

**48-50 Kingsway, Mildenhall
MNL 681**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/001

Client: Mr A Noakes

Author: Simon Cass

January 2013

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HER Information

Site Code: MNL 681
Site Name: 48-50 Kingsway, Mildenhall
Report Number 2013/001
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Date of Fieldwork: 09/01/2013
Grid Reference: TL 7168 7476
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Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Simon Cass
Client/Funding Body: Mr A Noakes
Client Reference: -

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: Simon Cass

Date: 09/01/2013

Approved By: Joanna Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

A small evaluation was undertaken in advance of construction work on land at 48-50 Kingsway, Mildenhall as a result of a condition placed on planning permission F/2012/0635/FUL regarding the demolition of an existing structure and erection of three new dwellings on the site. The fieldwork was carried out on the 9th January 2013. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed and no further work is recommended as being necessary.

1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted by Forest Heath District Council for the demolition of a single structure and erection of three new dwellings at 48-50 Kingsway, Mildenhall. This permission carried a condition relating to archaeology requiring an appropriate scheme of archaeological works in order to assess the nature of any possible archaeological remains that may be affected by the development.

2. Geology and topography

The site is generally flat, at a height between 9.5m and 9.8m AOD. The underlying geology is recorded as being deep sandy glaciofluvial drift, although loamy soil over chalk was observed in the trenches. The geological survey records chalks some 20m away so this appears to be a simple boundary error and the chalk extends slightly further this way than previously thought.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The County Historic Environment Record contains references to Mildenhall Union Workhouse (MNL 330, which was existing in 1776) opposite this site, as well as a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (MNL 314) found just to the south as well as some undated human bone (MNL 244) found to the south-east. The site lies outside the bounds of the medieval town of Mildenhall to the west (MNL 617) and the Mildenhall rabbit warren, established by 1247-8? (MNL 553).

A large multi-period site some 350m to the south-west has recently been excavated (MNL 622 excavated in 2010). Features revealed included significant Late Bronze Age features and deposit sequences, distinct phases of activity in the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age (massive boundary ditches and an enclosure ditch with associated cultural deposits) with Roman activity appearing to represent rural settlement on the higher ground. Occupation of the site appears to have continued into the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods.

Post-medieval activity in the area is represented by several lime kilns a short distance to the west, relating to a chalk pit that has now become infilled by a cemetery.

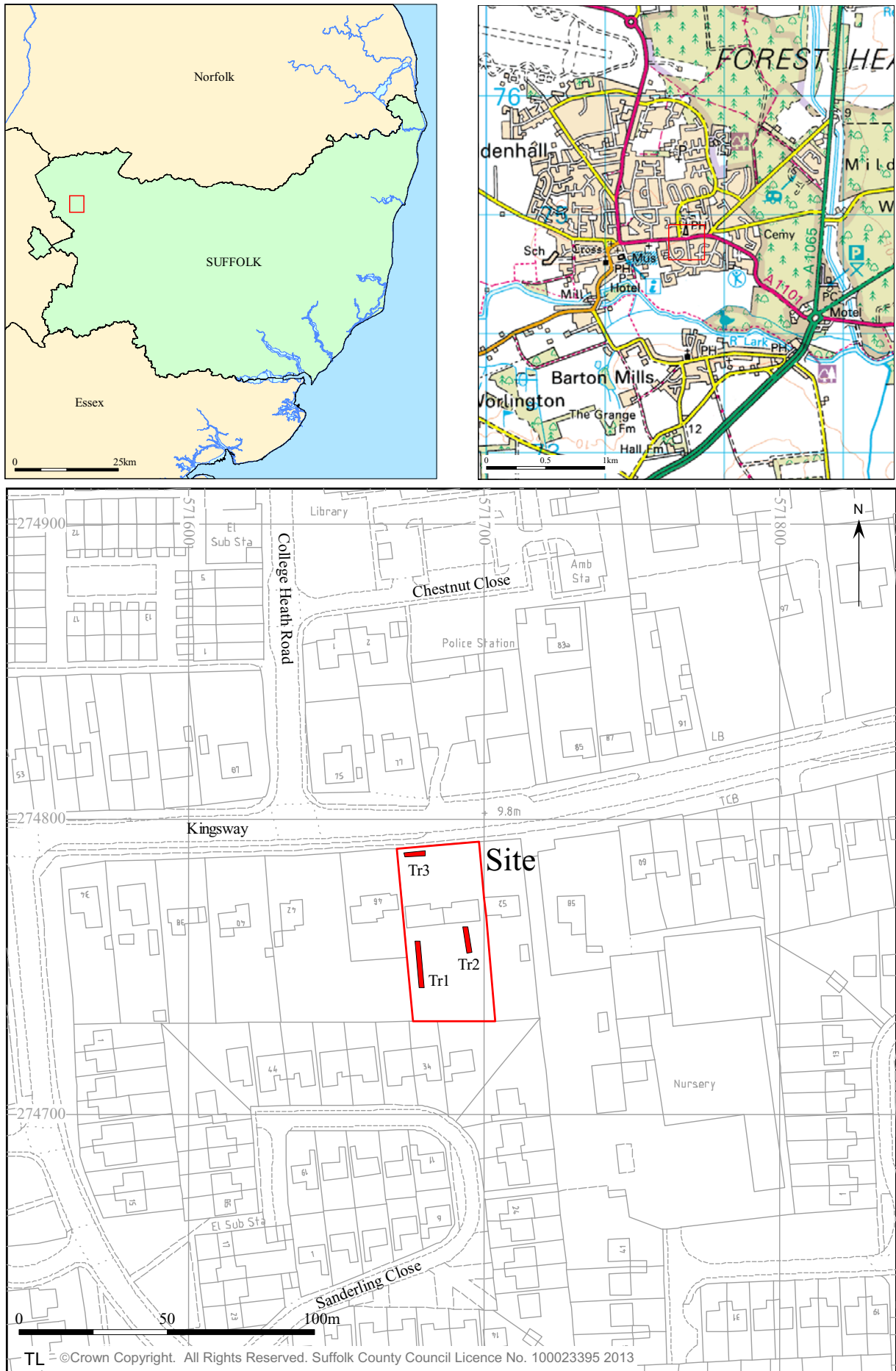


Figure 1. Location map

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area should be subject to trial trenching consisting of 30m of trenching at 1.8m wide. The trenches were located in order to cover the areas most affected by the new development that had not already been damaged by the previous construction.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB-type mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

Deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20 where necessary. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera (6.2 megapixels).

The location of each trench was recorded after excavation using hand-tapes to existing plot boundaries and points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site. The positions of Trenches 1 and 2 were altered slightly in order to avoid an active sewerage pipe running through the rear of the property and Trench 3 was shortened so as to not affect the access point from Kingsway into the site. This is not thought to have unduly affected the coverage of the evaluation trenches, however.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds under HER No. MNL 681.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 16m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the western side of the rear of the property. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.3m of mid brown soft loamy silt topsoil above chalk natural. There was a zone of disturbance approximately 0.1m thick where root action and apparent gardening activity had weathered the top of this chalk, though the disturbance decreased rapidly at about 0.1m into the chalk.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north (2m scale)

Trench 2

This trench was 9m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-south towards the eastern side of the rear of the property. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.3m of mid brown soft loamy silt topsoil above chalk natural. There was still a shallow band of disturbance across the top of the solid chalk in this trench, though it was less than in Trench 1.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing north (2m scale)

Trench 3

This trench was 7m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately east-west in the north-western corner of the site. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.15m of tarmac and hogging (the existing driveway/carpark surface) above 0.3m of mid brown soft loamy silt. This lay directly above chalk natural. There was a narrow modern service run along the length of this trench, apparently leading towards an electricity pole in the garden next door.



Plate 3. Trench 3, facing east showing modern service run to left of scale (2m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were recovered from this evaluation.

7. Discussion

The absence of any archaeological evidence from these trenches appears to fit with the early Ordnance Survey Map records of this site as being undeveloped fields until the 20th century. The disturbance and weathering visible in the top of the chalk suggests that the absence of any archaeological activity on the site is not due to truncation.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further archaeological work is recommended as being necessary for this development.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Ipswich\MNL 681 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HSA-HSZ\HSP 56-58

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds
Store Location: None

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass, with the machine and driver provided by the client, Mr Noakes. The report illustrations were created by Simon Cass and the document was edited by Richenda Goffin and approved by Joanna Caruth.

11. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales*: Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000. Harpenden

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification**Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

48-49 Kingsway, Mildenhall

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Forest Heath District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	F/2012/0635/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 716 747
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of 3 dwellings (following demolition of existing)
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper County Archaeologist Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	17 December 2012

Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for a Trenched Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.3), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the LPA on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place.

- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest to the east of a major, multi-period site excavated in 2010 (HER no. MNL 622). There is high potential for encountering further occupation deposits at this location and in a similar topographic location.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 3.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 3.4 Linear trial trenches are to be excavated totalling 30.00m in length x 1.80m to the cover the area of the new housing. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, either before demolition of the dwellings or post demolition (to ground level only).
- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work before fieldwork commences. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.3.

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

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

Notes

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

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www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/