ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

PRIORY STADIUM, SUDBURY

SUY 082

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007

Kieron Heard
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 1LZ.

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List of Contributors

Kieron Heard: Project Officer, SCCAS Field team
Richenda Goffin: Finds Manager, SCCAS Finds team

Acknowledgements

A F Howland Associates commissioned the project on behalf of their client Knight Developments Limited, who provided the funding. Particular thanks are due to Adrian Hadley of A F Howland Associates. William Fletcher monitored the project on behalf of the of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

The project was directed by Kieron Heard and managed by John Newman. Kieron Heard, Phil Camps and Martin Cuthbert of the SCCAS Field Team carried out the archaeological evaluation. Survey work was by Jonathan Van Jennians and John Duffy, also of the SCCAS Field Team.

Summary

Sudbury, Priory Stadium (TL 8706 4082; SUY 082). A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site in advance of residential development. 19 trenches (total area 584m^2) were excavated, representing approximately 4% of the site.

The evaluation revealed a sequence of sediments deposited by the River Stour and at least one former N-S watercourse that remained open until the 19th century. In places layers of cultivation soil and former topsoil sealed the sediments, demonstrating agricultural use of the site in the post-medieval period. Generally the site was covered by at least 1.0m of modern dumping associated with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium in the late 19th- and 20th centuries.

SMR information

Planning application nos.:	B/99/00512/OUT and B/01/02018/RES/GP
Site code:	SUY 082
Date of fieldwork:	21 May - 30 May 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 8706 4082
Funding body:	Knight Developments Limited

1 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation and a palaeo-environmental assessment were carried out at Priory Stadium, Sudbury (Fig 1). This work was in advance of a residential development, covered by Planning Applications B/99/00512/OUT and B/01/02018/RES/GP. A F Howland Associates commissioned the evaluation and assessment on behalf of their clients Knight Developments Limited, who also funded the work.

This report describes the archaeological evaluation. The palaeo-environmental assessment is the subject of a separate report (Hill & Jolliffe, 2007).

The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 8706 4082 and encompasses an area of approximately 2.8 hectares. Ground level slopes from *c.* 24.0m OD at the north end to *c.* 23.0m OD at the south end of the site. The site is bounded by residential buildings to the north and west, a car park associated with the Quay Theatre to the east and a disused railway (the former Sudbury, Bury and Long Melford branch line of the Great Eastern Railway) to the south. The railway crosses the River Stour at the south-west corner of the site and at this point the river forms the site boundary.

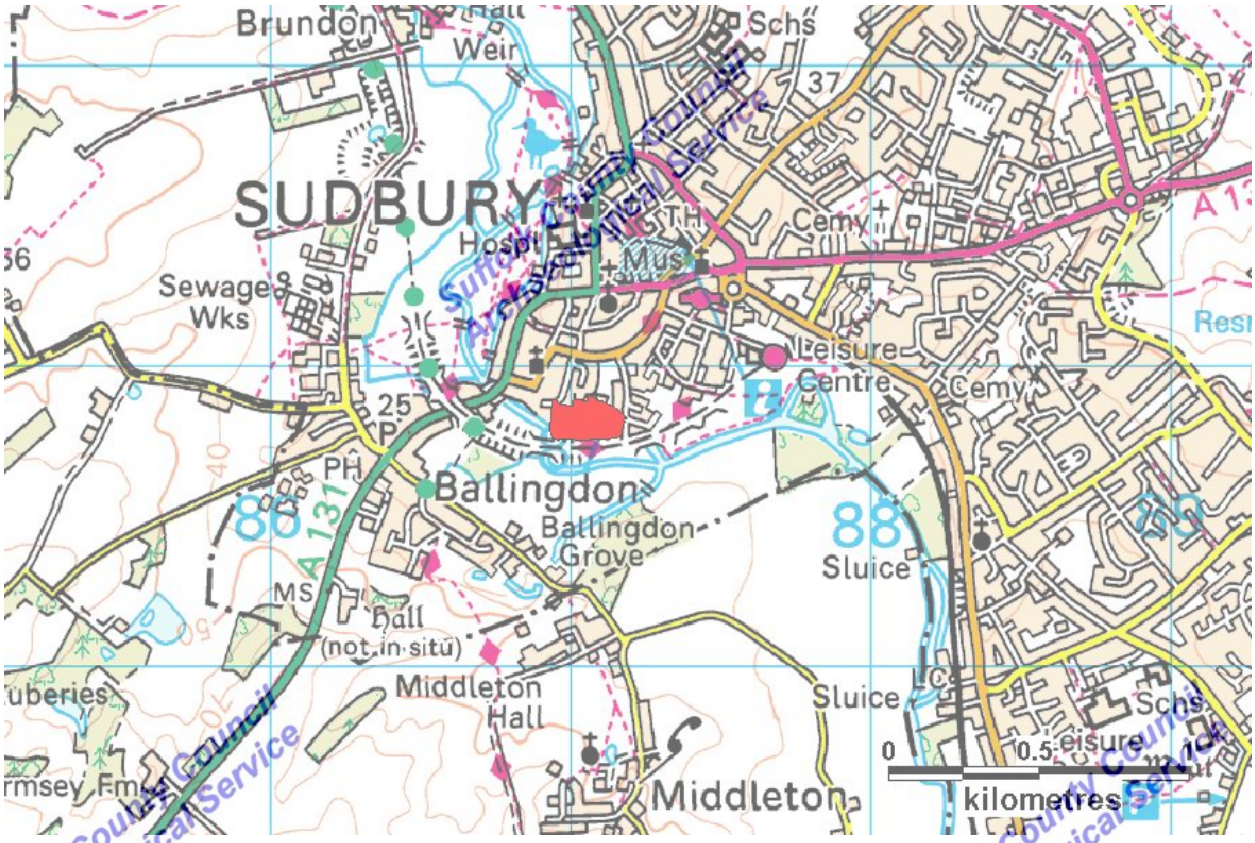

Figure 1. Site location

Prior to the fieldwork the site was the subject of a desk-based assessment of its archaeological potential (Hadley, 2005). This indicated that there was potential for evidence of prehistoric activity, in particular from the Palaeolithic period and the Bronze Age. The site lies beyond the south boundary of Sudbury's Saxon *burgh*, and within the estate of the 13th-century Dominican priory. The priory church and its principal buildings were located to the north of the redevelopment site, but the desk-based assessment proposed that its cemetery might be located within the area of the Priory Stadium. It postulated also that there might be evidence for medieval land reclamation, drainage or cultivation on the site.

The assessment reviewed the evidence from geotechnical ground investigations of the site, undertaken in 1989 and 1997. These suggested that 'made ground' covered the site to a depth of about 1.0m. Below this were alluvial deposits of clay/silt incorporating peat lenses, to a depth of 4.6m. The alluvial deposits sealed river terrace gravel, which overlay solid chalk at depths of between 6.0m and 12.0m below ground level. The assessment concluded that the redevelopment site had high potential for palaeo-environmental evidence relating to landscape development of the Stour valley.

2 Methodology

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) provided by A F Howland Associates (Hadley, 2007). The only notable deviation from the WSI occurred when site conditions (such as the presence of spoil heaps or excessive vegetation) dictated that some of the proposed evaluation trenches be relocated. All such deviations were approved by Adrian Hadley on behalf of A F Howland Associates.

The archaeological evaluation took place between 21 May and 30 May 2007, and the palaeo-environmental assessment between 22 May and 24 May 2007. 19 evaluation trenches were excavated (Fig 2). They were positioned in such a way as to allow the archaeological potential of the site to be evaluated comprehensively, while also facilitating effective palaeo-environmental sampling. The evaluation trenches were excavated using a 360^0 tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.0m wide, toothless bucket. They were excavated under direct archaeological supervision to depths of between 1.00m and 1.30m, depending on ground conditions.

Representative sections at the ends of each trench were drawn and a photographic record was made. Generally the field records were compiled in accordance with the WSI. Trench locations were recorded using a total station theodolite.

The trenches shown in Figure 2 covered $584m^2$, just over 4% of the total area of the site. There was provision for further targeted trenching to define areas of archaeological interest but this was not required.

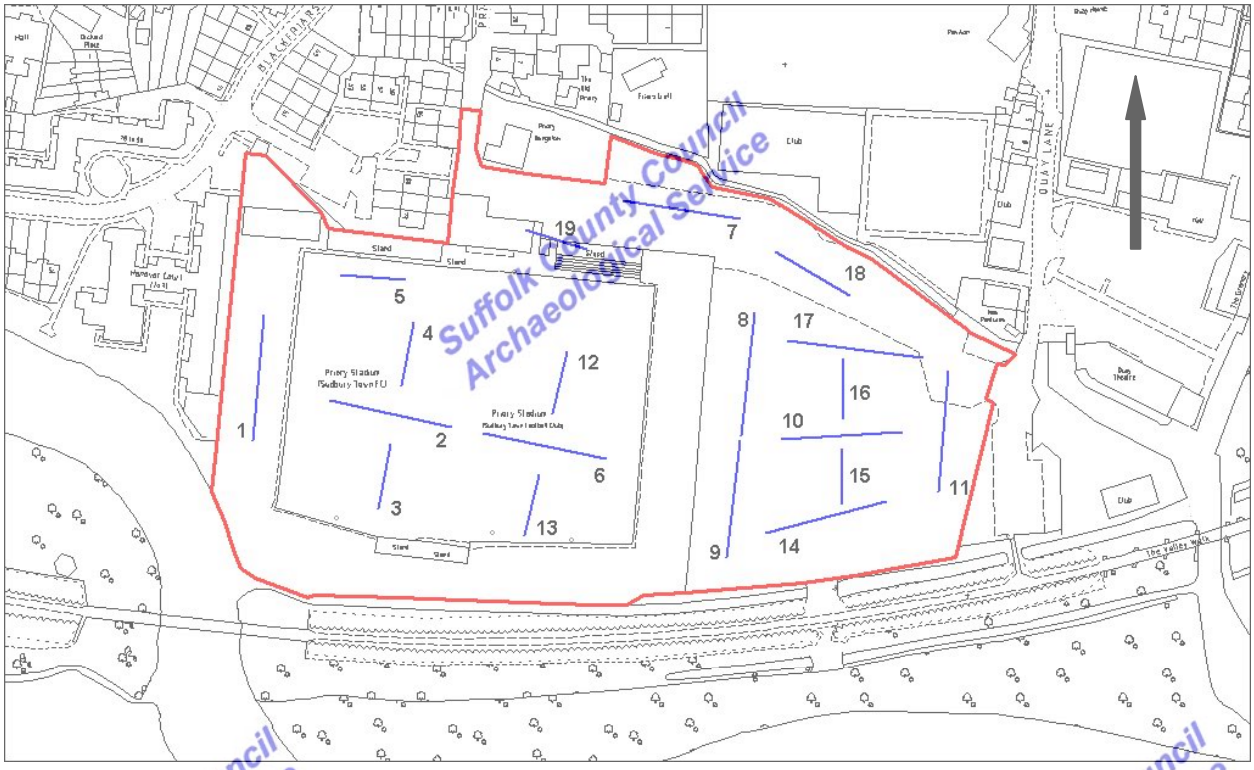

Figure 2. Trench locations

3 Results

Trench 1

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.63 (N) 23.64 (S)	1.10 (N) 1.15 (S)	0001, 0002, 0003
Summary: *dumped deposit 0002/0003 (> 0.90m thick) to the base of the trench, below modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0002 and 0003 are effectively the same deposit, as recorded at either end of the trench. It is a mottled, mid greyish brown and light grey clay/silt with pockets of sand and decayed timber. It contains flecks–medium fragments of chalk, brick, tile, mortar and slate. A small fragment of pottery, dated to the second half of the 18th century, was recovered from 0002. Two pieces of timber found in the base of the trench were identical in cross-sectional dimensions and conversion method (quarter-round) to fence posts used in the construction of the Priory Stadium. These deposits are interpreted therefore as modern dumps, associated with the construction of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 2

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.61 (W) 23.58 (E)	1.35 (W) 1.15 (E)	0001, 0004, 0005, 0006, 0007, 0008, 0009, 0010, 0016, 0089
Summary: *a sequence of alluvial deposits 0008 and 0007/0010/0016 at a maximum height of 22.90m OD. These are truncated at the west end of the trench by a N-S watercourse 0089. The watercourse contains primary fill 0016 and secondary fills 0005, 0006 and 0014. It is sealed by dumped deposit 0004/0009 under modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0008 is an alluvial deposit seen at the west end of the trench. It is a firm, mid grey clay/silt containing occasional pebbles but no cultural material. It has a blurred interface with overlying alluvium 0007.

0007, 0010 and 0016 are the same deposit recorded at different locations within the trench. It is a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick and roof tile. It contains frequent fine, ferruginous root stains and is interpreted as an alluvial deposit that has been weathered/oxidised.

At the west end of the trench the weathered alluvium has been truncated by N-S watercourse 0089. This is approximately 15m wide and greater than 0.80m deep and appears to have a fairly shallow, stepped profile, although its full depth was not seen.

0015 is part of the primary fill of the watercourse. It is a loose, mid grey silty sand containing frequent oyster shells, occasional mussel shells and moderate small fragments of brick and tile. Only the surface of this deposit was exposed, on the east side of the watercourse.

The watercourse was backfilled deliberately with dumped deposits 0014, 0006 and 0005:

0014: red and yellow brick rubble in a grey silty clay matrix.

0006: firm, mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–medium fragments of red and yellow brick, coal and mortar

0005: two very decayed wooden planks lying against the side of cut 0089. They do not appear to have any structural significance.

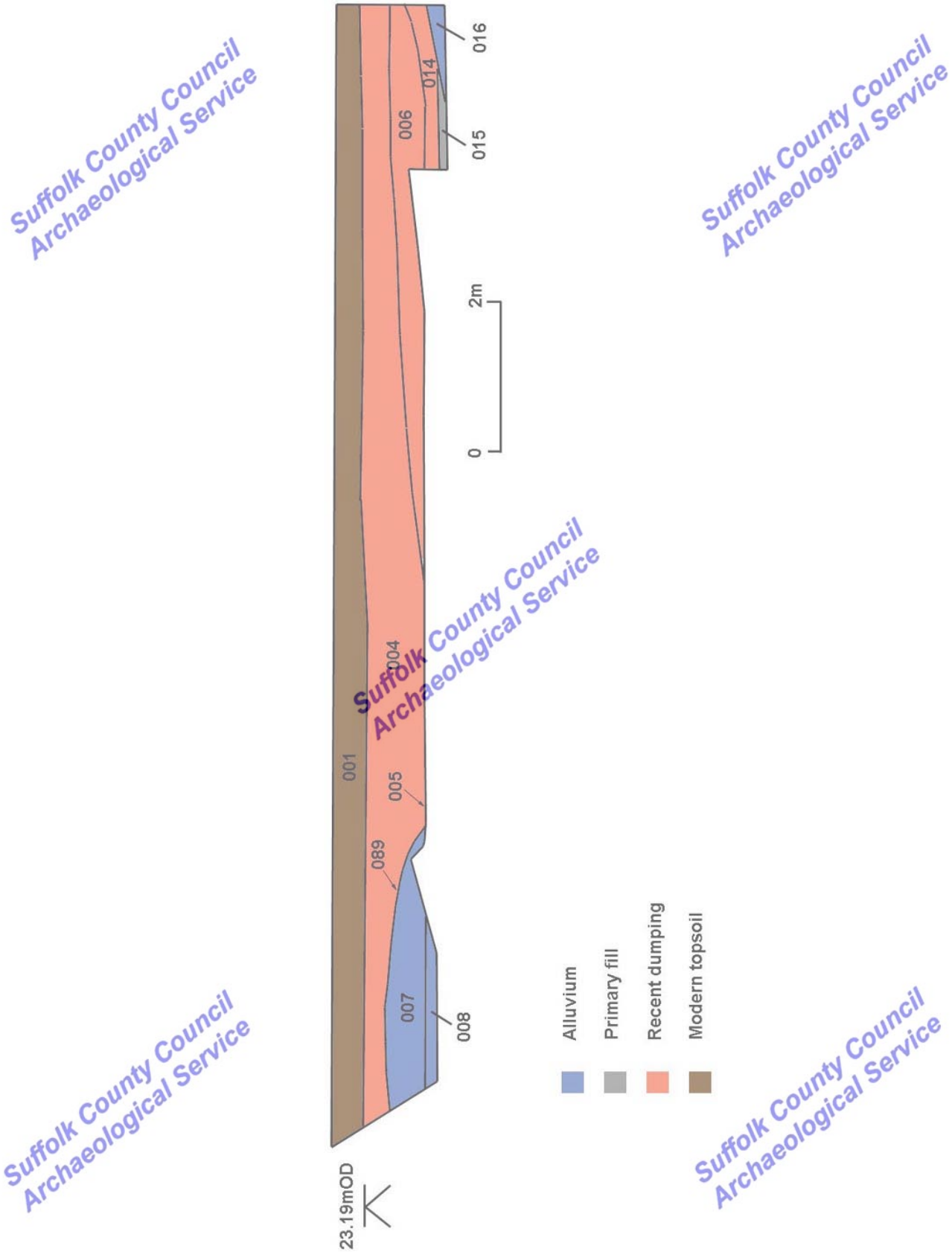

Figure 3. South-facing section at the west end of Trench 2, showing the watercourse 0089

The backfilled watercourse was sealed by layer 0004/0009: a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing moderate pebbles and small–medium fragments of brick and tile, and occasional small fragments of mortar and coal. This is interpreted as a modern, dumped deposit, associated with the levelling of the Priory Stadium football pitch.

Trench 3

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.65 (N) 23.46 (S)	1.30 (N) 1.20 (S)	0001, 0011, 0012, 0013, 0017, 0018
Summary: *a sequence of alluvial deposits 0012/0018 and 0013 to a maximum height of 22.80m OD sealed by dumped deposit 0011/0017 (up to 0.50m thick) below modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0013 is a stiff, mid grey clay/silt alluvium containing occasional pebbles but no obvious cultural material. It was seen only in the base of the trench at its south end, where it was sealed by 0012.

0012 and 0018 are effectively the same deposit, as recorded at either end of the trench. It is a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick and roof tile. It contains frequent fine, ferruginous root stains and is interpreted as an alluvial deposit that has been weathered/oxidised.

The alluvial sequence is sealed by 0011/0017: a layer of friable, mid grey sandy silt containing moderate pebbles, small–medium fragments of brick, tile, mortar and occasional small fragments of coal and window glass. A fragment of pottery from 0017 is of 19th-century date. The deposit is interpreted as modern dumping, associated with the levelling of the Priory Stadium football pitch.

Trench 4

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.60 (N) 23.71 (S)	1.30 (N) 1.25 (S)	0019, 0020
Summary: *alluvium 0020 at heights of 23.10m OD (N) and 22.98m OD (S) sealed by dumped deposit 0019 (0.30 – 0.50m thick) below modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0020 is a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick, mortar and oyster shell. It is interpreted as an alluvial deposit that has been weathered/oxidised.

The alluvium is sealed by 0019: a layer of friable, mid grey sandy silt containing moderate pebbles and small–medium fragments of brick and tile, and occasional small fragments of mortar and coal. This is interpreted as a modern, dumped deposit, associated with the levelling of the Priory Stadium football pitch.

Trench 5

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.55 (W) 23.63 (E)	1.45 (W) 1.20 (E)	0001, 0021, 0022, 0023, 0024, 0025, 0026, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0030, 0031
Summary: *a sequence of alluvial deposits 0031, 0030 and 0028 with a maximum height of 22.90m OD. At the west end of the trench these are truncated by N-S watercourse 0088. This contains primary fill 0029 and secondary fills 0023-0027. The watercourse is sealed by former topsoil 0022, dumped deposit 0021 and topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0031 is a firm, mid yellowish brown clayey sand alluvium containing frequent fine pebbles and moderate small mollusc shells. It was recorded only towards the west end of the trench where it

has a steep interface with overlying deposit 0030, suggesting that 0031 has been truncated or eroded at this point.

0030 is a soft, mid bluish grey silty clay alluvium containing frequent flecks and small fragments of decayed vegetation. Only the upper part of this deposit was exposed, but core sampling (core 14) indicated that it is at least 0.70m thick (Hill & Jolliffe 2007, 24). At its west end 0030 is truncated by N-S watercourse 0088. It is likely that both 0030 and 0031 are themselves within an earlier watercourse (palaeo-channel). The core sample indicates that 0030 overlies a deposit of grey gravelly sand in excess of 0.60m thick.

0030 and 0031 are sealed by 0028: a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt alluvium containing occasional pebbles and flecks–small fragments of brick and tile. The presence of frequent ferruginous root stains indicates that this is a weathered/oxidised deposit. It is at least 0.60m thick and extends the length of the trench. At its west end 0028 has been truncated by N-S watercourse 0088.

Only the eastern edge of watercourse 0088 was observed. It has a shallow, stepped profile and is at least 1.0m deep. It contains primary fill 0029: a soft, dark grey sandy silt containing frequent decayed organic inclusions (apparently twigs and reeds), moderate pebbles, small fragments of mortar and coal and occasional small–medium fragments of brick, tile and oyster shell. A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem is of 19th-century date.

The upper part of the watercourse contains a series of dumped deposits, indicating deliberate backfilling:

0027: friable, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing moderate pebbles, flecks–small fragments of mortar, coal, brick and tile.

0026: loose, red and yellow brick rubble and tile rubble in a crushed mortar and soil matrix, containing moderate fragments of 19th-century pottery.

0025: firm, mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent flecks–small fragments of mortar and occasional small fragments of red brick and roof tile.

0024: loose, sandy silt and brick/tile/mortar rubble.

0023: friable, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing moderate pebbles, flecks–small fragments of mortar, coal, brick and tile. A single fragment of pottery is of 19th-century date.

0022, a thin (0.10m) layer of friable, mid grey sandy silt, seals the backfilled watercourse. This deposit extends the length of the trench and is interpreted as former topsoil that was dumped or accumulated naturally after the watercourse was backfilled.

0021 is a layer of firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay containing moderate pebbles and small fragments of coal and mortar, and occasional small–medium fragments of red and yellow brick. It is interpreted as a modern dumped deposit associated with the construction of the Priory Stadium.

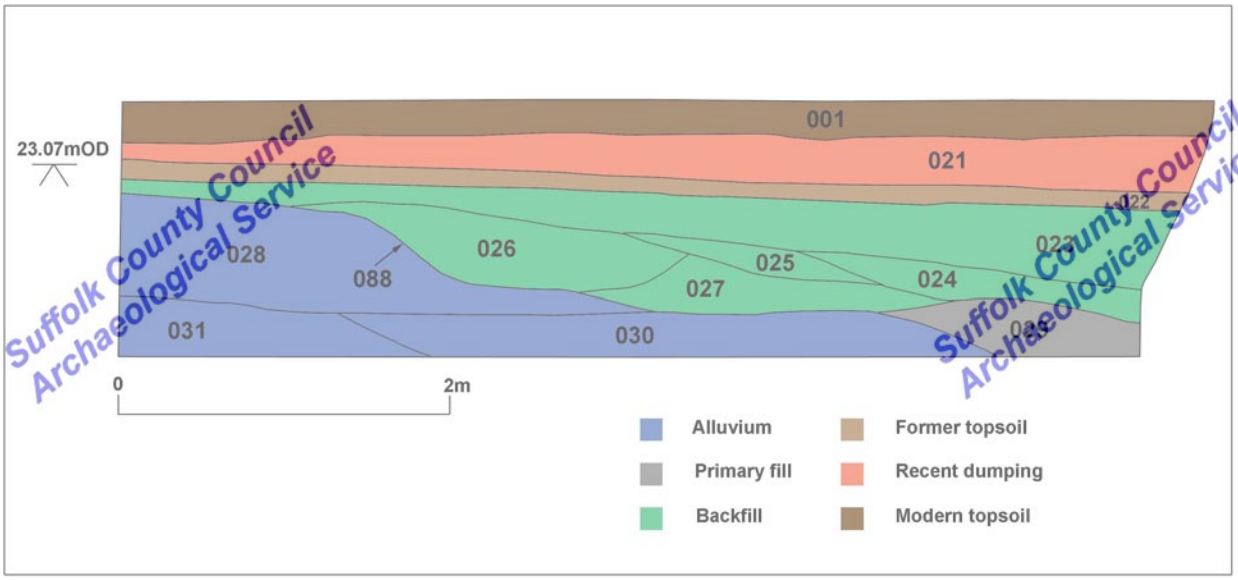

Figure 4. North-facing section at the west end of Trench 5, showing the watercourse 0088

Trench 6

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.35 (W) 23.22 (E)	1.45 (W) 1.20 (E)	0001, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035
Summary: *alluvium 0035 at c. 22.25m OD overlaid by cultivation soil 0034, former topsoil 0033, dumped deposit 0032 and modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0035 is a stiff, mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick and roof tile. It contains frequent fine, ferruginous root stains and is interpreted as an alluvial deposit that has been weathered/oxidised.

The alluvium is sealed by 0034: a layer of friable, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing frequent fine pebbles and moderate flecks–small fragments of red brick and tile. A small fragment of pottery was found in this layer, dated to the 18th–20th century. It is interpreted as a reworked alluvial deposit – a probable cultivation soil.

0033 is a friable, mid-dark grey sandy silt speckled with ferruginous root stains and containing occasional pebbles. It overlies the probable cultivation soil 034 and is interpreted as former topsoil.

0032 is a friable, mixed deposit of mid greyish brown clayey silt and mid grey clayey silt, containing frequent flecks and small fragments of mortar, brick and tile. It is interpreted as a modern, dumped deposit, associated with the construction of the Priory Stadium.

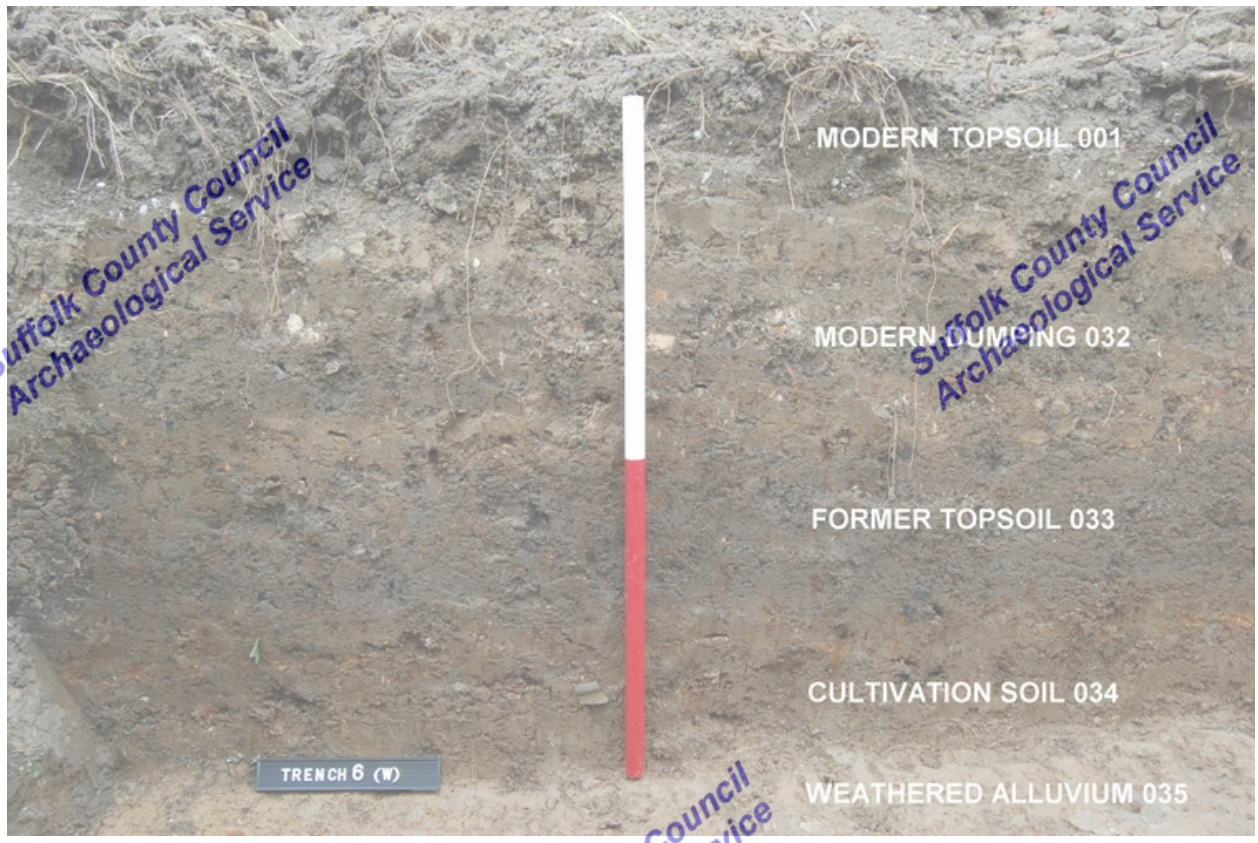

Figure 5. South-facing section at the west end of Trench 6

Trench 7

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.62 (W) 23.60 (E)	1.45 (W) 1.20 (E)	0036
Summary: *a tarmac surface (0.10m thick) on a make-up layer of gravel and brick rubble (0.28m thick), sealing dumped deposit 0036 (> 0.80m thick, to the base of the trench)*		

Deposit descriptions

0036 comprises extensive dumps of stiff, mid grey silty clay, mid yellowish brown clayey sand and mid grey sandy silt. These contain varying amounts of red and yellow brick rubble, ceramic roof tile, small–large fragments of chalk and mortar, small fragments of coal, small–large fragments of decayed timber and one small fragment of 19th-century pottery. This deposit is interpreted as modern dumping contemporary with the construction of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 8

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.25 (N) 23.32 (S)	1.10 (N) 0.90 (S)	0001, 0050, 0051, 0052
Summary: *modern topsoil 0001 over a sequence of horizontal dumped deposits 0050, 0051, 0052 with a combined depth of >0.90m, to the base of the trench*		

Deposit descriptions

0052 is a compact, mid brownish grey clayey silt with extensive lenses of yellowish brown sandy clay, containing frequent flecks–large fragments of chalk and moderate small–large fragments of red and yellow bricks, ceramic roof tile, slate, coal, mortar and decayed timber.

0051 is a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar.

0050 is a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar. It occurs only at the south end of the trench, immediately below the modern topsoil.

0050, 0051 and 0052 are interpreted as modern dumping, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 9

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.34 (N) 23.34 (S)	1.00 (N) 1.00 (S)	0001, 0053, 0054, 0055, 0056
Summary: *alluvium 0056 with a surface at 22.16m OD, below a sequence of horizontal dumped deposits 0053, 0054, 0055 (with a combined thickness of up to 0.95m) under modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0056 is a stiff, mottled mid grey and greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flecks–small fragments of brick, tile, chalk and charcoal, and occasional pebbles. It was recorded only at the south end of the trench, below 0055, and is interpreted as an alluvium that has been weathered/oxidised.

0055 is a compact, mid brownish grey clayey silt with extensive lenses of yellowish brown sandy clay, similar to 0052 in Trench 8 but containing fewer inclusions.

0054 is in effect the same deposit as 0051 in Trench 8: a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar. It occurs only at the north end of the trench.

0053 is in effect the same deposit as 0050 in Trench 8: a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar.

0053, 0054 and 0055 are interpreted as modern dumping, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 10

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.26 (W) 23.42 (E)	1.15 (W) 1.10 (E)	0001, 0065, 0066, 0067, 0068, 0069
Summary: *alluvium 0068 with a surface at 22.12m OD, overlaid by possible cultivation soil 0067 and a sequence of horizontal dumped deposits 0065 0066 0069 with a combined thickness of > 0.90m, under modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0068 is a compact deposit of mid grey clay/silt and fine gravel (40:60). It contains occasional small fragments of pottery, roof tile, red brick and charcoal, and moderate flecks–small fragments of mortar and chalk. Only the surface of the deposit was seen, at the west end of the trench. It is interpreted as an alluvial deposit, and the presence of coarser material suggests that it might be within a former channel.

The alluvium is overlaid by 0067: a layer of soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt (0.40m thick) containing moderate pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of red brick, tile and mortar. This deposit occurs only at the west end of the trench, having apparently been truncated elsewhere. It is interpreted as a possible cultivation soil, and is similar to 0058 in Trench 14 and 0061 in Trench 15.

0069 is a compact, mid brownish grey clayey silt with extensive lenses of yellowish brown sandy clay, containing frequent flecks–large fragments of chalk and moderate small–large

fragments of red and yellow bricks, ceramic roof tile, slate, coal, mortar and decayed timber. It was recorded only at the east end of the trench, below 0066.

0066 is similar to 0063 in Trench 15 and 0051 in Trench 8: a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of concrete, red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar. This layer becomes thicker towards the east end of the trench.

0065 is similar to 0064 in Trench 15 and 0050 in Trench 8: a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar.

0065, 0066 and 0069 are interpreted as modern dumping, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

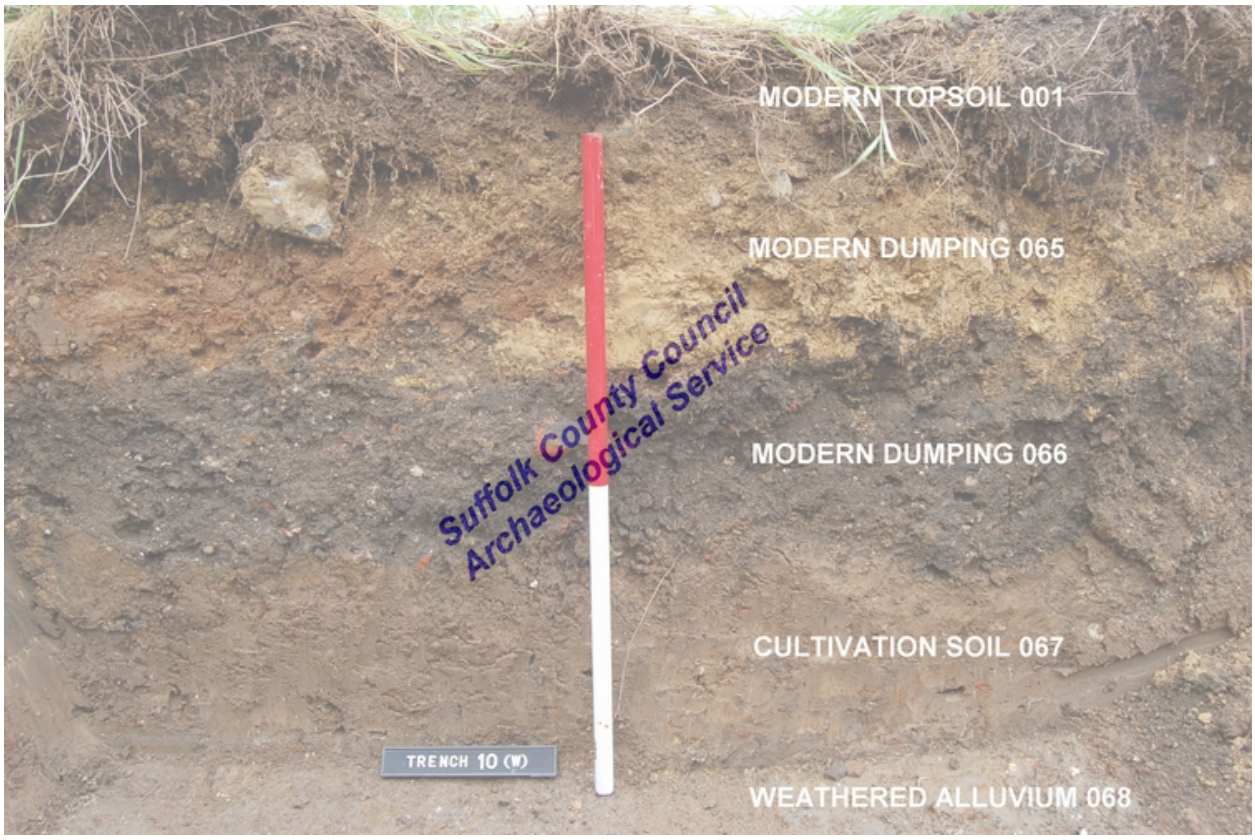

Figure 6. South-facing section at the west end of Trench 10

Trench 11

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.44 (N) 23.26 (S)	1.20 (N) 1.20 (S)	0001, 0070
Summary: *modern topsoil 0001 over dumped deposit 0070 to the base of the trench (> 1.0m thick)*		

Deposit descriptions

0070 is actually a sequence of extensive dumped deposits, principally loose, mid grey sandy silt, compact, mottled light yellowish brown and dark grey clay/silt. These contain frequent medium–large fragments of red and yellow brick, roof tile, concrete and timber. The deposits slope down gradually to the south. They are interpreted as modern dumps, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 12

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.36 (N) 23.33 (S)	1.00 (N) 1.35 (S)	0001, 0037, 0038, 0039, 0040, 0041, 0042
Summary: *a horizontal sequence of deposits consisting of alluvial deposits 0040 and 0042 at 22.36m OD and 22.28m OD / cultivation soil 0039 and 0041 / former topsoil 0038 / dumped deposit 0037 / modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0040 is a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick and roof tile. It contains frequent fine, ferruginous root stains. It was recorded at the base of the trench at its north end, and is interpreted as an alluvial deposit that has been weathered/oxidised.

0042 is an alluvial deposit recorded in the base of the trench at its south end. It is a mixture of soft, mid bluish grey sandy silt and fine gravel (60:40) containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of brick and chalk. The presence of coarser material within this alluvium suggests that it might have been deposited in a former channel.

0039 and 0041 are effectively the same deposit, as recorded at either end of the trench. It is a layer of compact, mid brownish grey clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks–medium fragments of brick, tile and mortar. It is 0.30m thick and lies immediately above the alluvial deposits 0040 and 0042. At the south end of the trench, where it overlies alluvium 0042, it includes pockets of mid grey clay/silt. It appears to be a layer of alluvium that has been reworked, presumably by cultivation.

The cultivation soil 0039/0041 is sealed by 0038: a layer of friable mid-dark grey sandy silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks–small fragments of brick and tile. This is up to 0.25m thick and is interpreted as former topsoil.

0037 is a friable, mixed deposit of greyish brown clay/silt and mid grey sandy silt (in discrete dumps) containing frequent pebbles, small fragments of red brick, tile and mortar and occasional large fragments of concrete and iron. It forms a layer about 0.35m thick overlying the former topsoil 0038 and is interpreted as modern dumping associated with the levelling of the Priory Stadium football pitch.

Trench 13

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.42 (N) 23.44 (S)	1.20 (N) 1.30 (S)	0001, 0043, 0044, 0045, 0046, 0047, 0048, 0049
Summary: *a sequence of alluvial deposits 0047 and 0048 at a maximum height of 22.46m OD. At the S end these are truncated by E-W cut feature 0049. This contains coarse alluvium 0046. All alluvial deposits overlaid by cultivation soil 0045, former topsoil 0044, dumped deposit 0043 and modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0048 is a stiff, mid bluish grey silty clay alluvium containing occasional flecks–medium fragments of tile and chalk, and frequent flecks and small fragments of black, decayed vegetation, at a height of 22.20m OD. A fragment of roof tile is of late medieval/post-medieval date. 0048 is overlaid by alluvium 0047: a stiff, mid greyish brown clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of red brick and roof tile, up to 0.20m thick. It contains frequent fine, ferruginous root stains, indicating that it has been weathered/oxidised.

These alluvial deposits have been removed at the south end of the trench by an E-W cut 0049, interpreted as a former watercourse. This is filled with coarse alluvial deposit 0046: a mixture of soft, mid bluish grey sandy silt and fine gravel (60:40) containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of brick and chalk. Note that this is similar to deposit 0042 in Trench 12.

The alluvial deposits are sealed by 0045: a layer of compact, mid brownish grey clay/silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks–medium fragments of brick, tile and mortar. This is up to 0.45m thick and is similar to deposit 0039 in Trench 12. It is interpreted as a layer of alluvium that has been reworked, presumably by cultivation.

0044 is a layer of friable mid-dark grey sandy silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks–small fragments of brick and tile, up to 0.35m thick. This is immediately above the cultivation soil 0045 and is interpreted as former topsoil.

0043 is a friable, mixed deposit of greyish brown clay/silt and mid grey sandy silt (in discrete dumps) containing frequent pebbles, small fragments of red brick, tile and mortar and occasional large fragments of concrete and iron. It forms a layer up to 0.40m thick overlying the former topsoil 0044 and is interpreted as modern dumping associated with the levelling of the Priory Stadium football pitch.

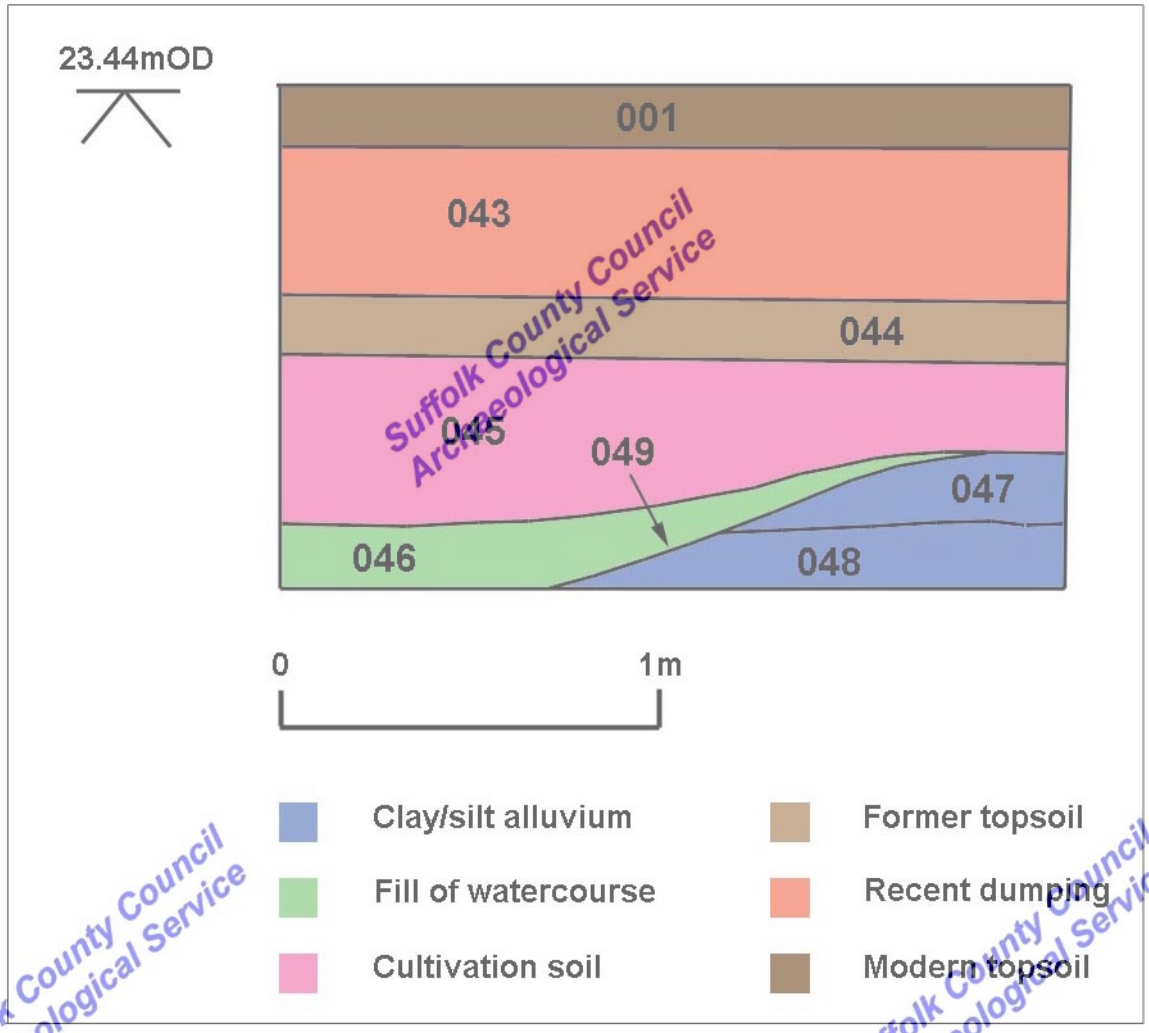

Figure 7. East-facing section at the south end of Trench 13, showing former watercourse 0049

Trench 14

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.28 (W) 23.19 (E)	1.10 (W) 1.10 (E)	0001, 0057, 0058, 0059
Summary: *alluvium 0059 with a surface at 22.36m OD (W) and 22.29m OD (E) overlaid by cultivation soil 0058, dumped deposit 0057 and modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0059 is probably the same as 0056 at the south end of Trench 9: a stiff, mottled mid grey and greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flecks–small fragments of brick, tile, chalk and charcoal, and occasional pebbles. It is interpreted as an alluvium that has been weathered/oxidised.

0058 is a layer of soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt, up to 0.46m thick, containing moderate pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of pottery, red brick, tile and mortar. One fragment of pottery is of 3rd–4th century (Roman) date, and a second fragment could be Roman or medieval. There is also a fragment of Roman roof tile (*imbrex*). However, the deposit also contains post-medieval brick fragments. The layer is immediately above the weathered alluvium 0059 and is interpreted as a probable cultivation soil.

0057 is a soft mid brown sandy silt with small pockets of light yellowish brown clay. It contains moderate pebbles and small fragments of mortar and is similar to 0050 in Trench 8. It is interpreted as a modern dumped deposit, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 15

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.34 (N) 23.16 (S)	1.10 (W) 1.10 (E)	0001, 0060, 0061, 0062, 0063, 0064, 0065
Summary: *alluvium 0062 with a surface at 22.34m OD (N) and 22.26m OD (S), overlaid by cultivation soil 0061 and a sequence of dumped deposits 0060, 0063, 0064 with a combined depth of 0.40m, below topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0062 is a stiff, mottled mid grey and greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flecks–small fragments of brick, tile, chalk and charcoal, and occasional pebbles. It is interpreted as an alluvium that has been weathered/oxidised.

0061 is similar to 0058 in Trench 14: a layer of soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing moderate pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of red brick, tile and mortar. It is up to 0.38m thick and lies immediately above the weathered alluvium 0062. It is interpreted as a probable cultivation soil.

0060 is a soft mid brown sandy silt with small pockets of light yellowish brown clay containing moderate pebbles and small fragments of mortar.

0063 is similar to 0051 in Trench 8: a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar. It occurs only at the north end of the trench, below 0064.

0064 is similar to 0050 in Trench 8: a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar. It occurs only at the north end of the trench.

0060, 0063 and 0064 are interpreted as modern dumped deposits, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 16

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.33 (N) 23.36 (S)	1.15 (N) 1.15 (S)	0001, 0071, 0072, 0073, 0074
Summary: *alluvium 0074 with a surface at 22.30m OD, overlaid by cultivation soil 0073 and a sequence of dumped deposits 0071 and 0072 (with a combined thickness of 0.66m), under modern topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0074 is similar to 0056 at the south end of Trench 9 and 0059 in Trench 14: a stiff, mottled mid grey and greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flecks–small fragments of brick, tile, chalk and charcoal, and occasional pebbles. It is interpreted as an alluvium that has been weathered/oxidised.

0073 is similar to 0058 in Trench 14: a layer of soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt, 0.20m thick, containing moderate pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of red brick, tile and mortar. It is interpreted as a probable cultivation soil.

0072 is similar to 0051 in Trench 8, 0066 in Trench 10 and 0063 in Trench 15: a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of concrete, red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar.

0071 is similar to 0050 in Trench 8, 0065 in Trench 10 and 0064 in Trench 15: a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar.

0071 and 0072 are interpreted as modern dumped deposits, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 17

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.24 (W) 23.34 (E)	1.15 (W) 1.30 (E)	0001, 0075, 0076, 0077, 0078,0 079
Summary: *alluvium 0078 with a surface at 22.10m OD, overlaid by cultivation soil 0077 and a sequence of dumped deposits 0075 and 0076 at the west end, and dumped deposit 0079 at the east end, under topsoil 0001*		

Deposit descriptions

0078 is a stiff, mottled mid grey and greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flecks–small fragments of brick, tile, chalk and charcoal, and occasional pebbles. It is interpreted as an alluvium that has been weathered/oxidised. It was recorded only at the west end of the trench, having been truncated further to the east.

0077 is similar to 0058 in Trench 14 and 0073 in Trench 16: a layer of soft, mid brownish grey clayey silt containing moderate pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of red brick, tile and mortar. It forms a layer up to 0.50m thick, immediately above the weathered alluvium, and is interpreted as a probable cultivation soil.

0079 is a dump of soil containing concrete and brick rubble and some extensive lenses of crushed mortar. It was seen only at the east end of the trench, extending below its base.

0076 is similar to 0050 in Trench 8, 0065 in Trench 10, 0064 in Trench 15 and 0071 in Trench 16: a compact, light yellowish brown mix of silty clay and gravel, containing frequent flecks–small fragments of chalk and mortar.

0075 is a friable, mid grey sandy silt containing frequent pebbles, moderate small–large fragments of concrete, red brick, and flecks of chalk and mortar.

0075, 0076 and 0079 are interpreted as modern dumps, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 18

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.54 (W) 23.44 (E)	1.20 (W) 1.20 (E)	0080, 0081, 0082, 0083, 0084, 0085
Summary: *modern tarmac and gravel surfaces over dumped deposits 0080 0081 0083 0084 0085 0082*		

Deposit descriptions

0082 is a trench-wide deposit of mottled mid bluish grey and greyish yellow clay/silt containing frequent lenses and patches of decayed wood and occasional lenses of grey coarse sand. It contains very occasional small fragments of roof tile, charcoal, pottery and mussel shell. 0082 is > 0.70m thick and extends below the base of the trench. It is similar to deposits in trenches 7 and 11, and is likewise interpreted as modern dumping. However, it did contain a fragment of late 15th- or 16th-century pottery.

0081 is a thin layer of sandy silt overlying 082 at the west end of the trench. It is sealed by 0080: a compacted layer of soil and gravel forming the make-up for a tarmac surface.

0085 is a compact, light greyish brown clayey silt containing moderate pebbles and small fragments of chalk and modern brick, seen at the east end of the trench.

0084 is a soft, mid grey sandy silt containing moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of red brick, roof tile, concrete and coal. It occurs only at the east end of the trench.

0083 is a layer of loose, orange sand and gravel seen at ground level at the east end of the trench, where it forms a temporary road surface.

0080 - 0085 are interpreted as modern deposits, probably contemporary with the construction and use of the Priory Stadium.

Trench 19

Ground level (m OD)	Depth (m)	Contexts
23.91 (W) 24.10 (E)	1.10 (W) 1.20 (E)	0086, 0087
Summary: *modern gravel surface over dumped deposits 0086 and 0087, with a combined thickness > 1.0m*		

Deposit descriptions

0087 is a dumped deposit of brick, concrete and mortar rubble in a soil matrix. It is confined to the east end of the trench. It overlies 0086 - a trench-wide sequence of dumped deposits of clay/silt and sandy silt containing much demolition rubble, including red and yellow bricks, ceramic roof tile, chalk and mortar. 0086 and 0087 are interpreted as modern dumped deposits associated with the construction of the north stand of the Priory Stadium.

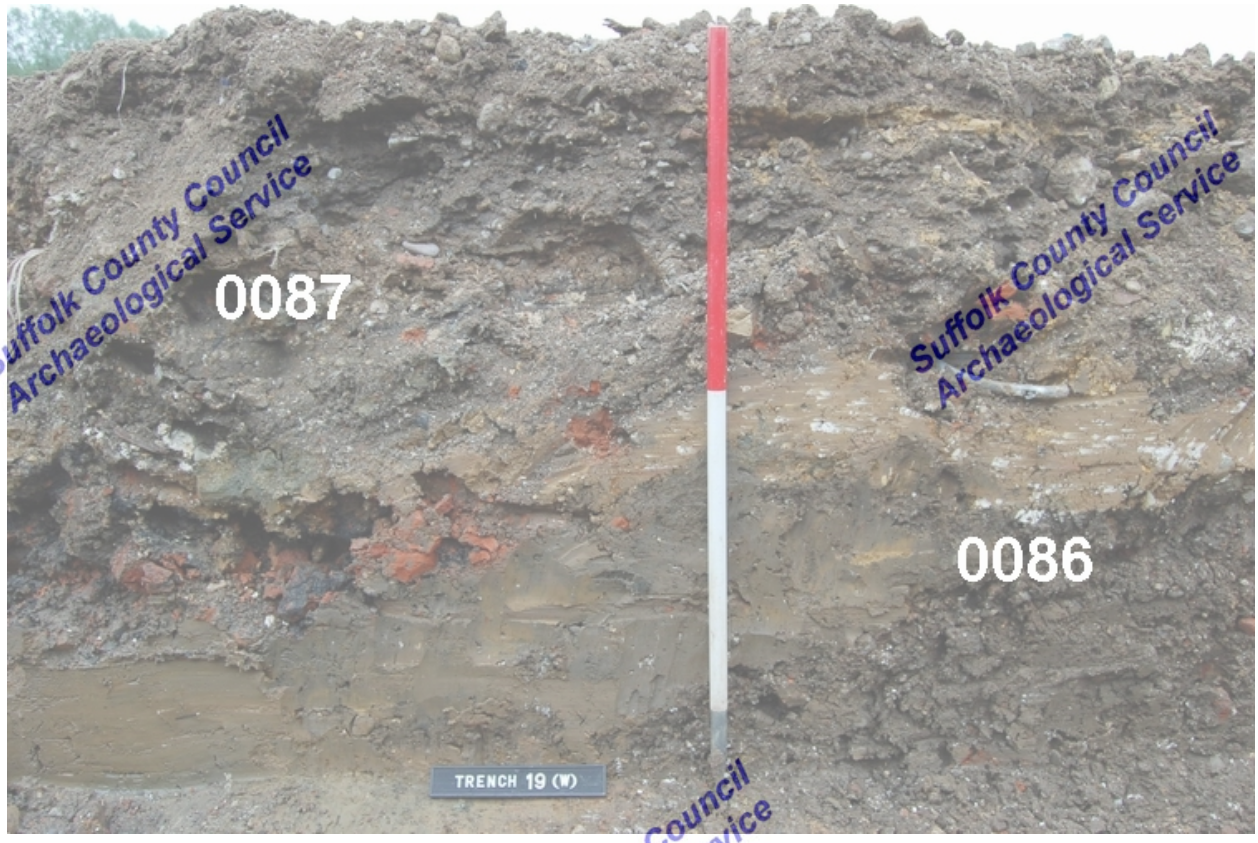

Figure 8. North-facing section at the east end of Trench 19

4 Finds evidence

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from 13 contexts from 10 of the trenches, as shown Table 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Clay pipe		Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	1	3	2	408					Mid 18th-19th C
0003			1	85					Post-medieval
0017	1	18							19th
0023	1	4							19th C +
0026	7	168							19th C +
0029			3	539	1	3			Post-medieval
0034	1	21							18th-20th C
0036	1	18							19th C
0041			1	66					Post-med?
0048			1	68					L med +
0058	2	18	3	155			2	18	Roman/Post-med
0068			1	17					Post-med?
0082	1	21	1	85					Late 15th/16th C
Total	15	271	13	1423	1	3	2	18	

Table 1. Finds quantification

Pottery

A total of 15 fragments of pottery was recovered (0.0271kg). The assemblage is almost entirely late post-medieval in date, but a few earlier sherds were identified in Trenches 14 and 18. The pottery has been catalogued by context, with the data shown in Appendix 1.

A small number of sherds dating to the late 18th- and 19th century was present in the dumped deposits associated with the construction of the Priory Stadium, in Trenches 1 and 3. Eight fragments of 19th-century pottery were recovered from backfilling over the watercourse in Trench 5 (0023 and 0026). The ceramics include two sherds of an Ironstone china dish or bowl with blue and white transfer-printed decoration of 'willow pattern' type. A fragment of a late post-medieval earthenware jar was identified in a deposit of reworked soil 0034 in Trench 6, underlying one of the dumped deposits for the levelling of the football pitch. A small sherd from the base of another vessel of 19th-century date with a blue 'sponged' decoration was present in dumping deposit 0036 in Trench 6.

The remains of an abraded Hadham redware foot-ring dating to the late 3rd - 4th century was present in 0058, a cultivation soil in Trench 14 (Cathy Tester *pers comm*). It was accompanied by a second, even more abraded, sherd, which was completely laminated on the outer surface. This is made from a fine sandy, partially oxidised fabric, which may be medieval or Roman.

A fragment of a Late Colchester-type bowl or panchion dating to the late 15th to 16th century was identified in 0082, a dumped deposit under a tarmac surface in Trench 18 (Cotter 2000, 146).

Ceramic building material

Small quantities of ceramic building material were collected from seven of the trenches. Most of the assemblage is post medieval, and consists of fragments of roof tiles and bricks made in red-firing fabrics. The exception to this is a small fragment of a curved tile, probably a Roman *imbrex*, which was found in 0058 in Trench 14 with a fragment of post-medieval brick. The Roman tile is made in a medium sandy fabric with clay pellets (mscp), and has a reduced core.

Miscellaneous

Two fragments of struck flint were collected from cultivation soil 0058 in Trench 14. These long flakes, which have a considerable amount of cortex remaining, may represent debris from flint walling (Colin Pendleton *pers comm*). They are not dateable.

A single piece of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from 0029, the primary fill of the watercourse 088 in Trench 5.

Finds discussion

The majority of the finds appear to be redeposited into cultivation soils and dumping deposits to provide levelling for the creation of the Priory Stadium.

The earliest finds recovered from the evaluation are a redeposited fragment of Roman pottery, identified in cultivation soil 0058 in Trench 14, and a roof tile fragment found in the same deposit which is also likely to be Roman.

In spite of the proximity of the site to the Dominican priory no definite medieval finds were identified, although a fragment of a Late Essex-type bowl dating to the late 15th -16th century may be pre-Dissolution in date.

5 Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation did not reveal significant archaeological features or deposits, and the only artefacts dated before the post-medieval period are of a residual nature. The fragments of Roman pottery and tile from Trench 14 serve only to indicate occupation or activity during that period in the general vicinity of the site. Similarly, the recovery of a fragment of late medieval/early post medieval pottery from Trench 18 is to be expected, given the urban location of the site.

Despite the absence of significant archaeological remains, the evaluation has produced positive results. It has provided evidence for a sequence of sediments that will supplement the results of the palaeo-environmental survey (Hill & Jolliffe, 2007). Also it has demonstrated the presence of at least one previously unknown former watercourse, and given some indication of post-medieval land use on the site. The principal results of the evaluation are discussed below.

Alluvium

Horizontal deposits of clay/silt alluvium were encountered in most of the evaluation trenches. Generally the upper levels were greyish brown in colour, and were characterised by the presence of ferruginous root staining indicating fluctuations in the level of the local water table (Tom Hill, *pers comm*). These weathered horizons contain small quantities of cultural material of post-medieval date, much of which is in small enough fragments to have been introduced by root action. At greater depth, generally below 1.20m, the alluvium becomes bluish grey and contains fewer or no inclusions.

The alluvium is at its greatest height within the area of the football pitch, particularly on the west side in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5. Its maximum height was at 23.10m OD at the north end of Trench 4. To the east of the stadium the surface of the alluvium is lower (to a minimum recorded height of 22.19m OD at the south end of Trench 9) and the general trend seems to indicate a slight downward slope from west to east. In some trenches, particularly around the periphery of the site (Trenches 1, 7, 11, 18 and 19) the alluvium was not seen at all. It is likely that this reflects the local topography, and suggests that the stadium was built on the highest available ground adjacent to the river. However, some truncation of the alluvium in those areas can not be ruled out.

Watercourses

A north-south watercourse 0088 / 0089 was recorded in section in trenches 2 and 5, and its projected alignment is shown on Figure 9. It truncated earlier alluvial deposits, although the evidence from Trench 5 suggests that these were themselves laid down in a former palaeo-channel (see Hill & Jolliffe for further discussion of this feature). The watercourse is about 15m wide (in Trench 2), of unknown depth and has a shallow, stepped profile. 'Primary' deposits of coarse, waterlain material seen in the base of both trenches contained oyster and mussel shells, suggesting that the watercourse was used for the disposal of domestic refuse. The presence of a fragment of 19th-century clay pipe stem indicates that the watercourse remained open until at least that time. It was filled deliberately with demolition rubble and re-deposited clay/silt in the 19th century (based on the pottery evidence from Trench 5) and was sealed by a layer of topsoil (0029 in Trench 5).

A second (possible) watercourse 0049 was seen at the south end of Trench 13, again cutting the earlier clay/silt alluvium and containing a coarse water-laid fill. In this case the fill of the watercourse could not be dated firmly, although the inclusion of brick fragments suggests a late medieval or post-medieval date. In Trenches 10 and 12 similar deposits of coarse material within the alluvial sequence suggest the presence of other former watercourses.

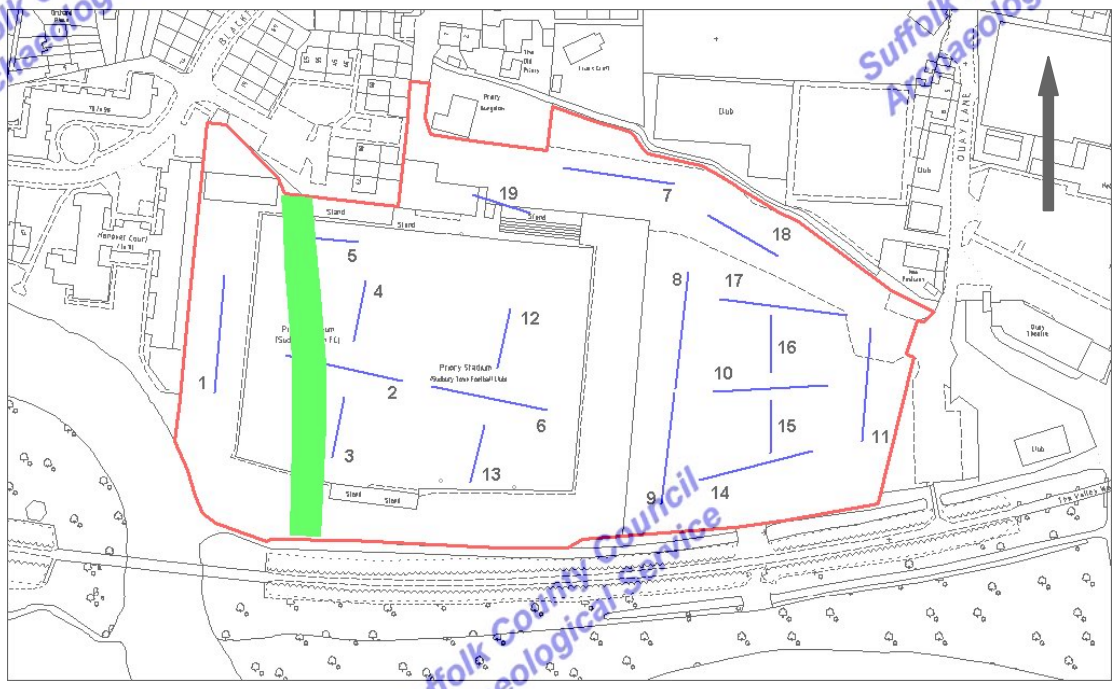

Figure 9. Plan showing the projected alignment of N-S watercourse 0088 / 0089 (green)

Cultivation soil and former topsoil

In Trenches 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 extensive layers of cultivation soil seal the alluvial deposits. They are similar to the underlying sediments but have a lighter, more open structure and contain more inclusions. These deposits were probably more widespread originally but have been removed by subsequent truncation. Generally the cultivation soils contain small quantities of cultural material, mostly of post-medieval date but including some residual Roman material in Trench 14. In the eastern half of the stadium (Trenches 6, 12 and 13) they are sealed by layers of finer soil interpreted as former topsoil, but these are absent to the east of the stadium, again probably as a result of recent truncation.

Map evidence shows that the site was unoccupied in the late 18th- and 19th centuries, despite its proximity to Sudbury's town centre, and the archaeological evidence suggests that it remained open agricultural land until relatively recent times. However, it should be noted that on Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century the site is labelled as 'liable to floods', indicating that it probably remained marginal land until relatively recently.

Modern dumping

Modern dumped deposits of soil, building rubble and redeposited alluvium were found throughout the site, immediately below the present topsoil, to depths varying from 0.55m–1.20m below ground level. Generally the deposits were deeper around the periphery of the site (Trenches 1, 7, 11, 18 and 19), presumably in order to compensate for lower ground levels in those areas. However, it is likely that there was also some truncation immediately before the dumping occurred, as demonstrated by the absence of cultivation soil and former topsoil in some of the trenches (Trenches 3 and 4, for example).

The recent date of most of this dumping is confirmed by the widespread inclusion of concrete and modern brick/tile rubble. It is assumed that the dumping probably represents levelling of the site when the Priory Stadium was built, and it was noted that in the area of the football pitch lighter soil with fewer large inclusions was used, presumably in order to provide a smooth and well-drained playing surface. It is known that Sudbury Town Football Club moved to the site in 1891 (Chaplin 2002) and that the Grandstand was opened in 1936. However, for some reason the stadium is not shown on Ordnance Survey maps until 1956. Modern dumping at the east end of the site (outside the stadium) is thought to be broadly contemporary with the construction and use of the stadium, although some piecemeal deposition at a slightly earlier date on all areas of the site can not be ruled out.

6 Recommendations for Further Work

Given that the evaluation did not locate significant archaeological remains it is unlikely that there will be a requirement for further investigation of the site. It is understood that the excavations for the foundation ground-beams within the development area will be less than one metre deep. Modern deposits that mostly exceed one metre in depth (including present topsoil) occur across the site, so it is unlikely that the groundwork associated with the development will affect any archaeological deposits that might exist below that level. However, *should* deeper excavation be required during the course of the construction work (other that piling), it would be appropriate for archaeological monitoring (watching brief) to take place.

References

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Hadley, A., 2007 *A written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and palaeoenvironmental assessment by auger survey for the proposed development at Priory Stadium, Sudbury* (A F Howland Associates, unpubl. report)

Hill, T, & Jolliffe, C., 2007 *Priory Stadium, Sudbury: a palaeoenvironmental assessment of deposits encountered during ground investigations* (Birmingham Archaeo-environmental, unpubl. report, SCCAS-36-07)

APPENDIX 1: Pottery catalogue

Richenda Goffin

Context	Ceramic period	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No. of sherds	Weight	ENV	Abrasion	Comments	Fabric spotdate	Overall spotdate
2	PM	CREA	PLATE	OCT	1	3	1		Plate or dish, probably octagonal	1730-1880	2nd half of 18th C+
17	PM	ENGS	BOWL		1	18	1		Deep bowl of mixing bowl type	19th C	19th C +
23	PM	REFW	DISH		1	4	1		Plain white dish or bowl	19th C	19th C
26	PM	IRON	BOWL		3	124	1		Ironstone china but creamware type glaze	19th C	
26	PM	IRON	BODY		1	26	1		Base fragment	19th C	
26	PM	YELW	BODY		1	5	1	AA	Small sliver	19th C	
26	PM	IRON	BOWL	BW	2	13	0		Blue & white willow pattern type bowl or	19th C	
34	PM	LPME	JAR		1	21	1			18th-20th C	18th-20th C
36	PM	IRON	BASE	BW	1	18	1		Sponged decoration	19th C	19th C
58	R	HAX	DISH?		1	16	1	A	Abraded fragment of footring	Late 3rd-4th C	Post-med (cbm)
58	M?	MCW?	BODY		1	2	1	AA	Identification uncertain, possibly Roman?	Poss 12th-14th C	
82	PM	COLL	BOWL		1	21	1		Late Colchester type bowl or panchion	Late15th-16th C	Late 15th-16th C

Abbreviations

CREA:	Creamware
ENGS:	English Stoneware
REFW:	Refined White Earthenware
IRON:	Ironstone China
YELW:	Yellow Ware
LPME:	Late Post Medieval Earthenwares
HAX:	Hadham Oxidised Ware
MCW:	Medieval Coarse Ware
COLL:	Late Colchester-type Ware

APPENDIX 2: Context list

Context	Identifier	Type	Trench	Section	Interpretation	Finds	Image numbers
1	Layer	Deposit	All	All	Modern topsoil	N	All
2	Layer	Deposit	1 (north)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	pot, brick/tile	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Layer	Deposit	1 (south)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	5, 6
4	Layer	Deposit	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Modern dumping	N	7, 8, 9, 10
5	Timbers	Deposit	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Modern dumping	N	7, 8
6	Layer	Deposit	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Modern dumping	N	7, 8, 9, 10
7	Layer	Deposit	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Weathered alluvium	N	7, 8, 9, 10
8	Layer	Deposit	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Alluvium	N	9, 10
9	Layer	Deposit	2 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	11, 12
10	Layer	Deposit	2 (east)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	11, 12
11	Layer	Deposit	3 (south)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	13, 14
12	Layer	Deposit	3 (south)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	13, 14
13	Layer	Deposit	3 (south)	Trench sheet	Alluvium	N	13, 14
14	Layer	Deposit	2 (south)	Sheet 1	Modern dumping	N	N
15	Watercourse	Fill	2 (south)	Sheet 1	Fill of watercourse 89	N	N
16	Layer	Deposit	2 (south)	Sheet 1	Weathered alluvium	N	N
17	Layer	Deposit	3 (north)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	15, 16
18	Layer	Deposit	3 (north)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	15, 16
19	Layer	Deposit	4 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	17, 18, 19, 20
20	Layer	Deposit	4 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	17, 18, 19, 20
21	Layer	Deposit	5 (all)	Sheet 1	Modern dumping	N	33, 34, 35, 36
22	Layer	Deposit	5 (all)	Sheet 1	Buried topsoil	N	33, 34
23	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Secondary fill of watercourse 88	pot	33, 34
24	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Secondary fill of watercourse 88	N	33, 34
25	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Secondary fill of watercourse 88	N	33, 34
26	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Secondary fill of watercourse 88	pot	33, 34
27	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Secondary fill of watercourse 88	N	33, 34

Context	Identifier	Type	Trench	Section	Interpretation	Finds	Image numbers
28	Layer	Deposit	5 (all)	Sheet 1	Weathered alluvium	N	33, 34, 35, 36
29	Watercourse	Fill	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Primary fill of watercourse 88	clay pipe	33, 34
30	Fill?	Deposit	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Alluvium, probably filling palaeo-channel	N	33, 34
31	Fill?	Deposit	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Alluvium, probably filling palaeo-channel	N	33, 34
32	Layer	Deposit	6 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	35, 36, 37, 38
33	Layer	Deposit	6 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried topsoil	N	35, 36, 37, 38
34	Layer	Deposit	6 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	pot	35, 36, 37, 38
35	Layer	Deposit	6 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	35, 36, 37, 38
36	Layer	Deposit	7 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	pot	51, 52, 53, 54
37	Layer	Deposit	12 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	55, 56, 57, 58
38	Layer	Deposit	12 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried topsoil	N	55, 56, 57, 58
39	Layer	Deposit	12 (north)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	53, 54, 55, 56
40	Layer	Deposit	12 (north)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	53, 54, 55, 56
41	Layer	Deposit	12 (south)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	brick	57, 58
42	Watercourse?	Fill?	12 (south)	Trench sheet	Probable fill of unidentified watercourse	N	57, 58
43	Layer	Deposit	13 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
44	Layer	Deposit	13 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried topsoil	N	57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
45	Layer	Deposit	13 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
46	Watercourse	Fill	13 (south)	Trench sheet	Fill of E-W watercourse 49	N	62, 63
47	Layer	Deposit	13 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
48	Layer	Deposit	13 (all)	Trench sheet	Alluvium	N	57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
49	Watercourse	Cut	13 (south)	Trench sheet	Probable watercourse	N	62, 63
50	Layer	Deposit	8 (south)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	63, 64
51	Layer	Deposit	8 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	63, 64, 65, 66
52	Layer	Deposit	8 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	63, 64, 65, 66
53	Layer	Deposit	9 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	67, 68
54	Layer	Deposit	9 (north)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	N
55	Layer	Deposit	9 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	67, 68
56	Layer	Deposit	9 (south)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	67, 68

Context	Identifier	Type	Trench	Section	Interpretation	Finds	Image numbers
57	Layer	Deposit	14 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	69, 70, 71, 72
58	Layer	Deposit	14 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	pot, tile, flint	69, 70, 71, 72
59	Layer	Deposit	14 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	69, 70, 71, 72
60	Layer	Deposit	15 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	73, 74, 75, 76
61	Layer	Deposit	15 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	73, 74, 75, 76
62	Layer	Deposit	15 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	73, 74, 75, 76
63	Layer	Deposit	15 (north)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	75, 76
64	Layer	Deposit	15 (north)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	75, 76
65	Layer	Deposit	10 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	77, 78, 79, 80
66	Layer	Deposit	10 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	77, 78, 79, 80
67	Layer	Deposit	10 (west)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	77, 78
68	Watercourse?	Fill?	10 (west)	Trench sheet	Possible fill of unidentified watercourse	brick/tile	77, 78
69	Layer	Deposit	10 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	79, 80
70	Layer	Deposit	11 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	N
71	Layer	Deposit	16 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	81, 82
72	Layer	Deposit	16 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	81, 82
73	Layer	Deposit	16 (all)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	81, 82
74	Layer	Deposit	16 (all)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	81, 82
75	Layer	Deposit	17 (west)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	83, 84
76	Layer	Deposit	17 (west)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	83, 84
77	Layer	Deposit	17 (west)	Trench sheet	Buried cultivation soil	N	83, 84
78	Layer	Deposit	17 (west)	Trench sheet	Weathered alluvium	N	83, 84
79	Layer	Deposit	17 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	N
80	Layer	Deposit	18 (west)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	85, 86
81	Layer	Deposit	18 (west)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	85, 86
82	Layer	Deposit	18 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	pot, tile	85, 86, 87, 88
83	Layer	Deposit	18 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	87, 88
84	Layer	Deposit	18 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	87, 88
85	Layer	Deposit	18 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	87, 88

Context	Identifier	Type	Trench	Section	Interpretation	Finds	Image numbers
86	Layer	Deposit	19 (east)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	92, 93, 94, 95
87	Layer	Deposit	19 (all)	Trench sheet	Modern dumping	N	92, 93, 94, 95
88	Watercourse	Cut	5 (west)	Sheet 1	Watercourse (same as 89 in Trench 2)	N	33, 34
89	Watercourse	Cut	2 (west)	Sheet 1	Watercourse (same as 88 in Trench 5)	N	7, 8, 9, 10

APPENDIX 3: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

Type	Quantity
Digital photographs	48x jpg images
Digital photographic register (on-site version)	4x A4 paper sheets
Digital photographic register (archive version)	2x A4 paper sheets
Context register	3x A4 paper sheets
Context sheets	89x A4 paper sheets
Trench description sheets	19x A4 paper sheets
Section drawings (pencil, on-site version)	1x A1 drawing film
Section drawings (inked, archive version)	1x A1 drawing film
Survey data for TBM	1x A4 paper sheet
Evaluation report (SCCAS report no. 2007/108)	1x A4 ring-bound

APPENDIX 4: Written Scheme of Investigation

Adrian Hadley (A F Howland Associates)

A Written Scheme of Investigation

for an

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

and

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment by Auger Survey

for the

Proposed Development at Priory Stadium, Sudbury

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Priory Stadium, Sudbury, Suffolk.

It is understood that the proposed development for housing is some 17,800 square metres. The construction method comprises pile foundations with connecting beams. The excavations for the beam foundations are understood to be less than 1m deep. Drainage will also be undertaken during the project, in addition to the construction of access roads, which may also require excavations of up to 1m below the present ground surface.

A 'wetland' is to be created to the east of the housing development, which will necessitate an excavation of approximately 1m depth across 10,240 square metres.

A staged approach has been adopted for the archaeological investigation as shown in Table 1. An archaeological assessment was completed in 2005 for the proposed development. The evaluation represents the second phase of work, and will determine if subsequent archaeological work is required in advance of, or during, the proposed development.

The programme of archaeological work has been commissioned A F Howland Associates on behalf of by Knight Developments Limited.

Table 1: Stages of Archaeological Investigation

Stage 1	**Desk-Based Assessment**
Stage 2	**Field Evaluation** a. machine-excavated trenches b. auger survey for palaeoenvironmental assessment
Stage 3	**Excavation** detailed excavation of those sites which it is not possible to avoid or desirable to preserve
Stage 4	**Watching Brief** permanent or intermittent monitoring of ground disturbance with contingency for excavation
Stage 5	**Post-Excavation and Publication** synthesis and dissemination of results

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed scheme is situated to the south of Sudbury town, approximately 500m to the south-west of the town centre (Market Hill). The site comprises approximately 2.8 hectares of land, centred at National Grid Reference TL 87060 40820. The development site is approximately 23.5m Above Ordnance Datum within the southern part of the site, and approximately 24m Above Ordnance Datum along the northern site boundary.

The development site is bounded by residential buildings to the north and west, a car park associated with the Quay Theatre to the east, and a dismantled railway to the south.

The former 'Sudbury, Bury and Long Melford' branch line of the Great Eastern Railway was carried on an embankment along the southern site boundary. The line crossed the River Stour at the south-west corner of the development area. At this location the river defines the perimeter of the development site.

3. GEOLOGY

The British Geological Survey map for this area shows the solid geology beneath the site to comprise chalk overlain by River Terrace Deposits. The chalk is a white pure carbonate debris of microfossil skeletal material laid down during the Cretaceous Period. The River Terrace Deposits were derived from chalk and younger Eocene deposits during the Pleistocene.

Ground investigation has previously been undertaken within the development site in 1989 by Boxwood Laboratories Limited and in 1997 by Associated Laboratory Services Limited.

The borehole logs indicate that made ground extends over a depth of 1m across the entire development area. The made ground comprises approximately 0.3m of turf and topsoil, overlying a stiff grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay, with inclusions of ash, as well as brick and concrete fragments. This deposit may be contemporary with the construction of a level football pitch. The underlying alluvial deposits were determined to be 1m to 4.6m below the present ground surface. The deposits predominantly comprise a soft organic silty clay, with lenses of brown clayey peat. The alluvium sealed river terrace gravels, identified as loose silty sands and sandy flint gravels, with lenses of brown amorphous peat. The chalk deposits were encountered between 6m and 12m across the site.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The general objectives if the evaluation are to:

- gather sufficient evidence to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological remains;
- determine palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic potential;
- assess the overall significance of any archaeological sites;
- assess the potential impact of the scheme on each site;
- provide information for a mitigation strategy if necessary

5. STANDARDS

The archaeological work shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines for standards outlined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists detailed in the following publications:

- *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2002)

- *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999)

- *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2001)

The archaeological evaluation will meet the general requirements of the regional standards outlined in the following publication:

- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England,* David Gurney (ed), East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No.14 (2003).

The management of the archaeological work will be in accordance with the methods and practice described in:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects,* second edition, English Heritage (1991).

The importance is recognised in contributing toward the regional research agendas outlined in:

- *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties, Vol.1, Resource Assessment,* J. Glazebrook (ed*),* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 3 (1997).

- *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties, Vol.2, Research Agenda & Strategy*, N. Brown & J. Glazebrook (eds*),* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No.8 (2000).

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Although there are no archaeological sites recorded within the study area the proposed development is considered to be located within an area of archaeological importance. In particular there is a high potential that samples suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis may be retrieved by coring, which would provide important information for landscape development along the Stour valley.

Palaeolithic artefacts may survive within the terrace gravel deposits across the development site. Bronze Age features may also be encountered within the alluvial deposits during the proposed scheme; sites dating to this period have been found at a similar topographic location to the south-east of the development area.

There is no archaeological evidence of significant Iron Age or Roman settlement activity in the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The risk of encountering remains dating to the Saxon period is also considered to be low.

The Priory Stadium is potentially located the ten acre site occupied by the Dominican Friary (Blackfriars). Remains of the medieval friary buildings may survive in situ within the development site. There is a risk that a cemetery is located within the scheme area. It is more probable that drainage ditches and a buried cultivation soil may survive within the site.

7. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation comprises 560m of trial trenching, which represents a 4% sample of the development area (see appended drawing). There is provision for an additional 140m of targeted trenching (1% sample) to define areas of archaeological interest within the scheme site.

The overall trench pattern is designed to comprehensively evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area. The trench layout is specifically designed to facilitate palaeoenvironmental sampling below the made ground, across the site but also focused upon the 'wetland' area where the development may impact the most upon below surface deposits. The trenches located along the northern site perimeter are designed to intersect structures or linear features extending southwards from the Benedictine Priory. The north-south alignment of a high proportion of the trenches also allows transects to be observed through the made ground deposits; which may identify activity associated with the priory in addition a to a land reclamation phase (medieval or later) within the historic floodplain of the river.

8. METHODOLOGY

Machine Excavation

All evaluation trenches will be accurately surveyed using a Total Station.

An appropriate mechanical excavator will be used for machine excavated trenches. This will be a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 5' or 6' (*c*.1.8-2m) wide toothless ditching blade. Trenches will normally be the width of a single bucket.

All machining will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.

The machine will remove topsoil and then any subsoil deposit as necessary, in successive, level spits, down to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or to solid geological / drift basal deposits, whichever is reached first.

It is not necessarily the intention that all trial trenches will be fully excavated to natural geological deposits, but the depth and extent of archaeological deposits will be assessed.

Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposits will be kept separate to allow sequential backfilling of the excavations.

The machine trenching will take into account the potential for built features and for coherent archaeological layers, which will be investigated and recorded.

Following consultation with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service machine excavation may also be considered appropriate for removing deep (modern) intrusions or investigating apparently natural deposits

The archaeological curator will be advised at the earliest opportunity of any archaeological features or deposits that appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

If during the course of excavation a significant archaeological constraint is identified the methodology may be altered and, if appropriate, fieldwork may be terminated, subject to the agreement of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

No archaeological deposit (lying entirely within a trench) will be completely excavated unless this is unavoidable.

Trenches may need to be backfilled at the earliest opportunity due to the high water table previously recorded across the site.

It may be necessary to pump water from the trial trenches to an area that has previously been agreed with Knight Developments Limited. Water should not be pumped from the site into the adjoining river or connecting ditches or water channels.

A separate methodology for the palaeoenvironmental survey is appended to this document.

Field Records

All archaeological features and deposits exposed will be recorded. They will be located on a site plan and recorded by written description and by photographs.

Contexts:

- a block of numbers, in a continuous sequence will be allocated to each trench.
- written descriptions will be recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.
- where stratified deposits are encountered a Harris matrix will be compiled during the course of the excavation.

Plans:

- OS base plans (at an appropriate scale) showing the location of any trenches/ excavation areas;
- area plans (at 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100 scale, as appropriate) showing all archaeological and natural deposits;
- detailed plans at 1:20 scale of significant features;
- a register of plans will be kept.

Sections:

- section drawings at 1:10 scale or 1:20 scale (as appropriate) of all excavated features or features seen in trench sections;
- section drawings at 1:10 or 1:20 scale (as appropriate) of representative sections showing any overlying site stratigraphy.
- a register of sections will be kept.

Photography:

A monochrome print and a digital and / or colour (35 mm transparency) photographic record will be taken. This will include overall shots of each site, work in progress, overall trench shots and detailed feature shots. A suitable scale, context number and north arrow (if appropriate) will appear in each photograph. A register of photographs will be kept.

Multi-context recording will normally be used, unless the stratigraphy is sufficiently complex to warrant recording on a single-context basis.

The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded, even in the event that no archaeological deposits are present.

Artefact and Ecofact Recovery Policies

Hand Excavation:

- All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section.
- Visible artefacts will be collected in order to assist in the dating of features and deposits.
- Where necessary features will be sampled by hand excavation to further characterise and date them. A minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the evaluation will be hand excavated.
- All excavated spoil will be visually searched for archaeological finds.
- Excavation will be undertaken with a view to avoiding deposits worthy of preservation *in situ.*

Metal Detecting:

All stratified finds located by metal detector survey will be recovered by an archaeologist (where possible, in the normal course of the excavation) and recorded three-dimensionally, as part of the special-find archive.

Metal detector searches will be conducted by an experienced metal detector operator and supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times

Human Remains:

If human remains are discovered they will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected and the coroner informed. If removal is essential it will only take place under appropriate Home Office licence, section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 and local environmental health regulations, and if appropriate in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981.

Treasure:

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to Treasure Act, 1996.

Artefact and Ecofact Processing and Analysis

All artefacts will be assessed for their potential for further analysis, upon completion of fieldwork.

The level of artefact analysis will be sufficient to establish date ranges of archaeological deposits, a general assessment of the types of pottery and other artefacts to assist in characterising the archaeology, and to establish the potential for all categories of artefacts should further archaeological work be necessary.

All retained artefacts will be cleaned, marked, counted, weighed, identified, catalogued, conserved (if appropriate) and packaged in accordance with the guidelines of the county museum.

All retrieved artefacts will normally be cleaned in water, unless archaeological information may be lost as a result. This is likely to be the case for metalwork, fragile artefacts or for residues adhering to artefacts. Conservation will always take priority over finds processing.

All identified finds and artefacts from stratified archaeological deposits will be retained, although certain categories of aretefacts (such as modern and post medieval pottery, undiagnostic tile / brick, glass, and animal bone, etc) may be quantified and discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained.

In cases where finds are to be discarded, care will be taken over the choice of location, and to ensure that the finds are disposed of with obviously modern material.

Finds which may be considered 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 (such as artefacts made of gold or silver) will be reported to the Coroner.

Human remains identified during post-excavation work will be notified to the Coroner.

Reporting

The report will contain, as a minimum, the following:

- ***Contents Page***
- ***Non-Technical Summary***; a brief summary of the report
- ***Introduction***; details of the background to the project and the requirements and objectives of the surveys.
- ***Survey Procedures***; a description of the methodologies employed, assessing their effectiveness.
- ***Results and Discussion***; providing an objective statement of the results. This section will also assess the reliability of retrieved field-data and consider the archaeological findings both within the site and within their wider townscape setting.
- ***Conclusions***; an overall interpretation of findings and implications.
- ***Mitigation Proposals***; a consideration of available options.
- ***Acknowledgements***
- ***References***; a comprehensive list of all sources consulted.
- ***Gazetteer***; listing all features and finds examined in the surveys.
- ***Illustrations***; location plans and sections related to the Ordnance Datum.

9. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The project archive comprises every record relating to the project, including artefacts, drawings, photographs, written records and reports.

Three hard copies and an electronic copy (pdf copy on compact disc) will be submitted to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. A fourth hard copy will be sent to the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

The archive will be stored in a secure and suitable environment until deposition with the county museum. The project archive will be security-copied.

The site archive will be deposited with the county museum at the earliest opportunity unless further archaeological work on the site is expected within one year of completion of the archive.

A contingency will be set aside for any unforeseen finds conservation work which may be required during the fieldwork for material which may be liable to deteriorate after recovery.

10. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

Copies of the publication will be submitted to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).

Details of the project and its results will be submitted to OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS).

11. CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

It is recognized that A F Howland Associates, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and the University of Birmingham has a duty of confidence to Knight Developments Limited, since the archaeological evaluation may be undertaken before certain proposals are in the public domain.

A F Howland Associates, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and the University of Birmingham shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act (1988)*. All legal rights shall be reserved, except that an exclusive licence shall be provided to the client, the Local Planning Authority and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for the use of such documents in all matters relating to the project.

12. PROJECT STAFF & TIMETABLE

The archaeological fieldwork will be managed by John Newman (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team). Kieron Heard is the project officer for the evaluation. All finds specialists are to be approved by William Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) prior to the commencement of post-excavation work. The fieldwork is to start on 21st May 2007 for a period of 2 to 3 weeks.

May 2007

ISSUED BY Adrian Hadley
Archaeology Manager

A F HOWLAND ASSOCIATES
Cordell Works
Cordell Road
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9EH

Tel: 01787 372690
Fax: 01787 376415
ahadley@howland.co.uk