

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land at Hinderclay Road, Rickinghall Inferior RKN 038

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. 2509/06)

J.A.Craven
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2007

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds
 - 4.1. Introduction
 - 4.2. Ceramic Building Material
 - 4.3. Discussion
5. Discussion
6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Site plan
3. Sections

List of Tables

1. Finds quantities

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

John Craven Project Officer
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager
Gemma Adams Project Assistant

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Circle Anglia and was monitored by William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was carried out by John Craven and Alan Smith from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the producing of site plans and sections was carried out Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation in advance of housing development on land at Hinderclay Road, Rickinghall Inferior, identified a single post-medieval ditch, thought to be a former field boundary.

SMR information

Planning application no. 2509/06
Date of fieldwork: 11th July 2007
Grid Reference: TM 03837535
Funding body: Circle Anglia
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-28387

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of housing development at Hinderclay Road, Rickingham Inferior. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application 2509/06. The work was funded by the developer, Circle Anglia.

The proposed development area of c.4200sqm lay at TM 0383 7535, on a very gentle south-east facing slope from 34m-35m OD (Fig. 1). The site consisted of part of an open arable field where it fronted onto Hinderclay Road. The site was of potential interest as it lay 200m to the north of the medieval St Mary's Church. Scatters of Roman and medieval material have also been recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record from the surrounding area.

The development therefore had the potential to disturb medieval or earlier archaeological deposits. A programme of archaeological evaluation was required to assess this potential and to establish any archaeological implications for the sites development.

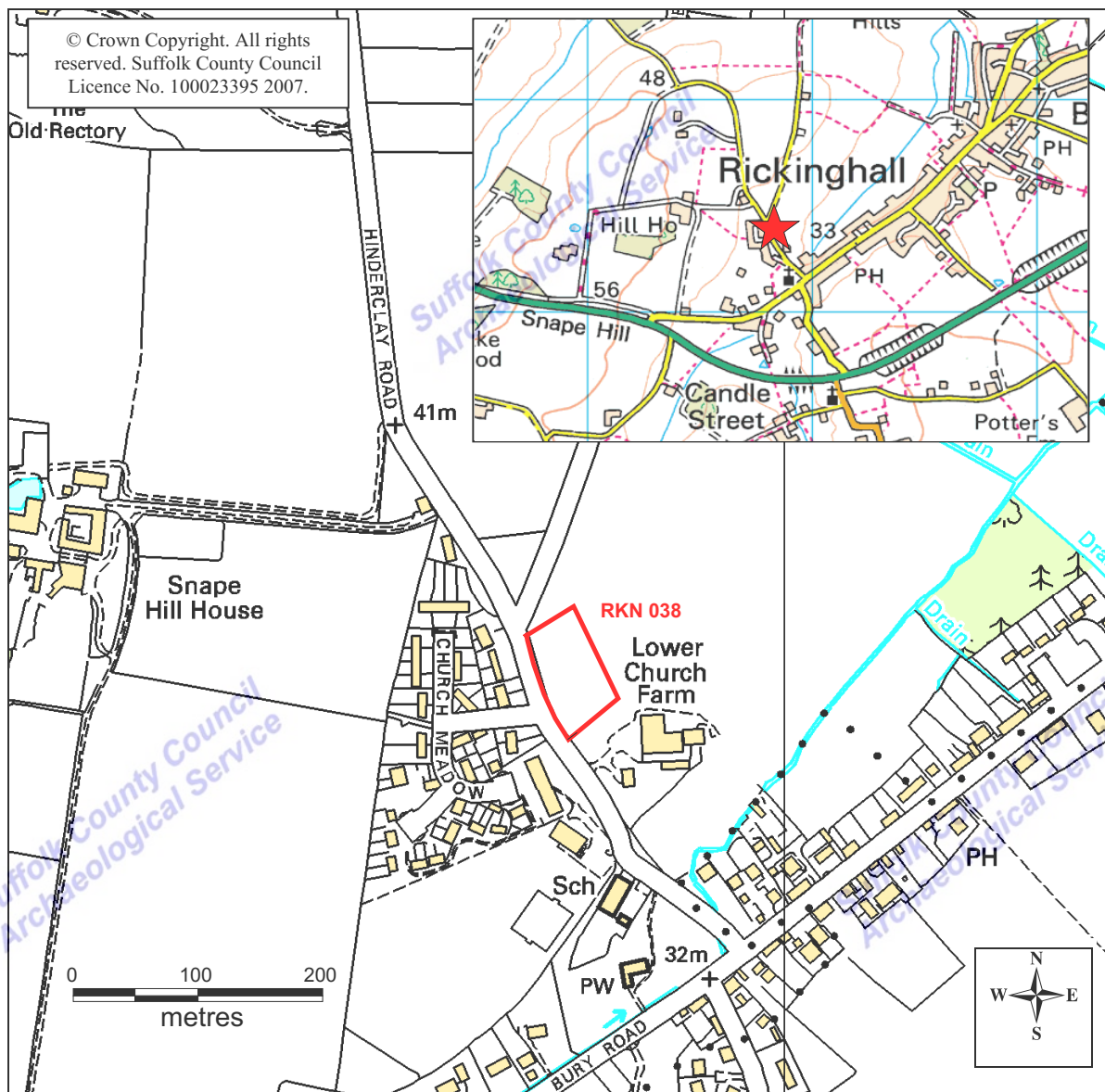


Figure 1. Site location plan

2. Methodology

Four evaluation trenches were placed to cover the proposed development area, in particular along the road frontage (Fig. 2). The trenches, which measured 1.6m wide and 131m long in total, were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. This amounted to c.210sqm or 5% of the total area of c.4200sqm.

Each trench was excavated to the top of the natural subsoil surface or the archaeological levels. This generally involved the removal of a c.0.3m-0.35m thick ploughsoil which, on the high ground to the north-west, directly overlaid the truncated natural subsoil. As the trenches began to descend the natural slope the topsoil overlaid a layer, 0001, of homogenous mid brown silt/sand, which gradually increased in thickness to 0.4m. The subsoil on the higher ground consisted of solid chalk, with occasional patches of mid brown/orange silt/sands. As the site descended the natural slope this subsoil gradually changed to a mix of mid yellow/orange sands interspersed with occasional patches of chalk. Upcast spoil was examined for finds and both trenches and spoil were searched by an experienced metal-detectorist.

The trench locations were planned by hand and the site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system. After the machining, archaeological features were cleaned and excavated by hand. Feature and baulk sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. Bulk finds have been washed, marked and quantified, and inked copies of plan and section drawings have been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-28387) and a digital copy of the report 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 SMR No. RKN 038.

3. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

The evaluation trenches were almost completely devoid of any archaeological deposits, with only a single ditch, 0002, being identified in Trenches 01 and 03. This linear feature, aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated in sections 0003 and 0005.

Trench 01 was aligned north-south and measured 68m long. At the northern end of the trench the topsoil directly overlaid the natural chalk. As the trench headed south the subsoil changed to a mix of chalk and sands, sealed under layer 0001 which gradually increased to a thickness of 0.3m at the southern end.

Section 0003, in Trench 01, showed that ditch 0002 lay directly under the ploughsoil and measured 1.7m wide and 0.7m deep. Its fill, 0004, was a mid/dark grey silt with frequent broken chalk. Denser lenses of chalk indicated that the feature had been partially infilled by natural weathering or slumping. A small quantity of post-medieval material was recovered.

Trench 02 was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 20m long. Underneath the topsoil was layer 0001, at this point c.0.45m thick, which overlaid the pale yellow/brown sand subsoil. A baulk section, 0007, was recorded.

Trench 03 was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 22m long. Underneath the topsoil was layer 0001, which ranged from 0.4m-0.55m thick and overlaid the subsoil of mid orange/brown sand and chalk patches.

Section 0005 of 0002 showed that the ditch cut through layer 0001 and therefore had largely been removed during the machining. In section the ditch lay immediately below the topsoil and

was 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0006, was a homogenous mid brown/grey silt/sand.

Trench 04 was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 21m long. Underneath the topsoil was layer 0001, which measured c.0.1m thick and overlaid the subsoil of mid orange/brown sand and chalk patches. A baulk section, 0008, was recorded.

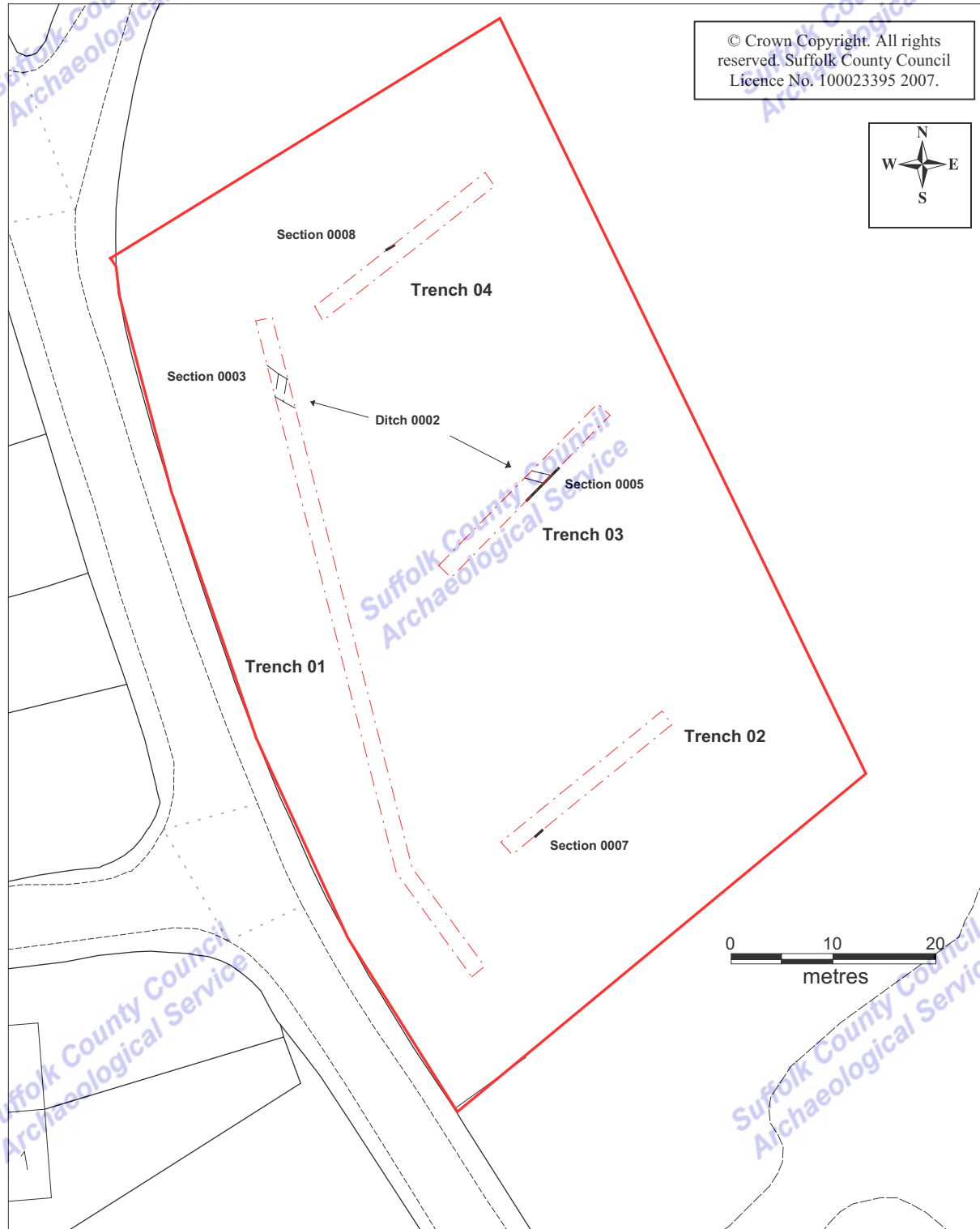


Figure 2. Site plan

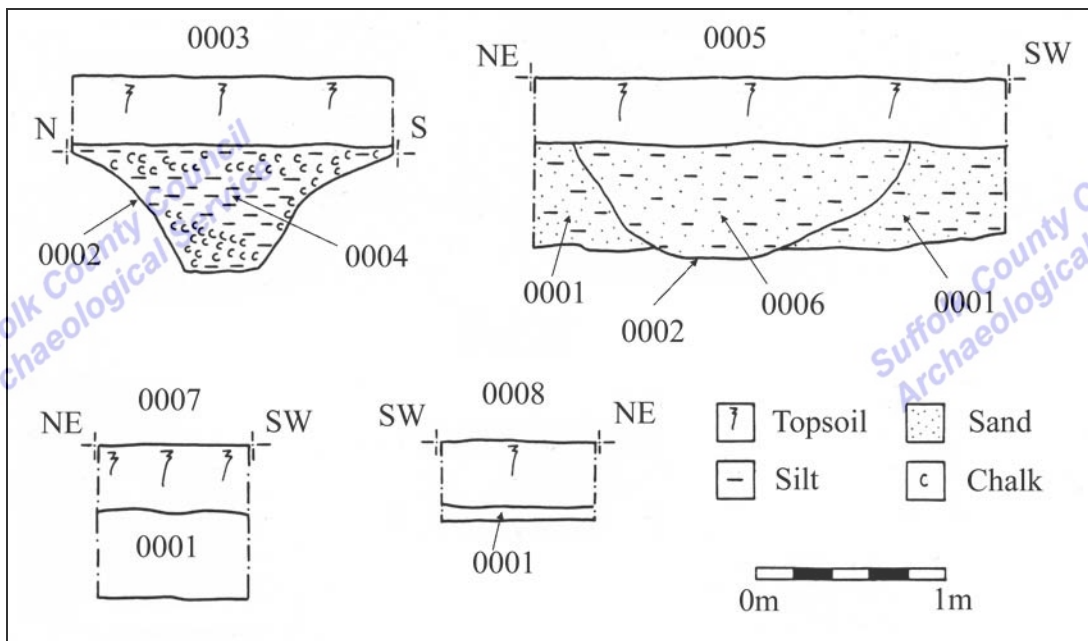


Figure 3. Sections

4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

4.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0004	13	386	Post-med
Total	13	386	

Table 1. Finds quantities

4.2. Ceramic building material

A total of 13 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the ditchfill 0004 (0.386kg). All are pieces of rooftile made in red-firing clays, which are post-medieval in date. Most of the tiles have some evidence of mortar adhering to them, either on one of their flat surfaces, or patchily elsewhere, suggesting possible re-use. Two small fragments have round holes for nail attachment. Seven tiles are made in medium sandy fabrics with sparse flint inclusions (msf), with a further five with grog or ferrous inclusion (msg and msfe). The most abraded fragment, which may have been burnt, is coarser with ferrous inclusions and is almost purple in colour.

4.3. Discussion

All the ceramic building material is post-medieval, and there is no evidence of finds of an earlier date in the ditchfill.

5. Discussion

The shallow depth of the trenches in the north-east part of the site indicates that there may have been some truncation of the subsoil surface at the top of the natural slope. Across the majority of the site however the subsoil surface has been protected at depth by layer 0001, a homogenous colluvial deposit of silt/sands, that increases in thickness as the slope descends.

The single ditch, 0002, which cuts layer 0001, is of a post-medieval date although it is not shown on either the 1st or 2nd edition Ordnance Survey's of 1886 and 1904. It is most likely a former field boundary or drainage ditch.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation has shown that the development area is largely devoid of any archaeological deposits, with no indication of any medieval occupation evidence contemporary with the nearby church. The site therefore is of minimal archaeological interest and no further work is thought necessary.

J.A. Craven
Project Officer
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
July 2007

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation

HINDERCLAY ROAD, RICKINGHALL

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of 10 affordable dwellings at Hinderclay Road, Rickingham, (TM 038 753) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (2509/06).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; 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 This application lies in an area of high archaeological potential. The site is just to the north of the medieval church of St Mary's, which known to have an early Norman 12th tower, and Roman and Medieval period material has been frequently recorded from the within 150 m of the site. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) 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.

- 1.9 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT for approval.

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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 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 SCCAS/CT (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. These 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; this will result in a minimum of c. 89m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Project Design and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. 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 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 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 SCCAS/CT 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.
- 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high-resolution digital images.
- 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 SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than ten days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 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 report should reflect the aims of the Project Design.
- 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, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the county SMR.
- 5.8 The project manager must consult the SMR 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 any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 The project manager should consult the County SMR officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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: William Fletcher

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352199
Email: William.Fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 4th June 2007

Reference: / HinderclayRd_Rickinghall2007

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

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.