ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

8 Tower Road, Gisleham (GSE 066)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. D/C06/1326)

Clare Good
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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

SCCAS Report No. 2007/155
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-29505

Contents

List of Contributors

Clare Good Project Officer Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by J. M. & P. Architects, and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

Assistant Project Officer Rob Atfield and Project Officer Clare Good, both from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, carried out the excavation.

Clare Good directed the project which was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Gisleham. 8 Tower Road, Gisleham. (TM5305 8950, GSE 066)
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of industrial units and storage and distribution areas, in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. The site lies some 220m east of a multi-period prehistoric occupation area (CAC 035, CAC 036) and 30m south of a Bronze Age find spot. Three trenches were excavated over the plot and were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil. Substantial modern disturbance was encountered throughout all the trenches masking any potential archaeology. No finds or features were seen in the evaluation.
(C. Good, for SCCAS and J., M. & P. Architects. 2007/155)

SMR information

Planning application no.	DC/06/1326
Date of fieldwork:	July 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 5305 8950
Funding body:	J., M. & P. Architects

1. Introduction

An application had been made to erect two industrial units with showroom, storage and distribution areas on land at 8 Tower Road, Gisleham. Planning consent was conditional on an archaeological evaluation being undertaken. The plot is centred on TM 5305 8950 (Fig. 1), and is currently occupied by an existing industrial unit and associated car parking over the south and east of the plot, with a small area of overgrown grassland to the north.

The development covers an area of c. 3200 square metres and lies at roughly 17m OD. The plot is flat and has an underlying drift geology of heavy sandy clay. It is surrounded by Tower Road to the east, Hadenham Road to the south, and industrial units to the west and north.

The site lies in an area of high archaeological importance. Archaeological investigation some 220m to the west on Hadenham Road (Fig. 2) revealed an area of a multi-period prehistoric occupation (CAC 035, CAC 036). A Bronze Age find spot of a socketed axe is also recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) 30m to the north (GSE 017).

A bore hole survey was conducted prior to the evaluation by RSA Geotechnics Limited. This gave an accurate soil profile suggesting natural subsoil would be encountered at between 0.2m and 0.4m (RSA Geotechnics Limted, 2007).

The development proposal includes significant ground disturbance so considering the location of the site in relation to known archaeology, it was deemed necessary to evaluate this plot in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team and the work was carried out by Clare Good and Rob Atfield of the SCCAS Field Team. It was commissioned and funded by J., M. & P. Architects.

2. Methodology

Three trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in July 2007 using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. These were located across the development area in an attempt to sample as much of the plot as possible, in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). 64.2m of trench were excavated representing roughly 4% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist. Trenches 2 and 3 were shortened or broken due to anomalies detected by the CAT scanner.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' (OP) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the SMR code GSE 066, then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function. Features were drawn on site at a scale of 1:20, and recorded photographically using a digital and black and white camera. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined using a measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-29505.

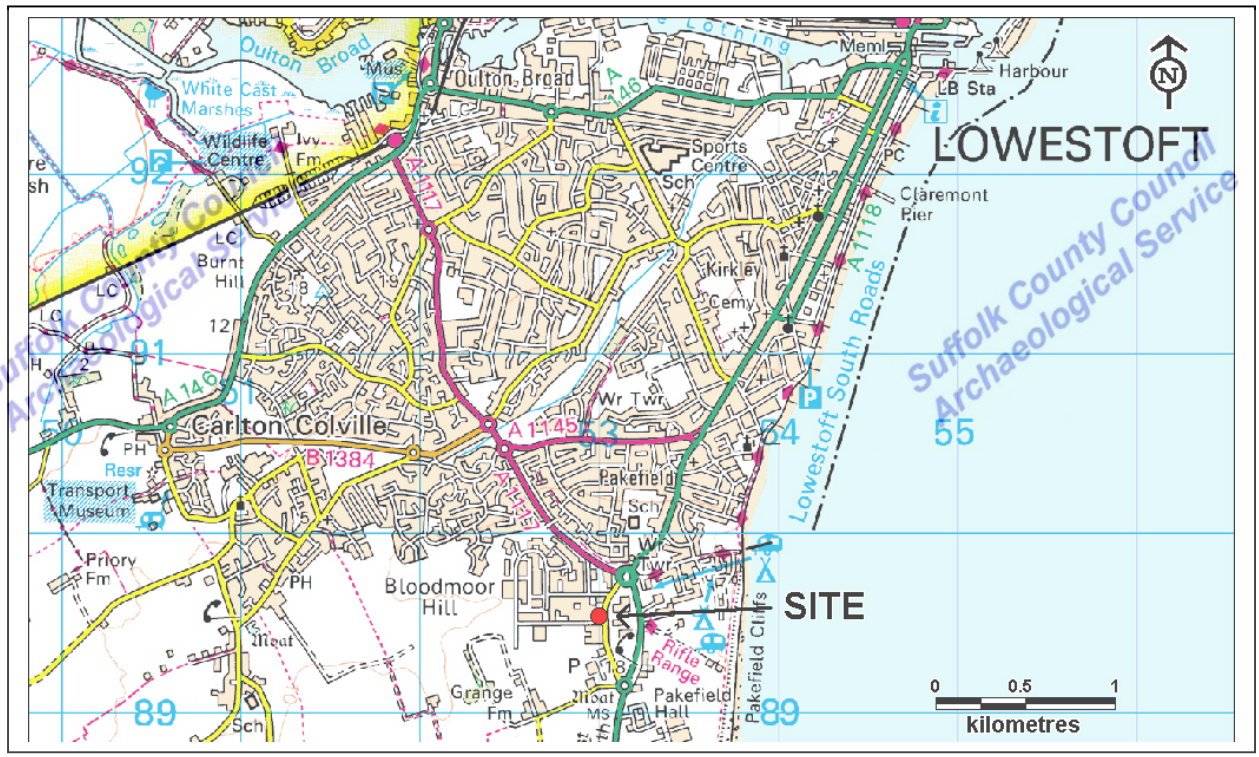

Figure 1: Site Location

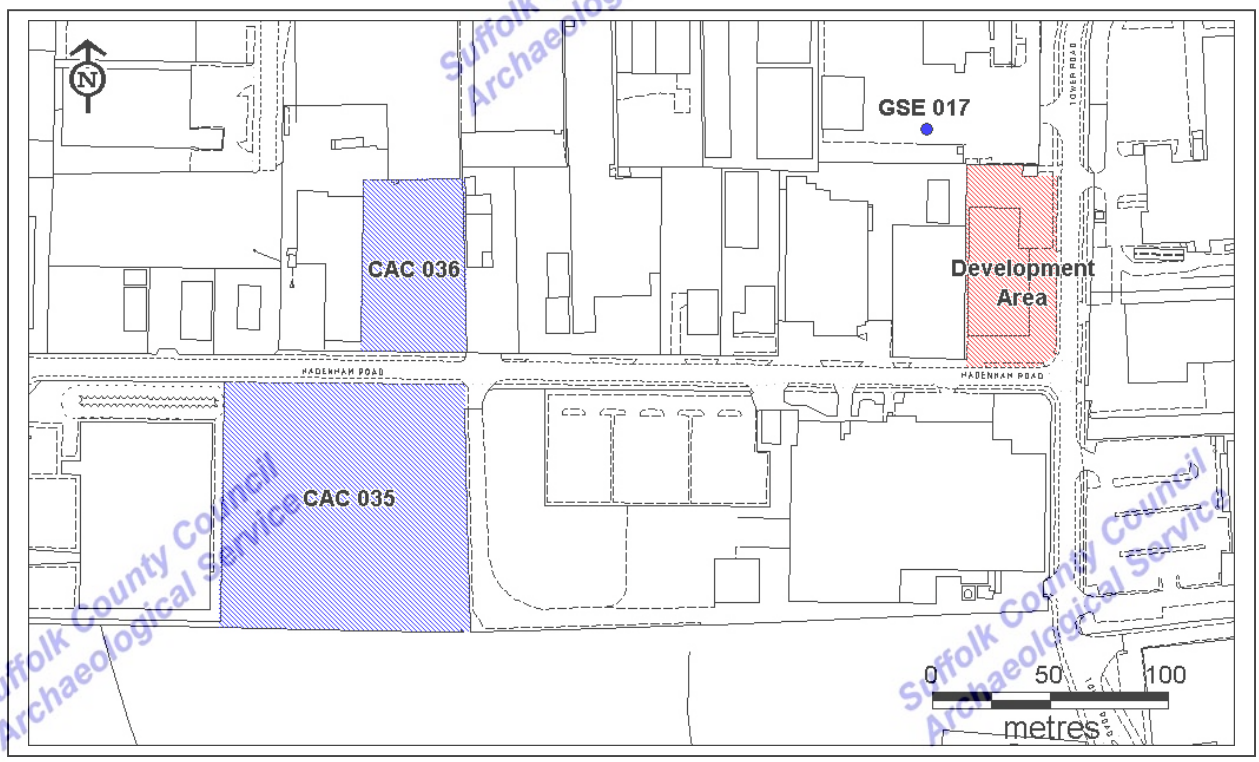

Figure 2: Location of development area in relation to previous archaeological investigations at CAC 035 and CAC 036, and sites recorded on county SMR (GSE 017)

3. Results

The trenches were located across the development area in an attempt to sample as much of the plot as possible (Fig. 3). The area was scanned using a CAT scanner prior to excavation, to determine the possible presence of services. Anomalies were detected at the western end of Trench 2 and through the centre of Trench 3 (Fig. 3). Trench 2 was shortened and Trench 3 was broken as a consequence.

Visibility in all trenches was poor due to the modern disturbance.

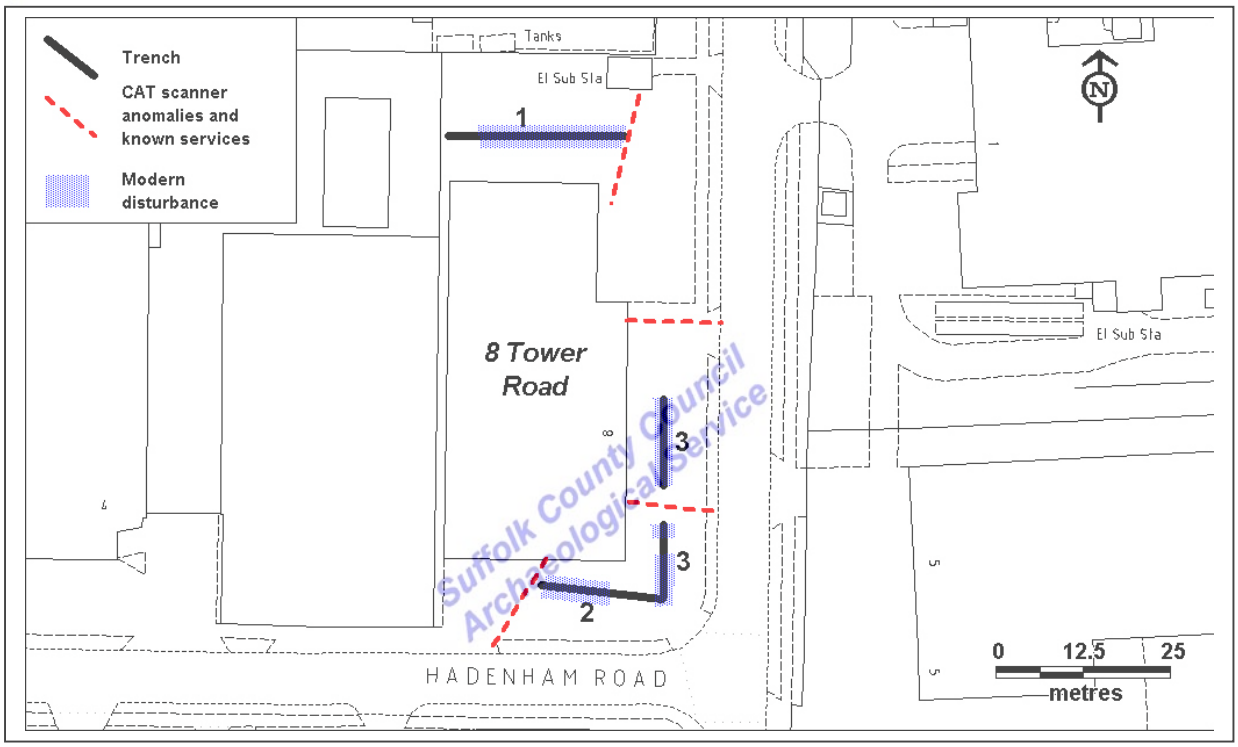

Figure 3: Location of trenches, CAT scanner anomalies and modern disturbance

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned E-W and ran through the north of the plot, through overgrown grassland and a small section of car park. It was 25m long and was also shortened as a consequence of finding a gas pipe during excavation. It was 0.4m deep at the west end, and 0.65m deep at the east. It was excavated through 0.15m of topsoil, a dark brown clay sandy loam with extensive root disturbance, and 0.35m – 0.45m of subsoil, a mid brown disturbed clay sand with frequent modern ceramic building material pieces, coal, charcoal and such like. The natural subsoil was only encountered at the western end, and comprised a mixed pale brown heavy clay.

A large modern feature was encountered at 3.3m from the western end. It was filled by a mixed mid brown loamy clay with frequent modern brick pieces and iron fragments and was roughly 15m wide. A World War II anti tank ditch is recorded to the south of this trench on the county SMR (GSE 046) and this feature may be related. It was not bottomed during excavation.

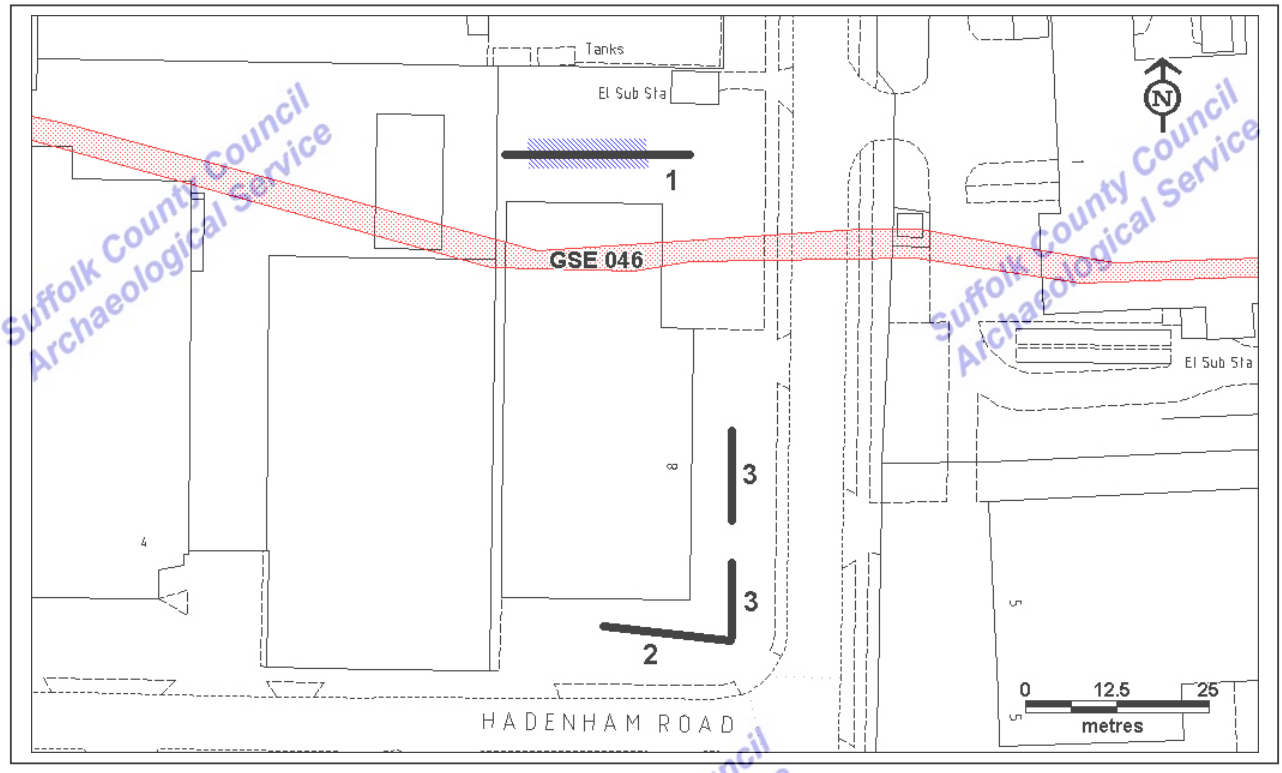

Figure 4: Location of modern feature in Trench 1 in relation to W.W.II anti-tank ditch recorded on county SMR (GSE 046)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned E-W and ran through the south of the plot, in an area of gravelled car parking. It was 17m long and was shortened at its western end due to an anomaly detected by the CAT scanner. It was 0.3m deep and was dug through 0.2m of gravel parking surface, and variable patches of disturbed grey brown heavy clay. No top or subsoils were visible. The natural subsoil was only visible in places due to the presence of large areas of modern disturbance but consisted of a mottled grey orange heavy clay with darker bands at the east end and pale brown grey heavy clay with occasional chalk nodules to the west.

Only modern finds and features were encountered in this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned N-S and ran through the east of the plot, in an area of gravelled car parking. It was dug in two sections of 10m and 12.2m, due to the presence of an anomaly detected by the CAT scanner through the centre. Consequently roughly 5.5m was left unexcavated through this area, to avoid potential services underneath.

The 10m section to the south was 0.3m deep at the south end, and 0.35m deep at the north. Again no top or subsoil was visible in this trench. It was dug through 0.2m of gravel parking surface and disturbed patches of grey brown heavy clay. The natural subsoil was again only visible in places, and consisted of a mottled grey orange heavy clay.

The 12.2m section to the north was 0.25m deep at the south end, and 0.4m deep at the north. Again no top or subsoil was visible in this trench. It was dug through 0.2m of gravel parking

surface and a mixed grey clay and modern refuse layer. This modern layer was present throughout the trench, at least to a depth of 0.4m although it was not bottomed. This feature was strong smelling and filled with undecayed wood, glass, china, metal and such like and seemed to be a modern refuse pit. No natural was encountered in this section of the trench.

Only modern finds and features were encountered in this trench.

4. Conclusion

This evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features, in spite of its location in relation to known archaeology to the west. The extensive modern disturbance is somewhat expected due to the industrial nature of the site and the location of the site immediately adjacent to two roads. Consequently a large number of services and modern interventions were encountered. This disturbance would have destroyed any archaeology present as the natural subsoil, where encountered, was very shallow.

Due to the nature and level of the modern disturbance, no further archaeological intervention is thought to be necessary at this site.

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.

Bibliography

RSA Geotechnics Limited, 2007. *Unit 8, Tower Road, South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Lowestoft, Suffolk*

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation

8 TOWER ROAD, GISLEHAM

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 two units for B2/B8 use with ancillary showroom, storage and distribution areas at 8 Tower Road, Gisleham, Lowestoft (TM 530 895) has been granted by Waveney District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/06/1326/FUL).

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 importance. Archaeological investigation to the west on Hadenham Road has defined an area of multi-period prehistoric occupation (CAC 035 and CAC 036). There is also a Bronze Age find spot *c*. 75m to the north (GSE 017). In addition, a World War II anti-tank defence was located E to W across the northern part of the site (GSE 046). 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, which is *c*. 160m^2 of the total application area that measures 0.32ha. (see accompanying plan). 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 field work begins.

3.2 The existing hard-standing may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine. Material sealed below the slab should be removed by 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. All material below the modern disturbance should be examined for archaeological material.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

3.11 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.

3.12 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.

3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

3.14 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 fulfill 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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

Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 19 March 2007

Reference: / 8TowerRoad-Gisleham2007

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.