

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Nayland Primary School, Bear Street, Nayland

NYW 032

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-30736

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007



Robert Atfield
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service
© November 2007

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

SMR information

Planning application

SMR No.	NYW 032
Date of fieldwork:	23-08-2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9715 3442
Funding body:	Nayland Playgroup
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-30736

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent for a new playgroup building at Nayland Primary School. The development lies within 50m of an archaeological site recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (NYW 015). During the construction of the new vicarage in around 1881 two bucket urns and a third small pot, all of Bronze Age date were found, one of which contained a cremation. The Vicarage lies approximately 35m to the north of the proposed new building.

A trial trench was excavated central to the area covered by the proposed building. The topsoil and a proportion of the subsoil, was gradually removed until the optimum level was reached for defining any archaeological features, the trench was around 0.5m deep at this level. A single archaeological feature was located in the evaluation trench, consisting of a small ditch running exactly east to west across the central area of the trench.

Unfortunately, the fill of the ditch failed to produce any datable archaeological finds and therefore the feature cannot be attributed to any specific period.

The remainder of the upcast spoil from the entire trench was also searched and metal detected, but also failed to produce any archaeological artefactual material.

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Methodology
- 3.0 Results
- 4.0 Conclusions
- 5.0 Acknowledgements
- 6.0 Bibliography
- 7.0 Appendices
 - Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Site in the context of The County Sites and Monuments Record
- Fig. 3 Early edition of The Ordnance Survey Map (c.1890)
- Fig. 4 Plan of excavated area
- Fig. 5 Ditch 0003 (looking west)
- Fig. 6 Ditch 0003 section and plan drawings

List of Tables

- Table 1 Summary of contexts

1.0 Introduction

The Site lies at around 20m OD on a south-facing slope, which steadily declines for around 130m until reaching the north bank of the River Stour beyond Bear Street. The area of land which will contain the new building has remained undeveloped for at least the last century and probably much longer. The c.1890 Ordnance Survey Map indicates that the site lay at the northern end of an agricultural field of around six acres (see Figure 3.). Further north, during the nineteenth century, St. James' Vicarage was built; a new cemetery that was consecrated in April 1887 closely followed this. Sir Charles Rowley Bt donated the land for the cemetery and it is likely that this area formed part of a larger field, which extended down the hill to the rear of the properties along Bear Street. The land to the east and west of the school was also open farmland at this time. This area of Nayland developed as a western spur of the medieval and early post-medieval settlement further east, but remained predominantly agricultural in nature. Much of the village developed as a centre of intensive wool based industries, in which the majority of the town found employment.

During the construction of the new vicarage in the late nineteenth century, two bucket urns and a third small pot, all of Bronze Age date were found, one of which contained a cremation. Nineteenth century archaeological records are not always reliable and it is not possible to be more specific in terms of the location. However, assuming that the urns did originate from The Vicarage, the extent of the grounds means that the furthest point at which the urns may have been found would be well within 100m of the school development site.

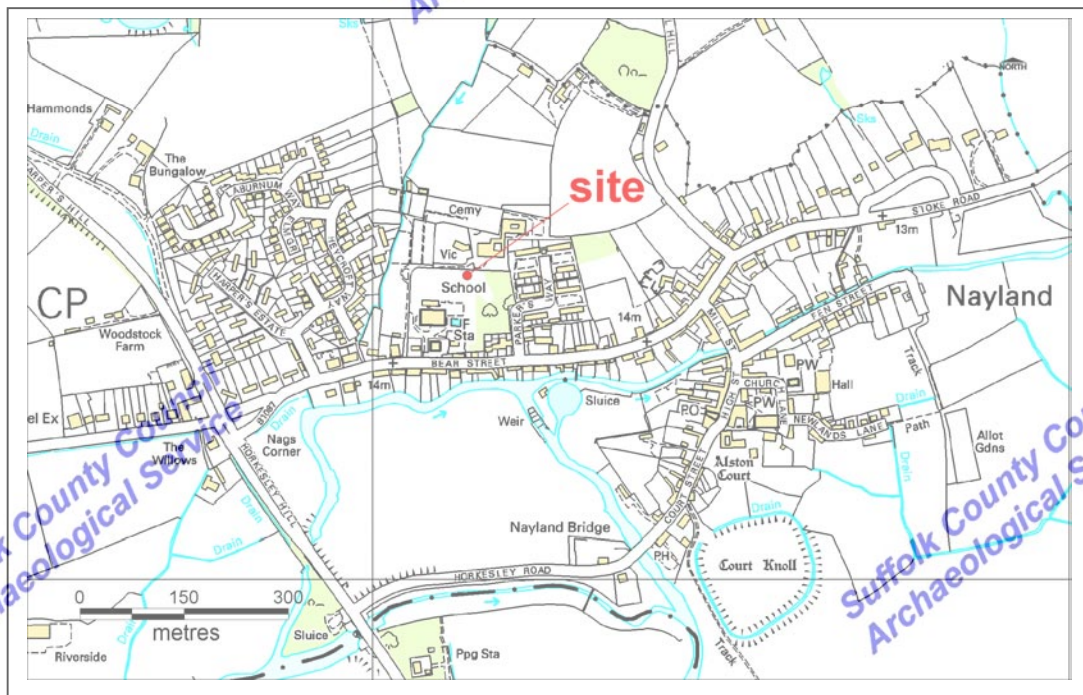


Figure 1. Site location

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

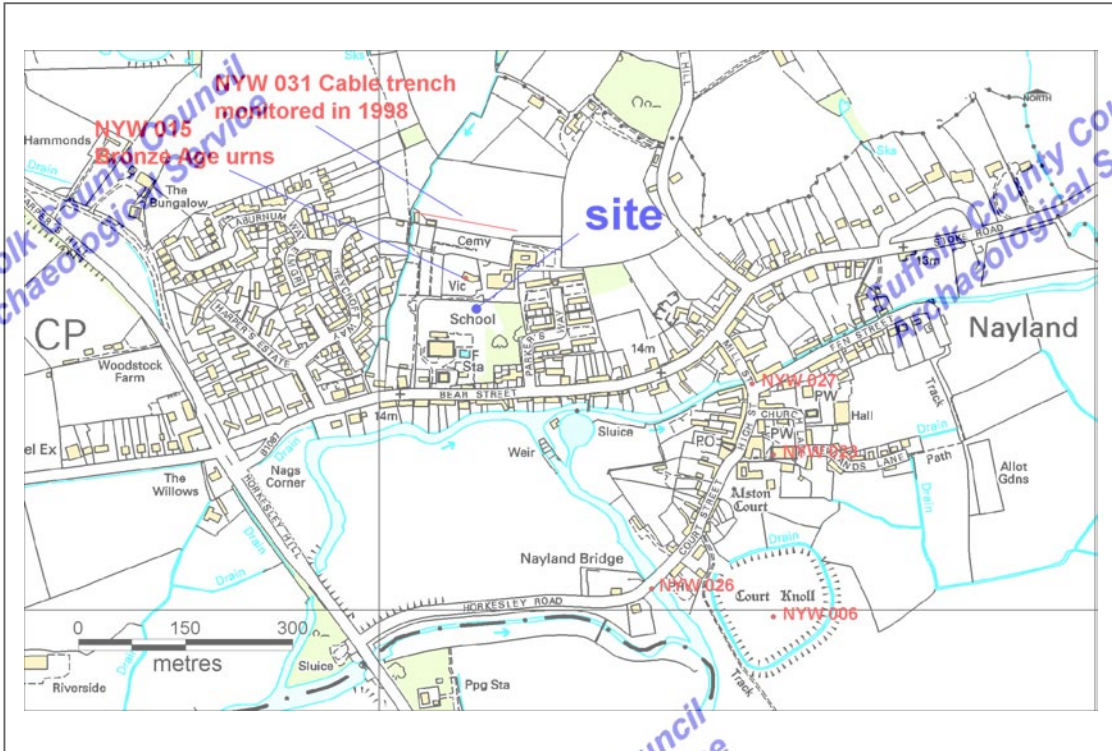


Figure 2. The site in the context of The County Sites and Monuments Record
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

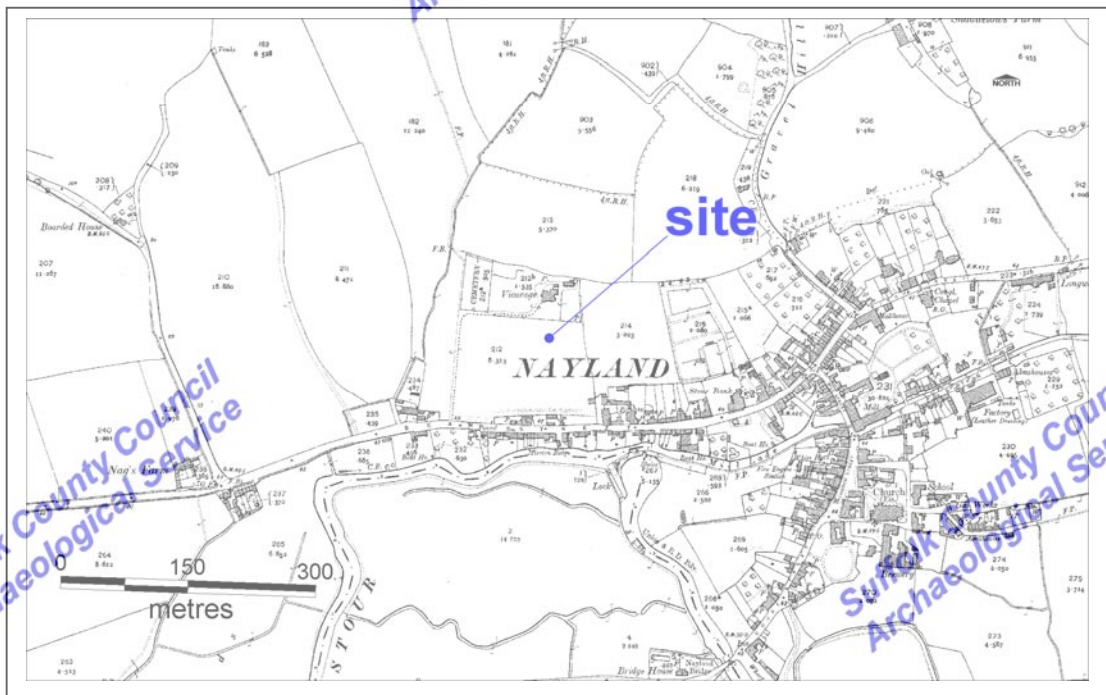


Figure 3. The site on the c.1890 Ordnance Survey Map
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

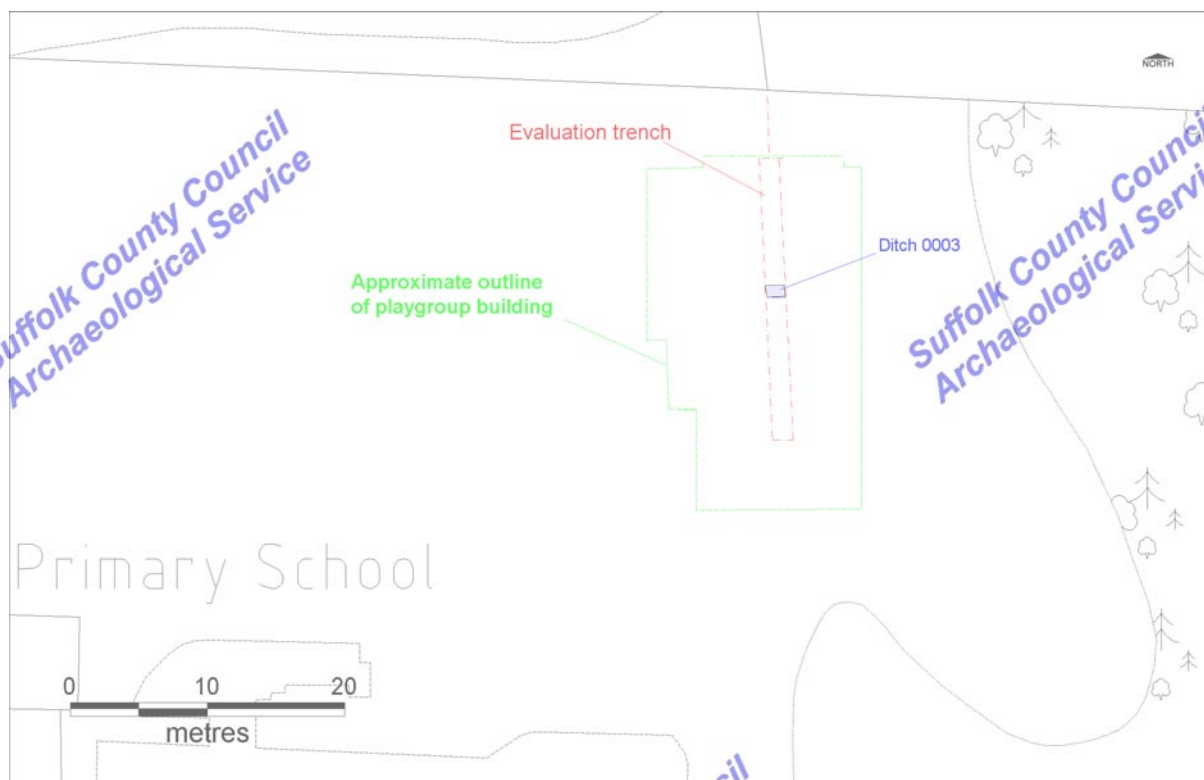


Figure 4. Plan of excavated area

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

2.0 Methodology

The trench area was mechanically stripped using a wheeled 180° digger, which was equipped with a 1.50m wide ditching bucket. Machine excavation ceased once the optimum depth was reached for revealing archaeological features. All machining was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist. The archaeological feature became visible in plan as a result of the contrast between the feature and the surrounding natural geological deposits. Once located the archaeological feature was individually cleaned and excavated by hand.

The archaeological feature was drawn in both plan and section, at a scale of 1:20 (section) and 1:50 (trench plan). A single context continuous numbering system using *pro forma* observable phenomena recording sheets was used for all areas of the excavation. Digital colour 7.1mp photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. The characteristics of the trench were also recorded on a trench record form with details of specific depths, location, area and soil profiles.

A metal detector search was made of all features and upcast soil, along with some areas of undisturbed ground.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Historic Environment Record code NTW 032. Inked copies of section and plan drawings have also been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-30736).

3.0 Results

A single trench was positioned to run through the approximate centre of the proposed development. The trench was orientated approximately north to south and measured 20.00m long by 1.50m wide; the machined depth ranged from 0.50 to 0.60m. The trenched area was contained within an extensive area of established grass forming part of the school playing field. Conditions were damp, as a result of prolonged overnight rain, but the site contained no standing water.

O.P. No.	Feature	Component	Identifier	Description
0001			Unstratified finds (none retained)	
0002			topsoil	Mid-brown loamy silty sand (turfed)
0003		0003	Ditch cut	Linear, east to west ditch with dished 'V' shaped profile
0004	0004	0003	Ditch fill (no archaeological finds)	Pale brown silty sandy gravel
0005			Subsoil	Mixed mid-pale brown sandy gravel
0006			Underlying natural drift geological deposits	Mottled pale reddish brown to yellow sandy gravel

Table 1. Summary of contexts

The topsoil consisted of loamy silty sand with a high gravel content, but moderately firm levels of compaction. The average depth of the topsoil was 0.40m (including turf) and probably represents former plough-soil. Occasional fragments of modern ceramic building materials were observed, especially tile; these probably originate from the construction of the present school

buildings (none were retained for further analysis). A subsoil of mixed mid-pale brown sandy gravel (0005) was recorded immediately below the topsoil and ranged in depth from between 0.15 to 0.20m, although this deposit was in places poorly differentiated from the topsoil. The underlying natural deposits were of mottled pale reddish brown to yellow sandy gravel, probably mixed largely as a result of periods of animal disturbance.

The trench contained a single archaeological feature (ditch 0003), consisting of an east to west running ditch, which was revealed crossing the centre of the evaluation trench. The ditch had a width of 0.65 at the machined level, but further cleaning of the section face indicated that the feature was probably at least 1.00m wide at the interface of the topsoil and subsoil. From this level the ditch had a depth of just under 0.50m (0.85m from the existing surface). The ditch had an open 'V' shaped profile with a dished base, although the ditch almost certainly cut the subsoil layer (0005), the contrast between the fill of the ditch (0004) and the subsoil was minimal. The fill of the ditch was remarkably 'clean' in terms of inclusions, no charcoal, bone, CBM, heat altered stone or pottery was located.

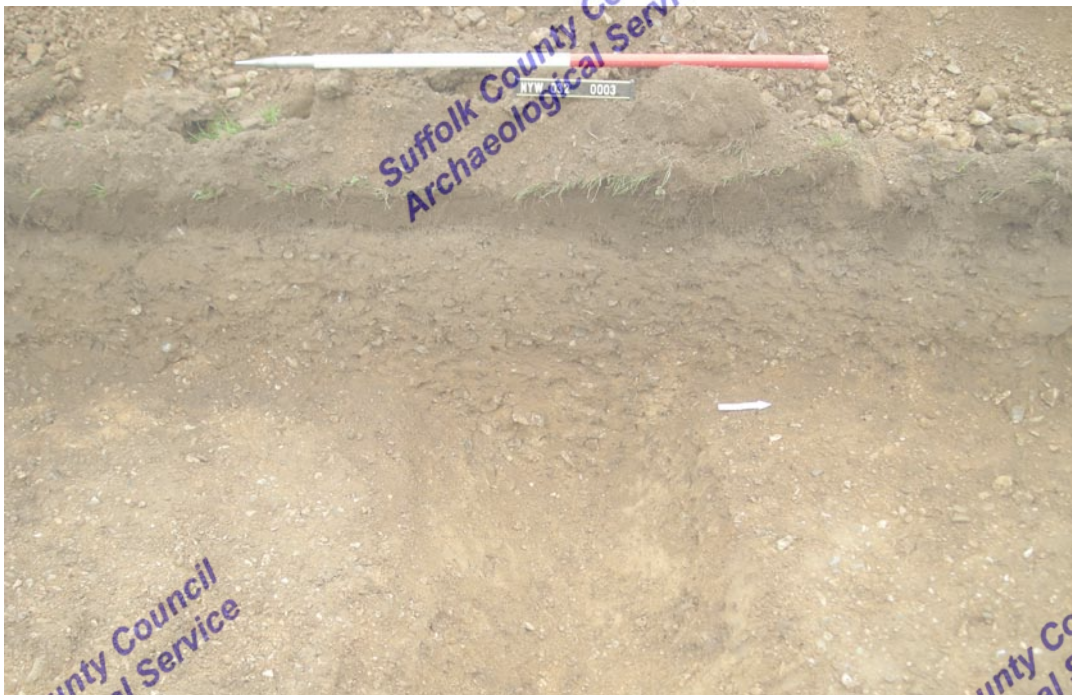


Figure 5 Ditch 0003 (looking west)

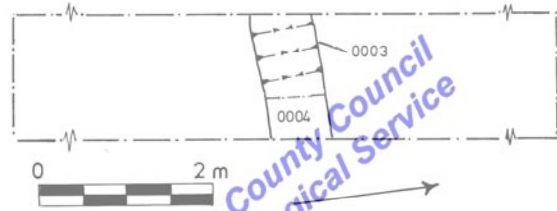
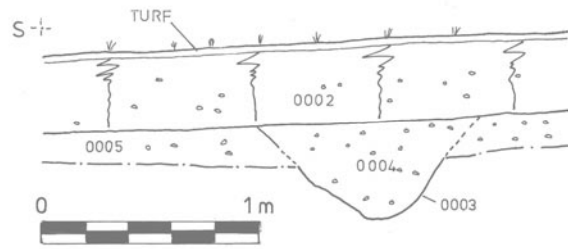


Figure 6 Ditch 0003 section (1:20) and plan (1:50)

4.0 Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The relatively short length of ditch and the total lack of any archaeological artefactual material prevent drawing any firm conclusions in relation to this site. However, the lack of finds possibly indicates that the location did not represent an intensively occupied area, at least during the medieval period. If the nineteenth century discoveries of Bronze Age burials represent a cemetery, then it seems unlikely that this extends into the school development area. Archaeological monitoring was carried out during 1998 to the north of the Victorian cemetery, when trenches for underground electric cables were being excavated (Newman 1998). This intervention also failed to reveal any evidence of Bronze Age activity, but did record indications of medieval

occupation in the form of pottery fragments, tile and brick, dating from between the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries. This discontinuous pattern of finds may suggest that occupation was relatively sparse within this area of the village, perhaps indicating mainly agricultural use linked to an earlier distribution of small farms.

As this development site appears to be peripheral to any intense activity associated with past periods, no further archaeological investigations are thought to be worthwhile.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Nayland Playgroup and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

6.0 Bibliography

Newman, J., 1998 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: Underground Cable, Gravel Hill, Nayland (NYW 031)' SCCAS Report No. 98/73, Ipswich.

7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

NAYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, BEAR STREET, NAYLAND

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

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

1.1 An application has been made to Suffolk County Council to build a new Playgroup building in the grounds of the existing school (June 2007).

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). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; 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 The development area lies within 50m of a site recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (NYW 015). During the construction of the new Vicarage (c.1881) two bucket urns and a third small pot, all of Bronze Age date were found (one contained a cremation). The Vicarage lies c.35m north of the proposed new building. A monitoring exercise on a cable trench north of the cemetery (i.e. 75m north of the Vicarage) in 1998 did not identify any evidence of Bronze Age cemetery usage.

There is high potential for the identified Bronze Age urn cemetery to extend over a significant area which may include the proposed development.

- 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 this office 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.

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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.

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 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.

2.7 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.

2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (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.

2.9 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.

2.10 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 of the development area and 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. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.6 The contractor shall 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.

3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

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

3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).

3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. “Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.

3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.

3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.

3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4. **General Management**

4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.

4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.5 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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 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. 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 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.11 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.

5.12 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: R D Carr

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

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 19 June 2007
School, Nayland

Reference: /Primary

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.

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.