

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

---

**SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/156**

**Meadow land to south of farm drive,  
Athelington Hall, Horham Road,  
Athelington, Suffolk**

**ATH 006**

**Kieron Heard**  
© May 2009  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

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

## HER Information

---

**Planning Application No:** 2607/07

**Date of Fieldwork:** 01 May 2009

**Grid Reference:** TM 20806 71063

**Funding Body:** Mr Havers

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Kieron Heard

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-59685

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

# Contents

---

## Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Location, geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	4
6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work	6
7. Archive deposition	6
8. List of contributors and acknowledgements	6
9. Bibliography	7
Disclaimer	7

## List of Figures

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Location map (general)   | 1 |
| 2. Location map (detail) showing the development site (red) and the approximate footprints of the first three of the proposed six lodges (blue) | 2 |
| 3. Plan locating the evaluation trenches (green) within the footprints of the proposed lodges (blue)  | 4 |
| 4. General view of Trench 3, looking north  | 5 |
| 5. West-facing section at the south end of Trench 3   | 5 |

## List of Appendices

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Brief and specification               | 9  |
| 2. Contents of the stratigraphic archive | 21 |
| 3. Digital image archive                 | 21 |

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

## Summary

---

ATH 006, Meadow land to south of farm drive, Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington: A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of three holiday lodges and an associated access road. Three trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed lodges and a fourth was positioned within the area of the access road.

The evaluation revealed a simple sequence of turf and topsoil over natural boulder clay. 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 *at this stage of the development* and that this document should be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS online archaeological database. It is understood that another three lodges are planned in the area to the west of the current development and it is likely that archaeological evaluation will be required in advance of any groundwork in that part of the development site.

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

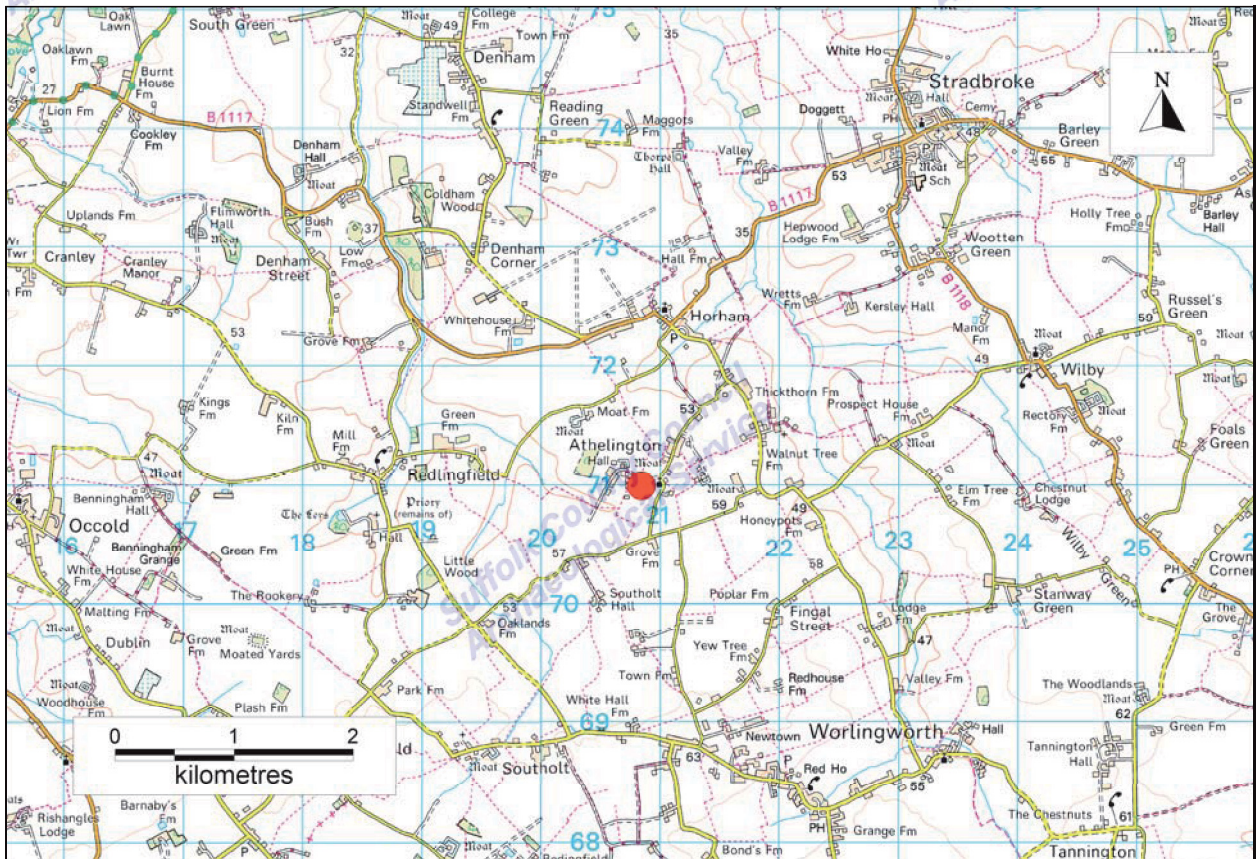
Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service



# 1. Introduction

An trenched evaluation was carried out at Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington (Fig. 1) in line with an archaeological condition relating to a planning application for the construction of six holiday lodges (planning application number: 2607/07). The landowner, Mr Havers, commissioned and funded the evaluation.



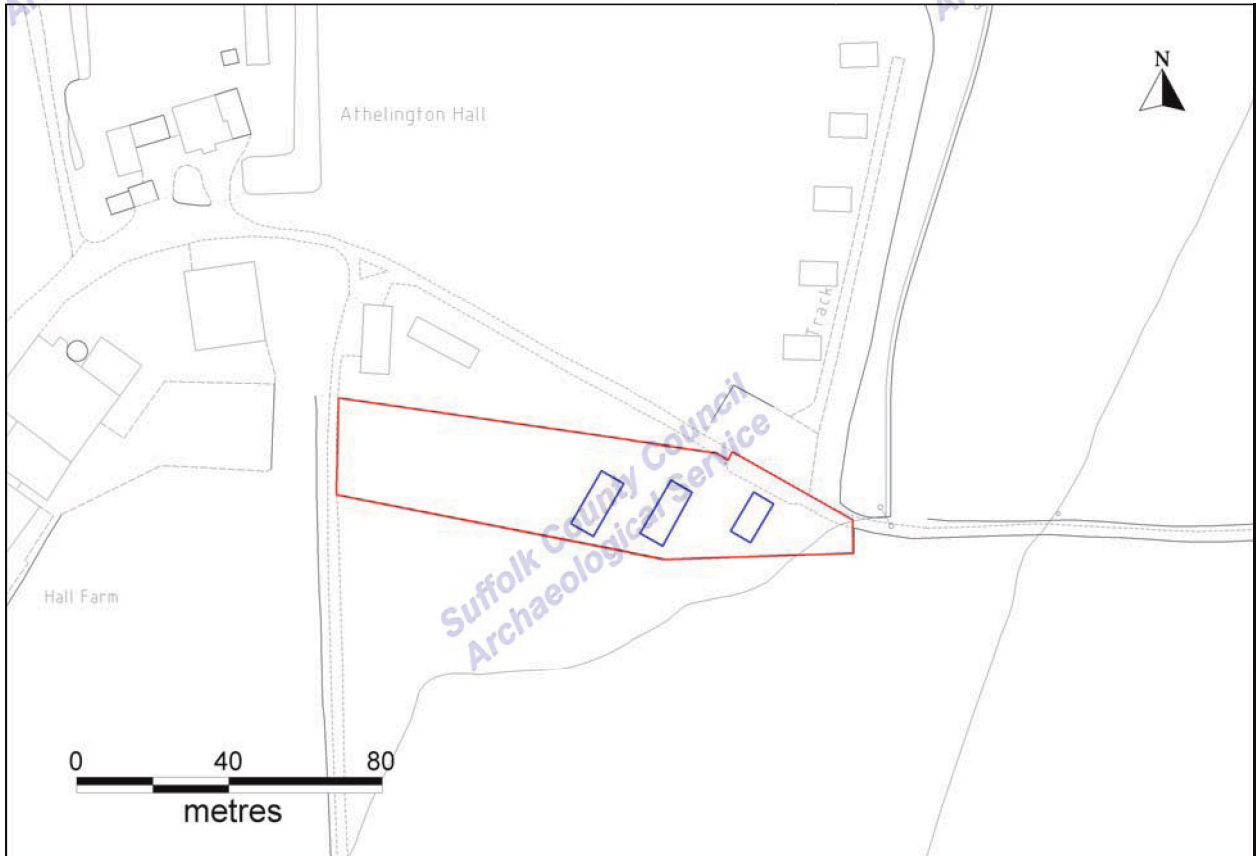
(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 1. Location map (general)

## 2. Location, geology and topography

The site is located at National Grid Reference TM 20806 71063 and covers a total area of approximately 3439m<sup>2</sup>. The three proposed lodges are at the east end of the development area, and are the first of six such buildings that are intended for construction. The site is bounded by a farm drive to the north, by an area containing farm buildings to the west and by cultivated fields to the east and south (Fig. 2).

The site is on fairly level ground at a height of approximately 55m OD. The published Quaternary geology in this area is glacial till (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00, 1:250,000). This is overlaid by deep loam to clay soils of the Beccles series. The site is located in an area of Plateau Claylands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment*.



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 2. Location map (detail) showing the development site (red) and the approximate footprints of the first three of the proposed six lodges (blue)

### 3. Archaeological and historical background

---

The site is located within an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. The medieval parish church of St Peter (HER no. ATH 004) lies approximately 160m to the east. Athelington Hall, a medieval moated house (HER no. ATH 001) is located 100m to the northwest and another medieval moated site

(HER no. ATH 003) is located the same distance to the west. Meadow Farm (HER no. ATH 002) is 500m to the east.

The site is within an area of pre- 18th-century enclosures characterised by random field patterns, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Historic Land Characterisation*.

## 4. Methodology

---

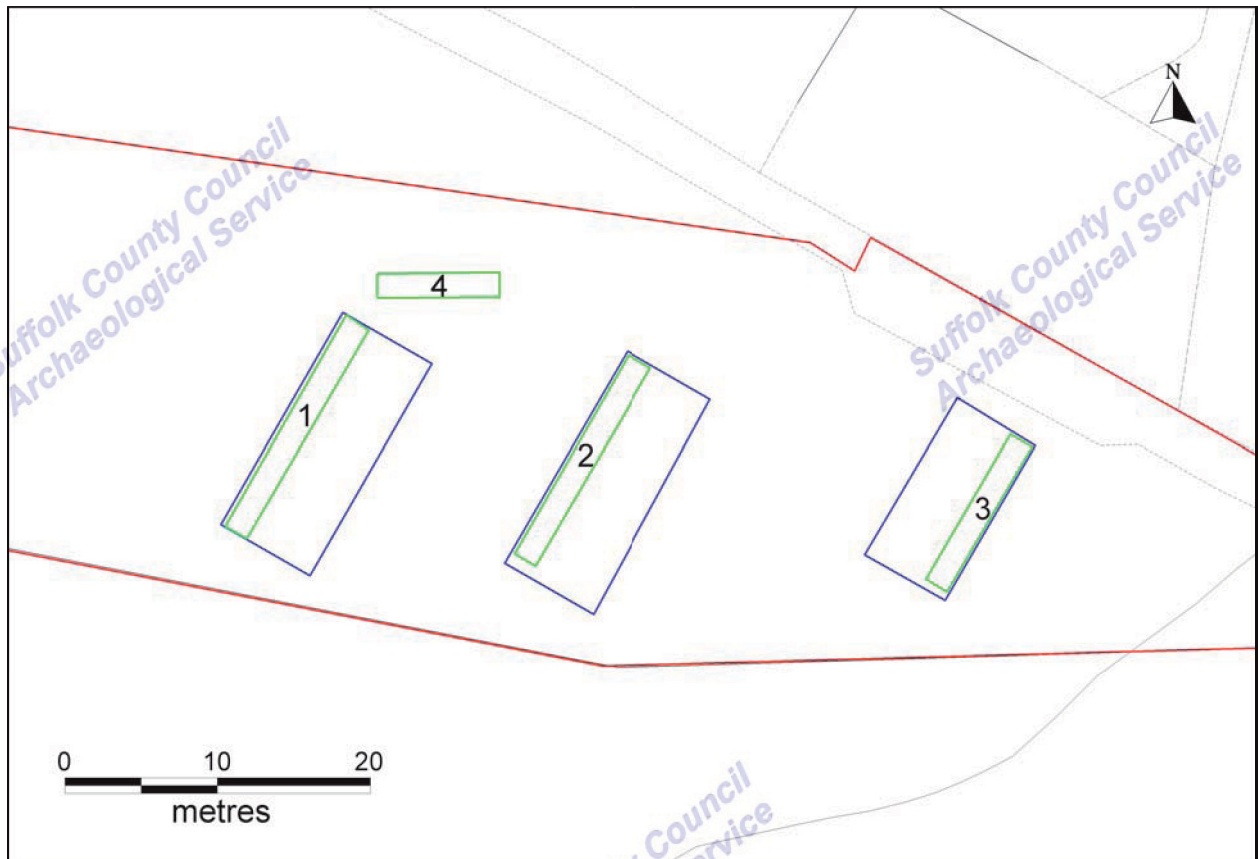
The archaeological evaluation took place on 01 May 2009 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation team (Tipper, 2009; Appendix 1).

Prior to the evaluation the footprints of the proposed lodges and part of the associated access road had been excavated to a depth of 0.30–0.40m and filled with hardcore. In order to fulfil the Brief and Specification some of this hardcore and underlying topsoil had to be re-excavated, to expose the underlying natural stratum.

Four evaluation trenches (Fig. 3) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a wheeled, JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. The trenches were between 8m and 16m long and 1.60m wide, and were excavated to an average depth of 0.40m below ground level.

The total area of the trenches was 80m<sup>2</sup>, representing 2.3% of the development area.

Site records (soil descriptions and trench dimensions) 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).



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 3. Plan locating the evaluation trenches (green) within the footprints of the proposed lodges (blue)

## 5. Results

The evaluation revealed a simple horizontal sequence of turf and topsoil over a geological stratum of boulder clay, or glacial till.

The topsoil is approximately 0.35m thick and is compacted, mid brownish grey loam with frequent pebbles. The glacial till is firm, light yellowish brown clay/silt with moderate small to large pebbles and angular flint fragments.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered.



Figure 4. General view of Trench 3, looking north (1m scale)



Figure 5. West-facing section at the south end of Trench 3

## 6. Conclusion and recommendations for further work

---

The evaluation has revealed a typical clay-land soil sequence but no archaeological features or deposits.

In view of these negative results a recommendation is made that no further fieldwork or post-excavation analysis is required *at this stage of the development* and that this document should be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS online archaeological database. It is understood that another three lodges are planned in the area to the west of the current development and it is likely that archaeological evaluation will be required in advance of any groundwork in that part of the development site.

## 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 Havers, the owner of Athelington Hall.

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

## 9. Bibliography

---

Tipper, J, 2009, *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Meadow land to south of farm drive, Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington, 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.

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



## **Appendix 1: Brief and Specification**

---

### **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

#### **MEADOW LAND TO SOUTH OF FARM DRIVE, ATHELINGTON HALL, HORHAM ROAD, ATHELINGTON, SUFFOLK (2607/07)**

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 (2607/07) for the erection of six holiday lodges and construction of access road, hard standing and drainage plant at Meadow land to south of farm drive, Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington, Suffolk IP21 5EJ (TM 2080 7105) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). The groundworks associated with three of the lodges and associated access (topsoil stripping, deposition of rubble hardcore), and also insertion of services for all six lodges, have been undertaken without a programme of archaeological investigation, in non compliance of the planning permission.
- 1.3 The area of the proposed residential development measures c. 0.30 ha. in size, on the south-east side of Athelington Hall (see accompanying plan). It is situated on chalky till (deep loam to clay) at c. 55.00m AOD.
- 1.4 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the west of the medieval church (HER no. ATH 004) and to the east and south-east of two medieval moated enclosures (ATH 001 and ATH 003). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. 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, the following work is required:

- A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

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*.
- 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 across the area of the new development, where groundworks have already commenced:

- Two trenches measuring 15.00m in length x 1.80m in width across the area of the two western-most lodges;

- Two trenches measuring 10.00m in length x 1.80m in width across one the area of the smallest (eastern-most) lodge and along the area of the stripped access.

These shall be positioned to sample the areas in which topsoil has been already removed (and in which hardcore has been already deposited). 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 50.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

**A further stage of trenched evaluation will be required to investigate the areas of the three further lodges and access, under the current planning application. This work must be carried out prior to commencement of the groundworks.**

- 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 hardcore 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, which should be re-cleaned. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist.
- 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).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

- 3.7 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.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 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: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council

Archaeological Service Conservation Team

Environment and Transport Service Delivery

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352197

Email: [jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk)

Date: 27 April 2009

Reference:/AthelingtonHall-Athelington2009

**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.**

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

## Appendix 2: Contents of the stratigraphic archive

---

Type	Quantity	Format
Digital images	7	3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg
This evaluation report (2009/156)	1	A4 ring-bound

## Appendix 3: Digital image index

---

Image	Description	Scale	Direction
001	General view of Trench 1	1m	N
002	West-facing section at south end of Trench 1	n/a	E
003	General view of Trench 2	1m	S
004	West-facing section at south end of Trench 2	n/a	E
005	General view of Trench 3	1m	N
006	West-facing section at south end of Trench 3	n/a	E
007	General view of site	n/a	E