

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/207

Heathland Creation Trials Site, Sizewell, Leiston, Suffolk

LCS 152

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Kieron Heard
© September 2009
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: C/09/0476

Date of Fieldwork: 03 – 05 August 2009

Grid Reference: TM 4602 6260

Commissioning Body: Haskoning UK Ltd

Curatorial Officer: Jude Plouviez

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-64336

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

Contents

Summary

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site location	1
1.2	The scope of the project	1
1.3	Circumstances and dates of fieldwork	2
2	Geological, topographic and archaeological background	5
2.1	Geology and topography	5
2.2	Archaeology	5
3	Original research aims	6
4	Site sequence: results of the fieldwork	6
4.1	Introduction	6
4.2	Natural stratum	7
4.3	Prehistoric features	7
4.4	Modern topsoil	7
5	Quantification and assessment	10
5.1	Post-excavation review	10
5.2	Quantification of the stratigraphic archive	10
5.3	Quantification and assessment of the finds archive	10
5.3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	10
5.3.2	<i>The pottery</i>	11
5.3.3	<i>Fired clay</i>	11
5.3.4	<i>Flint</i>	11
5.3.5	<i>Charcoal</i>	12
5.3.6	<i>General discussion of the finds archive</i>	12
5.3.7	<i>Archive location</i>	12

6	Potential of the data	12
6.1	Realisation of the Original Research Aims	12
6.2	General discussion of potential	13
7	Significance of the data	14
8	Recommendations for further work and publication	15
9	Acknowledgements	15
10	Bibliography	16
	Appendix: Brief and Specification	17

List of Figures and Plates

Figure 1	Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)	3
Figure 2	Plan locating the proposed drainage ditch and the archaeological trench	4
Figure 3	Plan of archaeological features	8
Plate 1	General view of the site showing ditch/gully 0005 (foreground) and ditch 0003 (centre right). The partially excavated drainage ditch for the heathland creation trials scheme can be seen in the background	9

List of Tables

Table 1	Quantification of the stratigraphic archive	10
Table 2	Quantification of the bulk finds	10
Table 3	Flint catalogue	11

Summary

This post-excavation assessment report presents the evidence from an archaeological excavation at the Heathland Creation Trial Site, Sizewell, Leiston, Suffolk. It provides a quantification and assessment of the site archive and considers the potential of that archive to answer specific research questions. The significance of the data is assessed and recommendations for dissemination of the results of the fieldwork are made. In this instance it is recommended that no further analysis or reporting is required and that this post-excavation assessment should be made available through the OASIS archaeological database as a 'grey literature' report.

The site is located on former agricultural land to the west of the Sizewell B power station. The geological stratum is a glacio-fluvial drift deposit of soft, light yellowish brown or reddish brown sand with localised patches of firm, light yellowish grey sandy clay. It is at an average height of 14.60m AOD.

Two archaeological features cut the natural stratum. Ditch 0003 is for the most part oriented east–west although it curves slightly at either end and extends beyond the northern limit of excavation. It is >22m long x up to 0.85m wide and has a surviving depth of 0.18m. The sandy fill of the ditch produced two abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery and a few worked/waste flint flakes. Ditch/gully 0005 is linear, oriented west northwest–east southeast. It is 3.30m long x up to 0.60m wide and has a surviving depth of only 70mm. Its sandy fill produced some small fragments of undiagnostic fired clay and occasional worked/waste flint flakes. Both features have been truncated heavily by relatively recent ploughing.

The archaeological features are sealed by modern topsoil, approximately 0.35m thick.

**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

1.1 Site location

An archaeological monitoring and excavation took place on the Heathland Creation Trials Site, Sizewell, described hereafter as 'the site'. The site is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TM 4602 6260 (Fig. 1) and encompasses an area of approximately 33,500m². It is bounded by agricultural land to the north and west, a conifer plantation to the south and a farm track to the east.

1.2 The scope of the project

This report was commissioned by Haskoning UK Ltd. on behalf of their client EDF DEVCO, and produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS). It has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Brief and Specification (Fletcher, 2009) and is consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2), notably appendices 4 and 5 (English Heritage, 1991). The principal aims of the project are as follows:

- Summarise the results of the archaeological fieldwork
- Quantify the site archive and review the post-excavation work that has been undertaken to date
- Assess the potential of the site archive to answer research aims defined in the relevant Brief and Specification
- Assess the significance of the data in relation to the relevant Regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook, 1997; Glazebrook, 2000)
- Make recommendations for further analysis and publication of the results of the fieldwork

1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

The excavation was carried out by SCCAS, Field Team in response to a planning application for a proposed heathland creation trial scheme on a site to the west of the Sizewell B power station (Suffolk Coastal planning application number: C/09/0476). Prior to the archaeological fieldwork the site was in agricultural use.

The fieldwork was carried out from 03 – 05 August 2009, and was conducted largely in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by SCCAS, Conservation Team (Fletcher, 2009) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by SCCAS, Field Team (Heard, 2009).

The archaeological investigation took place within the area of a large drainage ditch along the south side of the site (Fig. 2). The surface area of the ditch measures approximately 110m x 7m (770m²).

A 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide, toothless bucket was used to strip the topsoil from an area measuring approximately 110m x 5m (550m²), as shown on Figure 2. The entire surface area of the drainage ditch was not stripped (in a variation to the method statement set out in the WSI) in order to preserve the proposed profile of the ditch.

Mechanical excavation of the topsoil continued until the surface of the underlying natural stratum was exposed. Two archaeological features were identified at that level, cutting into the natural stratum at the east end of the ditch. These were excavated and recorded in accordance with the SCCAS Manual (SCCAS 2002). They were planned at a scale of 1:50 and drawn in section at 1:10. Written descriptions were made on *pro-forma* context sheets and a photographic record was made consisting of high-resolution digital images. Heights were recorded by reference to a temporary bench mark at 12.50m OD (level supplied by main contractor), near the southeast corner of the site.

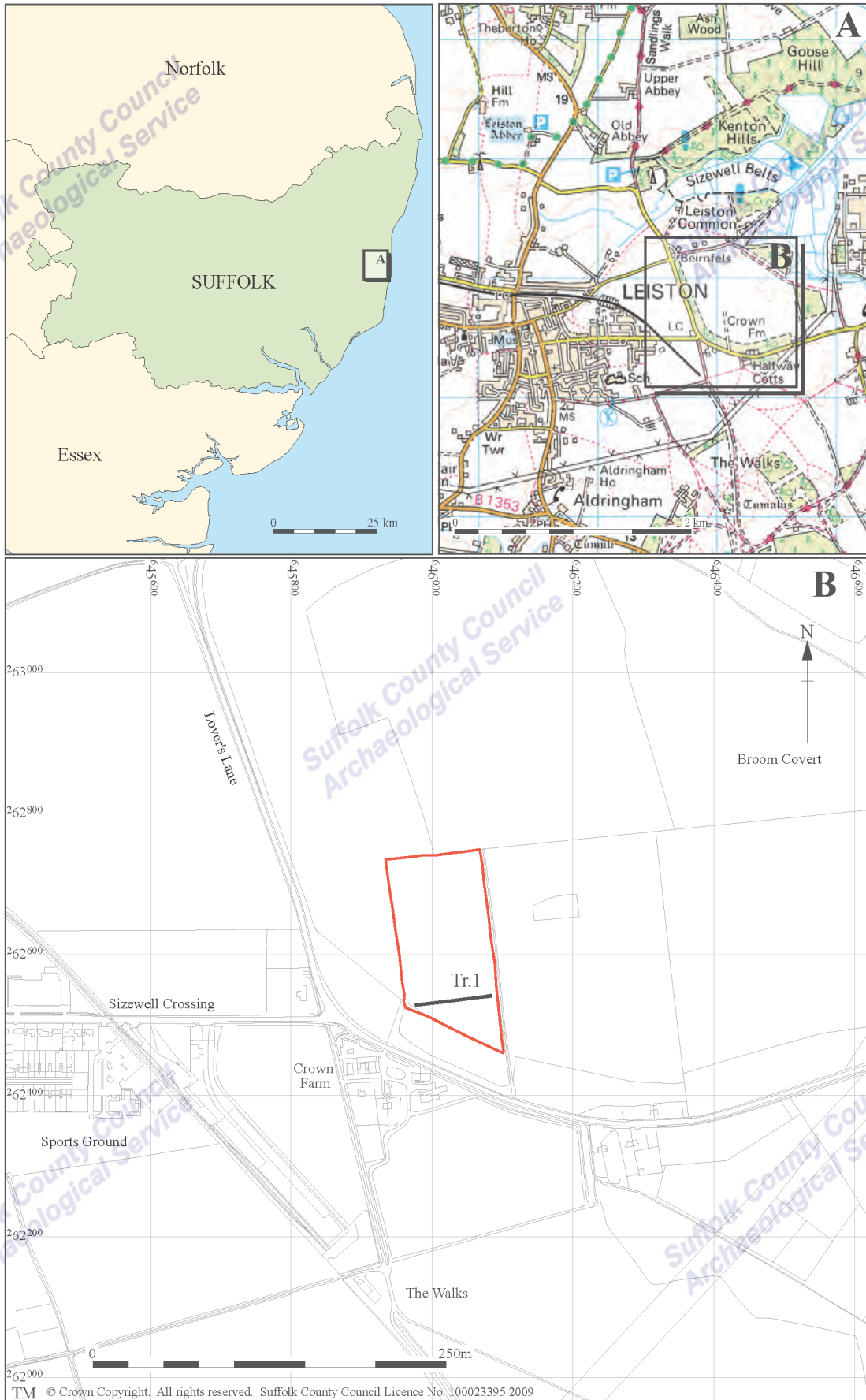


Figure 1 Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)

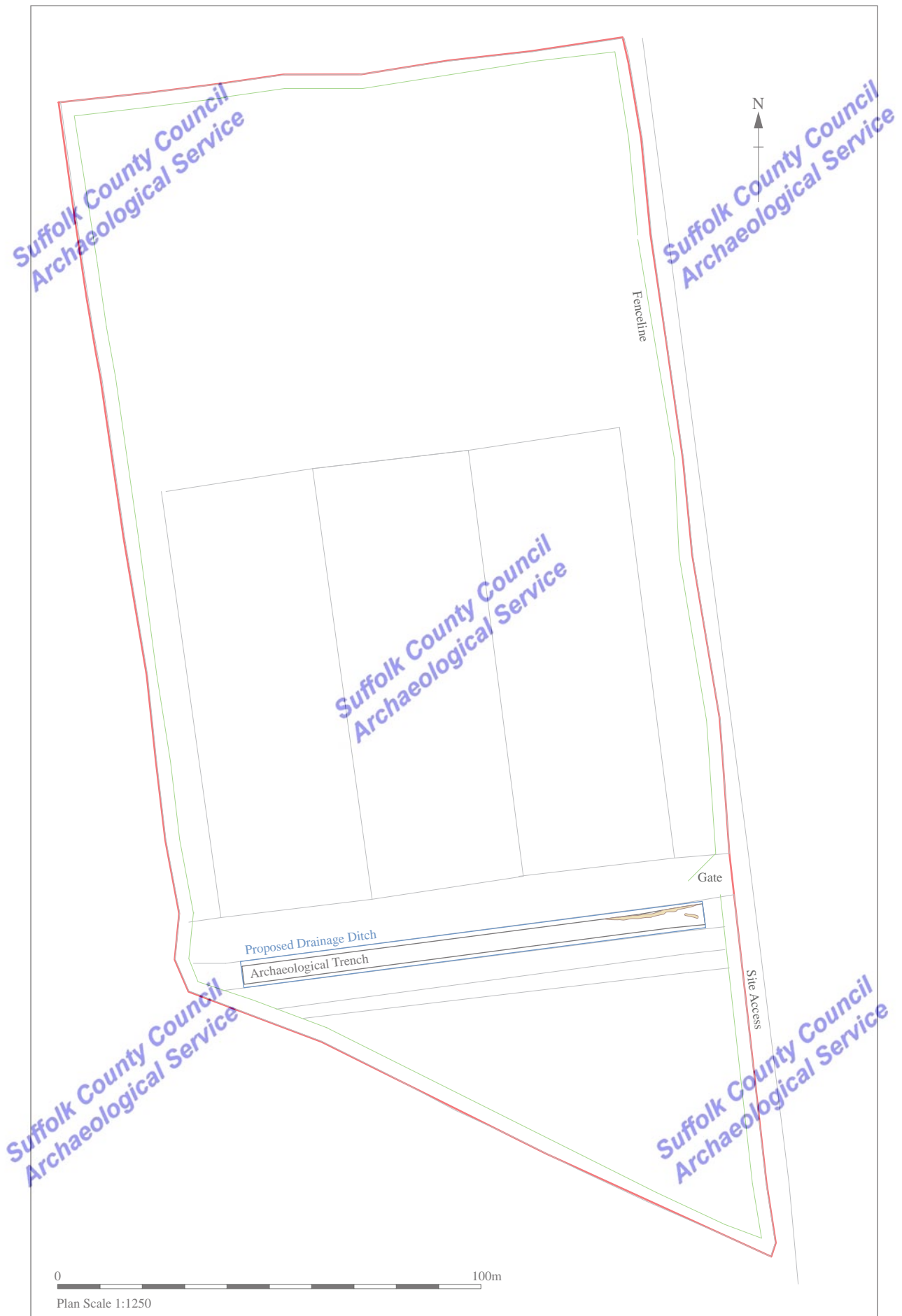


Figure 2. Plan locating the proposed drainage ditch and the archaeological trench

2 Geological, topographic and archaeological background

2.1 Geology and topography

The published Quaternary geology on the site is chalky till, although glacio-fluvial drift deposits dominate the surrounding area (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00). Deep loam to clay soils of the Melford series (571) occur on the till deposits, and sandy soils of the Newport series (551) are found overlying the glacio-fluvial drift deposits.

The site is located on the south-facing slope of a slight promontory of land behind a former channel known as Sizewell Belts. Ground level slopes from 16.5m AOD at the north-western corner of the site to c. 12.0m AOD at its south-eastern corner.

The site is located in an area of Estate Sandlands, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment* (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk).

2.2 Archaeology

The site is within an area of high archaeological importance as defined in the County's Historic Environment Record (HER). There is some evidence to indicate that there was a settlement at Sizewell in the late Saxon period. Certainly, during the medieval period it was a thriving fishing community with its own parish and chapel. The exact location of the settlement is not known, although archaeological fieldwork in 2008, 850m to the east of the present site, revealed extensive medieval settlement evidence that included a nationally important find of well-preserved boat timbers (HER number: LCS 148). In addition to these recent discoveries the HER shows that a number of important archaeological sites exist within 200m of the site. These include three prehistoric ring ditches (LCS 061, LCS 062, LCS 069), and finds of Saxon pottery and prehistoric worked flints (LCS 060). Consequently there is a high potential for encountering prehistoric, Saxon and medieval deposits at

this site. The HER contains also references to Second World War enclosures (LCS 069) and associated debris (LCS 060).

There has been previous archaeological work on the site. It was investigated as part of a SCCAS field-walking project in 1994 (field XVIII), producing a small amount of Iron Age and medieval pottery (SCCAS, 1995).

3 Original research aims

The original research aims of the project were defined in an early version of the Brief and Specification (dated 11th May 2009) but were not reproduced in the final document (Fletcher, 2009). The research aims were as follows:

OR1: *Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.*

OR2: *Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation*

OR3: *Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits*

OR4: *Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence*

4 Site sequence: results of the fieldwork

4.1 Introduction

The excavation at the Heathland Creation Trials site revealed a simple vertical sequence of natural sand sealed by modern topsoil. Two archaeological features were found, cutting the natural sand at the east end of the trench and sealed by modern topsoil.

4.2 Natural stratum

The geological stratum (context 0006) is soft, light yellowish brown or reddish brown sand containing moderate pebbles. It includes localised patches of firm, light yellowish grey sandy clay. It is at an average height of 14.60m AOD.

4.3 Prehistoric features

Ditch 0003 is for the most part oriented east–west although it curves slightly at either end and extends beyond the northern limit of excavation (Fig. 3). It is >22m long x up to 0.85m wide and has a surviving depth of 0.18m. The sides of the ditch are smooth and shallow, breaking imperceptibly into a concave base. Its fill 0002 is soft, mid brown silty sand containing moderate small to medium pebbles and angular flint fragments, and occasional flecks and small fragments of prehistoric pottery, charcoal and worked and waste flint flakes.

Ditch/gully 0005 is linear, oriented west northwest – east southeast (Fig. 3). It is 3.30m long x up to 0.60m wide and has a surviving depth of only 70mm. The sides are smooth and shallow, breaking imperceptibly into a concave base. At its west end it appears to have a rounded terminus but its eastern extent is less certain and it is possible that it has been truncated in that direction. Its fill 0004 is compact, mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate flint pebbles and occasional angular flint fragments. It also contains occasional small and abraded fragments of fired clay and some worked and waste flint flakes.

4.4 Modern topsoil

Topsoil 0001 is compact, light greyish brown sandy loam containing moderate pebbles and angular flint fragments. It is 0.35m thick and extends site-wide. At the east end of the trench it is at 15.00m AOD.

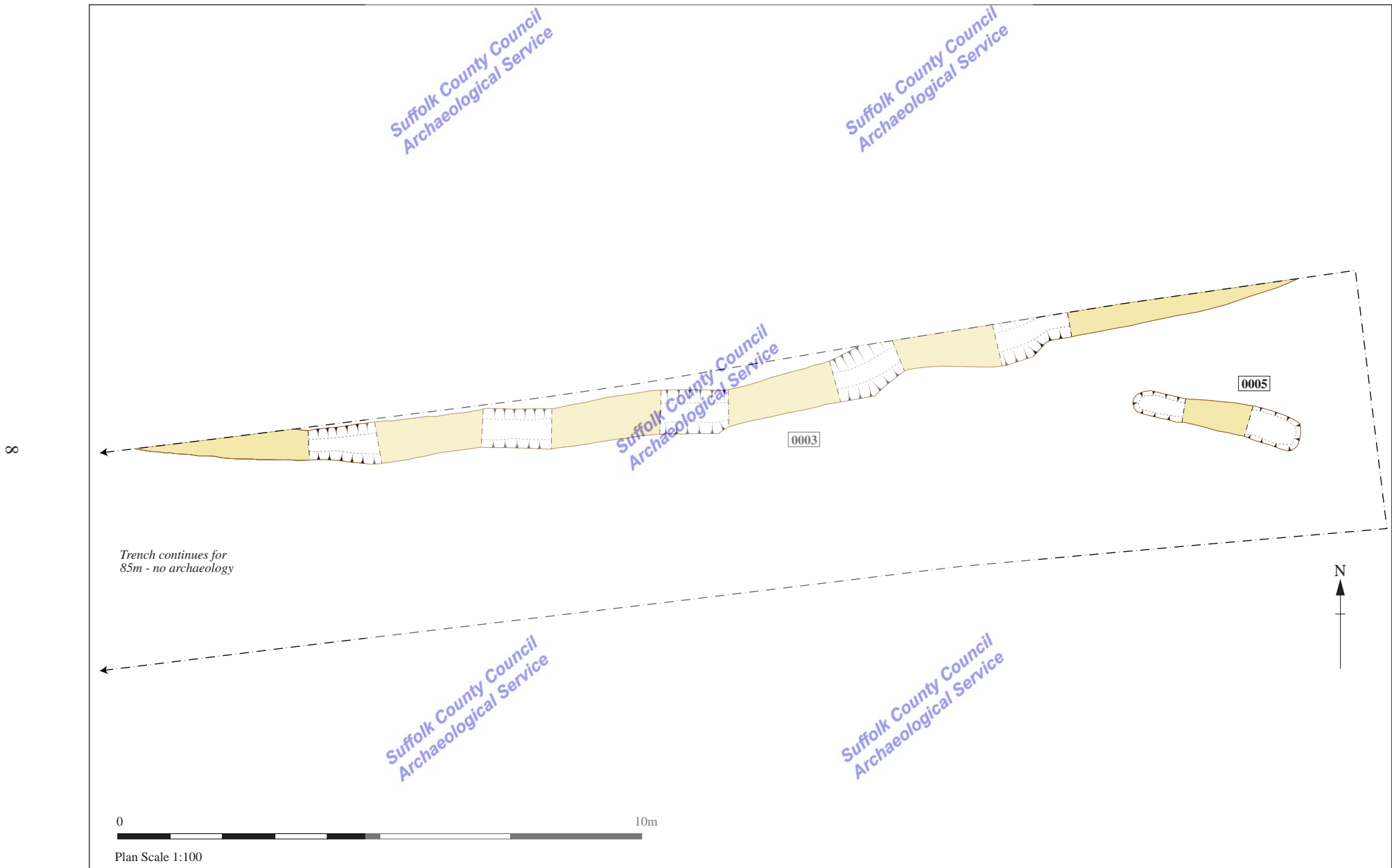


Figure 3. Plan of archaeological features



Plate 1. General view of the site showing ditch/gully 0005 (foreground) and ditch 0003 (centre right). The partially excavated drainage ditch for the heathland creation trials scheme can be seen in the background

5 Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following post-excavation tasks have been completed for the stratigraphic and finds archive:

Task 01: Completion and checking of the primary (paper and digital) archive

Task 02: Microsoft Access database of the stratigraphic archive

Task 03: Microsoft Access database of the finds archive

Task 04: Catalogue and archiving of digital colour images

Task 05: Processing, dating and assessment of finds

5.2 Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

The stratigraphic archive is quantified in Table 1:

Type	Quantity	Format
Context register sheets	1	A4 paper
Context recording sheets	6	A4 paper
Plan and section drawing sheets	2	420 x 300mm film
Digital images (film code GBQ 065–074)	10	3008 x 2000 pixel .jpg
This PXA Report (SCCAS report no. 2009/207)	1	A4 ring-bound

Table 1. Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

5.3 Quantification and assessment of the finds archive

Cathy Tester

5.3.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below:

Context	Pottery		Flint		Fired clay		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	2	5	3	32			Charcoal 1-1g	Prehistoric
0004			4	28	10	24		Prehistoric
Total	2	5	7	60	10	24		

Table 2. Quantification of the bulk finds

5.3.2 The pottery

Two abraded body sherds of hand-made flint- and sand-tempered pottery were recovered from context 0002 – the fill of ditch 0003. The sherds are prehistoric, but not closely datable.

5.3.3 Fired clay

Ten abraded fragments of fired clay in a dense silty sand fabric with medium to large sub-rounded grog inclusions (total weight 24g) were recovered from context 0004 – the fill of ditch/gully 0005. The fragments are oxidised to a buff colour on the parts that were probably closer to the exterior and have a reduced core. They appear to be parts of what had been a single, larger fragment, possibly part of an object such as a loomweight of Bronze Age or later date. However, with no surviving surfaces these fragments remain undiagnostic.

5.3.4 Flint

Seven pieces of struck flint were recovered from two contexts and descriptions by context are shown in the table below:

Context	Type	No	Pat	Notes	Date
0002	flake	1	p	Natural flake, patinated with two possible small long flakes removed (which may or may not be natural)	Later Preh
0002	flake	1	u	Flake, unpatinated with parallel flakes scars on dorsal face, natural striking platform	Later Preh
0002	flake	1	u	Large thick flake unpatinated with limited edge retouch/use-wear. small amount of cortex	Later Preh
0004	shatter	1	u	Shatter piece	Later Preh
0004	flake	1	u	Snapped flake. Unpatinated (no cortex)	Later Preh
0004	flake	1	u	Squat flake, unpatinated	Later Preh
0004	flake	1	u	Squat flake utilising a patinated flake (which may be natural) distal end is cortical	Later Preh

Table 3. Flint catalogue

None of the flint is diagnostically early; it can all be dated broadly to the later prehistoric period (Neolithic–Iron Age).

5.3.5 Charcoal

A small fragment (1g) of charcoal was collected from ditch fill 0002.

5.3.6 General discussion of the finds archive

The excavation produced a very small group of finds from two ditches that suggest limited activity on this site during the prehistoric period. The assemblage includes struck flints that can be broadly dated to the later prehistoric period and two sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery that are not closely datable.

5.3.7 Archive location

The finds are located in the Bury Store in the Parish Box at H / 80 / 5.

6 Potential of the data

6.1 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

OR1: *Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ*

Realisation: *Archaeological deposits and features were identified. After consultation with SCCAS, Conservation Team, none of the deposits and features was deemed of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.*

OR2: *Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation*

Realisation: *Two archaeological features were identified at an average depth of 0.35m, beneath the current topsoil. They are poorly preserved, having been*

truncated heavily by ploughing, and survive to a maximum depth of only 0.18m.

Ditch 0003 is for the most part oriented east–west although it curves slightly at either end and extends beyond the northern limit of excavation. It is >22m long x up to 0.85m wide and has a surviving depth of 0.18m. Ditch/gully 0005 is linear, oriented west northwest – east southeast. It is 3.30m long x up to 0.60m wide and has a surviving depth of only 70mm.

A small assemblage of pottery and worked flints suggests that the features are of later prehistoric date and it is possible that they formed part of a field system.

OR3: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits

Realisation: The archaeological features have been truncated heavily by relatively recent ploughing. They were sealed by the current topsoil only and no colluvium or former subsoil was present.

OR4: Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence

Realisation: The survival of environmental evidence is unlikely in the acidic, sandy soils found on this site.

6.2 General discussion of potential

Ditch 0003 and ditch/gully 0005 are very shallow, having been truncated heavily by ploughing. There is no evidence for the contemporary ground surface although it is assumed that this must have been at the same level as, or higher than, the current ground surface.

There is insufficient evidence to date the ditches precisely although the presence of two abraded pottery fragments and a small assemblage of worked and struck flints suggest that they are of later prehistoric date. The functions of the ditches are uncertain although it seems most likely that they were part of a prehistoric field system.

Clearly they form part of a wider prehistoric landscape that includes three ring ditches (LCS 061, LCS 062 and LCS 069) in the adjacent field to the east.

However, given the ephemeral and inconclusive nature of the archaeological features on this site and the scale and character of the finds assemblage that they produced it is proposed that there is no potential for analysis of the stratigraphic and finds archives, beyond that contained in this assessment report.

7 Significance of the data

The results from this site have some *local significance*, providing further evidence for prehistoric activity in an area of the county where only limited fieldwork has been undertaken to date.

Given that the archaeological features cannot be dated precisely and their functions are not understood clearly the results from this site are of limited *regional significance*. Considered as part of the evidence for the wider prehistoric landscape they may contribute in a very minor way to the Research Theme *Origins and development of the agrarian landscape*, as defined in the Regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 44).

8 Recommendations for further work and publication

It has been proposed (6.2) that no further analysis of the site archive is required. Similarly it is proposed that the potential and significance of the archive are not such that additional reporting or publication of the results is required. This post-excavation assessment will be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS), and a summary of the results will be submitted to the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

9 Acknowledgements

Haskoning UK Ltd commissioned the archaeological work on behalf of EDF DEVCO, who funded the project. Particular thanks are due to Peter Thornton and Lyall Seale of Haskoning UK Ltd for their assistance with the project. The writer would also like to thank Ken Argent and Andy Avery of Bam Nutall for their help during the fieldwork.

William Fletcher produced the Brief and Specification for the excavation and Jude Plouviez monitored the work (both of SCCAS, Conservation Team).

The project was managed by Joanna Caruth and supervised by Kieron Heard. Steve Manthorpe assisted with the fieldwork (all SCCAS, Field Team).

The finds assessment report is by Cathy Tester (SCCAS, Finds Officer). The finds were processed by Jonathan Van Jennians (SCCAS, Field Projects Team) and specialist advice and identification of the flint assemblage was provided by Colin Pendleton (SCCAS, Conservation Team).

Graphics are by Crane Begg (SCCAS, Graphics Officer).

10 Bibliography

Brown, N., & Glazebrook, J., (eds), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2)

Fletcher, W., 2009, *Brief and specification for excavation (continuous monitoring: Heath Creation Trials at Sizewell B, Sizewell, Leiston, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Glazebrook, J., (ed), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Heard, K., 2009, *Archaeological method statement and risk assessment: Heathland Creation Trials at Sizewell C, Sizewell, Leiston, Suffolk*, SCCAS, unpubl rep

SCCAS, 1995, *Sizewell C Archaeological Evaluation – Appendices*, SCCAS, unpubl rep

SCCAS, 2002, *Guidelines and policies for archaeological work in Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Excavation (Continuous Monitoring)

HEATH CREATION TRIALS AT SIZEWELL B, SIZEWELL, LEISTON, SUFFOLK

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 A planning application is currently being sought from Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/09/0476) for a proposal to excavate peat and clay from land to the north of Sizewell B, in order to undertake a heathland re-creation trial scheme near by (TM 474 640). Consent if granted will have a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition attached.

1.2 This permission is conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

1.3 The site is recognised as being an area of high archaeological importance as recorded in the County's Historic Environment Record. Sizewell during the medieval period was a thriving fishing community, with its own parish and chapel, settlement here was also known to pre-date the Norman conquest. The exact location of the settlement has since been lost, however archaeological intervention 850m to the east of the present site in 2008, revealed extensive medieval settlement evidence with a nationally important find of well preserved medieval boat planks. In addition to the recent excavations the Historic Environment Record shows that a number of important archaeological sites are known to survive adjacent to the site. This includes three prehistoric ring ditches, finds of early medieval (Saxon) pottery, and worked prehistoric flint within 200 m of the site. There is therefore a high potential for encountering prehistoric, Saxon and medieval deposits at this site.

1.4 This part of the proposal measures approximately 3 hectares in size, and is located 1.5 km to the west of the Sizewell B power station complex. It is situated on a slight promontory of land behind a former channel known as Sizewell Belts. The soils are recorded by the BGS as clays of the Melford series (571) over chalky till, however acid sandy soils of the Newport series dominate the area and may have a more localised influence across the site. The site currently lies at 15m above Ordnance Datum.

- 1.5 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous and controlled archaeological monitoring and excavation.
- 1.6 SCCAS/CT has been requested to provide a brief and specification for the archaeological recording of archaeological deposits that will be affected by development – archaeological mitigation in the form of preservation by record. An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

2. Brief for Archaeological Investigation

- 2.1 An archaeological excavation, as specified in Section 3, is to be carried out during the ground works for the drainage trench to the south of the heathland creation trials field. **(Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site).**
- 2.2 The excavation objective will be to provide a record of all archaeological deposits which would otherwise be damaged or removed by development, including services and landscaping permitted by the consent. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation.
- 2.3 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2). Excavation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential for analysis and publication. Analysis and final report preparation will follow assessment and will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design.
- 2.4 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 SCCAS/CT (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.
- 2.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met; an important aspect of the WSI will be an assessment of the project in relation to the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers* 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment', and 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy').
- 2.8 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 SCCAS/CT before execution.

- 2.9 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on archaeological field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 2.10 All arrangements for the excavation 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.
- 2.11 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3. Specification for the Archaeological Excavation

- 3.1 The excavation methodology is to be agreed in detail before the project commences. Certain minimum criteria will be required:
- 3.2 Topsoil and subsoil deposits must be removed to the top of the first archaeological level by an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist.
- 3.3 If the machine stripping is to be undertaken by the main contractor, all machinery must keep off the stripped areas until they have been fully excavated and recorded, in accordance with this specification. Full construction work must not begin until excavation has been completed and formally confirmed by SCCAS/CT.
- 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 All features which are, or could be interpreted as, structural must be fully excavated. Post-holes and pits must be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (e.g. yards and floors) must be fully exposed and cleaned. Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 3.6 All other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date and function. For guidance:
 - a) A minimum of 50% of the fills of the general features is to be excavated (in some instances 100% may be requested).

b) 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (ditches, etc) are to be excavated (min.). The samples must be representative of the available length of the feature and must take into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature and any concentrations of artefacts. For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width.

3.7 Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement [if necessary on site] with a member of SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

3.8 Collect and prepare environmental bulk samples (for flotation and analysis by an environmental specialist). The fills of all archaeological features should be bulk sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains and assessed by an appropriate specialist. The WSI must provide details of a comprehensive sampling strategy for retrieving and processing biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations and also for absolute dating), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. All samples should be retained until their potential has been assessed. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser in 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.

3.9 A finds recovery policy is to be agreed before the project commences. It should be addressed by the WSI. Sieving of occupation levels and building fills will be expected.

3.10 Use of a metal detector will form an essential part of finds recovery. Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

3.11 All finds will be collected and processed. No discard policy will be considered until the whole body of finds has been evaluated.

3.12 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts to be cleaned and processed concurrently with the excavation to allow immediate evaluation and input into decision making.

3.13 Metal artefacts must be stored and managed on site in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines* and evaluated for significant dating and cultural implications before despatch to a conservation laboratory within four weeks of excavation.

3.14 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of remains following study and analysis will be required in the WSI.

3.15 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally 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.

3.16 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images, and documented in a photographic archive.

3.17 Excavation record keeping is to be consistent with the requirements the County Historic Environment Record and compatible with its archive. Methods must be agreed with 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.

4.2 Monitoring of the archaeological work will be undertaken by SCCAS/CT. A decision on the monitoring required will be made by SCCAS/CT on submission of the accepted WSI.

4.3 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors). 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.

4.4 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example, in the form of an open day and/or local public lecture and/or presentation to local schools.

4.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Specification.

4.6 A detailed risk assessment and management strategy must be presented for this particular site.

4.7 The WSI must include proposed security measures to protect the site and both excavated and unexcavated finds from vandalism and theft.

4.8 Provision for the reinstatement of the ground and filling of dangerous holes must be detailed in the WSI. However, trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4.9 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.10 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this specification are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Archive Requirements

- 5.1 Within four weeks of the end of field-work a written timetable for post-excavation work must be produced, which must be approved by SCCAS/CT. Following this a written statement of progress on post-excavation work whether archive, assessment, analysis or final report writing will be required at three monthly intervals.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a Historic Environment Record number for the work. This number will be unique for the site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principle of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. However, the detail of the archive is to be fuller than that implied in MAP2 Appendix 3.2.1. The archive is to be sufficiently detailed to allow comprehension and further interpretation of the site should the project not proceed to detailed analysis and final report preparation. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for lodgement in the County Historic Environment Record or museum.
- 5.4 A complete copy of the site record archive must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record. All record drawings of excavated evidence are to be presented in drawn up form, with overall site plans. All records must be on an archivally stable and suitable base.
- 5.6 The project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute Conservators Guidelines.
- 5.9 The site archive quoted at MAP2 Appendix 3, must satisfy the standard set by the "Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels" of the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993).
- 5.10 Pottery should be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with 6.3 above, i.e. *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and*

Guidelines for Analysis and Publication, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occ Paper 1 (1991, rev 1997), the *Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery*, Study Group Roman Pottery (ed M G Darling 1994) and the *Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Group* (in draft).

- 5.11 All coins must be identified and listed as a minimum archive requirement.
- 5.12 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County Historic Environment Record 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.
- 5.13 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project, 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 journal, must be prepared and 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.
- 5.14 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 Historic Environment Record. 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.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An assessment report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided consistent with the principle of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4. The report must be integrated with the archive.
- 6.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.3 An important element of the report will be a description of the methodology.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 Provision should be made to assess the potential of scientific dating techniques for establishing the date range of significant artefact or ecofact assemblages, features or structures.

- 6.6 The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.7 The report will give an opinion as to the potential and necessity for further analysis of the excavation data beyond the archive stage, and the suggested requirement for publication; it will refer to the Regional Research Framework (see above, 2.5). Further analysis will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. Analysis and publication can be neither developed in detail nor costed in detail until this brief and specification is satisfied. However, the developer should be aware that there is a responsibility to provide a publication of the results of the programme of work.
- 6.8 The assessment report must be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT
- 6.9 The involvement of SCCAS/CT should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by the project.

Specification by: Will Fletcher

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 352199
Email: william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 02nd July 2009

Reference: HeathlandCreationTrials2009(Ex)