

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Park House, The Leys, Tostock, Suffolk

TCK 017

Planning App. No. 1798/07

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-32305

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007



Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

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SMR information

Planning application	1798/07
County Historic Environment Record	TCK 017
Date of fieldwork:	09-10-2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9544 6334
Funding body:	Mr. and Mrs. C. Bowman
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-32305

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out within the immediate grounds to the northeast of Park House, The Leys, Tostock, as a condition of planning consent. The development will consist of a stable block, garage, pool building and a lambing shed. The site lies within an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record). A number of significant items of metalwork have been found within the area including a Saxon gilt buckle of Kentish origin (TCK 002), a Saxon pyramidal scabbard mount (TCK 009) and a Roman crossbow type brooch (TCK 008) (see Figure 2).

The evaluation entailed the excavation of a series of five trial trenches, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. A total length of 45.00m of trenches were excavated in all available areas of the development site. However, none of the trenches revealed any archaeological features or deposits. A thorough visual and metal detector search, carried out over all of the trench surfaces and upcast soil, failed to locate any archaeological finds material other than nineteenth and twentieth century garden debris.

Contents

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Methodology

3.0 Results

4.0 Conclusions

5.0 Acknowledgements

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Site in the context of The County Heritage Environment Record

Fig. 3 First Edition of The Ordnance Survey Map (c. 1880s)

Fig. 4 Plan showing location of evaluation trenches

1. 0 Introduction

The Brief and Specification for this archaeological evaluation was produced by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix). The development site lies within an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record). A number of significant items of metalwork have been found within the area including a Saxon gilt buckle of Kentish origin (TCK 002), a Saxon pyramidal scabbard mount (TCK 009) and a Roman crossbow type brooch (TCK 008) (see Figure 2). The site occupies a position immediately northeast of Park House, a dwelling of twentieth century date, constructed in part of the grounds of Tostock House (see Figures 2 and 3). All of the trenches were located within established areas of grass, forming part of the garden for Park House. The site lies at a height of 63.00m AOD and slopes gently towards the south. The underlying dominant geology comprises of chalky till. A total length of 45.00m of trenches were excavated in, all available areas of the development site.

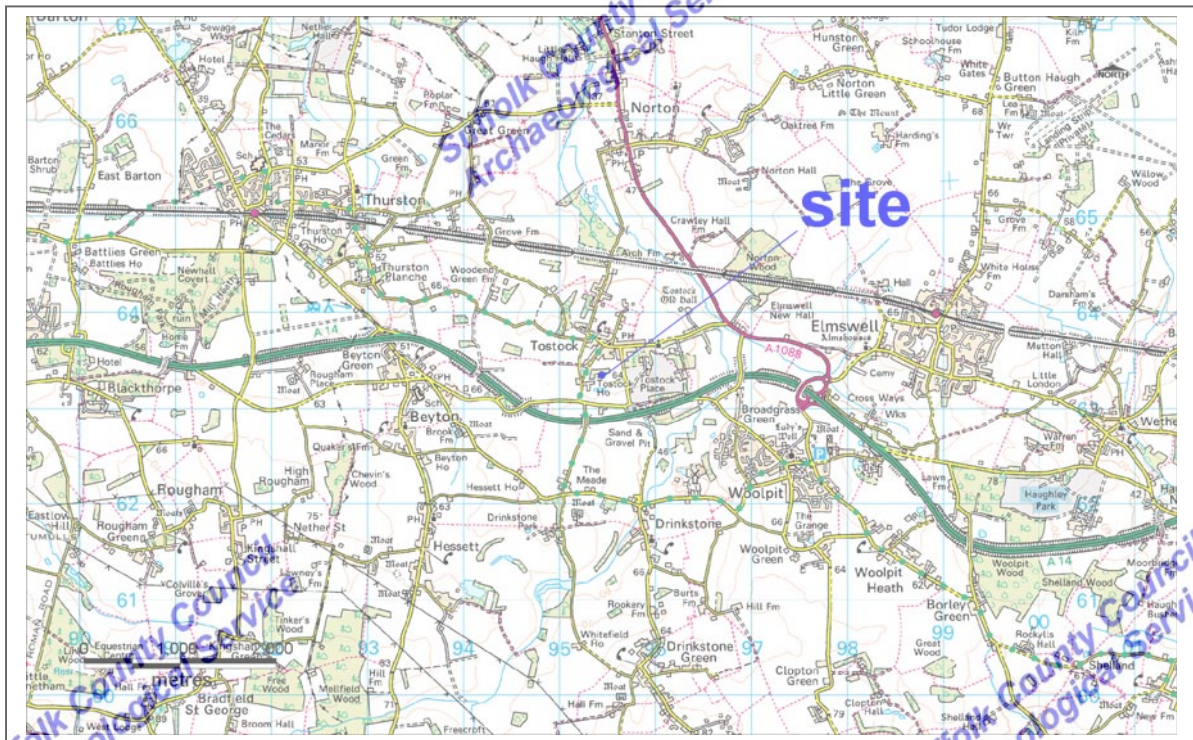


Figure 1. Site location

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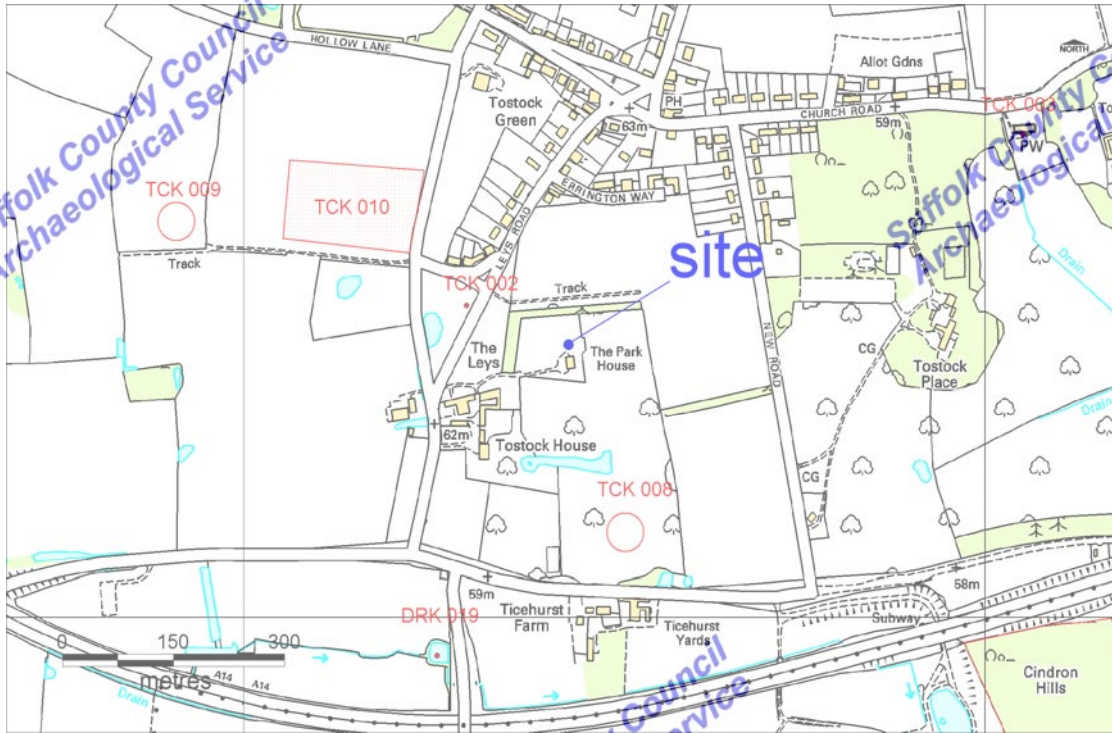


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record
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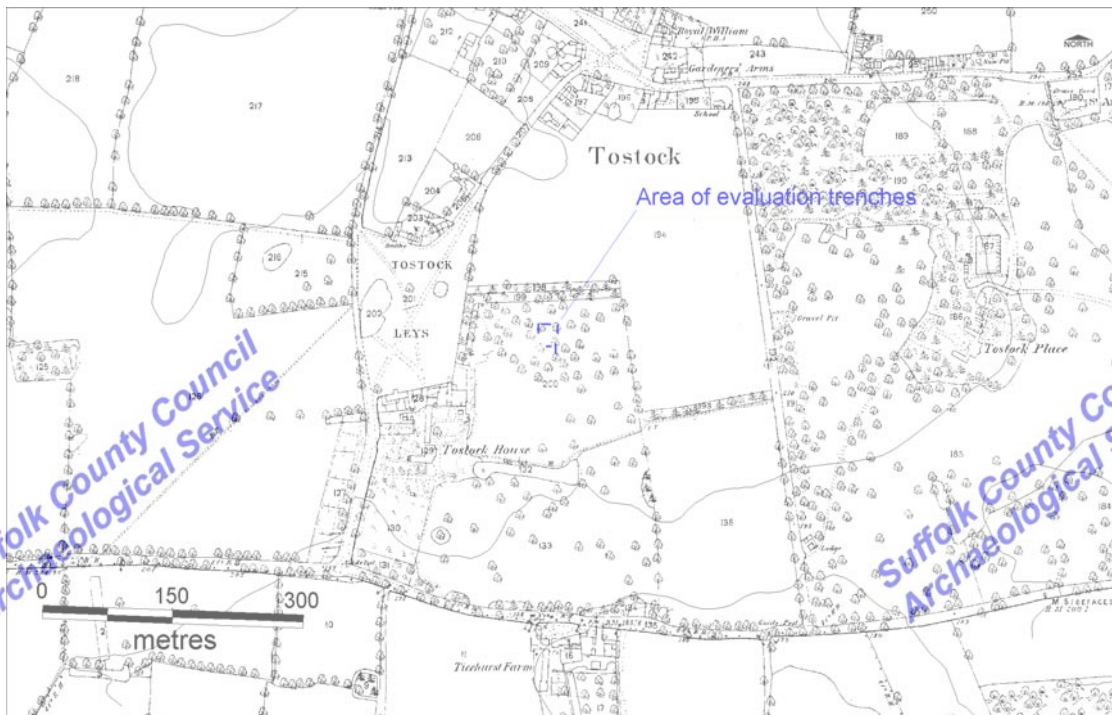


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS
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Figure 4. Plan showing location of evaluation trenches (in blue)
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2.0 Methodology

Five evaluation trenches were excavated within the site area, three ran north to south (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) and two ran east to west (2 and 5) (see Figure 4), the trenches were excavated in sequence (from one to five). All of the trenches were mechanically excavated to the optimum depth for revealing potential archaeological features which, if present, would be seen contrasting with the underlying natural geological deposits. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mini-digger equipped with a toothless 1.50m wide bucket; additional hand cleaning was carried out in order to clarify the soil profiles. The trenches had an average width of 1.50m and had a combined total of 45.00m in length.

The mechanical soil stripping was constantly monitored by an archaeologist in order to cease ground reduction at the optimum archaeological level. The spoil was also searched for any unstratified finds and also thoroughly metal-detected. All of the trenches were recorded in terms of dimensions, location and soil profiles and photographed using a 7.1mp digital camera. Details of the deposits were recorded on *pro forma* 'observable phenomena' context sheets, which run from numbers 0001 to 0004. Conditions allowed good visibility; although the weather was overcast with persistent rain, very little standing water occurred. The site was allocated a County Historic Environment Record code (TCK 017) and an oasis record has been created for the evaluation (Suffolkc1-32305).

3.0 Results

The trenches were consistently excavated to depths of between 0.45 to 0.50m with the exception of Trench 4. Trench 4 initially appeared to contain an east-west linear feature, possibly a ditch, but further excavation proved it to be a naturally occurring linear geological deposit; the final depth of Trench 4 was 0.70m. The soil types were consistent across the entire area of the site.

Topsoil (0002) ranged from 0.20-0.25m in depth (including the turf layer) and consisted of mid-pale grey brown loamy sand. This deposit contained regular small angular pebbles and revealed moderate root disturbance. The subsoil (0003) was far more variable in terms of depth and ranged from as little as 0.15m, to as much as 0.50m. The deposit was of pale brown sand with variable orange shades and contained regular small angular pebbles, similar to 0002; occasional ironstone fragments also occurred. The underlying natural drift deposits were of variable, banded zones of pale yellow to orange gravel and sand, with frequent ironstone bands. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the evaluation.

4.0 Conclusions

Helpful co-operation from both the landowners and building contractors enabled a thorough and efficient evaluation to be carried out. The densely configured layout of the evaluation trenches provided a representative sample of the archaeological potential of the site. It is therefore unlikely that any concentration of archaeological features exist within this specific area. However, it is obviously not possible to speculate upon the potential of any of the surrounding areas of ground and the question over the significance of a number of exceptional metal finds discovered within the vicinity still remains. In terms of future work, it is not recommended that the evaluated area be subjected to further archaeological work.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mr. and Mrs. C. Bowman and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The site metal detector search was carried out by Lady Val Kemball.

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

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Archaeological Trenched Evaluation

PARK HOUSE, THE LEYS, TOSTOCK, SUFFOLK


The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning consent (application 1798/07) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for alterations and extensions to dwelling, erection of stable and garage block, pool building and lambing shed at Park House, The Leys, Tostock, Suffolk (TL 9544 6334), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. **(Please contact the applicant for a detailed plan of the development).**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon securing the implementation of a programme of archaeological works before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.3 The application lies in an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER, formerly the Sites and Monuments Record), close to Roman (TCK 008) and Anglo-Saxon (TCK 002) find spots that are indicative of further occupation deposits. There is high potential for archaeological deposits of these periods to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 The site is located at c. 63.00m AOD. The underlying dominant geology of the site comprises chalky till.
- 1.5 There is high potential for important archaeological features to be located in this area. Aspects of the proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.6 A trenched evaluation is required as the first part of the archaeological mitigation strategy for this development.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer]. 
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2); all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Field Evaluation



- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to sample all parts of the new development. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 40m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Written Scheme of Investigation and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist in regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of identifiable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County HER.
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 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 HER 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.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. 
- 5.12 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible. 
- 5.13 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.14 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.15 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 27 September 2007
ParkHouseTostock2007

Reference: /

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

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.