

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

YARMOUTH ROAD, UFFORD

UFF 031

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008



Rhodri Gardner
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© October 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 Duncan Cameron and Hutchinson Ltd. and was monitored by Judith Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

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

Ufford, Yarmouth Road (TM 2910 5223; UFF 031)

A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site prior to the construction of six affordable homes. Initial research suggested that the site had good potential for preservation and was also well situated in an area likely to have seen occupation in the past. In the event widespread damage and modern disturbance was encountered, relating either to 19th century resource extraction or 20th Century light-use buildings. No further work was recommended.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS for Duncan, Cameron and Hutchinson Ltd., report no: 2008/260)

SMR information

Planning application no.	C/07/1945
Date of fieldwork:	23rd September 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2910 5223
Funding body:	Duncan Cameron & Hutchinson Ltd.

1 Introduction

An application has been made to build six dwellings on land at the junction of Yarmouth Road and Parklands, Ufford. The site is centred approximately on NGR TM 2911 5223 and comprises approximately 2,200m².

The site lies on level ground at c. 29m AOD. The plot is bounded to the west by the Yarmouth Road, by scrubland to the north and east and to the south by the smaller thoroughfare of Parklands.

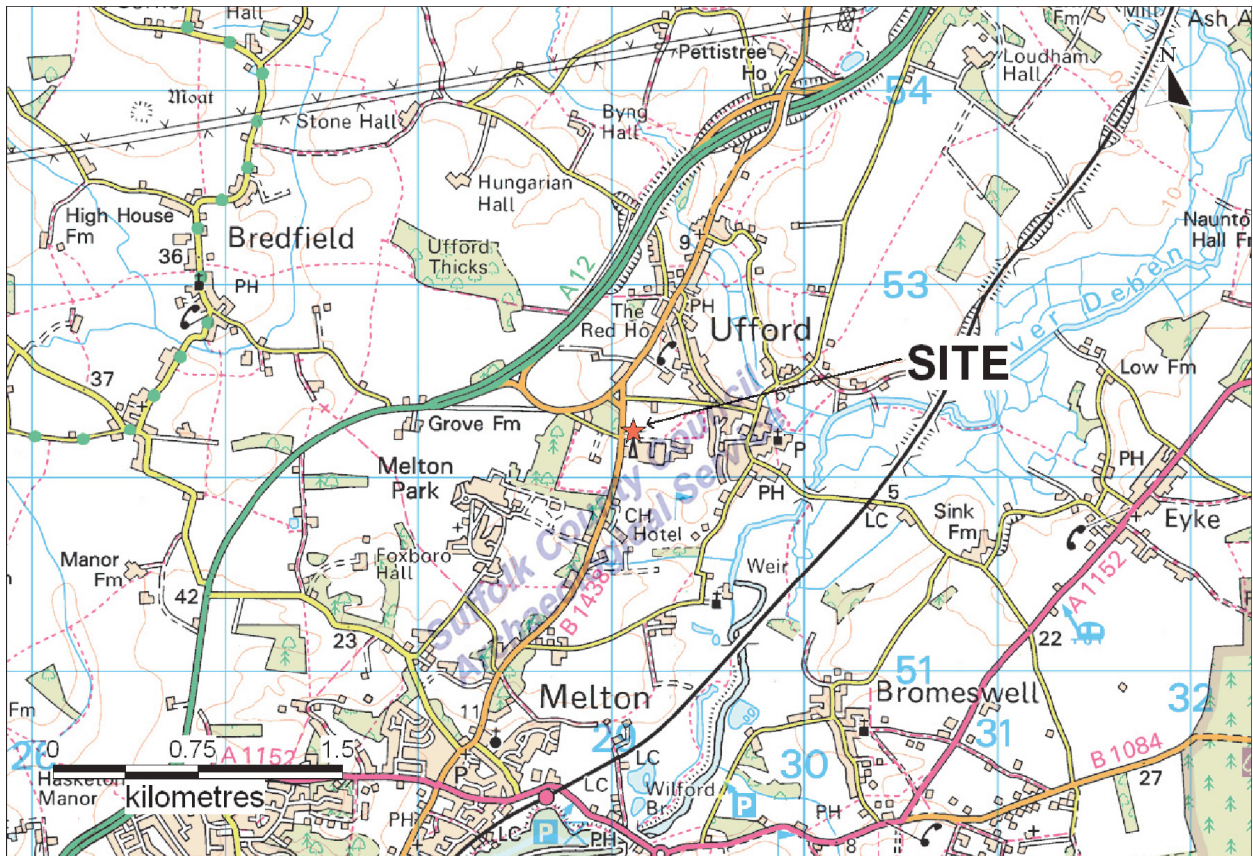


Figure 1. Site location

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The site lies on the south-western valley side of Byng Brook, a tributary of the River Deben. It lies in an area of quite light favourable soils and this, along with its general position in the landscape make it likely that the area would have been settled and occupied in the past. Indeed, Anglo-Saxon and medieval material has been found just 100m to the north-west at a site identified in the County HER as UFF 013. Earlier maps show some evidence of extraction pits in the vicinity, but these appeared to be to the north of the application area. Some wartime buildings are indicated on aerial photographs but they do not look particularly large and destructive. In view of this background knowledge the site was thought to have significant potential for the presence of well preserved archaeological deposits.

As a result a recommendation for an archaeological evaluation was made and outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Judith Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 21/08/08). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client, Duncan Cameron & Hutchinson Ltd.

2 Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on the 23rd of September 2008. The trenches were excavated using a 180° 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 2,200m² in all, although some 580m² was excluded due to the presence of an exclusion zone to protect overhead power lines and two substantial trees (Fig. 2). The specification required that 5% of the area be evaluated by trenching, amounting to some 110m² of trench. In practice only c. 101m² was dug, due to the areas of exclusion, and the limited access to the JCB in what was a more restricted site than had first appeared. Three trenches were employed (Fig. 2).

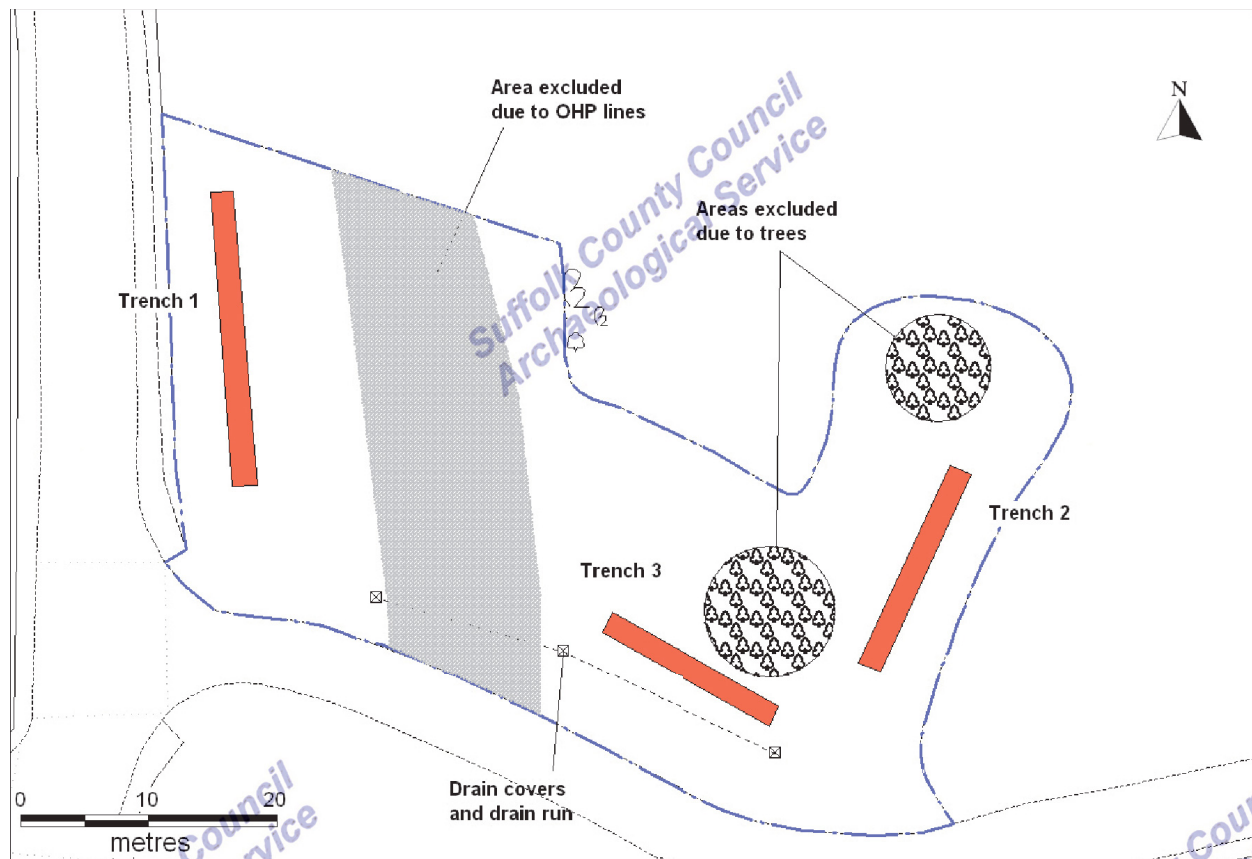


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench locations.

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The site was allocated the HER number UFF 031. 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.

3 Results

The basic trench dimensions were as follows:

	Length (m)	Area (m ²)
Trench 1	24	43
Trench 2	17	31
Trench 3	15	27
Totals	55m	101m ²

Table 1. Trench dimensions

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned along the far eastern boundary of the site in order to assess whether any evidence for early ribbon development along the Yarmouth Road could be seen. No such evidence was found.

In fact the entire length of the trench showed heavy disturbance to a depth of over a metre, and the nature of the deposits suggest that this part of the site had seen relatively recent disturbance. This damage could be associated either with extraction activity similar to that indicated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figs. 3 and 4) or to mid 20th Century disruption (Fig. 5).

The following stratigraphy was observed throughout the trench:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.35m	Topsoil. Soft mid greyish brown sandy silty clay loam with frequent root disturbance and modern refuse (CBM fragments, corroded iron objects, glass fragments etc.).
0003	0.35 – 0.60m	Clay 'capping'. Firm pale yellowish brownish grey clay. Moderate chalk flecks and small to medium flint pebbles, rare CBM and charcoal flecks.
0004	0.60 – 0.70m	Sand 'blinding'. Soft light yellowish brown sharp sand with occasional modern rubbish (CBM, corroded iron objects, glass etc.).
0005	0.70 – 1.10m	Backfill/dumping. Soft mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate small to medium flint pebbles/cobbles and frequent large modern rubbish (whole/half bricks, corroded iron objects etc.).
0006	1.10m+	Natural drift. Very compact/stiff light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand matrix with frequent chalk flecks, moderate larger chalk pieces (poorly sorted and sub-angular), occasional angular to sub-rounded small to large flints.

No other finds or features were recorded.

3.2 Trench 2

This was 17m long and situated within the lower potential part of the site, away from the frontages. The observed deposits were extremely uniform (see cover Plate). The following stratigraphy was observed:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.30m	Topsoil. Soft mid greyish brown sandy silty clay loam with frequent root disturbance and modern refuse (CBM fragments, corroded iron objects, glass fragments etc.).
0007	0.30 – 0.95m	Undifferentiated overburden. Very mixed. Frequent modern rubbish inclusions. Considerable dumping/infill.
0006	0.95m+	Natural drift. Very compact/stiff light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent chalk flecks, moderate larger chalk pieces (poorly sorted

		and sub-angular), occasional angular to sub-rounded small to large flints.
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No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were recorded. A large concrete slab/pad was broken out and removed from the northern end of the trench. It is possible that this could relate to a Second World War structure on the basis of the evidence available in aerial photographs (Fig 5), although it had no particular distinguishing features.

3.3 Trench 3

This was just 15m long and was intended to be positioned to assess the nature of the southern frontage. Unfortunately this could not be placed in the ideal position as a number of manhole/service covers meant that the trench had to be placed further back from the street frontage.

Again, no features or finds were observed and the stratigraphy was very uniform. The following representative sequence was recorded:

Context	Depth	Description
0002	0 - 0.30m	Topsoil. Soft mid greyish brown sandy silty clay loam with frequent root disturbance and modern refuse (CBM fragments, corroded iron objects, glass fragments etc.).
0003	0.30 – 0.70m	Undifferentiated overburden. Very mixed. Frequent modern rubbish inclusions. Considerable dumping/infill.
0006	0.70m+	Natural drift. Very compact/stiff light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand with frequent chalk flecks, moderate larger chalk pieces (poorly sorted and sub-angular), occasional angular to sub-rounded small to large flints.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

No pre-modern archaeological finds or features were recorded.

The principal finding was that the anticipated good preservation did not prevail. In fact the extraction activity indicated on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps would seem to have extended to much of the development area (Figs 3 and 4).

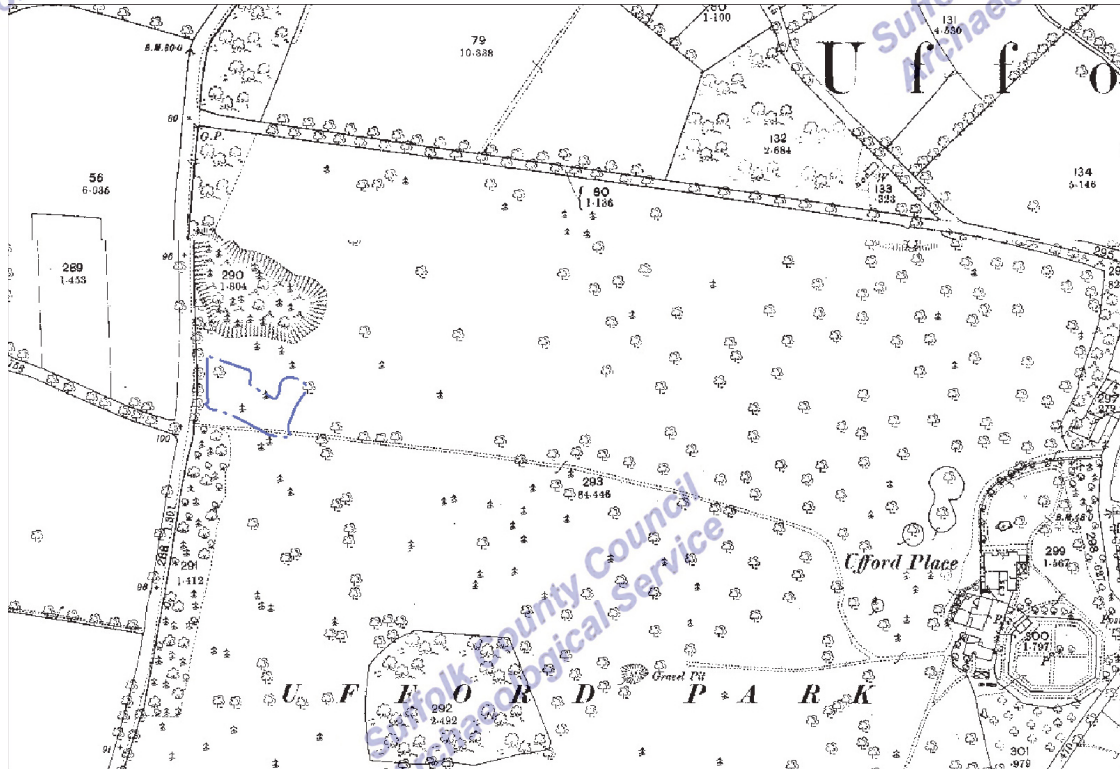


Figure 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

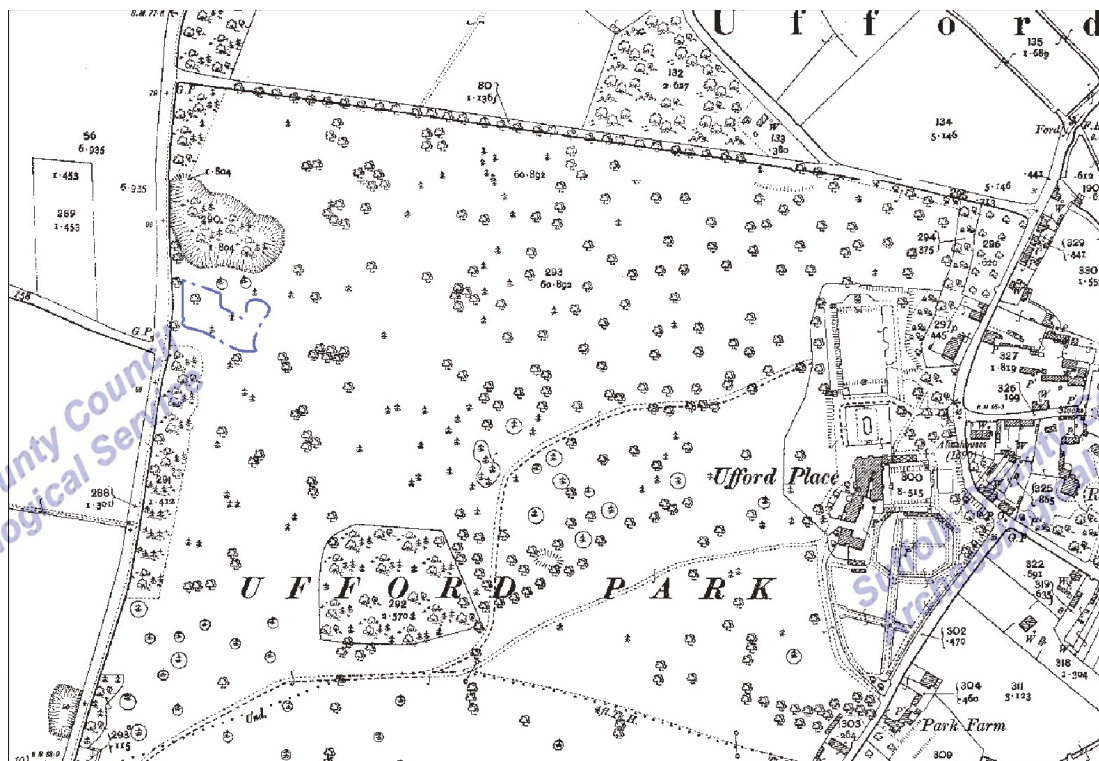


Figure 4. Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (note loss of track to the south of the site)

Further 20th Century activity is visible in the 1945 aerial photograph coverage of the area, with light structures and access/hardstanding visible (Fig. 5). The construction and subsequent demolition of these structures would have caused further disruption.



Figure 5. Extract from 1945 Aerial photograph.

The evidence suggests that the site has little or no potential for the preservation of any significant archaeological deposits. Consequently no further work is recommended.

Report No. **2008/261**

OASIS ID No. suffolkc1-49607

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

Evaluation by Trial Trench

Yarmouth Road, Ufford

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 An application, C/07/1945, has been made to build 6 houses on a 0.24ha plot at the junction of Yarmouth Road and Parklands, Ufford.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be 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 29105223, high on the valley side between 25 and 30m OD overlooking the Byng Brook, a tributary of the River Deben, to the north-east and is on sandy soil – topographically this location is quite likely to have been exploited for early settlement. Anglo-Saxon and medieval material has been found within 100m to the north-west (HER ref UFF 013). The development area fronts the main road (former A12) and so has some potential for further medieval activity. In the post-medieval period it was within Ufford Park and the 1880's OS map shows an extraction pit to the north of the development area. Mid 20th century air photos show buildings (?WW2 and temporary) but the area has probably not been subject to damage from ploughing in recent centuries.
There is therefore high potential for earlier activity in a good state of preservation within the development area.
- 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.
- 2.8 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 : Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. "*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.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies or high resolution digital photos.
- 3.14 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.

- 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. 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

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Date: 21st August 2008

Yarmouth Road, Ufford.doc Suffolk County Archaeological Service

12/11/08

Reference: T:\Arc\Development Control\Ufford\2007 & earlier\2007_1945\Spec eval (JP) Aug 08.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.