

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

GIPPING VALLEY PROPERTY COMPANY SITE, LOWER STREET, BAYLHAM BAY 038

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Mid Suffolk 0463/08)

Clare Good
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© May 2008

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

SCCAS Report No. 2008/147
Oasis reference number Suffolkc1-42190



Suffolk County Council

Environment and Transport

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Recommendations

Appendix I: Brief and Specification

List of Figures

1. Site Location
2. Location of evaluation area in relation to sites recorded on the county HER
3. Location of new units, trenches and features revealed
4. Plan of Trench 1 (1:50) and feature 0003 (1:20)

List of Contributors

Clare Good Suffolk C. C. Archaeological Service

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Gipping Valley Property Company and was monitored by Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

The evaluation was carried out by Duncan Allan (Project Officer) under the direction of Project Officer Clare Good, from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

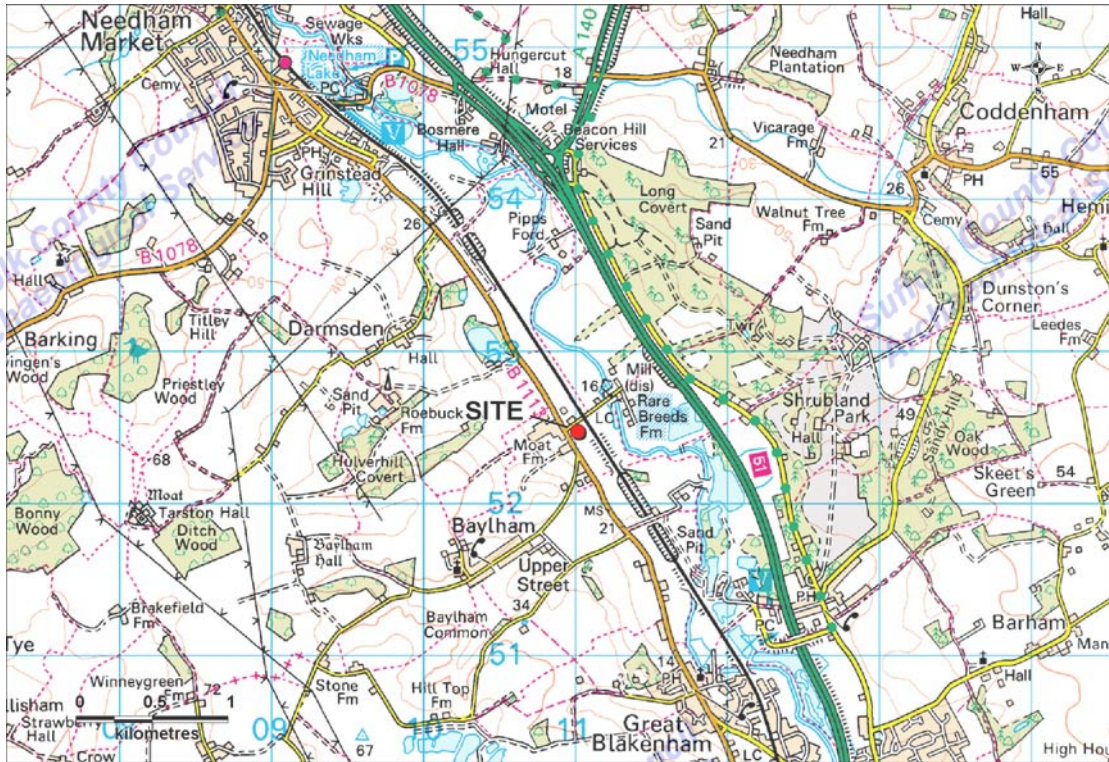
Gipping Valley Property Company Site, Lower Street, Baylham (TM 1099 5247, BAY 038)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of two new office units at the site of Gipping Valley Property Company, Lower Street, Baylham. The plot is adjacent to three undated ring ditches, possibly representing former Bronze Age burial mounds. Two trenches were excavated, one through each new office plot. A small undated pit was revealed in Trench 1, but no further archaeology was found.

(C. Good, 2008/147, for Suffolk County Council and Gipping Valley Property Company)

HER information

Planning application no.	Mid Suffolk 0463/08
Date of fieldwork:	3rd May 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 1099 5247
Funding body:	Gipping Valley Property Company
Oasis I.D. number	Suffolkc1-42190



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 1, Site location

1. Introduction

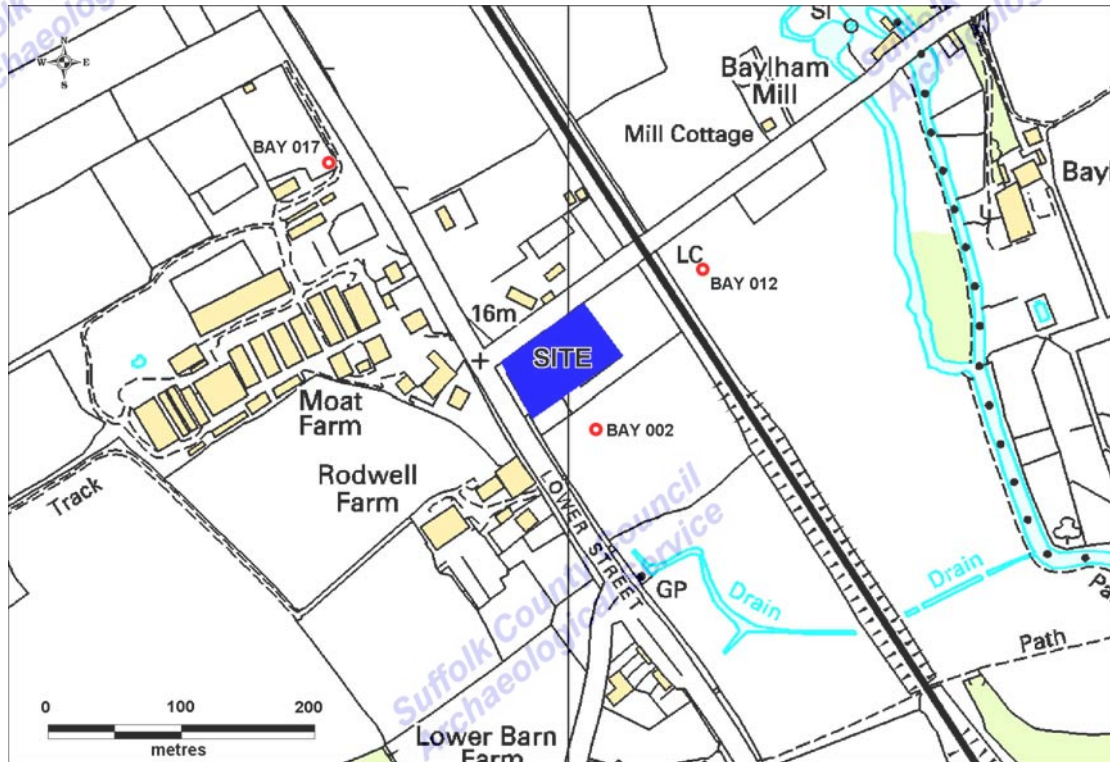
An archaeological evaluation was commissioned in advance of the construction of two new office buildings at the Gipping Valley Property Company site at Lower Street, Baylham.

The plot is centred on TM 1099 5247 (Fig. 1) and is currently car parking for the existing offices.

The plot lies some 320m from the River Gipping, and this favourable topographical position suggests there is some potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits, especially prehistoric sites. The site is adjacent to three undated ring ditches (BAY 002, 012, 017), identified from aerial photography and recorded on the county HER (Historic Environment Record) database (Fig. 2). These features may be the remnants of ploughed out Bronze Age burial mounds, and so may indicate prehistoric evidence in the vicinity.

On that basis, as the development proposal will include significant ground disturbance, it was deemed necessary to evaluate this plot in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council's Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team.

Two new buildings are to be constructed adjacent to the existing offices. The development covers an area of c. 240 square metres and lies at roughly 16m OD. It is predominantly flat and has an underlying drift geology of sand and gravel. It is bounded by Lower Street to the west, Mill Lane to the north and open farmland to the east and south.



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 2. Location of evaluation area in relation to sites recorded on the county HER

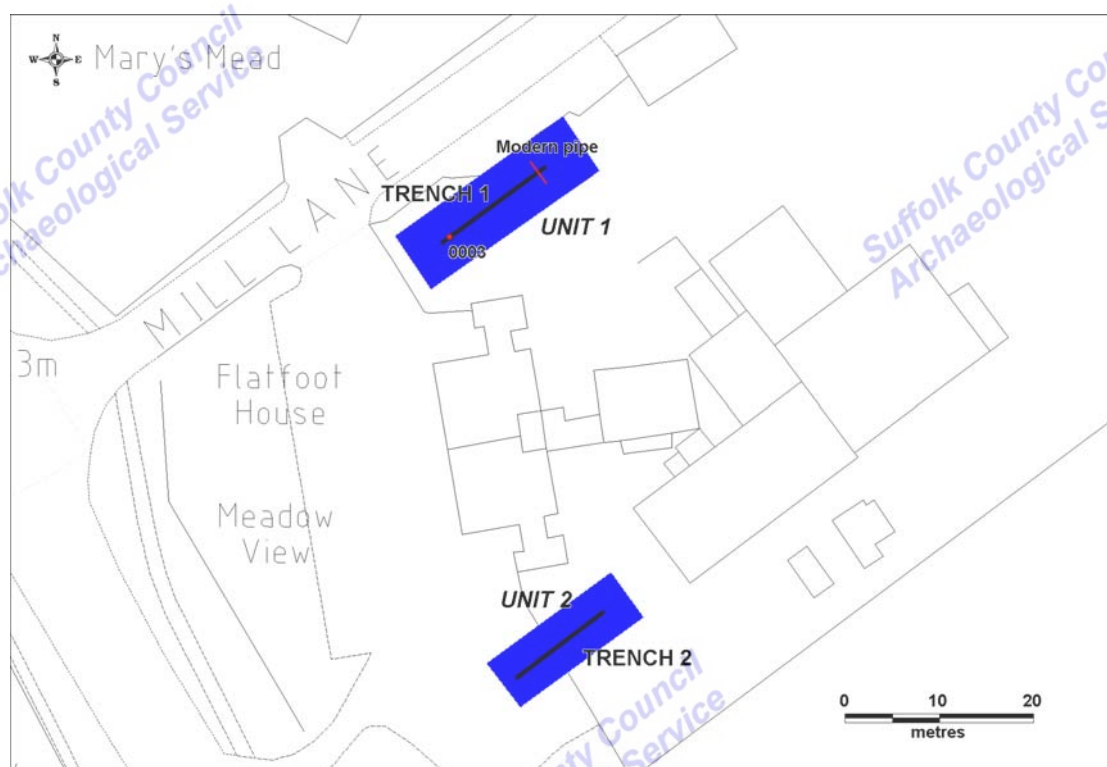
2. Methodology

Two trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. A trench was excavated within each of the new office plots in locations agreed with the SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). 21m of trench was excavated, representing roughly 13% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' (OP) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the HER code BAY 038, then partially excavated in order to recover dating evidence as well as to observe their form and possibly determine any function. Features were drawn on site at a scale of 1:20, and recorded photographically using a digital camera and camera with a black and white film. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code suffolkc1-42190.

3. Results



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 3. Location of new units, trenches and features revealed

The trenches were excavated through a car park. The top 0.07m of concrete had been removed prior to the evaluation commencing, with the uppermost layer revealed comprising of bedding (0001) for the car park surface. This bedding was 0.3m deep in total, and was seen throughout both trenches.

Below this 0.3m of a mid brown silty sand was revealed (0002). This layer was dirty, and was thought to represent either a buried topsoil layer, probably covered during the car park construction, or a subsoil, with the topsoil removed during the car park construction. Either way, no dating evidence was recovered from this layer and again it was seen throughout both trenches.

Both trenches were 1.5m wide, and were excavated down to the natural subsoil which comprised a soft pale yellow slightly stony sand with orange gravelly patches.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

Trench 1 was aligned SW-NE and was 11m long. It was excavated through the centre of the plot of Unit 1. It was 0.6m deep at the SW end, rising to 0.5m at the NE end.

Pit 0003 (Fig. 4) was revealed c.1m from the SW end of Trench 1. It was an elongated oval shape in plan, with steep sides and a gently sloping base. It was filled by 0004, a dark brown silty sand with occasional stones. The fill was very soft and clean, with no finds recovered.

A modern pipe was visible perpendicular to the Trench, c.1m from the NE end. No further finds or features were seen in this trench.

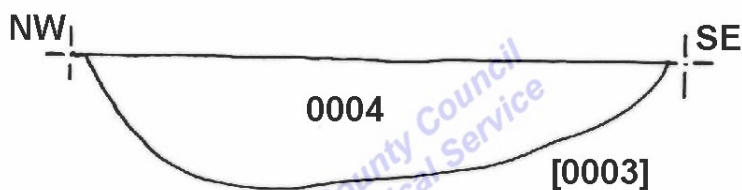
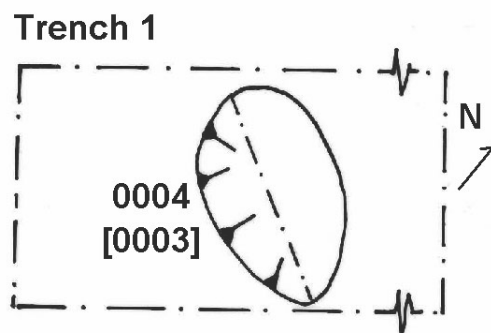


Figure 4. Plan of Trench 1 (1:50) and feature 0003 (1:20)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE and was 10m long. It was excavated through the centre of the plot of Unit 2 and was 0.6m deep throughout.

No finds or features were revealed in this trench.

4. Discussion

Despite the potential for prehistoric and later archaeology in this evaluation, only an undated pit was revealed. The fill of this pit was very clean and appeared leached, suggesting it could be of an early date. However the absence of any dating material makes this interpretation supposition only.

Ring ditches often represent the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age burial mounds, and the site's location close to three identified ring ditches, meant further prehistoric evidence was a possibility. However these mounds are often isolated with no associated features surrounding them and so the lack of further evidence here was not unusual.

5. Recommendations for further archaeological work

No dateable archaeology was revealed during this evaluation and the ground disturbance for the new units will not be that extensive. As a consequence, it is not likely that the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority will recommend further archaeological works.

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 I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Archaeological Trenched Evaluation

GIPPING VALLEY PROPERTY CO, LOWER ST BAYLHAM, 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 permission for the erection of 2 office buildings and ancillary works at Lower St, Baylham, Suffolk (TM 109 524), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0463/08).
- 1.2 The proposed new buildings have a total area of c.210 sq m. on the western side of the valley of the River Gipping, and located at c. 15m AOD. The underlying glaciofluvial drift geology of the site comprises loam and sandy soils local flinty and in places over gravel.
- 1.3 The development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, defined in the County Historic Environment Record. One ring ditch cropmark, probably a Bronze Age burial mound, lies directly south of the property (BAY 002) and another 120m to the east (BAY 012). These probable barrows form part of an extended cemetery in this part of the Gipping valley which is likely to be associated with other prehistoric activity not identified in the air photos. Prehistoric barrows also frequently provided a focal point for later burials, particularly in the Anglo-Saxon period. Extensive Roman and some Anglo-Saxon activity is known on the east side of the Gipping at Baylham, with more localised sites recorded on the west side. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 override such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.10 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 below) 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 plot. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site affected by the current proposals. 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.
- 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 and recent guidance from Ministry of Justice.
- 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, as well as an opinion as to appropriate mitigation. No further site work should be embarked upon until the

primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established with SCCAS Conservation Team.

- 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: Judith Plouviez

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

Tel: 01284 352448 Email: jude.plouviez@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 21st April 2008

Reference:/SpecEvaltren_Blemings_April2008.doc

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.

