Clay
11	NW-SE	16.0m	700mm	300mm	400mm	-	Clay

Table 1: Trench details

## Finds and environmental evidence

Cathy Tester, March 2006

### Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected from the topsoil (0001) during the evaluation.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	6	105
Worked flint	7	39
Shell	2	50

Table 1. Finds quantities.

### Pottery

Six sherds of pottery were found. The earliest is a very small and abraded piece of medieval coarseware. The rest of the sherds are post-medieval redwares including speckle-glazed ware (17th-18th) and plant pots (18-20th).

### Flint

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Seven pieces of struck flint were collected and the details are shown below.

Type	Notes
Scraper	Crude end scraper with parallel flake scars on dorsal face and further unpatinated limited secondary retouch on sides. Patinated. (Mesolithic or Neolithic)
Flake	Small hinge-fractured flake with limited unpatinated retouch (could be recent agricultural damage as from topsoil). Patinated. (Mesolithic or Neolithic)
Scraper	Relatively crude end scraper on a flake with parallel flake scars on dorsal face. Unpatinated. (Later prehistoric)
Flake	Small flake w limited retouch. Possible crude end scraper with parallel flake scars on dorsal face, some cortex. Unpatinated. (Later prehistoric)
Scraper	Small flake with squared end retouched to form possible end-scraper. Parallel flake scars on dorsal face. Unpatinated. (Later prehistoric)
Flake	Small flake with squared end retouched to form possible end-scraper. Parallel flake scars on dorsal face. Unpatinated. (Later prehistoric)
Flake	Small long flake w limited edge retouch on long edge. Unpatinated. (Later prehistoric)

Table 2. Worked flint

Apart from the two patinated pieces which are probably Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, the rest of the flint is unpatinated and fairly crude. It belongs to the later Prehistoric period, that is, the later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

### Shell

Two oyster shells were collected.

### Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The evaluation finds assemblage is all unstratified but contains material which broadly indicates prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity on this site.

## Conclusions

Despite the proximity of a known Roman road to the north, the medieval village core to the north-east and multi-period occupation of the river valley to the south, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were recognised. A small collection of worked flints recovered from the ploughsoil probably represent casual loss in the prehistoric period. The small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery collected as surface finds most likely represent field manuring during these periods.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that no further archaeological work be carried out in the vicinity of the proposed reservoir. Monitoring of the abstraction rising main would be required as this passes close to prehistoric and Roman finds scatters to the south.

## Disclaimer

**Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.**

## APPENDIX 1

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### RESERVOIR, FLOOD CELL AND RISING ABSTRACTION MAIN ADJACENT TO PLACE FARM, INGHAM

### 1. Background

- 1.1 An application [SE/05/01888] has been made to construct an agricultural irrigation reservoir, with associated flood cell and trenching for a rising abstraction main.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of this evaluation.
- 1.3 The reservoir area has not been the subject of any systematic archaeological survey and there are no known sites on the land. The site area triggers 'archaeological potential' criteria on the basis of size, and the fact that it is adjacent to a number of significant archaeological sites. Known archaeology includes prehistoric burial sites, settlement scatters from the prehistoric, Roman, early and later medieval periods. The potential for other discoveries in the adjacent areas is therefore high. The scale of the intended works covers an extensive area and will result in the total removal of any archaeological deposit, which exists.

The mitigation strategy is to identify archaeological sites by trenched evaluation (identified in this brief), because experience with other reservoir schemes suggests that controlled soil stripping by the contractor coupled with archaeological recording is not a practical method of working in this case.

- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of



the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractors as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

## 2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, particularly in the areas of the flood cell.
- 2.3 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.4 Undertake a basic map search to identify aspects of the historic landscape. Use available documentary sources to supplement this.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.7 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

## 3. Specification: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5 % by area of the entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be

under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micro-morphological 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.9 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.10 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.

- 3.11 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.12 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### 4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

#### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the

Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.



Specification by: W. Fletcher

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352199

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
/InghamPlaceFarm2005

Reference:

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**