

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

EAST HOUSE, GEORGE STREET, HADLEIGH

HAD 088

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008



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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© September 2008

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS hereafter) unless otherwise stated.

Rhodri Gardner Senior Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Baker Construction and was monitored by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

Thanks are also due to the client's agent Peacock Short Property Solutions Limited for their help and clear communication throughout.

The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Rhodri Gardner carried out the evaluation.

Summary

Hadleigh, East House, George Street (TL 0291 4259; HAD 088)

A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site prior to determination of a planning application made for residential development. The evaluation was principally concerned with assessing the evidence for Anglo-Saxon burials, as such activity had been indicated by the finding of a cinerary urn on or near the site sometime between 1931 and 1961. No such evidence was found. A single late post-medieval garden feature was recorded. The nature of the deposits suggested that the site was some way outside the historic Saxon/Medieval core of the town. Some limited further work was recommended in the area of the former gardens of East House on the basis that the trial trench in that area had so many modern obstructions and services crossing it that it could not be adequately evaluated.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS for Baker Construction, report no: 2008/258)

SMR information

Planning application no.	Pre-determination
Date of fieldwork:	28 th of August 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 0291 4259
Funding body:	Baker Construction

1 Introduction

An application has been made for residential development at East House, George Street, Hadleigh. The site is centred on approximately NGR TL 0291 4259 and comprises approximately 5,100m².

The site lies on level ground at c. 25m AOD. The site encompasses the gardens of East House and an area of open parkland to the south-east. The site is bounded by parkland to the east and south, the back gardens of neighbouring residential properties to the west and by George Street and East House itself to the north-west.



Figure 1. Site location

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The site lies within the area of archaeological importance for the Late Saxon town of Hadleigh as defined in the Babergh Local Plan. The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) records that an Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn was found sometime between 1931 and 1961 in the gardens of East House. In view of this it was thought that the presence of part of an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery was a possibility, and that an attempt to establish this should be made pre-determination.

As a result a recommendation for an archaeological evaluation was made and outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 04/07/08). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client, Baker Construction.

2 Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on the 28th of August 2008. The trenches were excavated using a 180⁰ tracked mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.8m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was carried out under close mechanical supervision until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the upstanding sections and base of the trench was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify incised features. The trenches were located by simple triangulation from existing boundaries.

The site covers approximately 5,100m², although some 860m² of this is occupied by buildings. Therefore some 4,240m² was available for evaluation. The specification required that 5% of the area be evaluated by trenching (212m²) but was also concerned to evaluate the areas that would be affected by the proposed building's strip foundations. In practice, due to the presence of fences, protected trees and the fact that some areas were open to the public meant that the total area of trenching actually dug was only 104m² but it did adequately covered the area of proposed disturbance.

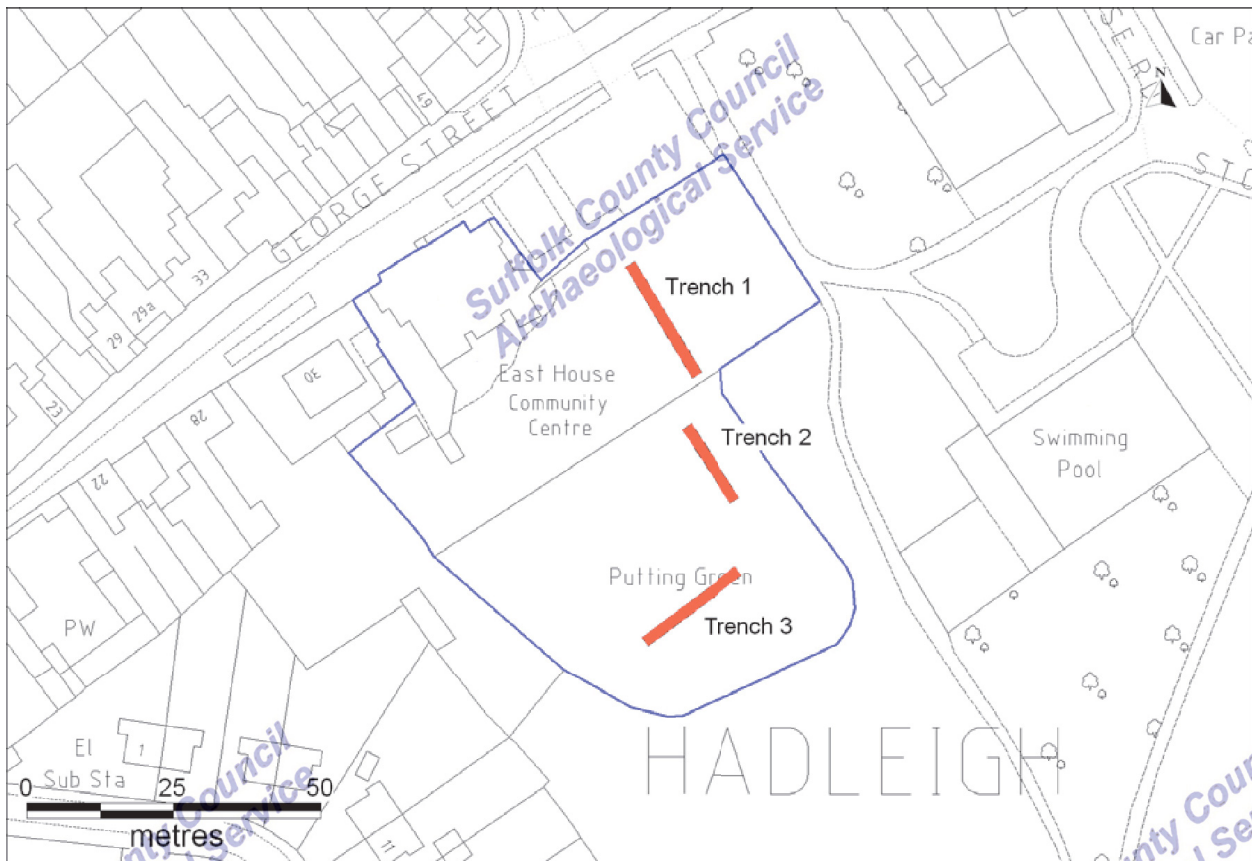


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench locations.

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The site was allocated the HER number HAD 088. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets. All drawn recording was carried out in a series of 1:50 or 1:20 scale plans and 1:20 or 1:10 scale section drawings. The findings were of such a low magnitude in this case that illustrations of individual trenches were rendered simply using MapInfo mapping software.

3 Results

The basic trench dimensions were as follows:

	Length (m)	Area (m ²)
Trench 1	22	40
Trench 2	15	27
Trench 3	20	36
Totals	57m	103m ²

Table 1. Trench dimensions

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the gardens of East House to look for any of the possible evidence of Anglo-Saxon burials but also to examine the nature and extent of any truncation caused by garden features that might have disturbed earlier deposits. No such evidence was found, but the number of modern services and obstructions was such that no significant conclusions about the possibility of early occupation could reliably be drawn. In fact only c. 60% of the trench was not obscured in some way by modern obstructions.

A single feature [0005] was recorded at the south-eastern end of the trench. This was a partially revealed curved rectilinear feature 3.75m long, at least 0.98m wide and 0.35m deep. It had straight, near vertical sides with a gradual break to a flattish base. It contained a single fill (0004) of soft pale greyish brown clayey silt with rare CBM fragments and transfer printed blue and white pottery/other modern porcelain. No finds were retained. It has been interpreted as some form of 19th/20th century garden feature.

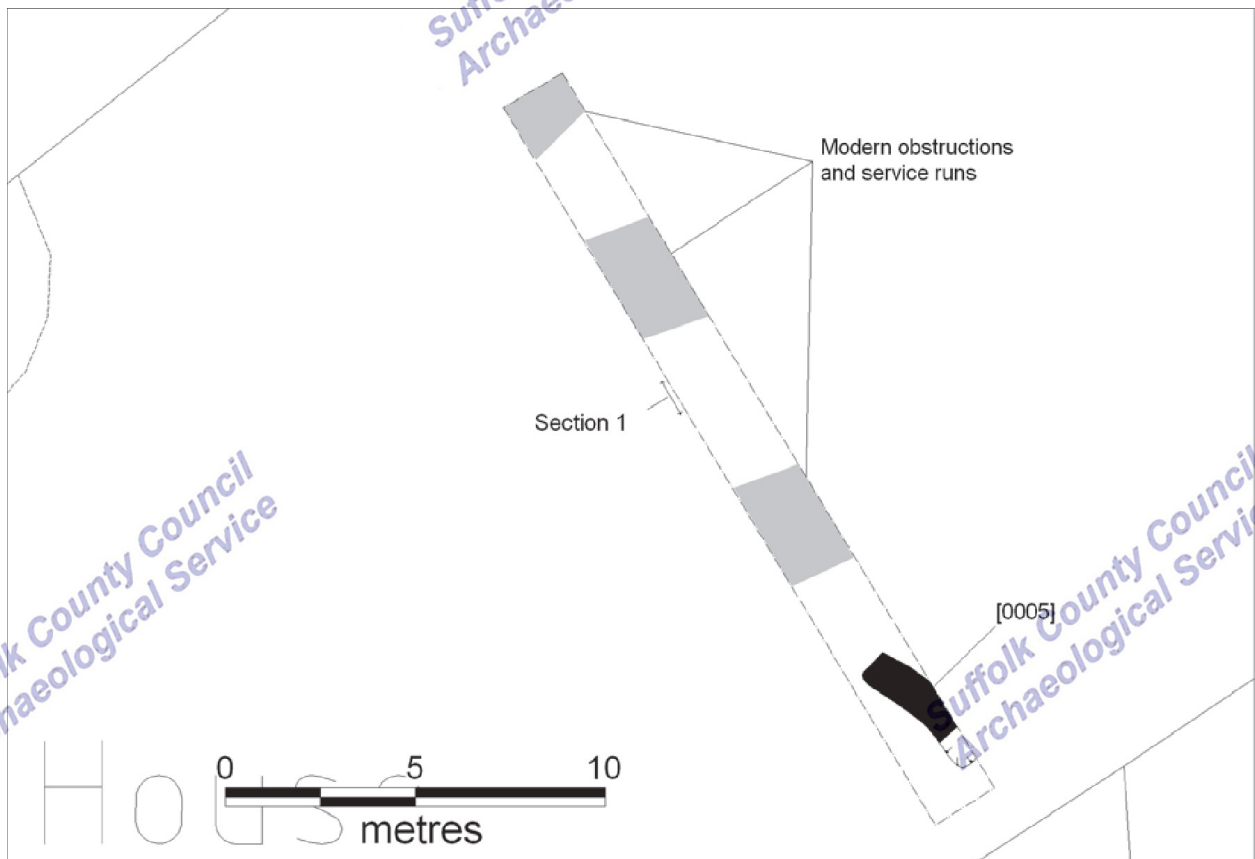


Figure 3. Trench 1: Modern obstructions and services and feature [0005].

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The sequence recorded at Section 1 in the figure above was representative of the whole trench, and was as follows:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.8m	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown slightly silty sandy clay. Modern CBM fragments and small rounded to sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0003	0.8m+	Natural drift. Compact mid reddish brown fine to medium sand matrix (50%), clay patches (10%) and medium sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles/cobbles (30%) and small angular to sub-angular flint shingle/pea grit (10%).

No other finds or features were recorded.

3.2 Trench 2

This was 15m long and situated just outside the boundary fence of East House's garden.

The observed deposits were extremely uniform. The following stratigraphy was observed, as recorded at Section 2 (Fig 4):

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.6m	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown slightly silty sandy clay. Modern CBM fragments and small rounded to sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0006	0.6 – 1m	Weathered natural/subsoil. Soft light greyish brown slightly silty sandy clay with rare small sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0003	1m+	Natural drift. Compact mid reddish brown fine to medium sand matrix (50%), clay patches (10%) and medium sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles/cobbles (30%) and small angular to sub-angular flint shingle/pea grit (10%).

No other features were recorded.

3.3 Trench 3

This had a total length of 20m and was positioned in the open parkland area. Again, no features or finds were observed and the stratigraphy was very uniform. The following representative sequence was recorded at Section 3 (Fig 4):

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.4m	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown slightly silty sandy clay. Modern CBM fragments and small rounded to sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0006	0.4 – 0.85m	Weathered natural/subsoil. Soft light greyish brown slightly silty sandy clay with rare small sub-rounded flint pebbles.
0003	0.85m+	Natural drift. Compact mid reddish brown fine to medium sand matrix (50%), clay patches (10%) and medium sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles/cobbles (30%) and small angular to sub-angular flint shingle/pea grit (10%).

No finds or features were observed (see report cover plate).

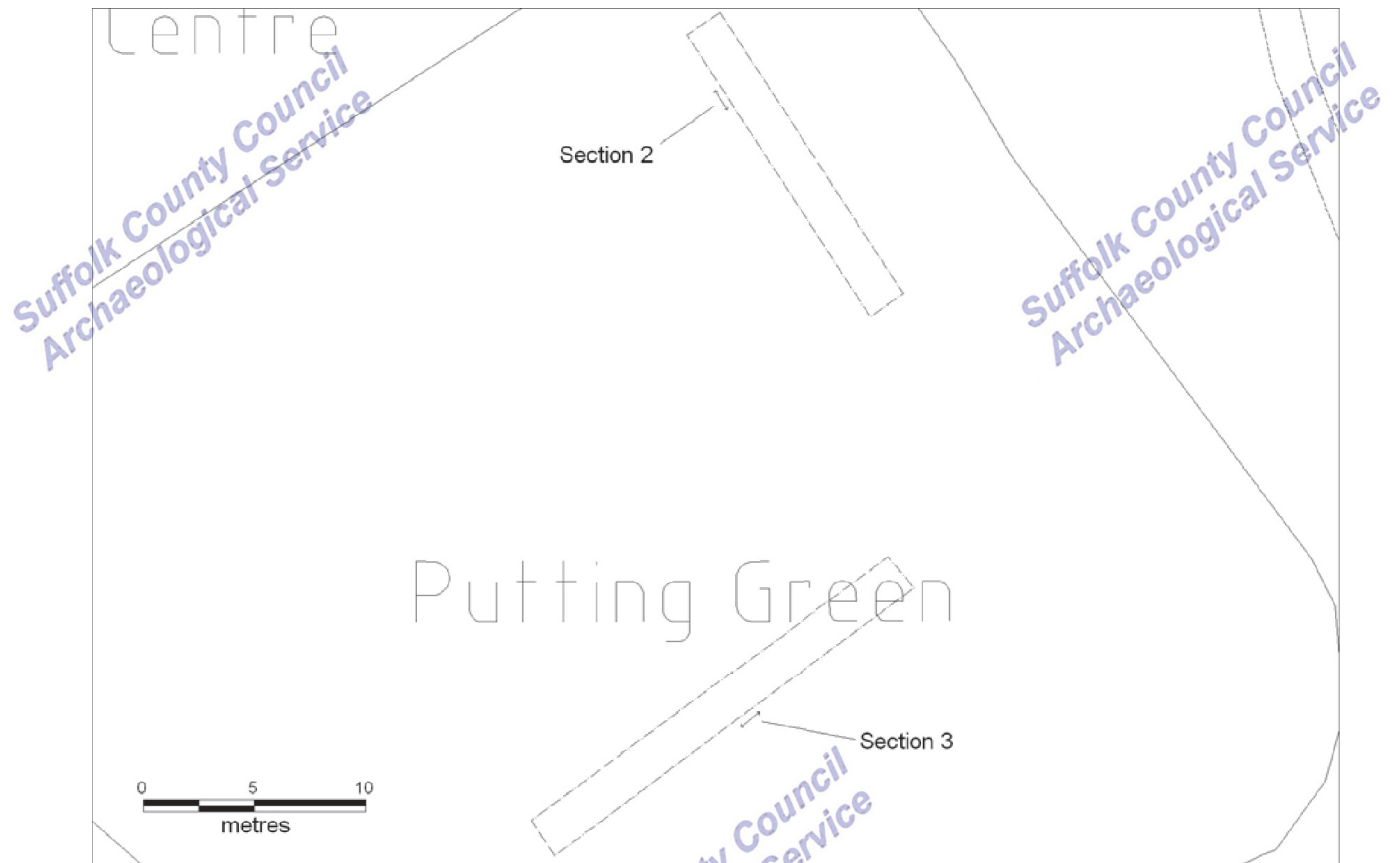


Figure 4. Trenches 2 and 3

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4 Conclusions and Recommendations

No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were recorded.

The area of East House's garden proved difficult to evaluate adequately due to the presence of many modern services and other intrusions. These were, for the most part, very shallow and vulnerable (indeed one, the main sewer from the swimming pool to the north-east, was broken during the work – it was just 0.15m below the turf). Consequently only c. 60% of the trench area could be properly assessed. The area that was accessible seemed very clean and devoid of features. The thick garden soil type deposit was different to the sequence recorded in trenches two and three.

Trenches two and three showed a very distinctive pale and archaeologically sterile overburden beneath the topsoil. This is extremely uncharacteristic of the relatively heavy occupation that might have been expected within the core of the historic town.

The difference between the overburden in trenches can probably be explained by the increased usage/disturbance in the gardens of East House, which has been extant since at least the middle of the 19th century.

It seems likely, given the findings in trenches two and three that the site is just outside the medieval core of the settlement.

Although no evidence of the Anglo-Saxon burial activity that was suspected was found in trenches two and three the amount of modern obstruction in the area of the garden (trench one) was such that it is difficult to say for certain that it was adequately evaluated. Consequently it is recommended that a degree of archaeological monitoring be carried out during construction, but that it is only necessary on the part of the proposed development within the former gardens of East House.

Report No. **2008/258**

OASIS ID No. suffolkc1-48933

Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, October 2008

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

EAST HOUSE, GEORGE STREET, HADLEIGH

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.8 & 1.9.

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 An application is to be made for residential development at East House, George Street, Hadleigh.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant [before determination].
- 1.3 The site lies within the area of archaeological importance defined for the late Saxon and medieval town of Hadleigh in the Babergh Local Plan. In addition the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record lists that an Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn was found sometime between 1931 and 1961 in the gardens of East House. This could indicate the presence of an Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery. The precise location of the find isn't known but it is likely that the former grounds were much larger and included the area of the District Council swimming pool.
- 1.4 Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are of national archaeological importance meriting preservation *in situ*. In some circumstances, excavation and recording may be an acceptable alternative but the high costs of recording Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries could render any development unviable. The presence/absence of such a cemetery is, therefore, a major material consideration for the Planning Authority in its decision whether or not to grant consent for development and the results of the archaeological evaluation will be required prior to determination.
- 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 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.

1.8 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 this office before execution.

1.9 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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.

2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.

3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.

3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

3.4 Provide a transcription of archaeological features from all available air photographs held by Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport Department and its HER, the National Monuments Record and the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs, at a scale of 1:2500.

4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

4.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.

4.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

4.3 It is suggested that two trenches are excavated along the lines of paths within the proposed development (one NW/SE, and one NE/SW).

4.4 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.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.11 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).
- 4.12 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. "*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.
- 4.13 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.

- 6.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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: Keith Wade

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

Tel: 01284 35244

Date: 4 July 2008

Reference: EastHouseEvalSpec

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.