
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

**Part Garden to Rear of The Old Nursery, The Street, Easton;
Record of an Archaeological Evaluation ETN 013**

SCCAS Report No. 2008/51; Oasis No. suffolkc1-51904



View of proposed house site from the south

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© November 2008

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Contents

	Page No.
List of Contents	i
List of Figures	i
List of Plates	i
List of Tables	i
List of Appendices	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Summary	ii
HER information	ii

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Planning Background	1
1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background	1
1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology	2
2. Methodologies	2
2.1 Fieldwork	2
2.2 Post-Excavation	2
3. Results	3
3.1 Trial-Trenching	3
3.2 Finds Report (by Richenda Goffin)	6
4. Archaeological Interpretation	6
5. Recommendations for Further Archaeological Works	7

List of Figures

Fig. 1 1:5,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site	1
Fig. 2 1:500 scale OS map extract showing the location of the trial-trenches	3
Fig. 3 1:50 scale plan & 1:40 scale section drawing of ditch 0002/0003	5
Fig. 4 c.1:5,000 scale OS map extract showing the historic position of ditch 0002	6

List of Plates

Cover: View of proposed house site from the south	
Plate 1 Trench 1 from the north	4
Plate 2 Soil profile, north end of Trench 1	4
Plate 3 Ditch 0002/0003, section in side of trench	4
Plate 4 Trench 2 from the west	5
Plate 5 Soil profile, east side of Trench 2	5

List of Tables

Table 1 ETN 013: Context List & Descriptions	3
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List of Appendices

Appendix I Brief & Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation	8
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Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Simon Tankard (Stour Valley Design) and Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team).

Staff from Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (Stuart Boulter) undertook the trenching evaluation with a mechanical excavator driver and banksman provided by the developer.

Funding was provided by the developer, Tony Bacon.

Summary

Easton, Part Garden to rear of the Old Nursery (TM 2812 5872; ETN 013) Two trenches excavated in or close to the footprint of proposed new buildings revealed a layer of colluvium cut by an east to west orientated ditch feature that was present on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880. Some minor irregularities in the otherwise uniformly sloping site may have been the result of garden landscaping or directly associated with the ditch. No other archaeological features were recorded and no finds were recovered other than a single piece of rooftile from the ditch.
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council & A. E. Bacon)

HER information

Planning application no:	C/07/1475/FUL
Site HER code:	ETN 013
Date of fieldwork:	Evaluation 12/11/2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2812 5872
Commissioning body:	A. E. Bacon
SCCAS Rpt. No.	2008/51
Oasis No.	suffolkc1-51904

date, associated with this occupation, to be preserved within the area of the proposed development. In addition, the favourable location of the site would have made it an attractive area for activity and settlement in earlier times and the presence of archaeology relating to these earlier periods could not be ruled out.

1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

Essentially, the site lies on a south facing slope overlooking the floodplain of the river Deben which meanders some 100 metres to the south.

The site lies between the 15 and 20 metres contours with breaks of slope suggesting that some previous landscaping may have occurred, possibly associated with the gardens of The White House, a large residence that once stood immediately north west of the proposed development site.

The underlying drift geology comprises heavy till deposits of boulder clay which, at this juncture, were are covered with a variable thickness of colluvial material deposited by processes of mass soil movement down the natural slope.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Fieldwork

A Historic Environment Record (HER) code ETN 013 was allocated to the site.

The Brief and Specification required that two linear trenches were opened: a 15 metre trench within the footprint of the new house and a 5 metre long trench within the footprint of the new garage.

The trenches were opened using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide toothless ditching bucket for a good clean cut.

A full photographic record, both monochrome prints and digital shots, was made.

2.2 Post-Excavation

A single find (a fragment of tile) was processed and assessed with the findings forming part of this report.

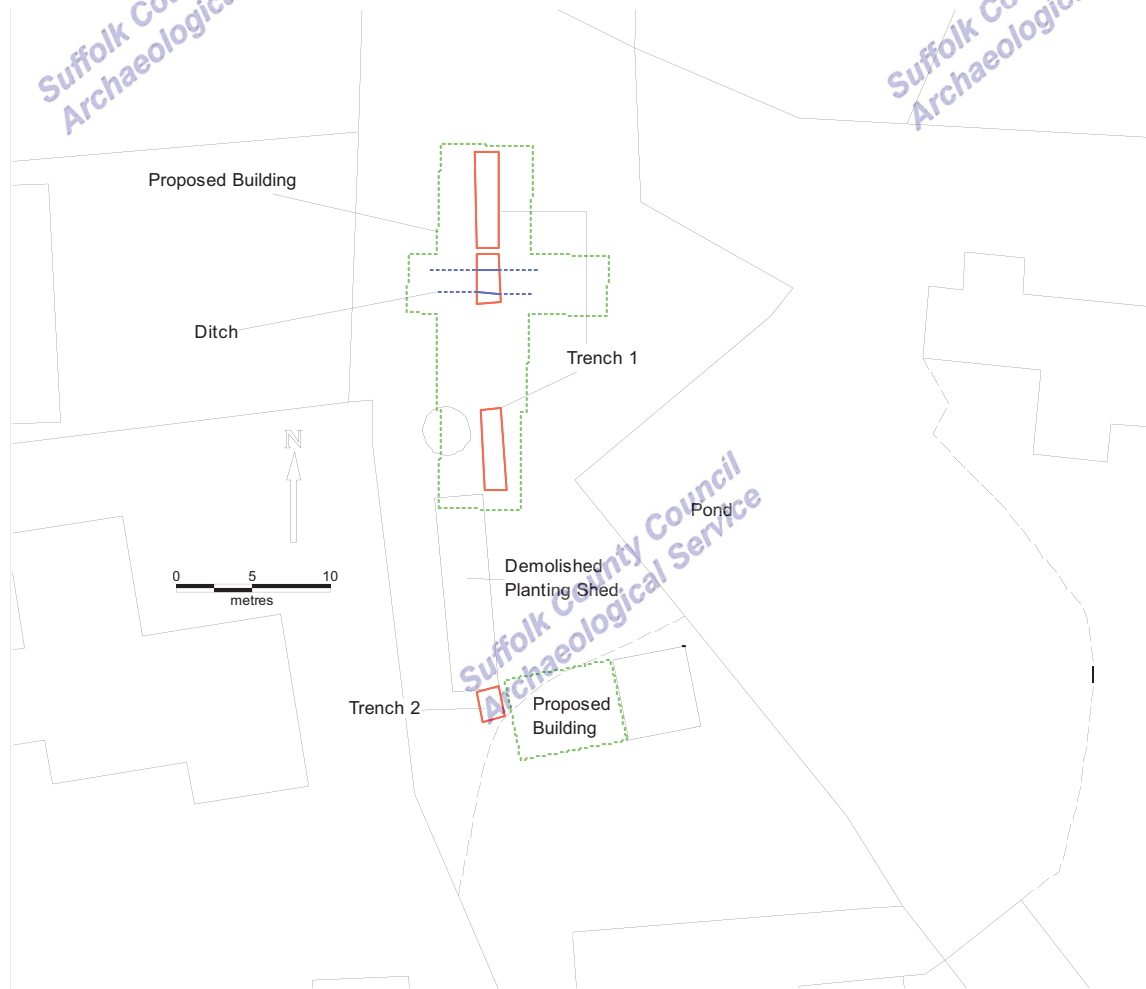
The site archive (including photographs, finds & other site records) was prepared and deposited in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) in Bury St. Edmunds. The information recorded during the project was compiled into a single coherent report (this document).

The report has also been submitted to OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code suffolkc1-51904.

3. Results

3.1 Trial-trenching

The location of the excavated trenches is shown on Figure 2, along with the position of the one recorded feature, a ditch running across Trench 1. A list of the recorded contexts appears as Table 1.



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Fig. 2 1:500 scale OS map extract showing the location of the trial-trenches

OP No.	Location	Description
0001	Trench 1 + 2	Unstratified finds from whole evaluation (none recovered)
0002	Trench 1	E-W orientated ditch, cuts to base of topsoil
0003	Trench 1	Relatively homogenous clay loam fill of 0002, a hint of stratification
0004	Trench 1	Homogenous brown silty/sandy clay colluvial layer. Max. 0.6 metres thick
0005	Trench 1	Layer of rubble & mortar seen at N. end of Trench 1
0006	Trench 2	Same as 0004, but seen in Trench 2, max. 0.3 metres thick

Table 1 ETN 013: Context List & Descriptions

Trench 1: while totalling 15 metres in length, was broken in two places due to the presence of a substantial tree-root, the base of an old shed and another feature described as a 'water tower' on the architects plan (Fig. 2 & Plate 1). The section of trench reproduced in detail as part of Figure 3 is the middle section of the three shown on Figure 2.

The northern section of Trench 1 measured 1.5 metres by 6 metres. A uniform thickness (c.0.2 metres) of topsoil was encountered throughout, overlying a layer of mortar and rubble (0005) which increased from only 0.1 metre thick at the northern end of the trench section to 0.3 metres at the southern end. Below the rubble layer a 0.6 metres thick deposit of homogenous brown silty/sandy clay with charcoal flecks was recorded throughout and lay directly on the naturally occurring clay subsoil. A photograph of the soil profile at the northern end of the trench appears as Plate 2.



Plate 1 Trench 1 from the north



Plate 2 Soil profile, north end of Trench 1



Plate 3 Ditch 0002/0003. section in side of trench

After a break of c.1 metre due to the presence of a large tree root, which could not be removed by the mechanical excavator, Trench 1 was continued for a further 3 metres. This section of the trench was found to coincide almost exactly with an east to west orientated ditch feature (0002) (Figs. 2 & 3 & Plate 3). The ditch cut through layer 0004 to the base of the topsoil with

rubble/mortar layer 0005 not in evident at this juncture. The fill (0003) comprised relatively homogenous dark grey/brown clay/loam with a hint of stratification. There was heavy disturbance by tree roots towards the top of the section. A single piece of rooftile was recovered from this fill (see Finds Report p. 5).

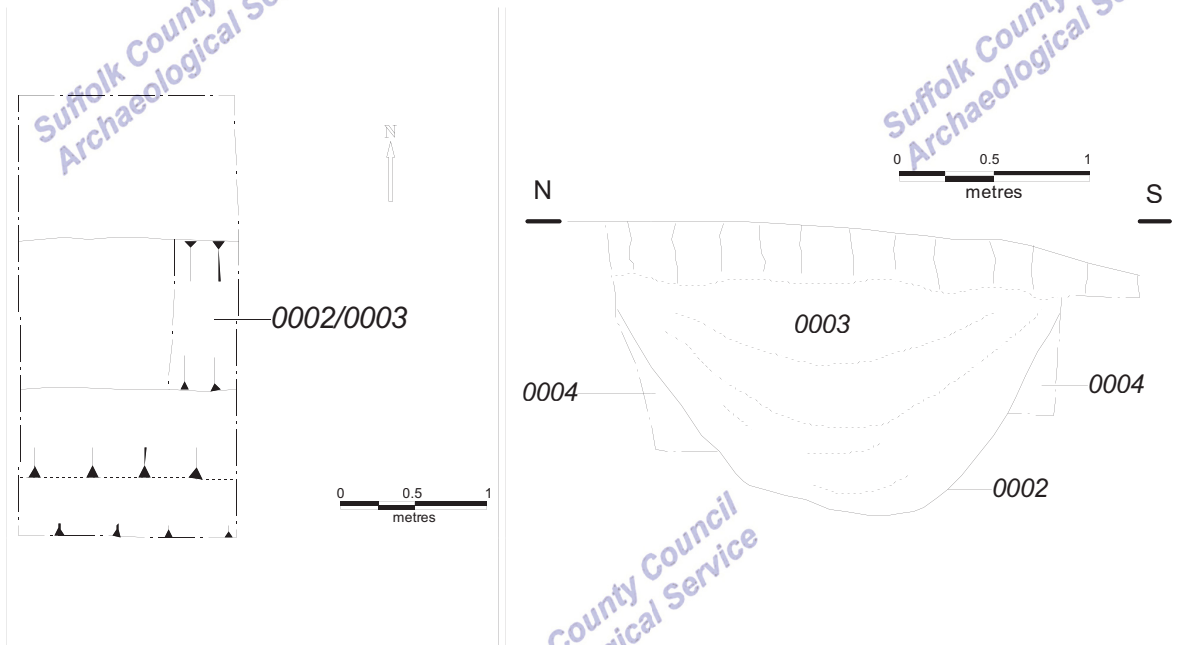


Fig. 3 1:50 scale plan & 1:40 scale section drawing of ditch 0002/0003

Beyond the southern end of the second section of Trench 1, there was a break of 6 metres, over the concrete base of an earlier shed, to the third, and final, 5 metre long section of trench. In this section, the soil profile comprised 0.3 metres of topsoil over c.0.4 metres of homogenous brown silty/sandy clay (0004). Layer 0005 remained absent.

Trench 2: due to the presence of an existing hard standing and services, it was not possible to position a trench within the footprint of the proposed garage. As a result, a short (1.5 metres by 2 metres) length of trench was excavated



Plate 4 Trench 2 from the west



Plate 5 Soil profile, east side of Trench 2

immediately to the west of the proposed garage (Fig. 2 & Plate 4). In addition, after hitting the cast iron heating pipe for a previous greenhouse, the trench was moved slightly further to the west.

Topsoil was found to be 0.3 metres in deep overlying a similar thickness of homogenous brown silty/sandy clay (0006), a layer thought to equate to 0004 in Trench 1, which gave way to the naturally occurring clay subsoil (Plate 5). No archaeological features were recorded and no finds recovered from the upcast spoil.

3.2 Finds Report (Richenda Goffin)

A single fragment of rooftile (32g) was recovered from the fill (0003) of ditch 0002. It is made from a medium sandy fabric which is fully oxidised and contains ferrous inclusions (msfe). It is unglazed but may have been re-used it has the remains of mortar on one of the flat faces. It is late medieval to post-medieval.

4. Archaeological Interpretation

The archaeological evaluation has shown that the site has a variable depth of colluvium throughout. No dating evidence was recovered from this layer, but it was clearly cut by the ditch running across Trench 1. The ditch itself, coincides with a boundary present on the 1st Edition OS map of c.1880 (Fig. 4) which runs to the northern corner of a pond. A pond is still present at this location today, but appears much reduced in size.

This explains the results of the test hole excavated towards the eastern edge of the site which revealed in excess of 1 metre of rubbish fill in an area that would originally have been the pond. While possibly a feature of some antiquity, reflecting an early landscape division, the ditch was clearly open into the 20th century. A slight break in the otherwise relatively uniform slope was recorded close to the projected line of the ditch and may be directly related to this feature rather than deliberate landscaping. However, the location of the site within the wider area of what used to be parkland around a large 17th century country house that once stood immediately to the north-east of the site, means that

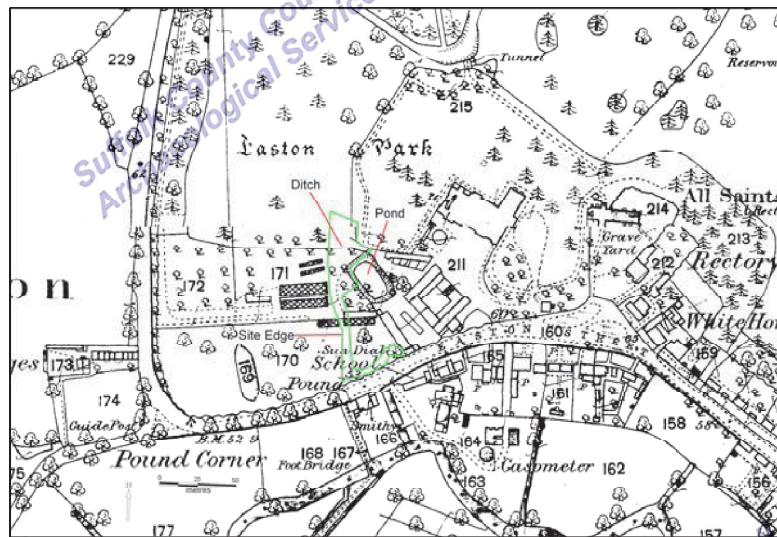


Fig. 4 c.1:5,000 scale OS map extract showing the historic position of ditch 0002

features such as the pond and ditch could represent landscaping associated with that building.

No other archaeological features or unstratified finds were recorded. The rubble layer recorded towards the northern end of Trench 1 was almost certainly generated by the demolition of recent garden structures.

These results of the evaluation suggest that there is unlikely to be significant archaeological deposits within the immediate area of the proposed development.

5. Recommendations for Further Archaeological Works

Given the essentially negative results of the evaluation, combined with the fact that the preferred foundation option now seems to be piling, it seems unlikely that the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisors will ask for further major archaeological works associated with the development.

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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Appendix I Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

PART OF GARDEN, THE OLD NURSERY, THE STREET, EASTON, 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 single dwelling and detached garage and also construction of access on Part of Garden, the Old Nursery, The Street, Easton, Suffolk (TM 2812 5872), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/1475/FUL).
- 1.2 The proposed development area is located on the northern side of The Street, in the centre of Easton village (see accompanying plan). It is situated on the north side, and above the floodplain, of the River Deben, on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (deep loam) at c. 15 - 20.00m AOD.
- 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 west of the medieval church (ETN 007). There is high potential for encountering medieval, and 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 (see attached plan – specifically, areas of the new building and new access). 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 Two linear trial trenches are to be excavated, amounting to 20.00m in length (min):
- 15.00m long across (or immediately adjacent to) the footprint of the new dwelling (which measures c. 22.50 x 6.50m in area), aligned N to S.
 - 5.00m across (or immediately adjacent to) the new garage (which measures c. 6.00 x 6.00m in area) and access.
- Trenches are 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 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 11 November 2008

Reference: / TheOldNursery-Easton2008

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.