

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LAND ADJACENT 2 THE STREET, MONKS ELEIGH

MKE 027

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008



Rhodri Gardner
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© October 2008

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Contents

List of Figures	i
List of Tables	i
List of Contributors	i
Acknowledgements	i
Summary	ii
SMR information	ii
1. Introduction	1
2. Methodology	2
3. Results	3
4. The Finds	4
4. Conclusions and Recommendations	5
Appendix 1: Brief and Specification	6

List of Figures

1. Site location	1
2. Site detail and trench location	2
3. Feature [0005]	3

List of Tables

1. Finds Quantities	4
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List of Contributors

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

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Orwell Housing Association and was monitored by Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

Thanks are also due to the client's agents Last and Tricker Partnership and Oxbury and Company 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

Monks Eleigh, Land Adjacent to 2 The Street (TL 9673 4762; MKE 027)

A trial trench evaluation (a single 10m long trench) was carried out at the above site in advance of a planning application made for residential development. A single post-medieval feature was found, most probably relating to ephemeral garden/agricultural activity. The prominent slope observed on site was thought to be natural in origin as no obvious terracing or landscaping could be observed. No further work was recommended provided that the proposed development did not involve any major landscaping that might afford an opportunity for inexpensive monitoring of a wide area.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS for Orwell Housing Association, report no: 2008/260)

SMR information

Planning application no.	B/08/00225/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	15th of September 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 9673 4762
Funding body:	Orwell Housing Association

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1 Introduction

An application has been granted for residential development on land adjacent to 2 The Street, Monks Eleigh. The site is centred on approximately NGR TL 9673 4762 and comprises approximately 580m².

The site lies on land that slopes quite sharply from c. 44m AOD at the northern end of the site to 40m OD at road level at the southern end. Much of this fall is over the last 20m near the street. The site encompasses part of the garden of No 2 The Street. The site is bounded by No 2 to the west, another garden to the north, open land to the east and the main thoroughfare of The Street to the south.

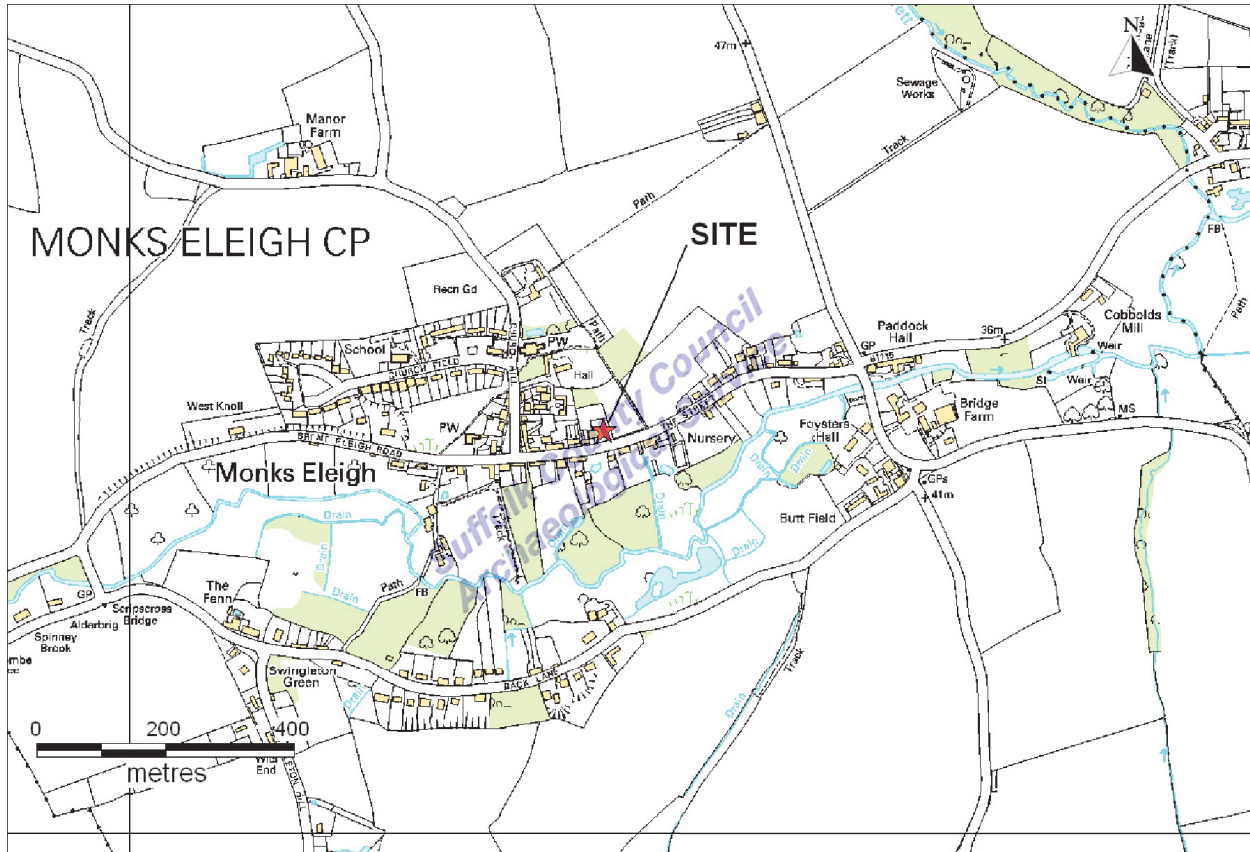


Figure 1. Site location

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The site lies in an area of archaeological importance, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER), within the historic settlement core of the village and close to the medieval church (MKE 007). There was therefore considered to be a high potential for the preservation of medieval or possibly earlier occupation deposits within the site.

As a result a condition requiring archaeological evaluation was made and outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 05/08/08). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client Orwell Housing Association.

2 Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on the 15th of September 2008. A single 10m long trench was excavated using a 1.8m wide ditching bucket fitted to a 180° tracked mechanical excavator (JCB).

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 covered an area of c. 580m², although some was unavailable due to the presence of substantial trees and an area of hard standing/parking associated with the property at No 2 in the south-western corner of the development area. It was still possible to locate the 10m trench appropriately given the likely location of the proposed development. The trench location is shown below.

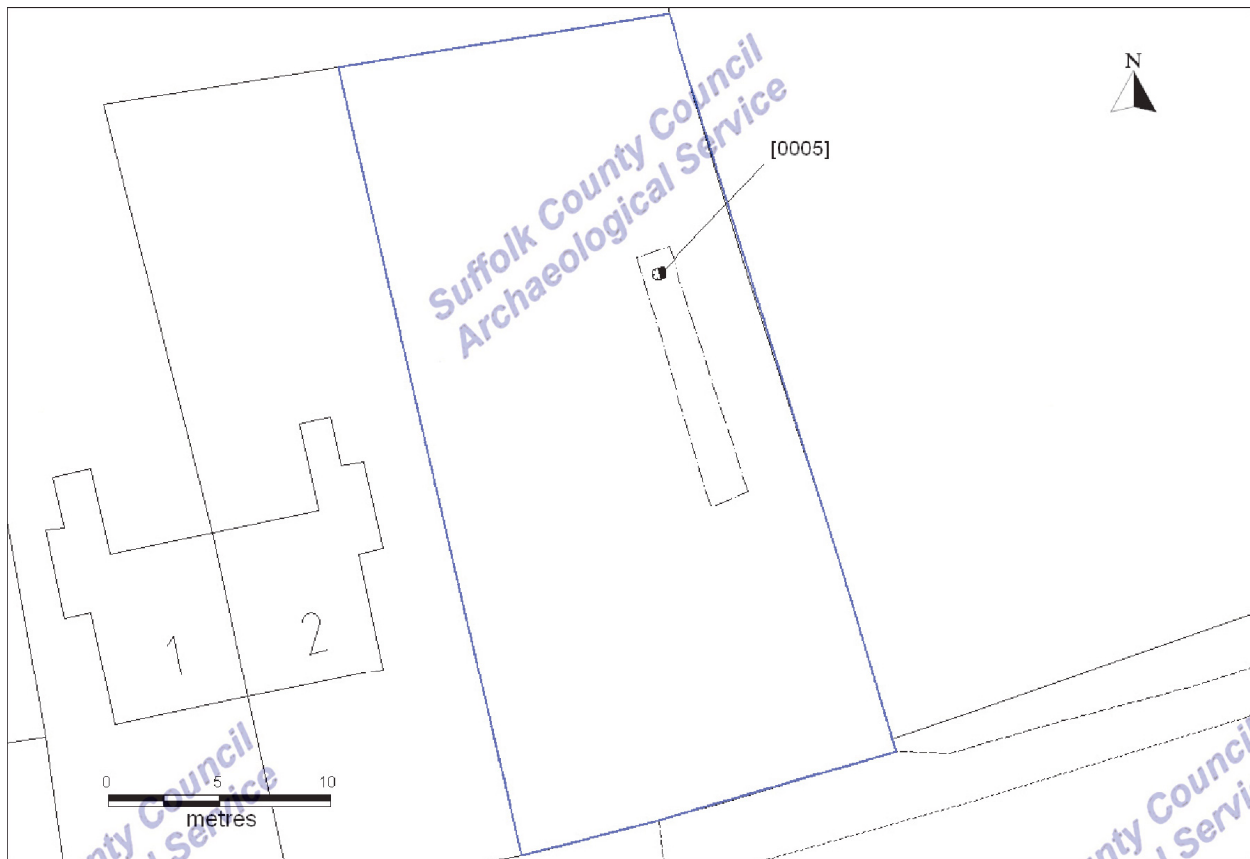


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench location.

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The site was allocated the HER number MKE 027. 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 as appropriate. 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

A single feature, 0005, was recorded close to the northern end of the trench. This was a small sub-rectangular shallow pit measuring 0.54m long (east-to-west), 0.45m wide (north-to-south) and just 0.16m deep. It had gently sloping slightly concave sides which broke very gradually to a gently rounded base. It contained a single fill, 0004, of firm mid grey silty clay with occasional flint pebbles, rare chalk and charcoal flecks and very rare CBM frags and a few dateable finds which suggest a post-medieval date (see Section 4). Its very shallow depth suggested that there had been a degree of vertical truncation.

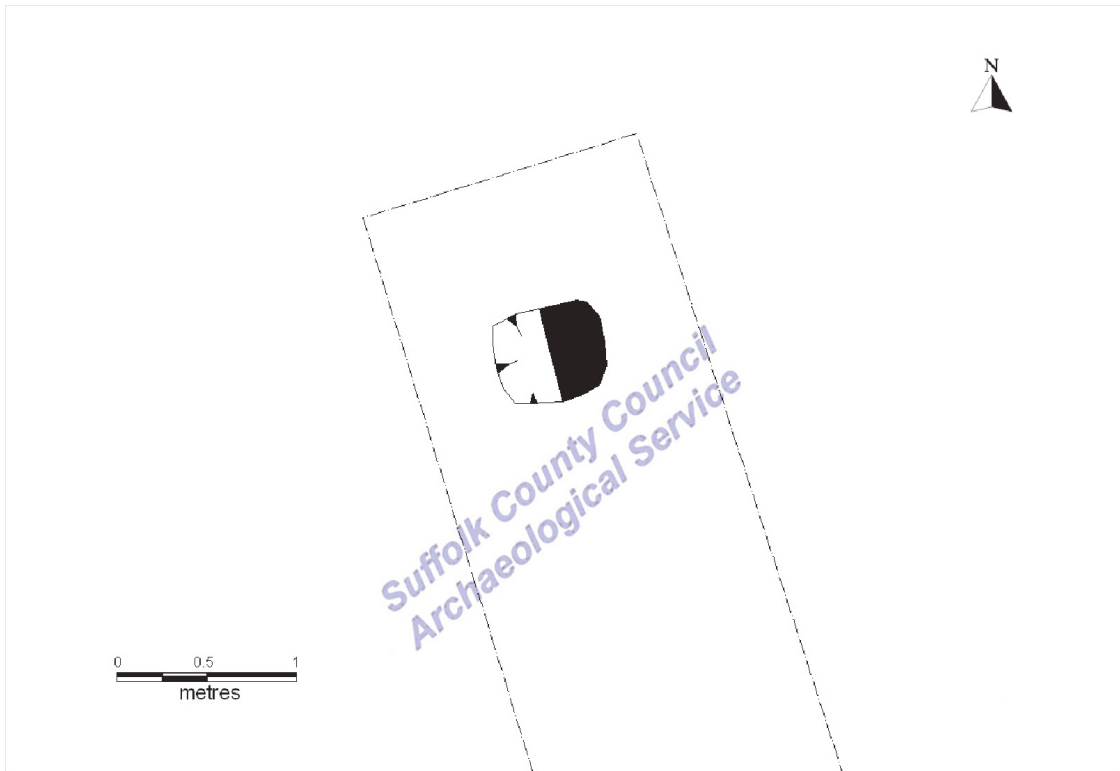


Figure 3. Feature 0005

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Due to the prominent slope, the topsoil thickness varied throughout even such a short trench. The following stratigraphy was recorded at the northern end of the trench:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.3m	Topsoil. Soft mid greyish brown slightly sandy silty clay with very frequent root disturbance. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles, rare chalk flecks/small nodules and CBM, glass and corroded modern iron fragments.
0003	0.3m+	Natural drift. Stiff light brown clay/Boulder Till with rare silty pockets caused by root activity. Frequent chalk flecks and small nodules, moderate very poorly sorted small to medium sub-angular or angular flints.

At the southern end of the trench the deposit descriptions were identical, but the topsoil was somewhat thicker at 0.55m deep.

No other finds or features were recorded.

4 The Finds

By Richenda Goffin

4.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	CBM		Slag		Charcoal		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0004	4	34	5	15	2	1	2 iron nails @ 20g, 1 struck flint @ 6g	Post-medieval
Total	4	34	5	15	2	1		

Table 1 Finds quantities

4.2 Ceramic building material

Four pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the evaluation. They were all fragmentary and abraded and it was only possible to determine that the largest was from a brick. The fragments are all post-medieval. The largest is made from a fine sandy fabric with occasional red clay pellets (fscp), whilst three smaller fragments are coarser with sparse flint inclusions (msf).

4.3 Slag

Five burnt fragments have been classified as slag although they are likely to represent fuel ash slag or burnt hearth material.

4.4 Charcoal

Two large fragments of charcoal were collected from pitfill 0004.

4.5 Flint

A single fragment of struck flint was recovered. It reassembles a 'mini-core' but may not necessarily be old and may be derived from flint-knapping for stone walling in the vicinity during the post-medieval period (Colin Pendleton, pers. comm.).

4.6 Miscellaneous

The remains of two iron nails were collected, which are probably post-medieval.

4.7 Discussion

The only datable finds are fragments of ceramic building material which are post-medieval. The remainder of the finds cannot be closely dated.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were recorded.

A single small feature of post-medieval date was recorded. Found in isolation this is difficult to interpret, but most likely represents ephemeral 19th or 20th century garden activity.

The prominent slope from north to south has resulted in a slightly thicker topsoil deposit in southern parts of the site. There was no evidence to suggest that the majority of the prevailing slope was anything other than natural in origin.

No further work is recommended if the development takes the form of simple strip foundations. If any larger scale ground reduction or topsoil stripping is to be carried out it may be worth a further monitoring visit to ascertain the nature of activity represented by feature 0005.

Report No. **2008/260**

OASIS ID No. suffolkc1-49553

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.

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Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT TO NO 2 THE STREET, MONKS ELEIGH, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a pair of semi-detached houses on Land Adjacent to No 2 The Street, Monks Eleigh, IP7 7AU (TL 9673 4762), has been granted by Babergh District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/08/00225/FUL).
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures c. 0.095 ha. on the northern side of The Street (see accompanying plan). It is situated on glaciofluvial drift (deep loam) at c. 40.00m AOD, on the northern side of a tributary of the River Brett.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a historic settlement core and to the south of the medieval church (MKE 007). There is high potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.7 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.8 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.9 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.10 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as 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 A single linear trial trench, 10.00m in length, is to be excavated to sample of the area of the new building and access. The trench is to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.12 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.16 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.17 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. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. 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 Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 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.

5.18 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.

5.19 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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Date: 5 August 2008

Reference: / No2TheStreet-MonksEleigh2008

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.