

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land Associated with Weybread Fisheries, Mill Lane, Weybread WYB 066

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no. 2199/08)



Liz Muldowney
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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



Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
HER information

1. Introduction
 - 1.1 Topography and Geology
 - 1.2 Archaeological and Historical background
 - 1.3 Aims and Objectives
2. Methodology
3. Results
 - 3.1 Trench 9
4. Finds evidence
5. Conclusion and Recommendations

References

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

List of Figures

1. Site Location marked by red star
2. Figure 2. Site location shaded in red, kiln sites as blue stars
3. Trench location plan showing extent of layer in Trench 9

List of Tables

1. Trench descriptions
2. Finds quantities

List of Contributors

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

Liz Muldowney Project Officer
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr A. Chapman and the archaeological work was specified and monitored by Will Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by Rob Brookes and Nick Taylor from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney, and managed by Jo Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation took place on land associated with Weybread Fisheries, Mill Lane, Weybread on the 29th October 2008 prior to the construction of a second fishing lake and associated structures. Nine linear trenches were investigated, a single modern extensive layer of redeposited clay and topsoil was encountered that derived from the upcast from the construction of a small fish stock pond. This layer had been modelled into a low rectangular platform around the pond.

HER information

Planning application no.	2199/08
Date of fieldwork:	29th October 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2494 8030
Funding body:	Mr. A. Chapman
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-50698

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Mill Lane Farm, Weybread on the 29th October 2008. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Will Fletcher (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The work was carried out in advance of the construction of a fishing lake and associated structures (Planning Application 2199/08). The work was funded by the landowner Mr. A. Chapman.

1.1 Topography and Geology

The site lies at TM 2494 8030 on the north side of Mill Lane (Fig. 1). The evaluated area was a rectangular field/paddock measuring approximately 0.91 hectares bounded to the north, west and east by mature trees/hedges. The land was generally flat at approximately 42 – 46m OD, the south-west corner of the field contained a modern rectangular fish stock pond measuring 28m by 9m set within a slightly raised area. The geological horizon was a stiff bluish yellow clay, with some sandy lenses, of the Beccles series.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical background

The site lies 370m to the east of a known Roman road, now the B1116. The fields on both sides of this road have produced scatters of artefacts including Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval pottery as well as prehistoric flint. The late medieval/early post-medieval pottery dated to the 15th to 16th century and included kiln wasters and was associated with kiln furniture. These scatters are believed to be associated with a number of pottery kiln sites in the area, although the exact location of only one kiln is known (WYB 006, Fig. 1). A small excavation was carried out at the aptly named Potters Farm in 1985 which identified a single kiln and an associated ditch containing pottery waste products.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.



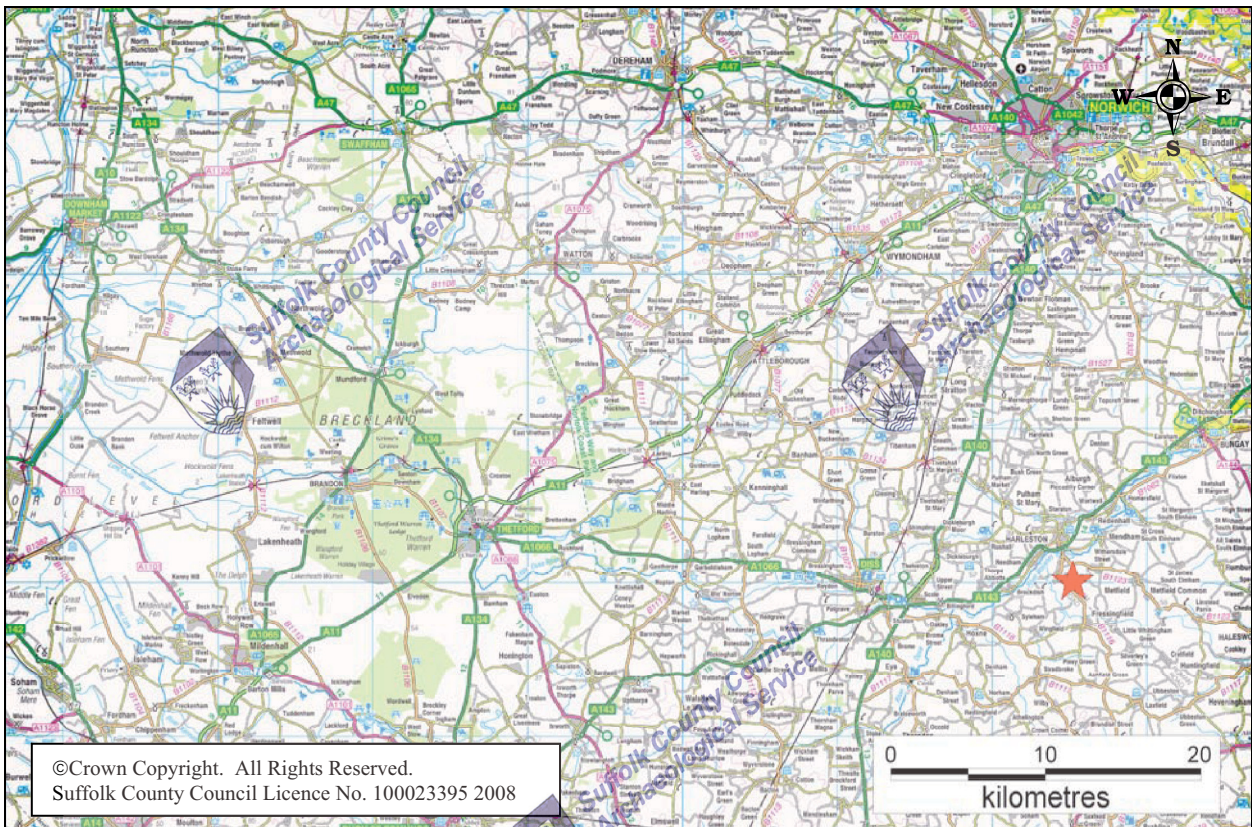


Figure 1. Site Location marked by red star

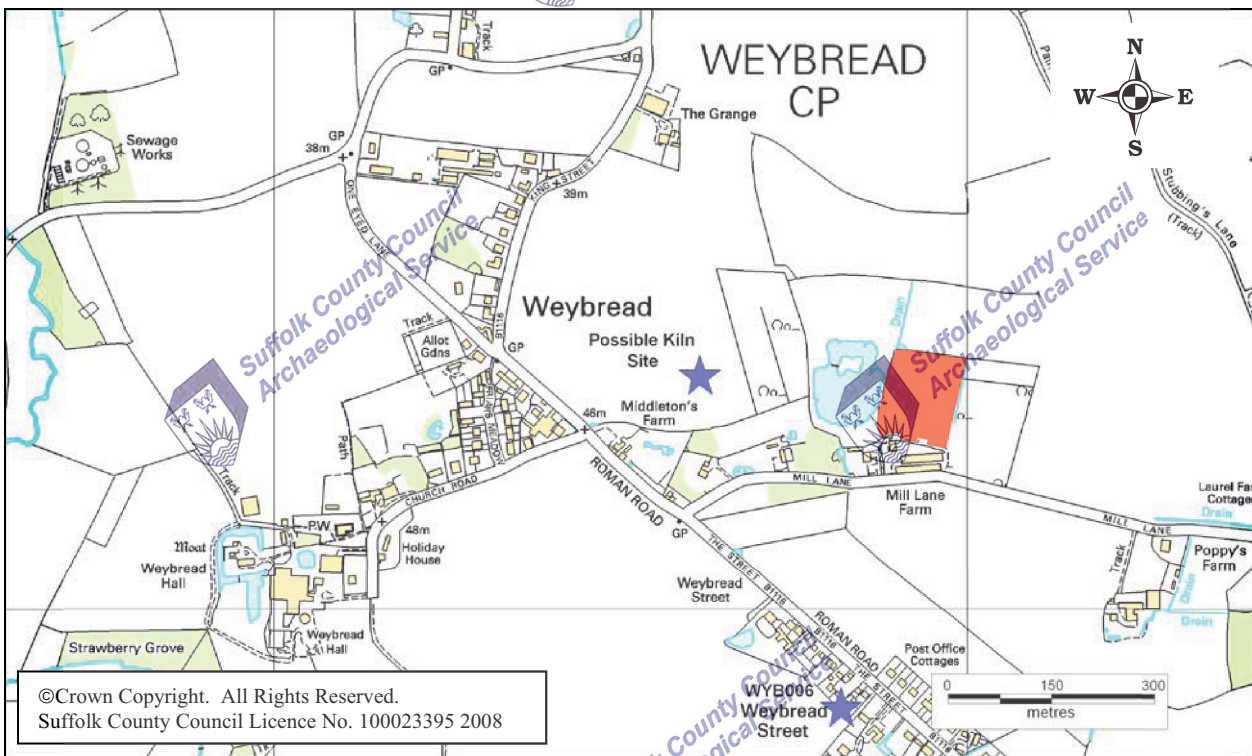


Figure 2. Site location shaded in red, kiln sites as blue stars

2. Methodology

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief and specification provided by Will Fletcher. This required the excavation of 5% of the 0.91 hectare development area by linear trenches. Nine trenches were excavated measuring 30m by 1.8m, using a 13 tonne

tracked 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were set out by tape, broadly following the proposed trench plan; however, ground conditions required some variation. Their positions were subsequently recorded using differential GPS.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines. All records were created using SCCAS proformas and high resolution digital photographs were taken of relevant deposits.

All finds were retained for inspection, no environmental samples were taken.



Figure 2. Trench location plan showing extent of layer in Trench 9

3. Results

No pre-modern archaeological features were encountered within the development area. Eight of the nine trenches were devoid of features and will be described in Table 1. Trench 9 contained a modern layer and is described below. Topsoil 0002 was uniform across the site and was described as being firm dark greyish brown silty clay, this sealed a subsoil horizon comprising mid yellowish brown silty clay (0003). The subsoil was not uniformly present across the site and seemed to fill slight hollows in the underlying natural surface. Two sherds of pottery were retrieved, both were unstratified (0001) but believed to derive from the topsoil (0002). Both were early post-medieval in date, one was located in Trench 2 and the other in Trench 7.

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Oriented	Topsoil depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Total depth (m)	Notes
1	31.5 x 2.2	NNE-SSW	0.45	0.10	0.55	No archaeology
2	30.5 x 2.2	NW-SE	0.30	0.10	0.40	No archaeology
3	30.5 x 2.2	E-W	0.40	0.15	0.55	No archaeology
4	29.5 x 2.2	ENE-WSW	0.40	0.20	0.60	No archaeology
5	29.5 x 2.2	ESE-WNW	0.45	N/A	0.45	No archaeology
6	31.5 x 2.2	E-W	0.45	N/A	0.45	No archaeology
7	30.8 x 2.2	ESE-WNW	0.45	N/A	0.45	No archaeology
8	30.2 x 2.2	NNE-SSW	0.55	N/A	0.55	No archaeology
9	30.0 x 2.2	NNE-SSW	0.10 – 0.45	N/A	0.45	Modern mound

Table 1. Trench descriptions

3.1 Trench 9

A single archaeological layer was recorded within the development area in Trench 9 (Fig. 2). This layer comprised mixed redeposited light greyish yellow clay with frequent chalk pebbles and topsoil. The deposit extended 24m from the southern end of the trench, it was 0.35m at its deepest gradually petering out to the north. The layer was sited on the natural horizon and was sealed by topsoil. It corresponded with a slightly raised rectangular platform visible at ground level surrounding the fish stock pond and it is likely that it was derived from the upcast from its construction and was part of landscaping associated with the fisheries.

4. Finds evidence

Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0001	2	91	15th-16th C
Total	2	91	15th-16th C

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery

Two fragments of glazed redware were recovered as unstratified finds. One of these is an abraded flat base, which has kiln scars on the underside where it has been fired upside down and another vessel placed over it, leaving patches of congealed lead glaze. The sherd is brick red and made in a dense medium sandy fabric with occasional sub-rounded white quartz and sparse ferrous oxide inclusions. The appearance and form of the sherd suggests that it is closer to a Glazed red earthenware of 16th century date rather than a Late medieval and transitional ware

A second fragment of pottery is made of a hard reduced fabric with a mottled lead glaze on both the external surfaces. It has a dense sandy fabric with occasional clear and white rounded and sub-angular quartz and sparse lenses of sandy grog. It is possible that this may be an overfired sherd of Weybread pottery since the fabric is not dissimilar, but the sherd is thicker walled than many of the Late medieval and Transitional wares made locally.

Discussion

The site is located 450m to the north-east of the known early post-medieval redware kilnsite (WYB 006) at Weybread.

These formed part of a group of production sites located along the Waveney valley on the Norfolk-Suffolk border during the early post-medieval periods. The kilns and their associated

pottery has been the subject of some investigation in the past, and the fabrics made at Weybread have been described (Anderson et al, 1996). Neither of the unstratified sherds recovered from the evaluation are typical products of the Weybread kilns, but they may be kiln wasters and not representative of the usual output. The base sherd however is flat and thickwalled and closer to a fully post-medieval Glazed red earthenware.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The results of the evaluation indicate that the development area contained no definite evidence for occupation or land use prior to the construction of the ponds associated with the modern fishery. The two early post-medieval pottery sherds retrieved might indicate pottery production in the vicinity as they may be fragments of kiln waste. However, as they were unstratified and probably derived from the topsoil they do not provide information as to their origin.

Liz Muldowney
October 2008

References

Anderson, S., Caruth, J. and Gill, D. 1996 'The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border', *Medieval Ceramics* 20, 3-12.

Disclaimer

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

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT TO THE GRANARY, MILL LANE, WEYBREAD, FOR THE SITING OF STATIC CARAVANS AND A NEW FISHING LAKE

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 consent has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the siting of static caravans, the construction of a new lake and access on land adjacent to The Granary, Mill Lane, Weybread, Suffolk, with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. This condition requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. The planning application reference is 2199/08, at NGR TM 2494 8030
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 0.91 ha, and is situated on the east side of Weybread Street, 1 km south of the river Waveney. The soils are predominantly deep clayey soils of the Beccles series although sandy soils of the Newport series also exist in the area. The site is c. 40 - 45.00m AOD.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The field 50 m to the south has revealed finds of Roman and Medieval date, including pottery, and similarly from the field 200 m to the west has revealed prehistoric flints, settlement evidence of Roman and Medieval date, and important late medieval deposits. There is therefore a high potential for encountering Roman and Medieval deposits at this site, as well as possible earlier material.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as the first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, a linear trenched evaluation is required of the area, before any groundwork takes place.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is approximately 455 m². These 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 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 252 m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.6 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. 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).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 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 fulfil 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: William Fletcher

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



Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Tel: 01284 352199

Email: william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 25th September 2008

Reference: / WeybredFishery2008

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.

