

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

---

## **Erect Chain link fence around MOD boundary, 11 end, RAF Mildenhall MNL 606**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008  
(Planning app. no. Pre-Nato Fence 2007)

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Andrew Vaughan Beverton  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2008

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

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**

List of Contributors

Acknowledgements

Summary

HER information

Introduction

Methodology

Results

Finds and environmental evidence

    Introduction

    Pottery

    Ceramic building material

    Animal bone and shell

    Discussion

Summary and Conclusion

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

Appendix 2: Context list

## **List of Figures**

1. Site location
2. Trench location
3. Ditch 0003 in Trench 2
4. Gully 0009 in Trench 8
5. Gully 0011 in Trench 18

## **List of Tables**

1. Finds quantities
2. Context list

## List of Contributors

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

Andrew Beverton	Excavation Supervisor
Cathy Tester	Finds Officer
Gemma Adams	Project Assistant

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by MOD Defence Estates and the archaeological work specified and overseen by Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Beverton from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team and the project managed for SCCAS by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams and Val Turp and the specialist finds report produced by Cathy Tester. Post excavation assistance was provided by Gemma Adams who produced the site illustrations.

## Summary

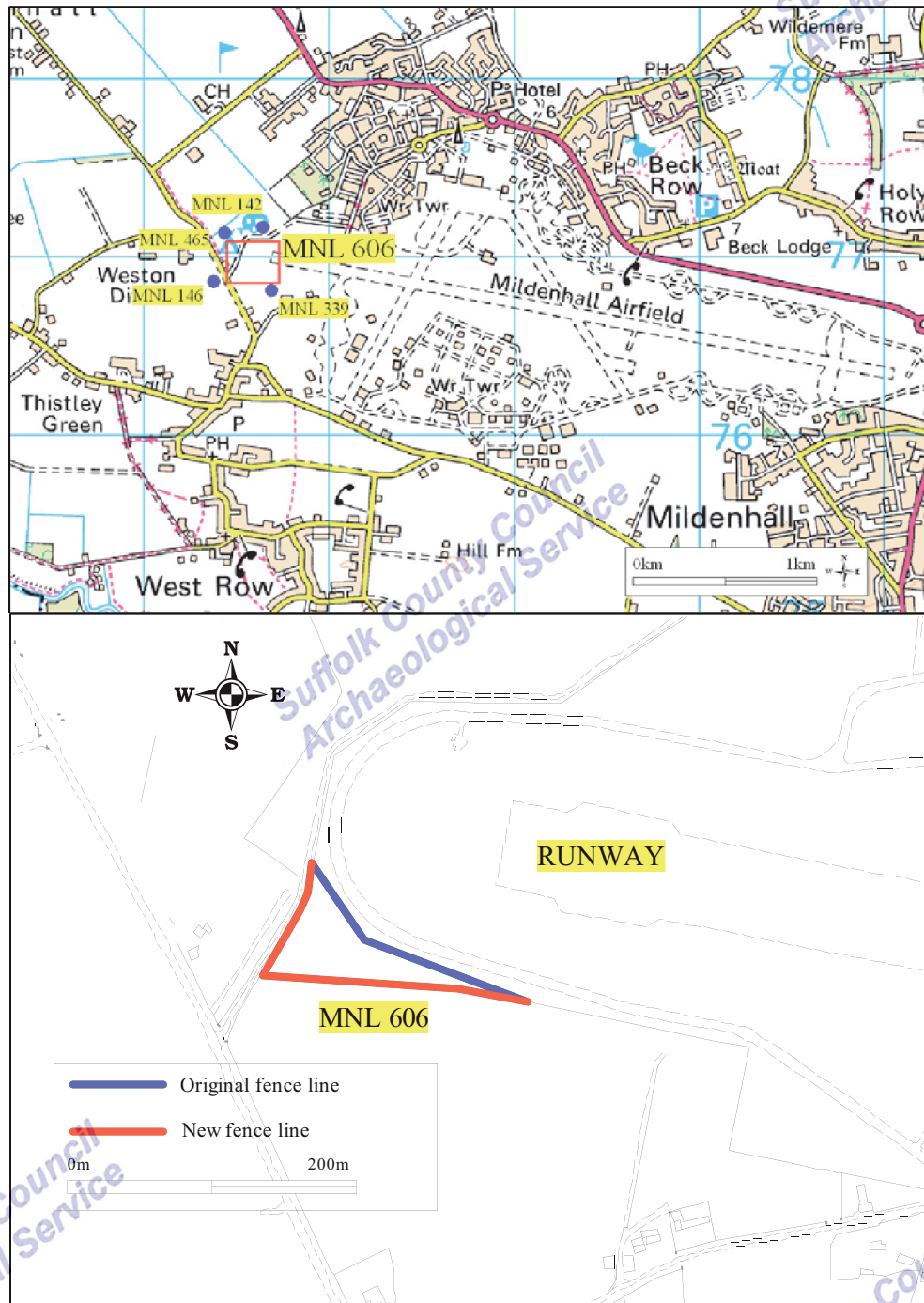
Archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new fenceline at the western end of the runway at RAF Mildenhall identified one, possibly Roman, ditch and two undated gullies. The site lies within an area of Bronze Age and Roman occupation.

## HER information

Planning application no.	Pre/NATO fence 2007
Date of fieldwork:	July 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 6757 7692
Funding body:	MOD Defence Estates
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-47380

# Introduction

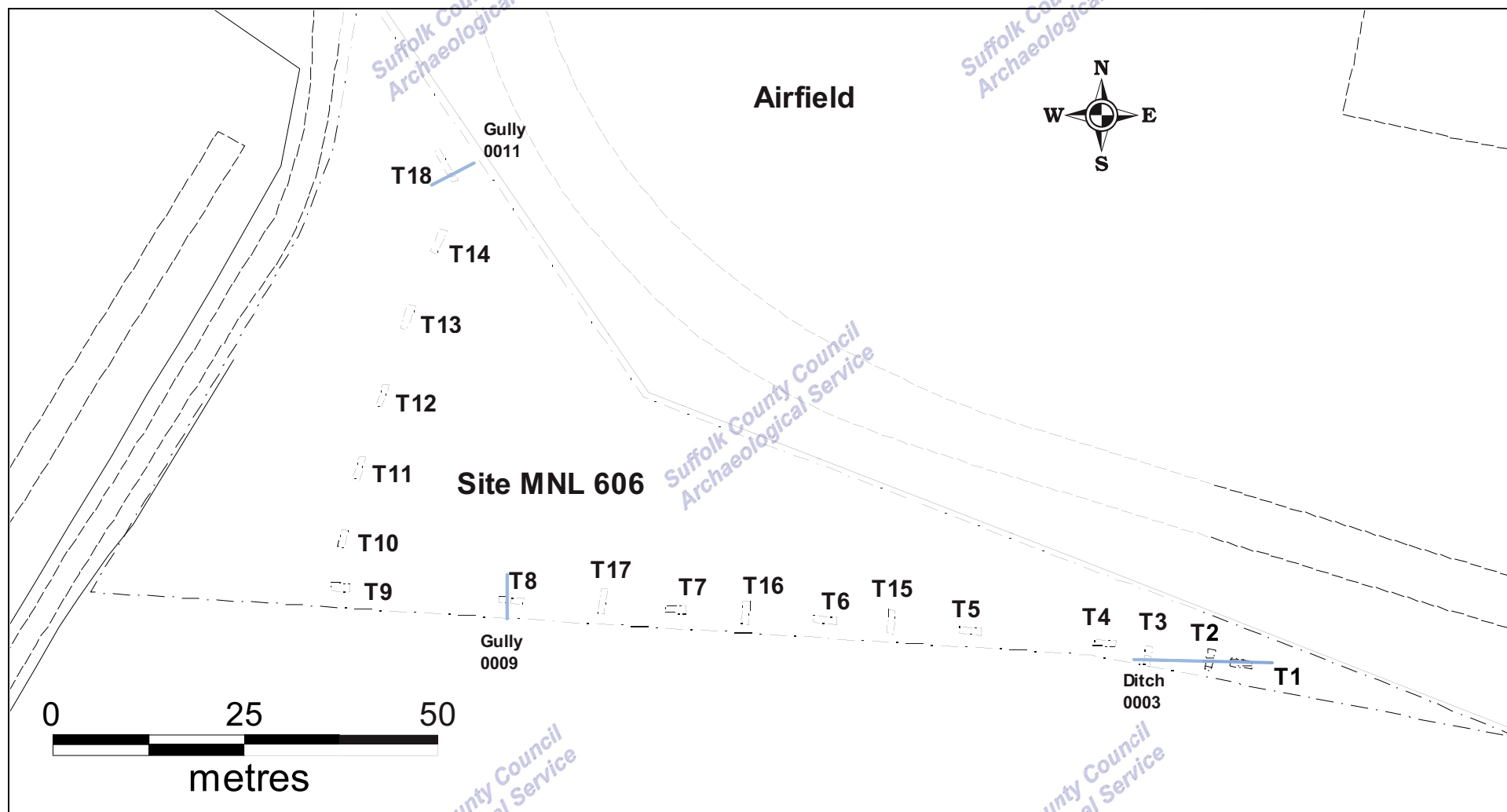
Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the installation of a new section of perimeter fence line at RAF Mildenhall was undertaken during July 2008. The work was carried out according to a Brief and Specification from Jude Plouviez, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 1. Site location

RAF Mildenhall lies on the eastern edge of the fens, within a landscape of chalk and sand ridges and peat filled hollows. The site lies centred at grid ref: TL 6757 7692 within a flat field at 4m OD, where approximately 300m of chain link fence was installed to enclose an additional area towards the west end of the runway (Fig. 1). Previous work within 200m of the site has provided



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 2. Trench location

## Methodology

## Results

Ditch 0003 ran east-west across the eastern end of the site and was present in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. It measured 1.3m in width and was typically 0.4m deep (Fig. 3). Finds recovered from this feature were recorded under context 0006 (Trench 3) and consisted of CBM, snail shell and a single sherd of Roman pottery.

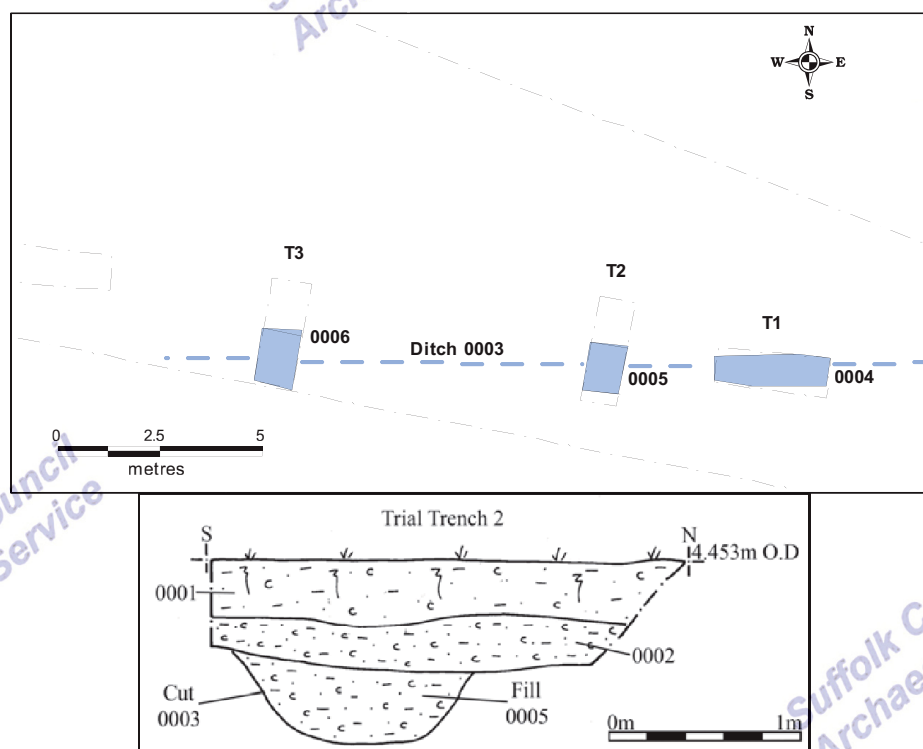


Figure 3. Ditch 0003 in Trench 2.

0009 was a small gully that ran north-south and was found in Trench 8. It was approximately 0.4m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 4) and the fill (0010) was a mid/dark grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional chalk fleck inclusions and contained fragments of animal bone.

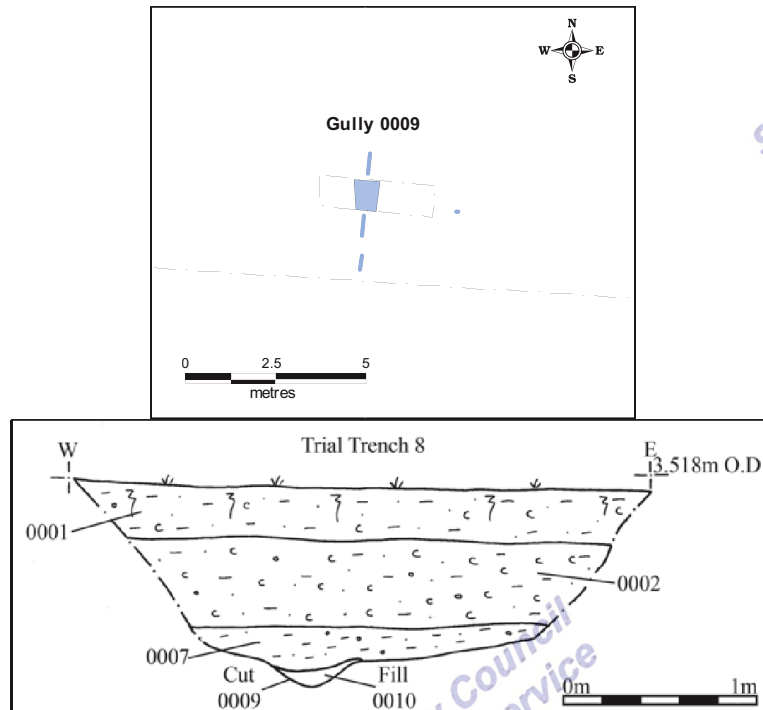


Figure 4. Gully 0009 in Trench 8.

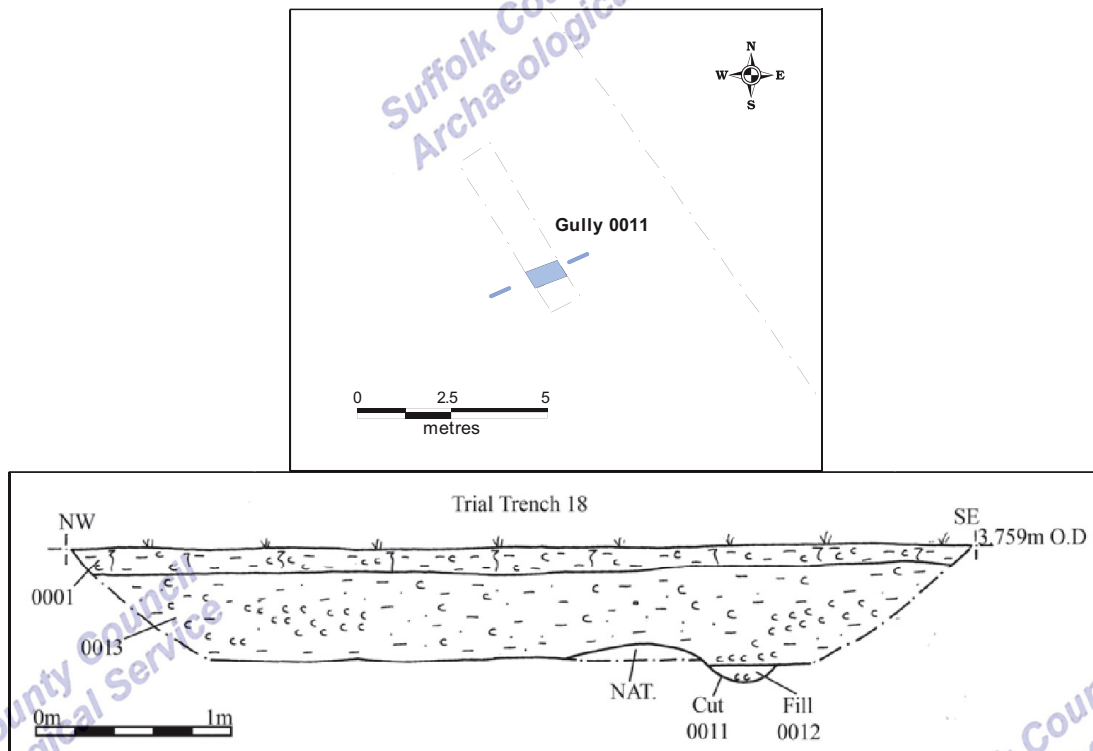


Figure 5. Gully 0011 in Trench 18.

0011 was located in Trench 18 at the north-west end of the new fence line. This was a narrow gully running northeast-southwest and was very similar to 0009 in its morphology with a width of 0.38m and a depth of 0.1m (Fig. 5). It was filled with a mid/dark greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt with very occasional chalk flecking. No finds were recovered from this feature. The archaeological integrity of this feature is uncertain as it lay directly under a layer, 0013, of

modern rubble (Fig. 5). This layer represents the remains of a demolished bungalow and it is possible that gully 0011 is related to this building and is not archaeological.

Soil profiles across the site were fairly consistent and comprised a mid-grey-brown sandy-silt topsoil, 0001, ranging from 0.2-0.4m deep, overlying a mid-orangy-brown slightly sandy-silt subsoil, 0002, ranging from 0.12-0.4m, which in turn overlay natural chalk. The central area of the site (Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17) also contained a dark grey-brown-black slightly sandy-peat, 0007, lying between 0002 and the natural chalk. This probably represents a naturally filled hollow, and part of the landscape of undulation hollows and ridges, typical of this area.

## Finds and environmental evidence by Cathy Tester

### Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Shell		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0006	1	16	1	135			1	<1	Mid C2+
0010					2	204			
Total	1	16	1	135	2	204	1	<1	

Table 1. Finds quantities

### Pottery

A single rim sherd from a necked jar in the black-surfaced variant of Horningsea greyware fabric (HOGB) was found in the fill of ditch 0003 (0006). Distribution of Horningsea products beyond the immediate kiln area is thought to date from the mid 2nd century onwards but as the kilns are only 13 miles away, they may be regarded as a 'local supplier' which could broaden the possible date range.

### Ceramic building material

A fragment (135g) of Roman CBM made in a medium sandy fabric with occasional larger fragments of white quartz sand, ferrous fragments and occasional small calcareous fragments and occasional burnt-out organic materials, and grog was found in 0006. The piece is not identifiable to specific type, but with a measureable thickness of 43mm, could be a fragment of floor or wall brick.

### Animal bone and shell

Two cattle long bone fragments were collected from the fill of gully 0009 (0010). The material is undatable but probably represents the remains of food waste.

A snail shell was recovered from 0006.

### Discussion

The finds assemblage is small and the limited range of types present includes single fragments of pottery and CBM which date to the Roman period. All are likely to represent domestic occupation in the vicinity.

## Summary and Conclusion

Three archaeological features were found across this site, all of which are linear features. Of these 0003 is the only ditch and possibly marked a boundary that ran east to west across the east end of the site. In Trench 3, the fill of this, 0006, produced a rim sherd of Roman pottery dating to the 2nd century and some animal bone, and therefore this is unlikely to be earlier than Roman in date.

The other two features were smaller gullies (0009 and 0011) that ran north-south and northeast-southwest respectively. These were very similar in morphology with animal bone being recovered from 0009. The archaeological integrity of 0011 is questionable due to its location under a modern layer and close proximity to a previous building. Neither of these features contained datable material.

The evidence recovered during this monitoring is not suggestive of settlement occupation, but may demonstrate a low level of Roman occupation on the site. The ditches and gullies and occasional finds may be indicative of field systems representing agricultural rather than domestic activity. This is in contrast to the known intense Roman settlement found on adjacent fields. The change in the character of this occupation could be due to a number of factors, but may reflect the low-lying marginal nature of this ground, but, alternatively, may simply be the open agricultural land used to support the Roman population of the surrounding area.

Andrew Vaughan Beverton  
August 2008

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**



***Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development***

**NATO Fence RAF Mildenhall**

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.*

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Under an agreement replacing the full planning process permission has been granted to re-locate the security fence on this site conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (ref Pre NATO Fence 2007). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The site lies at TL675 769 at the west end of the runway. It lies between several significant concentrations of prehistoric and Roman material near the edge of the Fens; in particular MNL 142 is believed to extend under the runway area immediately to the north of the fence line and MNL 146 which is part of a complex including the Mildenhall silver plate hoard lies 150m to the south-west. There is thus high potential for significant features relating to multi-period, particularly Roman, activity, on which the construction posts for the fencing will impact.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

- 1.5 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.

## 2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site, particularly in the Roman period.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the construction holes, (750mm deep and variously 300 and 450mm square) and any substantial excavations to remove existing posts.  
The excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist after they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

## 3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## 4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to

allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 Unimpeded access must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

## 5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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: Judith Plouviez

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008

Reference: Spec Mon Haymills JP Jan 2008.doc

**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.**

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443

## MNL 606 Context List

Context	Feature	Plan Sheet	Identifier	Type	Description	Same As	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Finds	Width	Length	Depth
0001		GPS	Layer	Deposit	A Mid-Grey-Brown sandy-silt (20:80) with occ. Chalk flecks (10%). The context was moderately compact.					All	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	0.38m Max. @ T4
0002		GPS	Layer	Deposit	The sub-soil was a Mid-Orangy-Brown slightly sandy-silt (10:90). Inclusions were mod.chalk felcks (25%) usually concentrated towards the bottom of the context. The context was moderately compact.				0001	0007	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	0.5m Max. @ T18
0003	0003	GPS	Linear feature	Cut	This feature has a linear plan and a U-section with above average B.O.S, fairly straight sides and a smooth B.O.B leading to a flat base. No truncation as apparent. The feature ran E-W across the site, appearing in Trenches 1,2 and 3.				0004, 0005, 0006		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.3m Max @ T2	n/a	0.4m Max. @ T3
0004	0003	GPS	Linear feature	Fill	This fill was a mid-dark Orangy-grey-brown slightly sandy-silt (15:85). Occ. chalk flecks were present (10%) and the context was fairly compact.	0005, 0006			0002	0003	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	3m (full trench)	0.3m
0005	0003	GPS	Linear feature	Fill	This fill was a mid-dark Orangy-grey-brown slightly sandy-silt (15:85). Occ. chalk flecks were present (10%) and the context was fairly compact.	0004, 0006			0002	0003	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.3m	0.8m (full trench)	0.4m
0006	0003	GPS	Linear feature	Fill	This fill was a mid-dark Orangy-grey-brown slightly sandy-silt (15:85). Occ. chalk flecks were present (10%) and the context was fairly compact. Finds were present and consisted of tile, snail shell and a single rim sherd (roman).	0004, 0005			0002	0003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.8m	0.8m (full trench)	0.4m
0007		GPS	Layer	Deposit	This layer is a dark grey-brown-black slightly sandy-peat. No inclusions were present and the context was friable and slightly compact.				0002	0008, 0010	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	0.22m Max. @ T17
0008		GPS	Layer	Deposit	This layer is a mid/light slightly brownish-grey slightly sandy-silt with moderate chalk fleck inclusions (25%). The context is very compact (almost solid).				0007		<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	0.2m Max. @ T17
0009	0009	GPS	Linear feature	Cut	This narrow linear/gully has a linear plan with a shallow U-section with a slightly below average B.O.S (40°), concave sides and a shallow/smooth B.O.B. The base was concave and narrow. The feature runs N-S. and is found in T8.				0010		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.4m	n/a	0.12m
0010	0009	GPS	Linear feature	Fill	This fill is a mid/dark grey-brown sandy-silt (20:80). There were occ. inclusions of chalk flecks (15%) and is moderately compact. Finds from this context comprise animal bone.					0009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.4m	n/a	0.12m
0011	0011	GPS	Linear feature	Cut	This feature has a linear plan and a shallow U-section with an average B.O.S, concave sides and a relatively smooth B.O.B coming to a narrow base. No truncation is apparent and the feature runs NE-SW. Located at the Northern area of the site.				0012		<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4m	n/a	0.12m
0012	0011	GPS	Linear feature	Fill	The fill of this feature was a mid/dark greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt (15:85) with very occ. chalk flecks (<10%). The fill was fairly compact. No finds were present.				0013	0011	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4m	n/a	0.12m
0013		GPS	Layer	Deposit	This is a mid/dark blacky-brownish-grey slightly sandy-silt with moderate chalk fleck inclusions (20-25%). The fill was moderately compact and appeared very disturbed. Modern glass and CBM were present.				0001	0012	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	0.3m