

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land adjoining Tesco's, Rattler's Road, Brandon BRD 206

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no. F/2007/0336/FUL)

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Field Team

Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
HER information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion and Recommendations

References

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Site on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1885.
3. Site on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1905.
4. Trench plan

List of Tables

1. Trench list

List of Contributors

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

John Craven Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Tesco Stores Ltd and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by John Craven and Fiona Gamble from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by John Craven and managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The production of digital site plans was carried out by Fiona Gamble.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Tesco's, Rattler's Road, Brandon identified the presence of a relatively well-preserved natural subsoil but no archaeological deposits. The absence of such deposits indicates that the Late Saxon occupation seen to the west at BRD 156 does not extend in this direction, meaning that BRD 156 is likely to form the south-eastern edge of the Late Saxon settlement.

HER information

Planning application no.	F/2007/0336/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	19th February 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 7810 8620
Funding body:	Tesco Stores Ltd
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-37986

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a carpark extension to the existing Tesco's store on adjacent land at Rattler's Road, Brandon (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2007/0336/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Tesco Stores Ltd.

The site was of interest as it lay 300m to the south of the site of Middle Saxon Brandon, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. SF 229). This site, BRD 018, was excavated in the 1980's and is one of the most important excavated settlements of the period. Late Saxon occupation is known to extend southwards from BRD 018, as seen at excavations at BRD 071 and BRD 156. The latter site was excavated prior to the development of the current Tesco's store and indicated that it lay towards the southern edge of the Late Saxon settlement (Tester 2000).

The development area lay to the south-west of the medieval and post-medieval town and appears to have been undeveloped until the 20th century. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1885 (Fig. 2) shows the site as open land, partially within the grounds of a single building that stood at the Rattler's Road/London Road junction. In the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1905 (Fig. 3) the site is also shown as open land, probably in use as allotments, adjacent to a brickworks which stood on the Tesco's site. The area was subsequently developed in the 20th century and was the site of the town's Police Station. The buildings on the site were demolished to ground level, c.7m OD, prior to the start of the evaluation.

Allowing for potential disturbance caused by the 20th century buildings it was thought likely that the site had high potential for the presence of Late Saxon occupation deposits. A programme of archaeological evaluation was therefore required to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to establish any archaeological implications for its development. The aims of the evaluation were to identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposits and to establish their geographic extent and levels of preservation. An assessment of the site's importance could then be made and a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy for the site constructed.

2. Methodology

Four trenches were excavated by a mechanical 360° excavator equipped with a 1.6m ditching bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Fig. 4). Totalling 53m in length, the 84.8sqm thus evaluated was equivalent to c.5.66% of the 1500sqm site. Adjustments to the trench plan were made from an initial proposed layout due to the position of a live drainage pipe. Trenching was also set well within the boundaries of the site to avoid other known live services which ran along the southern and eastern edges.

The trenches were excavated either to the top of the natural subsoil surface a mix of mid orange/yellow sands. This generally involved the removal of 0.4m of topsoil and a 0.2m-0.4m thick uniform layer of mid yellow/brown sands.

The trenches were planned, and site levels recorded, using an RTK GPS. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-37986) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. BRD 206.

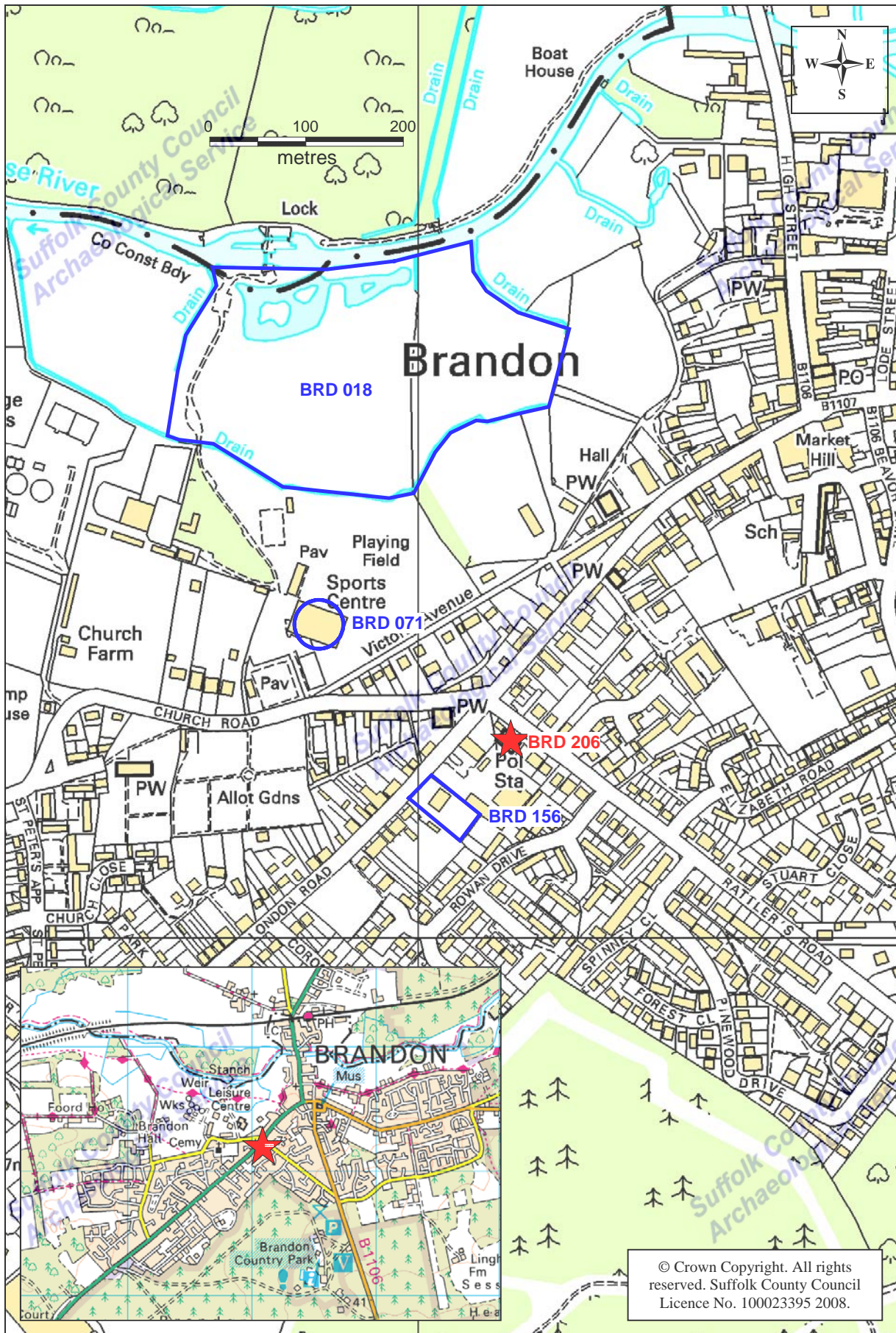


Figure 1. Site location plan

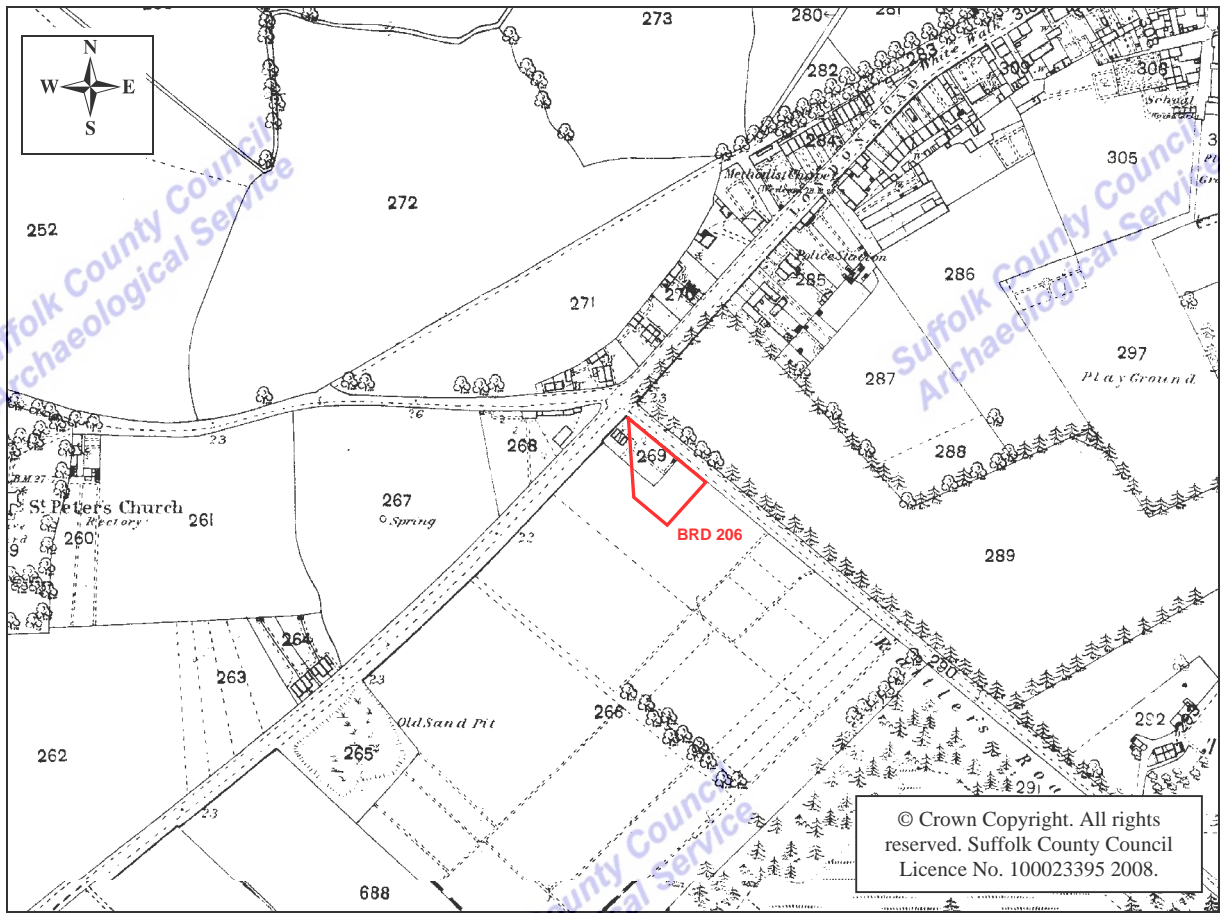


Figure 2. Site on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1885.

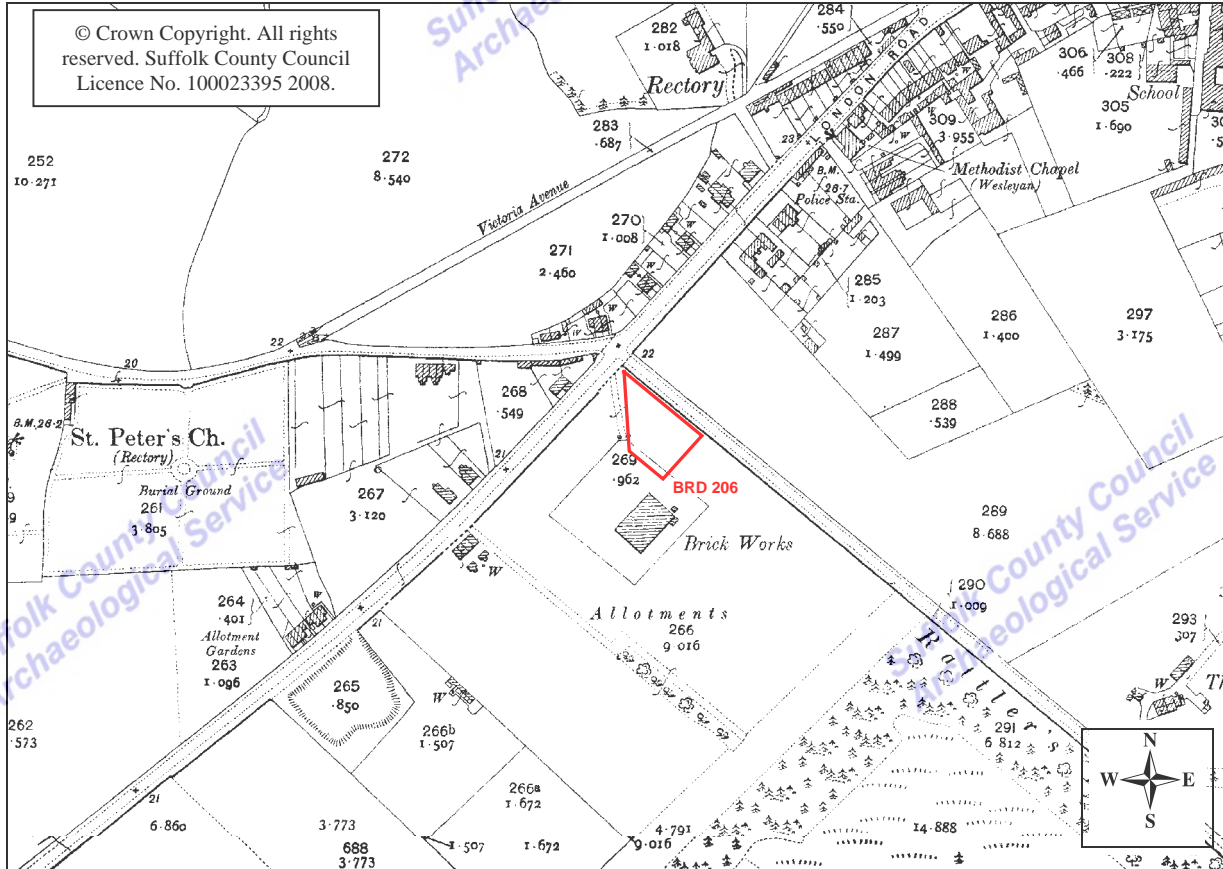


Figure 3. Site on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1905.

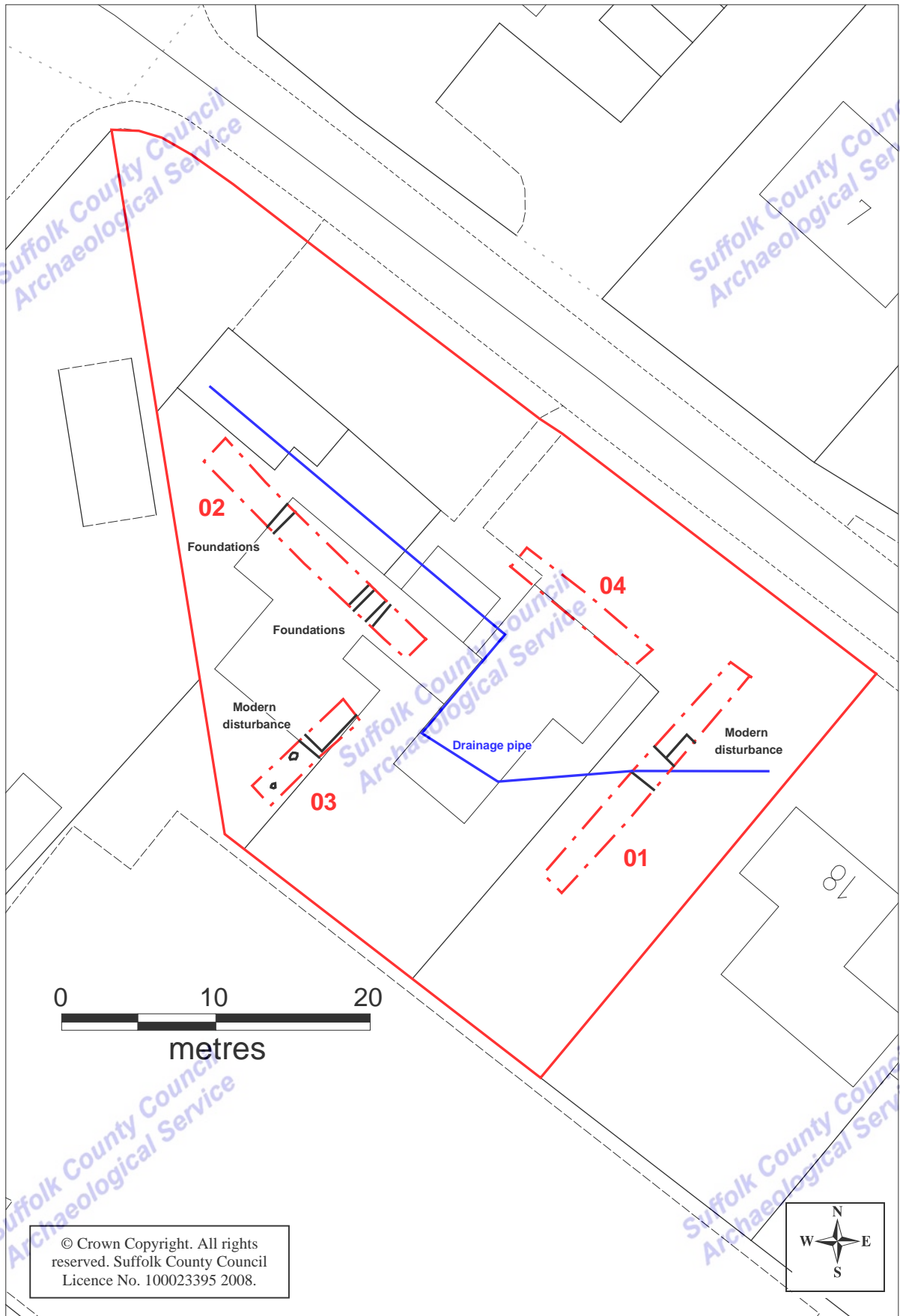


Figure 4. Trench plan

3. Results

The site had been cleared of buildings and roughly levelled, with building foundations being left *in situ*. Excavation of the footing trenches however was straightforward, with little modern disturbance extending below a depth of 0.5m.

Trench No	Length	Alignment	Soil profile
01	18m	NE-SW	0.4m topsoil over 0.2m mid yellow/brown sands.
02	18m	NW-SE	0.4m topsoil over 0.3m mid yellow/brown sands.
03	7m	NE-SW	0.4m topsoil over 0.2m mid yellow/brown sands.
04	10m	NW-SE	0.4m topsoil over 0.2m mid yellow/brown sands.

Table 1. Trench list

The four trenches showed a consistent soil profile across the site, with a 0.4m topsoil overlying a layer of mid yellow/brown sands. This sand layer in turn sealed the natural subsoil horizon, occasionally infilling slight natural hollows in the undulating subsoil surface. No archaeological deposits were seen in any of the trenches.

Various concrete building foundations were identified at a depth of c.0.4m, at the base of the topsoil, but were only c.0.2m thick and did not extend through the sand layer to impact upon the preserved subsoil surface. Other small areas of modern disturbance did however cut the natural subsoil in Trenches 01 and 03.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a relatively well-preserved natural subsoil horizon, minimally affected by 20th century activity, lying across the site and sealed below a layer of sands and topsoil. The absence of any archaeological deposits therefore is due to a genuine lack of human activity or occupation upon the site at any point in time.

The late Saxon occupation seen at BRD 156 and BRD 071 therefore does not appear to extend in this direction, further indication that BRD 156 is on the south-eastern fringes of this settlement.

The absence of results in the evaluation trenches shows that future development will have no impact upon archaeological deposits and that the site is of minimal archaeological interest. Accordingly there is no recommendation for any further programme of archaeological work to fulfill the condition on the planning application.

J.A.Craven
Project Officer
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
February 2008

References

Tester. A, 2000, Land off London Road, Brandon, BRD 156. SCCAS Report No. 2000/01.

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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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Tesco Stores new car park, Brandon Evaluation by Trial Trench

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 1.3.

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/2007/0336/FUL) has been given for creation of new vehicular access and additional carparking (associated works for an infill extension to the store do not have archaeological implications, do not require a programme of archaeological work, and are not covered by this brief).
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition 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 This proposal area lies within the area of Late Saxon settlement (identified on the adjacent Tesco site). The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

The proposed development methodology for the scheme involves the removal of the existing building which occupies the site off Rattlers Road, the clearance of oversite surfaces and investigation of the existing building footings as the first phase. The methodology is to include archaeological evaluation by an approved archaeological contractor of the area of carpark development after site clearance.

The detailed methodology of the site clearance is to be agreed with the archaeological contractor in advance in order to preclude damage to potential archaeological horizons and will include an archaeological presence to control the degree of disturbance.

- 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 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, 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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3 Specification for Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the [development area / entire site](#) 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.
- 6.12 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: RDCarr

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

Tel: 01284 35244

Date: 29/08/2007

Reference: spec eval Tesco Brandon

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.