

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LAND ADJACENT THE BREWER'S ARMS

SMR Ref. RAT 036; OASIS ref. Suffolk1-18071

SCCAS Report No. 2006/157

Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during August 2006 to investigate the potential for buried archaeology within an area of land to the rear of the Brewer's Arms, Rattlesden (NGR ref. TL 9781 5888), in advance of a proposed residential development. Two linear trenches were machine excavated to the depth of the undisturbed natural subsoil but no archaeological deposits or features were identified. There was no evidence that the surface of the natural subsoil had been previously disturbed. This evaluation is recorded on the County SMR, reference no. RAT 036. The evaluation was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Hartog Hutton Limited.

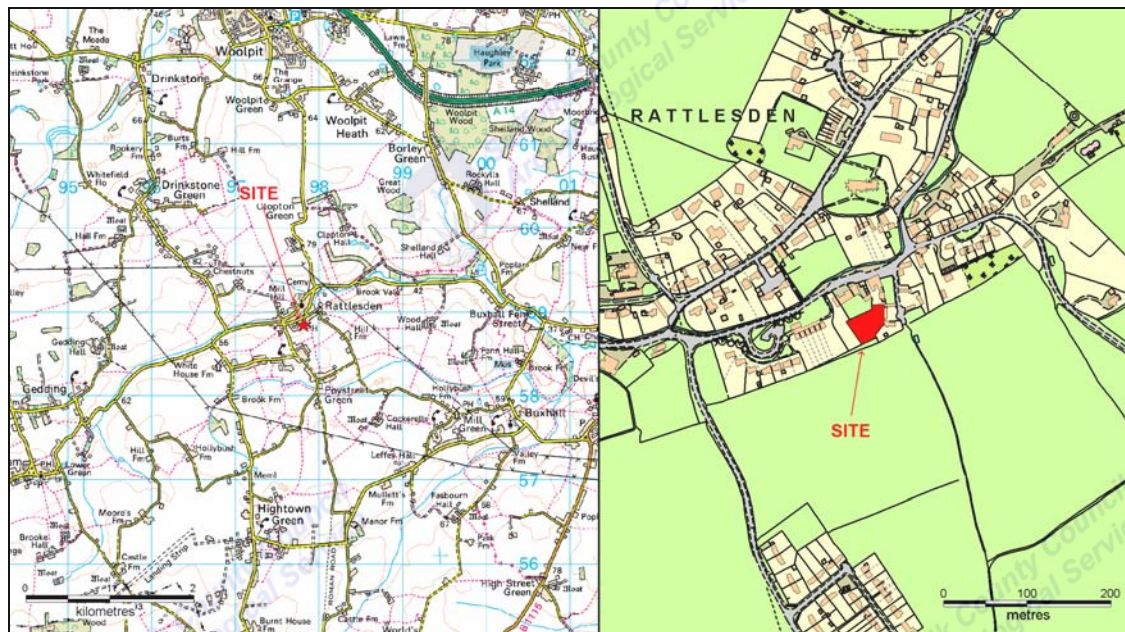


Figure 1: Location Plan

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1. Introduction

A residential development has been proposed for an area of land lying to the south of The Brewer's Arms, Rattlesden. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the evaluation area is TL 9781 5888.

The development area lies within the predicted envelope of the medieval settlement and is within 150m of the medieval church of St Nicholas. Consequently there is a high potential for archaeological evidence relating to settlement, including buildings. The site itself lies on the southern slope of an east-west valley which has a small watercourse, known as Rattlesden River, running through. The site itself slopes gently down from south to north.

A systematic programme of archaeological works was implemented for this development as a condition of the planning consent (application no. 2237/05). The first stage was to be a trenched evaluation for which a Brief and Specification detailing the work required was produced by Mr R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix). This report details the results of the evaluation.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned and funded by the developer Hartog Hutton Limited. The evaluation was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and was carried out during on the 24th August 2006. The archive of the work is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Sites and Monuments Record reference, RAT 036. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-18071.

2. Methodology

Trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil (or the top of any significant archaeological deposits if encountered) using a small tracked excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were to be positioned in accordance with an approved plan but it was necessary to slightly move one trench due to the presence of trees and dense undergrowth. Two trenches were excavated.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to recover any artefacts that may be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered which was then examined for archaeological deposits and features. A small number of digital photographs using 4 megapixel camera were taken.

In the event of features being revealed, a 1:50 scale surface plan would have been constructed and context numbers issued to each feature starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site, and sample sections excavated.

Following archaeological investigation the trench locations were plotted and their depths were noted. Upon completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled although this was not observed.

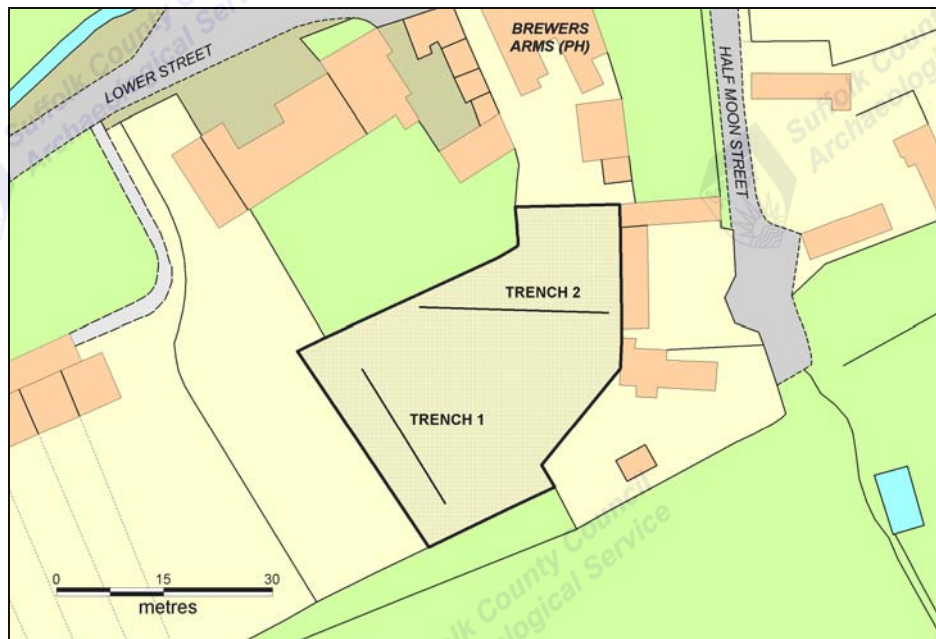


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

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3. Results

Two trenches totalling 48m in length were excavated across the development area; see figure 2 for a plan of their locations.

Trench 1 was approximately 22m in length. At the southern end of this trench the topsoil was *c.* 0.2m thick and overlaid a subsoil of pale brown silty clay which in turn overlaid the undisturbed natural subsoil which comprised grey silty boulder clay with chalk flecks. At the southern end of the trench this occurred at a depth of *c.* 0.4m. At the northern end of the trench the pale brown silty clay layer had thickened to *c.* 0.5m with the natural subsoil occurring at a depth of *c.* 0.7m.

Trench 2 was approximately 26m in length. The topsoil was slightly thicker at *c.* 0.3m thick and overlay the pale brown silty clay as seen in Trench 1. The undisturbed natural subsoil occurred at a depth of *c.* 0.5m deepening only slightly towards the trench's western end.

The interface between the topsoil and the underlying layers within both trenches was relatively blurred and there was no obvious evidence for truncation. No archaeological features were noted in any of the trenches although they were cleanly cut and had any features/deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been recognised.

The resultant spoil from both trenches was carefully examined but only late 19th/early 20th century rubbish was noted and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered.

4. The Finds

No finds were recovered from any of the trenches or the resultant spoil tips.

5. Discussion

No archaeological deposits or features were noted in either trench, no artefacts were recovered and no evidence for the area having been truncated was revealed. The topsoil and the underlying subsoil thickened downslope as would be expected due to natural soil movement, but this had not occurred to any particularly great degree.

6. Recommendations for Future Work

Based on the results of the evaluation it is unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits are under threat from the proposed development. Consequently no further work is recommended.

M. Sommers
Suffolk County Council, Field Projects Team

8th September 2006



Trench 2 upon completion

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors. 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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT THE BREWERS ARMS, RATTLEDEN

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 Planning consent [2237/05] has been granted for the erection of two dwellings with cartlodges.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (No. 6) 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 will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies within the predicted envelope of the medieval settlement. There is high potential for archaeological deposits representing settlement, including building remains and occupation debris.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 3.2 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 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.

- 3.7 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 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 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).
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 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.
- 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: R D Carr

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Date: 21 June 2006

Reference: /Adj Brewers Arms

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.