ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land at Home Farm, Felixstowe Road Nacton NAC 103

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. no. C/07/0017/FUL)

Robert Atfield
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

SCCAS Report No. 2008/040
Oasis ID. No. suffolkc1-37115

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Stuart Boulter	Senior Project Officer
Linzi Everett	Project Officer
Robert Atfield	Assistant Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Home Farm (Nacton) Ltd. and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division).

The evaluation was carried out by Stuart Boulter and Robert Atfield both from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Stuart Boulter and managed by John Newman, both of whom provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Planning permission for a bulk onion store with associated access, parking, pond and bunds on land at Home Farm, Felixstowe Road, Nacton has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. The development lies to the north of an important group of prehistoric burial monuments known as Seven Hills Round Barrows (EXL 011) (Scheduled Monument 21282). A series of three evaluation trenches were excavated covering the central area of the proposed building, the pond and part of the access road. Although the evaluation sampled a total area 165m², no archaeological features or finds were located. Two archaeological monitoring visits were also carried out during the excavation of the footings, but these also proved negative.

SMR information

Planning application	C/07/0017/FUL
HER number	NAC 103
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-37115
Date of fieldwork:	12-04-2007 (Evaluation); 26-04-2007 and 27-04-08 (Monitoring)
Grid Reference:	TM 2243 4134
Funding body:	Home Farm (Nacton) Ltd.

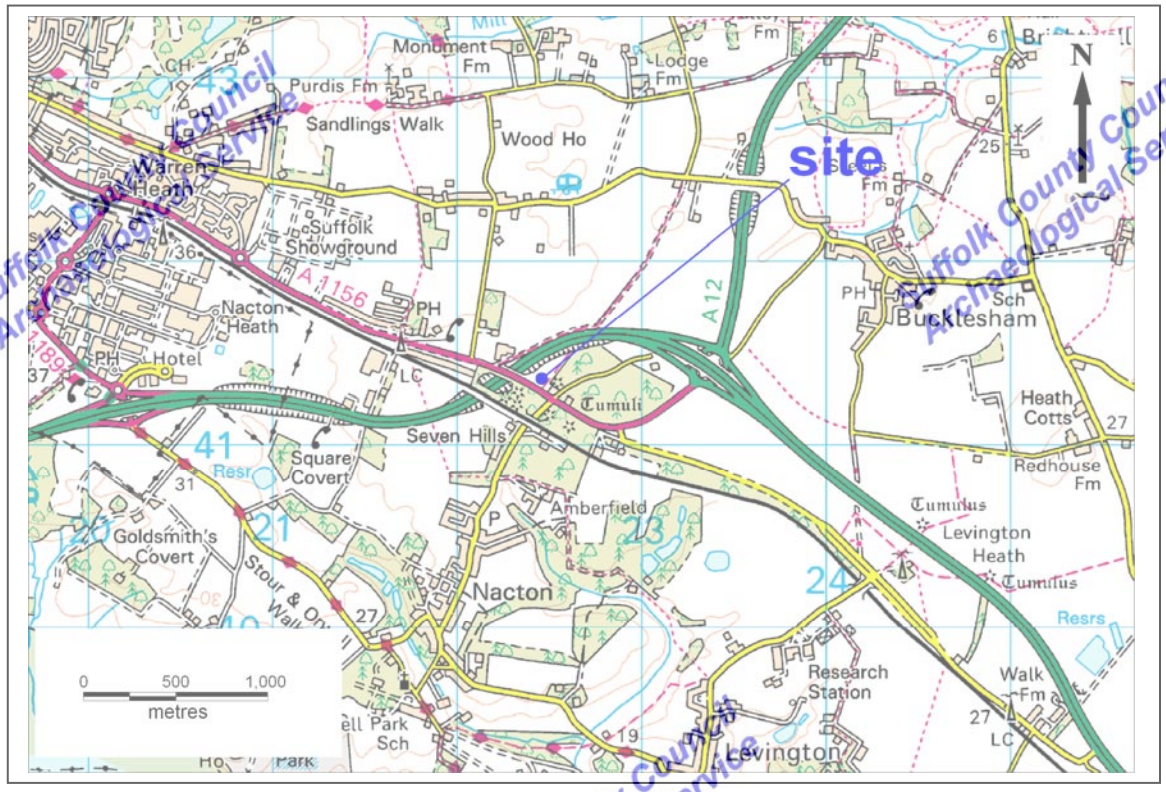

Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

The proposed development is an agricultural facility, consisting of an onion store with associated access, parking, pond and bunds on land at Home Farm, Nacton. The site lies at a height of approximately 25m AOD, on former arable farmland, immediately adjacent to the A1156 (Felixstowe Road). The A14 trunk road lies less than 100m northwest of the development. An important group of prehistoric burial monuments, known as Seven Hills Round Barrows (FXL 011) (Scheduled Monument 21282), lie in the woodland immediately surrounding the site (see Figure 2.). At least thirteen round barrows are thought to exist within this group, in areas now known as Knight's Wood, Hobbin's Belt and Bucklesham Wood. Most of the barrows are within 300m of the proposed development (BUC 006, 007, FXL 011, NAC 004-13). The majority of the round barrows are indicated on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey (see Figure 3); however, two of the locations are referred to as Knight's Heath and Bucklesham Heath, suggesting that the character of the area has changed. Such features would have been far more visible during periods when the landscape was less wooded. The nearest location for possible settlement evidence lies to the east (BUC 048), where a pit containing Beaker pottery was excavated in 1996 (Boulter, 1996).

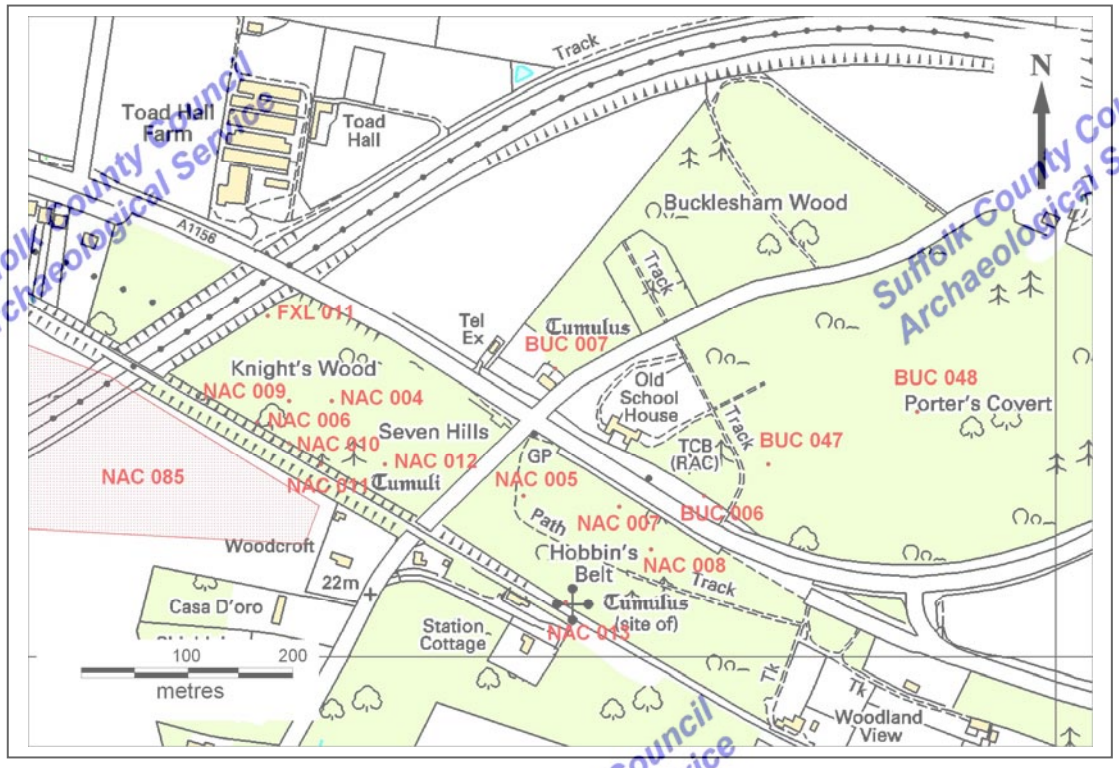

Figure 2. The County Historic Environment Record

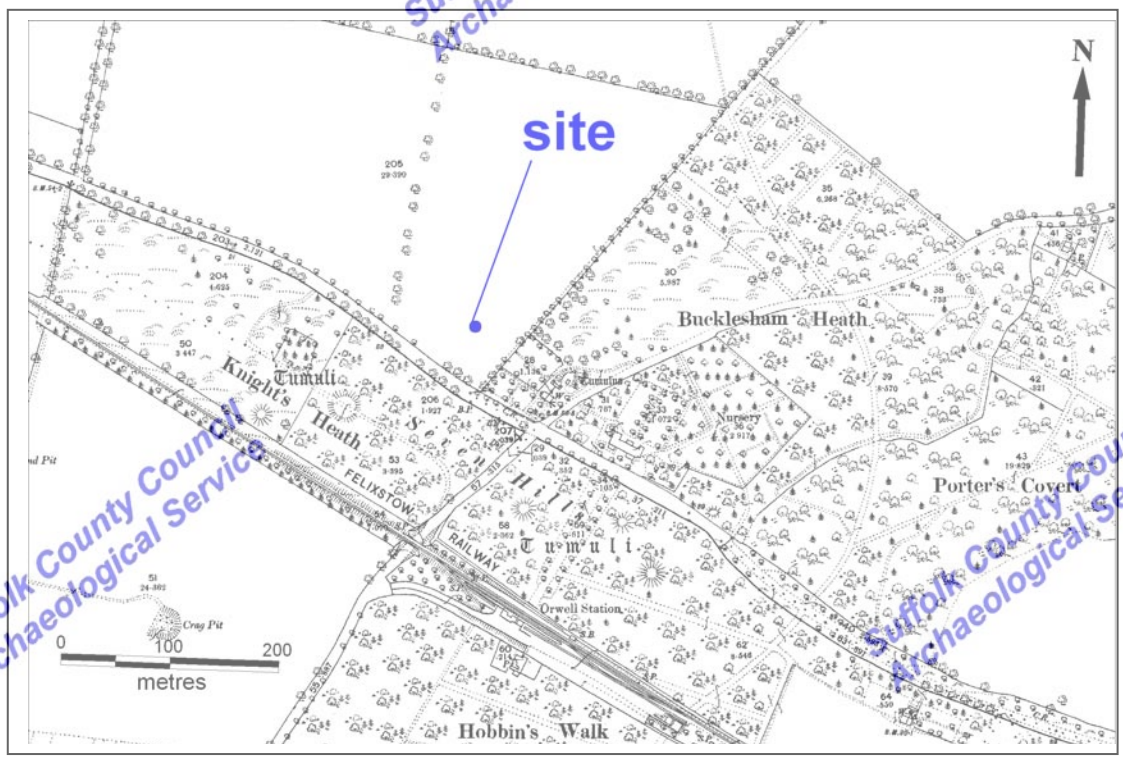

Figure 3. c.1880 Ordnance Survey Map

Methodology

Three evaluation trenches were excavated within the site area, all orientated approximately northwest to southeast (see Figure 4); the trenches were excavated in numerical sequence from Trench 1 to 3. All of the trenches were mechanically excavated to the optimum depth for revealing potential archaeological features which, if present, would be seen contrasting with the underlying natural geological deposits. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360º mechanical digger equipped with a toothless 1.50m wide bucket; additional hand cleaning was carried out in order to clarify potential features and also soil profiles. The trenches had an average width of 1.80m and had a combined total of 82.00m in length. The mechanical soil stripping was constantly monitored by an archaeologist in order to cease ground reduction at the optimum archaeological level. The spoil was also searched for any unstratified finds. All of the trenches were recorded in terms of dimensions, location and soil profiles and photographed using a 7.1mp digital camera. Details of the deposits were recorded on *pro forma* 'observable phenomena' context sheets, which run from numbers 0001 to 0006 (see Table 1.). Conditions allowed good visibility, with bright dry weather and favourable ground moisture levels. The site was allocated a County Historic Environment Record code (NAC 103) and an oasis record has been created for the evaluation (Suffolkc1-37115). Two monitoring visits were also made to the site during the excavation of the footings.

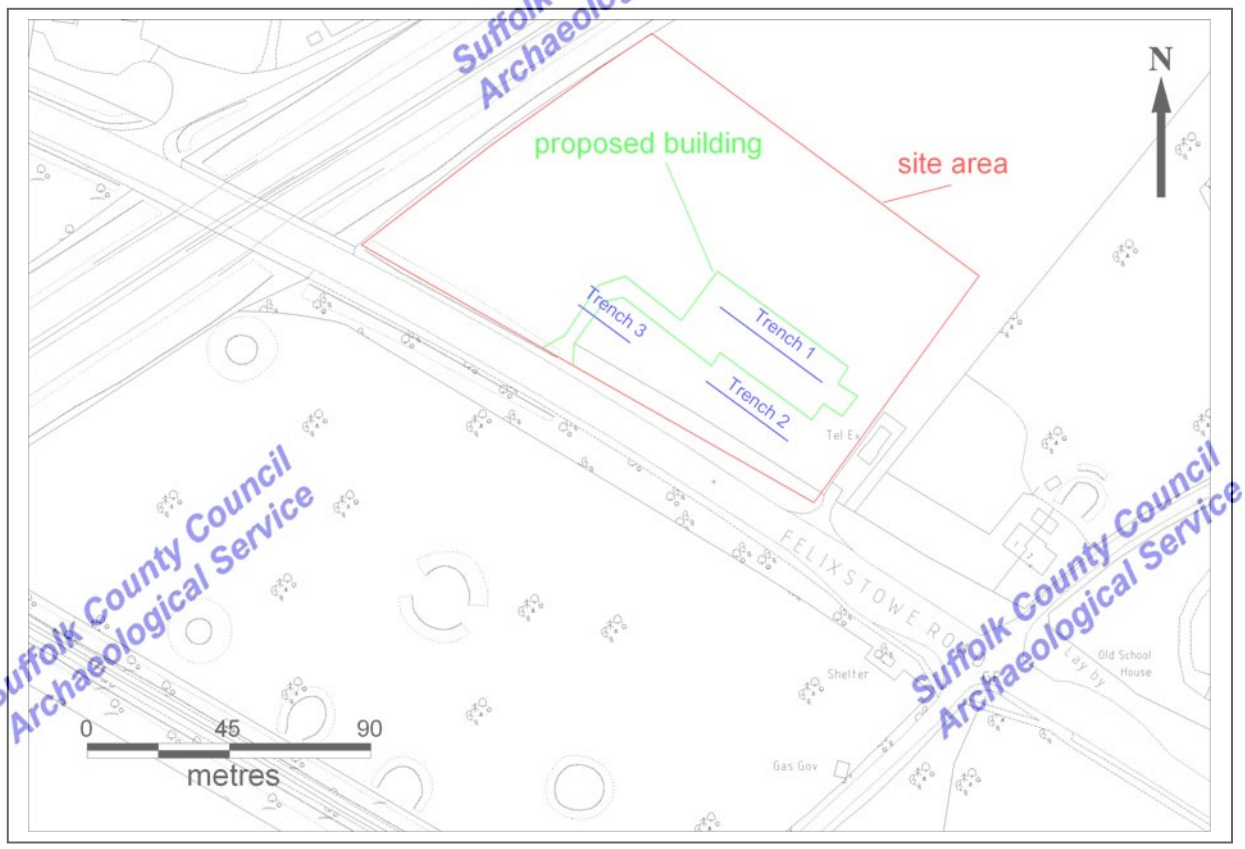

Figure 4. Location of the evaluation trenches

Results

O.P. No.	Trench No.	Feature	Component	Identifier	Description
0001	All trenches			Unstratified finds	Surface and displaced finds
0002	All trenches			Topsoil	Pale brown silty sand
0003	All trenches			Subsoil (below 0002)	Very mixed, re-deposited, pale yellow/orange/ brown sand
0004	All trenches	0004		Deposit (located below subsoil (0003) and above 0005	Dumped/re-deposited CBM, sand, silt etc.
0005	All trenches			Layer of wind blown sand (loess). Below 0004 and above 0006	Pale grey- pale brown fine wind blown sand (loess)
0006	All trenches			Natural underlying drift geology. Below 0005.	Bright orange sandy gravel

Table 1. Summary of Contexts

Trench 1

This trench was located centrally to the proposed building footprint and orientated south-east to north-west. The trench measured 40m long by 1.80m wide and was machined to a depth of 0.70m. The topsoil (0002) was of pale brown silty sand (formerly plough-soil), with few stones, other than occasional small pebbles and around 0.30m deep. Occasional charcoal flecks were observed and the deposit was heavily compacted in some areas. Below the topsoil was a very mixed re-deposited pale yellow-brown to orange sand (0003), with occasional small pebbles and was around 0.40m deep. This deposit sealed an equally mixed layer of sand (0004) containing dumped modern ceramic building materials, including tarmacadam, wood fragments and charcoal. This deposit was investigated at the north-west end of the trench by machining to deeper levels and was found to reach over 0.30m in depth (see Figure 1.). No undisturbed natural deposits were reached within this trench and no archaeological features or finds were located.

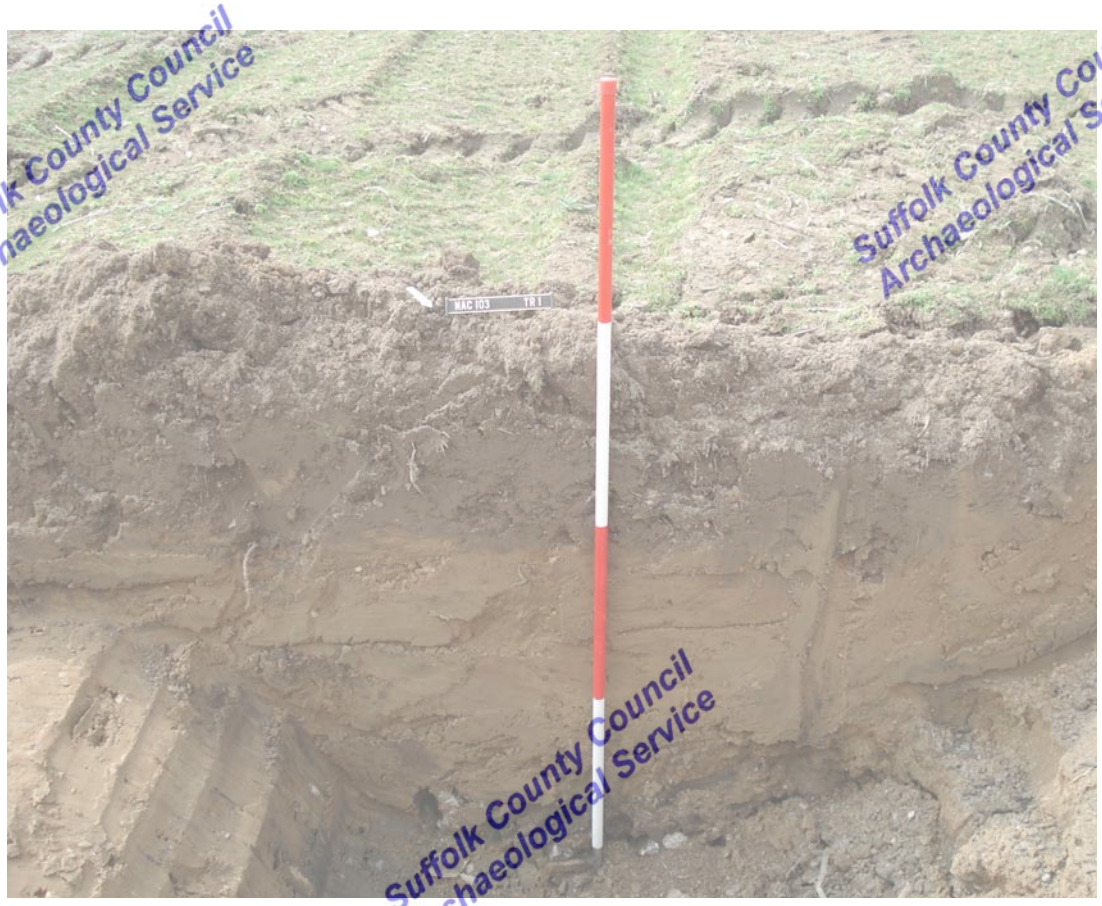

Figure 5. Trench 1 (north-west end)

Trench 2

Trench Two was excavated through an area south of the proposed building, equidistant from the building footprint and the road and was orientated north-west to south-east. The trench measured 32m long by 1.80m wide and reached a general depth of around 0.90m. The topsoil (0002) was identical to that seen in Trench 1, but slightly deeper at 0.40m. Similarly, a mixed sand deposit (0003) sealed a layer of dumped sand and building refuse (0004) as seen in Trench 1. An area of the trench at the north-west end was machined to greater depths in order to try and determine the extent of the modern disturbance (see Figure 6.). The deposit (0004) continued to a level of around 1.20m below the field surface, before revealing around 0.25m of pale grey-brown wind-blown sand (loess) (0005). Below this distinctive layer was bright orange natural sandy gravel (0006). No archaeological features or finds were seen.

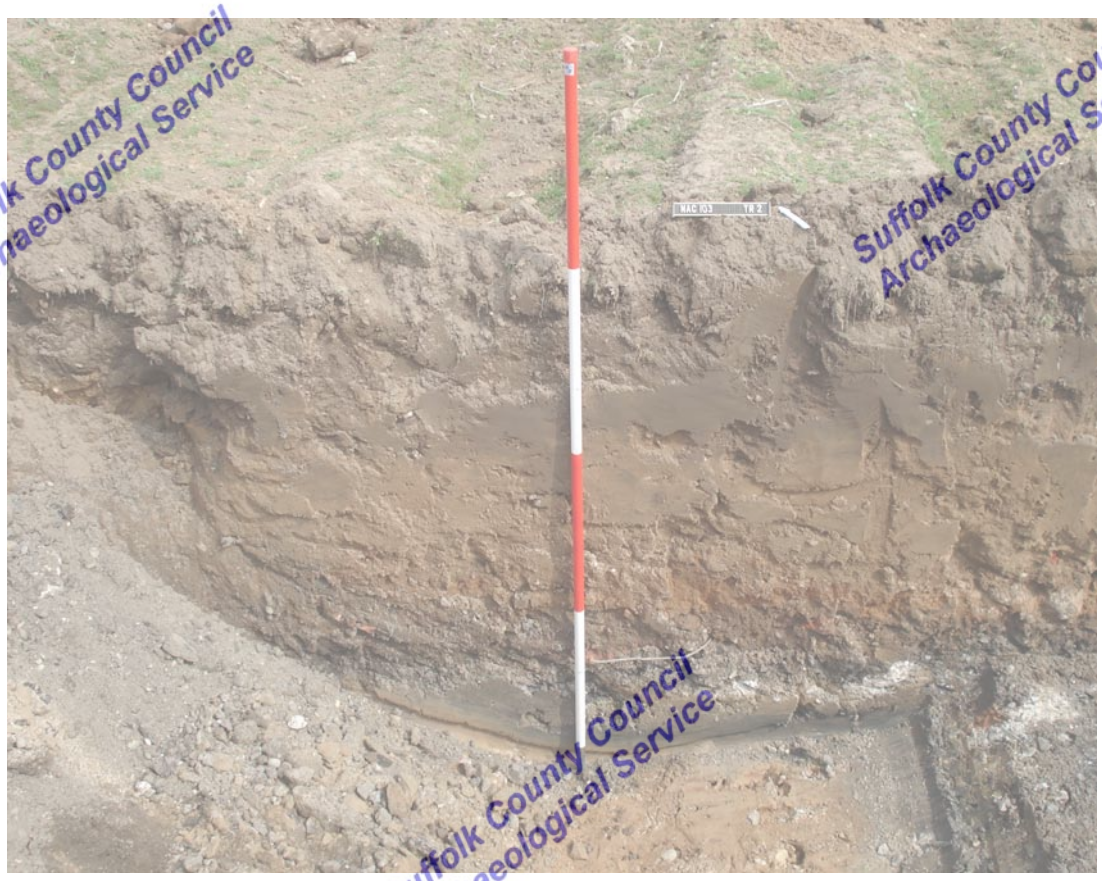

Figure 6. Trench 2. (north-west end)

Trench 3

Trench Three sampled the area to the west of the proposed building where an access road will link the development to the road. The trench was orientated north-west to south east; measuring 10m long by 1.80m wide and excavated to an average depth of around 0.85m. The topsoil (0002) was consistent with that seen in the previous trenches and averaged around 0.40m deep. The mixed re-deposited sand (0003) was again present, and reached depths of between 0.35m (NW end) to 0.45m (SE end). The layer of dumped material (0004) also continued into this area, but was considerably shallower at no more than 0.10m. This suggests that the location lies near to the limit of this modern infill. The wind-blown pale grey-brown sand (0005) continued as a thin layer of around 0.10m directly over the underlying natural bright orange sandy gravel (0006) (see Figure 7.). The surface of the natural deposit appears to be undulating in character and as a result, the low areas retained some of the wind-blown sand, closely mimicking cut archaeological linear features. However, after careful cleaning had been carried out, these were discounted. No archaeological features or finds were located.

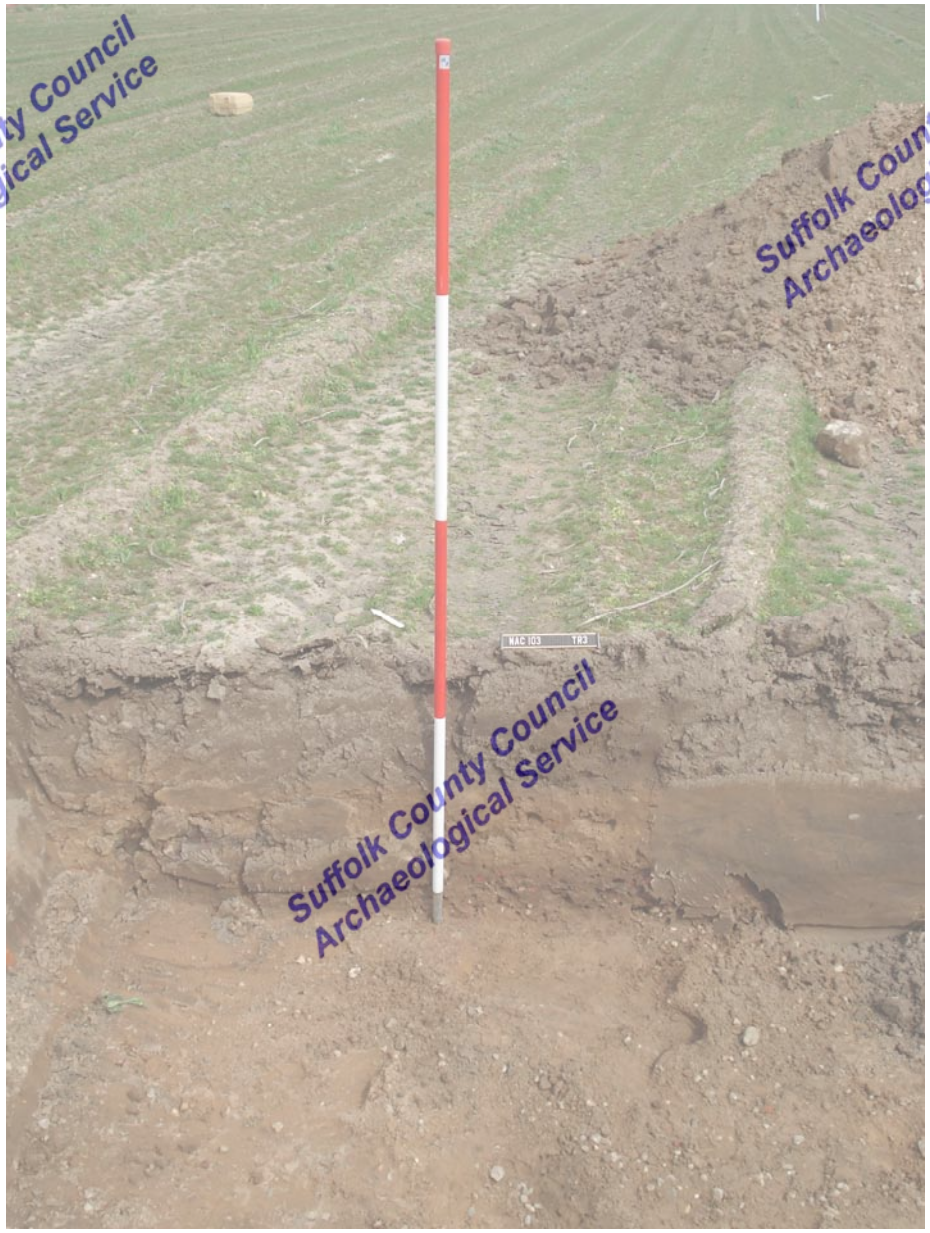

Figure 7. Trench 3. (north-west end)

Monitoring Results

Two monitoring visits were made to the site, after the evaluation was completed. The visits examined footing trenches excavated for the building stanchions and the soil stripping in preparation for the access road area. Both of these visits proved negative, no significant variations in the deposits were recorded from those seen during the evaluation and no archaeological features or finds were observed.

Conclusions

This area of land has suffered very extensive recent disturbance, over a wide area and to significant depths. It is evident that the topsoil, and probably some subsoil, has been removed in order to allow the disposal of modern construction waste material after which the topsoil was probably reinstated. Modern disturbance was recorded over an area of at least 100m wide and at depths of well over 1.00m. It is possible that this location was used as a compound during the construction of the A14 trunk road, located immediately to the north-west. No evidence of surviving archaeological features or finds were located during the evaluation.

References

Boulter, S., 1996 'Porter's Covert, Nacton (BUC 047&048), Archaeological Trial Trenching & Contour Survey' *SCCAS Report No. 96/80,* 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

LAND AT HOME FARM, 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 Planning permission for the erection of a bulk onion store with associated access, parking, pond and bunds on Land at Home Farm, Felixstowe Road, Nacton, Ipswich (TM 2243 4134) has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/07/0017/FUL).

1.2 The Planning Authority has been 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 (SCCAS/CT) 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.

1.9 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

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

3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area, which is 138m^2 of the area that includes the footprint of the store, parking, access and pond (2,766m^2). 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*. 77m 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 SCCAS/CT 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 and/or high resolution digital images.

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 SCCAS/CT. 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.

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

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

4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological 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 report should reflect the aims of the Project Design.

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

5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established

5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the county SMR.

5.8 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.9 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.

5.10 The project manager should consult the County SMR officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

5.11 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.

5.12 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.

5.13 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.14 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Sites and Monuments Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.15 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.

5.16 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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 3 April 2007

Reference: / HomeFarm-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.