

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Proposed Extension to Budgens Store and Dwellings at Elmhurst Walk, Woodbridge, WBG 075

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no. C/07/1794/FUL)



Jezz Meredith
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2008

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

SCCAS Report No. 2008/239
OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-47068

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

HER information

Planning application no.	C/07/1794/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	28 th July 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2755 4909
Funding body:	Ben's Ltd (Budgens Woodbridge)
Oasis reference	suffolkc1-47068

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Ben's Limited for Budgens Store. The project was managed by Rod Gardner. Jude Plouviez was the monitoring archaeologist from the Conservation Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

Summary

A trial trenched evaluation conducted on the site of proposed new dwellings and an extension to Budgens Store Elmhurst Walk, Woodbridge revealed no significant finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance. Parts of the site were subjected to severe 20th century pitting and up to 1m depth of topsoil towards the south-east end of the site suggests that a considerable quantity of soil had been dumped here, probably during the 19th or 20th centuries.

1. Introduction

The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) was advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent for the erection of an extension to Budgens Store and new dwellings along Elmhurst Walk, Woodbridge. An evaluation was proposed to determine the archaeological potential of the area and a 5% sample by trial trenching (c.20m) was required in the Brief and Specification issued by Jude Plouviez of the Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The site consists of a post-war bungalow within a walled garden between Elmhurst Walk and Budgens Store. Towards the south-east of the site the ground surface was in excess of 0.6m higher than the pavement level of the walk and of the adjacent car park; landscaping, dumping of soil or the building up of deposits prior to the erection of the bungalow seems likely. There is a natural slope in the direction towards the river, which is 180m to the south-east.

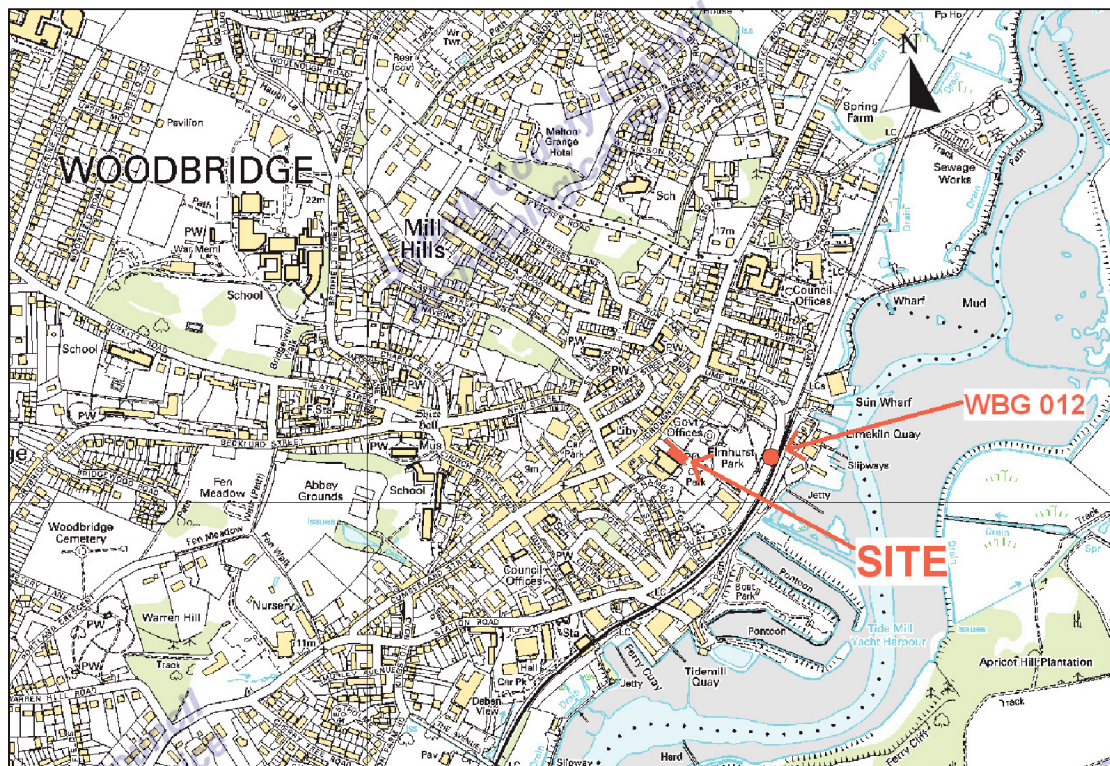


Figure 1. Location of site; note proximity to possible Roman hoard findspot WBG 012

The site is 160m away from a findspot of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (WBG 012, see Fig. 1). This consisted of a group of 4th century Roman coins, probably representing a hoard, found during the construction of the link road to the east. The site under present investigation is on the 5m contour and could be in the vicinity of

possible early dry land settlement or activity contemporary with the coin hoard.

2. Method

Trenching was conducted using a 180° mechanical digger (mini-digger) equipped with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were arranged around the existing standing building, avoiding trees, services, garden walls and a pond. Three trenches were dug (see Fig. 2), representing just over 25m of trenching.

During the evaluation, all machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds. Potential features of archaeological interest were sampled but all were discounted as either of natural origin or were associated with modern disturbances. A metal detector search was conducted across the base of all trenches, but only modern (20th century) material was found.

Records were made of the position, length and depth of each of the three trenches. Within each trench, each deposit encountered was described, measured and recorded.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Ipswich. The site code WBG 075 will be used to identify all elements of the archive associated with this project, and records have been logged with the Archaeology Data Service using the Oasis reference suffolkc1-47068.

3. Results

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered. A number of modern pits were encountered in Trenches 1 and 2, these contained large quantities of material, mainly bottles, of likely 1930s/40s date and were not sampled further.

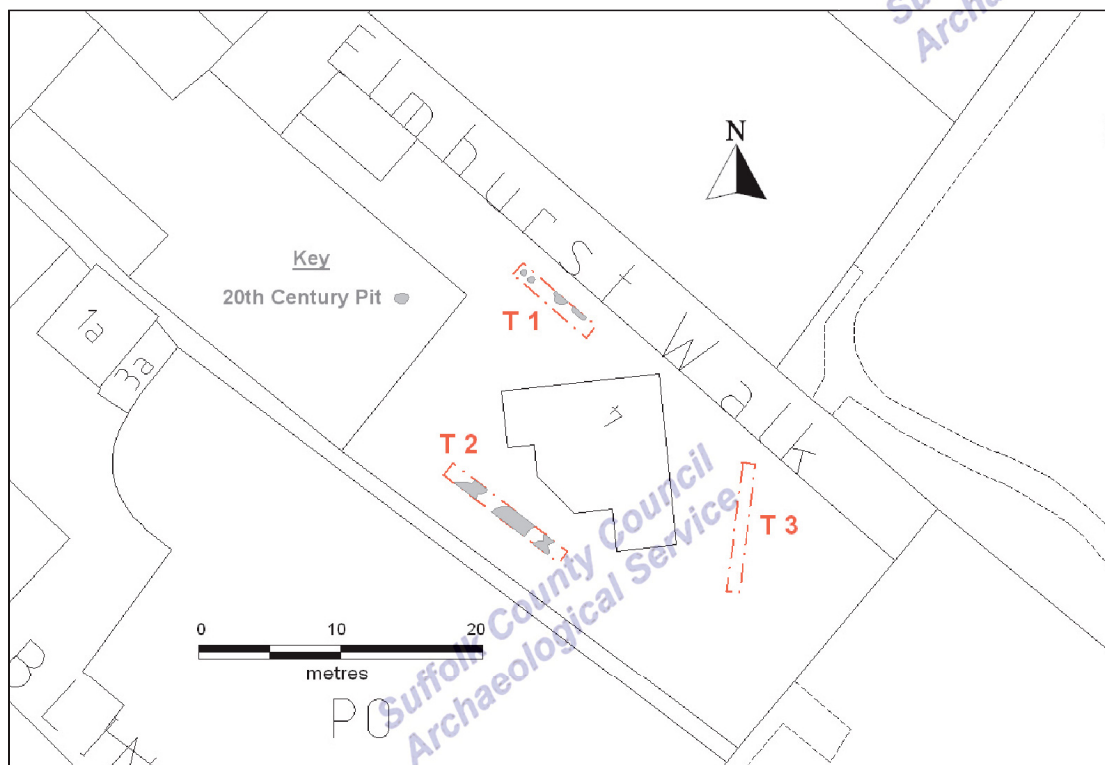


Figure 2. Position of trenches (T1 – 3) and location of 20th-century pits

The trench locations are shown in Figure 3. This shows their orientation and position. A brief description of the three trenches is given in the following table:

Trench No	Length	Depth	Description
1	6.3m	1m	Frequent modern pits. Thick topsoil (800mm) with brick and tile fragments, mortar flecks and coal pieces throughout. Subsoil of mid brown silty sand (200mm). Natural of pale yellow brown soft sand.
2	10m	900mm	Frequent modern pits. Similar to Trench 1: topsoil (650mm), subsoil (250mm)
3	9m	1.2m	No features. Similar to Trench 1: topsoil (1m), subsoil (200mm)

Table 1. Description of Trenches 1 to 3

4. Conclusions

Despite the site occupying a potentially archaeologically interesting area on a raised terrace above the river Deben and near to a possible Roman coin hoard, no features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed. The site had been highly disturbed in a number of places by 20th century pitting. The very deep topsoil (up to 1m depth in the south-east of the site) suggests that the site had been raised in fairly recent times – judging from the coal, brick and tile fragments found throughout this deposit – prior to the construction of the post-war bungalow occupying the site at the present.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that no further archaeological investigations be conducted at this site.

6. 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 an Archaeological Evaluation

BUDGENS STORE, WOODBRIDGE

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 [C/07/1794/FUL] has been given for erection of an extension and dwellings at Budgens Store, Elmhurst Walk, Woodbridge.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no. 3) 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 at TM 275 490 on the 5m contour on the north-west side of the Deben estuary. The contours suggest an inlet to the south-west. A group of 4th century Roman coins, probably a hoard, was found during construction of the link road to the east (WBG 012) - any associated settlement is likely to be on or above the 5m contour. The plot fronts a path to the river on the north-east side; although outside the core area of medieval/post-medieval roads linking the town to the waterfront it might be within early activity areas relating to the estuary.

The area of the development to be evaluated is a single house plot; a single building is shown in a different location on the 19th century OS map. The other area affected by the development has already had extensive 19th and 20th century development.

There is therefore high potential for the survival of early settlement and estuary-side activity particularly in the Roman and later periods.

- 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.
- 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 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 east half 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 or high resolution digital images.
- 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 Historic Environment Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 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 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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 HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER 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 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

Date: 13 June 2008

Reference: /Budgens Store

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.