

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Home Farm, Woolverstone

WLV 047

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007

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SMR information

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Site code:	WLV 047
Date of fieldwork:	03 – 06 December 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 1786 3857
Funding body:	A W Mayhew (Farms) Ltd
OASIS reference:	suffolkc1-35128

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Summary

WLV 047, Home Farm, Woolverstone: A metal-detecting survey and trial trench evaluation were carried out at the above site in advance of the excavation of a farm reservoir. Eight trenches (total area 435m²) were excavated, representing approximately 4% of the site.

Natural strata comprised glacio-fluvial sand and gravel overlaid by an aeolian deposit of sandy silt. This was sealed by modern topsoil.

Archaeological cut features were recorded in six of the eight evaluation trenches, immediately below the topsoil. Three or more shallow, N-S ditches are interpreted as part of a probable medieval track or drove-way. Scattered posthole-sized features, two of which produced Iron Age pottery, suggest that there was occupation of the site during that period. This is supported by the presence of residual prehistoric pottery and worked flint in the medieval ditch fills. The nature and extent of the prehistoric occupation are unknown.

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation (site code: WLV 047) was carried out at Home Farm, Woolverstone (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for a farm reservoir (application number B/07/01219). Prime Irrigation Ltd commissioned the archaeological project on behalf of their client A W Mayhew (Farms) Ltd, who funded the work.

2.0 Location, topography and geology

The site of the proposed reservoir is centred at National Grid Reference TM 1786 3857 and encompasses an area of approximately 12000m². It is bounded by Main Road (B1456) to the north, a copse to the west, an existing reservoir to the south and open fields to the east.

The site is approximately 1.0km south west of the River Orwell, on relatively level ground at an average height of 34.45m OD. Current use of the site is as agricultural land and immediately prior to the archaeological evaluation it was used for growing sugar beet.

The published drift geology in the area of the site comprises aeolian and glacio-fluvial deposits. Two trial holes, dug on behalf of Prime Irrigation Ltd in 2006, revealed a horizontal sequence of topsoil, "light grey silt" and sand/gravel. The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of loessic (aeolian) deposits over glacio-fluvial sands and gravels.

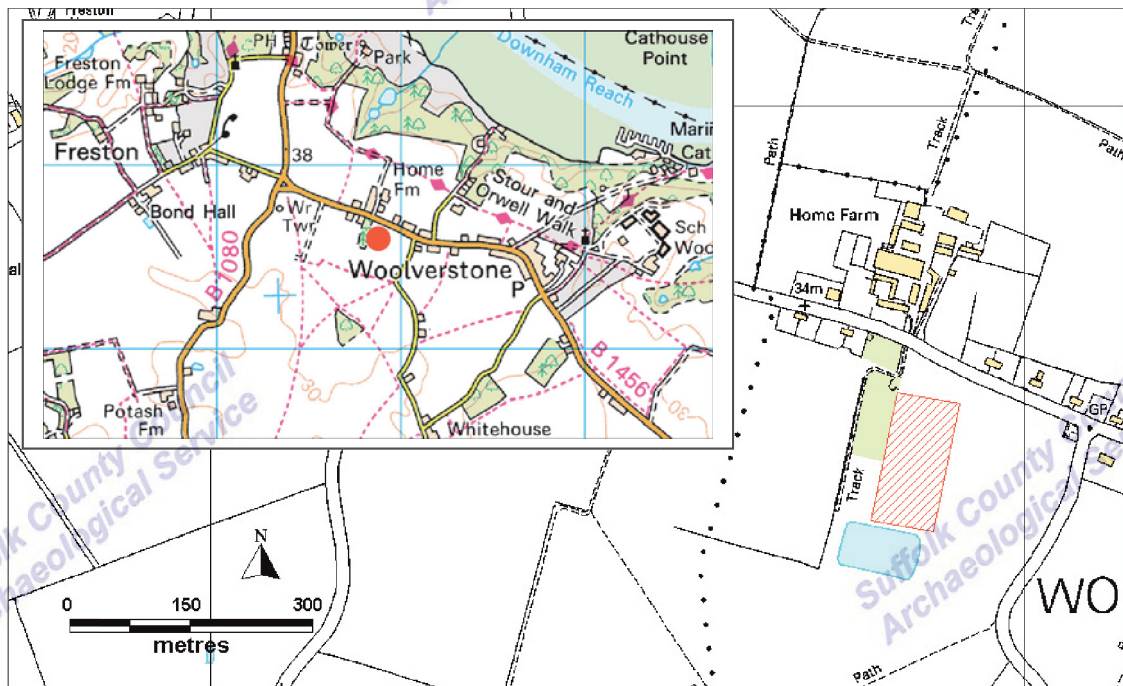


Figure 1. Site location maps

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3.0 Archaeological background

The site is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Two ring ditches revealed by aerial photography (WLV 003 and WLV 004) are located a short distance south east of the site, between the existing reservoir and Harkstead Lane (Fig 14). A Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (WLV 016) is recorded just to the west of the site. Aerial photography has revealed widespread crop marks (particularly linear ditches) in the surrounding area. Some of these may be associated with post-medieval field systems, but others are potentially of late Iron Age or Romano-British date; these are typical of features of those periods found extensively in the Shotley and Felixstowe peninsulas (Jude Plouviez, *pers comm*).

4.0 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation team (Tipper, 2007; Appendix 3).

The fieldwork took place 03 – 06 December 2007, during mostly inclement weather, and consisted of a non-ferrous metal-detecting survey followed by a trial trench evaluation. The Brief and Specification called for a fieldwalking survey but this proved impossible because much of the ground was covered by foliage from the recently harvested sugar beet crop.

The proposed reservoir (including embankments) covers an area of 12000m², as shown on Figs 1–3. A drawing supplied by Prime Irrigation Ltd (drawing number 10495) indicates that the area to be excavated for the reservoir is slightly smaller at approximately 10000m²; for the purposes of the archaeological evaluation this was considered to be the area threatened by the proposed development.

Metal-detecting survey

The threatened area of the site was divided into twenty-one 20m x 20m grid squares, but due to inclement weather it was only possible to survey about 50% of this area, as shown on Fig 2. Metal-detected objects and surface finds from each grid square were bagged separately and given a unique 'context' number in the range 0001–0010.

Trial trench evaluation

Eight evaluation trenches (Fig 3) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5m wide, toothless bucket. The trenches were between 27m and 50m in length, and 0.50 – 0.60m deep. They were arranged in a regular pattern in order to evaluate the threatened area as comprehensively as possible.

Mechanical excavation continued to the level of the geological stratum. A number of intrusive archaeological features extending below this depth were excavated with hand tools.

The archaeological features were recorded using a unique sequence of 'context' numbers in the range 0050–0095. They were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:20, on 290 x 320mm sheets of gridded drawing film. All written records (soil descriptions, etc) were made on drawing film or in a field notebook, and were transferred subsequently to *pro-forma* context sheets. A digital photographic record was made of most of the archaeological features. One deposit was sampled for environmental analysis.

Trench locations were recorded by reference to a 1:500 plan of the site supplied by Prime Irrigation Ltd (drawing number 10495) and were confirmed subsequently by reference to Ordnance Survey data. Levels were recorded in relation to an extrapolated spot height of 34.00m OD on the crown of the road adjacent to the site.

The trenches shown in Figure 3 covered 435m², representing 4.35% of the threatened area and 3.6% of the total area of the proposed reservoir.

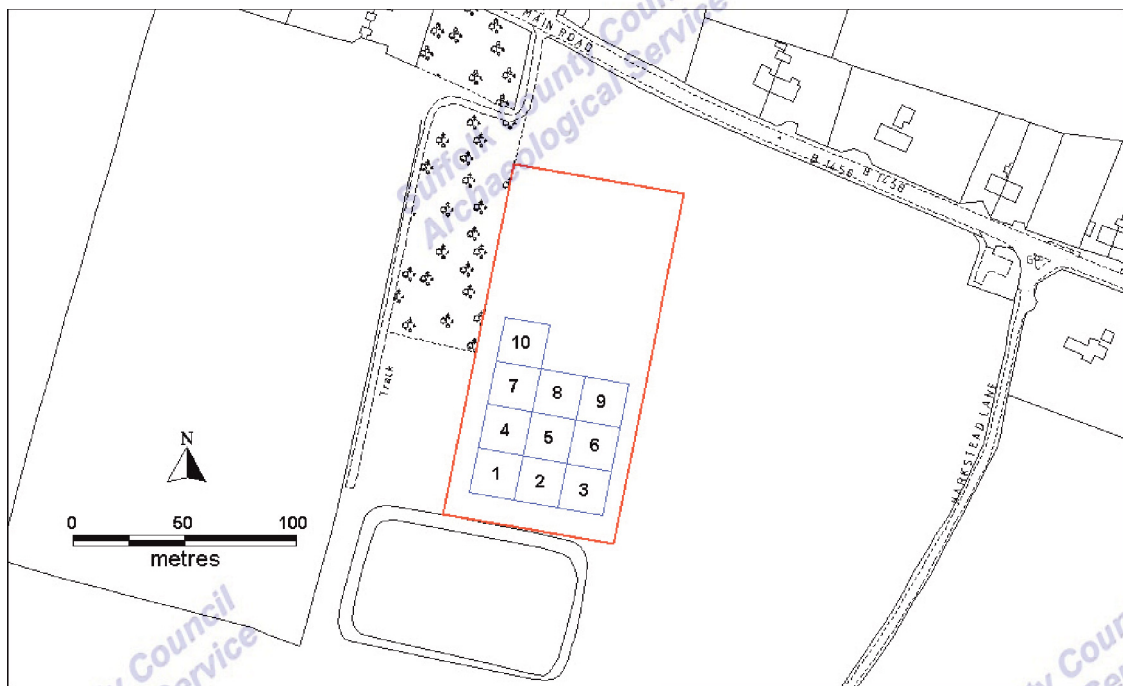


Figure 2. Metal-detecting survey grid squares (blue) and maximum extent of proposed reservoir (red)

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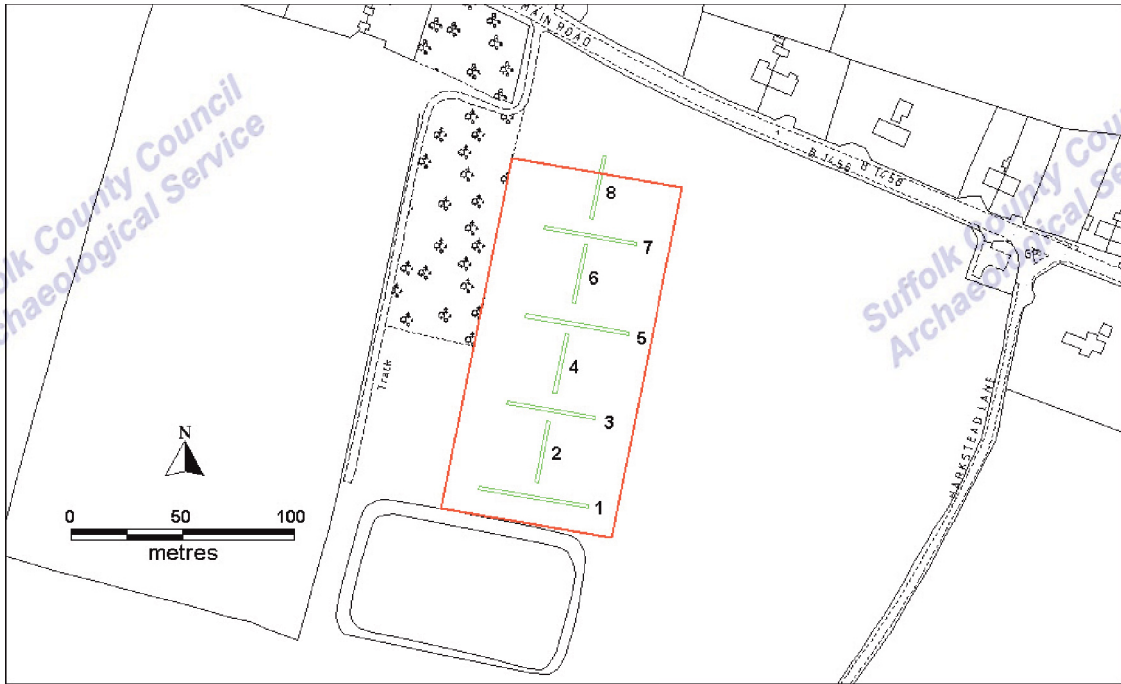


Figure 3. Evaluation trench locations (green) and maximum extent of proposed reservoir (red)

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5.0 Results of the evaluation

Generally, the evaluation revealed a horizontal sequence of natural sand and gravel 0057, a natural silt deposit 0056 and modern topsoil 0055. Although the composition of these deposits varies across the site they can be described generally as follows:

Natural sand and gravel 0057: Loose, light brownish yellow or reddish brown sand mixed with varying amounts of fine–medium, sub angular–rounded flint gravel, usually in discrete zones. This deposit was recorded only in Trench 1, but was seen in other locations when exposed by archaeological cut features. It is assumed to be of glacio-fluvial origin.

Natural silt 0056: Compact, light yellowish brown slightly sandy silt containing patches or lenses of mid reddish brown (iron-stained?) clayey silt. It contains occasional small–medium pebbles and frequent fine root stains but no cultural material, being entirely natural in origin. It is generally 0.30m thick, perhaps becoming thinner in Trench 1. It overlies natural sand and gravel 0057 and is interpreted as a wind-blown (loessic) deposit.

Topsoil 0055: Soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt containing moderate fine–medium pebbles and occasional small–medium fragments of modern (19/20th century) pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe stems, brick, tile, metalwork and coal. The topsoil is 0.30 – 0.40m thick and extends site-wide, overlying natural silt deposit 0056.

Archaeological features were recorded in six of the eight evaluation trenches. All archaeological features cut natural silt deposit 0056 and are sealed by topsoil 0055. They are described in the following section, which presents the results from each trench.

Trench 1

Orientation: West-East

Dimensions: 50.00m x 1.50m x up to 0.94m deep

Ground level: 34.76m OD (west), 34.37m OD (east)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Ditch 0065 and fill 0066	0.40
Ditch 0067 and fill 0068	0.40
Posthole(?) 0069 and fill 0070	0.40
Natural silt 0056	0.40
Natural sand and gravel 0057	0.60 (west end only)

Comments:

Ditch 0065 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.90m wide and 0.38m deep, with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0066, is soft, light reddish brown silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal, a small fragment of medieval (or later) roof tile and a struck flint of later prehistoric date.

Ditch 0067 is oriented approximately NS. It is 2.16m wide and 0.26m deep, with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0068, is soft, light-mid brown silty sand containing occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal and a struck flint of later prehistoric date.

Posthole(?) 0069 is sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 0.25 x 0.20m and is 0.20m deep. Its sides are steep and irregular, tapering to a blunt point. Fill 0070 is soft, mottled light brown and yellow sandy silt, devoid of inclusions. It is located close to the western edge of ditch 0067.

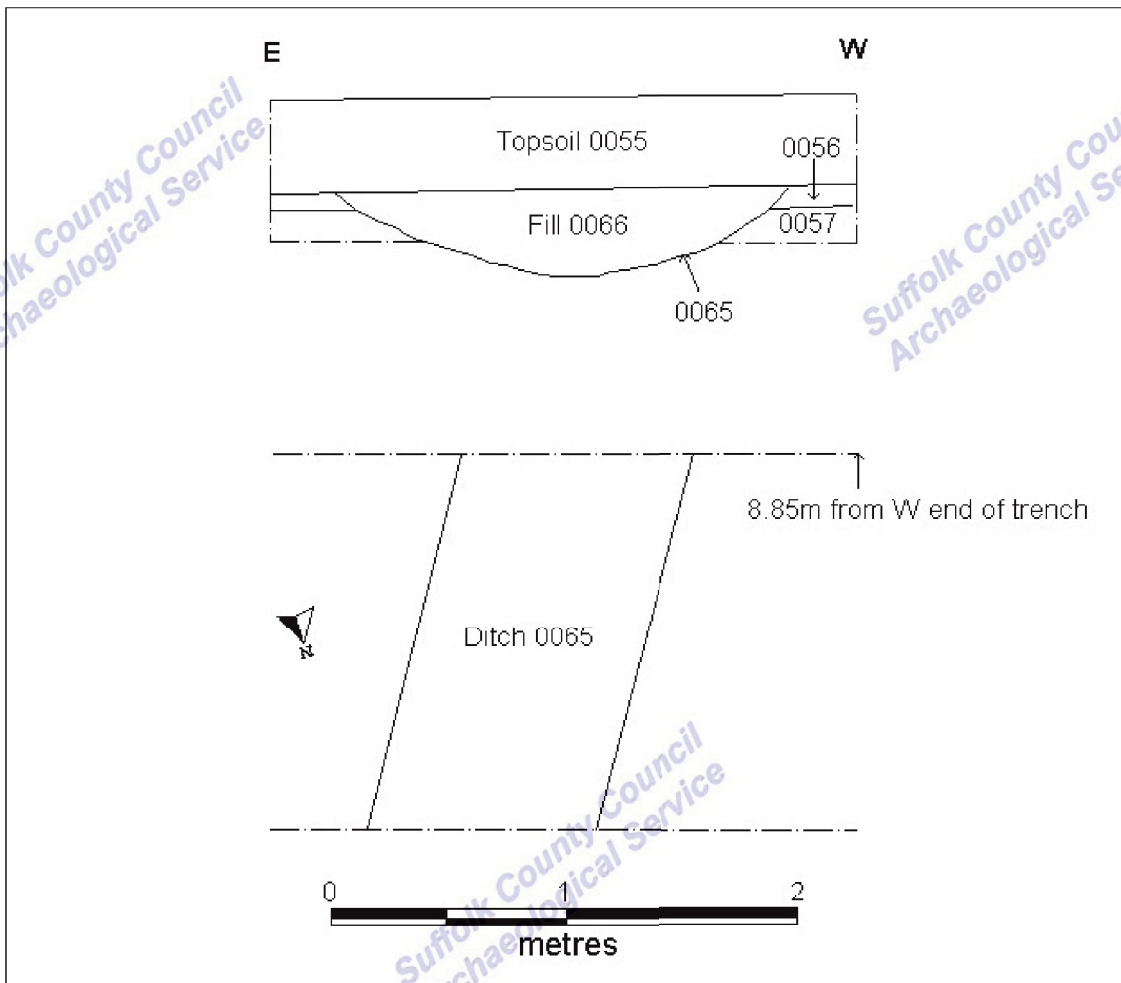


Figure 4. Plan and section of ditch 0065 in Trench 1

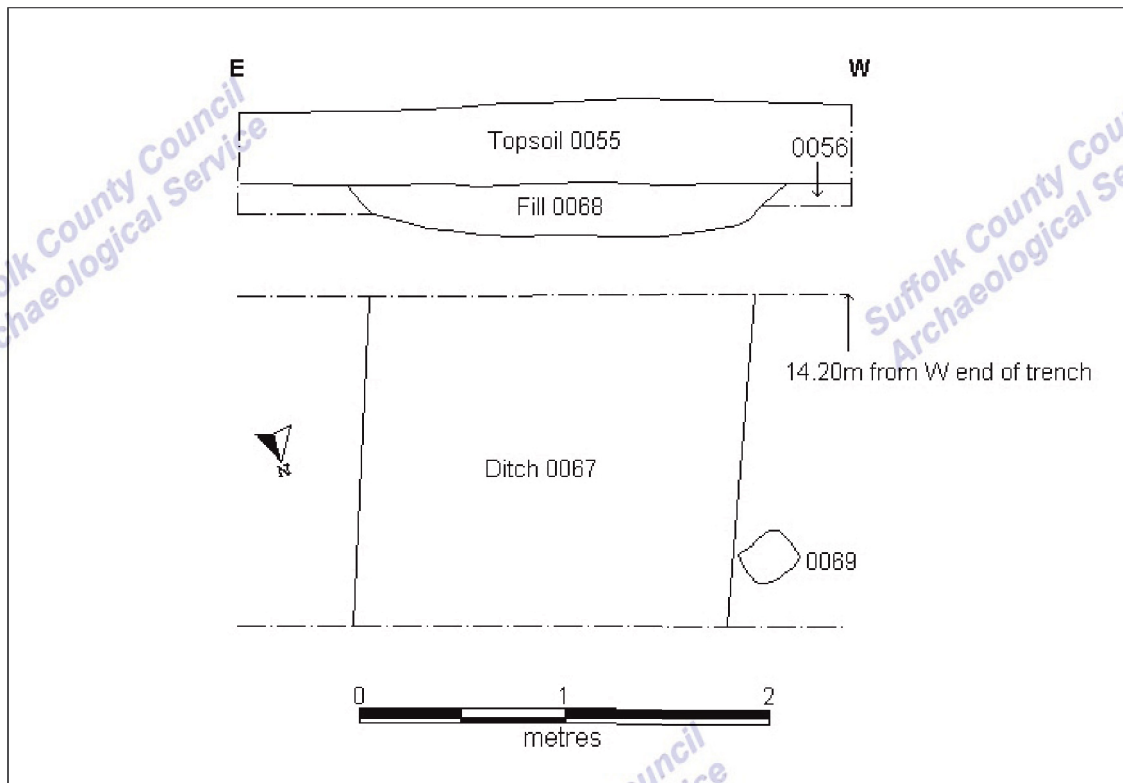


Figure 5. Plan and section of ditch 0067 and plan of posthole 0069 in Trench 1

Trench 2

Orientation: North-South

Dimensions: 28.00m x 1.50m x 0.60m deep

Ground level: 34.57m OD (south), 34.54m OD (north)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Natural silt 0056	0.35

Comments:

No archaeological features were noted in Trench 2, but see Discussion below.

Trench 3

Orientation: West-East

Dimensions: 40.00m x 1.50m x 0.55m deep

Ground level: 34.74m OD (west), 34.34m OD (east)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Ditch 0073 and fill 0072	0.30
Ditch 0077 and fill 0076	0.30
Ditch 0079 and fill 0078	0.30
Posthole(?) 0075 and fill 0074	0.30
Natural silt 0056	0.30

Comments:

Ditch 0073 is oriented approximately NS. It is 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0072 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal but no cultural material.

Ditch 0077 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.40m wide and 0.42m deep with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0076 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, flecks of charcoal and two small pottery sherds of possible Iron Age date.

Ditch 0079 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.20m wide and 0.46m deep with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0078 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal and a small fragment of wheel-thrown pottery of Roman or medieval date.

Posthole(?) 0075 is located close to the eastern edge of ditch 0073. It is oval, measuring 0.40m x 0.30m and 0.12m deep. It has an asymmetric profile and a rounded base. Fill 0074 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal.

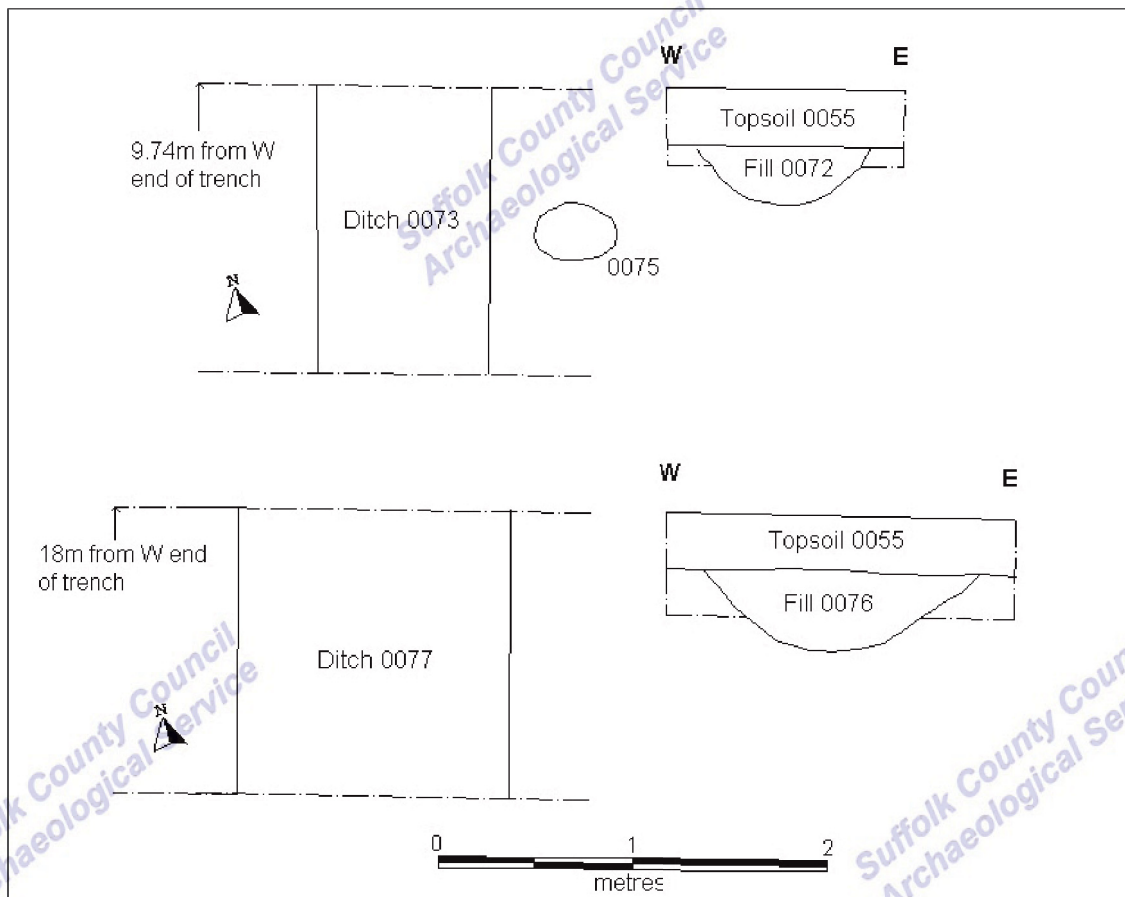


Figure 6. Plans and sections of ditches 0073 and 0077, and plan of posthole 0075, in Trench 3

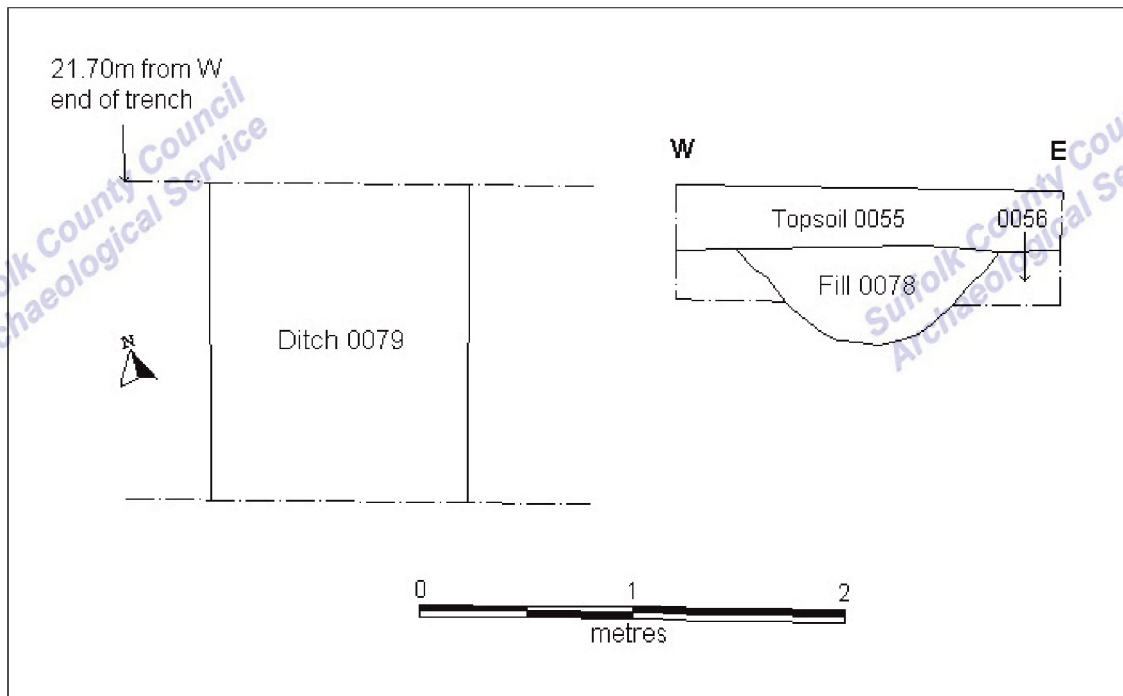


Figure 7. Plan and section of ditch 0079 in Trench 3

Trench 4

Orientation: North-South

Dimensions: 27.40m x 1.50m x 0.50m deep

Ground level: 34.54m OD (south), 34.51m OD (north)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Pit or posthole 0080 and fill 0081	0.30
Posthole 0082 and fill 0083	0.30
Posthole 0084 and fill 0085	0.30
Posthole 0087 and fill 0086	0.30
Ditch 0060 and fill 0061	0.30
Natural silt 0056	0.30

Comments:

Pit or posthole 0080 is oval, measuring 0.50m x 0.43m x 0.12m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. Fill 0081 is soft, dark grey-black charcoal-rich silt with small patches of light brown silt. It contains moderate flecks and small fragments of probable burnt bone; for this reason it was sampled for analysis (Sample 1) to determine if the bone is human. The function of this feature is uncertain, although clearly it might be a cremation burial.

Posthole 0082 is sub-circular with a diameter of 0.48m and depth of 0.24m. It has steep sides breaking gradually into a flat base. Fill 0083 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with patches of light brownish yellow silt. It contains moderate flecks-medium fragments of charcoal and occasional pebbles and small fragments of hand-made pottery of possible Iron Age date.

Posthole 0084 is sub-oval, measuring 0.40m x 0.30m x 0.35m deep. It has vertical sides breaking gradually into a flat base.

Posthole 0087 is circular, with a diameter of 0.45m and depth of 0.35m. Its sides are steep or vertical, tapering to a blunt point. Fill 0086 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt with patches of light brownish yellow silt. It contains occasional pebbles and frequent flecks—medium fragments of charcoal, but no cultural material.

Note that posthole 0087 cuts the southern edge of ditch 0060.

Ditch 0060 was not excavated in Trench 4, since it was sampled nearby in Trench 5 (see below).

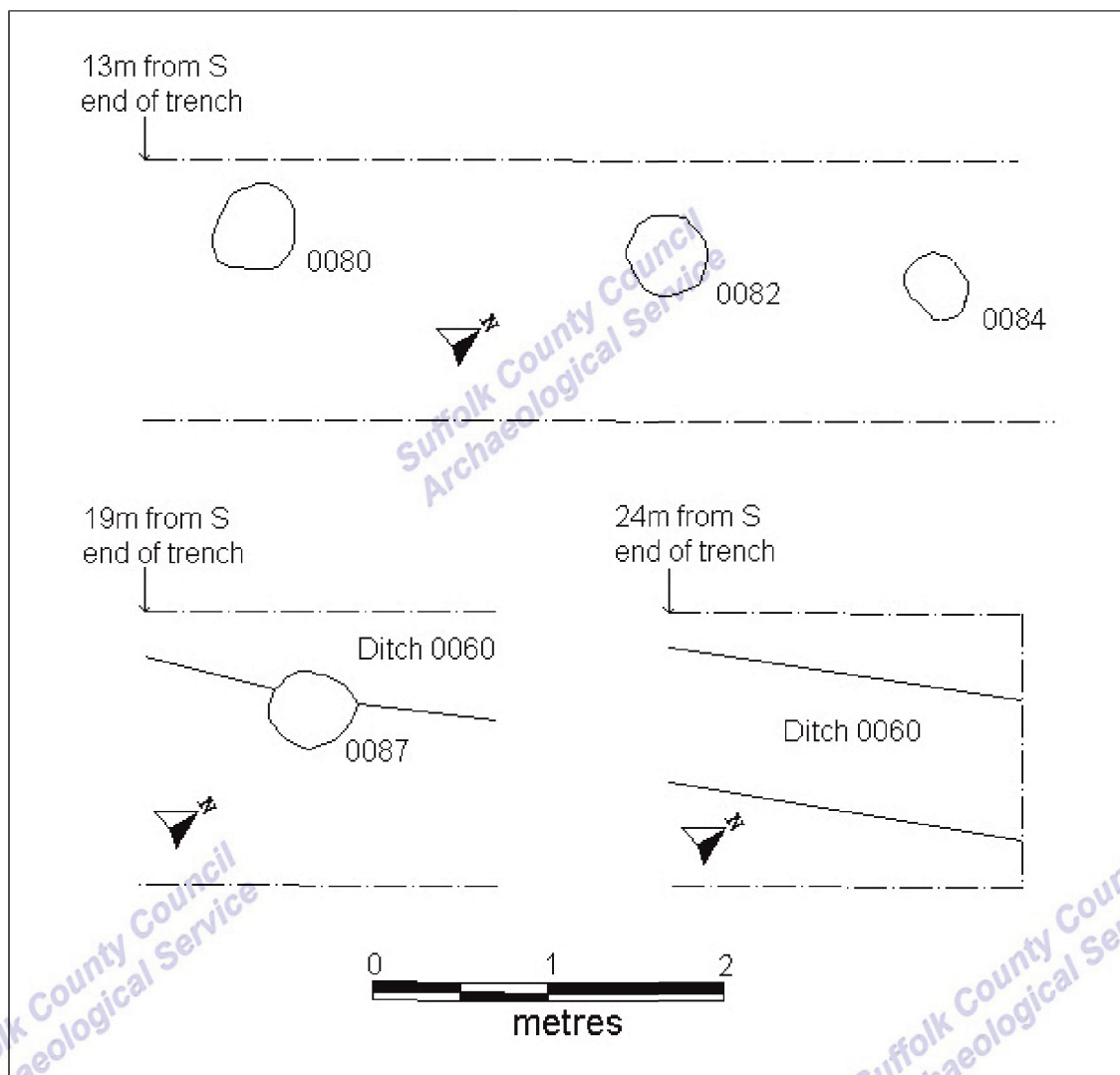


Figure 8. Plans of features in Trench 4



Figure 9. View of postholes 0080, 0082 & 0084 in Trench 4, looking SW (0.5m scale)

Trench 5

Orientation: West-East

Dimensions: 47.00m x 1.50m x 0.50m deep

Ground level: 34.72m OD (west), 34.31m OD (east)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Ditch 0052 and fill 0053	0.35
Ditch 0060 and fill 0061	0.35
Ditch 0062 and fill 0063	0.35
Posthole(?) 0050 and fill 0051	0.35
Natural silt 0056	0.35

Comments:

Ditch 0052 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.04m wide and 0.33m deep with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0053 is soft, light orange-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal, a fragment of fire-cracked flint and a small sherd of pottery of possible Iron Age date.

Ditch 0060 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.55m wide and 0.42m deep with a flattened, U-shaped profile. Fill 0061 is soft, light orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal, and five small fragments of pottery. Three of the pottery sherds are possibly of Iron Age date, one sherd is possibly medieval and another is definitely of medieval form.

Ditch 0062 is oriented approximately NS. It is 1.08m wide and 0.34m deep with an almost V-shaped profile. Fill 0063 is soft, light orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal, and four small fragments of pottery.

Three of the pottery sherds are of medieval date (late 12th – 14th century) and the fourth is probably Iron Age.

Posthole(?) 0050 is oval, measuring 0.30m x 0.24m x 0.16m deep. It has steep or vertical sides breaking sharply into a flat base. Fill 0051 is soft, light orange brown clayey silt containing charcoal flecks and twelve small fragments of pottery. 11 of the pottery sherds are from the same hand-made vessel, of Iron Age date. The remaining sherd is too small to date accurately and might be medieval, although this seems unlikely given the date of the bulk of the pottery.

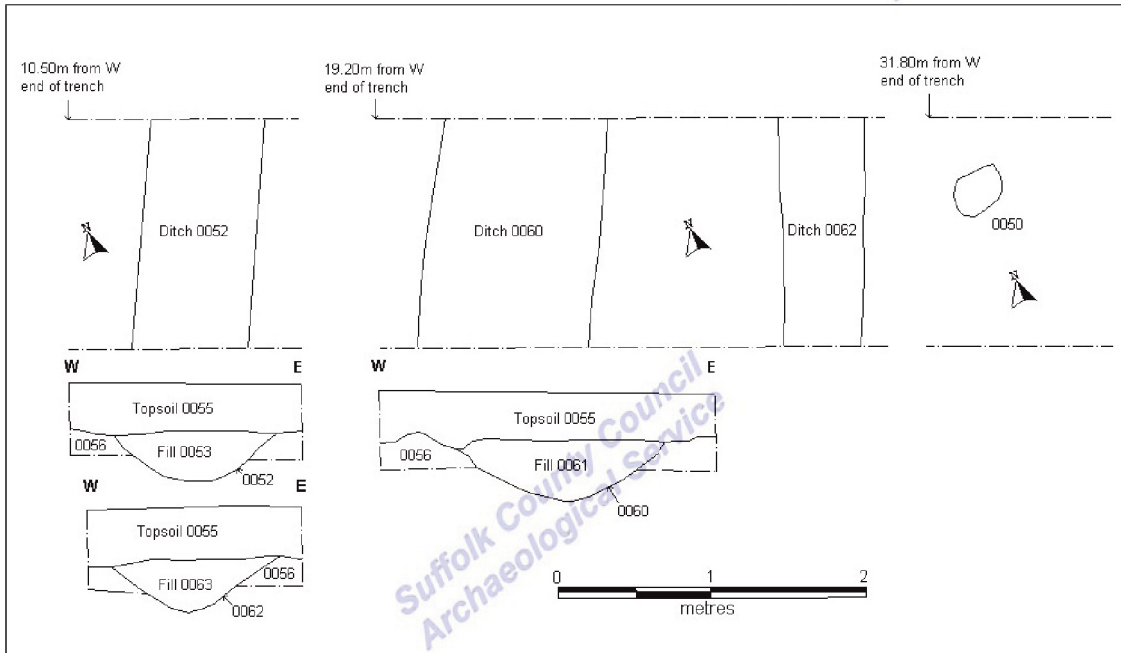


Figure 10. Plans and sections of features in Trench 5



Figure 11. View of ditches 0060 and 0062 in Trench 5, looking N (scale 1.0m)

Trench 6

Orientation: North-South

Dimensions: 26.60m x 1.50m x 0.55m deep

Ground level: 34.51m OD (south), 34.33m OD (north)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Natural silt 0056	0.35

Comments:

No archaeological features were noted in Trench 6.

Trench 7

Orientation: West-East

Dimensions: 42.00m x 1.50m x 0.55m deep

Ground level: 34.45m OD (west), 34.22m OD (east)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Ditch 0089 and fill 0088	0.30
Ditch 0091 and fill 0090	0.30
Ditch 0093 and fill 0092	0.30
Ditch 0095 and fill 0094	0.30
Natural silt 0056	0.30

Comments:

Four ditches in Trench 7 were planned but not excavated.

Ditch 0089 is oriented approximately NS and is at least 0.80m wide. Fill 0088 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt.

Ditch 0091 is oriented approximately NS and is at least 0.90m wide. Fill 0090 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt.

Ditch 0093 is oriented approximately NS and is at least 0.90m wide. Fill 0092 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt.

Ditch 0095 is oriented approximately NS and is at least 0.90m wide. Fill 0094 is soft, mid brownish grey sandy silt.

Trench 8

Orientation: North-South

Dimensions: 28.80m x 1.50m x 0.50m deep

Ground level: 34.33m OD (south), 34.16m OD (north)

Deposits/Features	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0055	0.00
Linear cut 0059 and fill 0058	0.30
Natural silt 0056	0.30

Comments:

Cut 0059 is oriented approximately EW. It is at least 1.20m long x 0.40m wide x 0.34m deep, having steep sides and a U-shaped profile. It extends beyond the edge of the trench to the W, and has a rounded terminus to the E. Fill 0058 is soft, light brownish grey sandy silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal but no cultural material.

Two unstratified struck flints from Trench 8 are dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age periods.

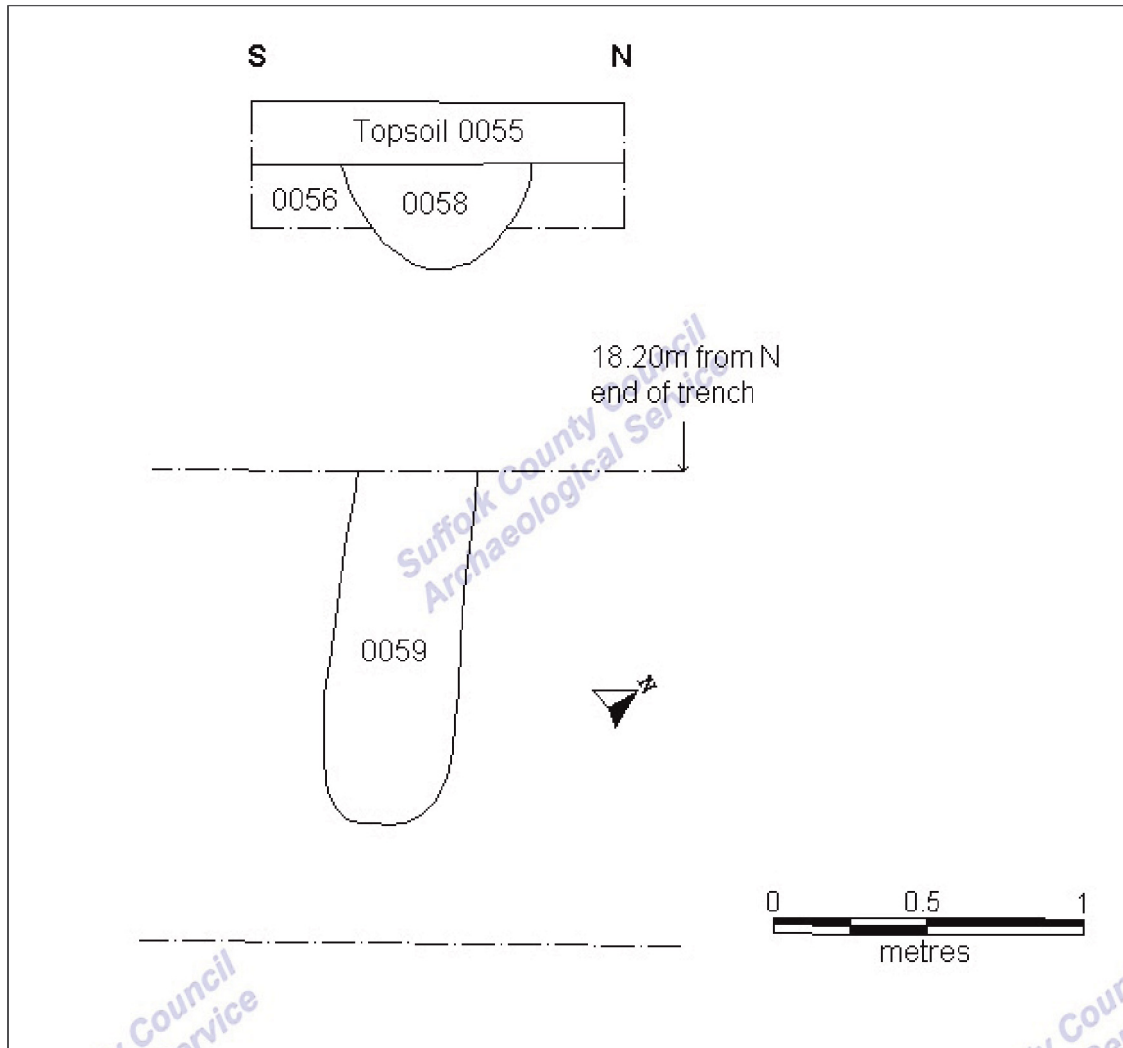


Figure 12. Plan and section of linear cut 0059 in Trench 8

7.0 Finds evidence

Richenda Goffin

This report is provisional and does not include finds from surface collection and metal-detected artefacts. An environmental sample from 0080 is awaiting analysis.

OP	Pottery		Flint		Other finds	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0051	12	21				?Iron Age
0053	1	16			1 fragment burnt flint @ 10g	?Iron Age
0054	1	13	1	34		Medieval
0061	5	12				Iron Age and ?medieval
0063	4	27				Medieval + tiny IA(?)
0066			1	25	1 fragment coarse sandy roof-tile (? – abraded) @ 9g	Medieval or later
0068			1	12		
0071			2	20		Neo/EBA
0076	2	4				?Iron Age
0078	1	8				?Medieval
0083	3	24				?Iron Age

Pottery

0051 (fill of posthole 0050, Trench 5)

11 fragments of a hand-made thick-walled vessel, reduced (20g). Fine-medium sandy fabric with sparse fine flint and some organic inclusions. Iron Age. 1 tiny oxidised body sherd, sandy, possibly medieval.

0053 (fill of ditch 0052, Trench 5)

One abraded sherd of sandy, thick-walled, part oxidised flint-tempered ware. ?Iron Age.

0054 (unstratified finds)

One very abraded rim of medieval jar, L12th-14th C.

0061 (fill of ditch 0060, Trench 5)

Two very small, abraded body sherds of reduced flint-tempered wares. 1 abraded small body sherd of a finer softer partially oxidised fabric which has sand, organic and sparse small flint inclusions. ?Iron Age.

1 very small body sherd sandy, oxidised, possibly medieval.

1 unusual sherd which is medieval in form but is made of a fine fabric with occasional small flint inclusions. Not a common medieval fabric but form is certainly more medieval than earlier!

0063 (fill of ditch 0062, Trench 5)

Three sherds of medieval coarseware (L12th-14th C), plus tiny body sherd (1g) probably IA.

0076 (fill of ditch 0077, Trench 3)

Two small body sherds. One thick-walled sandy, oxidised with sparse medium flint inclusions. One finer and harder with sand and iron oxide. ?Iron Age.

0078 (fill of ditch 0079, Trench 3)

Wheelthrown greyware body sherd. Quite well-sorted quartz inclusions, possibility of it being Roman rather than medieval.

0083 (fill of posthole 0082, Trench 4)

Two thick-walled, coarse body sherds with quartz and flint. Hand-made, partially oxidised, moderately abraded. 1 abraded small body sherd of a finer, hard-fired fabric with moderate small to medium flint inclusions. ?Iron Age.

Finds discussion

The ceramic assemblage consists mainly of small, often abraded body sherds, with very few rims or additional diagnostic features. Many of the fragments are hand-made, sandy with flint, and are likely to be Iron Age, possibly the later part (Edward Martin, *pers comm*). However there is also a small amount of medieval coarsewares in some of the ditchfills. The majority of the worked flint can only be given a general date range of the Later Prehistoric period apart from 0071 which contains two flints of possible Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (Colin Pendleton, *pers comm*).

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Natural strata consist of glacio-fluvial sand and gravel 0057 overlaid by an aeolian (loessic) deposit of sandy silt 0056. These are sealed by modern topsoil 0055, with no evidence for an intervening natural soil profile.

Archaeological features were recorded in six of the eight evaluation trenches. They are all cutting natural stratum 0056 and are sealed by topsoil 0055. They have been truncated by modern ploughing and there is no evidence for land surfaces contemporary with the archaeological features.

Linear features were recorded in Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 7. For convenience they have been recorded and described as 'ditches' although it is possible that some of them are eroded, rather than dug, features. They are oriented approximately NS and generally have similar shallow, U-shaped profiles. They range from 0.80m to 2.16m in width and 0.26m to 0.46m in depth.

Figure 13 shows how the individual ditch segments *might* be connected. From this it seems likely that there are at least three parallel ditches confined to a NS corridor approximately 12m wide, giving the appearance of a track or drove-way. A possible fourth ditch was recorded (but not excavated) near the W end of Trench 7 and its extent is unknown.

Finds of pottery and roof tile from the fills of ditch segments in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 suggest that the ditches are of medieval date, although they also produced a few sherds of possible Iron Age pottery.

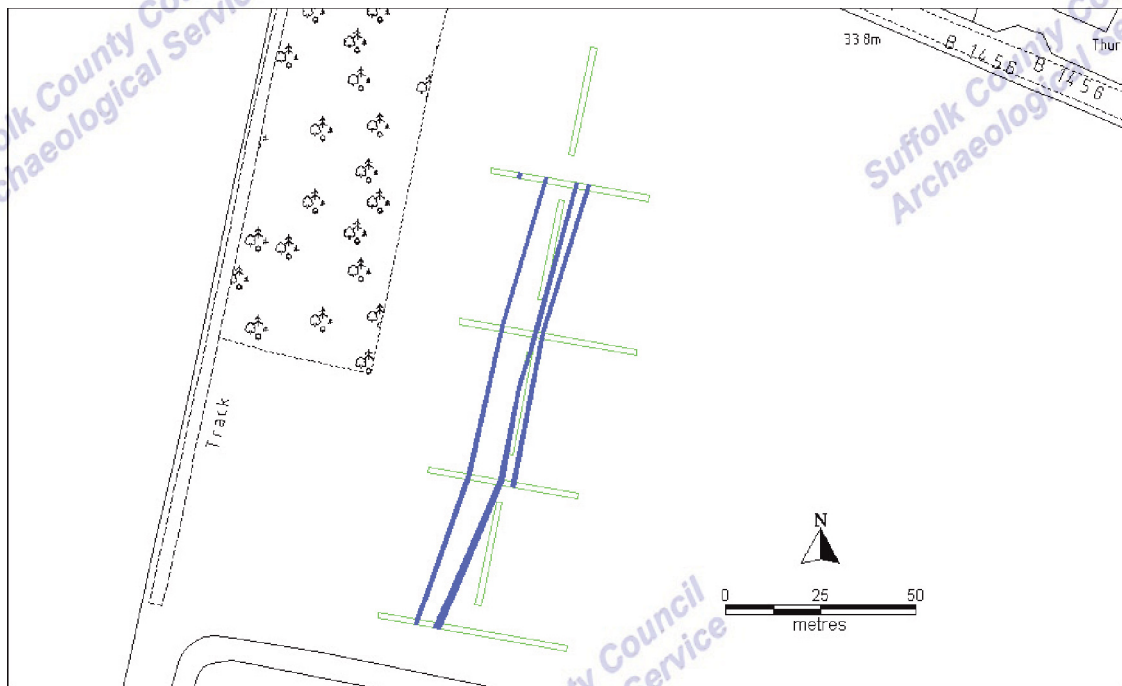


Figure 13. Extrapolated plan of the ditches

Single postholes (or posthole-sized features) were recorded in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 (Fig 15). Those in Trenches 1 and 3 (0069 and 0075) are undated. Posthole 0050 in Trench 5 contained 11 sherds from an Iron Age vessel, apparently broken prior to deposition.

Trench 4 contained a group of four probable postholes (Fig 15) one of which (cut 0082, fill 0083) produced three sherds of possible Iron Age pottery. The fills of these features all contain moderate fragments of charcoal, with 0081 (cut 0080) being particularly charcoal-rich. There is also some possible burnt bone in 0081 (awaiting analysis) suggesting a cremation deposit. Three of the possible postholes (0080, 0082 and 0084) are in a line, roughly parallel with and close to the projected eastern edge of ditch 0060. Note that posthole 0087 cuts the eastern edge of ditch 0060; since the ditch fill (as excavated in adjacent Trench 5) produced medieval pottery it follows that posthole 0087 is of medieval or later date.

Linear feature 0059 in Trench 7 is undated and difficult to interpret – its EW alignment and relatively small scale suggest that it is not associated with the NS ditches recorded elsewhere. No other features were noted in this trench and it is not certain that 0059 was man-made - it might have been an animal burrow. However, unstratified struck flints of Neolithic or Bronze Age date were collected from the base of Trench 7.

In conclusion, the interpretation of the NS ditches as part of a medieval track or drove-way seems likely, although the extrapolated plan of the ditches shown

in Fig 13 would be confirmed only by further excavation. Similar landscape features can be seen on aerial photographs of the Woolverstone area (Fig 14). Note that the postulated track/drove-way runs parallel to modern field boundaries in this part of the parish.

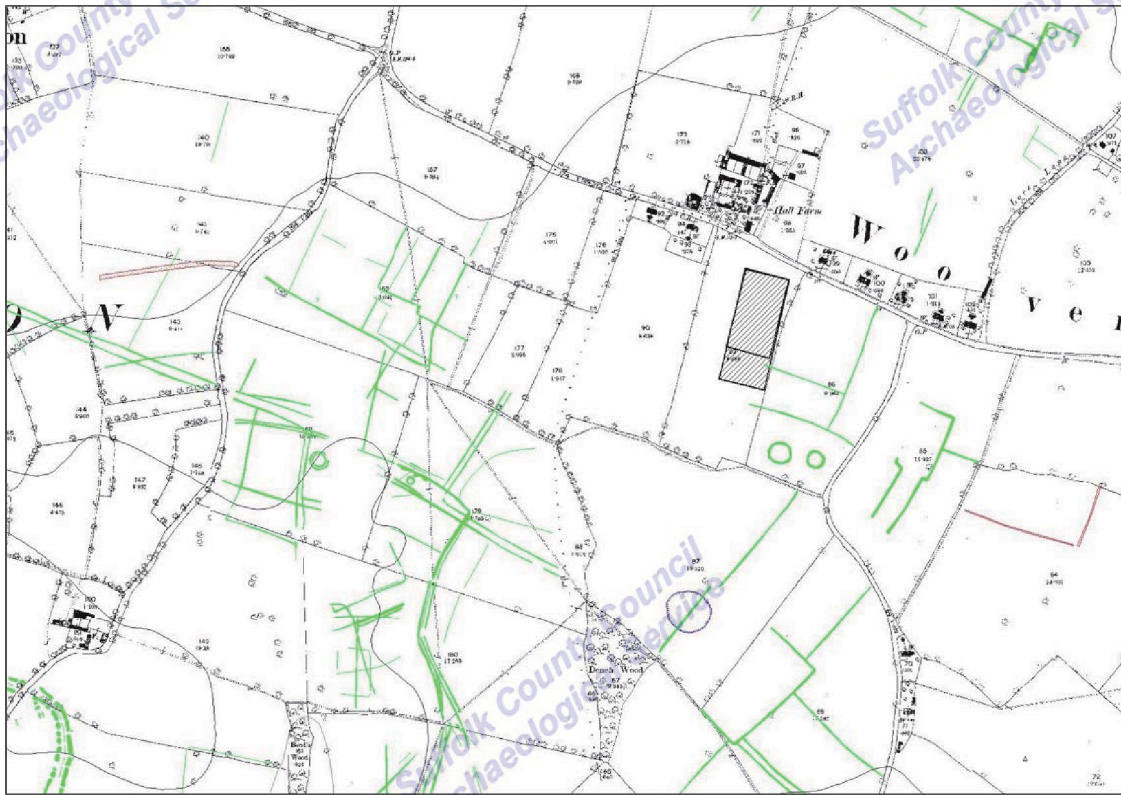


Figure 14. Interpretation of crop marks in the vicinity of the site, superimposed on a 19th-century Ordnance Survey map. The area of the proposed reservoir is shown also (hatched).

The posthole-sized features (Fig 15) are more difficult to interpret. One of them (0050 in Trench 5) is undoubtedly Iron Age in date, containing 11 sherds from the same vessel. At least one of the postholes in Trench 4 (0082) is probably of similar date. Assuming that these *were* structural features it seems likely that there was occupation of the site in the late prehistoric period, and this is supported by the presence of a reasonable amount of residual prehistoric pottery and some struck flints in the medieval ditch fills. Note however that at least one of the posthole-sized features in Trench 4 (0087) is thought to be medieval in date. Further excavation would elucidate the extent and nature of prehistoric occupation on the site.

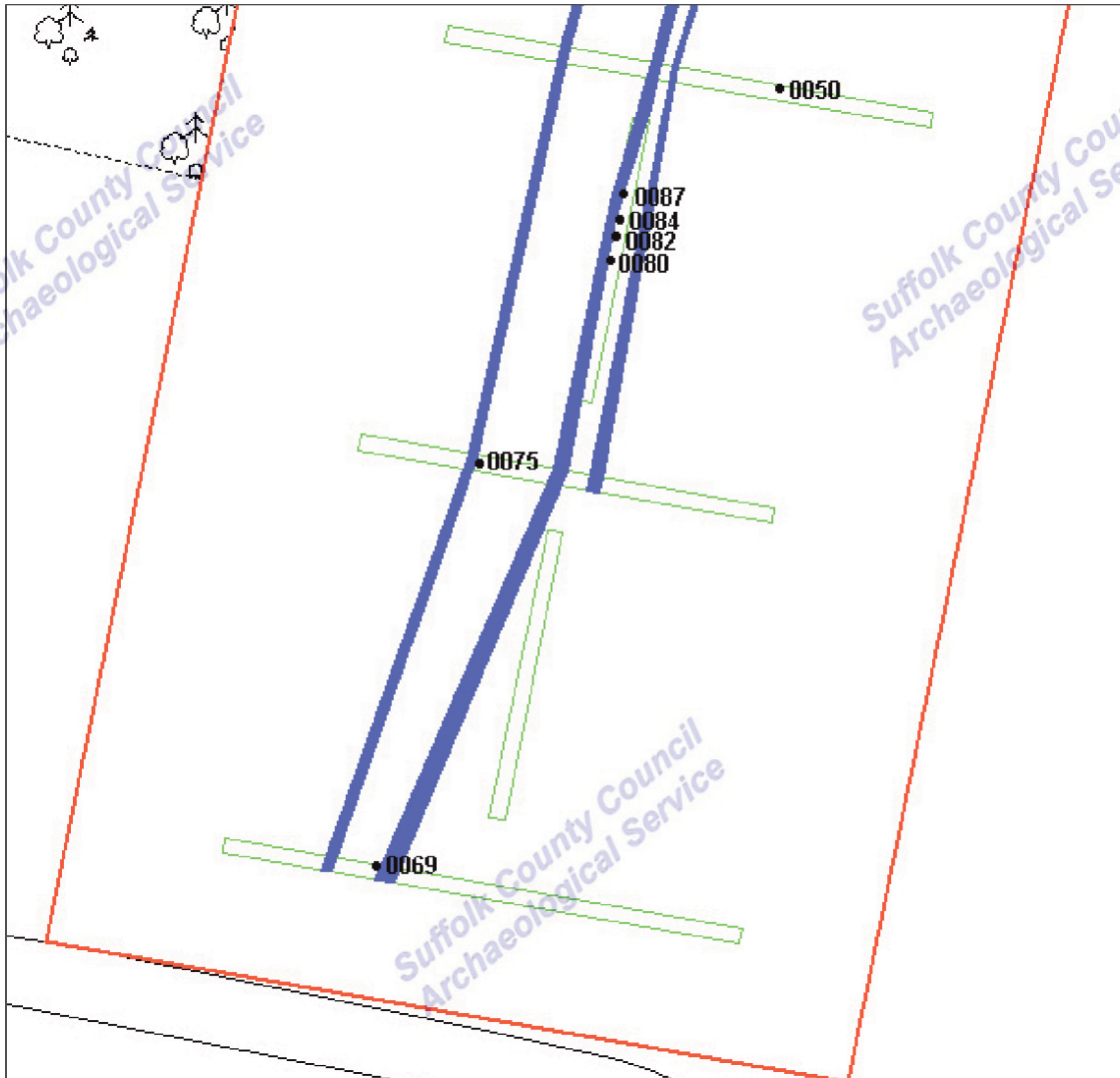


Figure 15. Approximate locations of the posthole-sized features (black). Also showing extrapolated plans of the ditches (blue), evaluation trenches (green) and area of proposed reservoir (red)

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors will determine the need for further work 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.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Graham Hall of Prime Irrigation Ltd commissioned the evaluation on behalf of A W Mayhew (Farms) Ltd., who funded the work.

Jess Tipper monitored the archaeological project, with assistance from Jude Plouviez (both SCCAS, Conservation Team).

The project was managed by John Newman and supervised by Kieron Heard. Rob Atfield and Tim Browne assisted with the fieldwork (all SCCAS, Field Projects Team).

The finds report is by Richenda Goffin (SCCAS, Finds Manager). Gemma Adams and Val Turp (SCCAS, Post-Excavation Team) processed the finds. Edward Martin assessed the pottery and Colin Pendleton assessed the flint (both SCCAS, Conservation Team).

10.0 Bibliography

Tipper, J., 2007, *Brief and specification for archaeological evaluation: Home farm, Woolverstone, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

11.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Type	Description	Trench	Plan	Section	Finds	Sample	Images
0001	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 1			Y	N	
0002	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 2			Y	N	
0003	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 3			Y	N	
0004	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 4			Y	N	
0005	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 5			Y	N	
0006	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 6			Y	N	
0007	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 7			Y	N	
0008	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 8			Y	N	
0009	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 9			Y	N	
0010	Unstratified	MD & surface finds	SQ 10			Y	N	
0050	Cut	Posthole?	5	7	7	N	N	003
0051	Fill	Fill of posthole? 0050	5	7	7	Y	N	
0052	Cut	N-S ditch	5	7	7	N	N	007, 008
0053	Fill	Fill of ditch 0052	5	7	7	Y	N	
0054	Unstratified	Surface finds	9			Y	N	
0055	Deposit	Topsoil	All		All	N	N	
0056	Deposit	Natural silt	All		All	N	N	
0057	Deposit	Natural sand & gravel	All		1, 2	N	N	
0058	Fill	Fill of linear cut 0059	8	9	9	N	N	
0059	Cut	Linear cut	8	9	9	N	N	001, 002
0060	Cut	N-S ditch	5	7	7	N	N	004, 006
0061	Fill	Fill of ditch 0060	5	7	7	Y	N	
0062	Cut	N-S ditch	5	7	7	N	N	004, 005
0063	Fill	Fill of ditch 0062	5	7	7	Y	N	
0064	Section	N facing at W end	1		1	N	N	009
0065	Cut	N-S ditch	1	2	2	N	N	012
0066	Fill	Fill of ditch 0065	1	2	2	Y	N	
0067	Cut	N-S ditch	1	3	3	N	N	010
0068	Fill	Fill of ditch 0067	1	3	3	N	N	
0069	Cut	Posthole?	1	3	3	N	N	010, 011
0070	Fill	Fill of posthole? 0069	1	3	3	N	N	
0071	Unstratified	Surface finds	8			Y	N	
0072	Fill	Fill of ditch 0073	3	4	4	N	N	
0073	Cut	N-S ditch	3	4	4	N	N	
0074	Fill	Fill of posthole? 0075	3	4	4	N	N	
0075	Cut	Posthole?	3	4	4	N	N	
0076	Fill	Fill of ditch 0077	3	4	4	Y	N	

Context	Type	Description	Trench	Plan	Section	Findings	Sample	Images
0077	Cut	N-S ditch	3	4	4	N	N	
0078	Fill	Fill of ditch 0079	3	5	5	Y	N	
0079	Cut	N-S ditch	3	5	5	N	N	
0080	Cut	Pit or posthole	4	6		N	N	013-015
0081	Fill	Fill of pit/phole 0080	4	6		N	1	
0082	Cut	Pit or posthole	4	6		N	N	013-016
0083	Fill	Fill of pit/phole 0082	4	6		Y	N	
0084	Cut	Posthole	4	6		N	N	013, 014
0085	Fill	Fill of posthole 0084	4			N	N	
0086	Fill	Fill of posthole 0087	4			N	N	
0087	Cut	Posthole	4	6		N	N	
0088	Fill	Fill of ditch 0089	7	8		N	N	
0089	Cut	N-S ditch	7	8		N	N	
0090	Fill	Fill of ditch 0091	7	8		N	N	
0091	Cut	N-S ditch	7	8		N	N	
0092	Fill	Fill of ditch 0093	7	8		N	N	
0093	Cut	N-S ditch	7	8		N	N	
0094	Fill	Fill of ditch 0095	7	8		N	N	
0095	Cut	N-S ditch	7	8		N	N	

Appendix 2: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

Type	Quantity
Context register sheets	3x A4 paper
Trench description sheets	8x A4 paper
Context recording sheets	56x A4 paper
Environmental sample register sheets	1x A4 paper
Environmental sample recording sheets	1x A4 paper
Combined plan/section drawing sheets	9x 290 x 320mm film
Survey data (levels)	1x A4 paper
Digital images	16x JPG images
Digital image register sheets (on-site version)	1x A4 paper
Digital image register sheets (archive version)	1x A4 paper
Report (SCCAS report no. 2007/228)	1x A4 ring-bound

Appendix 3: Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

HOME FARM, WOOLVERSTONE, 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 B/07/01219) has been granted by Babergh District Council for the construction of a farm reservoir on Land at Home Farm, Woolverstone, Suffolk (TM 179 385), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures 1.20 ha., on Land at Home Farm, Woolverstone, Suffolk. The site is located at approximately 34.00m AOD, on the southern side of, and overlooking, the River Orwell. The underlying aeolian and glaciofluvial drift geology comprises loam over clay soil.
- 1.3 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 will be 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.
- 1.4 This application lies within an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). This proposal lies immediately adjacent to an area of known prehistoric occupation (WLV 003 and WLV 004) which is highly likely to expand into the application zone. The site of the existing reservoir, immediately to the south, was not subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction.
- 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 As a first stage, and in order to inform an impact assessment and subsequent mitigation, the following staged scheme of evaluation work is required:
 - non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
 - linear trial-trenching.
- 1.7 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 outline specification, 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 establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 The surveys should 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 the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 The evaluation should 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. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage. The mitigation strategy will be the subject of a further archaeological brief, once the results of the evaluation have been reported.
- 2.7 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this specification are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety 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 for each stage of the evaluation, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification for non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey

- 3.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (1.20 ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

4. Specification for trenched evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a 5% by area, which is 600m² of the total area of the new reservoir development (1.20 ha.). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, and informed by the results of the non-intrusive evaluation surveys. 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. 333m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

- 4.2 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.
- 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 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 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.
- 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 trenched evaluation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations are agreed with SCCAS/CT 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.14 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 All arrangements for the field survey, 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.
- 5.2 Careful consideration must be given to obtaining specialist advice and the appointment of an appropriate contractor.
- 5.3 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of survey on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 5.4 The composition of the Archaeological investigation contractors staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. There must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Data collection must be undertaken under the supervision of an experienced project manager (three-plus years' experience). Data interpretation must be undertaken by experienced personnel (three-plus years' experience).
- 5.5 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.6 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.7 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 SCCAS/CT before execution.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 Any changes to the WSI 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* 1991 (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 6.2 There must be an analytical report with description and interpretation of the results. The objective record of the evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation.
- 6.3 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.4 The methodology should be set out carefully, and explained as appropriate. It must include a non-technical summary to make the report intelligible to both specialists and non-specialists.
- 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, 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).
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The results of the evaluation should be easily related to present-day landscape features and tied in to the OS Grid.
- 6.11 The results of the evaluation should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County HER.
- 6.12 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the Report.
- 6.13 The Report 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).
- 6.14 An opinion as to the necessity for archaeological mitigation 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.
- 6.15 Three copies of the report must be sent to SCCAS/CT as well as one copy sent to the Developer.
- 6.16 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.

- 6.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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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Date: 5 November 2007

Reference: / HomeFarm_Woolverstone2007

This 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.