

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/102

**Grace Cottage, Portal Avenue,
Martlesham**

MRM 143

Kieron Heard
© April 2009
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No: C/08/1098

Date of Fieldwork: 23 April 2009

Grid Reference: TM 24200 46149

Funding Body: Mr Pennington

Curatorial Officer: William Fletcher

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-58598

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

MRM 143, Grace Cottage, Portal Avenue, Martlesham: A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of a rear extension to the house. One evaluation trench was excavated adjacent to the area of the proposed extension.

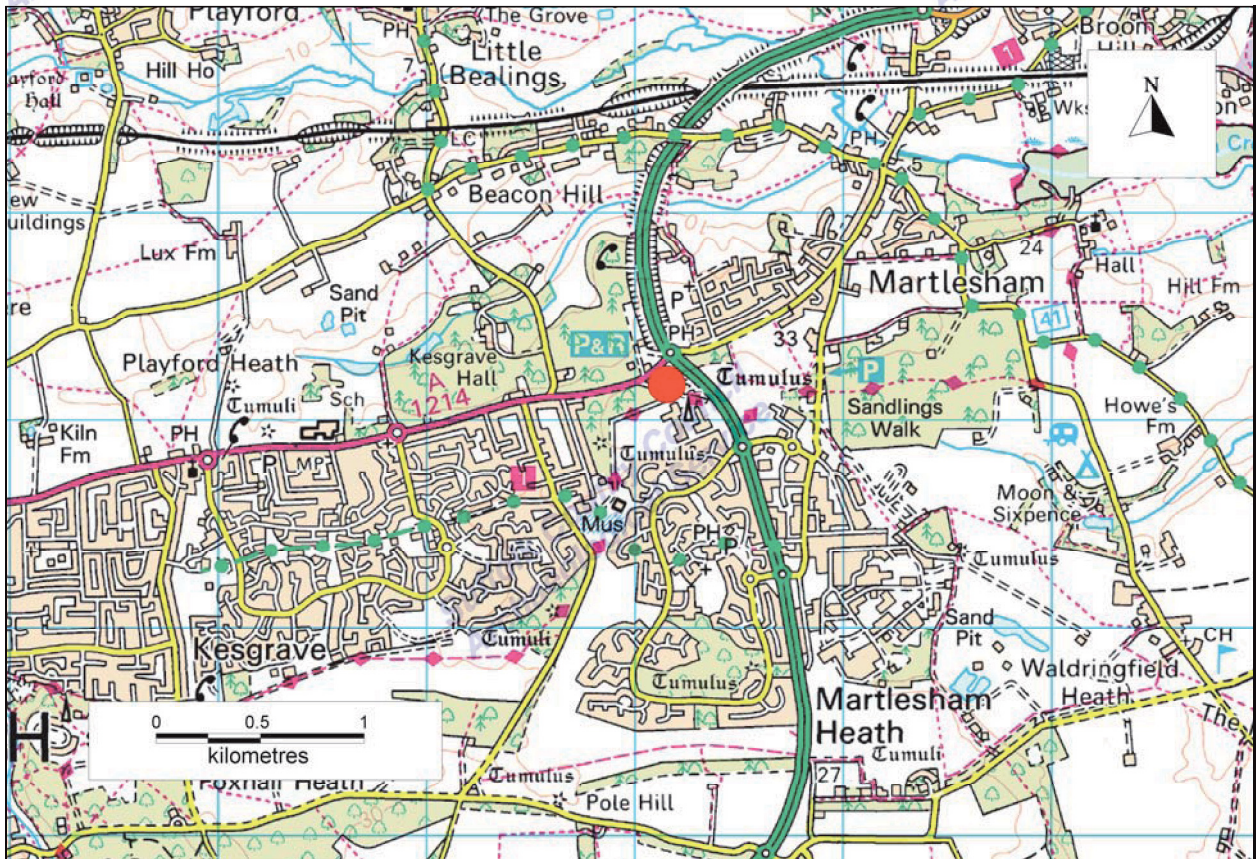
The site is close to a well-preserved prehistoric bowl barrow (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 21259; Historic Environment Record no. MRM 018).

The evaluation revealed natural sand at a depth of approximately 0.65m below ground level. This is sealed by successive layers of subsoil, topsoil and turf. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were found.

In view of these negative results a recommendation is made that no further fieldwork or post-excavation analysis is required and that this document should be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

1. Introduction

An archaeological trenched evaluation was carried out at Grace Cottage, Portal Avenue, Martlesham (Fig. 1) prior to determination of a planning application for the construction of a rear extension to the house (planning application number: C/08/1098). The owner, Mr Pennington, commissioned and funded the evaluation.



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Figure 1. Location map (general)

2. Location, geology and topography

Grace Cottage is located at National Grid Reference TM 24200 46149 and the proposed extension covers an estimated area of approximately 35m². The area of investigation is entirely within the rear garden of the house (Fig. 2).

The garden is on fairly level ground at a height of approximately 32.5m OD. The published surface geology in this area is glaciofluvial drift, which is overlaid by deep

sandy soils of the Newport series. The house is located in an area of Estate Sandlands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment*.



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Figure 2. Location map (detail)

3. Archaeological and historical background

Grace Cottage is located close to a large prehistoric bowl barrow (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 21259; Fig. 3). It is recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER no. MRM 018) and is thought to be the best preserved of several such monuments in this part of Suffolk.

No other archaeological sites or find-spots are recorded within 100m of the site. The site is at the north end of the former extent of Martlesham Heath and remained undeveloped until the second half of the 20th century.

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation took place on 23 April 2009 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by William Fletcher of SCCAS Conservation team (Fletcher, 2008; Appendix 1). Notable variations to the Brief and Specification were that the extent of the archaeological trenching was reduced and the trench location revised following the scaling down of the proposed extension since the Brief and Specification was produced. These variations were approved in advance by Mr Fletcher.

An evaluation trench (Figs. 3 & 4) was excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a three-tonne, tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. The trench measured 7.0m long and 1.20m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m below ground level.

The trench was located parallel to and 6.50m from the rear of the house. This is outside the area of the proposed extension, which is currently still in use as a patio and is crossed by live services.

Site records (soil descriptions and section drawings) were made in a field notebook and all relevant data have been included in this report. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high resolution .jpg images, and these form part of the site archive (Appendix 3).

The evaluation trench was planned by reference to an architect's drawing of the existing house, located in the site file.

A metal-detecting survey was carried out on mechanically-excavated soils, with negative results.



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Figure 3. Plan locating the evaluation trench (red) and the prehistoric barrow SAM 21259 (green)

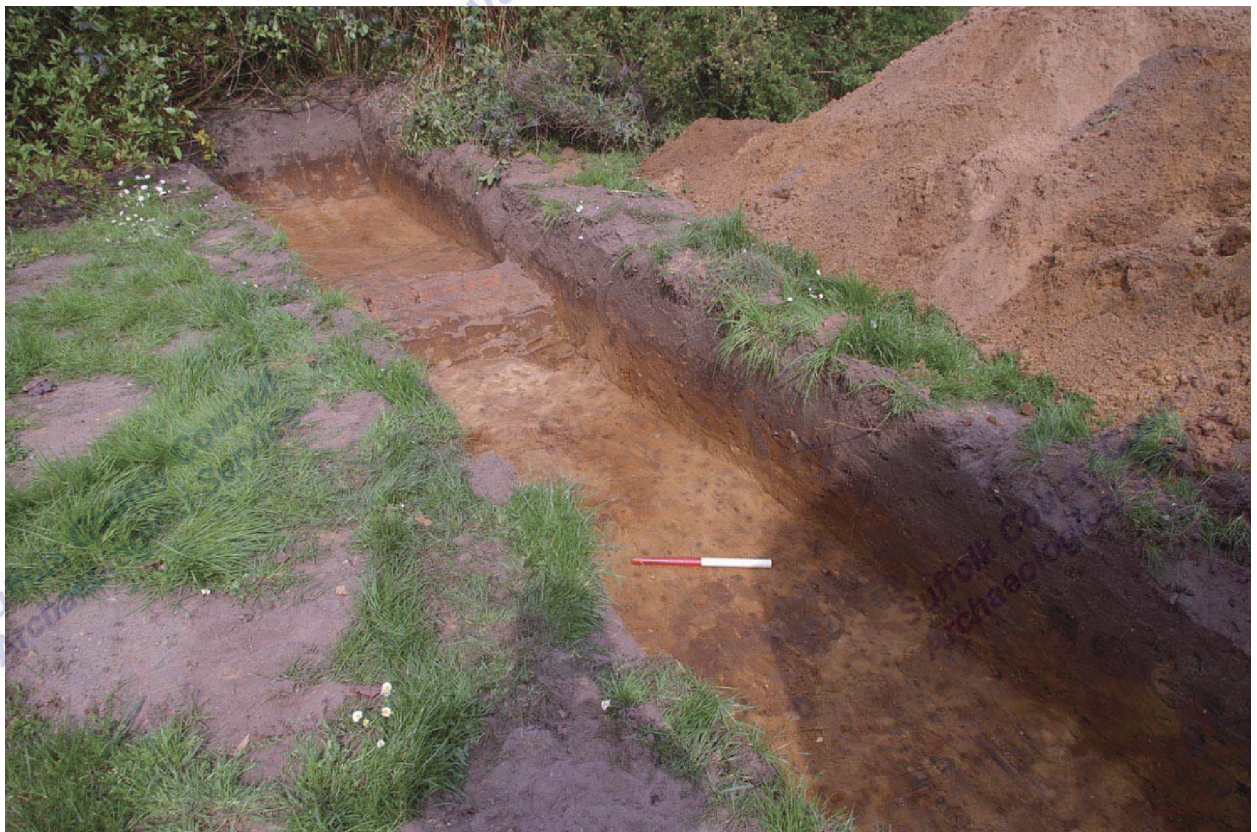


Figure 4. General view of the evaluation trench, looking northwest (0.5m scale)

5. Results

The evaluation revealed a simple horizontal sequence of geological stratum, naturally-occurring subsoil and modern topsoil/turf (Fig. 5). No archaeological deposits or features were identified and no artefacts were recovered. Two modern features were found immediately below the topsoil. There is a line of electric cable marker tiles running across the trench 4.50m from its west end, and the corner of a concrete slab, 80mm thick, extends into the east end of the trench.

The geological stratum is soft, brownish yellow sand containing occasional fine to medium pebbles. There is some root staining and animal burrowing, and localised patches of iron concretion. This deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.15m.

The subsoil is approximately 0.25m thick and is soft, mid brown silty sand containing occasional fine to medium pebbles. This deposit has been intensively disturbed by roots and animal burrows and has a blurred interface with the underlying geological sand.

The topsoil is approximately 0.35m thick. It is friable, mid brownish grey silty sand containing occasional fine to medium pebbles and moderate fine roots. It is sealed by a layer of turf forming the current ground surface.

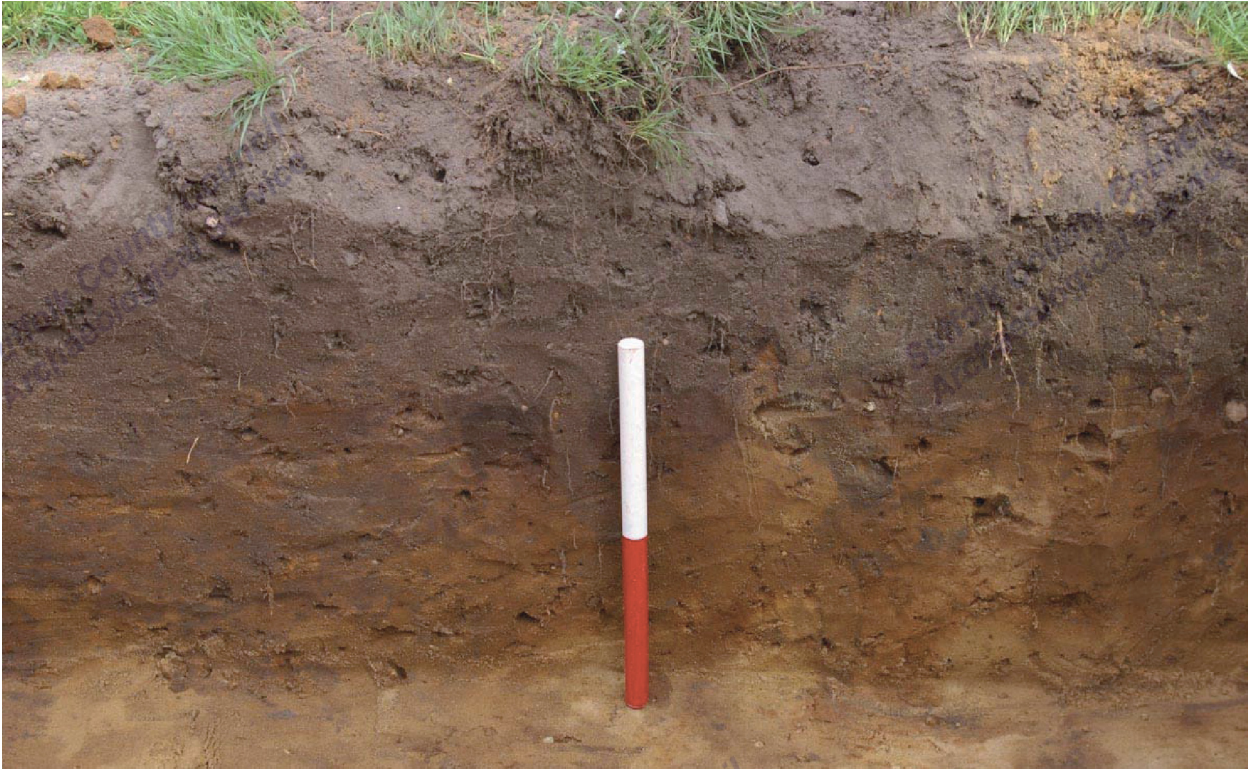


Figure 5. South-facing section at the east end of the evaluation trench (0.5m scale)

6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has revealed a typical sequence of heath-land soils and natural sand, but no archaeological features or deposits.

In view of these negative results it is recommended that no further fieldwork or post-excavation analysis is required and that this document should be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report via the OASIS online archaeological database.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS Ipswich

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by Mr Pennington, the owner of Grace Cottage.

The project was monitored by William Fletcher (SCCAS, Conservation team) and managed by Rhodri Gardner (SCCAS Field team). Kieron Heard conducted the fieldwork and produced this report.

9. Bibliography

Fletcher, W, 2008, *brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Extension to the rear of Grace Cottage, Portal Avenue, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of SCCAS Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors will determine the need for further work when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the 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

EXTENSION TO THE REAR OF GRACE COTTAGE, PORTAL AVENUE, MARTLESHAM HEATH, 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 demolition of an existing garage and the erection of a side and rear extension to Grace Cottage, Portal Street Martlesham has been sought from Suffolk Coastal District Council (application C/08/1098). It has been advised that this work will need to be conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out **prior to determination** of the planning application. Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the proposed development.
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 94 m². It is situated on deep sandy soils of the Newport series.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of considerable archaeological significance; it is recognised as of national importance by English Heritage, and is recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The development will be within 5m of the known surviving extent of a large prehistoric barrow, a known site and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no 21259, MRM 018). It is also one of the best preserved monuments of its type in the area. There is the potential that this development will impact on the former extent of the barrow, in particular the outer ditch, which may lie buried in the garden of this property. It may also disturb the buried or associated remains around the base and fringe of the tumuli. Barrows in this area are for example known to be a focus for later period activity, and

there is also the potential that this development will disturb prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains including possible burials.

- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundwork takes place. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.6 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. **NB, SAM consent may be required please contact English Heritage for details.**

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: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Two linear trial trenches are to be excavated:

- Across the footprint of the new dwelling at right angles to the house the existing property, to cover the main part of the new extension.
- To the rear of the existing garage, across the footprint of the back wall of new building.

Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80 m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. A minimum of 5% area is to be trenched; a 10% strategy is however considered to be more appropriate in this situation considering the potential of the site for human remains. This is equivalent to 9.40 m or 5.20 m at 1.80 m 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.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.8 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.9 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.10 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.11 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.12 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

- 3.13 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.14 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.15 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.16 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.17 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in

the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

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

- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.18 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: William Fletcher

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Appendix 2: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

Type	Quantity	Format
Digital images	10	3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg
This evaluation report (2009/102)	1	A4 ring-bound

Appendix 3: Digital image index

Image	Description	Scale	Direction
001	View of barrow (SAM 21259) from driveway	n/a	NE
002	Ditto (wider angle)	n/a	NE
003	General view of evaluation trench	0.5m	W
004	General view of evaluation trench	1m	NW
005	South-facing section at east end of trench	0.5m	N
006	Ditto (narrower angle)	0.5m	N
007	General view of evaluation trench	n/a	WNW
008	Modern concrete slab at east end of trench	n/a	SE
009	North-facing section at east end of trench	0.5m	N
010	Working shot: machining east end of trench	n/a	ENE