
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH LANE, CLAYDON

CLY 029

L. Everett
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/140
OASIS ID No. 42810

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List of Contributors

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Summary

Evaluation trenching at The Old Rectory, Claydon, was carried out in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. Two undated features were recorded, a shallow ditch and a small post hole, both of which were sealed by c.1m of overburden. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

HER information

Planning application no. MS/07/1364
Date of fieldwork: 18th April 2008
Grid Reference: TM 1386 4990
Funding body: Ambrose Went Curtis Ltd.
OASIS ID: 42810

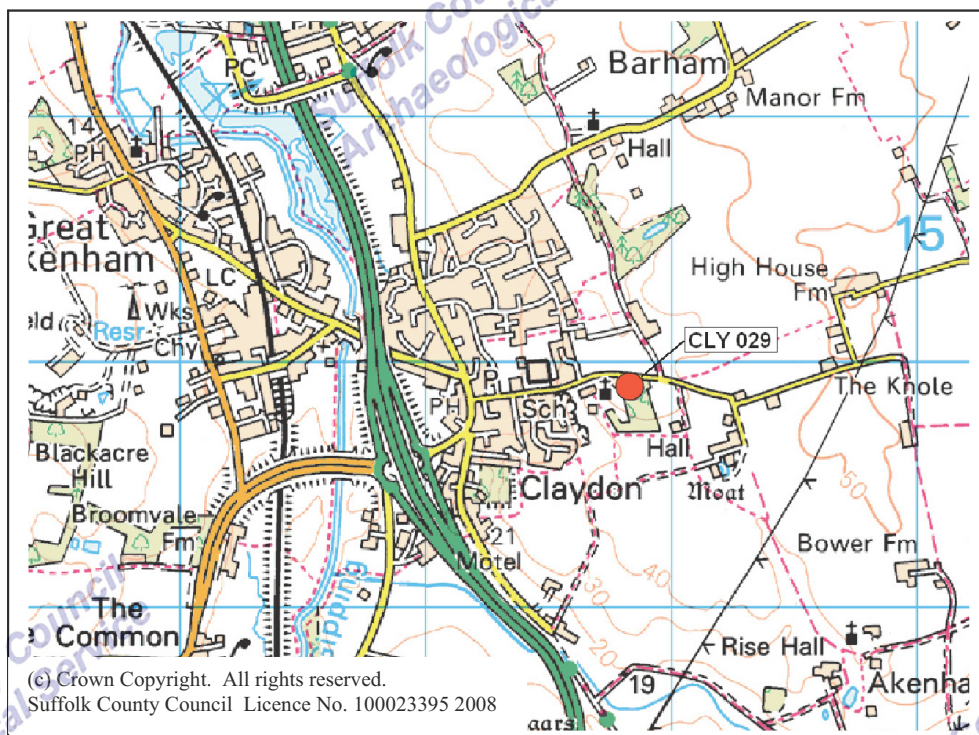


Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of a new building, vehicular access and car parking at the Old Rectory, Claydon, required a programme of archaeological work. The site lies at TM 1386 4990 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 39m OD. Archaeological interest in this site is due to its location within the grounds of The Old Rectory, a Grade II Listed Building which dates from the 16th century. The rectory garden is also a 19th century biblical representation garden (CLY 022) and the medieval church and churchyard are situated immediately south west of the site (CLY 007).

Evaluation of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team on 18th April 2008 and was funded by Ambrose Went Curtis Ltd.

Methodology

The development area comprises approximately 2,700 square metres within which three trial-trenches were opened in locations agreed by the Conservation Team of SCCAS (Fig. 2). However, trench location and extent was constrained by trees and scrub to the east and the presence of underground cables and tanks to the west. Trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed from the trenches to the depth of the naturally occurring subsoil. In all, 71.5 metres of trench were opened over the evaluation area, representing a sample of approximately 4.8% by area, inclusive of the areas which were inaccessible. Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surfaces of trenches were examined visually for artefactual evidence and subjected to a metal detector survey. The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code CLY 029. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix II). The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds management staff of SCCAS.

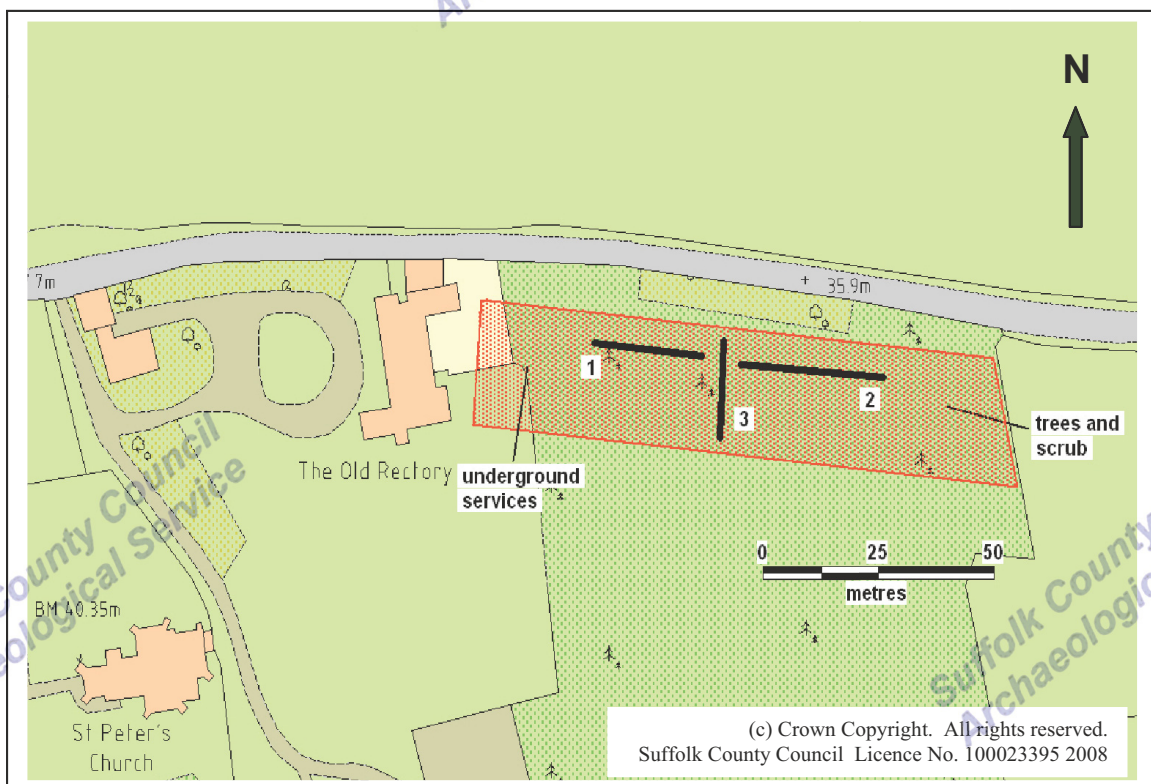


Figure 2. Trench locations within development area

Results

Three trenches were machine excavated to the depth of the natural subsoil, details of which are summarised in the table below:

Trench	Description and soil profile	Length and orientation	Features
1	300mm soft, loose, dark brown clay sand topsoil (0001) 550-600mm mid brown clay sand subsoil with brick fragments, occasional stones (0002) 150-200mm mid orangey brown clay sand subsoil or dirty natural subsoil (0003) Natural subsoil comprises mid-pale orangey brown clay sand with moderate gravel and flints. Root disturbance throughout.	22.5m W-E	Y 0004, 0006
2	300mm soft, loose, dark brown clay sand topsoil (0001) 550mm mid brown clay sand subsoil with brick fragments, occasional stones (0002) 150mm mid orangey brown clay sand subsoil or dirty natural subsoil (0003) Natural subsoil comprises mid orangey brown clay sand with moderate gravel and flints. Root disturbance throughout.	30m W-E	N
3	300mm soft, loose, dark brown clay sand topsoil (0001) 550-600mm mid brown clay sand subsoil with brick fragments, occasional stones (0002) 150mm mid orangey brown clay sand subsoil or dirty natural subsoil (0003) Natural subsoil comprises mid orangey brown clay sand with moderate gravel and flints. Root disturbance throughout.	19m N-S	N

0004 was a shallow NNE-SSW aligned ditch. It was filled by 0005, a mid orangey brown sandy clay. No datable evidence was recovered from this feature. This feature appeared from the surface to turn approximately 90° in a south easterly direction but a section excavated through this proved it to be natural geology which was chased from the stripped surface underneath the natural subsoil.

0006 was a small, circular pit or post hole. It was filled by 0007, a mid greyish brown clay sand with flecks of ceramic building material and charcoal. No datable evidence was recovered from the feature.

A brick and concrete pad was present immediately below topsoil c.2m from east end of Trench 1. This relates to the location of a small rectangular feature, presumably a building, marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3).

One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from layer 0002 in Trench 2. This was a medieval coarseware rim sherd, probably 12th–14th century in date.

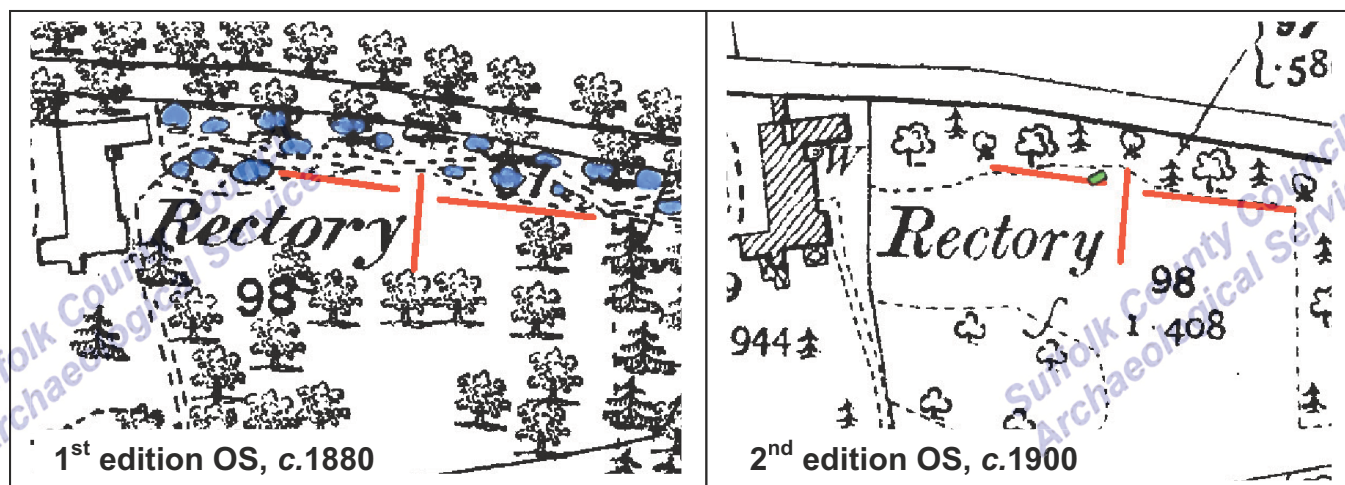


Figure 3. Extracts from 1st and 2nd Ordnance Survey maps showing trenches and former garden features. Ponds are highlighted in blue (left) and a small building is shown in green (right)

Discussion

Trenching revealed only two possible archaeological features, ditch 0004 and post hole 0006, neither of which contained any datable artefacts. Both were sealed by a significant depth of subsoil, the natural subsoil occurring at an average depth of 1m.

Historic map evidence shows that the area was heavily landscaped with a series of small ponds around the edges of the development area. These do not appear on the Tithe map of 1840 but can be seen on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated c.1880 (Fig. 3). By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, c.1900, these had been backfilled but a small building is shown in a location where a brick and concrete pad was observed in Trench 1.

Recommendations

Although the trenching demonstrated the density of archaeology to be low, monitoring of the extension footings should be carried out as these are located in an area where trenching was not possible. As the eastern part of the site is intended to be car parking, no further archaeological work is required as the depth of overburden is sufficient that the ground works should not impinge on any surviving archaeological deposits.

Linzi Everett
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
May 2008

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.

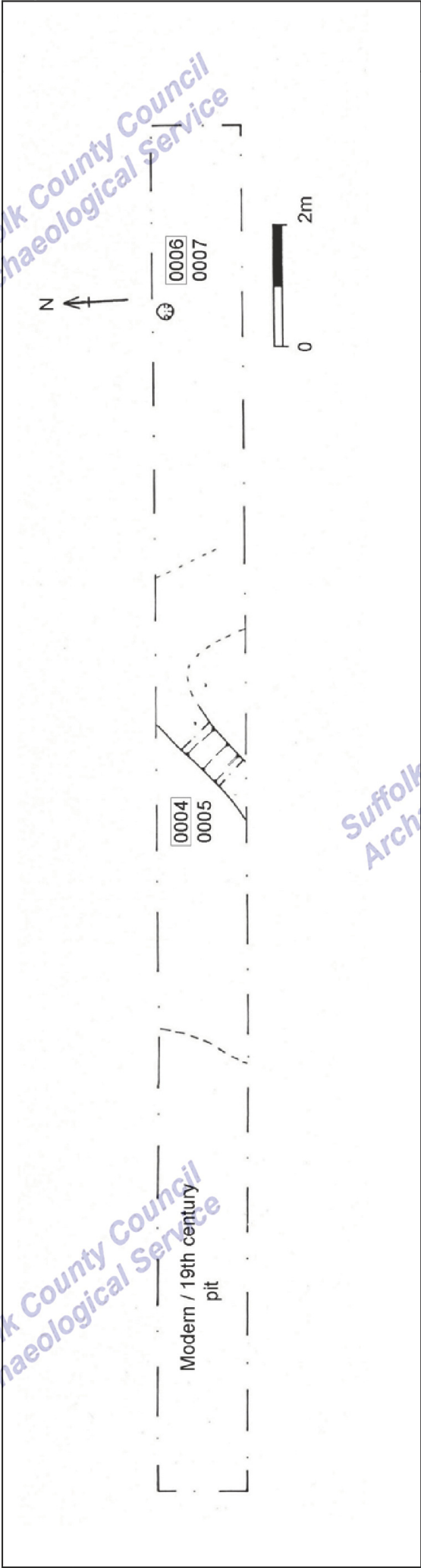


Figure 4. Plan of Trench 1

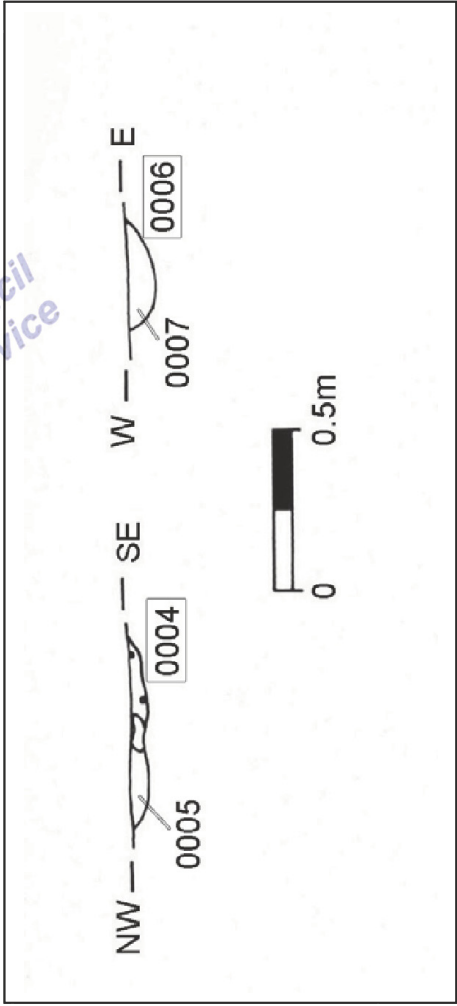


Figure 5. Sections of ditch 0004 and post hole 0006

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Appendix I: Context list

OPNO	CONTEX	TRENCH	IDENTIFIE	DESCRIPT	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	FINDSY	SMFYN
0001	0001		Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy clay loam with brick fragments and tree root disturbance. Uniform 300mm deep over entire site		0002			N	N
0002	0002		Deposit	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy clay, loose, moderate flint inclusions. Root action. Between 550-600mm deep over entire site		0003		0001	Y	N
0003	0003		Deposit	Subsoil. Mid orangey brown sandy clay subsoil or dirty natural subsoil layer with occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent stones, root action. 150-200mm deep				0002	N	N
0004	0004	1	Ditch cut	SW-NE aligned ditch, appeared to turn 90° to NW-SE but section showed this to be natural geology. Shallow, flat base.					-	-
0005	0004	1	Ditch fill	Mid orangey brown sandy clay subsoil or dirty natural subsoil layer with occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent stones, root action, no finds recovered					N	N
0006	0006	1	Pit cut	Small circular pit or post hole. Shallow, rounded profile					-	-
0007	0006	1	Pit fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional CBM and charcoal flecks and moderate small stones. No finds recovered					N	N

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Archaeological Trenched Evaluation

THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH LANE, CLAYDON, 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 1364/07) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the erection of office extension, formation of new vehicular access, driveways and car parking on at The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Claydon, IP6 0EQ, Suffolk (TM 1385 4990) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 100.00m East to West x c. 24.00m North to South, on the southern side of Church Lane and to east of The Old Rectory. The site is located at c. 36.00m AOD, on the eastern side of the Gipping Valley. The underlying glacio-fluvial drift geology of the site comprises deep loam. (Please contact the applicant for an accurate map of the development area).
- 1.3 The application lies within an area of high archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies within the curtilage of The Old Rectory, a Grade II Listed Building of special architectural and historic interest, that dates from the mid sixteenth century (Listed Building 433453), and within a known archaeological site; the rectory garden is an important late nineteenth century biblical representation garden (CLY 022). In addition, the proposal is situated north-east of the medieval church and churchyard (CLY 007) in an area likely to be historic settlement core.
- 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 A trenched evaluation is required as the first part of the archaeological mitigation strategy for this development. 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 120m² of the total area of disturbance (c. 0.24 ha.). 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. 67m 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 22 October 2007

Reference: / TheOldRectory_Claydon2007

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.