

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

New Sports Hall car park, Hartismere High School, Eye EYE 087

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no. 0307/07)

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

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Cathy Tester Finds Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Education Dept, Suffolk County Council. and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

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

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the producing of site plans and sections was carried out Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report by Cathy Tester.

Summary

Eye, New Sports Hall car parking, Hartismere High School (TM 1380 7404; EYE 087): An evaluation in advance of the construction of a car park for the new sports hall at Hartismere High School identified a single undated ditch sealed below a thick layer of clay/silt from which fragments of Late Bronze or Iron Age pottery and a single Roman coin were recovered, indicating a low level of activity to the north of the multi-period EYE 083 excavation. (John Craven, S.C.C.A.S. for Education Dept, Suffolk County Council).

HER information

Planning application no. 0307/07
Date of fieldwork: 17th April 2008
Grid Reference: TM 1380 7404
Funding body: Education Dept, Suffolk County Council
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-40957

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a car park for the new sports hall at Hartismere High School, Eye. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application 0307/07. The work was funded by the developer, Education Dept, Suffolk County Council.

The site, an area of 1500 sqm lay in the south-east corner of the school playing field which at this point was level ground, c.39.5m OD, overlooking the valley of a tributary of the River Dove which lay 250m to the south (Fig. 1). It was of particular interest as it lay immediately to the north of the large archaeological excavation, EYE 083, that was carried out in advance of the expansion of the playing field. This multi-period site contained four Bronze Age cremations and an undated, but probably Bronze Age, crouched inhumation, two possible Iron Age roundhouses and pits and a substantial phase of Early Anglo-Saxon occupation with nineteen sunken featured buildings, two posthole structures and a range of other features and finds material (Caruth in prep).

Immediately to the south four test pits excavated prior to the construction of the new sports hall identified further evidence of early Saxon activity, EYE 084 (Craven 2008) extending northwards from EYE 083. The natural south-facing slope, now obscured by the playing field landscaping, was also seen, with the subsoil surface and archaeological levels rising to a depth of 0.8m at the northern edge of EYE 084. It was thought that this natural slope would eventually rise to a level plateau across the centre and northern parts of the playing field, with potential archaeological levels perhaps reaching a depth of 0.4m-0.5m in which case they would be potentially vulnerable to further development.

An archaeological evaluation was therefore required to assess the archaeological potential of the site. A primary aim was to establish the depth of the natural subsoil surface or any archaeological deposits below the heavily landscaped modern ground level, and to establish whether open area excavation of the site would be required prior to its development.

2. Methodology

The two evaluation trenches were placed to cover as much as possible of the proposed car park, but had to be biased to the western side to allow access to the sports hall development. The trenches, which measured 1.8m wide and 66m long in total, were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. This amounted to c.83sqm or 5.5 % of the total area of 1500sqm.

Each trench was excavated to the top of the natural subsoil surface or the archaeological levels, the subsoil being a thick mid yellow/brown clay lying at t. This involved the removal of 0.3m of modern topsoil and a 0.4m thick layer of homogenous mid/dark brown silt/clay loam which directly overlaid the subsoil surface. Upcast spoil was examined for finds and both trenches and spoilheaps were metal-detected.

The trenches were planned, and site levels recorded, using an RTK GPS. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified. Inked copies of section drawings have been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-40957) 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. EYE 087.

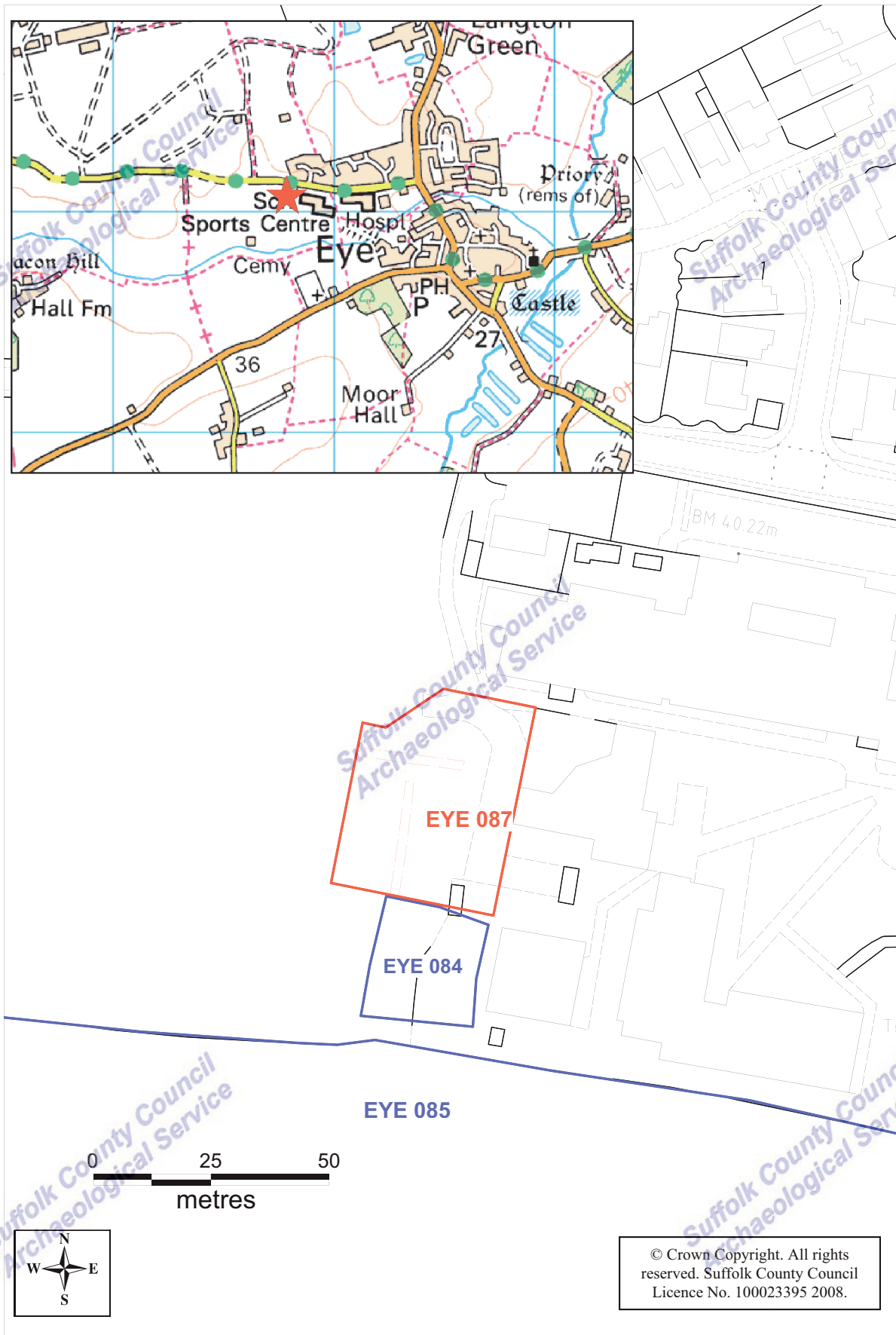


Figure 1. Site location plan

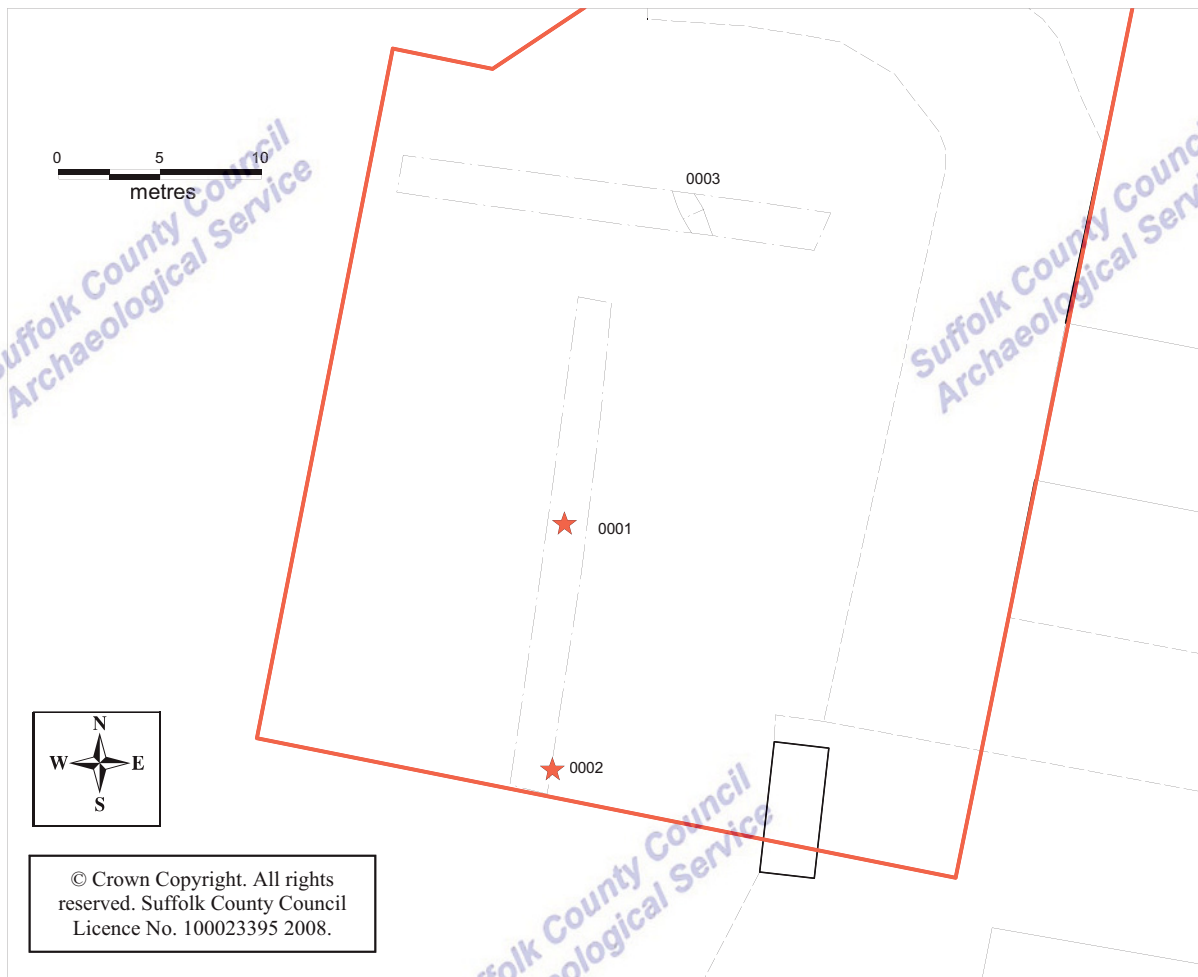


Figure 2. Site plan

3. Results

3.1. Trench 01

This trench, aligned north to south, measured 25m in length and showed the natural subsoil surface rising from 38.5m at the south end, to 38.8m OD at the north end but lying at a consistent 0.7m-0.8m below ground level. The subsoil surface was frequently marked by small natural hollows, which were infilled with the overlying layer of clay/silt loam, and fragments of Bronze or Iron Age pottery were collected from one of these hollows in the centre of the trench. A single Roman coin, 0002, was metal detected in the side of the trench in the south-east corner. It also lay within the mid brown clay/silt loam layer, approximately 0.15m above the subsoil horizon.

3.2. Trench 02

This trench, aligned east to west, measured 21m in length and also showed the natural subsoil surface at a consistent 0.7m-0.8m below ground level, at a height of 39m OD. A single undated ditch, 0003, was identified crossing the trench on a north-west to south east alignment. Measuring 1m wide and 0.3m deep it had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0004, was a clean dark brown clay/silt. In the eastern 3m of the trench a possible natural hollow, 0005, was excavated by machine. Measuring 0.3m-0.4m deep it was infilled with mid brown silt and gravel.

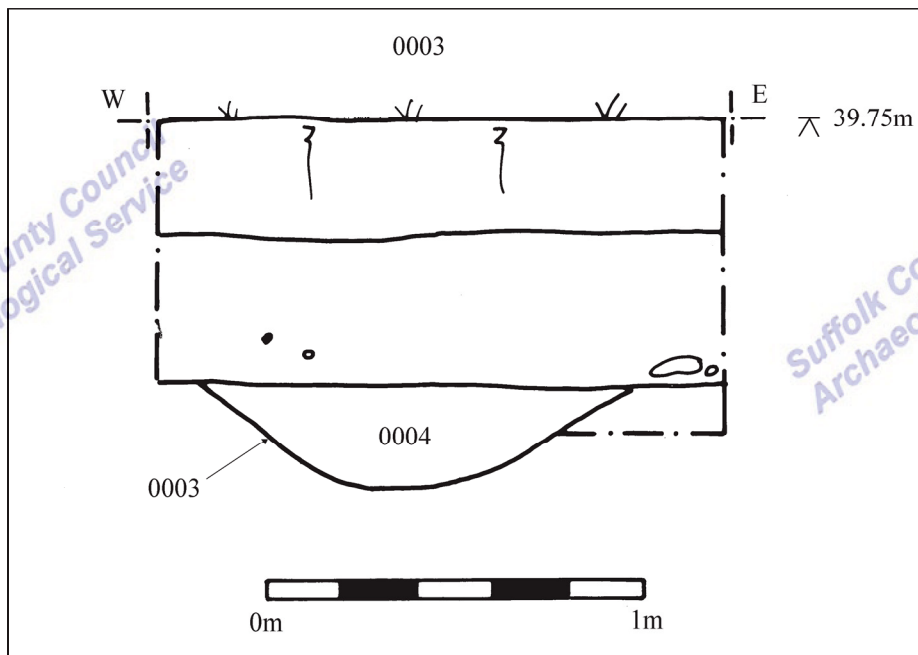


Figure 4. 0003 section

The subsequent development for the car park involved a 0.2m-0.3m site strip. A monitoring visit made during these works confirmed that this did not quite remove the modern topsoil, leaving the underlying layer of clay/silt loam intact. Potential archaeological deposits and the natural subsoil horizon were therefore unaffected.

4. The Finds

Cathy Tester

Prehistoric and Roman finds were recovered from two evaluation contexts.

Six fragments (21g) of hand-made pottery all part of a single larger body sherd were collected from Trench 01. The sherd has a poorly mixed fabric containing sparse burnt and unburnt flint and moderate quartz sand and probably belongs to the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

A heavily worn and corroded Roman coin (weight 1.7g, diameter 17mm) of probable 3rd or 4th century date was recovered during metal detecting of subsoil layer 0002 in Trench 01.

5. Discussion

The evaluation trenches have demonstrated that the site lies towards the top of the natural south facing slope, which survives intact beneath the modern landscaping. The natural subsoil was well preserved at a consistent depth, as the modern ground level also rose slightly, below a thick layer of clay/silt. This layer, which was probably the topsoil prior to the landscaping of the playing field, appears to have developed through natural processes such as hillwash.

The single feature identified, ditch 0003, was undated and could be contemporary with any of the phases of activity at EYE 083, or it may simply be a medieval or post-medieval field boundary. The single Roman coin and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery indicates possible low-level activity relating to the main focus of occupation at EYE 083 but, as they lay within the colluvial

clay/silt layer which seals the subsoil and archaeological horizon, they are probably residual deposits.

The lack of features indicates that the site lies outside the focus of multi-period activity seen at EYE 083 to the south. However as the archaeological deposits on this excavated site were often widely dispersed it is possible that the placement of these two relatively small trenches could have missed similar scattered deposits. Any such deposits though will not have been affected by the later site strip and are preserved below the new car park.

The depth of the subsoil within the trenches, if continued across the playing field as a whole, may have affected the results of the geophysical survey that was carried out upon it during the EYE 083 excavation (Woodhouse 2007). Natural features such as 0005 may account for many of the anomalies that were detected.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The preservation of the subsoil surface and potential archaeological horizon was good and so the lack of features deposits indicates that the site lies outside of the areas of occupation seen in the excavations at EYE 083.

As the subsequent site strip has already been monitored there is no requirement for any further archaeological work. It should be noted however that a further area of car parking, on the eastern side of the school, is still to be evaluated as required by the planning condition on application 0307/07.

J.A.Craven
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
April 2008

References

Caruth, J., in prep, *EYE 083 Land to the south of Hartismere High School*. SCCAS.

Craven, J.A., 2008, *New Sports Hall, Hartismere High School, Eye, EYE 084*. SCCAS Report no. 2008/26.

Woodhouse, H., 2007, *Geophysical survey of land at Hartismere High School, Eye*. L-P:Archaeology report.

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 Archaeological Trenched Evaluation

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, HARTISMERE HIGH SCHOOL, CASTLETON WAY, EYE

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 0307/07) has been granted for the construction of a new multi-purpose sports hall and two new areas of car parking on land at Hartismere High School, Castleton Road, Eye (TM 137 739), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 This Brief and Specification relates to the areas of proposed car parking, in both the south-west (55 spaces) (c. 1,660 m²) and south-east (33 spaces) of the complex (c. 800m²) (see accompanying plan).
- 1.3 The proposed development area, on the southern side of Castleton Way, is located at c. 35 - 39.00m AOD, sloping downwards West to East and overlooking a tributary of the River Dove. The underlying geology of the site comprises chalky till (deep loam to clay).
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Major excavations, undertaken in 2007 in advance of a new sports fields immediately to the south, defined an Early Anglo-Saxon settlement of national importance (EYE 083). Archaeological monitoring during the excavation of test pits for the construction of the new sports hall (part of this current planning permission) also identified Early Anglo-Saxon features (SCCAS Report 2008/26). However, the sports hall was erected without any further archaeological investigation, failing to comply with the planning condition that had required a programme of archaeological monitoring during all groundworks.
- 1.5 There is high potential for Early Anglo-Saxon occupation deposits to be located in this area. The proposed works associated with the construction of the car parking areas would cause significant change ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 83m² of the west car park and 40m² of the east car park. 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 46m of trenching for the west car park and 22m for the east car park extension 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. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 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 WSI.
- 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 HER 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*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also 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 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Environment and Transport Department
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR
 Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 14 March 2008

Reference: / HartismereHighSchool_Eye2008

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.