

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

**Lee Farm, Freckenham
FRK 094**

**A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Planning Application No.F/2007/0467/FUL
NGR: TL6634 7381
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/145
OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-361963**

Summary

An archaeological evaluation in advance of a small development failed to identify any features of archaeological interest.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of an office and garage development at Lee Farm, Freckenham. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2007/0467/FUL. The work was funded by the owner Mr J Waters. The development area is on level ground at c.8m OD (Fig 1). Interest in the site is due to a significant assemblage of Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds recovered in the area through metal detecting and recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The evaluation was required to assess this potential and to establish any archaeological implications for the site's development. The fieldwork took place on the 22 November 2007.

2. Methodology

Two evaluation trenches were dug across the area by a JCB type machine using a 1.4m wide ditching bucket. The trenches formed an 'L' shape (Fig 1 and 2) and covered all areas of the development exceeding 5% minimum trenching set out in the specification. There was no need to hand clean the trench as the surface was very clear. The spoil and the trench during machining were intensively metal detected. The site was located using a Total Station Theodolite. The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. FRK 094.

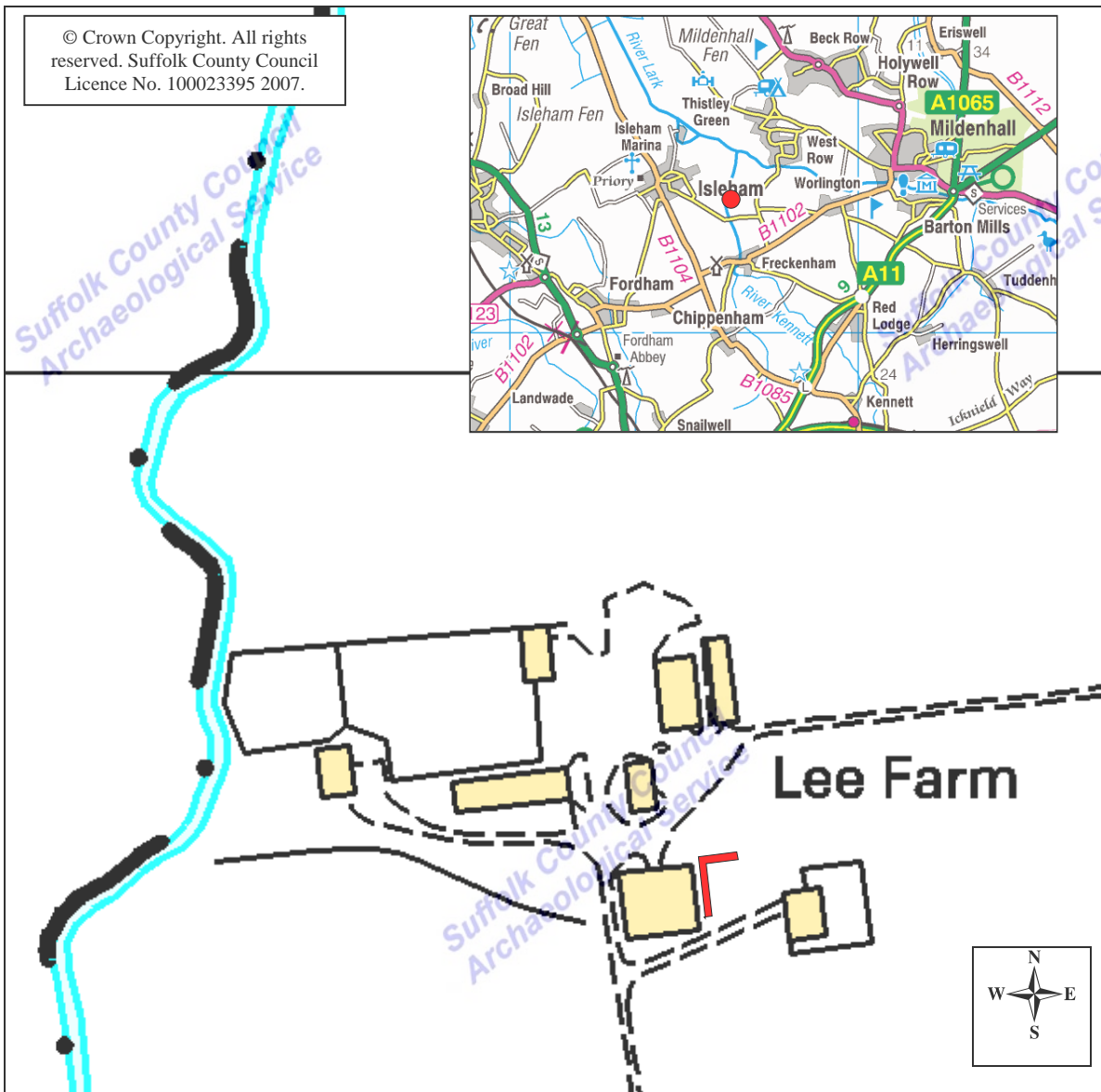


Figure 1. Site location plan

3. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

At the south end of Trench 1 approximately 0.5m of ploughsoil was removed by machine. The subsoil comprised orange sand with flints. Natural chalk was exposed in patches towards the middle of the trench. At the north end of the trench a large pit was identified filled with recent debris. Trench 2 extended east from the north end of Trench 1. The ploughsoil was only 0.25m deep and the natural was solid chalk beneath Trench 2. No features of archaeological interest were found in either trench. A single sherd of handmade pottery with coarse flint grit inclusions was recovered from the ploughsoil. This is thought to be Iron Age or earlier in date. No sections were drawn as these only revealed a homogenous fill of brown sandy loam.

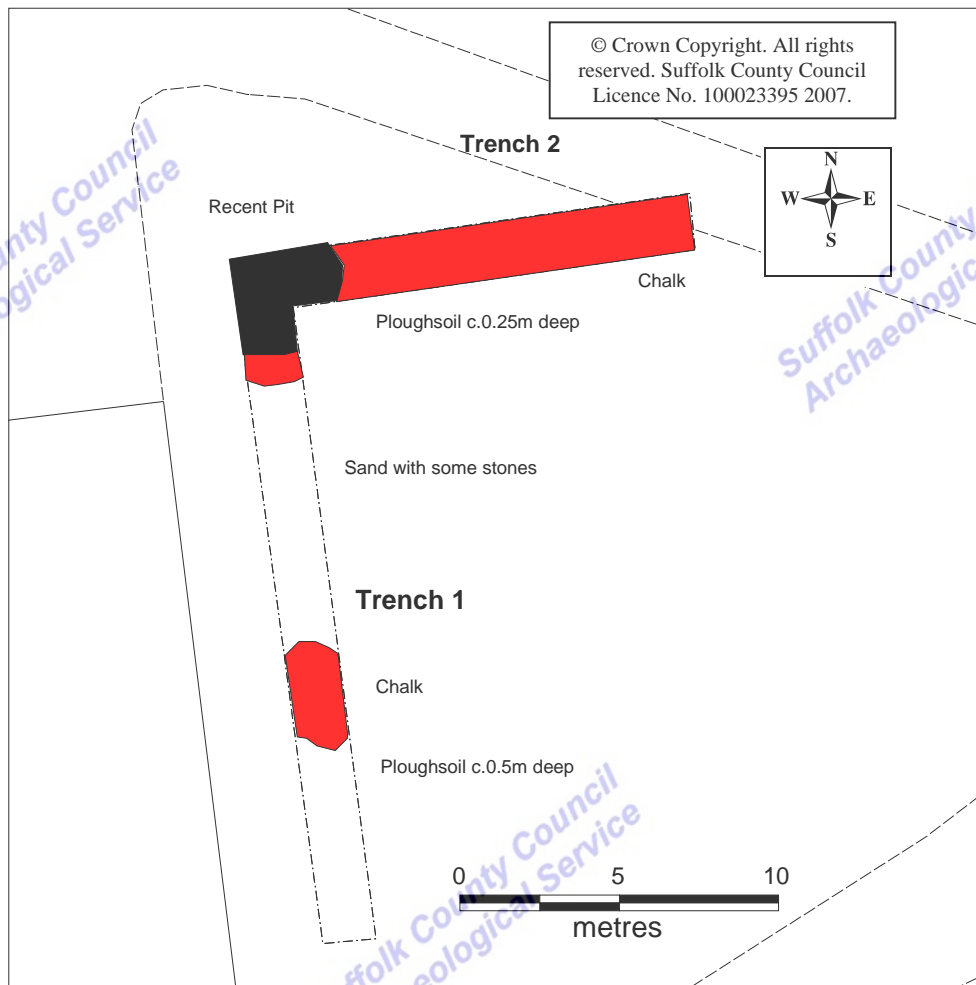


Figure 2. Site plan

4. Discussion

Poorly fired handmade pottery is unlikely to survive for long in ploughsoil. On this basis the single sherd of prehistoric pottery is probably evidence of contemporary activity close by. However, no features were identified within either trench and these provide a very good coverage of the area to be developed.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

From existing evidence it is clear that archaeological remains may be located close to the site but the total lack of features from the evaluation and the recovery of only a single sherd of pottery is good evidence that this development falls within a gap between the many sites. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is necessary.

A Tester
 Project Officer
 Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
 December 2007

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.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

Lee Farm, Freckenham

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

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent [F/2007/0467/FUL] has been given for the erection of a garage and office complex, of c.265sq m, at Lee Farm, Freckenham
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant .

The planning consent contains a condition (no.5) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**

- 1.3 The development area lies at TL 663 735 just above the 5m contour on the east side of the Lee Brook, with the Lark 1 km to the north. There is extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity in the general area. Although not always well located there seems to be a focus of Roman activity to the south of the development (FRK 070), although some Roman evidence is closer to the farm buildings, but there are also various early Anglo-Saxon finds immediately around the farm suggesting a cemetery. Archaeological deposits are likely to be better preserved in the immediate vicinity of the farm than in the intensely cultivated light soil arable fields. There is therefore a high probability that the development will affect archaeological deposits, possibly including burials.
- 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.

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- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days

notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

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

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

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

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

3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **General Management**

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

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

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

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

4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. **Report Requirements**

5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage’s *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

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

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

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Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 16th August 2007

Reference: *SpecEvaluation_LeeFarm JP.doc*

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

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