

---

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

---

**Proposed Leisure Facility, Stonehouse Road, Hadleigh;  
Record of an Archaeological Evaluation HAD 090**

**SCCAS Report No. 2008/58; Oasis No. suffolkc1-52092**



View of Trench 2 from the west

Stuart Boulter  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© November 2008

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX  
Tel. (01473) 264384

---

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

# Contents

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

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Planning Background	1
1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background	1
1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology	2
<b>2. Methodologies</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Fieldwork	2
2.2 Post-Excavation	2
<b>3. Results</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Trial-Trenching	2
<b>4. Discussion</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. Recommendations for Further Archaeological Works</b>	<b>6</b>

## List of Figures

Fig. 1 1:5,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site	1
Fig. 2 1:1,250 scale OS map extract showing the location of the trial-trenches	3

## List of Plates

<b>Cover:</b> View of proposed house site from the south	
<b>Plate 1</b> Trench 1 from the south	3
<b>Plate 2</b> Trench 1 soil profile	3
<b>Plate 3</b> Trench 2 from the south-west	4
<b>Plate 4</b> Trench 2 soil profile	4
<b>Plate 5</b> Trench 3 from the south-east	5
<b>Plate 6</b> Trench 3 soil profile	5
<b>Plate 7</b> Trench 4 from the south-east	5
<b>Plate 8</b> Trench 4 soil profile	5

## List of Appendices

<b>Appendix I</b> Proposed Hadleigh Leisure Facility (outline brief)	<b>7</b>
--	----------

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Stephen Clarke (Babergh District Council) and Keith Wade (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 provided by Holmes Plant.

Funding was provided by Babergh District Council.

## Summary

*Hadleigh*, Leisure Centre, Stonehouse Road (TM 0298 4261; HAD 090) Trial-trenching within the footprint of a proposed new building and its associated parking area revealed no archaeological features with the only find, a single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery, recovered from a layer of colluvium that was present in all four of the excavated trenches.  
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council & Babergh District Council)

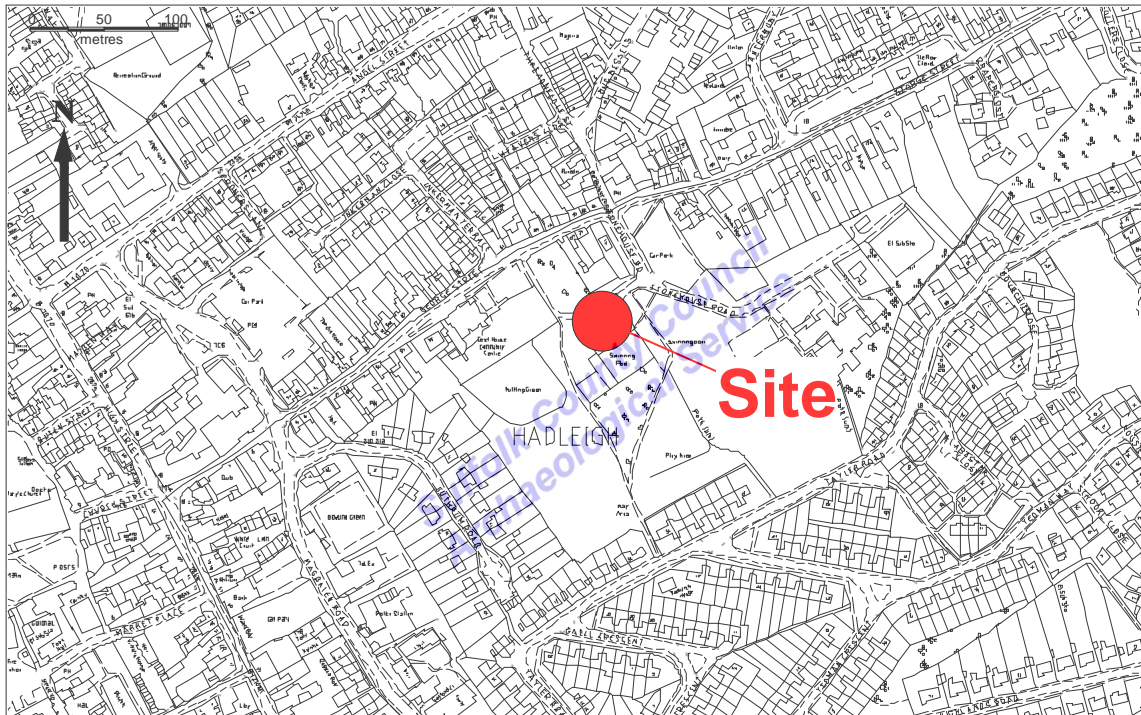
## HER information

<b>Planning application no:</b>	B/08/01760
<b>Site HER code:</b>	HAD 090
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	Evaluation 26/11/2008
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	TM 0298 4261
<b>Commissioning body:</b>	Babergh District Council
<b>SCCAS Rpt. No.</b>	2008/58
<b>Oasis No.</b>	suffolkc1-52092

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Planning Background

Prior to the submission of Planning Application B/08/01760, covering the construction of a new leisure facility and parking adjacent to the existing swimming pool at Stonelodge Road, Hadleigh (Fig. 1) (TM 0298 4261) a pre-determination archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. The archaeological potential of the site was detailed in a outline brief prepared by Keith Wade on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008 (see Appendix I).



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

**Fig. 1** 1:5,000 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site

Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Team was commissioned by Stephen Clarke of Babergh District Council to undertake the evaluation, the fieldwork for which was carried out on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

## 1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background

The site lies within the area of the archaeological importance defined in the Babergh Local Plan relating to the late Saxon and medieval town of Hadleigh. Of particular relevance to this application is the previous discovery (between 1931 & 1961) of a Saxon cinerary urn from somewhere within the gardens of East House. However, its exact provenance is unknown, but it does suggest that there is an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery within relatively close proximity of the proposed development.

### 1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

Essentially, the site lies towards the bottom of a north-west facing slope on the eastern side of the valley of the River Brett which runs some 600 metres to the west.

The site lies between the 25 and 30 metre contours.

The underlying drift geology comprises heavy fluvioglacial deposits which, at this juncture, were 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 HAD 090 was allocated to the site.

The trenches were opened using a JCB 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

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 suffolkc1-52092.

## 3. Results

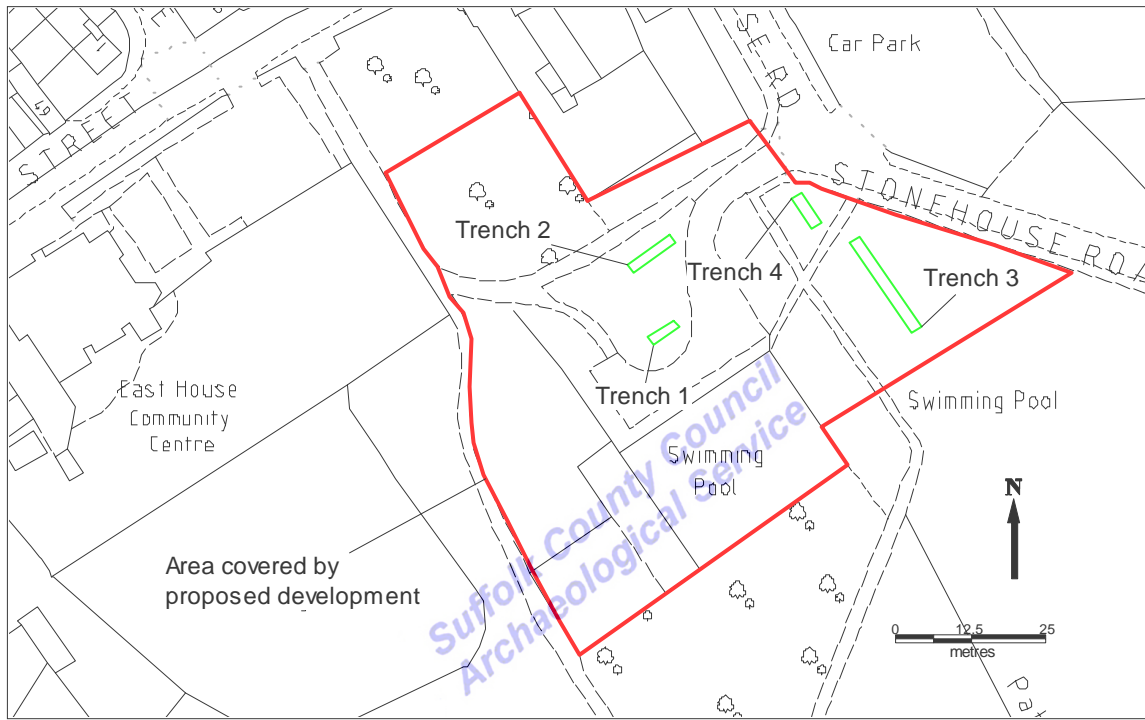
### 3.1 Trial-trenching

The position of the trenches was largely governed by the locations of existing underground services and the need to avoid the extant metalled surface which remain in use. Locations of the four trial-trenches are shown in Figure 2.

**Trench 1:** Orientated from the south-west to north-east, Trench 1 measured 1.5 metres by 5 metres and was positioned in a small area of open grass immediately north of the standing building, its size constrained by the adjacent road and known services, and was entirely within the footprint of the proposed new building (Fig. 2 & Plate 1).

The overburden comprised c.0.65 metres of dark grey/brown loam over a further c.0.25 metres of homogenous, mid brown, very silty, sandy clay which, in turn, gave way to the naturally occurring buff coloured clay/sand subsoil (Plate 2).

No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered from this trench.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

**Fig. 2** 1:1,250 scale OS map extract showing the location of the trial-trenches



**Plate 1** Trench 1 from the south



**Plate 2** Trench 1 soil profile

**Trench 2:** On a similar south-west to north-east alignment to Trench 1, the 1.5 metres wide by 8.5 metres long Trench 2 was positioned along the northern edge of the same grassed area close to the northern wall of the proposed building (Fig. 2 & Plate 3).

Here, 0.2 metres of heavy loam topsoil gave way to 0.2 metres of mixed loam and rubble which, in turn, gave way to 0.4 metres of dark grey/brown loam topsoil lying directly on the naturally occurring subsoil which, at this juncture, comprised brown silty clay with chalk flecks (Plate 4).

No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered from this trench.



**Plate 3** Trench 2 from the south-west



**Plate 4** Trench 2 soil profile

**Trench 3:** Measuring 1.5 metres by 18 metres, north-west to south-east orientated Trench 3 was located within a grassed area that would become parking in the proposed development (Fig. 2 & Plate 5).

The overburden comprised 0.4 metres of heavy loam topsoil overlying 0.3 metres of homogenous brown mixed silt/clay with occasional gravel to pebble-sized stones which, in turn, graded into the naturally occurring yellow/orange sandy clay subsoil with common inclusions of pebble to cobble-sized flints (Plate 6). A single sherd of highly abraded undiagnostic prehistoric pottery was recovered from the intervening layer between topsoil and subsoil.

One feature was recorded, an iron pipe running across the trench c.10 metres from its southern end. It was not clear if this pipe was live and it did not appear on the service plan.





Plate 5 Trench 3 from the south-east



Plate 6 Trench 3 soil profile

**Trench 4:** Measuring 1.5 metres by 6 metres, north-west to south-east orientated Trench 4 was, like Trench 3, located within a grassed area that would become parking in the proposed development (Fig. 2 & Plate 7).

At this juncture, the overburden comprised 0.4 metres of heavy loam topsoil overlying 0.5 metres of homogenous lighter brown, stiff, mixed silt/clay sand which directly overlay the naturally occurring subsoil here comprising very silty clay/sand with occasional pebbles (Plate 8).

No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered from this trench.



Plate 7 Trench 4 from the south-east



Plate 8 Trench 4 soil profile

#### 4. Discussion

Other than a layer of demolition rubble in Trench 2 and a modern service trench in Trench 3, the only feature identified was the ubiquitous layer of colluvium generated by the mass movement of soil down the natural slope, in this case from the south-east. There was no evidence for the presence of an Early Anglo Saxon cemetery within the area of the excavated trenches. The one sherd of prehistoric pottery recovered from the colluvial layer was very abraded and almost certainly generated by activity elsewhere and transported to the site by the soil mass movement process. The dating of this layer is unknown and there remains the potential for archaeological features to both cut and underlie the colluvial layer. However, in the area of the proposed car park, archaeological deposits that are masked by this layer would probably not be at risk by the development as the depth of soil removed would not reach the base of the colluvium.

#### 5. Recommendations for Further Archaeological Works

While the absence of archaeological features in the limited evaluation trenches does not definitely preclude their presence within the proposed development area, it does tend to indicate that there is no major concentration of archaeology on the site. On that basis, it is unlikely that the archaeological planning advisor will require further major archaeological works to be undertaken, other than the monitoring of groundworks 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.

## Appendix I Proposed Hadleigh Leisure Facility (outline brief)

### Archaeology

- 1.0 The site lies within the area of archaeological importance defined for the late Saxon and Medieval town of Hadleigh in the Babergh Local Plan.
- 2.0 In addition, the County Historic Environment Record lists that an Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn was found sometime between 1931 and 1961 in the gardens of East House. This could indicate the presence of an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The precise location of the find isn't known but it is likely that the former grounds of East House were more extensive and included the area of the District Council swimming pool i.e. the site of the current proposal.
- 3.0 The current development of the East House site, immediately to the west, was subject to evaluation by trenching in August 2008 (*East House, George Street, Hadleigh (HAD 088): A Report on the Archaeological Evaluation, 2008, SCCAS Report No. 2008/258*). This failed to reveal any archaeological features or finds but trenching was difficult due to the presence of numerous services.
- 4.0 However, the fact that no cemetery was found on the East House site increases the risk that it could exist on the swimming pool site. Consequently, the County Archaeologist strongly recommends that the area should be evaluated by trenching prior to the submission of any planning application, because:
  - a) such cemeteries are extremely expensive to excavate, analyse and publish and would probably render the scheme financially unviable;
  - b) if such a cemetery was present, and was defined by evaluation, it might be possible to re-site the development to avoid it
  - c) an evaluation which revealed no archaeological features or finds would be inexpensive and settle the matter once and for all, allowing development to proceed unhindered.
- 5.0 It should be noted, however, that the footprint of the proposed new leisure facility is currently crossed by numerous services which will hinder archaeological evaluation. Nevertheless, if carefully sited sufficient trenching should be possible to determine whether a cemetery exists or not.
- 6.0 If a planning application is submitted without prior archaeological evaluation, any consent granted will be conditional on a programme of archaeological works being carried out prior to development and the first stage of these works would be the evaluation by trenching. If this proves negative, no other work would be required but if it located Anglo-Saxon graves the entire footprint of the proposed new building and access road would have to be the subject of archaeological excavation.

Keith Wade  
Archaeological Service Manager  
Suffolk County Council  
31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008.