

The Paddock, Wixfield Park, The Street
Great Bricett, Suffolk
BCG 017

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/084

Client: NWA Planning Ltd

Author: M. Sommers

Aug 2014

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SCCAS Report No. 2014/084

Author: M. Sommers

Contributions By: n/a

Editor: Dr R. Gardner

Report Date: Aug 2014

HER Information

Report Number: 2014/084

Site Name: The Paddock, Wixfield Park, The Street,
Great Bricett, Suffolk

Planning Application No: 2725/13

Date of Fieldwork: 27th June 2014

Grid Reference: TM 0361 5120

Client/Funding Body: NWA Planning Ltd (on behalf of their client)

Client Reference: n/a

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-184322

Site Code: BCG 017

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: M. Sommers

Date: 19th August 2014

Approved By: Dr R. Gardner

Position: Contracts Manager

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out within a plot of land known as 'The Paddock', adjacent to Wixfield Park, The Street, Great Bricett, Suffolk, in advance of a small residential development. A series of four trial trenches were excavated but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were identified. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team for NWA Planning Ltd)

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of nine dwellings to be an area of land known as 'The Paddock' to be incorporated into the existing Wixfield Park residential development (application number 2725/13). One of the conditions attached to the planning consent called for an agreed programme of archaeological work to be in place in advance of this development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in a Brief produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team, was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may then be deemed necessary (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0361 5120. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the development area.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 27th June 2014 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned and funded by NWA Planning Ltd, on behalf of their client.

2. Geology and topography

The development area consists of a roughly rectangular shaped area of land at a height of 80m OD. It is situated on a very gentle east facing slope although the site itself appears to be level with no perceptible slope. The local landscape is gently rolling and a wide valley is situated to the south and east. It is drained by an unnamed stream which eventually empties into the River Gipping.

The underlying geology consists of the Lowestoft Formation, a layer of glacial till that forms the high plateaus of central Suffolk.

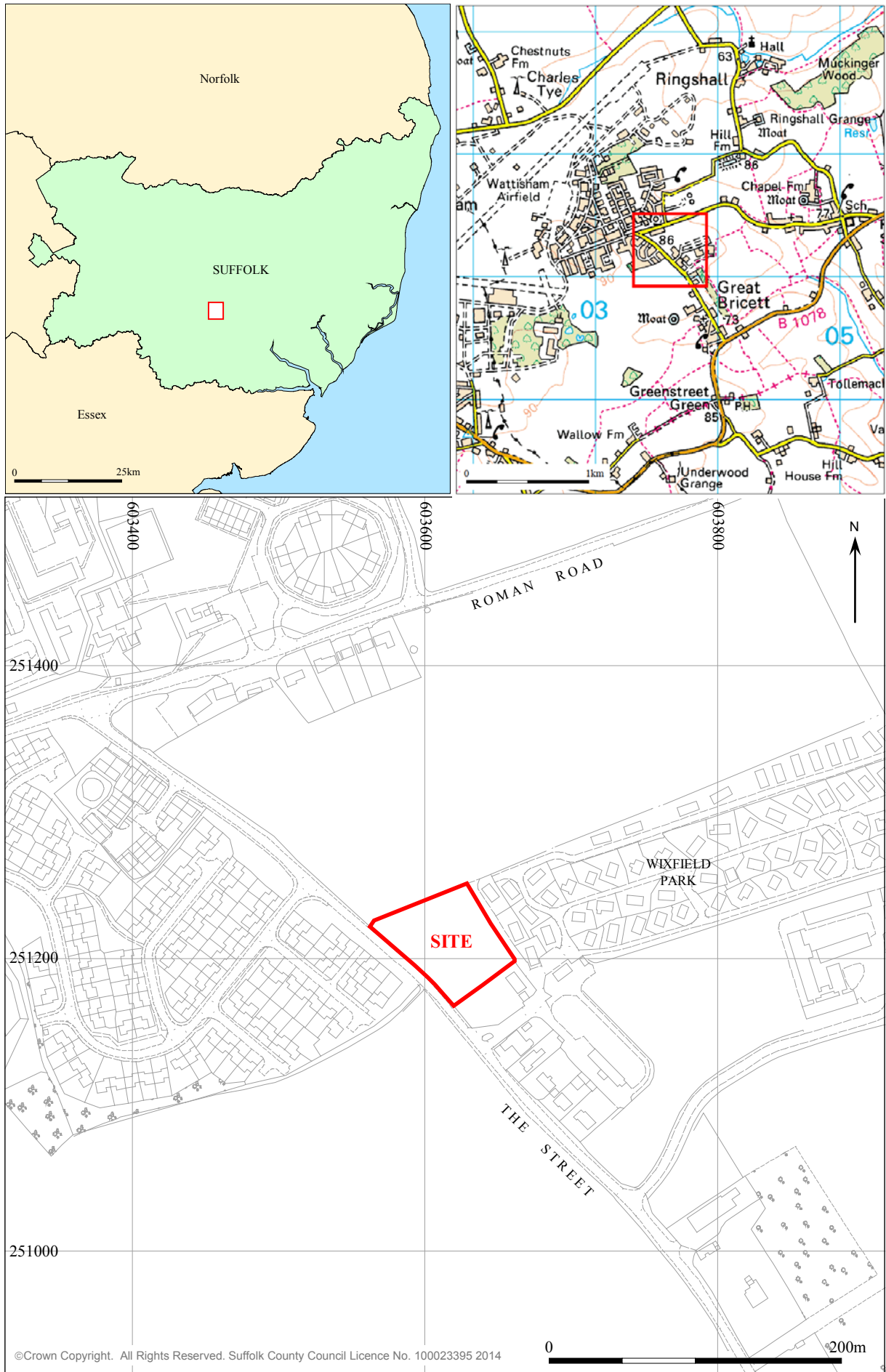


Figure 1. Location map

The development area fronts onto The Street to the southwest although there is no direct access. It is bounded by a hedgerow to the north beyond which lies open farmland, and is separated from Wixfield Park by patchy hedgerows and fences to the northeast and southeast. The site is in a rural location although a built-up residential area associated with the nearby Wattisham Airfield lies on the opposite side of The Street.

3. Archaeology and historical background

A number of archaeological sites or findspots are recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) within the vicinity of the development site. A summary of these entries is presented in Table 1; the recorded locations of are marked in Figure 2.

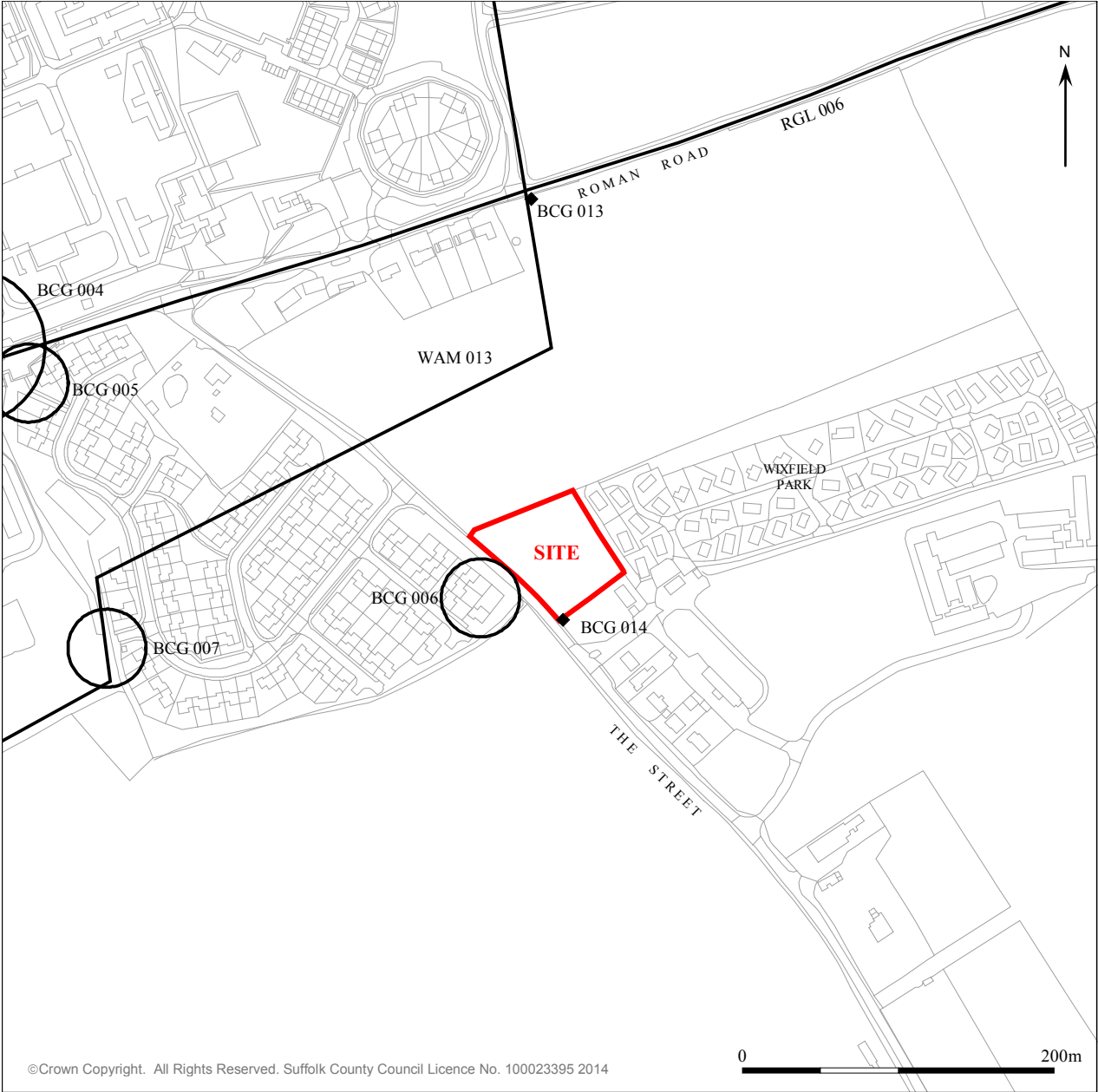


Figure 2. Sites recorded on the HER

HER ref.	Summary
BCG 004	Occupation site on road (Coddendam - Melford) investigated in 1930's. Probable location derived from surviving records (IPSMG). Situated on an E slope near a spring. Roman road (part of). Margary 34a, Coddendam to NE of Long Melford. See RGL 006. Road sectioned: just under 40 feet between ditches; 16 feet "paving". Pits etc. Finds included brick, tile. Coins Antoninus and Tetricus. Pottery ? C2-C3, ? Belgic derived coarse ware.
BCG 005	Evaluation and subsequent excavation of multi-period site revealed BA features, also Neo and EBA material recovered. Interesting as rare to find deposits of this type on heavy, poorly drained boulder clay. Also Rom and Med. 1993: evaluation followed by excavation prior to development revealed Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval finds. February 1994: area south of 1993 excavation stripped. Scatter of Med pottery located during monitoring immediately prior to development also features including postholes.
BCG 006	February 1994: Scatter of Med pottery located during watching brief or assessment prior to development.
BCG 007	February 1994: Scatter of burnt flints & Med pottery located during watching brief or assessment prior to development.
BCG 013	World War II hexagonal pillbox.
BCG 014	World War II hexagonal pillbox.
RGL 006	Roman road (part of). Margary 34a, Coddendam to NE of Long Melford. Projected line from Barking to Great Bricett parish boundary, mostly across fields. Sectioned at TM 032 513 - see BCG 004. Line to NE unknown
WAM 013	Pre second WW, wartime and later airfield (Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum, <i>'Airfields and airstrips of Norfolk and Suffolk'</i> , 3rd ed, 1993; Roger Freeman, <i>'Airfields of the Two World Wars'</i> , in <i>An Historical Atlas of Suffolk</i> , 2nd ed, 1989, 188-189). RAF Wattisham lies 5 miles SW of Stowmarket - it is situated mainly in Ringshall, Great Bricett & Wattisham parishes. It was built in 1938 by John Laing and Son Ltd during the RAF pre-war expansion programme in isolated country, 290 feet above sea level. Original buildings were permanent. Camp was to the east near Great Bricett (Roger Freeman, <i>Airfields of the 8th - then and now</i> , 1978). It was opened in March/April 1939. USAAF occupied base and built 4 additional (to the 4 existing) hangars and more hardstandings. During 1943 the construction of heavy bomber runways was halted then completed using wire (steel) meshing (2 such were completed). Returned to RAF in December 1945 and used as a fighter base par excellence, with all post war aircraft operating (Graham Smith, <i>Suffolk Airfields in the 2nd World War</i> , 1993). New concrete main runway built in 1980s (Freeman 1978). Remained as operational airbase (home of 3rd Regiment of Army Air Corps for army helicopters) into 1990s (? - closure date not checked). Buildings still stand, including control tower (Freeman 1978).

Table 1. Summary of HER entries

The sites recorded on the HER indicate Prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the vicinity. The confirmed presence of early activity suggested there was a high potential for archaeological deposits to be present within the development area.

The major airbase of RAF Wattisham is also located nearby. A pill-box, which is probably related to the base defence, is located on the edge of the site. It is possible that related evidence could also be present within the site.

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, although, due to the hard nature of the ground, a toothed bucket was also occasionally used to break through the upper layers. The location of the trenches was broadly in accordance with the trench plan approved by the County Conservation Team although the presence of an overhead cable resulted in one trench (T3) being moved slightly to the northwest.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify any archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until undisturbed natural deposits were encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features. Had any features or significant deposits been identified they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation of the trenches, the nature of the overburden was recorded and their locations plotted.

A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 14 megapixel digital camera.

5. Results

A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated (fig. 3) which revealed a natural subsoil consisting of orange-yellow clay with chalk flecks and small nodules. It lay at depths of between 0.34m to 0.40m beneath an overburden of dense clayey topsoil (see plates 1 to 4).

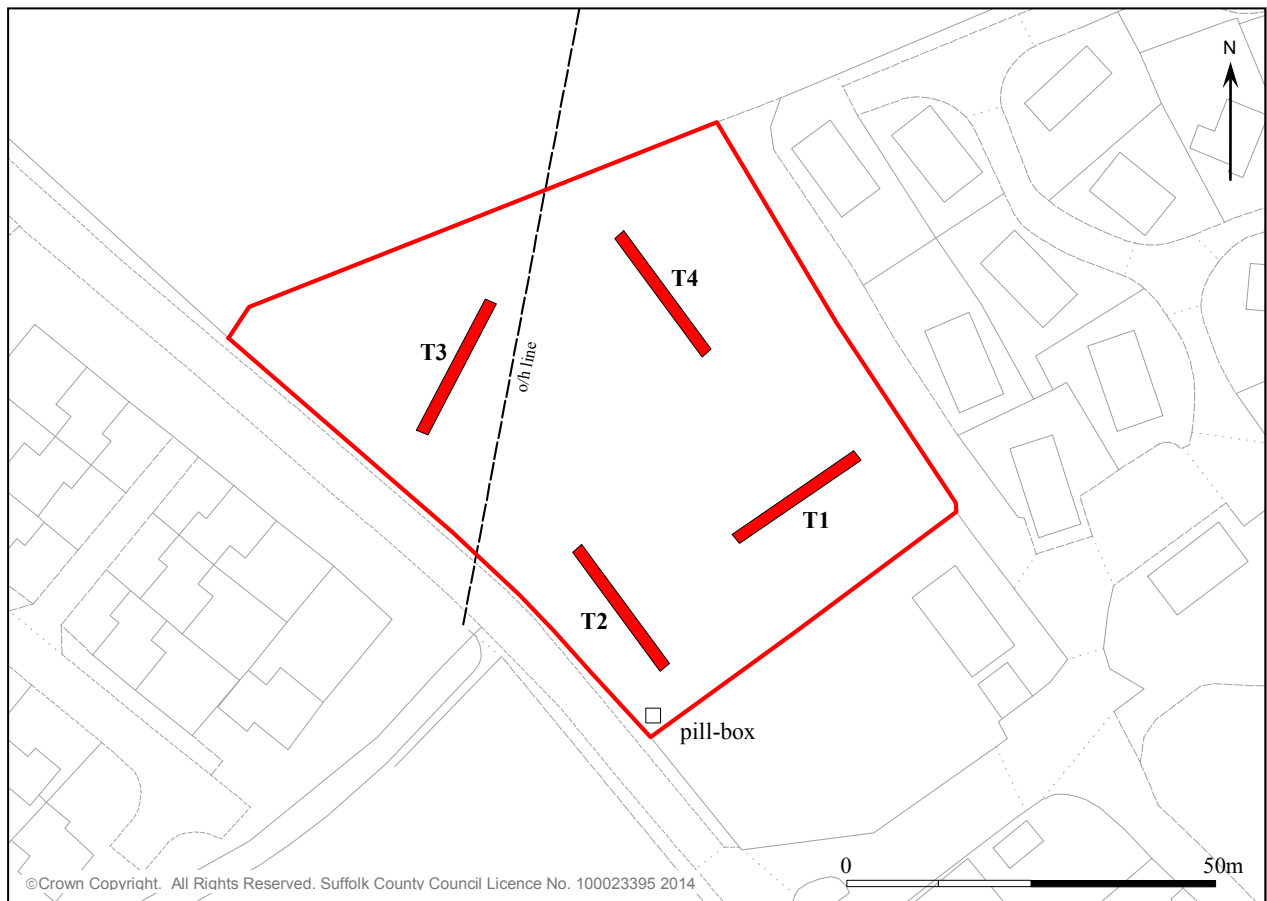


Figure 3. Trench location

No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches and no significant artefacts were present within the excavated spoil.

A hexagonal pill-box, probably a type 22, was noted in the southern corner of the site (plate 5). It is recorded on the County HER.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No artefacts of any period were recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

The results of evaluation suggest that no significant archaeological features or deposits are present within the site. The surface of the exposed natural subsoil was cleanly cut and had any buried remains been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation did not identify any archaeological deposits or features that could be under threat from the proposed development. Based on these results, no further work is recommended, although the final decision is at the discretion of the County Conservation Team.

9. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: BCG 017.

Digital archive can be found on the SCC servers at the following location:

R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bricett Great\BCG017 evaluation (Wixfield Park)

Digital photographs are held under the references HWZ 31 to HWZ 39

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-184322

10. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Preston Boyles and Mark Sommers from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team.

The project was directed by Mark Sommers and managed by Dr Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

11. Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1, camera facing northwest (ref. HWZ 31)



Plate 2. Trench 2, camera facing northeast (ref. HWZ 33)



Plate 3. Trench 3, camera facing northwest (ref. HWZ 35)



Plate 4. Trench 4, camera facing northeast (ref. HWZ 37)



Plate 5. Pill-box in southern corner of development area,
camera facing south (ref. HWZ 39)

Appendix 1. Brief

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

THE PADDOCKS, WIXFIELD PARK THE STREET, GREAT BRICETT

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Mid Suffolk District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	2725/13
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 037 512
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Use of land for nine caravans, access roadway, parking and foul drainage
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	19 May 2014

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 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation, and should be used in conjunction with SCCAS/CT's Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver 1.1. These should be used to form the basis of the WSI.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor, commissioned by the applicant, must submit a copy of their WSI to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny, before seeking approval from the LPA.
- 1.4 Following acceptance by SCCAS/CT, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA.

- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS/CT), the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.7 Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (e.g. excavation) will be made by SCCAS/CT, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation must be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest defined in the County Historic Environment Record. Excavations to the north-west defined Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and medieval occupation (HER no. BCG 005). There is high potential to encounter further important early occupation deposits at this location and the proposal will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

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.
 - Establish the suitability of the area for development.
 - 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 3.5% by area of the new development (total area of c.0.40ha). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.78.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.4 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, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 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 hard copy of the report as well as a digital copy of the approved report should be marked for the attention of the archaeological officer, who will deposit it with the HER.

- 5.8 Where appropriate, a copy of the approved report should be sent to the local archaeological museum, whether or not it is the intended archive depository. A list of local museums can be obtained from SCCAS/CT or online (<http://www.suffolkmuseums.org/suffolk1/cgi-bin/index.cgi>).
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be sent to the archaeological officer, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. This summary should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver 1.1 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010. These can be downloaded from: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/>

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. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/Regional%20Standards.pdf>

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Notes

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. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net> or 0118 378 6446).

This brief remains valid for one year. 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.

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: [suffolkc1-184322](#)

Project details

Project name	BCG017 - Wixfield Park, Great Bricett
Short description of the project	A trenched evaluation in undertaken in advance of development did not identify any archaeological features/deposits. A WWII pill box (type 22) noted in one corner of the development site
Project dates	Start: 27-06-2014 End: 15-07-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2725/13 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BCG017 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
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 MID SUFFOLK GREAT BRICETT BCG017 - Wixfield Park
Study area	4200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0361 5120 52.1210490013 0.974540902692 52 07 15 N 000 58 28 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
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Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	M. Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	BCG017
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	BCG017
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: The Paddock, Wixfield Park, The Street, Great Bricett
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