ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/141

Phase 1 Steeles Road, Woolpit
WPT 034

E. Muldowney

www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No:	**2515/07**
Date of Fieldwork:	**6th August 2009**
Grid Reference:	**TL 9751 6213**
Funding Body:	**Flagship Housing Group Ltd**
Curatorial Officer:	**Dr Jess Tipper**
Project Officer:	**Liz Muldowney**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1-63022**

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Steeles Road, Woolpit on the 6th August 2009 during the demolition of seven properties, prior to redevelopment. This work was undertaken as part of Phase 1 of the staged demolition and reconstruction project, a further 4 stages of evaluation are programmed to take place. Three evaluation trenches were excavated, no pre-modern features were encountered, no artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Steeles Road, Woolpit on the 6th August 2009. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This document is included as Appendix 1. The work was undertaken during demolition of properties numbered 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108 and 110 prior to their redevelopment. It was Phase 1 of a five phase project of demolition and reconstruction. Funding for the work was provided by The Flagship Housing Group Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 9751 6213 within the village of Woolpit (Fig. 1) within a housing estate at the southern limit of the village (Fig. 2). The evaluated area was part of a larger phased project of demolition and redevelopment of the housing estate on Steeles Road (Fig. 3). Phase 1 encompassed an irregular-shaped area measuring 2669m^2 at the southern end of the site to the east of properties fronting onto Green Road. The site contained a staggered Terrace of four properties (numbers 98, 100,102 and 104), two semi detached properties (numbers 106 and 108) and number 110 (the southern end of a staggered five row terrace). All were single storey structures of mid 20th century date. Property number 104 had been partially demolished, the others had had internal fixtures and fittings removed. The western part of the Phase 1 area was a small open grassed area, however it could not be evaluated in this first stage of work because it was being used as a compound for the demolition works. The development area was generally flat at approximately 67.5m OD. The geological horizon comprised stiff bluish yellow clay with frequent chalk nodules, this forms part of the glaciofluvial drift and chalky till, part of the Newport 3 series of soils.

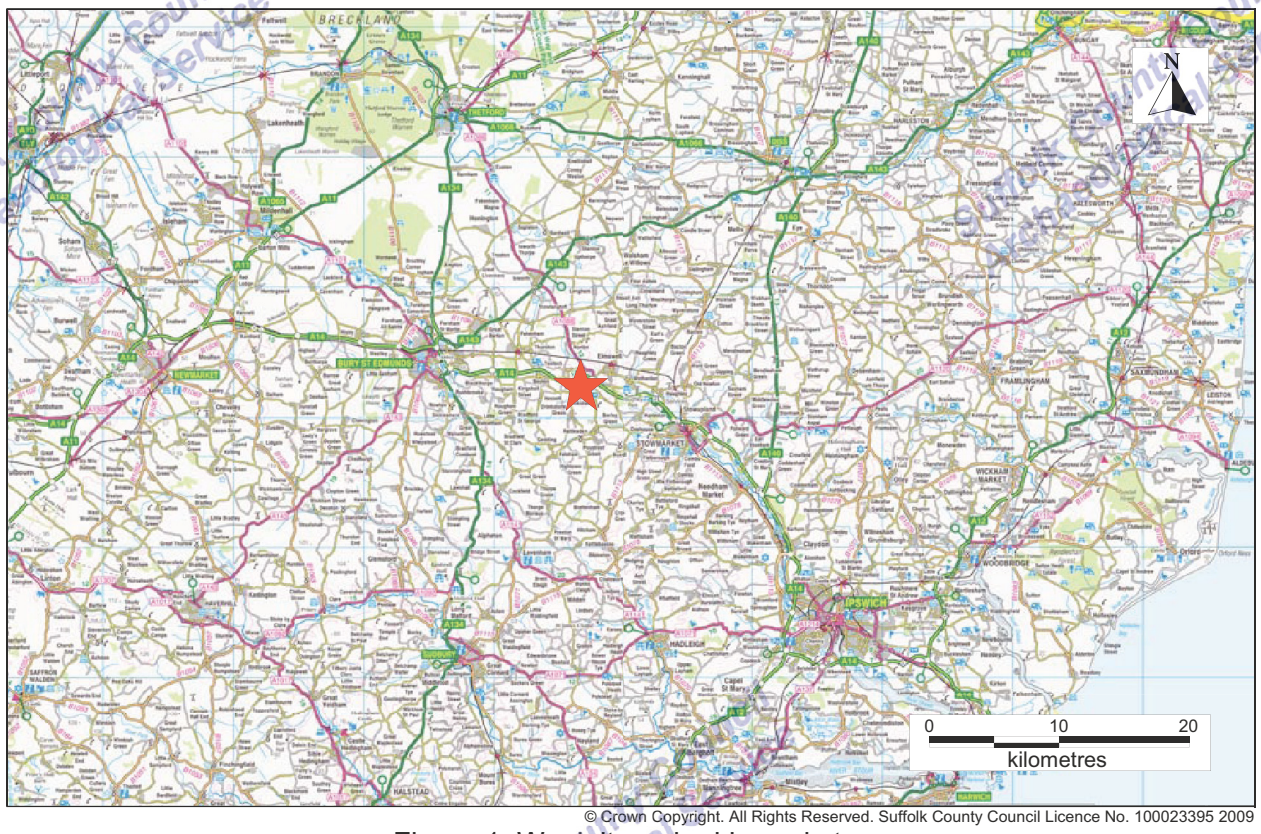

Figure 1. Woolpit marked by red star

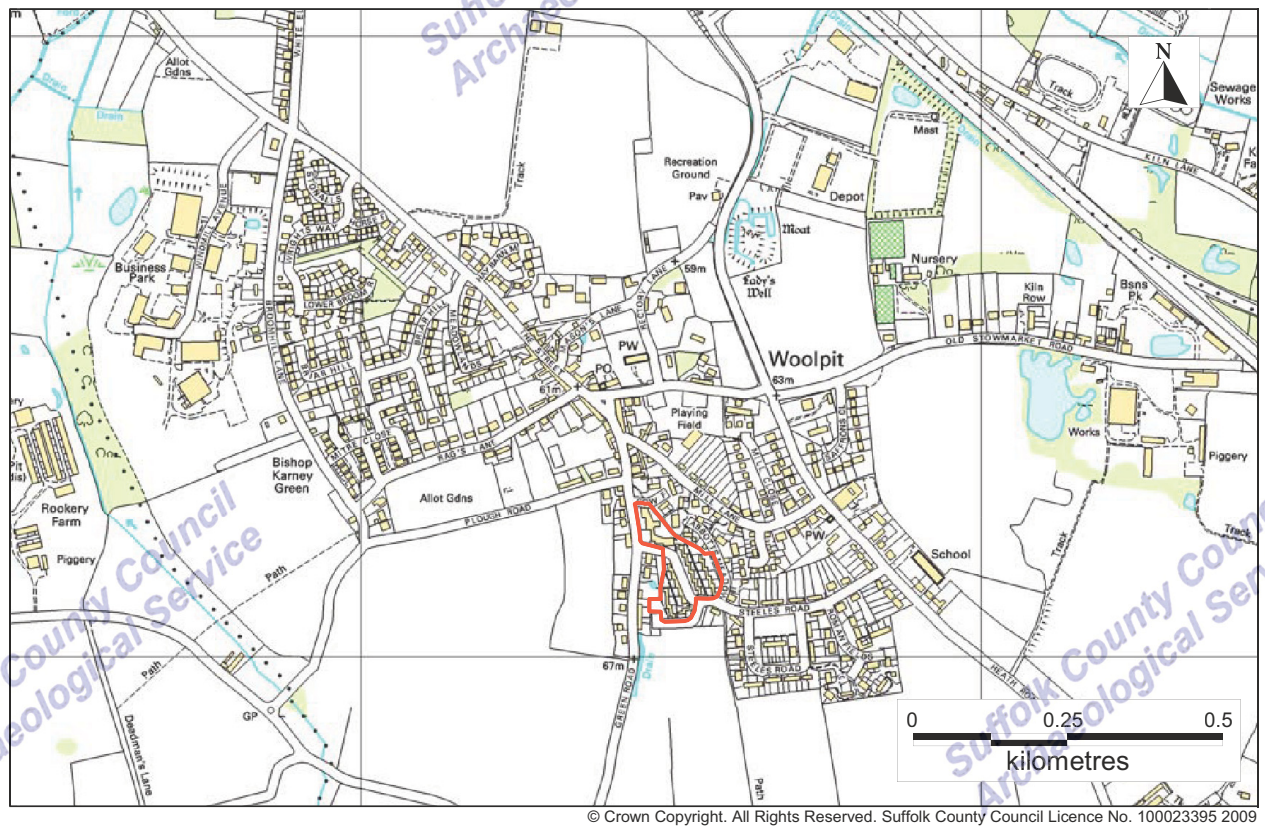

Figure 2. Location of development area outlined in red

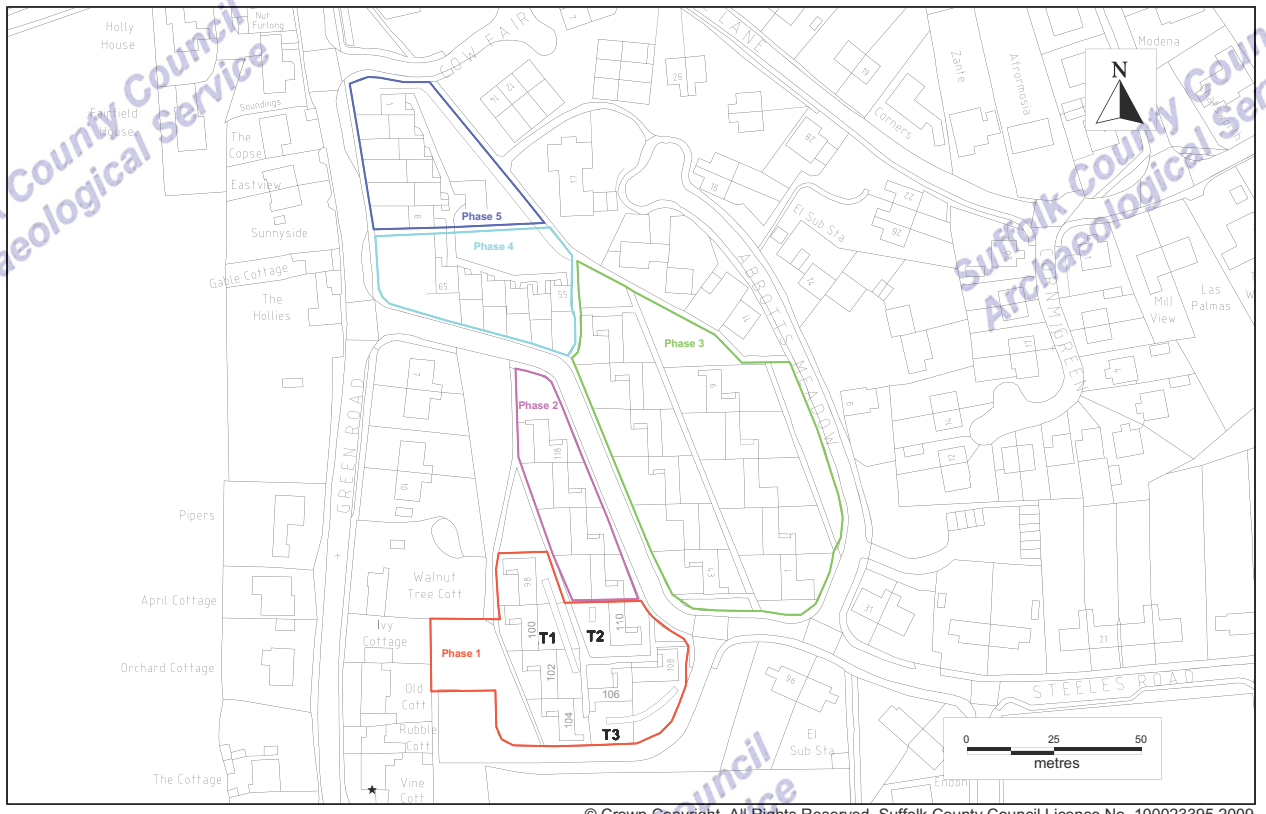

Figure 3. Steeles Road Phases 1 to 5, Phase 1 trench location

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest on the edge of the medieval village of Woolpit and close to finds of Roman and early medieval date. A Romano-British coin (WPT 001) was found 160m to the east in a garden on Steeles Road, Romano-British pottery was recovered during field walking 280m to the south-east (WPT 009) and further Romano-British pottery, metalwork and a coin associated with early medieval pottery were found during field walking and metal detecting 300m to the south-east of the development area (WPT 010). The 14th century church of St Mary (WPT 007) is situated 240m to the north of the northern part of the development area (Phase 5), the presence of Norman masonry below the church tower indicates an earlier structure was present on this site. A brief summary of the Historic Environment Records (HER) in the vicinity of the development area, identified on Figure 4, is included in Table 1 below.

The fifth phase of the development area has a frontage onto Green Road, a medieval road through the village. The 1st edition OS map (1880's) shows that the development area was within fields behind cottages fronting onto Green Road in the late 19th century (Fig. 5).

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
WPT 001	Findspot	Metalwork	Romano-British	Hadrianic coin (117-138 AD) found in garden on Steeles Road
WPT 007	Building	Church	Medieval	St Mary's Church, 14th century building with later modifications. Presence of Norman masonry below the tower indicated an earlier structure on same site
WPT 009	Findspot	Pottery	Romano-British	1st to 2nd century AD pottery recovered from field walking
WPT 010	Findspot	Varied	Romano-British, Medieval	2nd century AD pottery, copper alloy fittings, 3rd century AD coin. 11th to 13th century pottery (St Neots ware and Thetford ware) from field walking and metal detecting
WPT 017	Findspot	Metalwork	Bronze Age, medieval	Fragment of late Bronze Age socketed axe. Medieval lead ampulla and lead ulnage seal all recovered during metal detecting
WPT 018	Reference	Windmill	Post-medieval	17th century post mill recorded as being demolished in 1924 recorded on early OS mapping south of Mill Lane

Table 1. Selected HER references

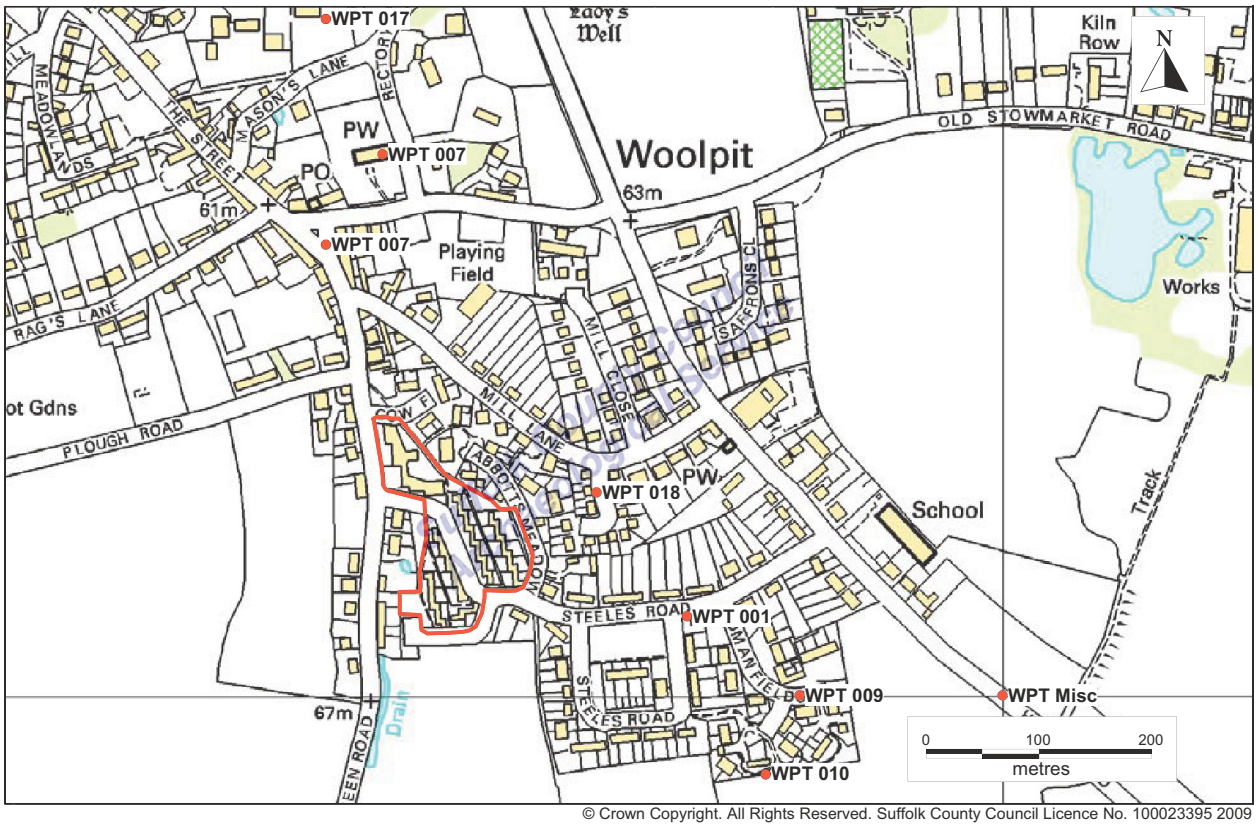

Figure 4. Selected HER references close to development area

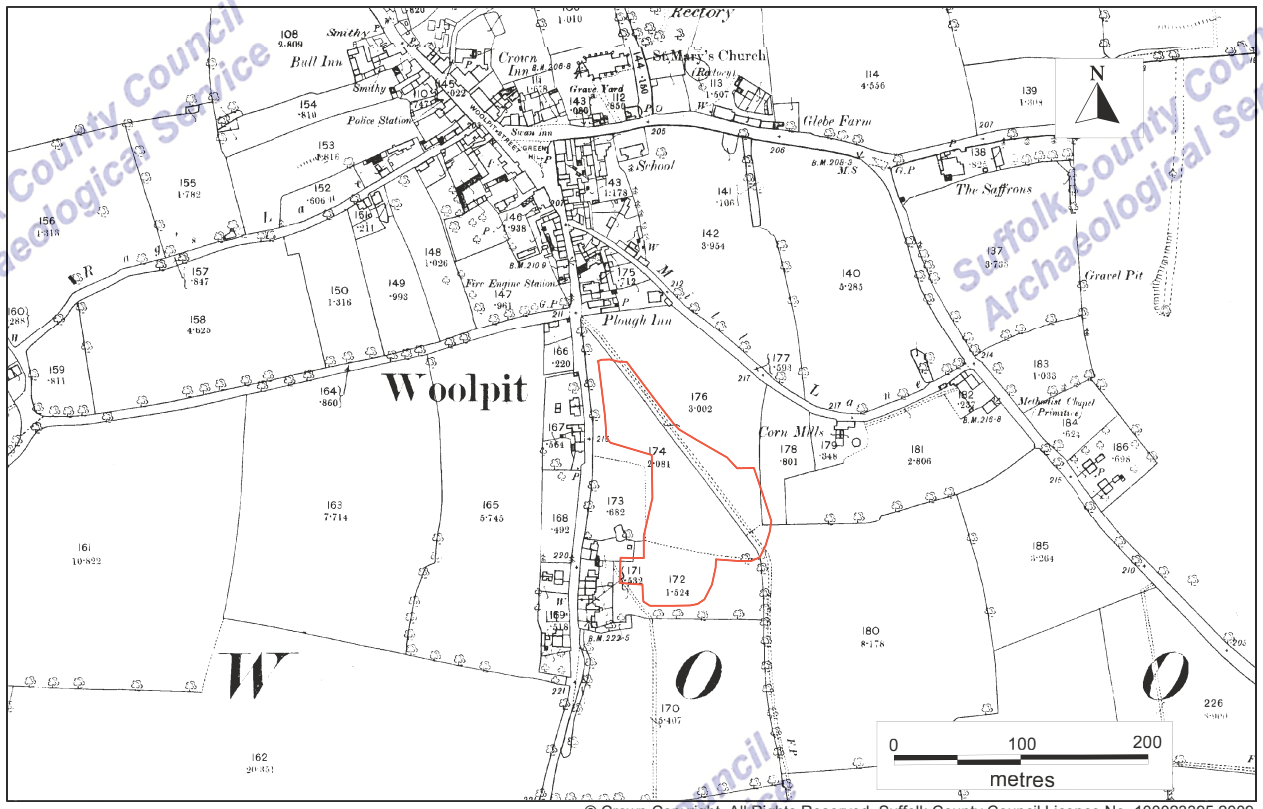

Figure 5. 1st Edition OS map (1880's), development area outlined in red

4. Methodology

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This required the excavation of 5% of the available development area. Phase 1 encompassed 2669m^2 of the total 11541m^2 (1.15 hectare) development area. The compound sited on the western grassed area meant it was only possible to excavate three trenches in the gardens of the properties, therefore 100.72m^2 was investigated forming 3.77% of the Phase 1 site. It should be possible to return to the site and complete the required 5% evaluation of Phase 1 after demolition of the buildings and the compound has been resited.

The trenches were excavated by a 22 tonne tracked 360 degree JCB excavator fitted with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The position of the trenches and levels on the modern ground surface and the natural geological horizon were recorded using differential GPS (Leica GPS 1200). The recording was carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines, all records were

created using SCCAS proformas and photographs were taken of all trenches on 35mm monochrome print film and using high resolution digital photographs.

No finds were retrieved and no samples were taken.

5. Results

No pre-modern features were encountered within the three excavated trenches. Trench 1 contained five modern features, Trench 2 was devoid of features, Trench 3 contained two modern features. The approximate location of these features was sketched onto Trench Record Sheet forms. Topsoil/garden soil 0001 was dark orange brown friable silty clay moderate to rare flint nodule inclusions. Subsoil 0002 was mid orange brown friable to compact silty clay with common small to medium angular and sub-rounded flint fragments. All modern features cut either the subsoil or the topsoil. The results of the trenches are summarized in Table 2 below.

Trench	Size	Orientation	Topsoil depth	Subsoil depth	Modern features
01	28.5m x 1.9m x 0.45m	NNW to SSE	0.15	0.30	2 x E-W hedge/fence lines matching modern house boundaries Electric cable trench in the garden of house no. 100 Modern pit in garden of no. 100 backfilled with brick rubble NE – SW machine dug and backfilled trench excavated to isolate main electricity supply
02	4.5m x 1.9m x 0.42m	N – S	0.22m	0.20m	None
03	23m x 1.9m x 0.56m	NE-SW turning E - W	0.26m	0.30m	N-S Drain pipe trench from SW corner of no. 108 N-S hedge/fence line matching modern house boundary

Table 2. Trench Summary

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Despite the potential for encountering Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology within the development at Steeles Road, Woolpit, there was no evidence for pre-modern land use within the Phase 1 area. It remains possible that archaeology will be encountered in the other phases of the development, as Phases 4 and 5 probably have the highest potential for remains surviving along the frontage with Green Road. The remaining 1.3% of the Phase 1 evaluation should be completed on the unevaluated western part of the area when it becomes available.

7. Archive deposition

Digital and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds
T:\Arc\ALL_site\Woolpit\WPT 034 Steeles Road

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Liz Muldowney and John Simms from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney, and managed by Andrew Tester

The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Trenched Evaluation

LAND FRONTING GREEN ROAD, STEELES ROAD, ABBOTTS MEADOW, WOOLPIT, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission for the erection of 46 affordable residential units and 5 free market residential units, a community room and on site provision of open space, and also associated car parking and landscaping (following demolition of 34 existing dwellings) on Land fronting Green Road, Steeles Road, Abbotts Meadow, Woolpit, Suffolk (TL 9751 6213), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 2515/07).

1.2 The proposed application area measures *c*. 1.39 ha., on the southern side of Woolpit (see accompanying plan). It is situated on glaciofluvial drift and chalky till (deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils) at *c*. 64 - 67.00m AOD.

1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, close to several Roman finds scatters that are indicative of further occupation deposits (WPT 001, WPT 009 and WPT 010). The site also has frontage on a historic routeway (Green Road). There is a strong possibility that Roman and medieval occupation deposits will be encountered at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.4 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.

1.5 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

1.6 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.7 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

1.8 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

1.9 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.10 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects,* 1991 (*MAP2*), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Field Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 695m^2. 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 386.00m 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 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 can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.18 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 4 July 2008

Reference: / LandadjacentSteelesRoad-Woolpit2008

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.

Appendix 2 Context List

Context	Trench	Category	Type	Basic Description	Depth (max.)	Interpretation
0001	1 – 3	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark orange brown silty clay	0.26m	Garden soil / topsoil
0002	1 - 3	Deposit	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay	0.30m	Subsoil