

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/200

Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, Suffolk creation of a swimming pool YOX Misc.

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HER Information

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Date of Fieldwork: 23 July 2009

Grid Reference: TM 3964 6927

Funding Body: Mr T. Templer

Curatorial Officer: William Fletcher

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-62415

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

Contents

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	2
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	4
6. Finds and environmental evidence	6
7. Discussion	6
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	6
9. Archive deposition	7
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	7
11. Bibliography	7

Disclaimer

List of Figures

1. Location Plan	1
2. Trench Plan	3
3. section showing the southwest face of the trench	4
4. second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale sheet (rescaled extract) of the walled garden area showing location of the possible hot wall	5

List of Plates

Plate I. general view of trench (ref. GDB 88)	8
Plate II. soil profile as revealed in southwest face of the trench (ref. GDB 95)	8

List of Appendices

Brief and specification	9
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed swimming pool within the grounds of Cockfield Hall, Yoxford. A single trench with a total length of 21m was excavated down to the top of the natural subsoil. The site was located within a walled garden and it was discovered that the area had been levelled through truncation of the eastern half and deposition of material in the western half. No archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified within the trench although it was noted that the walled garden had a possible 18th/19th century 'hot wall', an artificially heated wall for ripening fruit, which may be worthy of further recording (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Mr T. Templer).

1. Introduction

The construction of a swimming pool and associated structures within the grounds of Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, has been proposed. Planning permission has been granted with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological work be in place prior to any site works (a revised application is due to be submitted although this will attract the same condition).

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Mr Fletcher, of the SCC Conservation Team (Appendix 1), is the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may be deemed necessary.

The site is located within a walled garden to the north of the hall in an area identified as having a high archaeological potential in a recent Desk-Based Assessment (Rolfe 2008). The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the proposed development area is TM 3964 6927 (Fig. 1).

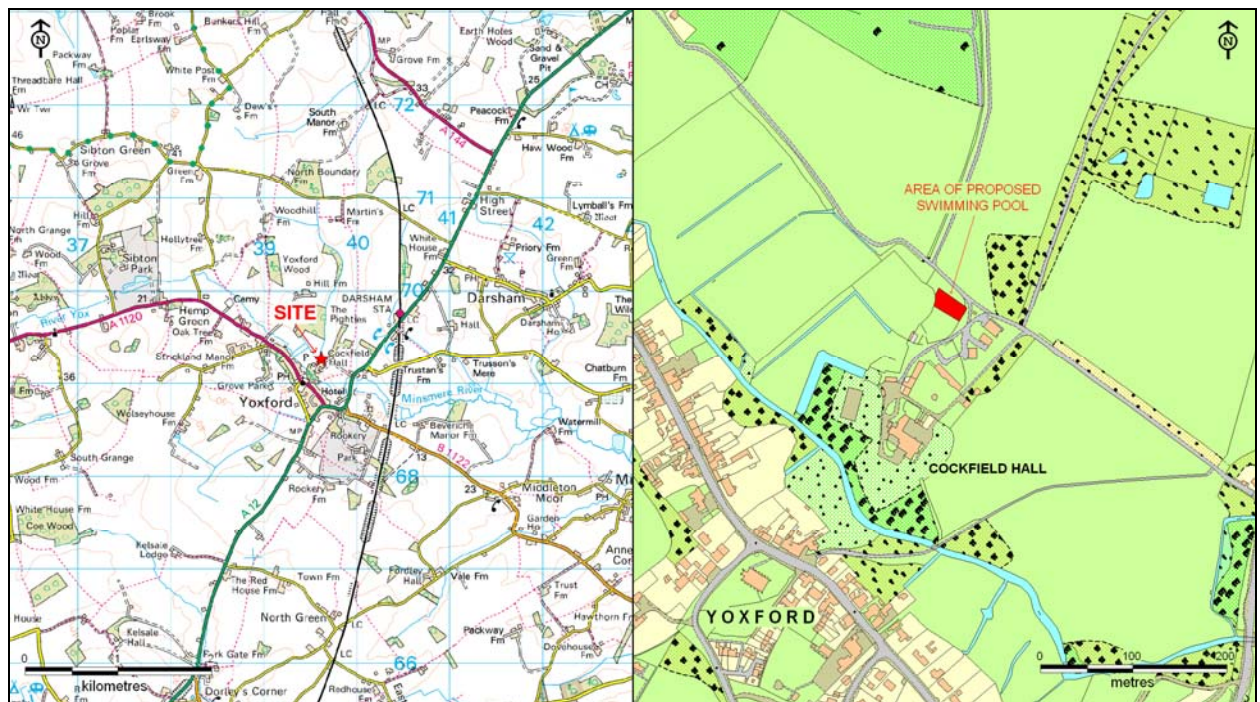


Figure 1. Location Plan

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned and funded by Mr T. Templer

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated upon a level terrace in a southwest facing slope that overlooks the River Yox, some 170m to the southwest, within an area of landscaped parkland associated with the hall

The geology comprises sandy loams overlying glacial till and other glacial outwash materials.

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record within the development area although it is within an area recorded in recently completed Desk-Based Assessment of the estate (Rolfe 2008) as having a high archaeological potential.

It also lies in an area of archaeological importance close to the existing Cockfield Hall (HER ref. YOX 006), said to date from 1613 with later additions, and remains of a possible moat or fishpond complex (YOX 001) probably associated with an earlier, medieval hall. A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered adjacent the hall during recent archaeological monitoring work.

The development area lies outside the probable medieval core of Yoxford which appears to be centred on the parish church, located 350m to the southwest, and along the High Street.

Primarily, it is the site's location within the parklands around Cockfield Hall, close to the extant hall and the site of the earlier medieval hall, that has led to the call for archaeological work prior to development.

4. Methodology

A trial trench was machine excavated down to the level of the undisturbed natural subsoil using a small, tracked excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trench was excavated in accordance with an approved plan.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that may be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features or deposits. Had any features/deposits been noted they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench location was plotted and the depth was noted. A brief photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.

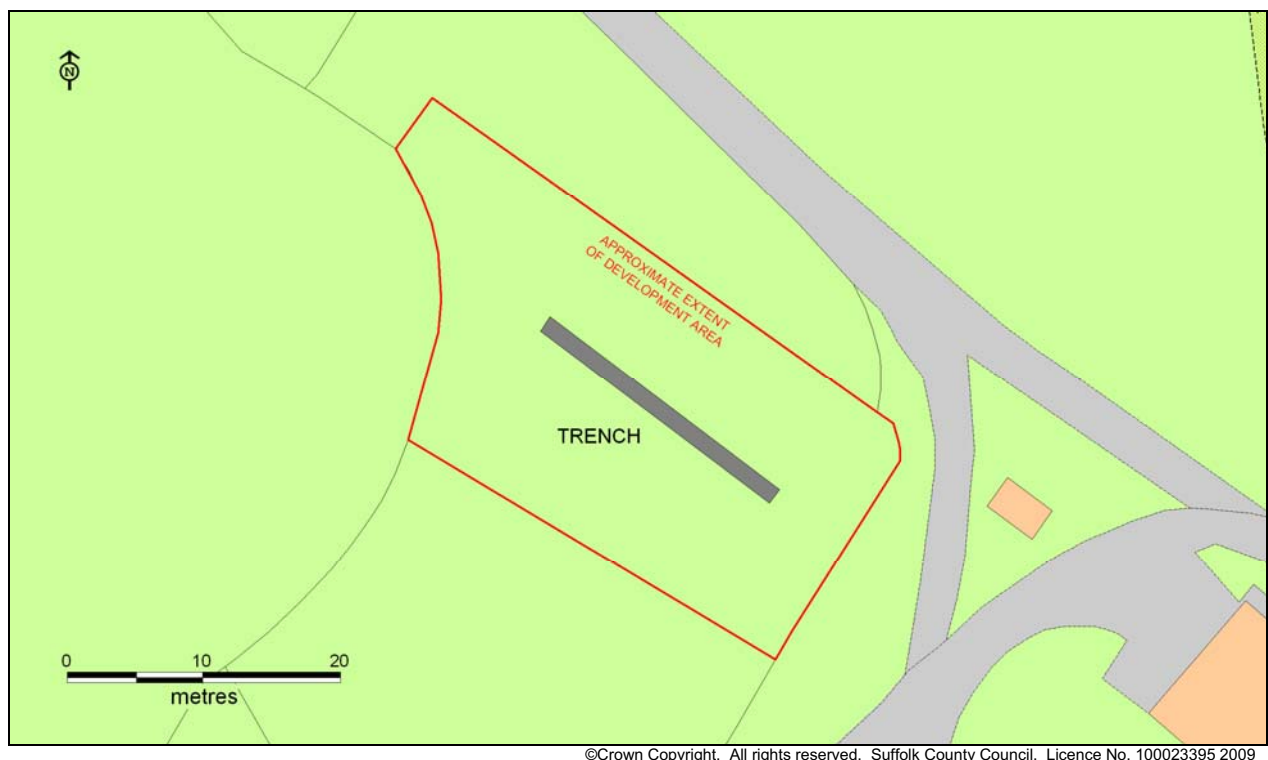


Figure 2. Trench Plan

5. Results

A single trench, 21m in length, was excavated through the approximate centre of the proposed development area (Fig. 2), in accordance with an approved trench plan. A natural subsoil comprising clean yellow sand was encountered beneath an overburden of pale brown-grey sandy topsoil. At the southeastern end of the trench the natural subsoil was situated at a depth of 0.4m and continued at this depth for a distance of eight metres. Beyond this point the natural subsoil sloped down to reach a maximum depth of 1.5m at the northwest end of the trench. The slope was initially quite steep before easing to become a very gentle slope which continued until the northwestern end of the trench (Fig. 3).

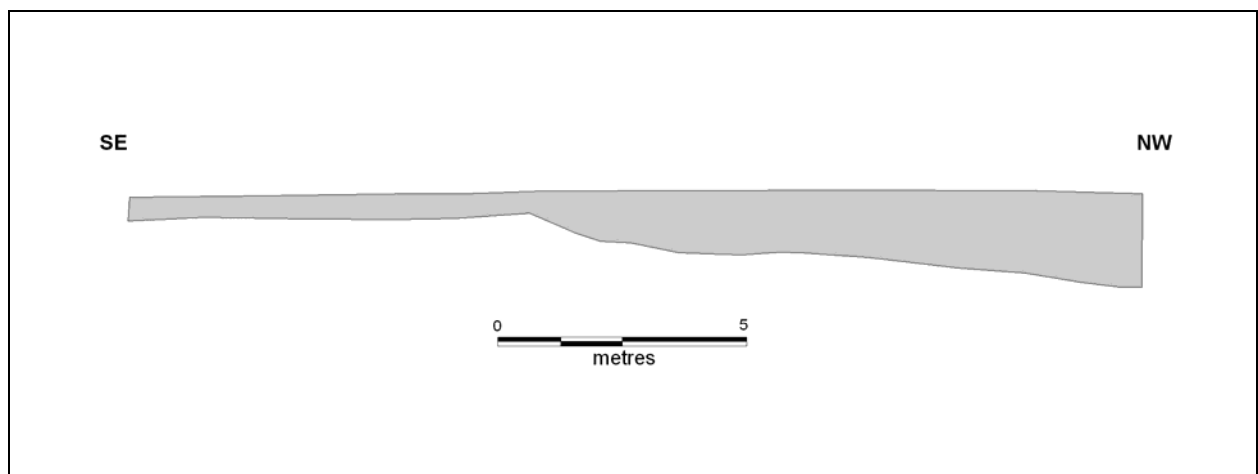


Figure 3: section showing the southwest face of the trench

The overburden comprised a light sandy top soil within which were infrequent small fragments of brick or tile and fragments of thin window glass, with little or no variation through the length of the trench despite the increasing thickness of the deposit. No obvious layering was apparent. The topsoil lay directly on the surface of the natural subsoil. At the southeastern end of the trench, where the natural subsoil was level, the interface between the two was very sharp but this became blurred and irregular throughout the remainder of the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted and no significant artefacts were recovered from the resultant spoil. A metal detector was used but only 19th century or

later debris, in the form of two large door hinges and numerous small nails, was recovered; these were not retained.

Upon arrival at the site it was noted that the area to be evaluated was likely to have been landscaped as it was relatively level, whilst much of the area to the south and east sloped gently down to the south and west. It was also noted that the ground level was c. 0.8m lower than that immediately to the east of the walled garden.

An interesting feature of the walled garden was the curving wall forming the northwest boundary. It contained at least one small bricked-up arched 'niche' close to the base and a structure is marked on early maps outside the northwest corner of the garden suggesting this may have been built as a 'hot wall' (Fig.4). The on-site contractors referred to it as a hollow wall. These were popular in estate gardens during the late 18th and early 19th centuries for rapidly ripening fruit on trees grown against the wall but had fallen from favour by the middle of the 19th century. Unfortunately, much of the wall was hidden by vegetation so a positive identification as a hot wall was not possible.

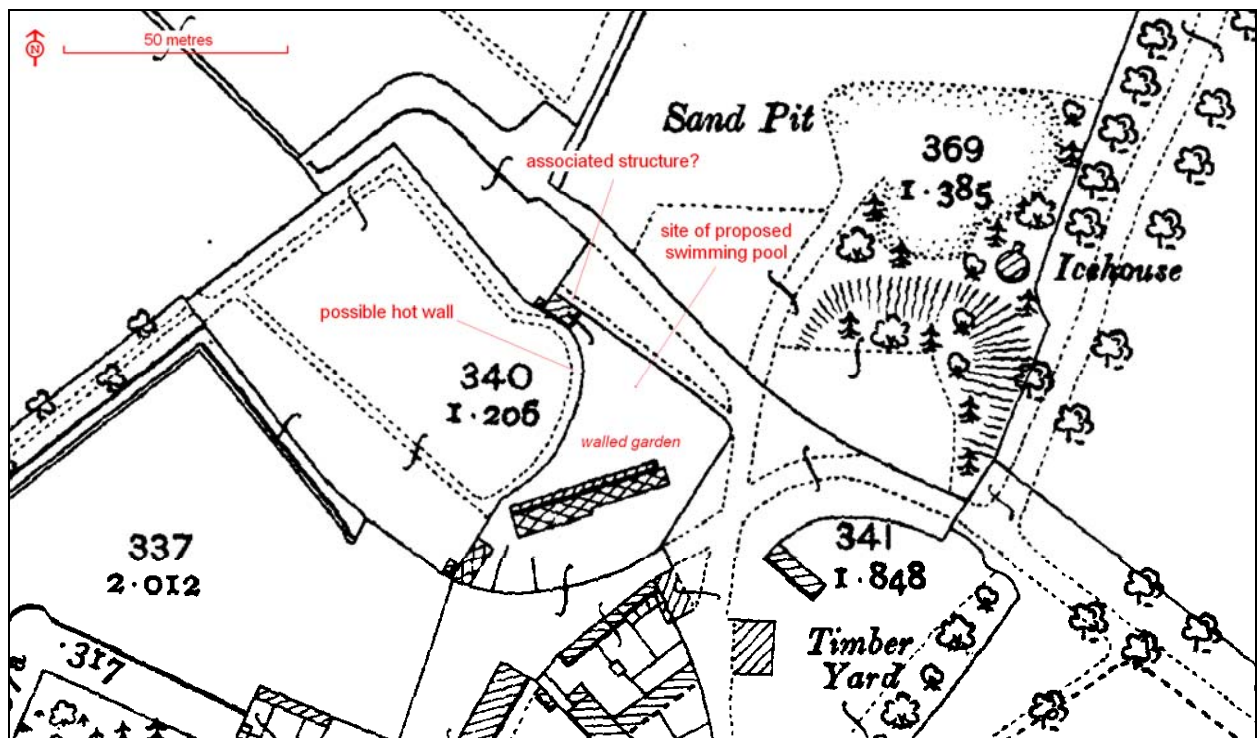


Figure 4: second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale sheet (rescaled extract) of the walled garden area showing location of possible hot wall

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No environmental evidence and no artefacts were recovered during this evaluation.

7. Discussion

From the results of the evaluation trench it is clear that the area has been levelled, presumably in relation to the creation of the walled garden which appeared to date from the early 19th century. This levelling has been achieved through truncation of the higher, eastern portion of the garden and the deposition of increasing amounts of topsoil in the lower, western part of the garden.

No evidence for any other significant early activity was recovered from the excavated trench. The trench was cleanly cut and had any features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

It is unlikely that any archaeological features or deposits would survive in the truncated area of the garden although for the remainder of the area, which has clearly been buried, had any features or deposits been present they should have survived.

Based on the absence of evidence from the excavated trench no large scale earlier occupation or activity has been centred within the development area. This does not entirely preclude the possibility that some small isolated features could occur outside the actual trench but given the complete absence of early artefacts recovered during the evaluation this would seem unlikely.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The only conclusion that can be drawn is that it is unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits or features are under threat from the proposed development and consequently no further work is recommended.

Given the rarity of the possible 'hot wall' it may be prudent to undertake a simple photographic survey of any components liable to be affected or hidden by this development, once the vegetation has been cleared and the wall has been positively identified.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive:

T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Yoxford\2009-200 Cockfield Hall, swimming pool evaluation

Photo Archive:

GDB 87 – GDB 98 in T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\Digital photos\GDB

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by M. Sommers and P. Camps from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by M. Sommers, and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report. The final report was checked by John Newman.

11. Bibliography

Rofle, J. (2008) *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment – Cockfield Hall, Yoxford*
SCCAS Report No. 2008/198

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Plates



Plate I. general view of trench (ref. GDB 88)



Plate II. soil profile as revealed in southwest face of the trench (ref. GDB 95)

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

CREATION OF A SWIMMING POOL AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT COCKFIELD HALL, YOXFORD, 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 creation of a swimming pool and associated development as part of the re-development of Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, Suffolk (TM 3964 6927), has been approved by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/08/0911 and C/08/0912). **Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development.**
 - 1.2 The development area is to the rear of the Hall and it is situated on the north side of the Yox Valley between c. 5.00 - 10.00m AOD. The underlying original soils are heavy clays of the Hanslope series. The development is situated inside the former walled garden of the hall, an area which has been considered as having high potential in a recent Desk Based Assessment¹. Some truncation and terracing may however have taken place.
 - 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (See YOX 001 and YOX 006). The current hall is a grade I listed building, and is one of 11 grade I, II* and II listings for the holding. An earlier medieval hall is also thought to have been located on the site, associated with a large moat. There is high potential for encountering further occupation deposits associated with the medieval and later periods. 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 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.
 - 1.5 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 Rolfe, J. 2008, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment – Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/198

- 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 35.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 20.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.

- 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 is 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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Date: 01 October 2008

Reference: /SwimPool_CockfiledHall_Yoxford2008

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.