

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Former Shepherd and Dog Piggeries, Felixstowe Road, Foxhall FXL 057

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007 & 2008
(Planning app. no. C/07/1553)

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List of Contributors

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Portman Consultancy, and funded by East of England Developments Ltd. It was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

Project Assistant Phil Camps and Project Officer Clare Good, both from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, carried out the evaluation of Trenches 1-11, and John Newman supervised the excavation of Trench 12.

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

Summary

Foxhall. Former Shepherd and Dog Piggeries Site, Felixstowe Road, Foxhall. (TM 2224 4148, FXL 057)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of office buildings and associated parking, in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. The site is just to the north of a group of thirteen probable Bronze Age burial mounds and so has high potential for prehistoric archaeology. Twelve trenches were excavated over the plot and, where possible, these were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil. Substantial modern disturbance was encountered throughout all the trenches masking any potential archaeology. No finds or features were seen in the evaluation.

HER information

Planning application no.	C/07/1553
Date of fieldwork:	November/December 2007, July 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2224 4148
Funding body:	East of England Developments Ltd
Oasis Reference	Suffolke1-35032

Introduction

An application has been made (C/07/1553) to construct office buildings and associated parking on the site of the former Shepherd and Dog Piggeries, Felixstowe Road, Foxhall. Planning consent was conditional on an archaeological evaluation being undertaken. The plot is centred on TM 2224 4148 (Fig. 1), and is currently occupied by piles of demolition rubble over former footings of the pig sheds, with a strip of grassland to the west.

The development covers an area of 2.16 hectares, and lies at roughly 23.5m OD. The plot is flat and has an underlying drift geology of gravely clay sand. It is surrounded by open farmland to the west, Felixstowe Road to the south, the A14 to the south east and housing and a caravan park to the north and north east.

The site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, just 100m north of thirteen probable Bronze Age burial mounds, recorded on the county Historic Environment Record (HER) as FXL 011, NAC 004 – 013 and BUC 006 and 007 (Figure 2). This area, known locally as ‘Seven Hills’, is an obvious focus of prehistoric activity and is a scheduled ancient monument. Prehistoric evidence is often scattered in nature, suggesting the site has high potential for further activity.

A bore hole survey was conducted prior to the evaluation by Richard Jackson PLC. This gave an accurate soil profile suggesting natural subsoil would be encountered at between 0.15m and 0.5m (Richard Jackson PLC, 2007).

The development proposal includes significant ground disturbance so considering the location of the site in relation to known archaeology, it was deemed necessary to evaluate this plot in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team.

Methodology

Twelve trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in November and December 2007 and July 2008 using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. These were located across the development area in an attempt to sample as much of the plot as possible, in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). 410.5m of trench were excavated representing roughly 4% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist. The trenches were excavated in a number of stages due to on site conditions changing regularly.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features.

The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code FXL 057.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined manually using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-35032.



Figure 1. Site Location

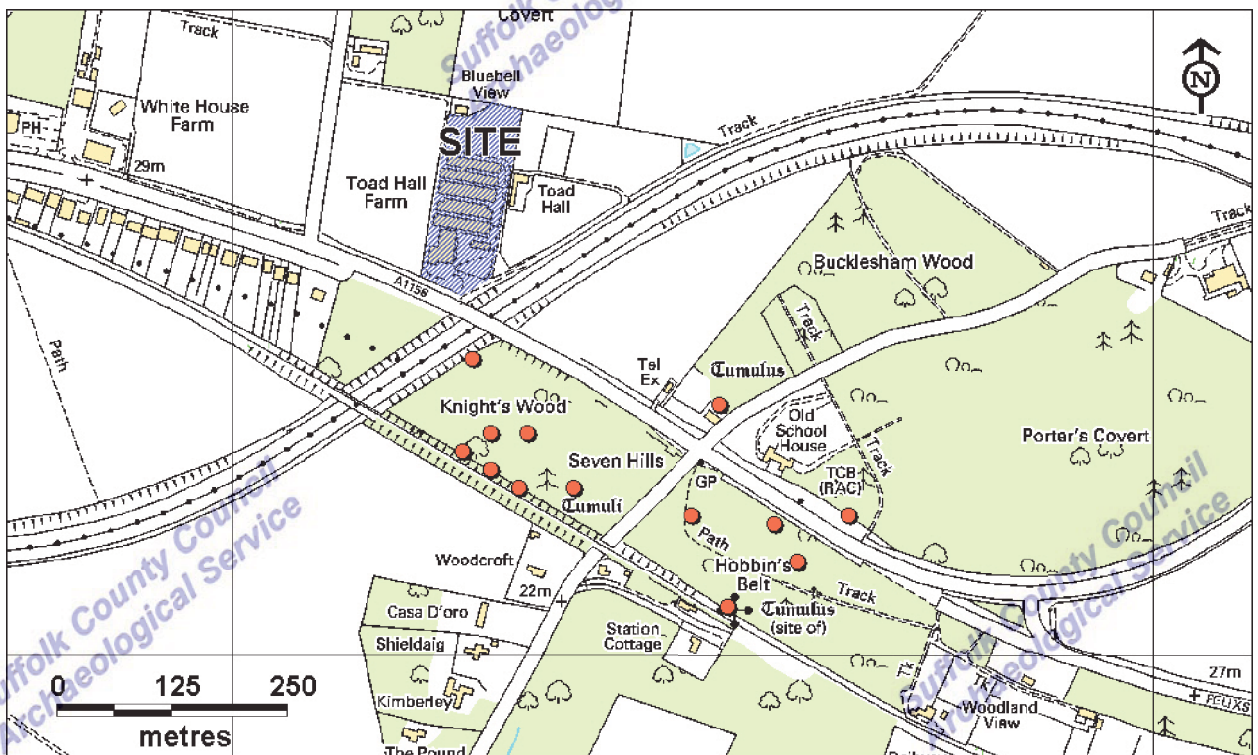


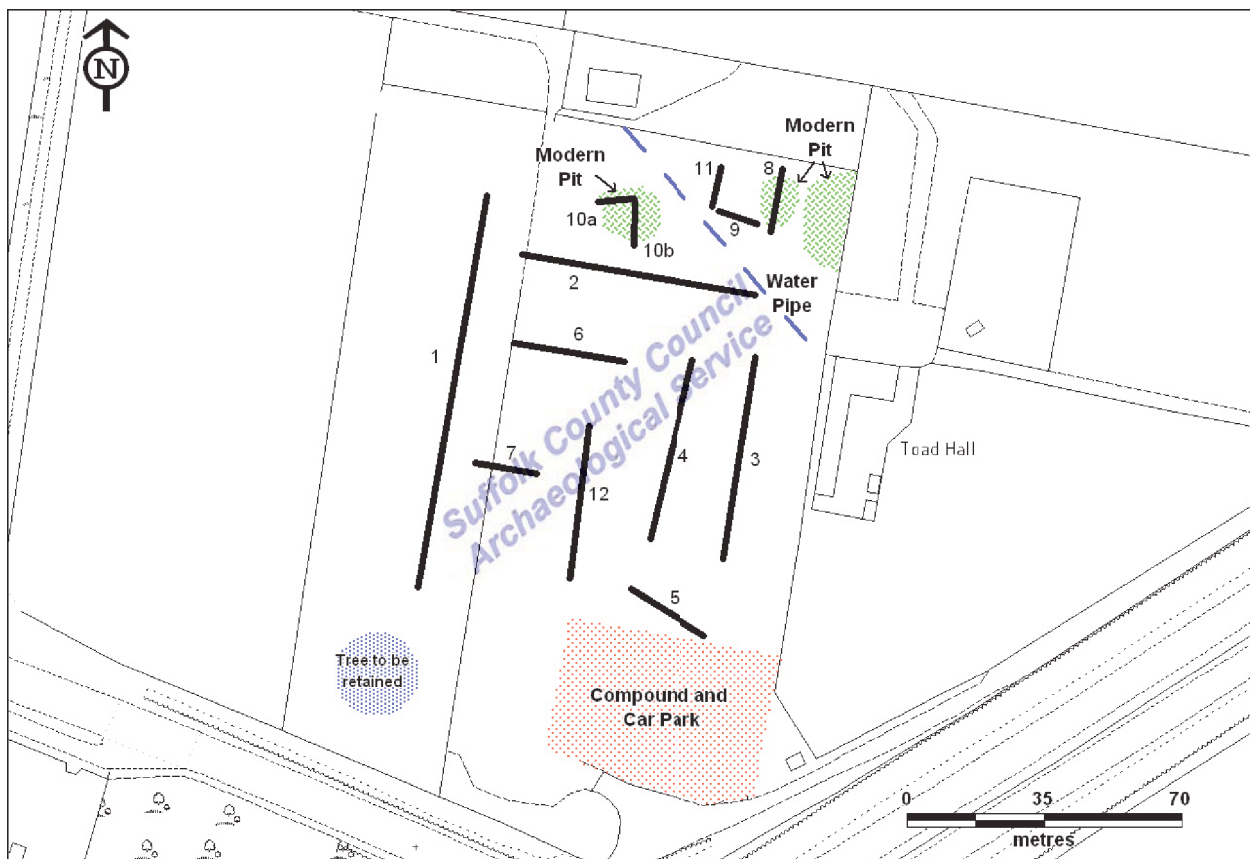
Figure 2. Location of development area in relation to Bronze Age burial mounds (red spots) recorded on the county HER (FXL 011, NAC 004 – 013, BUC 006, 007)

Results

The trenches were located across the development area in an attempt to sample as much of the plot as possible (Fig. 3). They were excavated in a number of stages due to large piles of demolition rubble occupying the site at various points throughout the evaluation. It was not possible to excavate at the southern end of the site due to the site compound, a protected tree and the presence of an electricity main through here.

The position of the trenches through the north of the site was determined by the presence of a water main, piles of spoil and a modern pit to the north east which was visible from the surface.

Visibility in all trenches was moderate due to modern disturbance within most of them.



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Figure 3. Location of trenches, the compound and modern pits

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned almost N-S and ran through the west of the plot, through grassland. It was 99m long and was excavated to an average depth of 0.3m through topsoil, comprising a dark brown sandy loam (same over the whole site), onto natural subsoil, a pale yellow/orange clay sand (same over the whole site). Only modern disturbance was seen occasionally throughout the trench, with no archaeological finds or features revealed.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned almost E-W and was excavated through the former footings of the piggeries. It was 59m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m through disturbed ground comprising demolition rubble, onto natural subsoil. In places it was shallower than 0.2m,

with hardly any subsoil or disturbance over the natural subsoil. Again only modern disturbance was noted within the trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned almost N-S and ran through the eastern side of the site through the former footings of the piggeries. It was 50m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m through disturbed ground comprising demolition rubble, 0.1m topsoil, onto natural subsoil. Modern disturbance, including the remains of the piggery footings, was seen regularly throughout this trench, with no archaeological finds or features revealed.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned NNE-SSW. It was 44m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m through disturbed ground comprising demolition rubble and 0.1m topsoil. Towards the northern end it was shallower than 0.2m and almost no subsoil or disturbance was visible over the natural subsoil. Again only modern disturbance was noted.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned NW-SE and was dug adjacent to the compound at the southern end of the site. It was 22m long and considerably deeper than the other trenches. Its maximum depth was c.1m, and it was excavated through c.0.2m of disturbed ground, c.0.4m topsoil and c.0.4m subsoil, comprising a mid brown soft sand, onto natural subsoil. A modern pit was encountered in the natural subsoil at a depth of 1m, suggesting the build-up above this was fairly recent.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned almost E-W and was 26m long. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m, through demolition rubble, c.0.1m topsoil onto natural subsoil. Again in places almost no topsoil was visible over the natural subsoil. Again only modern disturbance was noted.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was also aligned almost E-W and was 14m long. It was also excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m through demolition rubble, c.0.1m topsoil onto natural subsoil. It also had very little topsoil in places, and only modern disturbance.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned almost N-S and was 16.5m long. It was extensively disturbed, and so was excavated to varying depths. Natural subsoil was noted at c.0.4m, but was only visible in places. No archaeological finds or features were seen.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 10m long. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m through topsoil onto natural subsoil. No disturbance was noted in this trench, and no archaeology was revealed either.

Trench 10a

Trench 10a was aligned E-W and was 8.8m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.3m through disturbed ground. No natural subsoil was encountered in this trench and due to the presence of asbestos within a modern pit, it was abandoned at this depth.

Trench 10b

Trench 10b was aligned N-S and was 11.2m long. It was also excavated to a depth of c.0.3m through disturbed ground. Disturbed natural subsoil was noted at the S end of the trench, but the rest of it was completely disturbed and it was again abandoned.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned almost N-S and was 10m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.3m through topsoil onto natural subsoil. No disturbance was noted within this trench, but no archaeology was revealed either.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was excavated once the large piles of demolition rubble were removed from site. It was monitored by John Newman. It was 40m long and aligned almost N-S. It was excavated to a depth of 0.2m and no archaeology was noted (Newman, pers.comm.). The area adjacent to Trench 12 was also intermittently monitored prior to the removal of the concrete rubble piles but again, no archaeology was revealed.

Conclusion

This evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features, in spite of its location in relation to known archaeology to the south. The extensive modern disturbance is somewhat expected due to the previous use of the site as a piggery and the location of the site immediately adjacent to the A14. Consequently a large number of services and modern interventions were encountered. This disturbance would have destroyed any archaeology present as the natural subsoil, where encountered, was very shallow.

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

Clare Good, September 2008

Bibliography

Richard Jackson PLC, 2007. Shepherd & Dog Piggeries, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich.

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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation

FORMER SHEPHERD & DOG PIGGERIES, FELIXSTOWE ROAD, NACTON

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

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning enquiry has been made to develop land at the Former Shepherd & Dog Piggeries, Felixstowe Road, Nacton (TM 2222 4150).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, to the north of an important group of prehistoric burial monuments known as Seven Hills Round Barrows (FXL 011) that is statutorily protected (Scheduled Monument 21282). There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by any development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and 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 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.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area, which is c. 1080m² of the total site area that measures 2.16ha. (see accompanying plan). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 600m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Project Design and the detailed trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid

or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service. The archaeological contractor will give not less than ten days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, 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 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 23 January 2007

Reference: / FormerShepherd&DogPiggeries-Nacton2007

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

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.