

**Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth  
IXW 105**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2014/017**

**Client: Lynxcourt Ltd.**

Author: Simon Cass

February 2014

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# Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth IXW 105

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/017

Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: February 2014



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** IXW 105  
**Site Name:** Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth  
**Report Number** 2014/017  
**Planning Application No:** DC/13/0088  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 30/01/2014  
**Grid Reference:** TL 9342 7084  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-169756  
**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Abby Antrobus  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
**Client/Funding Body:** Lynxcourt Ltd.  
**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: XX/02/2014

Approved By: Andrew Tester

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:



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


## **Summary**

A small archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at the old police station in Ixworth at the end of January 2014. This was carried out in order to comply with a condition placed on planning application DC/13/0088 relating to archaeology. Two trenches were excavated, to the front and rear of the property, in order to examine the proposed areas of new development. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were found in either trench; two modern drain pipes were located in the rearmost trench and a telephone cable run was found in the trench nearest the road.














# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 
- Cremation 

## Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  $\overline{\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}}$

## **1. Introduction**

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Planning permission has been granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the demolition of the previous Police Station building on the site and the construction of four new dwellings. A condition placed on this development required the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological works in order to assess the potential for the site to contain archaeological features of importance and, if present, inform a strategy to mitigate any likely damage caused by the development. Archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching was deemed an appropriate initial method of investigation, via a brief for work written by Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Curatorial Team (SCCAS/CT) and the developers, Lynxcourt Ltd) contracted the Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS/FT) to carry out the required works.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site sits near the northern edge of Ixworth, on slightly sloping ground (rising to the east) in an area only relatively recently developed (within the last sixty years). The Ordnance Survey plans record the underlying geology as being chalk, as was observed at the base of both trenches.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The site lies in an area considered to have a high potential for archaeological remains near the northern edge of the current village. It is adjacent to the route of a Roman Road (IXW 020 - which runs the length of the High Street). In addition, it is just outside the limits of the WWII defences of the town (IXW 077). Ixworth was identified as an important nodal defence point in the early war years, with a significant fortification program including construction of bunkers/pillboxes, lines of barbed wire and checkpoints at all entrances to the village as well as machine-gun pits, anti-tank blocks, minefields, concealed positions and similar defences ('hardening' in modern terminology). Two plans from the period (drawn by the Home Guard and a Royal Engineers Surveyor detachment) show a fighting trench as being excavated just to the south of the site (probably under the current fire station driveway) but nothing within the site itself and a concrete spigot-mortar mount is visible under the wall of Hill House to the south (IXW 097).

The limit of the historic (medieval) development core (IXW 068) is some 120m south along the High Street with assorted find spots and scattered features being recorded around the town relating to this period, and significant Roman remains are recorded approximately 1km south of the site on the far side of the present village. These include a triple-ditched fort and large ancillary site (possibly a vicus?) recorded as PKM 003, 005 and 007, as well as numerous find spots of Roman coins and metal jewellery within and around the periphery of the present town. A Roman road (IXW 020) is believed to pass along the High Street through the town, heading towards the bridge and a junction with another road, just outside the fort.

The scattered nature of the known archaeological resource in the vicinity is mainly due to the nature of the investigative works carried out – very few medium/large scale investigations have been undertaken, with the majority of finds being from intermittent watching briefs/monitoring of footings and keyhole excavations or stray finds from metal detecting. Some of the older records relate to late 19th/ early 20th century development of the village, and little work has been undertaken since then.

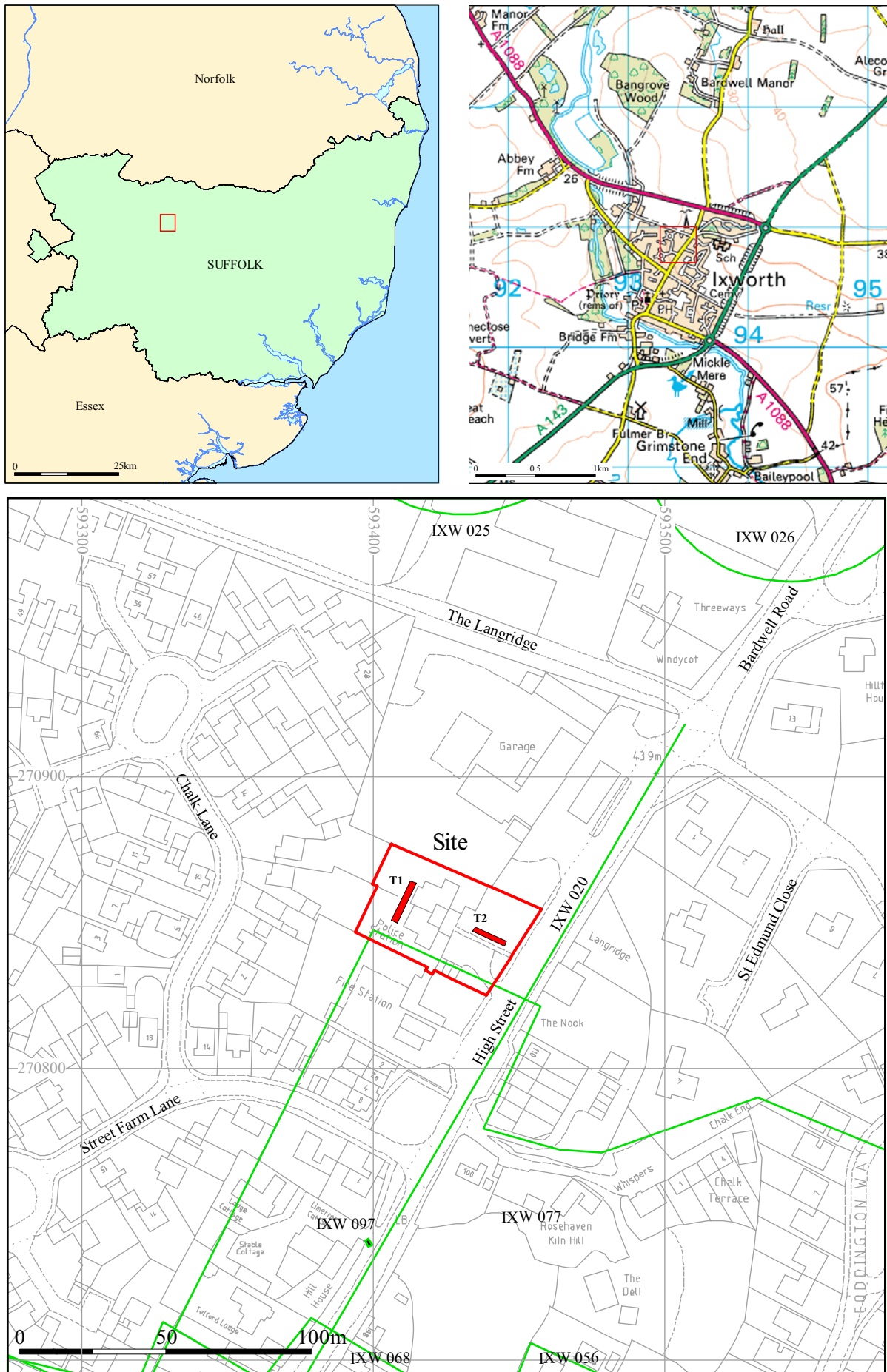


Figure 1. Location map, showing site and trenches (red) and local HER entries (green)

## 4. Methodology

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Two trenches, with a total length of 30m and 1.6m wide were planned to be excavated across the proposed development area by a JCB-type mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels (Fig. 2). After obstructions and buried cable routes were accounted for, the total excavated length of trench was 26.5m.

Where required the trench was hand-cleaned in order to examine the stratigraphy, with features investigated by hand to confirm their nature. All spoil heaps were examined for stray finds during and after excavation of the trenches.

The trenches were located using hand-tapes and measurements from established land boundaries shown on Ordnance Surveys of the site. Hand drawn plans at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:20 were recorded on A3 *pro-forma* pre-gridded permatrace sheets where appropriate. Digital colour photographs (10megapixel) were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-169756) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under Suffolk HER No. IXW 105.

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Trench results

#### Trench 1

This trench was 14.5m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated approximately north-east/south-west (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c. 0.3m of a mid greyish brown clayey silt above natural weathered chalk deposits. Two modern drainage pipes crossed the trench, likely to have been from the police station to a single combined soak-away to the northwest of the buildings. No archaeologically relevant finds or features were observed and none of the broken drainpipe segments were retained.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2m and 1m scales)



## Trench 2

This trench was 12m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately north-west/south-east (PL. 2). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c. 0.4m of mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil above natural weathered chalk deposits.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing north-west (2m and 1m scales)

## **6. Finds and environmental evidence**

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No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation and no sealed deposits suitable for sampling were located in either trench. Modern artefacts were discarded on site (mainly drain pipe fragments).

## **7. Discussion**

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The absence of any archaeological deposits or artefacts is believed to be representative of the site. Probable plough-scarring present in Trench 2 suggests that it is unlikely that the site has been significantly terraced/truncated in the recent past so any archaeological remains should have still been present.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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In conclusion, no further work is recommended as being necessary with respect to the current planned development on this site. The absence of any remains attributable to any historic period or a connection with the route of the Roman Road through Ixworth may indicate that the focus of occupation during these periods was further south, towards the centre of the current village.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Ixworth\IXW 105 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HWA-HWZ\HWP 59-60

Finds and environmental archive: None

Store Location: -

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and with project management by Andrew Tester.

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

## **11. Bibliography**

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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 for trenched  
archaeological evaluation****Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

**FORMER POLICE STATION, IXWORTH,  
SUFFOLK**

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	DC/13/0088
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TL 934 708
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Erection of four dwellings
<b>AREA:</b>	0.17ha
<b>CURRENT LAND USE:</b>	Former police station
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Abby Antrobus Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	7 November 2013

**Summary**

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition \*\*) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place until 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.’

- 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 1.1), 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 proposal to erect four dwellings affects an area of archaeological interest and potential on the edge of the historic settlement core of Ixworth (County Historic Environment Record IXW 077), and fronting on the former Roman road (IXW 020). There is potential for archaeological remains to be present at this location. Groundworks associated with development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits that may exist.

### **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 paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework 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 sample those parts of the site which will be affected by development. 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. The wsi should allow for a total of 25-30m of trenching across the site to sample the footprints of new structures where they extend beyond existing buildings.
- 4.5 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**

- 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 1.1.

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](http://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. Oasis form

OASIS ID: [suffolkc1-169756](#)

### Project details

Project name	IXW 105 The Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth
Short description of the project	Two trenches were excavated on land at the Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth, on the 30th January 2014. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered and no further work is recommended.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2014 End: 30-01-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IXW 105 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2014/017 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/13/0088 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY IXWORTH IXW 105 The Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth
Postcode	IP31 2HN
Study area	1780.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9342 7084 52.3010999112 0.837099142863 52 18 03 N 000 50 13 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 42.00m Max: 42.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

originator	
Project design originator	Dr Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Andrew Tester
Project supervisor	Simon Cass
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lynxcourt Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents	"Survey", "other"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Old Police Station, High Street, Ixworth, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cass, S.
Other bibliographic details	2014/017
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A short A4 report in house style, wire-comb bound and card covered as usual house style.



# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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