

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

FORMER HARRIS MEAT FACTORY, HADLEIGH ROAD, IPSWICH IPS 449

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2004
(Planning Application No. IP/04/00115/OUT)

VERSION 2

(Updated following final completion of fieldwork – November 2004)

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The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner, and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The excavation was carried out by Rhodri Gardner, Tony Fisher, Rob Brooks and Jonathan van Jennians, all from the SCCAS Field Team.

Thanks are due to Keith Prenderghast of Charter Partnership for his assistance throughout the evaluation and to the archaeological consultant at Scott Wilson, Annette Roe, for her guidance throughout.

Summary

Ipswich, Former Harris Meat Factory, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich (TM 142 448; IPS 449). An evaluation by trial trench was carried out in April 2004 in order to inform outline planning consent sought by the EEDA for the redevelopment of the site. Eight trial trenches and ten test pits were excavated. The results obtained across the remainder of the site showed that it could be broadly divided into three areas. The northern third of the site was characterised by at least 1.5m of modern reclamation deposits following the redirection of the channel of the River Gipping and was also disturbed due to modern quarrying and the construction of two factory buildings. The central part of the site was heavily truncated by the large complex of 20th century buildings of the former meat factory. The southern part of the site showed little modern truncation and although no archaeological features were identified during this evaluation, monitoring of any further groundworks in the area was recommended due to the better preservation that prevailed there. Between the first two disrupted areas natural river terrace gravels with archaeological potential were found to be quite shallow. Indeed a single prehistoric feature was recorded in the vicinity of the findspot of a Bronze Age urn that lay within the footprint of the earliest of the factory buildings. It was therefore recommended that further archaeological monitoring be carried out within the area of this building's footprint. A second area with archaeological potential lay on either side of a trackway where banks of upcast spoil up to 0.8m thick afforded some protection to natural river terrace gravels sealed beneath. It was also recommended that archaeological monitoring be carried out on any groundwork affecting the undisturbed southern ends of these banks.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS, for Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co Ltd., report no: 2004/63)

SMR information

Planning application no. IP/04/00115/OUT
Date of fieldwork: 5th – 7th April and 9th November 2004
Grid Reference: TM 142 448
Funding body: East of England Development Agency

Introduction

Planning consent (IP/04/00115/OUT) has been sought for the redevelopment of the site of the former Harris Meat Factory, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich (centred approximately on NGR TM 142 448, see Fig. 1). The site lies on broadly level ground at c. 5m AOD, rising sharply to c. 11m AOD at its southern end where it rises to meet the Hadleigh Road where it crosses a railway bridge. A number of buildings of the former Harris Factory still stand, and numerous concrete pads and wall stubs left from demolition of the other factory buildings remain in the central part of the site. The southern point of the site is bounded by the raised carriageway of the Hadleigh Road while to the east and west the site is bounded by lines of the Great Eastern Railway. The site's north-western boundary is defined by the artificial bank of the River Gipping.

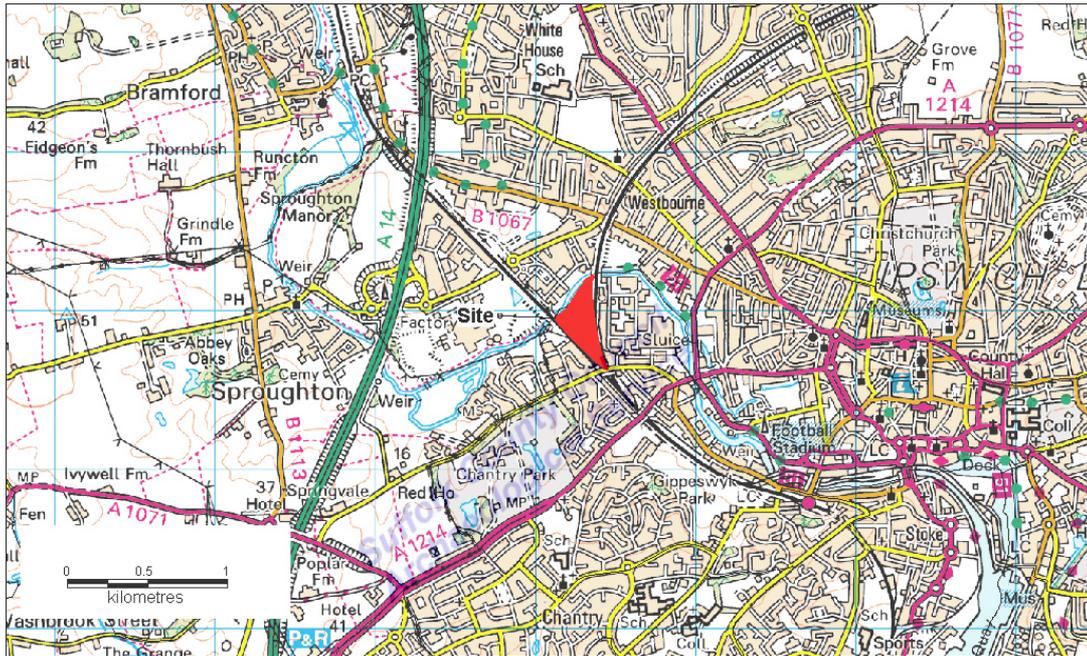


Figure 1. Site location

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In this case an outline planning application (IP/04/00115/OUT) has been made by the site's present owners (EEDA) to provide plots for future development and the evaluation was commissioned prior to determination in order to determine the archaeological implications of development.

The site is the location of known archaeological finds and was thought to have significant archaeological potential. Within the application area a small vessel, described as a possible accessory cup with some similarities to collared urns of the Early Bronze Age, was found during the building of an extension to the Meat Factory c.1930. This is identified in the county SMR as IPS 104, and is located approximately at NGR TM 1434 4484. Other notable sites within a 500m radius of the centre of the site include a Bronze Age bucket urn found in 1919 in a gravel pit c.330m from the centre of the site to the east (IPS 087). This, along with the findspot within the site itself, could suggest the presence of a Bronze Age cemetery in the vicinity of the development site. On the northern bank of the River Gipping the principal evidence is of Saxon date and is concentrated in the area of the Boss Hall Industrial Estate. This includes IPS 231, an Early Saxon mixed cemetery; IPS 101, a find of pottery of probable Saxon date; and IPS 397, an Early Saxon pit. These suggest that associated Saxon settlement may be found in the vicinity of the development site, although post holes of possible Saxon date (IPS 395) have been found on the northern bank of the Gipping at Tanner Street some 500m to the north-east. This suggests

that such a settlement could be located there, rather than on the present site. Later evidence also lies close by, in the form of a moated site (IPS 100) which lies immediately on the opposite bank of the river to the north of the development site. It is notable that the northern part of the site appears to have long been marginal land prior to the redirection of the River Gipping. It is identified in the Tithe Apportionment of 1840 as being 'Further Fens', while the remainder of the site is described as 'arable'.

A Specification for Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by Scott Wilson based on a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS hereafter) Conservation Team. A Desk-Based Assessment (Roe, 2004) was carried out by Scott Wilson, the archaeological consultants appointed by the EEDA, who subsequently commissioned the SCCAS Field Team to undertake the field evaluation.

Methodology

The evaluation was carried out between 5/04/04 – 7/04/04. A trench layout was designed by Annette Roe of Scott Wilson, following consultation with Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The layout of the excavated trenches shown in Fig. 2 follows this where possible, although a number of exceptions were necessary (outlined below). All trenches and trial pits were excavated using a 13 tonne 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation of topsoil and overburden was carried out under archaeological supervision until either the top of the first appropriate archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural drift deposits were encountered or until health and safety considerations dictated that the trenches were too deep to enable access. The surface of each trench and relevant upstanding sections were cleaned by hand where necessary to further define any archaeological features. The trenches were located using a Total Station Theodolite (TST).

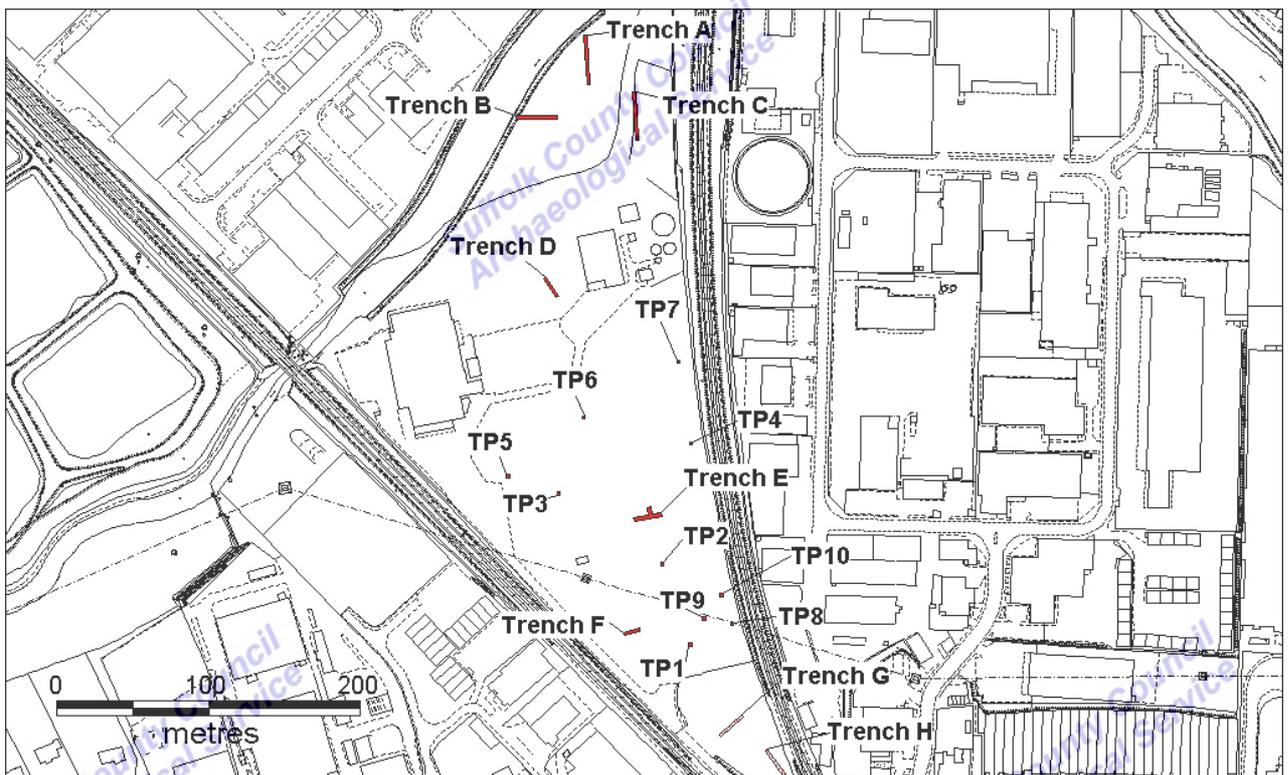


Figure 2. Trench and test pit locations

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The SMR reference number IPS 449 was allocated to the site and all the stratigraphic elements of the deposits were given Observable Phenomena (OP) numbers within a continuous numbering system. This context information is shown in Appendix 1. Where necessary trench stratigraphy was recorded in a series of 1:20 scale section drawings and trench plans were recorded at a scale of 1:50. These are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Context records were entered onto an Access97 database, and inked copies of the drawings were prepared on archive quality drafting film. The

find was examined by in-house staff, with the data then input onto a Microsoft Access97 database.

The original trench layout proposed by Scott Wilson and agreed with the SCCAS Conservation Team has been modified due to several factors unknown at the time:

- Trench C was moved 5m to the north-west of its original location, due to reptile potential highlighted in the ecological report produced by White Young Green Environmental. Its final position is given in Figure 2.
- Test pit 5 was moved 10m to the east to avoid the particularly thick concrete slab forming the base for the access road to the former factory along much of the site's western edge.
- Three extra test pits (Nos. 8, 9 and 10) were added in order to address specific questions raised during a site meeting dated 07/04/04 attended by Robert Carr (SCCAS Conservation Team), John Newman (SCCAS Field Team Contracts Manager), Annette Roe and Sarah Hemley (both Scott Wilson).

Results

Basic details of each trench and test pit are given below in Table 1. Each intervention is then individually described. Plans and sections are shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Intervention	Dimensions	Area	Ground level (AOD)	Archaeological Features
Trench A	30m x 2m	60m ²	4.8m	None
Trench B	30m x 2m	60m ²	4.7m	None
Trench C	30m x 2m	60m ²	4.4m	None
Trench D	15m x 2m	30m ²	5.5m	None
Trench E	23m x 2m	46m ²	6.3m	Spread 1016
Trench F	10m x 2m	20m ²	7.6m	None
Trench G	20m x 2m	40m ²	7.8m	Ditch 1020
Trench H	21m x 2m	42m ²	8m	None
Test Pit 1	2m x 2m	4m ²	7.6m	None
Test Pit 2	2m x 2m	4m ²	7.1m	None
Test Pit 3	2m x 2m	4m ²	6.5m	None
Test Pit 4	2m x 2m	4m ²	5.7m	None
Test Pit 5	2m x 2m	4m ²	5.5m	None
Test Pit 6	2m x 2m	4m ²	5.7m	None
Test Pit 7	2m x 2m	4m ²	5.9m	None
Test Pit 8	-	-	7.7m	-
Test Pit 9	2m x 2m	4m ²	7.7m	None
Test Pit 10	2m x 2m	4m ²	7.6m	None

Table 1. Evaluation trench summary (ground level information taken from White Young Green's Environmental Report)

Trench A

This was intended to examine the nature of the deposits between the present-day and former course of the river. The following common stratigraphy was observed throughout the whole length of the trench (see Fig. 3):

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.24m	1002	Topsoil. Very soft light greyish brown loam with frequent CBM/modern rubbish fragments.

0.24 - 0.8m	1003	Reclamation deposits. Soft mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent CBM, glass and other modern rubbish fragments.
0.8 - 1m	1004	River/flood plain deposits. Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with moderate organic inclusions (large wood fragments) and occasional CBM fragments.
1 - 1.1m	1005	River/flood plain deposits. Firm mid orange-brown silty clay alluvium with few notable inclusions, although 19 th century transfer-printed pottery was recovered from this layer.
1.1 - 1.32m	1006	River/flood plain deposits. Stiff bluish grey clay alluvium with very small silt component. No notable inclusions.
1.32 - 1.7m	1007	River/flood plain deposits. Soft dark brown sandy clayey silt alluvial deposit with rare small sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles. Some organic preservation.
1.7m+	1008	River terrace gravels. Loose mid greyish brown medium to coarse sands with frequent flint pebbles/cobbles.

Deposits of 19th century or later date were encountered to a depth of 1.1m. The uppermost 0.8m comprised very recent reclamation dumping/landfill. This is unsurprising given that when the trench locations are plotted on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps Trenches A and B lie on the river Gipping's northern bank, with Trench A almost within (and parallel to) the channel (Fig 4).



Figure 3. Trench A: west-facing sample section

This overlay a 0.9m thick sequence of four distinct river/flood plain deposits. The earliest two (observed between 1.1 – 1.7m) could not be dated accurately. Undisturbed river terrace gravels were encountered at a uniform depth throughout the trench and no trace of the slope of the former river bank or any gravel islands was observed.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

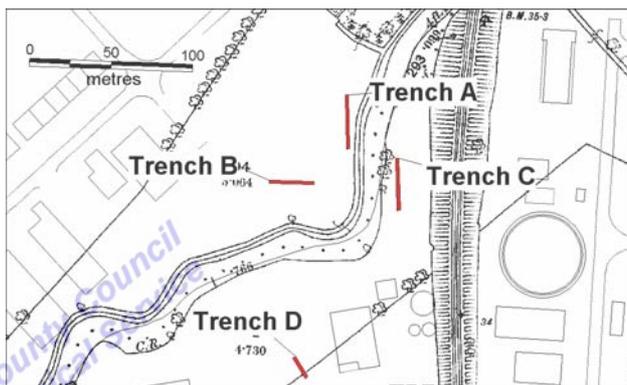


Figure 4. Northern trench locations with 1st edition OS map

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Trench B

This was also intended to test the nature of the deposits between the present-day and earlier course of the river. The following common stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.44m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.



Figure 5. Trench B: north-facing sample section

0.44 - 0.75m	1003	Reclamation deposits. As Trench A.
0.75 – 0.85m	1004	River/flood plain deposits. As Trench A.
0.85 – 1.2m	1005	River/flood plain deposits. As Trench A.
1.2 - 1.46m	1006	River/flood plain deposits. As Trench A.
1.46 – 2.1m	1007	River/flood plain deposits. As Trench A.
2.1m+	1008	River terrace gravels. As Trench A.

A very similar sequence to that seen in Trench A was recorded. The most notable difference was the additional thickness of the earliest river deposit (1007), despite the Trench being c.30m further to the north of the former river channel than Trench A (see Fig. 4).

No incised archaeological features were observed.

Trench C

This was intended to examine the deposits in an area where no previous investigations had been undertaken. It was necessary to move this trench slightly (see *Methodology* above) following the findings of the ecological report. The following common stratigraphy was recorded throughout the trench:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.24m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.24 – 1.4m	1003	Reclamation deposits. As Trench A.
1.4 – 1.75m+	1009	Reclamation/dumping deposits. Firm dark greyish black clayey silt with frequent CBM, concrete and wood fragments along with other modern remains. The modern inclusion were larger than those encountered in the reclamation deposits recorded in Trenches A and B.

This trench was characterised by deep modern reclamation deposits, with no natural terrace gravels or overlying alluvial layers encountered at a depth of 1.75m below the existing ground level. This could again be expected given that Trench C is within c. 10m of the southern edge of the former river channel.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench D

This short (15m long) trench was located in an area between the two most northerly factory buildings which was thought to have remained undisturbed. The following common stratigraphy was recorded throughout the trench:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 – 1.3m+	1003	Reclamation deposits. As Trench A. This continued to 1.9m+ in a small sondage dug in the centre of the trench.

Following excavation it became clear that this area had also been heavily disturbed with in excess of 1.9m of reclamation deposits/modern dumping recorded.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench E

This was located in the vicinity of the findspot of the Bronze Age urn (IPS 104) at NGR TM 1434 4484. A T-shaped trench (total length 23m) was excavated, with its long axis (18m) aligned approximately east to west and a shorter (5m) length adjoining this and running to the north. The following stratigraphy was observed throughout the trench:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2m+	1014	Natural terrace gravels. Loose mid orange-brown medium sand matrix (c 50%) with frequent small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravel. Initial uncertainty about the 'cleanliness' of this deposit meant that excavation was continued to a depth of 1m in some areas of the trench to ensure that it was not made ground.

At the junction of the two arms of this trench a small roughly circular (c. 1.5m diameter) truncated spread (1016) of soft mid greyish brown slightly silty sand with moderate sub-angular flint pebbles. This was found to be just 0.2m thick and contained a single fragmentary struck flint flake.

Given its small size, stratigraphic isolation and the unknown degree of vertical truncation this is difficult to interpret, but it most likely represents a small 'island' of surviving late prehistoric ground surface.

Trench F

This short (10m) trench was located on the western edge of a hollow trackway of probable early 20th century date where a ridge of upcast spoil (presumably derived from the creation of the trackway) was thought to have the potential to protect archaeological deposits. The following stratigraphy was recorded:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.25m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.25 - 0.8m	1013	Made ground/dumping. Firm mid brownish grey silty sand matrix (70%) with common small to large sub-angular flint pebbles. Occasional to rare CBM and concrete pieces.
0.8m+	1014	Natural terrace gravels. Loose mid orange-brown medium sand matrix (c 50%) with frequent small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravel.

Beneath a thin layer of topsoil a substantial deposit of quite clean, but nevertheless disturbed/redeposited, sands and gravels up to 0.55m thick was observed. This almost certainly represents the upcast produced by the creation of the trackway, as anticipated in the Evaluation Specification produced by Scott Wilson (Roe, 2004). This sealed natural deposits at a depth of 0.8m bgl.

A modern ditch was recorded running approximately east to west along the whole length of the trench.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench G

This 20m long trench was situated at the far southern end of the site on slightly higher ground at c. 8m AOD in order to determine the extent of any modern truncation. The following common stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.4m	1017	Made ground/tarmac surface.
0.4 - 0.9m	1018	Sandy subsoil. Very soft mid greyish brown slightly silty fine sand matrix (90%) with small sub-angular flint pebbles.
0.9m+	1019	Natural terrace gravels. Soft pale yellowish brown medium sands (90%) with small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles/gravel.

A single slightly curved ditch (1020) was recorded c. 6m from the south-western end of the trench. This was broadly north-west to south-east aligned and could be traced for at least 6m as it

crossed the trench. It was 1.28m wide and was cut into the surface of the uppermost sandy subsoil (1018). It was 0.9m deep with moderately sloping slightly concave sides that broke imperceptibly to an almost flat base. Its single fill (1021) of dark brownish grey silty sand held rare flint pebbles, charcoal flecks, coal pieces and modern glass fragments. Undoubtedly of modern date, its function remains unknown.

It was notable that the difference between the sandy deposits 1018 and 1019 was slight. The lack of finds or cut features means that it remains unclear whether archaeological activity could be anticipated at the surface of either of these deposits. Given this uncertainty any ground reduction of more than c. 0.4m, which would disturb the upper deposit (1018), should be subject to archaeological monitoring.

Trench H

This 21m long trench was situated at the far southern end of the site. The rationale for its location was identical to that for Trench G. The following common stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.4m	1017	Made ground/tarmac surface.
0.4 - 0.85m	1018	Sandy subsoil. Very soft mid greyish brown slightly silty fine sand matrix (90%) with small sub-angular flint pebbles.
0.85m+	1019	Natural terrace gravels. Soft pale yellowish brown medium sands (90%) with small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles/gravel.

As was the case with Trench G the original ground surface/archaeological horizon could not be clearly identified.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 1

This was located with its centre at TM 14365 44553 in order to examine the deposits just beyond the western edge of an area of concrete slab at the southern end of the site, which is known to have been used for vehicle parking/refuelling. The following stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 - 0.7m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
0.7m+	1014	Natural terrace gravels. As Trench F.

The sandy made ground deposit (1013) in this area was further characterised by a slight diesel smell, indicating a degree of hydrocarbon contamination. Undisturbed river terrace gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.7m (bgl).

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 2

This was located at TM 14347 44805 in order to examine the ground just to the south of the extant Bacon Factory wall stub. The following stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 - 1.6m+	1015	Demolition dump. Soft pale yellowish brown medium sand with frequent large/very large pieces of demolition debris (bonded masonry, concrete lumps etc.).

This area was very heavily disturbed with widespread substantial demolition debris encountered to a depth of 1.6m.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Test Pit 3

This was centred on TM 14277 44854 to test the deposits in an area formerly occupied by factory buildings. The following stratigraphy was recorded:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.6m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
0.6m+	1014	Natural terrace gravels. As Trench F.

No significant covering of topsoil was encountered here, just a 0.6m deposit of made ground which overlay river terrace gravels. Less demolition debris itself was recorded in the overburden at this location, in marked contrast to Test Pit 2. This suggests that site clearance following demolition was more thorough in this part of the site than to the east around the earliest Bacon Factory buildings.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Test Pit 4

This was centred on TM 14367 44885 at the eastern edge of the central part of the site, adjacent to former factory buildings. The following stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 - 1.45m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
1.45m+	1014	Natural terrace gravels. As Trench F.

Extensive disturbance and demolition debris was encountered to a depth of 1.45m, where river terrace gravels were recorded.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 5

This was located at TM 14246 44864 to test deposits at the western edge of an area occupied by factory buildings as late as 1988/89 as indicated by the Ordnance Survey. The following stratigraphy was recorded:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 - 0.8m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
0.8 - 1m	1011	Shingle layer. Very loose pale yellowish brown fine sand matrix (20%) with very frequent (80%) small sub-angular to angular flint shingle/pea grit.
1 - 1.4m+	1012	River terrace deposits. Very soft pale brownish yellow fine to medium sand matrix (90%) with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles.

Disturbed made ground was recorded to 0.8m bgl. This overlay a thin (0.2m) undisturbed layer of shingle, most probably representing a short period of high energy deposition of natural river terrace gravels. This in turn overlay clean sand-rich deposits also interpreted as natural in origin.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 6

This was located at TM 14294 44903 to examine deposits in the central part of the site, formerly occupied by factory buildings. The following stratigraphy was recorded:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.25m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.25 - 0.75m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
0.75 - 1.1m	1010	?Redeposited sand and gravel. Very loose light greyish brown slightly silty medium sands with frequent angular to sub-angular flint pebbles.
1.1 - 1.25m	1011	Shingle layer. As Test Pit 5.
1.25 - 1.5m+	1012	River terrace deposits. As Test Pit 5.

As elsewhere in this central part of the site disturbed made ground with some demolition was recorded to a significant depth, in this case 0.75m. This overlay a 0.35m thick layer of silty sand and gravel. It was unclear in this case whether these were redeposited (e.g. upcast from the digging of the quarry pits immediately to the north (Roe, 2004, p. 12)) or natural deposits that had been affected by solution/percolation of the water in the ponds that these quarry pits became (see also Test Pit 7). The sequence of shingle and river terrace deposits described for Test Pit 5 was encountered at 1.1m bgl.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Test Pit 7

This was centred on TM 14356 44939 to examine ground in the eastern part of the site that had been occupied by recent factory buildings. The following common stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.25m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.25 - 1m	1010	?Redeposited sand and gravel. As Test Pit 6.
1 - 1.15m	1011	Shingle layer. As Test Pit 5.
1.15 - 1.45m+	1012	River terrace deposits. As Test Pit 5.

No significant demolition deposits could be clearly identified in the area of Test Pit 7. The topsoil immediately overlay a similar layer of silty sand and gravel (1010) to that encountered in Test Pit 6. This, and the thickness (0.75m) of deposit 1010 suggests that this is more likely to be upcast from quarry pits than natural terrace gravels affected by the standing water of the ponds. A similar sequence of shingle and terrace gravels to that encountered in Test Pits 5 and 6 began at 1m bgl.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 8

This was located at TM 14391 44768 in order to evaluate the deposits beneath an area under concrete toward the southern end of the site. However, excavation was not continued to any significant depth as a tank (formerly part of a wheel-washing facility) filled with hydrocarbon-contaminated water was encountered.

The structures that had formerly occupied this area of concrete slab have been characterised in the Site Investigation Report (White Young Green, 2003), which showed that a garage, oil/petrol store, oil/petrol interceptor and coal yard had stood there until relatively recently. The same report also indicated that ground contamination was considerable in the vicinity.

Test Pit 9

This was located at TM 14375 44769 in order to examine the deposits at the northern edge of the southern concrete slab area outlined above, and to determine whether the very substantial demolition deposit encountered in Trench 2 continued to the south. The following stratigraphy was observed:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.1m	-	Reinforced concrete slab.
0.1 - 0.25m	-	Sand/hardcore sub-base for slab.
0.25 - 0.5m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F, but heavily affected by hydrocarbon smell. Distinct oily sheen when wet.
0.5m+	1012	River terrace deposits. As Test Pit 5, but also heavily contaminated.

Beneath the slab and its make-up (0.25m) a similar sequence of redeposited sands and gravel overlying river terrace deposits was recorded, with the latter being encountered at 0.5m bgl. However, the ground in the area of Test Pit 10 was heavily contaminated with diesel oil, as might be expected given the recent history of this area of concrete slab (see Test Pit 8).

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Test Pit 10

This was centred on approximately TM 14385 44785 to determine if the shallow depth of natural deposits encountered in Trench E extended to the southern side of the extant Bacon Factory wall stub c. 30m to the north of this Test Pit. The following stratigraphy was recorded:

Depth (bgl)	Context	Description
0 - 0.2m	1002	Topsoil. As Trench A.
0.2 - 0.6m	1013	Made ground/dumping. As Trench F.
0.6m+	1012	River terrace deposits. As Test Pit 5.

It was evident that the ground level was significantly higher (by c. 1.5m) than in Trench E, yet only 0.6m of topsoil and made ground/overburden was recorded before terrace gravels were observed. This confirms the finding of the Site Investigation Report (White Young Green, 2003, Drawing No. SK. 19) that the natural river terrace gravels rise quite steeply over the southern half of the site from c. 5 – 5.5m AOD at the centre of the site (just to the north of Trench E) to over 8m AOD in the vicinity of Trench H.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

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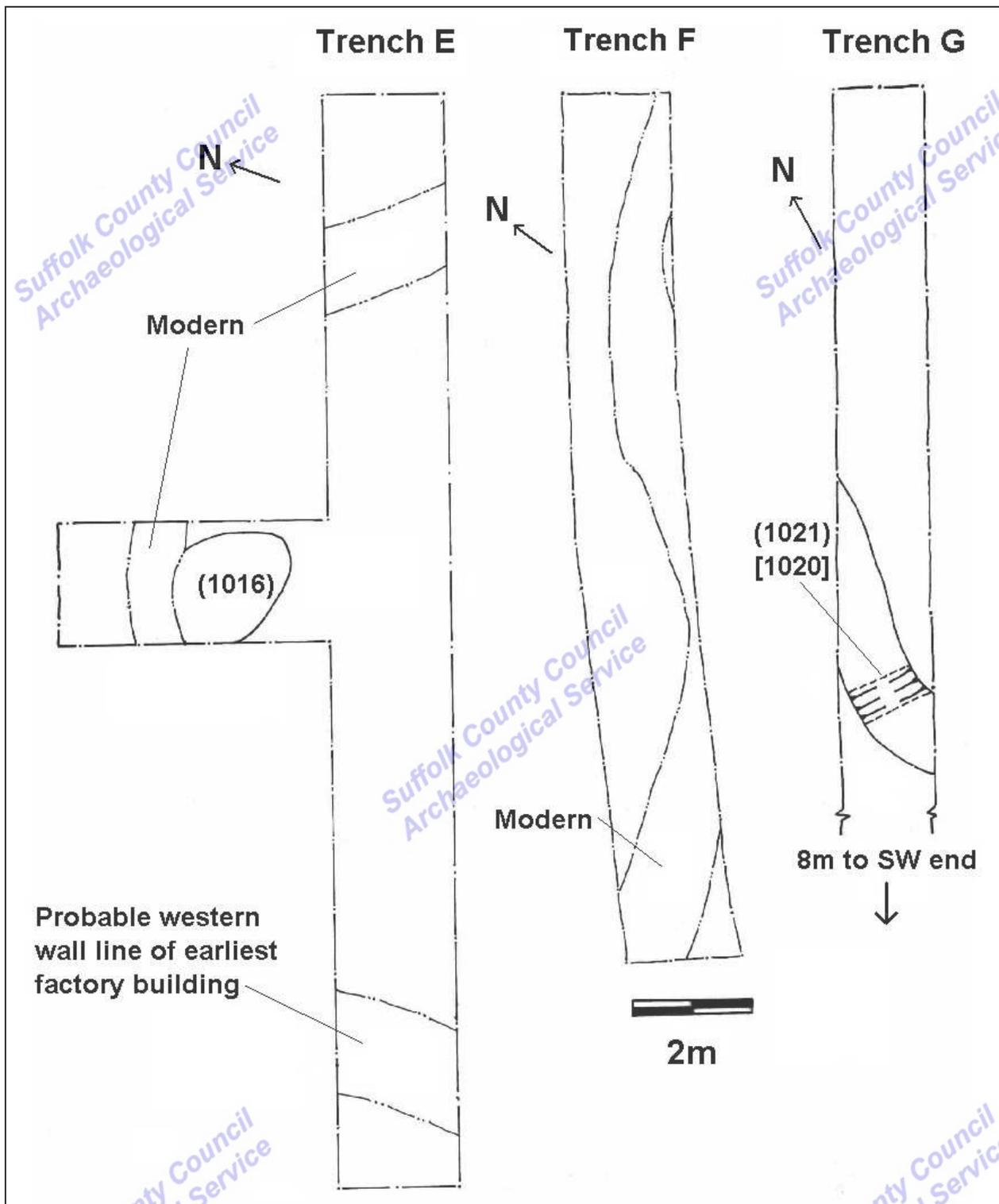


Figure 6. Trench plans

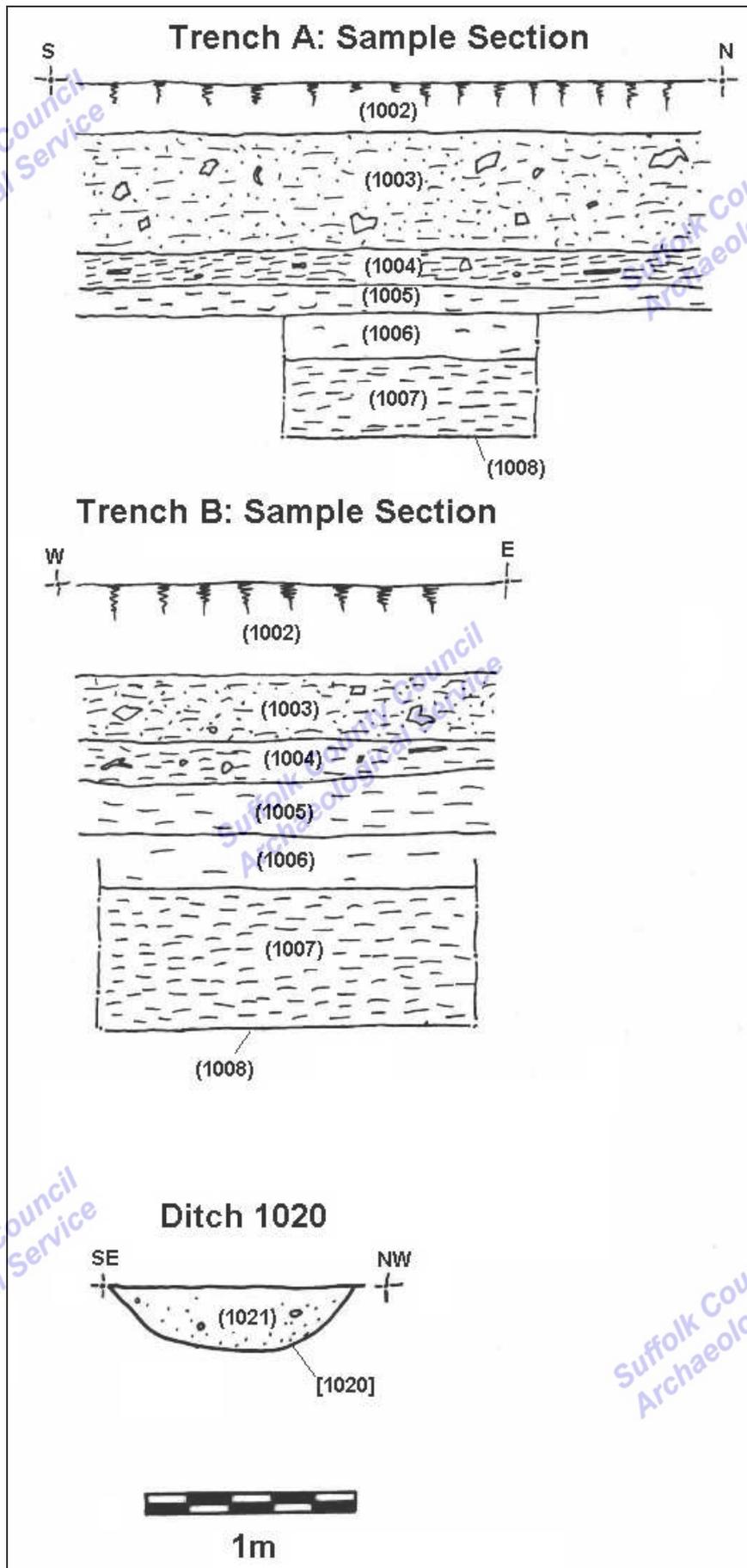


Figure 7. Sections

Discussion and Conclusions

Perhaps the first thing that should be considered is the nature of the archaeological potential itself. As identified in the Desk-Based Assessment (Roe, 2004, p 3) the site's principal potential concerns the survival of evidence of either a Bronze Age 'flat' cremation cemetery or Anglo-Saxon settlement associated with the Boss Hall and Hadleigh Road cemeteries. Evidence of both these types of site is not well suited to trial trench evaluation as it is likely to comprise small well-dispersed features (e.g. individual cremation burials for the former and groups of post-holes for the latter) in stratigraphic isolation.

It is clear that the degree of truncation and disruption from the redirection of the River Gipping in the northern part of the site and the widespread 20th century factory developments elsewhere is considerable.

The undulating ground level, which can vary by as much as 1.5m AOD, in the central part of the site formerly occupied by the factory buildings makes interpretation of these trial trench results difficult. Consequently it cannot be said with any certainty that each trench or test pit is sufficiently representative of any significant area surrounding it. Nevertheless, a summary of the depths at which natural river terrace gravels were encountered across the site is given in Table 2.

Location	Depth (bgl)	Level (AOD)	Location	Depth (bgl)	Level (AOD)
Trench A	1.7m	3.1m	Test Pit 1	0.7m	6.9m
Trench B	2.1m	2.6m	Test Pit 2	1.6m+	< 5.5m
Trench C	1.75m+	< 2.65m	Test Pit 3	0.6m	5.9m
Trench D	1.9m+	< 3.6m	Test Pit 4	1.45m	< 4.25m
Trench E	0.2m	6.1m	Test Pit 5	1m	4.5m
Trench F	0.8m	6.8m	Test Pit 6	1.25m	4.45m
Trench G	0.90m	6.9m	Test Pit 7	1.15m	4.75m
Trench H	0.85m	7.15m	Test Pit 8	N/A	N/A
			Test Pit 9	0.5m	7.2m
			Test Pit 10	0.6m	7m

Table 2. Occurrence of natural terrace gravels

The archaeological potential of the site is best summarised by dividing it into three areas (Fig. 8).

Area A - Low potential

This broadly encompasses the northern third of the site, from the river to a line just to the north-west of that described by archaeological Test-Pits 5, 6 and 7.

This area has been substantially affected by the redirection of the course of the Gipping, with a large amount of reclamation and landfill activity being used to level the area of the previous channel. Its southern end has also been severely truncated by the quarry pits/ponds shown on early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps, as identified in the Desk-Based Assessment (Roe, 2004).

As a result, any natural river terrace gravels or archaeologically significant ground levels are sealed beneath at least 1.5m of overburden throughout the area. The only exception is a small (c. 600m²) triangular parcel of land at the far northern point of the site where the Site Investigation Report (White Young Green, 2003) identified only 0.5m of made ground. However, as this lies almost at the centre of the former river channel and is also likely to have been affected by the construction of the adjacent railway it is thought to have little archaeological potential.

In addition, two substantial factory buildings, including the extant cold store, are present and are likely to have caused significant damage to any uncharacteristically shallow archaeological deposits that have not been destroyed by quarrying.

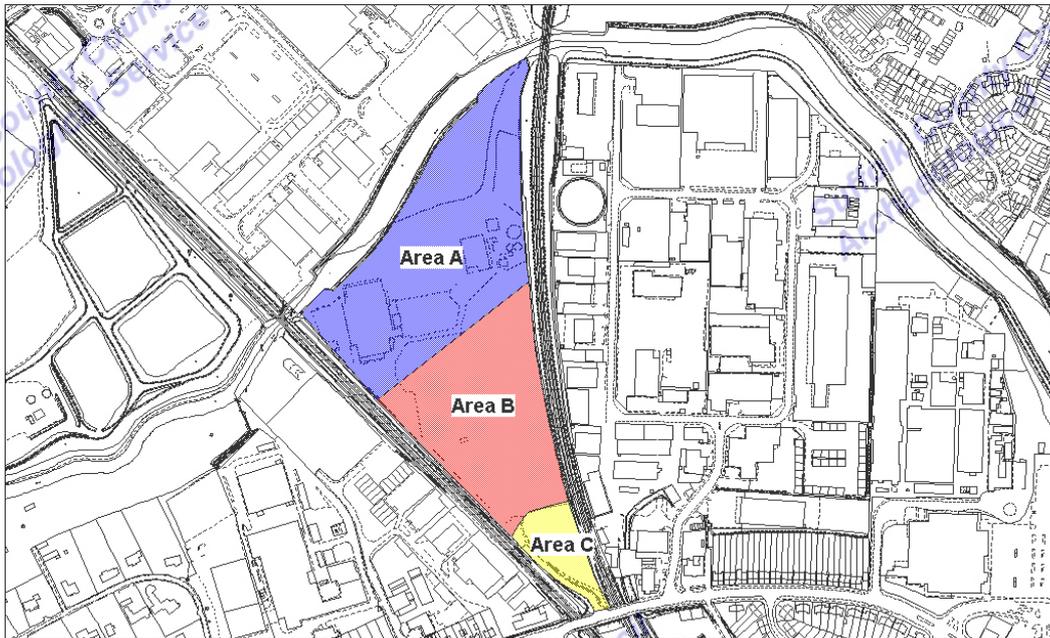


Figure 8. Summary areas of archaeological potential

Area B – Moderate potential

This area is characterised by heavy truncation caused by the numerous phases of 20th century factory buildings. However, river terrace gravels were seen to survive at shallow depths (as little as 0.2m bgl) and a single archaeological feature was recorded in Trench E.

The present-day condition of this part of the site (undulating ground levels under rough scrub/grass) and the variation in the extent of truncation caused by the past demolition and clearance of the factory buildings means that predicting the locations of any potential archaeological survival is difficult.

Therefore it is suggested that despite the presence of relatively shallow terrace gravels and archaeological deposits large scale monitoring of Area B would not be worthwhile. However, two coherent areas of archaeological potential can be identified.

First, the shallow survival of terrace gravels and truncated archaeological deposits in Trench E clearly demonstrates that there is archaeological potential around the findspot of the Bronze Age urn. Map regression analysis suggests that Trench E is located 'inside' the earliest of the factory buildings, as shown on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map. The high survival AOD of the terrace gravels in relation to the land to the south and west of the trench suggests that the degree of truncation outside this early building (e.g. the trackway to the west) is such that it would preclude the survival of archaeological deposits. The greatest potential for archaeological survival therefore lies within the footprint of this building where deposits have been afforded at least some protection beneath its floor level.

Second, the bank of upcast of spoil on the western side of the trackway was found to overly river terrace gravels. Evidence in the Desk-Based Assessment (Roe, 2004) indicates that this trackway was only established during the early development of the Bacon Factory (1926 Ordnance Survey map). Therefore any terrace gravel deposits sealed beneath the upcast bank are likely to be undisturbed unless truncated by later developments of the factory. Map regression suggests that

the southern c. 50m of the bank on the western side of the track and the southern c. 30m on the eastern side of the track have not been affected by later factory development and are therefore likely to seal undisturbed natural deposits.

Area C – Low to moderate potential

Although no archaeological features were recorded in this area it was notably less disturbed than the other two areas. The level of the original ground surface could not be reliably determined, but the lack of disturbance combined with the shallow depth (0.4m bgl.) of apparently intact sandy subsoil/natural drift deposits means that the area has the potential to preserve shallow features such as that observed in Trench E.

Recommendations for Further Work

No further work is recommended in Area A due to the depth of overburden unless future development proposals include intrusive groundwork of any depth greater than 1.5m bgl. In the event of such proposals it is suggested that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording be carried out.

Within Area B two locations have been identified that have the potential to contain undisturbed archaeological deposits (see Fig. 9). These are:

- The area (c. 1850m²) inside the footprint of the early Bacon Factory buildings (as they appear on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map) where the Bronze Age urn was discovered (IPS 104). It is recommended that archaeological monitoring of any groundwork in this area be carried out.
- The banks of upcast spoil on either side of the southern end of the trackway. It is recommended that any levelling/reduction of these banks (50m on the western side and 30m on the eastern side – total area c. 1400m²) be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring.

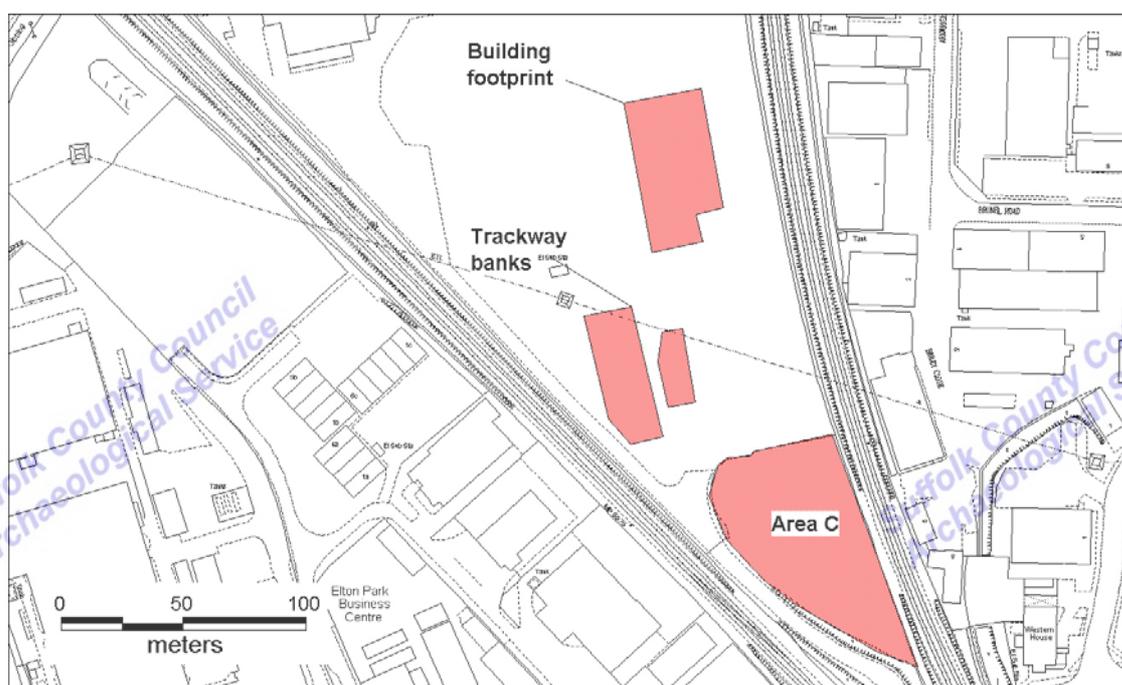


Figure 9. Areas recommended for further archaeological monitoring

The two trenches in Area C suggest that it has seen little modern disturbance and that archaeological deposits could lie as little as 0.4m below the existing ground level. It is therefore recommended that any ground reduction or soil stripping in excess of this depth should be subject to archaeological monitoring.

References

Roe, A, 2004, *Hadleigh Road, Ipswich. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co Ltd Report Ref. K/D101209/Had

White Young Green, 2003, *Ground Conditions Investigation and Assessment of the site at the former Harris Meat Factory, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich*. Technical Report for EEDA.

Report No. **2004/63**

Rhodri Gardner (SCCAS), for Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co. Ltd., April 2004.

Disclaimer

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

Appendix 1 Context List

OPNo	Feature	Type	Identifier	Description	Under	Over	Cut by	Cuts	Locations
1001			Finds	Unstratified finds from whole site (none retained).					
1002		Deposit	Topsoil	General description of topsoil for whole site: very soft/friable light greyish brown sandy loam with frequent CBM/modern contaminant (glass, plastic, concrete etc.) fragments.	+	All			All trenches and test pits.
1003		Deposit	Layer	Recent reclamation/landfill deposits (made ground): Soft mid brownish grey (very mixed with occasional darker and lighter mottling) sandy silt with frequent CBM, glass, plastic etc. fragments.	1002	1004, 1009			Trenches A, B, C and D.
1004		Deposit	Layer	Uppermost layer of river/floodplain deposits: Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with moderate organic inclusions (large modern wood fragments etc.) and occasional CBM, concrete plastic etc.	1003	1005			Trenches A and B.
1005		Deposit	Layer	River/floodplain alluvium: firm mid orange-brown silty clay (some darker grey mottling) with no notable inclusions.	1004	1006			Trenches A and B
1006		Deposit	Layer	River/floodplain deposits: firm to stiff bluish grey gleyed clay with very low silt component. No notable inclusions.	1005	1007			Trenches A and B.
1007		Deposit	Layer	Earliest observed river/floodplain deposits: soft dark brown slightly sandy clayey silt with rare small sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional organics/rooting and CBM flecks/small pieces.	1006	1008			Trenches A and B.
1008		Deposit	Natural drift	River terrace gravels: loose mid greyish brown sharp sand matrix (50%) with angular to sub-angular gravel cobbles. Once exposed water ingress was very rapid.	1007	NFE			Sondages in Trenches A and B.
1009		Deposit	Layer/dump	Reclamation deposits: firm dark grey/black clayey silt with frequent CBM, concrete, wood and other modern contaminant fragments.	1003	NFE			Trench C
1010		Deposit	Layer	Sand and gravel (probably redeposited): very loose light greyish brown medium sands with frequent angular to sub-angular flint gravel.	1002	1011			Test pits 6 and 7.
1011		Deposit	Layer	Thin (0.15m) layer of shingle/pea-grit: very loose pale yellowish brown fine sand matrix (20%) with very small to small sub-angular to angular flint pebbles.	1010	1012			Test pits 5, 6 and 7.
1012		Deposit	Layer	River terrace gravels: very soft pale brownish yellow fine to medium sand (90%) with small to medium sub-angular flint pebbles (10%). Quite clean and most likely natural but some uncertainty - could be redeposited	1011	NFE			Test pits 5, 6 and 7.
1013		Deposit	Layer	Uppermost made ground/consolidation deposit: firm mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent small to large sub-angular flints and occasional CBM fragments and other modern refuse.	1002	1010			Test pits 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
1014		Deposit	Layer	River terrace gravels: loose mid orange brown medium sand (50%) with	1013	NFE			Test pits 1, 2, 3,

Appendix 2 Evaluation Specification (Scott Wilson)

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1. Introduction

Scott Wilson have been commissioned by the East of England Development Agency to carry out archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and test pitting at the site of the former Harris Bacon Factory, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich. The investigations are being undertaken in anticipation of an archaeological condition on outline planning permission for a redevelopment of the site (Ref: IP/04/00115/OUT).

The programme of archaeological evaluation has been devised by Scott Wilson in consultation with Robert Carr, Archaeological Officer, Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council and this specification is based on a brief and specification prepared by him (Appendix 1) prior to the submission by Scott Wilson of a Desk-based Assessment. All sections of this specification should be adhered to in addition to Appendix 1.

The desk-based assessment has revealed that significant archaeological remains are likely to be present within the proposed development area, although geotechnical investigations suggest that the site has been severely disturbed. However, a number of areas have been identified for further, more detailed, investigation.

This document provides a specification for evaluation by trial trenching and test pitting of areas of archaeological potential which could be affected by the proposed scheme. The specification defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used.

2. The Development Area

The proposed development area is centred on TM 142 448 on the western edge of the town of Ipswich in Suffolk. The site covers approximately 6 hectares and is triangular in shape. It is situated to the north of Hadleigh Road and its eastern and western boundaries are formed by two branches of the Great Eastern Railway which converge beneath a bridge on Hadleigh Road at the southern end of the site and continue towards Ipswich station. Several extant factory buildings are located at the northern end of the site which is defined by the River Gipping.

3. Geology

The underlying geology of the site comprises *River Terrace Deposits*, sands and gravels, which are overlain by *Alluvium* at the northern end of the site.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological background of the site has been outlined in the archaeological desk-based assessment (Scott Wilson 2004) and summarised in Appendix 1. The principal issues are that a Bronze Age cremation urn was recovered from the centre of the site in the 1950s which may indicate the presence of a more extensive cemetery, and the site lies between two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, the Boss hall cemetery to the north of the river and the Hadleigh Road cemetery to the east of the site. It is therefore possible that the site contains evidence for settlement relating to these cemeteries.

The site appears to have been in agricultural use from the medieval period until the construction of the railways in the mid-19th century and the factory buildings shortly afterwards.

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

A review of the ground investigation report produced by White Young Green suggests that the majority of the area has been truncated and levelled during the construction, use and demolition of the bacon factory. The northern end contains a large area of registered landfill and several ponds or quarries backfilled with rubbish. There remain some areas, however, which may not have been disturbed and which need further investigation:

- An area presently under grass which lies between the former course of the River Gipping and its present course (proposed Trenches A and B)

- An area in the north-eastern part of the site which may be undisturbed and has not been tested by ground investigations (proposed Trench C)
- A small area near to the eastern extant factory building which may have remained undisturbed (proposed trench D)
- The area in the vicinity of where the Bronze Age urn was found appears to have a shallower deposit of modern debris and the subsoil may have been truncated here to a lesser degree (proposed Trench E)
- A hollow track shown on maps dating from the 1920s has a ridge of upcast along the edge which may have protected archaeological deposits (proposed Trench F)
- The southern part of the site remains at a higher level than the majority of the site and the extent of truncation at this point remains unclear from ground investigations so far (proposed Trench G and H).

6. Aims and Objectives

These investigations constitute a programme of evaluation designed to provide sufficient information to enable a decision to be made regarding the archaeological implications of a proposed redevelopment programme. The results will be reviewed in conjunction with geotechnical information in order to contribute to the determination of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy for the development.

The general objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- to identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains
- to determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- to determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- to determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present
- to determine the significance of any archaeological remains present
- to place the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context with reference to local, regional and national resource assessments and research frameworks (English Heritage 1991; Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- to provide information on the extent of modern disturbance.

7. Trench Location and Description

Eight trenches are proposed totalling an area of 390m², as well as seven test pits. The locations of these are shown on Figure 1. Information on services will be supplied on a separate plan. The dimensions for the proposed trenches are given below and the test pits will be approximately 2m x 0.60m. Trenches and test pits are unlikely to require excavation deeper than 1.50m. NB: Contingency should be made for a further 50m² of trenching.

Trench A	30m x 2m	In order to test the area between the former course of the river and the present course
Trench B	30m x 2m	In order to test the area between the former course of the river and the present course. It may not be appropriate to excavate this one depending on the results of Trench A
Trench C	30m x 2m	In order to test an area where no previous investigations have been undertaken
Trench D	15m x 2m	In order to test an area of potential survival
Trench E	40m x 2m	In order to test the area where the Bronze Age urn was found

Trench F	10m x 2m	In order to test for survival of deposits beneath the upcast along the edge of a hollow path
Trench G	20m x 2m	In order to test the southern area of the site and assess the degree of
Trench H	20m x 2m	truncation

8. Methodology

All work shall be carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and with the *IFA Code of Conduct*.

The trenches/test pits will be excavated in the locations specified by Scott Wilson and agreed with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer. The archaeological sub-contractor will establish the trench locations using electronic survey equipment. Trench numbering will follow the nomenclature in this specification.

Excavation methodology will follow the specification given in Appendix 1.

A full written, drawn and photographic record of the stratigraphy within a trench will be made even where no archaeological features are identified and both trench plans and drawn sections should be located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all heights should be expressed in metres AOD correct to two decimal places.

All artefacts will be retained. Small finds will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Finds will be stored in controlled conditions where appropriate. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines of the IFA. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines will apply.

Where appropriate, a soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of carbonised and waterlogged plant remains, insects, molluscs, vertebrate remains and small artefactual material. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines* (English Heritage 2002) and advice on proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England).

If human remains are discovered they will be covered and protected and left *in situ* in the first instance. In such an event the contractor will notify Scott Wilson immediately. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857.

Any artefacts which fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to Scott Wilson and to H.M. Coroner.

9. Reporting

Verbal progress reports will be provided to Scott Wilson on request.

Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist.

An assessment report will be submitted as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork and before 7th May 2004. The report will include the following:

- a non-technical summary
- site location
- archaeological and historical background
- methodology
- aims and objectives
- results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
- an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context

- statement of potential with recommendations
- publication proposals if warranted
- archive storage and curation
- general and detailed plans showing the location of the trenches accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a known scale)
- detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale)
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive

One copy of the complete report will be submitted to Scott Wilson as a draft. In finalising the report, the comments of Scott Wilson will be taken into account.

Seven bound copies, one unbound copy and a digital version of the report and illustrations will be produced within one week of the receipt of Scott Wilson's comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format).

Of these, one copy will be included in the archive and the others will be submitted to Scott Wilson for distribution.

Dr Peter Murphy, the regional environmental archaeology coordinator for English Heritage must be informed of the results of palaeoenvironmental assessments.

10. Publication

If the evaluation proves positive, the archaeological sub-contractor will prepare a publication-ready synthesis of the results (including illustrations) for inclusion in an appropriate regional or national journal (see Appendix 1). The report will be submitted to Scott Wilson within 2 months of the submission of the assessment report.

If significant results are obtained, it is likely that further stages of archaeological work will be required. In such circumstances a brief note will be submitted for inclusion in an appropriate journal by Scott Wilson and the archaeological sub-contractor's publication synthesis will be incorporated into a subsequent submission.

It is proposed that upon completion of all archaeological works associated with the current scheme the sub-contractor's publication reports will be edited by Scott Wilson for submission to the appropriate journal. All originators will be fully acknowledged and consulted prior to publication.

11. Archive Preparation and Deposition

The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3; Museums and Galleries Commission 1992; Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993, 1995.

The archaeological sub-contractor will be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of Suffolk County Council Sites and Monuments Record in respect of the archive, and for adhering to those requirements.

The archaeological sub-contractor will store the archive in a suitable secure location until it is deposited.

Provision will be made for the long term storage of the paper records on microfilm; one copy of which should be deposited with Suffolk County Council Sites and Monuments Record and one with the National Monuments Record. The specific requirements of the NMR will be consulted and followed (Handley 1999).

The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide Scott Wilson with copies of communication with the SCCSMR and written confirmation

of the deposition of the archive. Scott Wilson will deal with transfer of ownership and copyright issues.

12. Monitoring

The contractor will be subject to regular monitoring by Scott Wilson who will be given full access to site records or any other information.

Scott Wilson will liaise with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer and English Heritage to inform them of the commencement of site works and to offer them the opportunity to visit and monitor the work in progress.

13. Confidentiality and Publicity

All communication regarding this project is to be directed through Scott Wilson. The sub-contractor will refer all inquiries to Scott Wilson without making any unauthorised statements or comments.

The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of Scott Wilson.

14. Copyright

The archaeological sub-contractor shall assign copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to Scott Wilson. The sub-contractor retains the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all aspects of the project. It is the responsibility of the archaeological sub-contractor to obtain such rights from sub-contracted specialists.

The archaeological sub-contractor may apply in writing to use/disseminate any of the project archive or documentation (including images). Such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.

The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the clients and the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer by Scott Wilson and will ultimately be made available for public access.

15. Resources and Timetable

All archaeological personnel involved in the project should be suitably qualified and experienced professionals. The sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with staff details including CVs of the Project Manager, Site Supervisor and specialists.

The archaeological sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with a programme for the works (fieldwork and post-excitation).

16. Insurances and Health and Safety

The archaeological sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with details of public and professional indemnity insurance.

The archaeological sub-contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety policy shall be submitted to Scott Wilson in advance of fieldwork.

The archaeological sub-contractor will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health and Safety requirements. The risk assessment shall be submitted to Scott Wilson in advance of commencement of site work. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

Scott Wilson will provide information regarding the approximate location of known services within the area of investigation. The archaeological sub-contractor shall, however, be responsible for identifying any buried or overhead services and taking the necessary precautions to avoid damage to such services, prior to excavation.

The site is known to be contaminated in some areas. Details of the contamination will be provided by Scott Wilson and appropriate Health and Safety measures will need to be followed by the sub-contractor and addressed in the risk assessment and method statement.

A detailed method statement on how the works will be carried out and managed by the archaeological sub-contractor will be agreed between Scott Wilson and the sub-contractor.

The sub-contractor will need to include provision for machinery and appropriate welfare facilities. For Health and Safety reasons test pits should be excavated and backfilled within the same day.

17. General Provisions

The archaeological sub-contractor will undertake the works to the specification issued by Scott Wilson and in any subsequent written variations. No variation from, or changes to, the specification will occur except by prior agreement with Scott Wilson who will consult with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer.

All communications on archaeological matters will be directed through Scott Wilson.

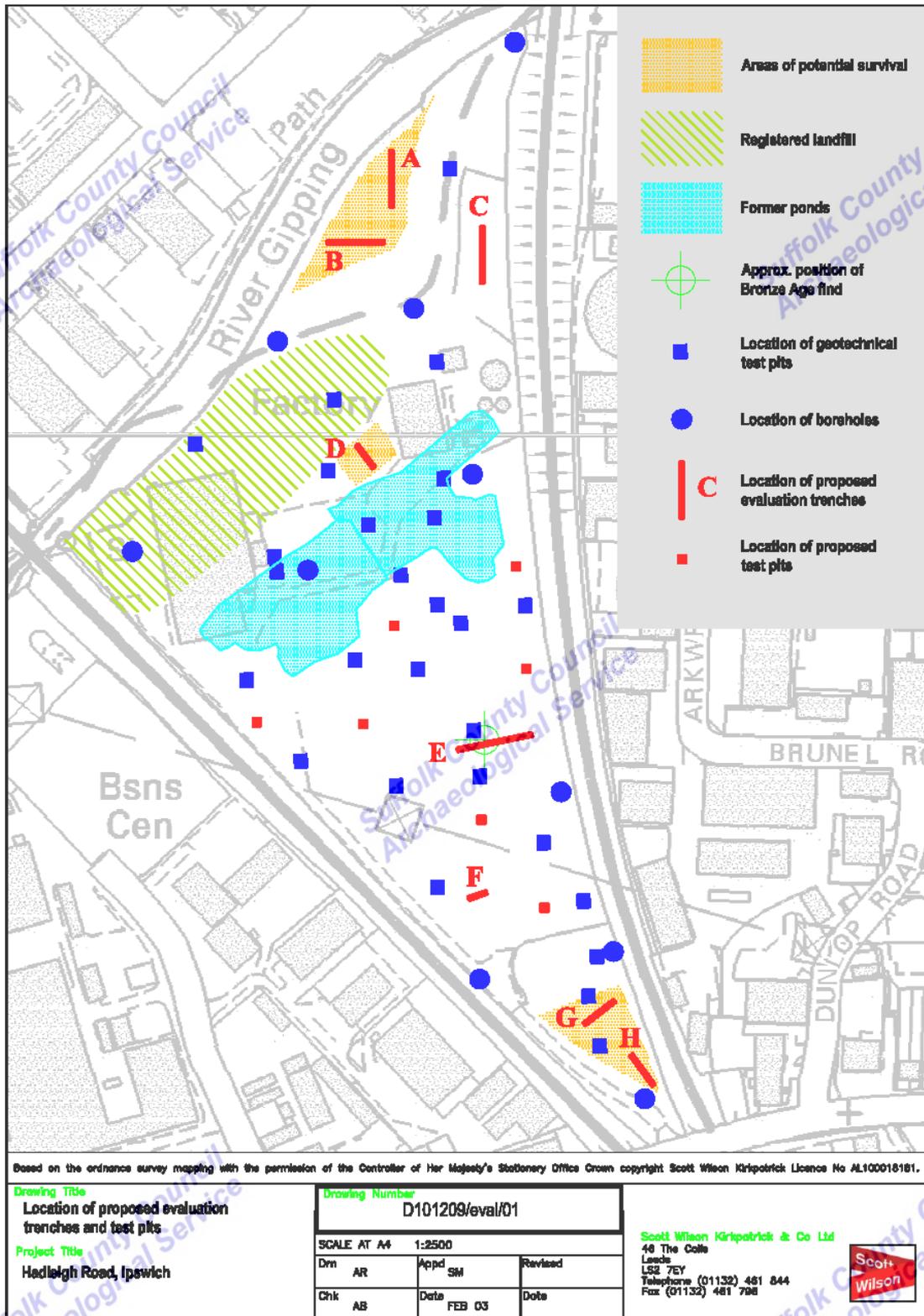


Figure 1 Location of proposed evaluation trenches and test pits

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Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

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APPENDIX 1

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

At the former Harris Factory, Hadleigh Road, Ipswich

Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

FORMER HARRIS FACTORY, HADLEIGH ROAD, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [IP/04/00115/OUT] has been made to provide plots for future development at this location.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant before determination.

The area is the location of known archaeological finds and is believed to have high archaeological potential; the request for further archaeological information to inform determination is consistent with PPG 16.

- 1.3 This proposal area includes the findspot of a Bronze Age urn, which may represent an extended prehistoric cemetery. This find is recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record as site IPS 104, it is a small ceramic vessel, described as a possible accessory cup, found during extensions to the Bacon Factory in about 1930. It has characteristics which link it with collared urns and is probably Early Bronze Age in date (PSIA 29, p185).

The entire area is of high archaeological potential because of its geographical location on a gravel terrace largely contained within an enclosing bend in the river. The river terrace on both sides of the river within 500m of the proposal area includes evidence of early settlement including two Anglo-Saxon cemetery areas; there is thought to be high potential for settlement associated with these burials. There is a sequence of Bronze Age burial finds along the valley sides.

There is demonstrated archaeological occupation of the site and a high level of general archaeological potential, however, the precise nature and extent of any such sites is at present unknown, due to a lack of archaeological survey work in the proposed development area.

- 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" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 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.

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*.

- 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 whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.
- 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 It is expected that the evaluation will proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation (there is a possibility that some aspect of the site's history may indicate limits to the field evaluation required). The results of the desk-based work are to be used to inform the trenching design.
- 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 A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where possible, photocopies or tracings should be included in the report. Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for damage to, or removal of, early soils and surfaces by 20th century use of the area for extraction or as a developed area.
- 3.4 Provide a transcription of archaeological features from pre 1950 air photographs held by the National Monuments Record at a scale of 1:2500. Determine the history of land use pre 1950.
- 3.5 Any existing soil investigation report must be studied and assessed for its value in indicating potential for survival of early soils and surfaces.
- 3.6 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order, etc).

4. **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

The trenching design will be determined by the results of the desktop survey. For the purposes of cost estimation the maximum extent is to be used.

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site 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' at least 1.2m wide must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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 P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector.
- 4.9 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).
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 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
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

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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.

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