

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land to Rear of Home Farm, Mill Street, Gislegham GSG 028

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. 1352/05)

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Ingleton Contracts Ltd. and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was carried out by John Duffy and Jonathan Van Jennians from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Richenda Goffin, Anna West and Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin. Plans and sections of features (Figure 4) were prepared by Gemma Adams.

Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to development on land to the rear of Home Farm, Mill Street, Gislingham. The site was located on the southern edge of what was thought to be the village green at Little Green to the west of the main village of Gislingham. The site is also within the boundary of the post-medieval farm associated with the Grade II listed building, Home Farmhouse, which was of 17th century origin but the origins of the farm may be medieval. An east to west running undated drainage ditch and two modern pits were the features identified within the development area.

SMR information

Planning application no:	1352/05
Date of fieldwork:	August 2006
Grid Reference:	TM 0641 7187
Funding body:	Ingleton Contracts Ltd.
Oasis reference	suffolkc1-17303

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead of a proposed development on land to the rear of Home Farm, Mill Street, Gislingham. The programme of archaeological work followed the brief and specification prepared by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) (Appendix 1).

The site lies on the south-western edge of Little Green, a subordinate green and associated hamlet of the village of Gislingham to the east (Figure 1). The development area is located to the south of the existing farmhouse, Home Farm, which is a Grade II listed building (LBS 279501) dating from the early to mid 17th century with possibly earlier origins (Figure 1). The 1st Edition OS Map (Figure 2) shows the former farmyard and associated buildings were located to the west of the farmhouse including a Grade II listed barn (LBS 279502).

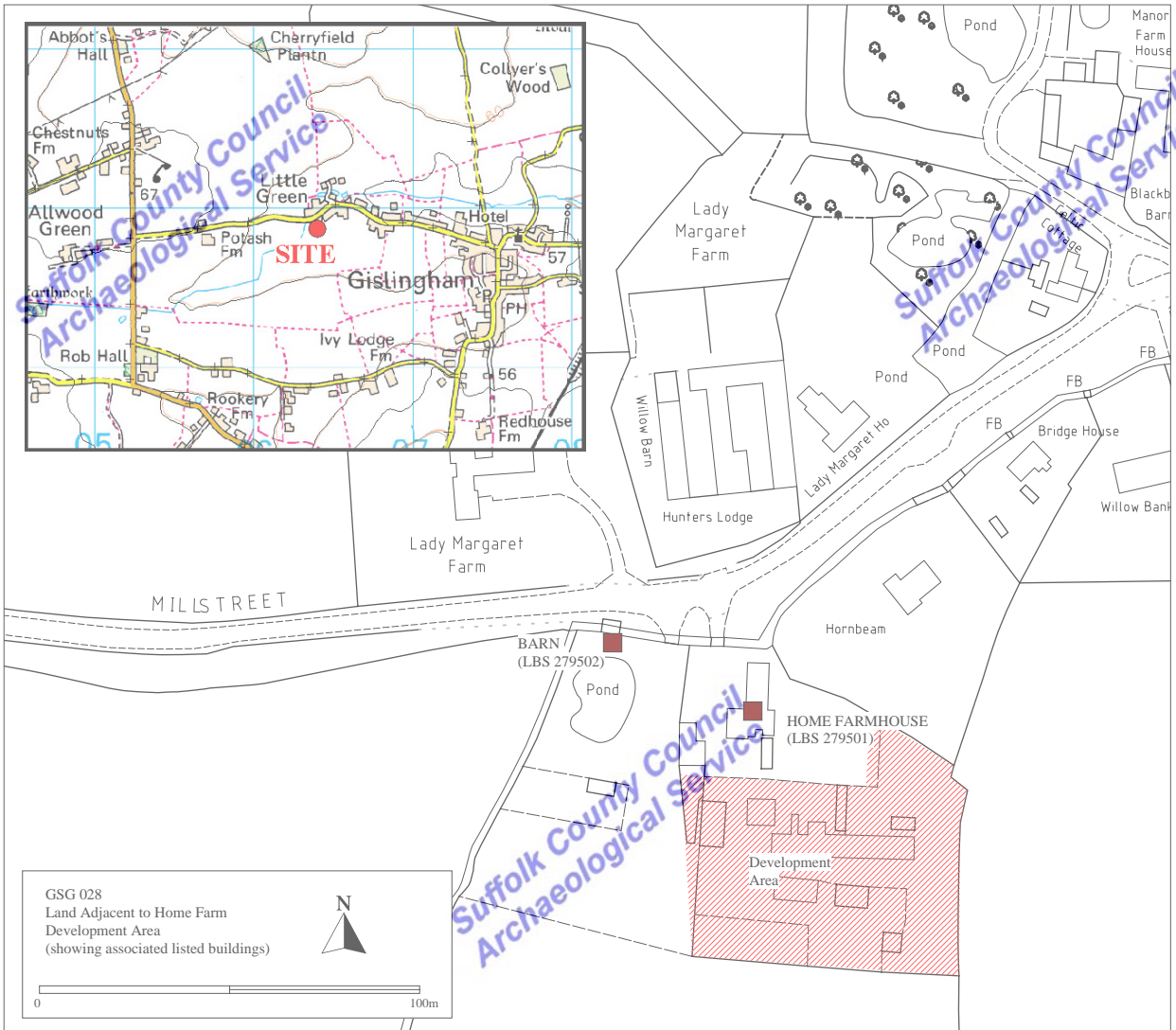
Unfortunately for the evaluation, access to the site was limited by existing buildings and surfaces (Figure 3). However, two trenches, 1 and 2 (Figure 3), were located in the north-east corner of the development area near the edge of the suspected green edge. If this is the green edge then features including a green edge ditch and a croft boundary along with evidence of buildings, yards and occupation deposits are expected.

Methodology

The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree machine fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All overburden layers were removed by machine onto the underlying archaeological features. Any identified archaeological features were then cleaned and excavated by hand. All trenches were excavated to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil.

All trenches were photographed and profiles were drawn at 1:20. Trenches were surveyed using a Total Station Theodolite (TST) and located onto the OS map using MapInfo. All features were recorded in plan and section at a scale of 1:20. Each archaeological context was given a unique context number starting at 0001 for unstratified finds from the site.

The full site archive is kept at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds under the code GSG 028.



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Figure 1. Site location

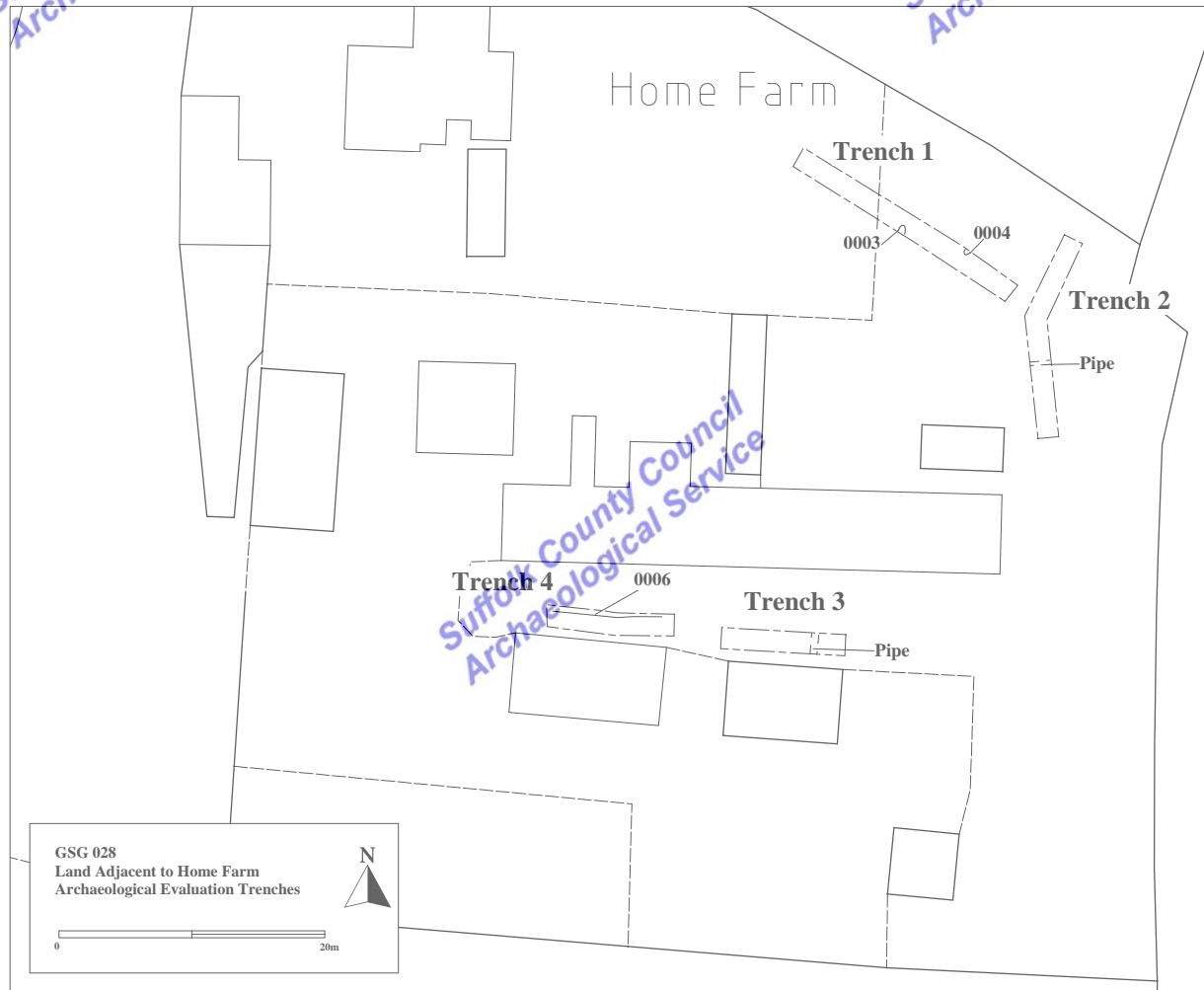


Figure 2. 1st Edition OS Map

Results

Introduction

The project design required a series of four trenches to be excavated across the grassed area of the development site. The exact location of the trenches was determined by on site conditions including modern below ground services, low overhead electricity cables, modern concrete paths, vegetation and continued site access.



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Figure 3. Trench plan

Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated in a north-west to south-east direction and measured 19m in length. The trench was excavated through a topsoil, between 0.31m to 0.5m deep, onto an orangey yellow clay natural subsoil. Two features were identified cutting into the natural clay, features 0003 and 0004.

Feature 0003 was oval in plan extending beyond the limits of the trench to the south-west (Figures 3 and 4). The feature was steep-sided with a flat base and was cut from immediately below the topsoil. The fill, 0002, was a mid brown clay with very occasional flint and flecks of charcoal. The feature contained fragments of animal bone including remains of sheep/pig and cow.

Feature 0004 appeared subrectangular in plan but was not fully visible as it extended beyond the limits of the trench to the north-east (Figures 3 and 4). It was near vertically sided with an uneven base and was filled by a dark brown clay, 0005, mixed with light brown clay patches. The fill contained a large quantity of rat bones including 22 jawbones. The likely use of this pit was for the disposal of the remains probably after a single clearance in the farmyard.

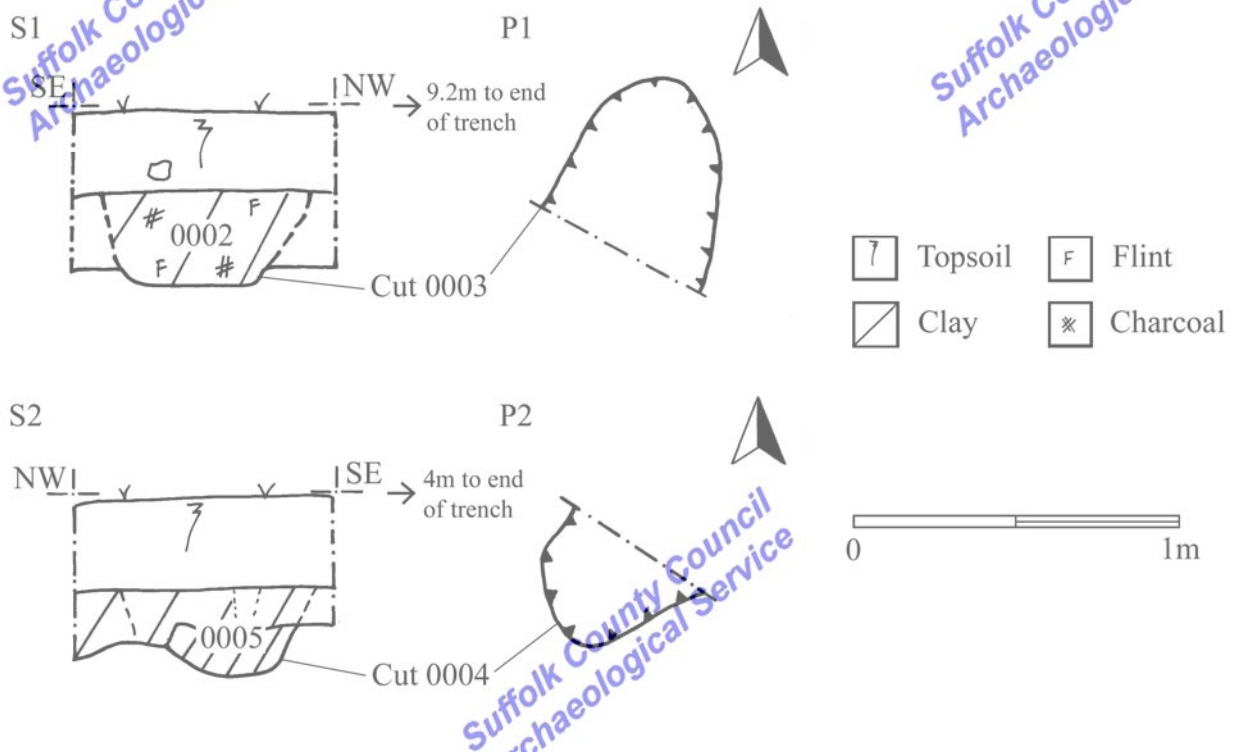


Figure 4. Feature plans and sections

Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 15.5m and ran north-east to south-west for 6.5m before turning south for 9m. The depth of the trench varied between 0.33m to 0.4m along its length and consisted of a topsoil directly over an orangey yellow clay natural. No features were identified within the trench except for an east to west running modern pipe.

Trench 3

Trench 3 ran in an east to west direction and measured 9.5m in length with a depth of approximately 0.55m. The trench was excavated through a topsoil mixed with some modern building debris directly over the orangey yellow clay natural. Only a single modern pipe trench, running north to south, was identified.

Trench 4

Trench 4 ran in an east to west direction located to the west of Trench 3 and was excavated to a total length of 9.5m with a depth of 0.48m to 0.59m. The trench was excavated through a topsoil mixed with some modern building debris over an orangey yellow clay natural. A possible drainage ditch, 0006, running east to west was identified along the northern edge of the trench underneath the modern drainage pipe to the north. The ditch was filled by a dark brown clay, 0007, but the feature was not excavated as the trench filled with water immediately after excavation.

Finds by Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Faunal remains were collected from two contexts in Trench 1, as shown in the table below.

OP	Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0002	146	155	No dating evidence
0005	197	54	No dating evidence
Total	343	209	

Table 1. Finds quantities

Animal bone

A total of 343 fragments of animal bone weighing 209g was collected from two features during the evaluation.

An assemblage of very fragmented bone was present in pitfill 0002. It included 69 small fragments of the ribs of medium-sized mammals such as sheep or pig, as well as two complete bovine patellae, and the fragmentary remains of three vertebrae.

The largest quantity was recovered from the fill 0005 of a nearly vertically-sided pit. This contained many fragments from the skeletons of several rats. Only the most robust bones such as the pelvic girdle, humerus and femur survive, although there are seven fragmentary vertebrae. In addition the remains of 22 individual jawbones are present, both the mandible and the upper jaw. Many of these are characterised by the presence of three molars and an incisor, a sharp tooth which grows continuously throughout the lifetime of the rat.

Discussion

It seems likely that pit 0004 was dug for the disposal of the dead rats, which may have been living in the vicinity of the farm buildings. They may have been deliberately buried at some distance away from the farm itself. The pit contained no datable artefacts, and although it was cut from underneath the topsoil deposits it is not possible to ascertain how old the bones are. The same is also true for the contents of pit 0003.

Discussion

The limited evidence recovered from the four evaluation trenches does not appear to support the green edge nature of this site with a complete absence of both structural and occupational deposits. However, it still remains possible that this was the location of the green but the edge is not located in Trenches 1 and 2 but to the south, possibly with ditch 0006 identified in Trench 4. This ditch can also be identified as the southern boundary of Home Farm on the 1st Edition OS Map (Figure 2) and may suggest the incorporation of part of the green into Home Farm. The evidence is far from conclusive as to the existence of the green especially with the limited trenching undertaken on the site.

The map evidence indicates the main area of post-medieval occupation to be located to the west of the existing farmhouse with the area to the east and south left open. However, the medieval and post-medieval development up to the production of the 1st Edition OS Map is not clearly known though the barn and farmhouse suggest that this was the area of occupation from at least the 17th century. An earlier origin for the farmhouse has also been suggested (see Appendix 1).

Recommendations

Although archaeology was identified during the evaluation its dating and interpretation was limited partly due to the restricted nature of the trenching rather than a lack of archaeological deposit survival. The area of development is still of high potential with limited previous development affecting archaeological deposits.

For this development the archaeological monitoring of all groundworks is highly recommended to identify any surviving medieval deposits and further examine the east to west running ditch identified in Trench 4. Any ground disturbance associated with the access road should also be monitored as this may provide evidence of the origins and development of the farmyard.

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

HOME FARM, MILL STREET, GISLINGHAM

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 An outline consent [has been granted to construct four dwellings on land at Home Farm.](#)
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.15) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is 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 the evaluation and the impact of the final development design and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies at the southern end of 'Little Green' a subordinate green and associated hamlet of Gislingham. There is potential for the northern and eastern site boundaries to be respectively a medieval green edge ditch and a croft boundary. Settlement evidence, including buildings, yards and occupation deposit, are to be expected. Home Farm itself (excluded from the development area) is a Listed Building Grade II (LBS 279501) of early to mid 17th century date "and possibly earlier" which can be expected to have early ancillary buildings and occupation deposits associated with it.
- 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 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.

Appendix 1

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

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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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.

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- 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 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.
- 2.8 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 : Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 3.2 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. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.

Appendix 1

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 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).
- 3.11 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. *“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005* provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 3.12 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

Appendix 1

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.

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- 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Robert Carr

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Shire Hall
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Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 16 May 2006

Reference: /Home Farm, Mill Street

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.