

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land at Kessingland Primary School, Field Lane, Kessingland, Suffolk

KSS 080

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008

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Field Team

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

© April 2008

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SCCAS Report Number: 2008/138

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HER information

Planning application no:	DC/07/1827/FUL
Site code:	KSS 080
Date of fieldwork:	09–10 April 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 5304 8664
Funding body:	Flagship Housing Group
OASIS reference:	suffolkc1-40327

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Summary

KSS 080: Land at Kessingland Primary School, Field Lane, Kessingland, Suffolk (TM 5304 8664): A trial trench evaluation was carried out in advance of a housing development. Five trenches (total area 323.25m²) were excavated, representing approximately 5% of the site.

Two ditches were found immediately below modern topsoil, cutting the natural boulder clay. One of the ditches (oriented north-south) is provisionally dated to the Early Bronze Age, although its fills also include pottery that might be of Neolithic date. The second ditch (oriented east-west) also produced possible Neolithic pottery and a sherd of Roman grey-ware. Given the quantity of finds from the ditch fills it is considered likely that there was prehistoric occupation in their immediate vicinity.

Due to the positive results of the evaluation a further phase of archaeological investigation is recommended.

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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Kessingland Primary School, Field Lane, Kessingland (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for a residential development (Waveney District Council planning application number: DC/07/1827/FUL). ISG Jackson Ltd commissioned the evaluation on behalf of Flagship Housing Group.

2.0 Location, topography and geology

The development site is centred at National Grid Reference TM 5304 8664 and encompasses an area of approximately 6400m². The site is bounded by the grounds of Kessingland Primary School to the north, a residential parking area to the south and houses and gardens to the east and west.

Current land use is as a recreational field with public access. Ground level slopes from c. 15.0m OD at the north western corner of the site to c. 12.5m OD at the south eastern corner of the site. The published surface geology in the area of the site is glacio-fluvial drift and chalky till deposits.

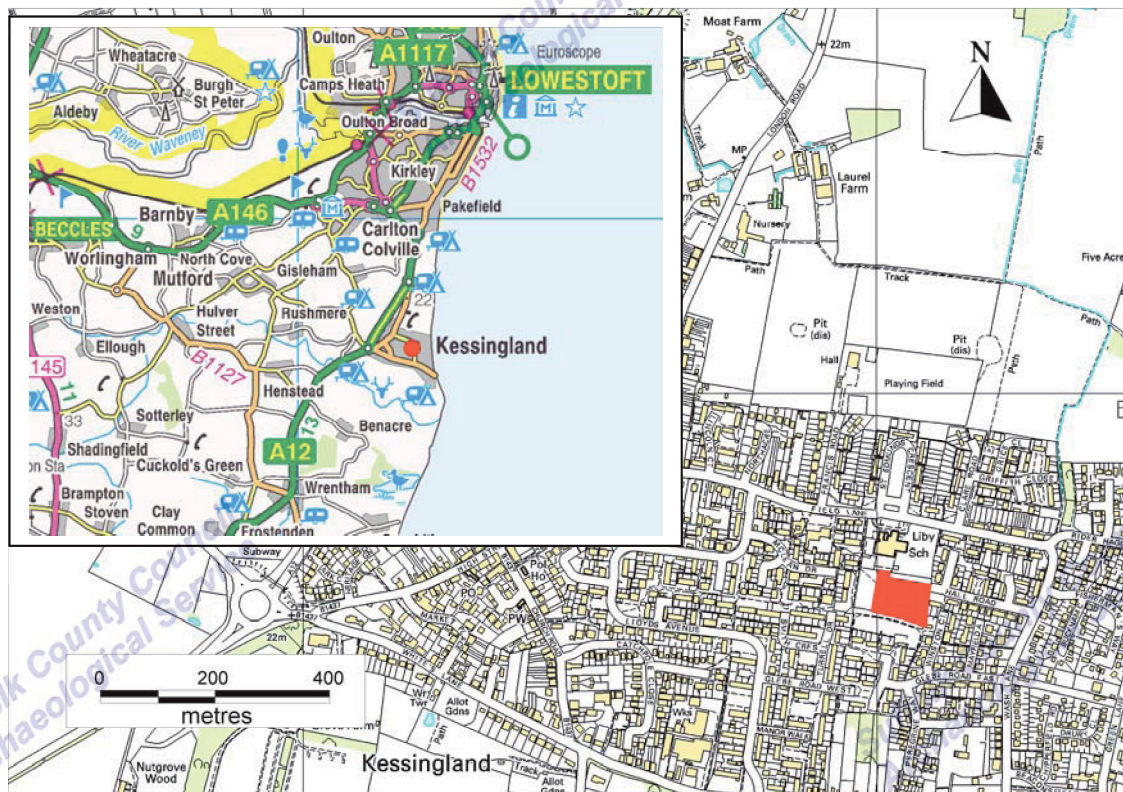


Figure 1. Site location maps

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3.0 Archaeological background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest defined in the County Historic Environment Record (Fig 2). In particular, a hoard of four Bronze Age axes and a Roman coin have been found at KSS 012 and Roman pottery and coins have been found at KSS 019. The medieval church of St Edmund (KSS 022) is located about 400m south west of the site.

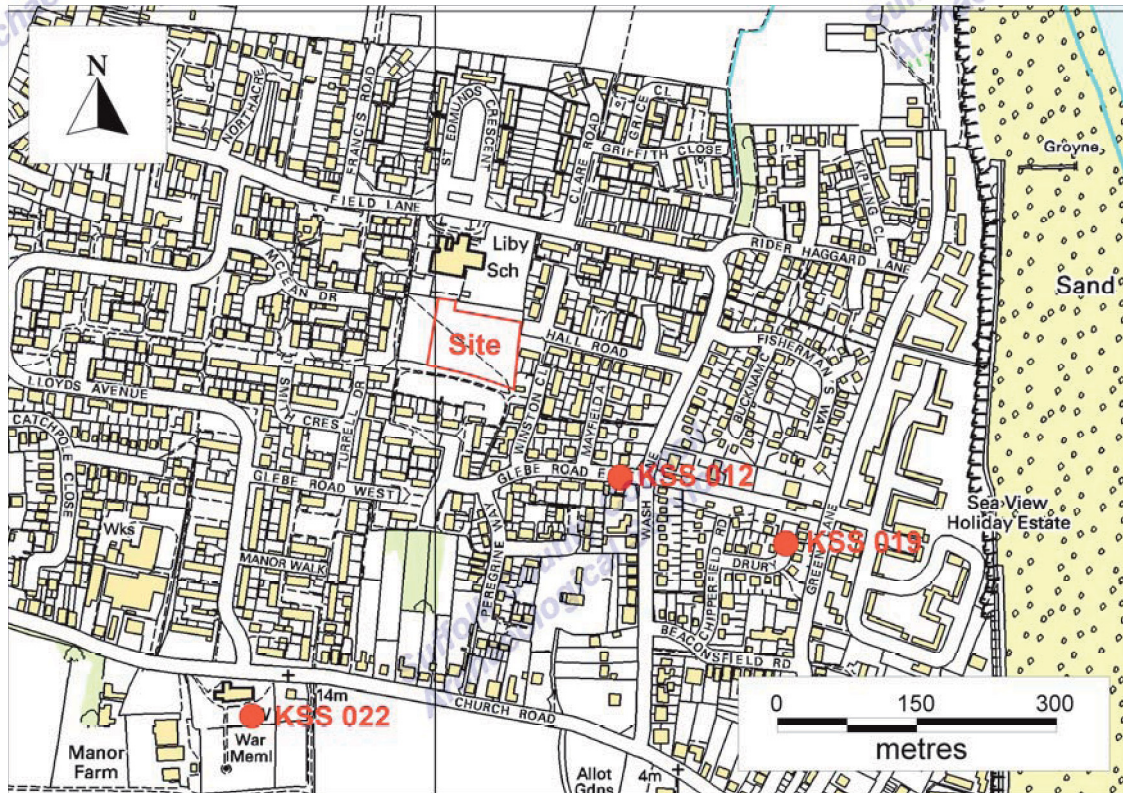


Figure 2. Historic Environment entries within 400m of the site

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4.0 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation took place 09–10 April 2008 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Dr. Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation team (Tipper, 2008; Appendix 3).

Five evaluation trenches (Fig 3) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide, toothless bucket. The trenches were between 25m and 71m in length and were excavated generally to a depth of 0.35–0.40m below ground level. Trench 2 was deeper at its east end (1.10m).

Generally, mechanical excavation continued to the level of the geological stratum. A number of intrusive archaeological features extending below 0.35m were excavated partially (1m wide segments) with hand tools.

The archaeological features and deposits and the natural strata were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0012. They were drawn in plan (at a scale of 1:20) and section (at a scale of 1:10) on 290 x 320mm sheets of gridded drawing film. All written records (soil descriptions, etc) were made on *pro-forma* context sheets. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of 3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg images. Three deposits were sampled for environmental analysis.

Trench locations were recorded by off-setting from fixed points on the site perimeter. Levels were calculated by reference to an arbitrary point adjacent to the north western corner of the site, close to the 15m contour. For this reason the levels shown in this report should be considered approximate.

The evaluation trenches covered an area of 323.25m², representing 5% of the total area of the proposed housing development.

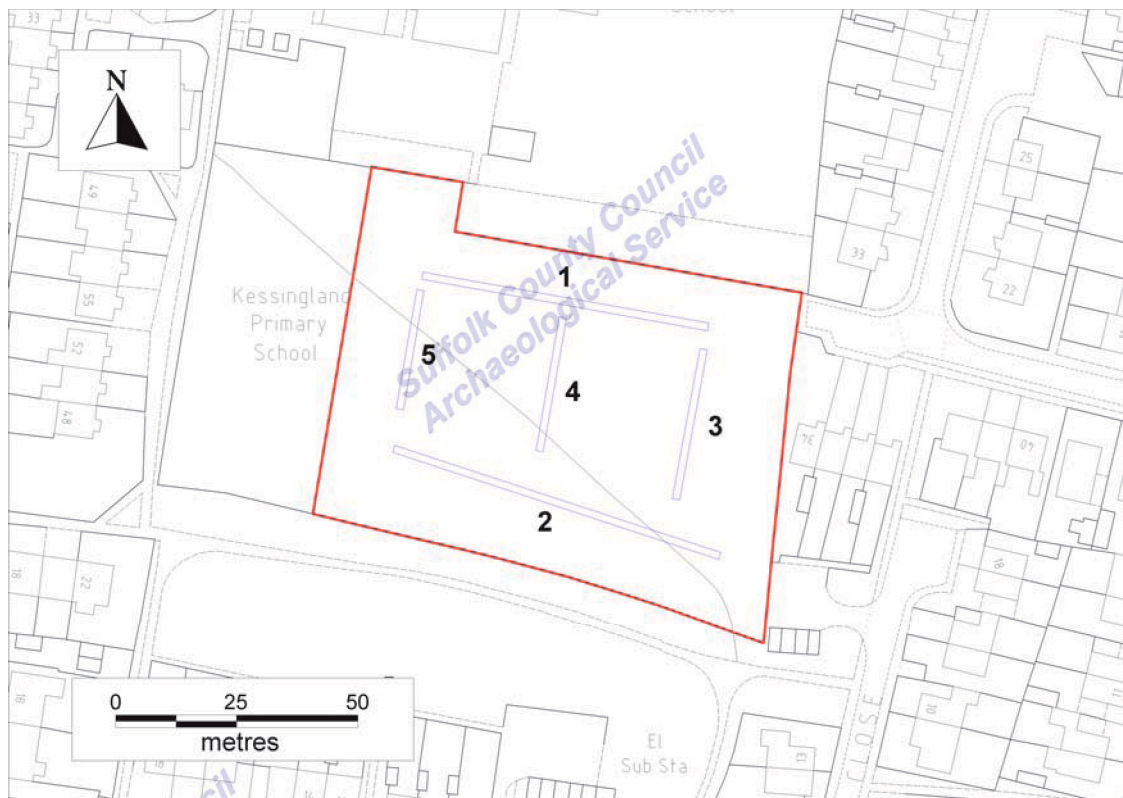


Figure 3. Trench locations (blue) and extent of the development site (red)

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5.0 Results

Generally the evaluation revealed a simple, horizontal sequence of natural boulder clay (chalky till) sealed by modern topsoil. The boundary between these deposits is sharp and there is little or no evidence of a natural soil profile or former land surfaces. Although the composition of these horizontal deposits varies across the site they can be described generally as follows:

Topsoil 0001: Compact, mid brownish grey slightly clayey loam containing moderate fine–medium pebbles and occasional small–large fragments of modern (19/20th century) pottery, glass, building material, metalwork and coal. The topsoil supports a layer of turf that forms the current land surface.

Natural boulder clay 0012: Firm, light yellowish brown clay/silt with varying quantities of chalk, as flecks or small fragments, and occasional flint pebbles. At the east end of Trench 2 the natural boulder clay was overlaid by a natural deposit of clayey sand 0011 (see below).

The results from each trench are described below:

Trench 1

Dimensions: 60m x 1.50m x 0.35m deep (west), 0.30m (east)

Ground level: 14.24m OD (west), 13.86m OD (east)

Deposits	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0001 and modern turf	0.00
Ditch 0005 and its fills	0.26–0.77m
Ditch 0009 and its fill	0.35–0.95m
Natural boulder clay 0012	0.35m (west), 0.26 (east)

Ditch 0005 (Figs 4–6) is located approximately 3.50m from the east end of Trench 1. It is oriented approximately north-south and measures >1.50m long x 1.90m wide x 0.50m deep. It is sealed by topsoil 0001 and cuts natural boulder clay 0012. The ditch has a flattened, U-shaped profile and contains three fills:

0002 and 0004 are deposits of compact, mid brown clayey silt containing occasional pebbles. The upper fill 0002 produced moderate small–medium fragments of pottery. Fill 0003 is a deposit of loose, dark brown/black silty sand, apparently rich in charcoal, containing occasional pebbles, moderate small–medium fragments of pottery and two fragments of worked flint. No finds were recovered from lower fill 0004. All three fills of ditch 0005 were sampled for environmental analysis.

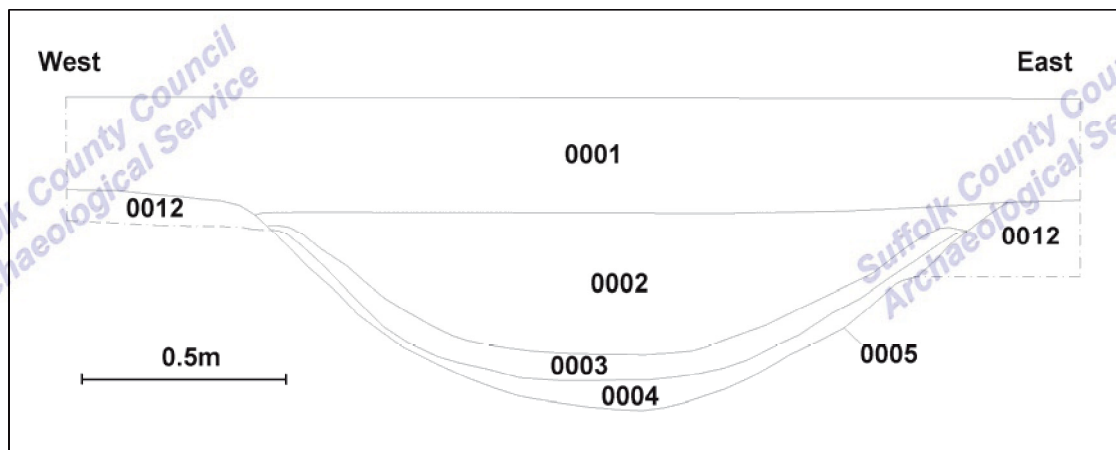


Figure 4. South-facing section through ditch 0005

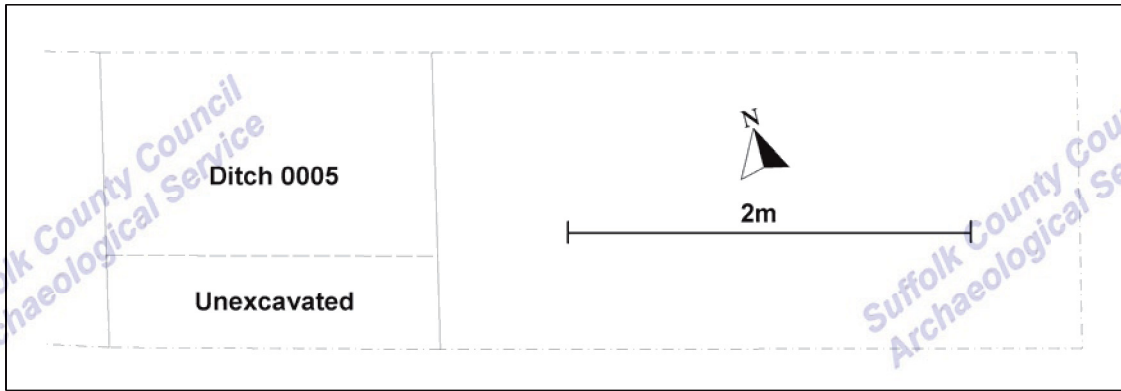


Figure 5. Plan of ditch 0005



Figure 6. View of ditch 0005, looking north (1m scale)

Ditch 0009 (Figs 7 & 8) is located towards the west end of Trench 1. It is oriented approximately east-west and measures >9.0m long x 1.20m wide x 0.60m deep. At its west end the ditch makes a right-angled turn to the north, for an unknown distance. It is sealed by topsoil 0001 and cuts natural boulder clay 0012. The ditch has a V-shaped profile with a rounded base and contains a single fill:

0008 is a deposit of firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of pottery.

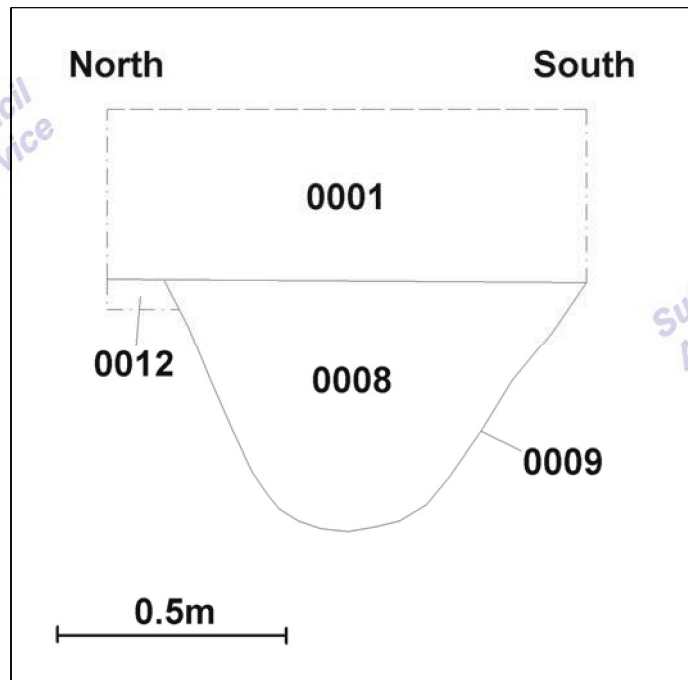


Figure 7. West-facing section through east end of ditch 0009

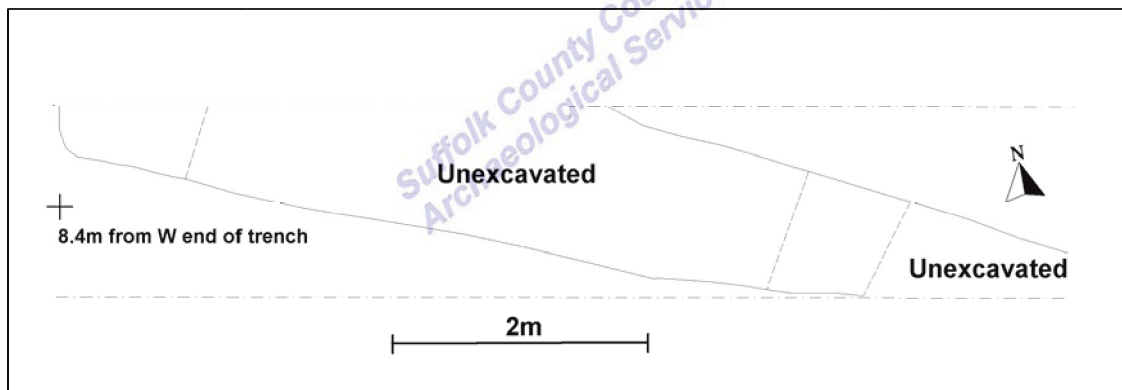


Figure 8. Plan of ditch 0009

Trench 2

Dimensions: 71m x 1.50m x 0.40m deep (west), 1.10m deep (east)

Ground level: 13.49m OD (west), 12.62m OD (east)

Deposits	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0001 and modern turf	0.00
Layer 0010	0.30 (east end only)
Natural clayey sand 0011	1.00 (east end only)
Natural boulder clay 0012	0.35 (centre and west end only)

At the east end of Trench 2 the topsoil overlies layer 0010, a deposit of soft, mid brown sandy silt containing moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of post medieval brick and coal (not retained). It is up to 0.70m thick, becoming thinner to the west and petering out about 40m from the east end of the trench.

Layer 0010 overlies natural stratum 0011, a deposit of clayey sand with discrete patches of sub angular–rounded flint pebbles. The thickness of the deposit is unknown. It tapers out about 10m from the east end of the trench, where it overlies natural boulder clay 0012.

No archaeological features were observed in Trench 2.

Trench 3

Dimensions: 31.50m x 1.50m x 0.40m deep

Ground level: 13.74 OD (north), 12.89m OD (south)

Deposits	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0001 and modern turf	0.00
Natural boulder clay 0012	0.35

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Dimensions: 28m x 1.50m x 0.40m deep

Ground level: 13.98m OD (north), 13.29m OD (south)

Deposits	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0001 and modern turf	0.00
Ditch 0007 and its fill	0.35–0.86m
Natural boulder clay 0012	0.35

Ditch 0007 (Figs 9–10) is located near the north end of Trench 4. It is oriented approximately east-west and measures >1.70m long x 0.90m wide x 0.51m deep. It is sealed by topsoil 0001 and cuts natural boulder clay 0012. The ditch has a V-shaped profile with a rounded base and contains a single fill:

0006 is a deposit of firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional pebbles but no cultural material.

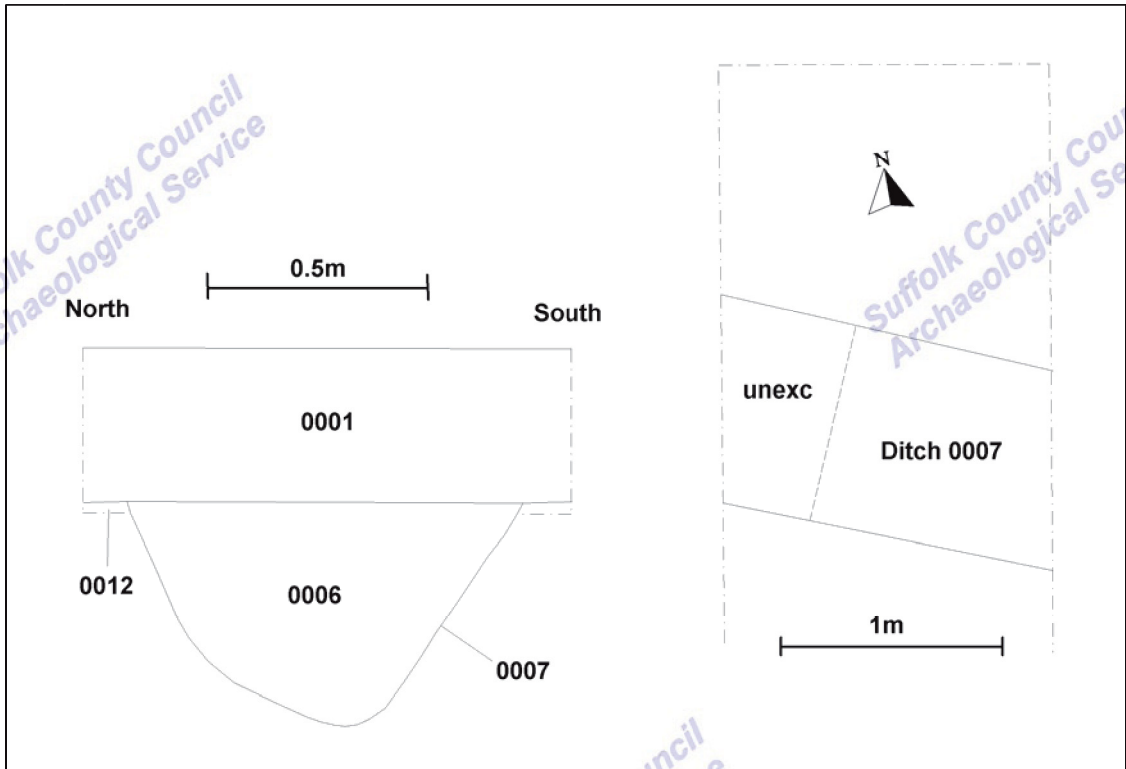


Figure 9. West-facing section and plan of ditch 0007



Figure 10. View of ditch 0007, looking east (0.5m scale)

Trench 5

Dimensions: 25m x 1.50m x 0.40m deep

Ground level: 14.17m OD (north), 13.55m OD (south)

Deposits	Depth below ground level (m)
Topsoil 0001 and modern turf	0.00
Natural boulder clay 0012	0.35

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in Trench 5.

6.0 Finds evidence (Cathy Tester)

Introduction

Finds were collected from three contexts, as shown in the table below:

OP	Pottery		Fired clay		Flint		Burnt flint		Misc	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	18	160	2	4						BA, Neo?
0003	9	194	2	6	2	31	1	50	Bt stone 2-53g	Neo
0008	6	44								Rom, Neo?
Total	33	398	4	10	2	31	1	50		

Pottery

A total of 33 sherds of pottery weighing 398g were collected from three contexts and all but one sherd is hand-made and prehistoric.

27 flint-tempered sherds (320g) of possible Neolithic date were collected from ditch 0005 (fills 0002 and 0003) and ditch 0009 (fill 0008). The flint-tempered sherds contain abundant medium-sized angular burnt flint and have red-orange and brown external surfaces and dark grey-black internal surfaces. None are decorated but one large body sherd from 0003 has two pre-firing perforations (c. 7mm diameter). The sherds are potentially Neolithic but none of them are diagnostic enough to allow positive identification (Edward Martin, *pers comm*).

Five undecorated grog- and sand-tempered sherds (72g) of probable Early Bronze Age date were identified in ditch 0005 (fill 0002). The Early Bronze Age fabric is soft buff-orange and buff-brown, and contains abundant medium to large sub-rounded grog pieces. Four sherds have dark grey-black cores. One flat base and one plain upright rim were present and the sherds are probably from an urn or beaker. Four vessels are represented possibly.

A single wheel-made Roman grey-ware body sherd (6g) was found in ditch 0009 (fill 0008).

Fired clay

Four small fragments of fired clay were collected from two contexts in ditch 0005 (fills 0002 and 0003). All have a fine, sandy, orange and buff fabric and

were found in association with prehistoric pottery but are themselves non diagnostic and un-datable.

Flint (Colin Pendleton)

Two worked flints were found in ditch 0005 (fill 0003). The first is a lightly patinated blade of probable Neolithic date with limited edge retouch and numerous parallel blade scars on its dorsal face. The second is a snapped long flake with limited edge retouch or use-wear. It is hard hammer struck and of later prehistoric date.

Burnt flint and stone

A fragment of fire-cracked flint (a possible pot-boiler) and two fragments of heat-altered sandstone were collected from ditch fill 0003.

Finds discussion

The finds assemblage was recovered from three contexts in two features, both ditches, and contains prehistoric pottery and flint that indicate activity on this site during the Neolithic period and Early Bronze Age.

The pottery includes grog-tempered wares which belong to the Early Bronze Age and flint-tempered wares that are potentially Neolithic, but cannot be dated precisely due to the absence of diagnostic pieces. The possibility that they are Bronze Age or Iron Age cannot be ruled out entirely but it is hoped that further excavation will provide more conclusive evidence.

Worked flint includes a Neolithic blade and a later prehistoric flake.

Small amounts of non-diagnostic fired clay and heat-altered flint and stone are un-datable themselves but were found in association with prehistoric finds.

A single Roman grey-ware pot sherd was the only post-prehistoric find.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The natural topography of the site exhibits a gradual fall from north west to south east, with the gradient increasing slightly in the south eastern corner of the site. The principal natural stratum is boulder clay 0012, but in the south-eastern corner of the site this is overlaid by a glacio-fluvial deposit of clayey sand 0011.

Generally the boulder clay 0012 is sealed by modern topsoil 0001. The absence of a natural soil profile, or even a well-defined former agricultural soil, suggests that there has been some truncation of the site in recent times. This might have occurred if the site was levelled for use as a playing field when Kessingland Primary School and the surrounding housing estate were built in the 1960s.

Layer 0010, overlying the natural strata in the south-eastern corner of the site, *might* be the remains of a former ploughsoil. Certainly, the inclusion of post-

medieval brick and coal fragments indicate that the deposit has been modified in relatively recent times. Alternatively the soil might have been imported to level this corner of the site when it became a playing field.

Despite the apparent truncation of the site archaeological cut features have been identified in two of the evaluation trenches, as shown on Figure 11.

Ditch 0005, at the east end of Trench 1, seems to be of Early Bronze Age date (2000–1500 BC) although much of the pottery from the ditch fills *could* be from the Neolithic period (4000–2000 BC). This might indicate that the ditch remained open for some considerable time. This is borne out by the well-stratified nature of its fills, suggestive of gradual infilling rather than deliberate backfilling. It is noted that the five sherds of pottery that are dated provisionally to the Early Bronze Age are from the *upper* fill 0002. Of the two pieces of worked flint from fill 0003 one is probably Neolithic and the other can be dated only to the 'later prehistoric' period.

The extent of the ditch is unknown. Since it was not found in Trenches 2, 3 or 4 it may terminate somewhere to the south of its observed location. To the north, it is likely to extend beyond the northern boundary of the site. The function of the ditch is unknown also, although the size of the pottery assemblage from the short section that was evaluated suggests that there was occupation in the immediate vicinity.

Ditch 0007 (Trench 4) and ditch 0009 (Trench 1) are almost certainly part of the same feature, as shown on Figure 11. A few fragments of pottery from fill 0008 in ditch 0009 are potentially Neolithic (4000–2000 BC), but the ditch also produced a sherd of Roman pottery (43–410 AD). The latter *might* be intrusive, and consequently the dating evidence for this feature is inconclusive.

The extent of the ditch is unknown. At its west end it turns northwards and presumably extends beyond the northern boundary of the site. To the east, it was not observed in Trench 3 and is assumed to terminate somewhere between Trenches 3 and 4.

It is unlikely that ditch 0007/0009 was contemporary with ditch 0005. It has a completely different profile and (unlike 0005) appears to have been backfilled deliberately in a single action rather than being left open to silt up gradually.

No archaeological features were observed in Trenches 2, 3 and 5. However, given the quantity of prehistoric finds (from ditch 0005 in particular) it should not be assumed that the southern part of the site is devoid of archaeological remains.

The environmental samples that were taken from the fills of ditch 0005 have not yet been processed. For this reason should further archaeological work take place on the site environmental sampling will need to be more extensive, since there has been no assessment of potential at the evaluation stage.

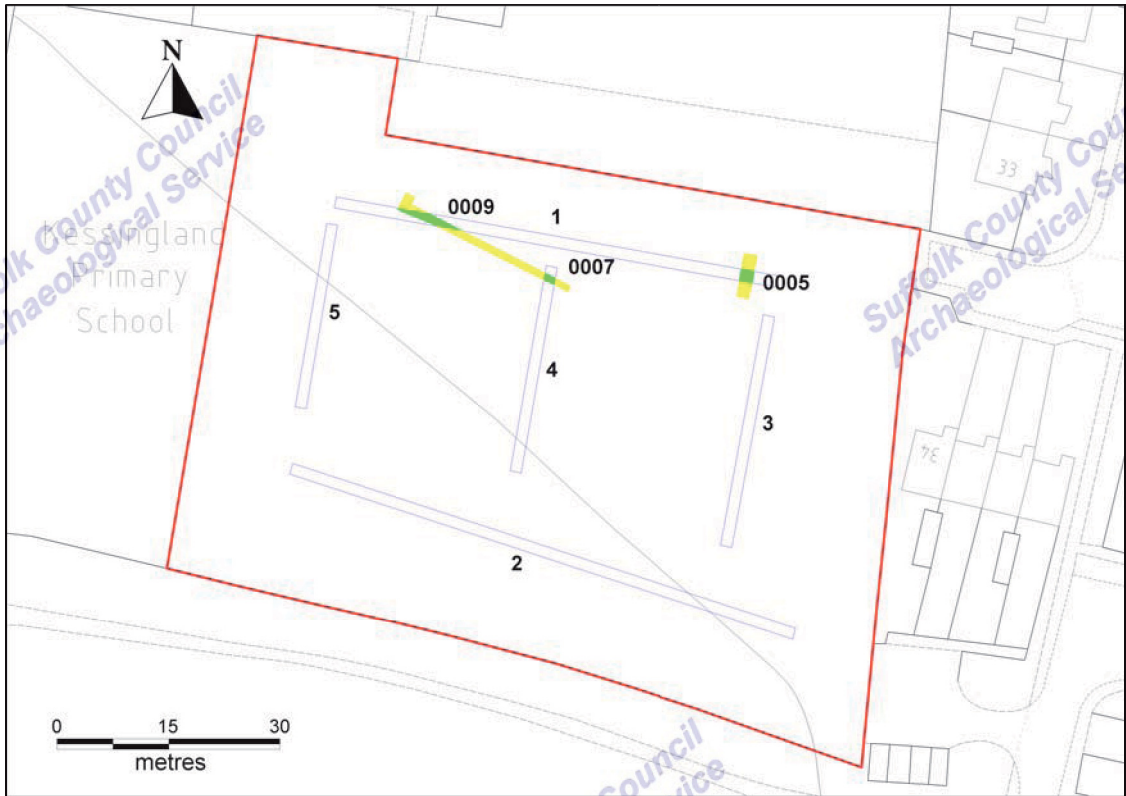


Figure 11. Plan of archaeological features (green, observed; yellow, projected)

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8.0 Recommendations for further work

The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological remains exist in the northern part of the site and that these are likely to extend into central and eastern areas. Associated features are likely to exist elsewhere on the site.

It is understood that the proposed development includes the construction of 32 flats, a library and a café (Fig 12). Although the exact methods of construction are not known it is clear that the proposed development will have an impact on the archaeological resource on this site.

It is recommended therefore that a further phase of archaeological investigation should be undertaken to clarify the nature and extent of the known archaeological features and to identify and record any associated features that are threatened by the proposed development.



Figure 12. Plan of the proposed development

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.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by ISG Jackson Ltd on behalf of Flagship Housing Group.

The Brief and Specification for the evaluation was written by Jess Tipper and the project was monitored by William Fletcher (SCCAS, Conservation Team).

The project was managed by John Newman and supervised by Kieron Heard. Phil Camps assisted with the fieldwork (SCCAS, Field Team).

The finds were processed by Gemma Adams and Valerie Turp, and Cathy Tester prepared the finds report (SCCAS, Post-excavation Team). Specialist advice was provided by Colin Pendleton and Edward Martin (SCCAS, Conservation Team).

9.0 Bibliography

Tipper, J., 2008, *Brief and specification for an archaeological trenched evaluation: Land at Kessingland Primary School, Field Lane, Kessingland, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Type	Trench	Interpretation	Image numbers
0001	Deposit	All	Modern topsoil	All
0002	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch 0005	001-005
0003	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch 0005	001-005
0004	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch 0005	001-005
0005	Cut	1	NS ditch	001-005
0006	Deposit	4	Fill of ditch 0007	006
0007	Cut	4	EW ditch	006
0008	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch 0009	0010, 0011
0009	Cut	1	EW ditch	0010, 0011
0010	Deposit	2	Layer	0012
0011	Deposit	2	Natural sand	0012
0012	Deposit	All	Natural boulder clay	001-006, 0010-0012

Appendix 2: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

Type	Number	Format
Context register	1	A4 paper
Context recording sheets	12	A4 paper
Environmental sample register	1	A4 paper
Environmental sample sheets	3	A4 paper
Plan/section drawing sheets	5	290 x 320mm film
Digital images	12	3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg
Digital image register	1	A4 paper
Report (SCCAS report no. 2008/138)	1	A4 ring-bound

Appendix 3: Brief and Specification

LAND AT KESSINGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, FIELD LANE, KESSINGLAND, 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 DC/07/1827/FUL) has been granted by Waveney District Council for the erection of 32 flats, community resource, library, new access and associated parking and gardens on Land at Kessingland Primary School, Field Lane, Kessingland, Suffolk (TM 5304 8664) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures c. 0.64ha., to the south of Kessingland Primary School. It is situated on glacio-fluvial drift and chalky till deposits (sand and coarse loamy soils) at c. 10 - 15.00m OD.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, with prehistoric and Roman find spots (KSS 012 and KSS 019) recorded close to this location, indicative of further occupation deposits. There is a strong possibility that archaeological deposits will be encountered at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 There is high potential for important archaeological features to be located in this area. The proposed works would cause significant change ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 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).
- 1.5 A trenched evaluation is required of the development area. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. 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.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 Any changes to the specifications 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.

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 5% by area, which is 320m² of the total application area. 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. 178m of trenching at 1.8m in width.
- 3.2 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 Written Scheme of Investigation and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

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 five 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 archaeology contractor 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 detailed risk assessment must be provided 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 field evaluation* (revised 2001) 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 Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 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 HER.
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.

5.11 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.

5.12 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.13 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

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

5.15 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 HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.16 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.

5.17 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).

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Date: 31 January 2008

Reference: / LandaadjacentPrimarySchool-
Kessingland2008

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.

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.