

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land adjacent to Holly House, The Green, Bardwell BAR 072

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. SE/05/1280/P)

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

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

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mrs S. Bone of Holly Cottage and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Tester and Jonathan Van Jennians from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. Digital site plans were produced by Fiona Gamble and the finds were processed and drawings inked by Gemma Adams.

Summary

A trenched evaluation on this roadside plot uncovered two ditches, a posthole and a clay building platform. Pottery from the ditches suggest they are all medieval dating from the 12th 14th centuries. There was no evidence of ploughing or for the later use of the site.

SMR information

Planning application no. SE/05/1280/P
Date of fieldwork: 10th April 2008
Grid Reference: TL 9438 7383
Funding body: Mrs S. Bone
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-41333

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of building work on two cottages on land adjoining Holly House, Bardwell. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The work was funded by the developer, Mrs S. Bone.

The proposed development lay at TL 9438 7383 at a height of c. 33m OD (Fig. 1). The site is only a small area of a much larger plot and only areas close to the development were sampled. The site is at present given over to rough woodland. Interest is centred on the potential for settlement evidence relating to the medieval village.

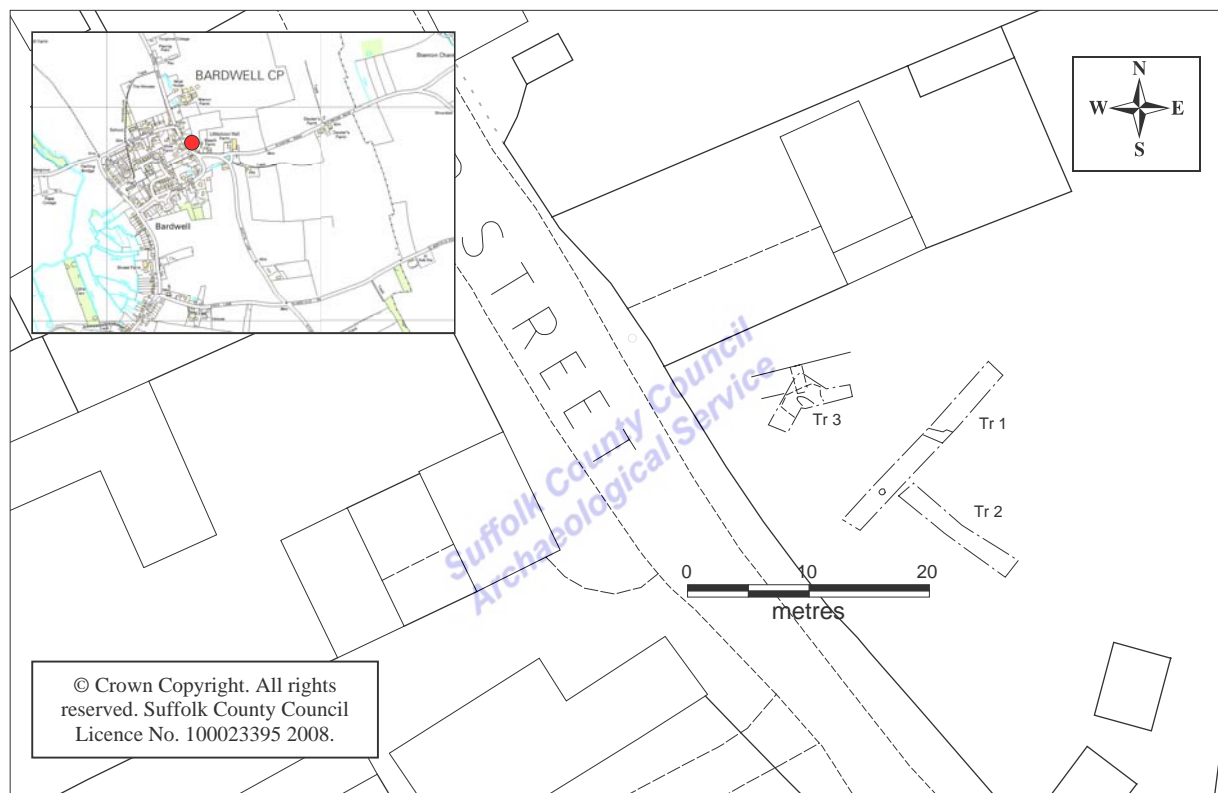


Figure 1. Site location plan

2. Methodology

The trenching pattern was positioned in response to the siting of the new building and the difficulty of accessing parts of the site due to the density of trees. In the first instance two trenches were excavated at right angles to one another, (trenches 1 and 2) that were respectively 18m and 11m long. A third trench was excavated in a gap between trees where the site access is planned. This resulted in approximately 9m of excavated trench that was altered in response to the discovery of a clay floor. The trenches were dug by a small 360 degree excavator using a 1m bucket to excavate trenches 1.7m wide. The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural subsoil surface, a mix of yellow and orange clay with some gravel. Upcast spoil was examined for finds and context 0001 reserved for unstratified finds. The site location was recorded using a TST and soil profiles were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the archive. Inked copies of section drawings have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolk1-41333) 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 SMR No. BAR 072.

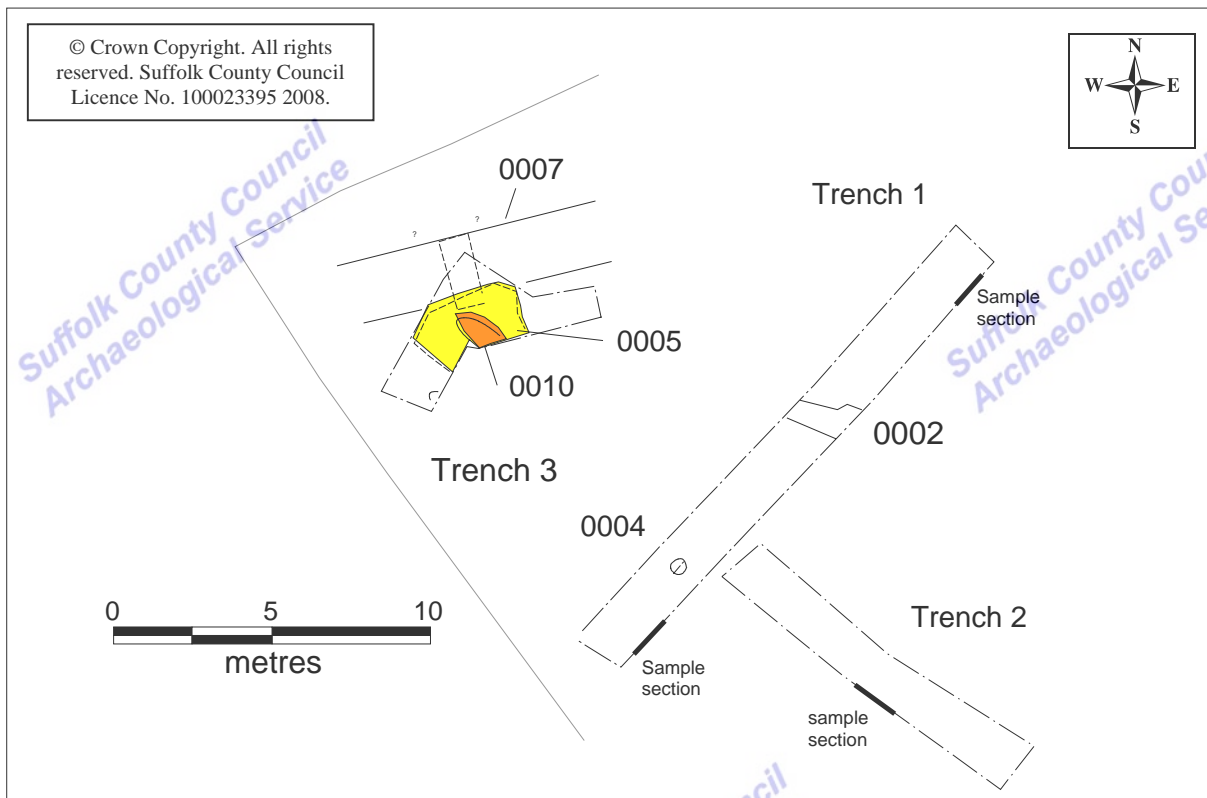


Figure 2. Site plan

3. Results

Trench 1 was 18m in length and aligned north-east - south-west (Fig. 2). It was excavated to a depth of 0.65m at the southwest end and 0.2 at the northeast end with sample baulk sections appearing on Figure 7. The deeper section comprised up to 0.45m of dark loam above orange silt/clay with gravel. The darker layer was less substantial in the northern-most section at 0.15m overlying c.0.1m of green brown silt. Two features were recorded in the trench; Posthole 0004 (Fig. 4) was circular, 0.3m deep x 0.5m wide and filled with dark silt, Ditch 0002 (Fig 3) was located 5.8m to the north of 0004 and aligned c. east to west. It varied in width between 1.2m and 0.8m and there may have been a small feature on the eastern edge but this could not be distinguished in the fill, which was of an homogenous dark grey brown clay. Approximately half of the ditch within the trench was excavated producing 9 sherds of pottery from three separate vessels which are dated 12th -13th century.

Trench 2 was 11m long and aligned northwest – southeast. A single section was recorded (Fig. 7) which shows c. 0.3m of dark brown silty clay over orange clay with gravel. No features were identified within the trench.

Trench 3 was excavated close to the northern site boundary in an area likely to be disturbed by the new access road. An initial trench of c.5m was excavated. This exposed c. 0.25m of dark soil over orange clay and gravel. This gave way to a 'floor' of yellow clay with chalk flecks c. 0.15m thick, 0005 (Fig. 2, 6 and 7), a layer which extended for a further 3m. Towards the centre a concentration of fired clay was pressed into the yellow clay (0010) but the area was not burnt and it was uncertain whether this represented the remains of a hearth *in situ*. The edge to the yellow clay on the northeast side was less clear than that to the south and on the northwestern side the yellow clay surface had a sharp edge against green clay. The green clay was excavated partly by hand and then by machine exposing a ditch 0007. During excavation the yellow clay was seen to overlay the top of the ditch (Fig. 2, 5 and 7)), which suggests that the platform is later than the ditch, however the edge of the clay was parallel to the ditch and was not aligned at

right angles to the clay facing the road. It was therefore concluded that the ditch cut the clay but that the clay platform had spread over the ditch after it had been infilled. The ditch was c. 2.5m wide (the north east edge was not fully exposed) and 0.8m deep. It had a wide flat bottom, which may be evidence of re-digging, and was filled with a homogenous deposit of green brown clay. The uniformity of the fill is evidence that the final infilling probably occurred in a single episode. Two sherds of pottery dated to the 12th to 14th century were recovered from the fill.



Figure 3. Ditch 0002 waterlogged



Figure 4. Posthole 0004

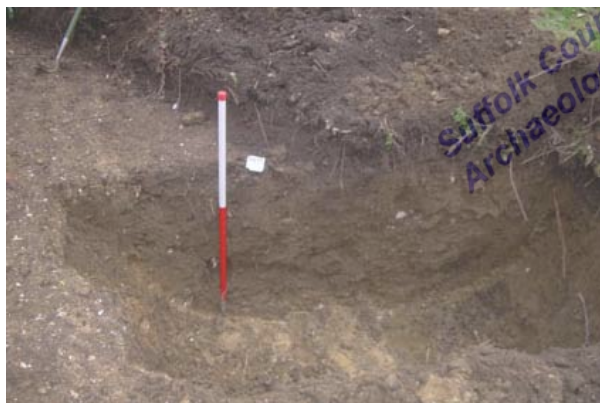


Figure 5. Ditch 0007, clay platform to the left

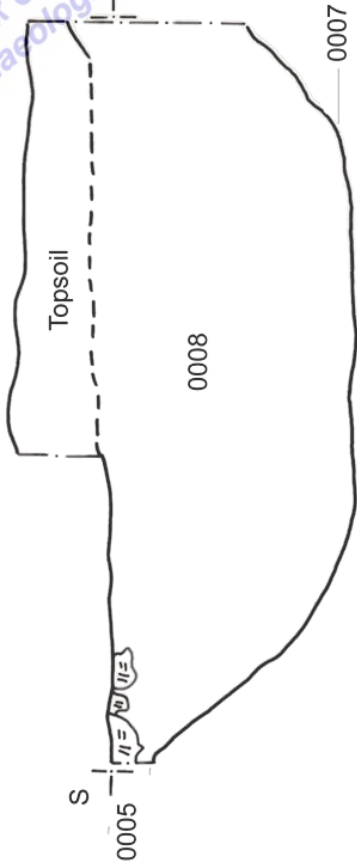


Figure 6. Clay 0005

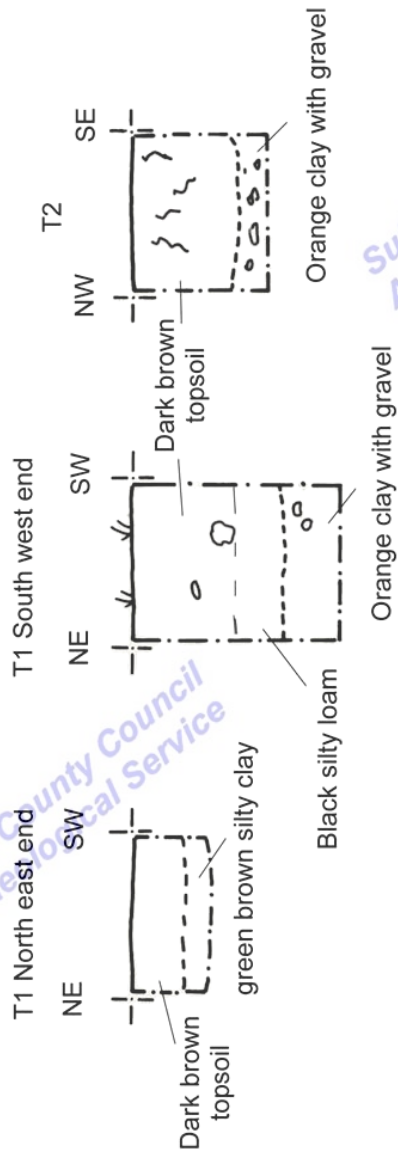
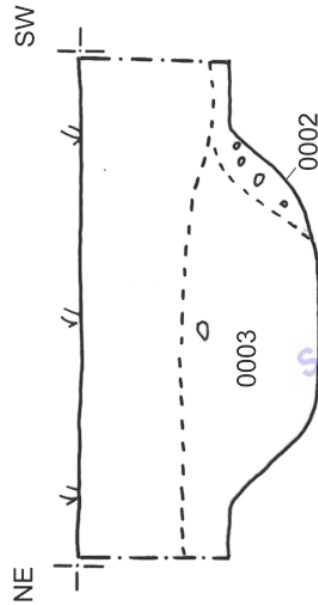
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Figure 7. Sections

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The Finds

Introduction

Finds were collected from 4 contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Fired clay		Burnt flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	9	306	3	18	1	23	12th-E13th C
0008	2	53					L12th-14th C
0009			6	122			Medieval
0010	3	67					L12th-14th C
Total	14	426	9	140	1	23	

Pottery

A total of 14 fragments of medieval pottery was recovered from the evaluation (0.426kg). The largest quantity was collected from ditchfill 0003 (9 sherds @ 0.306kg). Several fragments from a large sooted wheelthrown jar of medieval date were identified, and two fragments of another coarseware jar with a thickened flat-topped rim dating to the twelfth to early 13th century. A single additional coarseware sherd from a third vessel was also present. Two sherds of medieval coarseware were present in the large ditchfill 0008, including a heavily sooted base sherd containing an internal residue (overall date Late 12th-14th century). Fill 0010 contained a large fragment of a medieval coarseware jug with pouring lip, a sherd of medieval coarseware decorated with shallow incised wavy lines, and an abraded coarseware sherd with an applied strip.

Fired clay

Small quantities of fired clay were recovered from contexts 0003 and 0009. All the fragments were made of the same fabric, that is a soft orange matrix containing moderate small-large chalk inclusions (c1mm-6mm in diameter). The six fragments found in 0009 are well preserved and have a proper edge, although no additional features. It is possible that they represent clay lining from a hearth.

Burnt flint

A single fragment of burnt flint was found in ditchfill 0003, with the medieval pottery and fired clay.

Discussion

The small quantity of finds recovered from the evaluation provides evidence of nearby occupation in the twelfth to thirteen century. A range of medieval coarsewares is present, most showing signs of sooting and usage.

4. General Discussion

The trial trenching has uncovered significant evidence of the medieval settlement at Bardwell. Trench 1 contained an undated posthole and a small ditch filled with a dark fill and finds. There was also a concentration of dark soil recorded at the southern end of the trench. The dark soil is interpreted as evidence of organic remains in the soil, which is a characteristic that may be expected of a settlement site. Evidence of this was found in Trench 3 with a clay platform aligned at right angles to the present road. The dating evidence for the site was limited but consistent to the 12th 14th centuries. There was no evidence of the site having been ploughed.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evidence suggests that a medieval building, probably a house, stood on the northern side of the plot but may not have survived beyond the 14th century. The quality of archaeological preservation is high and the remains should be recorded where they are threatened. In this instance excavation of the building footprint prior to building and a close monitoring of stripping of the access road and relevant service trenches is recommended.

Andrew Tester
Project Officer
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
April 2008

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. BAR 072 context list

<i>context</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>Identifier</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
0001			Unstratified finds.	
0002	0002	Ditch cut	Ditch measuring 1.2m x 0.4m in Trench 1.	
0003	0002	Ditch fill	Dark grey fill, fragments of burnt clay.	Med
0004	0004	Posthole	Posthole 0.5m x 0.3m deep.	
0005	0005	Clay platform	Clay up to 0.15m thick. Remains of floor with central area 0010 fo burnt clay probably hearth remains.	Med?
0006	0004	Posthole fill	Dark grey brown silty fill.	
0007	0007	Ditch cut	Minimum of 2.4m wide x 0.8m deep. Aligned parallel to the neighbouring property boundary.	Med
0008	0007	Ditch fill	Fill of 0007. Containing homogenous fill of greer clay.	Med
0009	0010	sample	Sample of burnt clay.	
0010	0010	burnt clay	Possible hearth or oven remains.	Med
0011	0011	finds	Finds unstratified from Trench 1.	

Appendix 2

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

ADJACENT HOLLY HOUSE, BARDWELL

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 [SE/05/1280] has been given to build three dwellings with associated parking and hard landscaping.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.12) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.3 The development area lies with frontage onto a probable medieval green edge which forms the eastern boundary of the medieval settlement. There is potential for early housing and associated occupation. The area has not been subject to intensive agricultural use and may have good preservation.
- 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: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. “*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
4. **General Management**
- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: R D Carr

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

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 29 February 2008

Reference: /Adjacent Holly House

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.