

The Old Post Office, Bradfield St George BSG 026

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/037

Client: Mr J Crooks

Author: Simon Cass

March 2013

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The Old Post Office, Bradfield St George

BSG 026

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Report Date: March 2013

HER Information

Site Code: BSG 026

Site Name: The Old Post Office, Bradfield St George

Report Number 2013/037

Planning Application No: SE/12/1496

Date of Fieldwork: 20/03/13

Grid Reference: TL 915 601

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-145168

Curatorial Officer: Rachel Monk

Project Officer: Simon Cass

Client/Funding Body: Mr J Crook

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: 28/03/13

Approved By: Joanna Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

Planning permission (SE/12/1496) was granted for the redevelopment of land at the Old Post Office, Bradfield St George, with the demolition of an existing dwelling and garage and the construction of a new larger dwelling and associated ground works. This permission included a clause requiring the undertaking of an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation prior to commencement of intrusive ground works on the site. A small evaluation, consisting of two 10m trenches, was carried out on the 20th March 2013. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in either of the two trenches and no further works are recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the condition.

1. Introduction

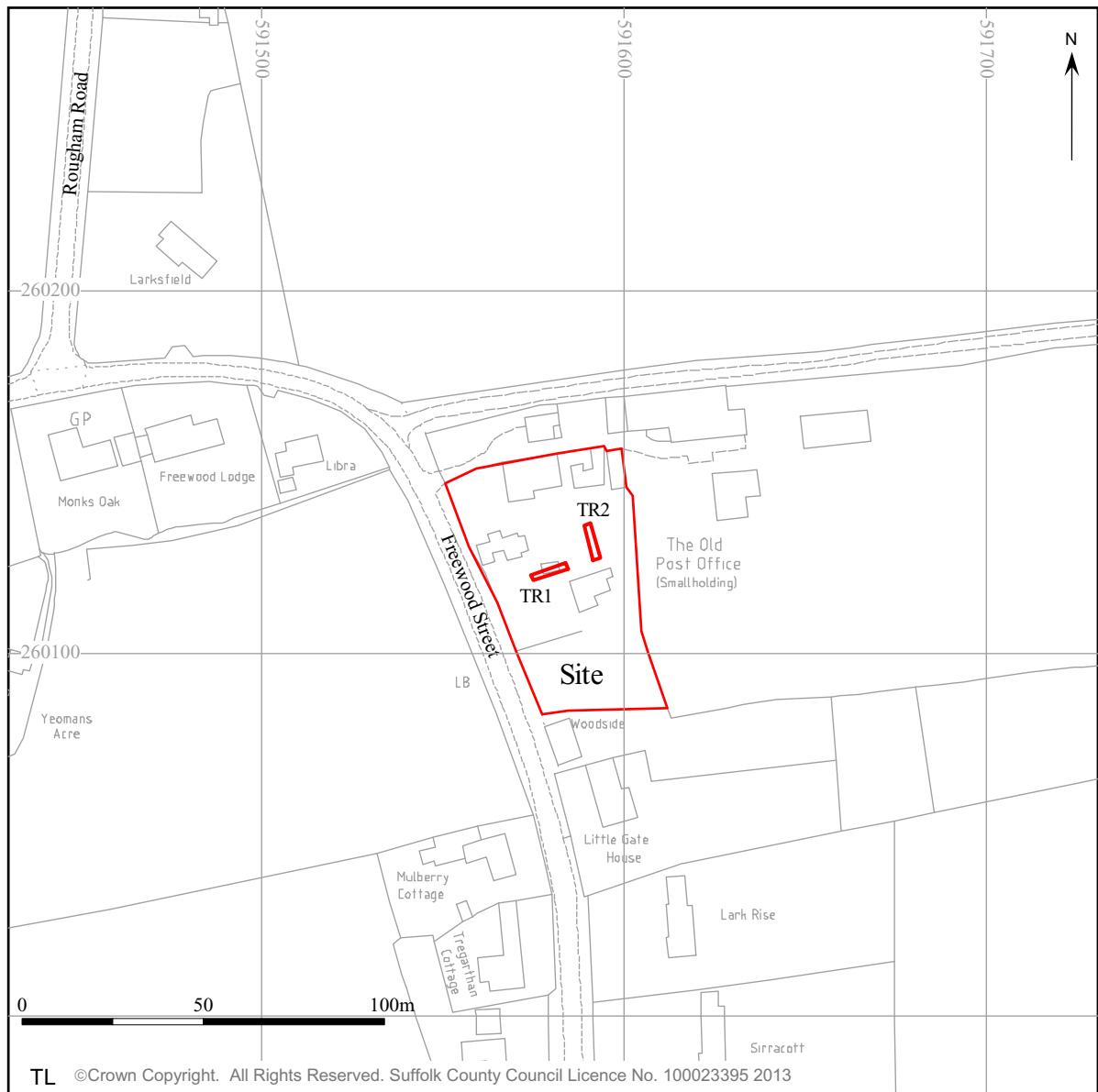
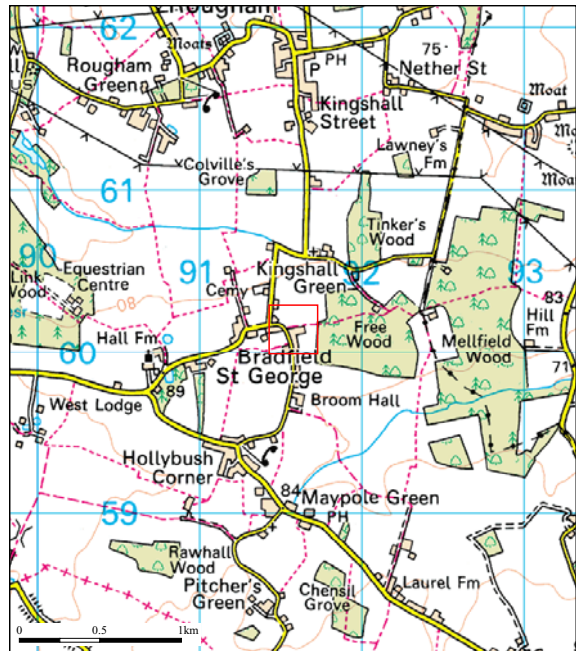
Planning permission (SE/12/1496) was granted for the redevelopment of land at the Old Post Office, Bradfield St George, with the demolition of an existing dwelling and garage and the construction of a new, larger, dwelling and associated ground works. This permission included a condition requiring the undertaking of an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of intrusive ground works on the site and this report details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in order to satisfy that condition.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on a generally flat piece of land, at a height of approximately 87m AOD, towards the eastern edge of the village of Bradfield St George. The underlying geology is listed as deep loam to clay, characterised as fine loam over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoil and chalky till in places. The geology observed in the trenches coincides with this characterisation.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies on the south-eastern corner of a medieval green (BSG 023) and earthworks and enclosures (BSG 009 and 018) are recorded to the south along Freewood Street. The woodland to the east (Free Wood, BSG 015) is noted as ancient woodland. Three listed buildings are also situated along Freewood Street, again to the south of the current site. A Roman coin (BSG 004) and a medieval token of St Nicholas (BSG misc) have been found in fields to the west of the site.



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Figure 1. Location map, showing site boundary and trenches (red)

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to trial trenching. On this occasion two trenches were required to be excavated to the north and west of the existing dwelling (within the main areas of likely disturbance), both 10m long. The trenches were located using hand-tapes from established reference points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site.

The trenches were excavated by a 180⁰ JCB-type mechanical excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20 where appropriate. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera.

The area was not scanned with a metal detector prior to commencing the stripping of the trench.

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.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 10m long, 1.6m wide, up to 0.3m deep and orientated approximately east-west (Pl. 1). The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of made ground/hardcore and tarmac (a previous driveway consolidation and surface) over natural mid yellowish brown silty clays. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed.



Plate 1. Trench 1 facing east (2m scale)

Trench 2

This trench was 10m long, 1.6m wide, up to 0.4m deep and orientated approximately north-south (Pl. 2). The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3-0.35m of mid/dark brown silty clay topsoil over natural mid yellowish brown silty clays. Two modern services were observed (believed to connect water supplies to the farm buildings to the north from the house) and a modern rubbish pit was identified towards the southern end of the trench but no finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed.



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

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds or environmental remains of archaeological interest were encountered during the course of this evaluation.

7. Discussion

The absence of any archaeological deposits and the shallow depth of stratigraphy both suggest minimal utilisation of this site until the relatively recent past. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (1880) shows a building and some barns on the site, although the current dwelling does not appear to be present until the second edition map in 1890. The lack of any sign of plough scarring, coupled with the shallow topsoil cover suggests that the land was either used as pasture (as it is now) or only very minimally cultivated.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The results of this archaeological evaluation suggest that there has been little activity on the site until towards the end of the nineteenth century, where the majority of the development of the site occurred and then stayed substantially the same – certainly some of the buildings on the first edition Ordnance Survey map appear to still be standing within the plot. No further archaeological investigation is recommended as being necessary to fulfil the requirements of the condition placed on the intended development.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Bradfield St George\BSG 026 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HTA-HTZ\HTA 22-26

Finds and environmental archive: None

Store Location: None

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass. Project management was undertaken by John Craven who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The report illustrations were created by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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

Old Post Office, Freewood Street,
Bradfield St George

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	SE/12/1496/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 915 601
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	House
AREA:	0.1 ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Garden
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Rachael Monk Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741230 E-mail: rachael.monk@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	26th February 2013

Summary

- 1.1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 11) relating to archaeological investigation:

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
 - f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation
 - g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased agreement, as agreed and approved in writing by the local planning authority
- 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 Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2), 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 in an area of archaeological potential, indicated by the County Historic Environment Record. The development site is situated on the edge of a medieval green (BSG 023) and close to a findspot of a Roman coin (BSG 003). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is 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 has been 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 20m of trial trenching covering the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and driveway is to be excavated. The trenches should be 1.8m wide.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench 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 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 1.2.

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/