

**Land off Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall  
MNL 713**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2014/107**

**Client: R.P.V Group Ltd**

Author: Simon Cass

September 2014

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# Land off Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall MNL 713

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/107

Author: Simon Cass

Contributions By: Cathy Tester

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: September 2014



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** MNL 713  
**Site Name:** Land off Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall  
**Report Number** 2014/107  
**Planning Application No:** Pre-application  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 26-29/08/2014  
**Grid Reference:** TL 703 759  
**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-187702  
**Curatorial Officer:** Matthew Brudenell  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
**Client/Funding Body:** R.P.V Group Ltd

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:

Approved By: John Craven  
Position: Project Officer  
Date:  
Signed:



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



## **Summary**

Eleven trenches were excavated across 1.91ha of arable land to the west of Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall, in advance of a proposed planning application for an expansion of industrial warehousing. The fieldwork identified minimal archaeological deposits and elements of the natural topography, with a single possible posthole and a large natural hollow that produced several nail fragments and some animal bone from colluvial infilling deposits.

# 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 

## 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  $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

## **1. Introduction**

---

The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/FT) was asked by Tim Harbord Associates (on behalf of RP Valves Ltd) to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench on land to the rear of Fred Dannatt Road (Fig. 1), in advance of a proposed planning application. The evaluation was required by Dr Matthew Brudenell of the SCCAS Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, following guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 128, 129 and 132). The archaeological investigation was conducted in accordance with the associated Brief produced Dr Brudenell, with an aim to assess the nature and significance of any below ground heritage assets on the site.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies in an area of gently undulating land to the west of the town of Mildenhall, and immediately south of RAF Mildenhall, at a height of 6m – 7m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded variously as Holywell, Melbourne or Zig-Zag chalk bedrock formed between 89 and 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period with superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, in a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes with deposits formed from the material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer).

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

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The site lies 1.6km to the north-west of the historic core of Mildenhall, and has historically been open arable farmland, being shown as such on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1882.

The site lies within the known dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that exists along the edge of the fens. In the immediate vicinity numerous findspots, backed up with excavation results, are recorded on the county Historic Environment Record some 400m to the south, and indicate occupation during the prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon

and medieval periods (MNL 167, 220, 310, 333, 421 and 428). A Neolithic site has also been identified in the field to the east (MNL 464), consisting of artefacts preserved within a natural hollow as well as limited cut features which appeared to have suffered some truncation, likely due to modern cultivation.

## **4. Methodology**

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Eleven trenches, measuring 550m in total length and 1.8m wide or approximately 5% of the total 1.91ha site, were excavated across the proposed development area by a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels (Fig. 2). Trenches were marked out by an RTK GPS.

Where required the trench was hand-cleaned, and potential features were investigated by hand excavation. Trench and spoilheaps were metal-detected and scanned for artefactual material.

The trenches were recorded by RTK GPS, as were feature and section positions and site levels. 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 were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

Site data has been entered onto an MS Access database. An OASIS form (Appendix 3) has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-187702) 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. MNL 713.

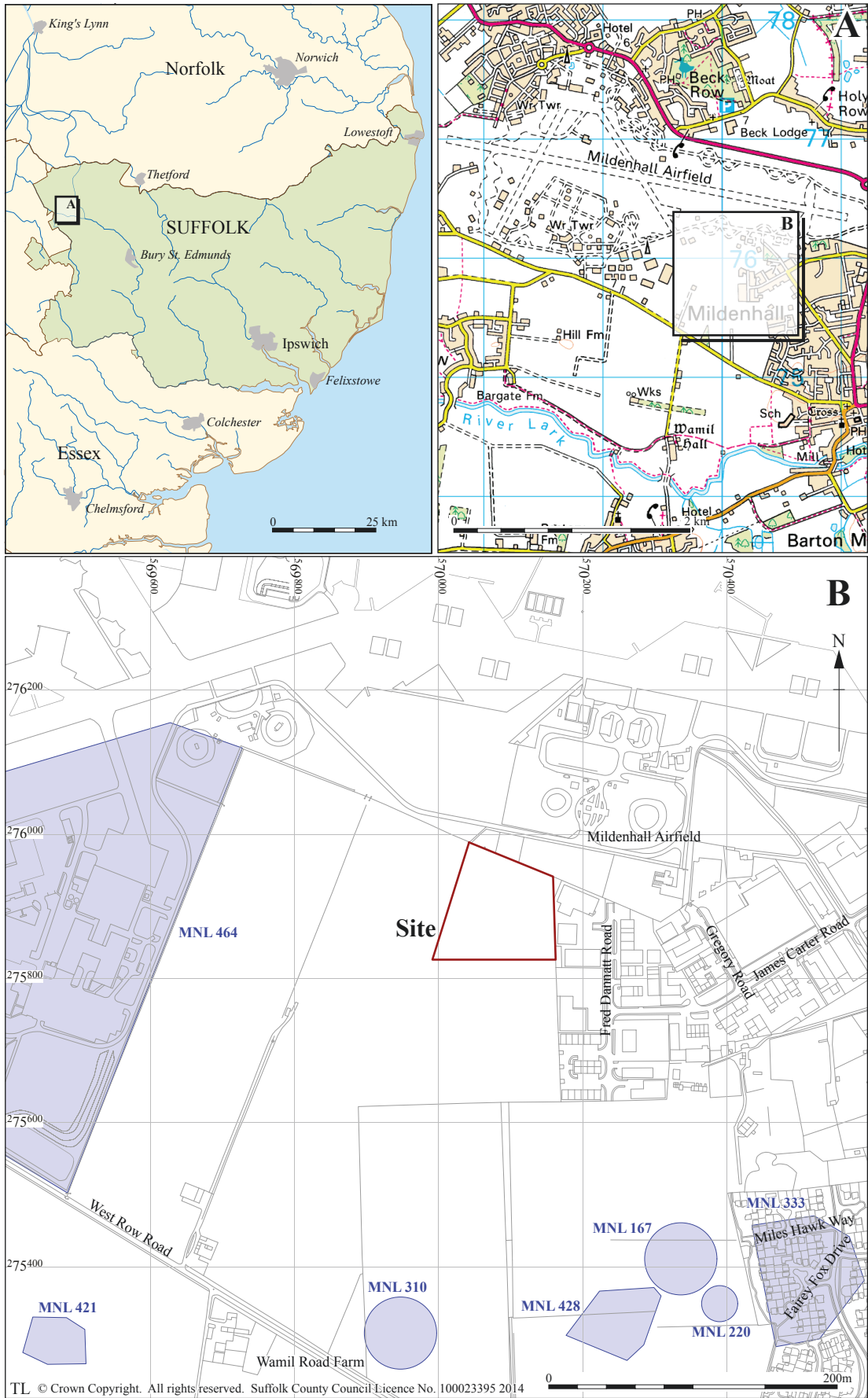


Figure 1. Location plan

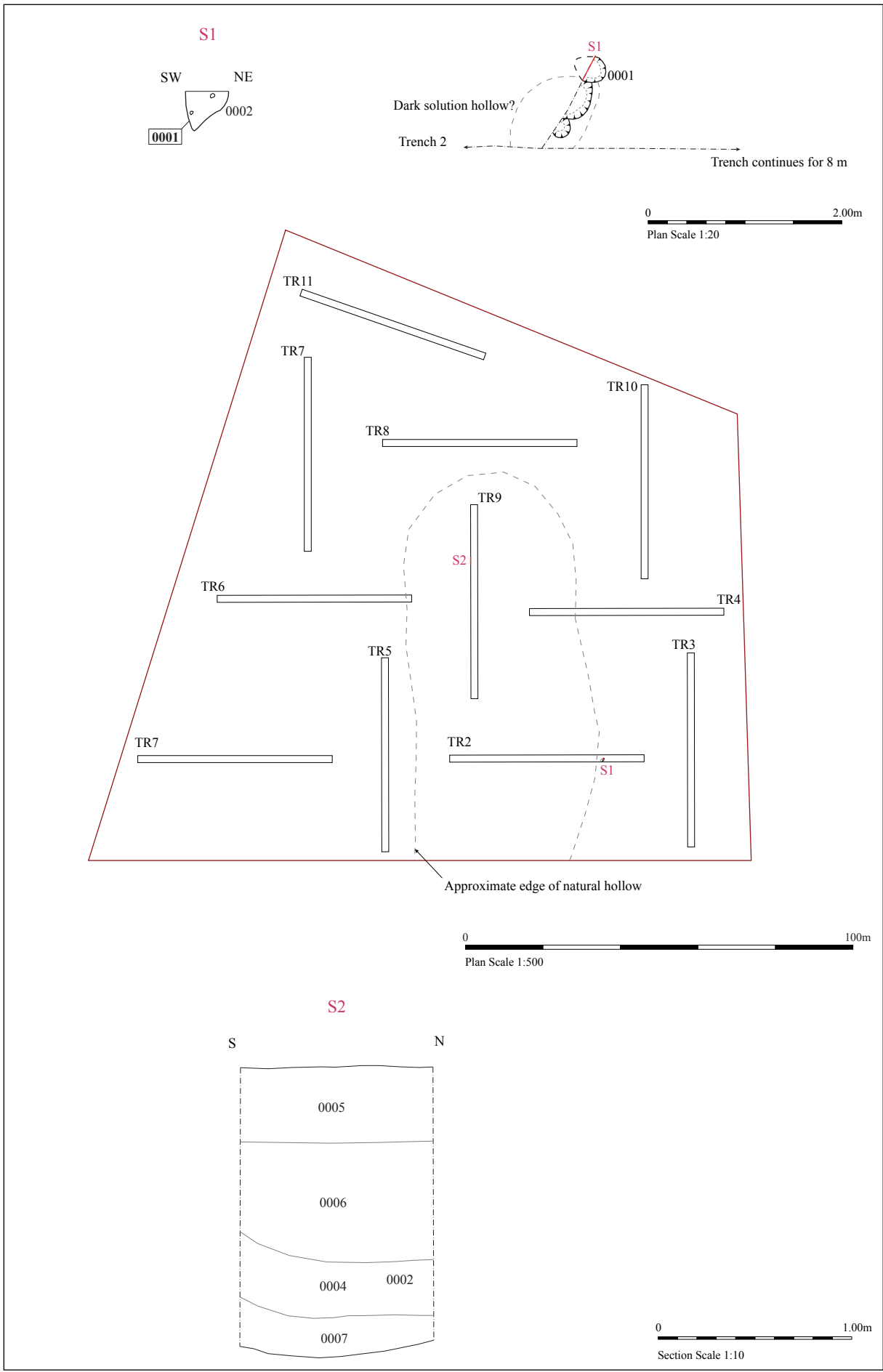


Figure 2. Trench plan

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Trench results

(Fig. 2)

#### Trench 1

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m deep, orientated east-west and situated towards the south-west corner of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.22m of mid brown friable silty sand topsoil/plough soil over mixed pale yellow sands with mid orangey-yellow sand and chalk patches, interpreted as natural geological formations. A natural solution hollow was noted in the western 10m till the end of the trench, which was up to 1.2m deep and filled with a mid yellowish brown subsoil/colluvium deposit down to weathered solid chalk natural (Pl. 1). A tree throw/root bowl was also noted toward the eastern end, filled with light grey brown silty sand.



Plate 1. Trench 1 section showing the deposits in the solution hollow (1m scale)



## Trench 2

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.76m deep and orientated east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.37m of mid brown friable silty sand topsoil/plough soil over 0.19m of a mid orangey brown silty sand subsoil. This overlay a natural infill deposit from a large solution hollow of mid-dark grey brown silty sand with frequent gravels and occasional chalk flecks to a depth of 1.01m. The eastern half of the trench was much shallower, with the stratigraphy consisting of 0.3m of topsoil over natural pale yellow sands and frequent hard chalk outcrops. The deepest part of this trench occupied part of a large natural hollow, as did parts of Trenches 4 and 9. Posthole 0001 was situated on the high ground to the east of the natural depression.

Posthole 0001 was found within one of the chalk outcrops, and was 0.2m in diameter and 0.2m deep with a v-shaped profile to a sharp off-centred base (Pl. 2). It contained a mid greyish silty sand fill (0002) with moderate small chalk flecks. Adjacent to this posthole were two natural solution holes in the chalk, and it is possible that this feature is also of natural origin.

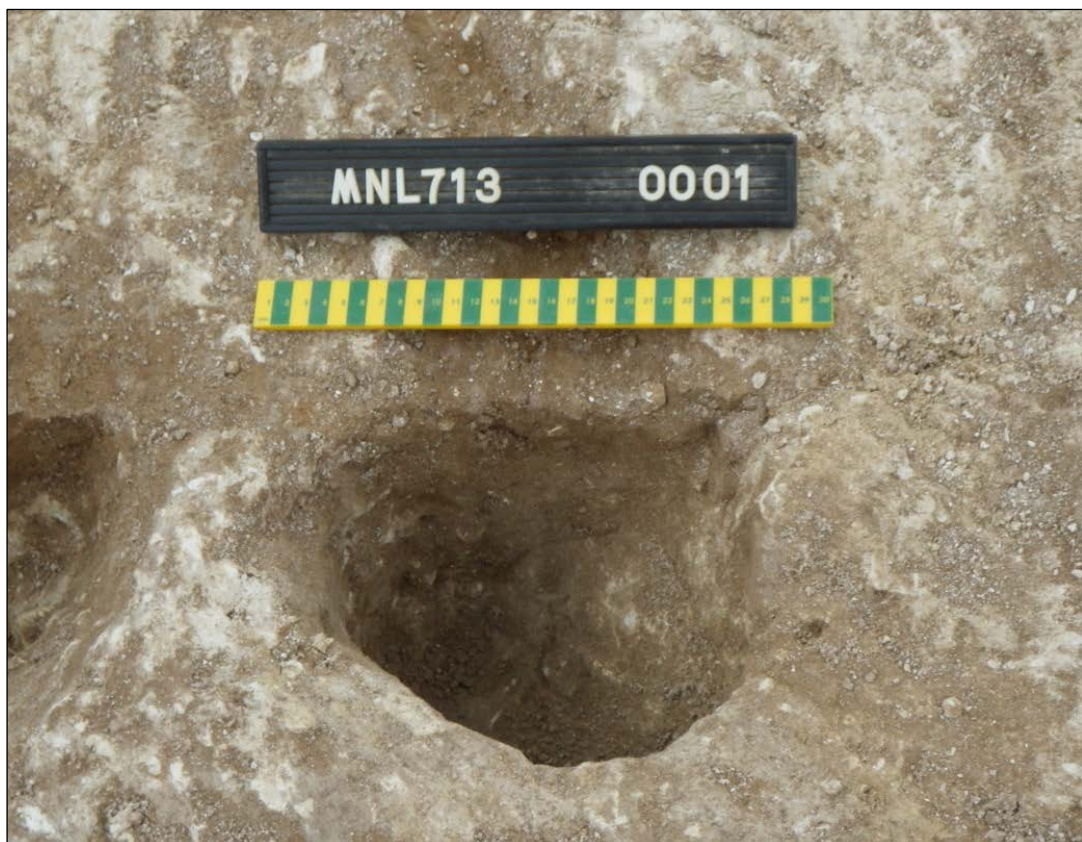


Plate 2. Trench 2, Posthole 0001 facing west  
(0.3m scale)



### Trench 3

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.49m deep, orientated north-south and situated in the south-east corner of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered at the northern end consisted of 0.39m of plough soil directly over natural mixed orangey brown slightly silt sand with pale yellow sand and chalk patches. A possible subsoil deposit of mid orangey brown slightly silty sand approximately 0.2m thick was detected from the centre of the trench to the southern end though this may have just been slightly disturbed natural sands. Part of a natural hollow was exposed at approximately 24m along the trench, with natural chalky clays being observed at 1.54m below surface level (Pl. 3); this feature is believed to extend eastwards from the trench towards the pre-existing industrial units to the east. A sample <1> was taken from this feature for further investigation.



Plate 3. Trench 3 representative section through natural hollow facing west (1m scale)

## Trench 4

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.34m deep, orientated east-west and situated on the eastern side of the development area (Pl. 4). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.27m of plough soil over a mix of pale yellow friable sands and mid orangey brown slightly silty sand with frequent outcroppings of chalk and significant root disturbance evident along the trench.



Plate 4. Trench 4 facing west  
(2m and 1m scales)

## Trench 5

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.3m deep, orientated north-south and situated near the southern edge of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of plough soil over pale yellow sands (Pl. 5).

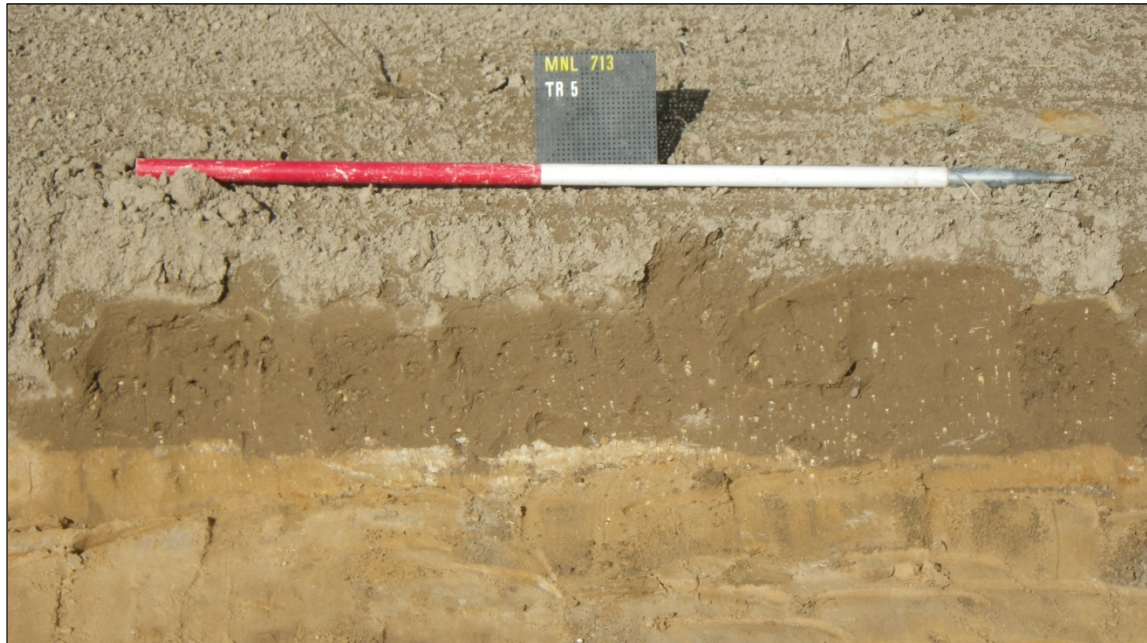


Plate 5. Trench 5 showing representative section  
(1m scale)

## Trench 6

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.78m deep, orientated east-west and situated towards the western edge of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of a deepening layer of plough soil (0.3-0.4m) from west to east across the trench, and a subsoil deposit in the final 3m of the eastern end of the trench where it entered the large natural depression containing Trenches 2 and 9. A single sherd of Roman greyware was recovered from the spoil heap along this trench but no features were located.



## Trench 7

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 53m deep, orientated north-south and situated towards the western edge of the development area (Pl. 6). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.3m of mid greyish/orangey sandy silt plough soil over mid yellow/orange sands with occasional chalky outcrops. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed.



Plate 6. Trench 7 facing north  
(2m and 1m scales)

## Trench 8

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.34m deep, orientated east-west and situated towards the north of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of plough soil directly over a mixed natural deposit of pale yellow

friable sands with mid orangey brown slightly silty sands and chalk outcrops. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

## Trench 9

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.66m deep, orientated north-south and situated towards the centre of the development area, within a large natural hollow. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.39 and 0.48m of plough soil (0005) over at least two separate natural subsoil layers (0006 and 0004) which in turn sealed natural chalk (Pl. 7). The subsoil layers contained five iron nail(?) fragments and ceramic building material fragments in the upper deposit (0006) as well as a single piece of cattle bone in deposit 0004. A sample <2> was taken from deposit 0004 for post-excavation processing and investigation.



Plate 7. Trench 9 section showing deposits 0004-0007 facing west  
(1m scale)

## Trench 10

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.9m deep, orientated north-south and situated towards the north-east corner of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of plough soil over natural yellow sands for the majority



of the trench, with another natural hollow being located at the northern end where 0.35m of plough soil overlay up to 0.5m of mid yellowish brown silty sand on top of natural pale/mid yellow sands. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed within this trench.

## Trench 11

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.0m deep, orientated east-west and situated in the north-west corner of the development area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.36m and 0.42m of plough soil over natural mid yellow/brown silty sands with two areas of deeper subsoil deposits believed to be the edges of additional natural hollows (Pl. 8). These deposits were both mid/ brown sandy silts and the deepest (towards the eastern end of the trench) was 1.0m deep where it exited the trench side.



Plate 8. Trench 11 representative section of natural deposits facing south (1m scale)

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

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By Cathy Tester

### **6.1 Artefactual evidence**

#### Introduction

A small quantity of finds were collected from Trenches 2 and 6.

#### Trench 6

A single sherd of Roman greyware pottery (4g) was recovered from the Trench 6 spoilheap.

#### Trench 9

A fragment of post-medieval roofing tile (16g) was recovered from context 0006.

Five iron nail fragments weighing 22g were collected from five locations recorded as 'A, B, C, D and E' in Trench 9, within deposit 0006.

A single cattle scapula fragment was recovered from context 0004. It is in poor condition due perhaps to adverse soil conditions.

### **6.2 Environmental remains**

#### Introduction and method statement

Two bulk samples of forty litres each were taken from deposits within natural hollows. Both samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular

microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts were noted. Identification of plant remains is with reference to Stace (1997).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry.

## Results

The preservation of plant macrofossils within the samples was very poor. Sample 1, (0003) contained rare charcoal fragments, which were all highly comminuted with only a few small fragments still identifiable as being from a ring porous, deciduous species. Fibrous rootlets were present in both samples but can be considered modern contaminants.

Sample 1 (0003) contained two Elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) pips and three Goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) seeds; the seeds of both these species are robust and survive burial for long periods of time. One of the Elder seeds appeared to be slightly mineralised, however the absence of additional plant macrofossils or organic material suggests that in this case it is preservation due to local anoxic soil conditions rather than any evidence of utilisation by man. Both these plants are wayside and wasteland species and these few specimens could well have become incorporated into the deposit, prior to excavation, through weathering and bioturbation. Sample 2, (0004) contained no floral remains other than the fibrous root material.

Terrestrial snails were common within both samples but were not identified for the purposes of this report.

## Conclusions and recommendations for further work

On the whole both samples were very poor in terms of identifiable plant remains. The charcoal fragments present in 0004 were probably too small to be of use for radiocarbon dating or species identification.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the flots material at this stage as it would offer little extra information of value to the results of the evaluation, however if further intervention is planned on this site, it is recommended that further



sampling should be carried out on well sealed and well dated contexts with a view to recover any plant macrofossils that may be present. Any future samples could provide insights into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site. It is also possible that the terrestrial snail species present within the samples from this evaluation and any future samples may provide some useful data regarding local environments and habits.

## **7. Discussion**

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The evaluation has not identified any firm evidence for past activity on the site other than a single unstratified Roman pottery sherd. Although the absence of cut features could be at least partly due to agricultural truncation removing archaeological deposits the near complete absence of unstratified material, despite the site's broad location within a rich archaeological landscape, is indicative of a genuine lack of past occupation or intensive agriculture/land management.

The natural features observed across the site are typical of the local fen-edge natural topography, an undulating landscape of sand ridges separated by natural hollows that formed during the last glaciation but has largely been levelled by post-medieval and modern agricultural ploughing. Elements of this preserved prehistoric landscape have previously been seen in several locations in the parish, particularly to the north of RAF Mildenhall at Beck Row (Craven 2010 & 2011) and peat or sand infilled hollows have often been associated with prehistoric findspots or features. In this case however the large hollow seen predominantly in Trench 9, while demonstrating some level of preservation of the prehistoric topography and only appearing to have been finally infilled in the post-medieval period, does not appear in association with any firm evidence for past occupation.

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

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The likelihood for the site to contain further unknown archaeological deposits is thought to be minimal, with a near total absence of features and material seen throughout the trenching. While the general lack of surviving subsoil deposits and shallow depth of the geology indicates that any shallow archaeological deposits may have been previously removed it is apparent that, as elements of the former natural landscape have survived, it would be reasonable to expect some survival of any deeper cut features. However the additional lack of unstratified material also indicates that the absence of archaeological deposits is a genuine reflection of the history of the site and the proposed development is therefore unlikely to have any impact upon heritage assets.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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**Paper and photographic archive:** SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds store

**Digital archive:** SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Mildenhall\MNL 713 Evaluation

**Digital photographic archive:** SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HXA-HXZ\HXH 34-56

**Finds and environmental archive:**

SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds store, Location: **H / 88 / 3**

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass, Rebecca Smart and Hannah Cutler. Project management was undertaken by John Craven who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Johnathan Van Jennians and Cathy Tester respectively. The specialist finds report was produced by Cathy Tester and additional specialist advice was provided by Anna West.

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

## 11. Bibliography

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Craven, J. A., 2010, *Phase 2, Rear of Smoke House Inn, Beck Row, Mildenhall* MNL 536. SCCAS Report No. 2010/206.

Craven, J. A., 2011, *Land adjoining the Former Smoke House Inn, Beck Row, Mildenhall, MNL 598, MNL 608*. SCCAS Report No. 2011/190.

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press.

### Websites

British Geological Survey, 2014, Geology of Britain Viewer. Accessed 04/09/2014  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

## Appendix 1. Trench list

Trench No	Length (m)	Orientation	Geology	Topsoil Depth	Depth to Natural	Summary
1	50	E-W	Mixed silty sand + sand with occasional chalk.	0.22	0.22	Tree throw 2.35m from eastern edge of trench visible in south section.
2	50	E-W	Sand/chalk	0.37	0.56	Light grey silty sand, moderate, well sorted, sub rounded inclusions. 0.6m
3	50	N-S	Sand/chalk	0.39	0.39	Possible post hole [0001] fill (0002)
4	50	E-W	Sand/chalk	0.27	0.27	Nil
5	50	N-S	Sand	0.25	0.25	Nil
6	50	E-W	Chalk/sand/silty sand	0.35	0.42	Nil
7	50	N-S	Sand/chalk	0.32	0.32	Nil
8	50	E-W	Sand/chalk	0.3	0.3	Nil
9	50	N-S	Silty sand/clay	0.48	0.92	Bone from (0004), nails and CBM (tile) from (0006). Sample #2 from (000 4)
						North end profile 0-0.57m Topsoil: Light grey silty sand 0.57-0.92m Subsoil: Light grey silty sand. 0.92-1.66m Natural: Clay.
10	50	N-S	Sand/chalk	0.33	0.33	Nil
11	50	E-W	Silty sand	0.42	0.78	Nil

## Appendix 2. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Category	Trench	Description	Over	Under
0001	0001	Posthole	Cut	2	Sub-circular posthole. Narrow steep sided 'v' shaped profile		0002
0002		Posthole	Fill	2	Mid grey/brown silty sand with rare chalk pebbles, poorly sorted, sub rounded. Friable, moderate compaction.	0001	
0003			Layer	3	Black friable silty sand with some chalk inclusions.		
0004			Layer	9	Dark grey silty sand. Friable, moderate compaction	0007	0006
0005			Layer	9	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Upper fill, friable and of moderate compaction with infrequent chalk flecks	0006	
0006			Layer	9	1/Mid orange silty sand. Friable, moderate compaction, infrequent poorly sorted sub rounded inclusions	0004	0005
0007			Layer	9	Soft light grey chalky clay. Basal fill.		0004



## Appendix 3. OASIS form

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**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-187702**

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### Project details

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Project name	MNL713 Land off Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall
Short description of the project	Eleven trenches were excavated across 1.91ha of arable land to the west of Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall, in advance of a proposed planning application for an expansion of industrial warehousing. The fieldwork identified minimal archaeological deposits and elements of the natural topography, with a single possible posthole and a large natural hollow that produced several nail fragments and some animal bone from colluvial infilling deposits.
Project dates	Start: 26-08-2014 End: 28-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MNL 713 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	MNL 713 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

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### Project location

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Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH MILDENHALL MNL 713 Land off Fred Dannatt Road
Study area	1.91 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 703 759 52.354239311 0.500909991353 52 21 15 N 000 30 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.00m Max: 7.00m

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### Project creators

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Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
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	John Craven
Project supervisor	Simon Cass
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPV Group Ltd

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### Project archives

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Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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**Project bibliography 1**

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Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Fred Dannatt Road, Mildenhall
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cass, S.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS Report No. 2014/107
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS/FT
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Description	SCCAS/FT evaluation report

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## Appendix 4. Written Scheme of Investigation

# Land off Fred Dannatt Road MNL 713

### **Archaeological Evaluation through Trial Trenching**

**Written scheme of Investigation &  
Safety Statement and Risk Assessment  
Client agent: Tim Harbord Associates**

Author: Andy Beverton

August 2014

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# 1. Background

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1.1 The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) has been asked by Tom Harbord Associates to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig. 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers the evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.

1.2 The site covers c1.91ha, located at NGR TL 703 759.

1.3 The work is to be undertaken pre-application for planning permission. This is at the request of the local planning authority, following guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 128, 129 and 132).

1.4 The archaeological investigation will be conducted in accordance with the associated Brief produced Dr Matthew Brudenell of the SCCAS Conservation Team with an aim to assess the nature and significance of any below ground assets at this location through evaluation trenches covering 5% of the PDA (Fig.2).

1.5 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential as recorded by the County Historic Environment Record (CHER). Numerous find spots are located in close proximity to the site, particularly 400m to the south where a swath of archaeological horizons has been identified through excavation and metal detection surveys. This swath comprises Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval finds (MNL 167, 220, 310, 333, 421 and 428). A Neolithic site has also been identified to the east (MNL 464).

1.2 The site outline and trench pattern are shown on Figure 2. Deposits in this area will be directly affected by the planned groundwork's associated with the development.

1.3 This WSI complies with the requirements of SCC's standard Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2012 Ver 1.1), as well as the following national and regional guidance 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation' (IFA, 1995, revised 2001) and 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occasional Papers 14, 2003).

## **2. Fieldwork Aims**

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The Fieldwork aims of this project, as set out in the Brief (App.3) are as follows:

**FA 1:** Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of and archaeological deposits together with their likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

**FA 2:** Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking fluvial deposits.

**FA 3:** Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

**FA4:** Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy that deals with the perseveration, recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

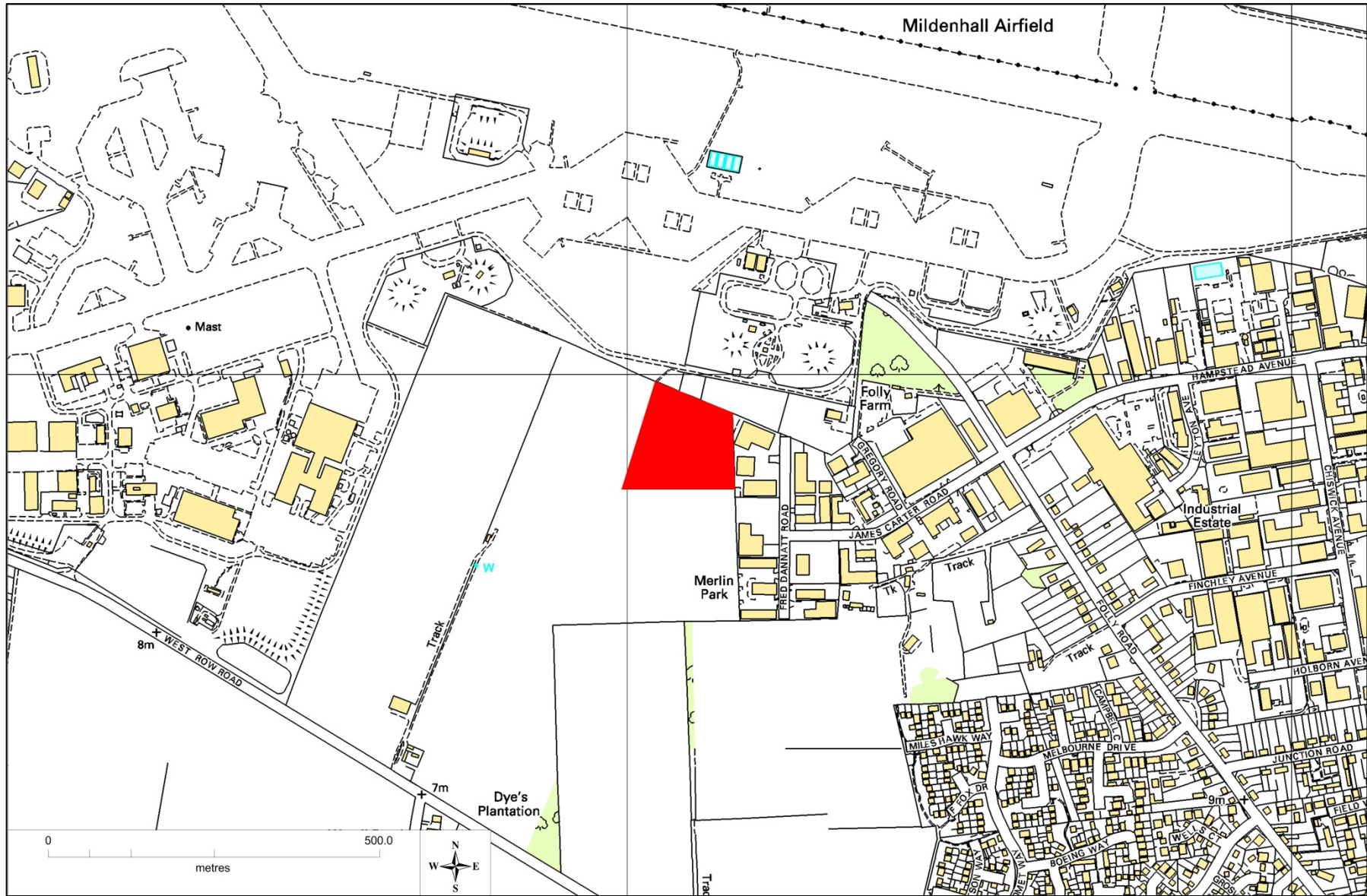


Figure 1. Site location.

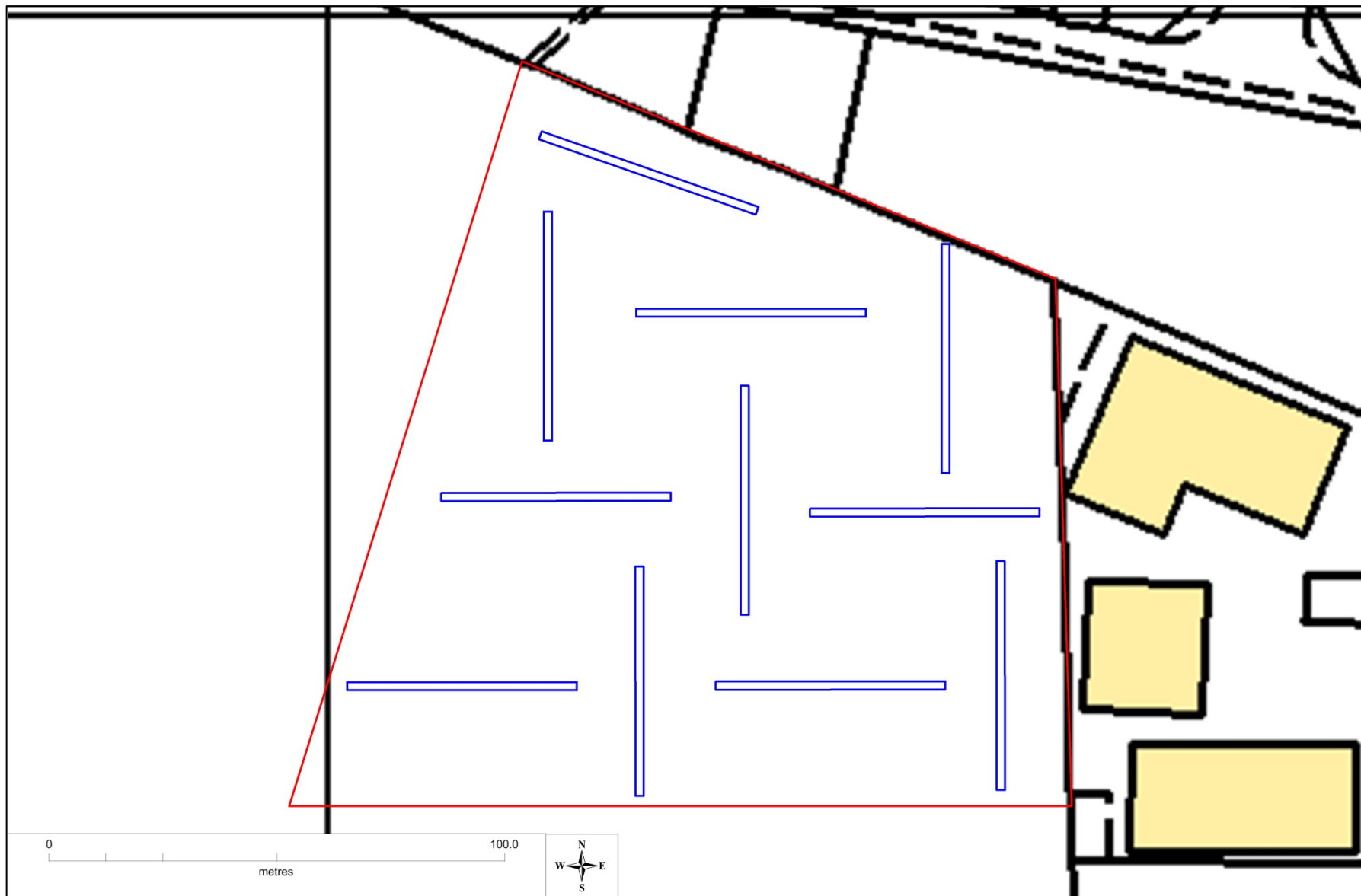


Figure 2. Trench locations (blue).

## 2 Project details

Site Name	Land off Fred Dannatt Road
Site Location/Parish	Mildenhall
Grid Reference	TL 703 759
Access	Fred Dannatt Road
Planning Application No	Pre-App
HER code	TBC
OASIS Ref	suffolkc1-187702
SCCAS Job Code	LAKENBR001
Type	Evaluation
Area	c.2ha
Project start date	September 2014
Fieldwork duration	5 days (estimate)
Number of personnel on site	1-3
Percentage coverage	5%

### Personnel and contact numbers

Contracts Manager	Rhodri Gardner	01473 581743
Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)	Simon Cass	07595 091492
Finds Dept	Richenda Goffin	01284 352447
Sub-contractors	Holmes Plant Ltd	07860 121821
Curatorial Officer	Matt Brudenell	01284 741227
Consultant	Tim Harbord	01787 248171
Client	Kevin Frost (RPV)	07979 691994

### Emergency contacts

Local Police	Mildenhall Police Station Kingsway Mildenhall IP28 7HS	01473 613500
Location of nearest A&E	Hardwick Lane Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2QZ	01284 713000
Qualified First Aiders	SCC Project Officer attending	

### Other Contacts

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
SCC EMS (Jezz Meredith )		01473 583288
SCC H&S (Stuart Boulter)		01473 583290

## **3 Archaeological method statement**

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### **3.1 Evaluation by trial trench**

**3.1.1** The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led in the field by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer Grade. The excavation team will comprise up to 3 experienced excavators and surveyors (including the Project Officer) from a pool of suitable staff at SCCAS.

**3.1.2** Evaluation of the development area will employ eleven 50m long (at 1.8m wide) trial trenches to sample 5% by area of the PDA generally arranged on a north-south aligned grid (Fig.2).

**3.1.3** The PDA covers an area of approximately 2ha. (Figs. 1 and 2).

### **3.2 General trial trench methodology**

**3.2.1** The trenches will be cut using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Spoil will be stored adjacent to each trench and topsoil, subsoil and concrete/overburden will be kept separate for sequential backfilling if requested by the client prior to excavation.

**3.2.2** Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and the trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims and in compliance with the SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation, 2012.

**3.2.3** Trenches requiring access by staff for hand excavation and recording will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. Any trench in which this depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief will be brought to the attention of the client or their agent and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA so that further requirements can be discussed (and costed).



**3.2.4** Deeper excavation can be undertaken provided suitable trench support is used or, where practicable, the trench sides are stepped or battered.

**3.2.5** A site plan, which will show all trench locations, feature positions and levels AOD will be recorded using an RTK GPS or TST or hand planned from known OS points, depending on the specific requirements of the project. A minimum of one section per trench will be recorded. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:10 or 1:20 and trench and feature plans at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording.

**3.2.6** The site will be recorded under Suffolk HER site code MNL 713 and archaeological contexts will be recorded using standard SCCAS Context Recording sheets and inputted onto an associated database.

**3.2.7** A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.

**3.2.8** All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed.

**3.2.9** All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done in house, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in other parts of the country.

**3.2.10** Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from suitable archaeological features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.

**3.2.11** In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains in situ. During the evaluation any

exposed human remains will be securely covered and hidden from the public view at all times when they are not attended by staff. At the conclusion of the work backfilling will be carried out in a manner sensitive to the preservation of such remains.

**3.2.12** If circumstances dictate that the lifting of human remains is unavoidable then a Ministry of Justice Licence for their removal will be obtained prior to their removal from site.

### **3.3 Reporting, archive and OASIS record**

**3.3.1** A unique HER number has been acquired from the Suffolk HER – MNL 713. This will be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the project.

**3.3.2** All artefactual material recovered will be held by the SCCAS Contracting Team until their analysis of the material is complete. Ownership of all such archaeological finds will then be given over to the relevant authority. There is a presumption that this will be SCCAS/CT, who will hold the material in suitable storage to facilitate future study and ensure its proper preservation.

**3.3.3** In the event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.

**3.3.4** The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the SCCAS/CT (2010). The client is aware of the costs of archiving and provision has been made to cover these costs in our agreement with them. The archive will be deposited with the County Archaeology Store unless another suitable repository is agreed with SCCAS/CT.

**3.3.5** Specialist finds staff will be used, who are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field.

**3.3.6** All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on

archival stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County HER photographic index.

**3.3.7** All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.

**3.3.8** Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.

**3.3.9** Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.

**3.3.10** The site archive will meet the standards of SCCAS/CT.

**3.3.11** The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994) and to The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for analysis and Publications, Occasional Papers No.1 and No. 2, 3rd Edition (Revised 2010, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group).

**3.3.12** Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.

**3.3.13** Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.

**3.3.14** An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).

**3.3.15** A report on the results of the evaluation will be completed c. 6 weeks after the completion of the fieldwork. A draft of the report will be submitted to SCCAS/CT for approval.

**3.3.16** On receipt of approval of the report from SCCAS/CT hard and digital copies will be sent to the Suffolk HER.

**3.3.17** The Suffolk HER is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The SCCAS Contracting Team will provide appropriate details relating to this project by completing the OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. The completed form (reference suffolkc1-187702) will be included as an appendix to the final report.

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

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

### **LAND OFF FRED DANNATT ROAD, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK**

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:** Forest Heath

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** To be confirmed

**HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:** To be arranged with the Suffolk HER Officer (james.rolfe@suffolk.gov.uk)

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 703 759

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Commercial

**AREA:** 1.91ha

**CURRENT LAND USE:** Greenfield

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Dr Matthew Brudenell  
Senior Archaeological Officer  
Conservation Team  
Tel. : 01284 741227  
E-mail: matthew.brudenell@suffolk.gov.uk

**Date:** 15 May 2014

#### **Summary**

- 1.1 Planning permission is to be sought, and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be advised that any consent should be granted with conditions relating to archaeological investigation and reporting.
- 1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation, and should be used in conjunction with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team's (SCCAS/CT) Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver 1.3. These should be used to form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (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. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of a 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 a condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 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 The proposed development affects an area of archaeological potential, as defined by information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER). Roman pottery scatters have been recorded to the south (HER nos. MNL 167 and 428) and a Neolithic site is known to the west (MNL 464). The surrounding fields have yielded numerous Roman and Medieval period metal finds. There is therefore potential for encountering Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval occupation deposits at this location.

## **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.

- 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 5% by area, which is c. 955m<sup>2</sup>. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, using, where possible, 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. 530m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
  - 3.4 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.
  - 3.5 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**

- 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.
- 4.4 The archaeological contractor will give SCCAS/CT ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored, signed off as satisfactory and in accordance with the WSI.

### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared, consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE*. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Store of SCCAS/CT or in a suitable museum in Suffolk (see Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007).

- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from *The Institute of Conservation (ICON)*.
- 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 For deposition in the SCCAS/CT's Archaeological Store, the archive should comply with SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010. If this is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 An unbound hardcopy of the report clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for comment and approval. Where a report fails to meet the required standards, a revised draft report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single hard copy of the report as well as a digital .pdf version of the report should be sent to the archaeological officer, who will deposit both with the HER.
- 5.9 SCCAS/CT supports the OASIS project, to provide an online index to archaeological reports. 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be also included in the final report and also with the site archive.
- 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**

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/>



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 field evaluation* (revised 2001) 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.**





# Archaeological Service Field Projects Team

**Delivering a full range of archaeological services**

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**Contact:**

**Rhodri Gardner**

**Tel: 01473 265879**

**[rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk)**

**[www.suffolk.gov.uk/Business/business-services/Archaeological-services](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Business/business-services/Archaeological-services)**