

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CEDARS PARK (PHASE 6A+B) STOWMARKET (SMR Ref. SKT 037)

Oasis ref. Suffolkc1 - 6645

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF THE SITE OF A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO THE SOUTH OF
STOWUPLAND ROAD, STOWMARKET**

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M. Sommers
©March 2005

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich. IP4 1LZ.

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Cedars Park (Phase 6A+B), Stowmarket

SMR Ref. SKT 037

Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during February 2005 to determine the extent of buried archaeology within an area south of Stowupland Road, Stowmarket (NGR ref. TL 8692 4258) which has been acquired for a future residential development (Phase 6A+B of the Cedars Park development). Twenty-nine linear trenches were machine excavated to the depth of the undisturbed natural subsoil. Within these trenches a small number of features, some of which contained Early Iron Age pottery, were identified and recorded. These features were relatively scattered but at least two are thought to be postholes relating to a structure dating from the Early Iron Age. This evaluation is recorded on the County SMR, reference no. SKT 037. The evaluation was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service who were commissioned by Bovis Homes Limited, who funded this investigation.

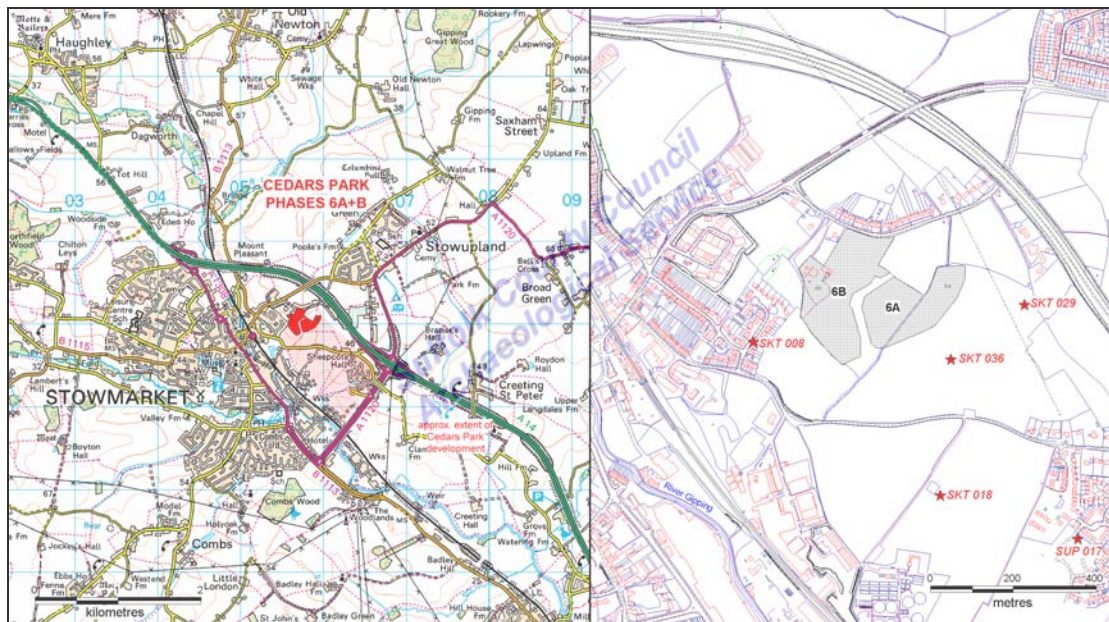


Figure 1: Location Plan

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1. Introduction

A residential development has been proposed for an area of land south of Stowupland Road, Stowmarket. It comprises phase 6A and 6B of the Cedars Park development being constructed to the north and east of the town of Stowmarket (see figure 1). An outline application for this was approved conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

The Phase 6A and 6B site is approximately 7ha in area and is situated on the edge of a hilltop plateau and on its southeast and southwest slopes. A small portion of the site extends into the field to the east and is on the slope of the adjacent high ground to the east. The site overlooks the River Gipping, which is situated c.500m to the southwest, and a small tributary to the river runs across the evaluation area close to its southeast

edge. At the time of the evaluation the site consisted of a ploughed field and a small portion of an adjacent stubble field. The NGR for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0570 5903.

Archaeological interest in this site was due to the high levels of surviving archaeology recorded along the Gipping valley which appears to have acted as a focus for settlement. This trend has been substantiated as elsewhere within the Cedars Park development prehistoric and Roman settlement evidence has been identified. This includes an Iron Age settlement (SKT 036) on an adjacent hilltop some 200m to the east of the Phase 6A+B development area and a Roman villa building c.400m to the southeast (SKT 018). In an earlier development a 1st century pottery kiln (SKT 008) was recorded c.130m to the southwest of the development area. Other sites identified within the Cedars Park development include SKT 029, a scatter of medieval pottery, and SUP 017, an area of Iron Age features.

It was the presence of significant archaeological sites close to the proposed development area that led to an archaeological condition calling for a programme of works to be set in place being applied to the outline application. The first stage of the programme was to be a field evaluation to assess the extent and depth of any surviving archaeological deposits or features through systematic trial trenching and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by Judith Plouviez of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix 1).

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the site's developer, Bovis Homes Limited, who also funded the work. The evaluation was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and was carried out during February 2005. The evaluation archive is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Sites and Monuments Record reference, SKT 037. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-6645.

2. Methodology

Trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a c.1.8m wide, toothless, ditching bucket which through careful controlled use this left a clean freshly cut surface on the trench base. The trenches were positioned across the field in a relatively random pattern on various alignments and followed a trench plan approved by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

The machining was closely observed throughout in order to recover artefacts that may be in the topsoil. The topsoil was removed and the resulting surface then examined for features. This was followed by the removal of any underlying subsoils or hillwash until the underlying unweathered natural subsoil was revealed and this was also examined for archaeological features. Systematic metal detecting was taken during all stages of machining. A surface plan of any features noted was constructed and context numbers were issued to each feature starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for

unstratified finds from the site. Sample sections were excavated through the features to assess their depth, investigate the nature of the fills and to recover datable material.

The trench locations were plotted using a Total Station and their depths were noted. Upon completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled. Part of the area of Phase 6A had been previously evaluated (Archaeological Solutions, Report No. 1674, area indicated in figure 2), consequently it was not necessary to trench the entire area of Phase 6A.

3. Results

Twenty-nine trenches in total were excavated within which a total of eight features were identified. These were situated in Trench 4 (1 pit), Trench 5 (1 pit, 1 posthole), Trench 21 (1 pit), Trench 22 (1 pit, 1 pond), and Trench 23 (2 postholes). The natural subsoil predominately comprised a pale yellow orange silty clay with chalk flecks and occasional chalk lumps and was revealed in all the trenches except for Trench 15 in which the natural subsoil consisted of soft yellow sand. A subsoil comprising weathered natural subsoil was present in all trenches across the hilltop. This was removed to reveal the unweathered natural subsoil beneath as it had the potential to mask archaeological features. In trenches on the lower parts of the slopes a pale brown silt hillwash was present and this was also removed. See figure 2 for a plan of the trench and feature locations. A description of each follows overleaf; for the reader's convenience the feature cut numbers are highlighted in **bold** in the text. For a plan and section of each feature see figure 3.

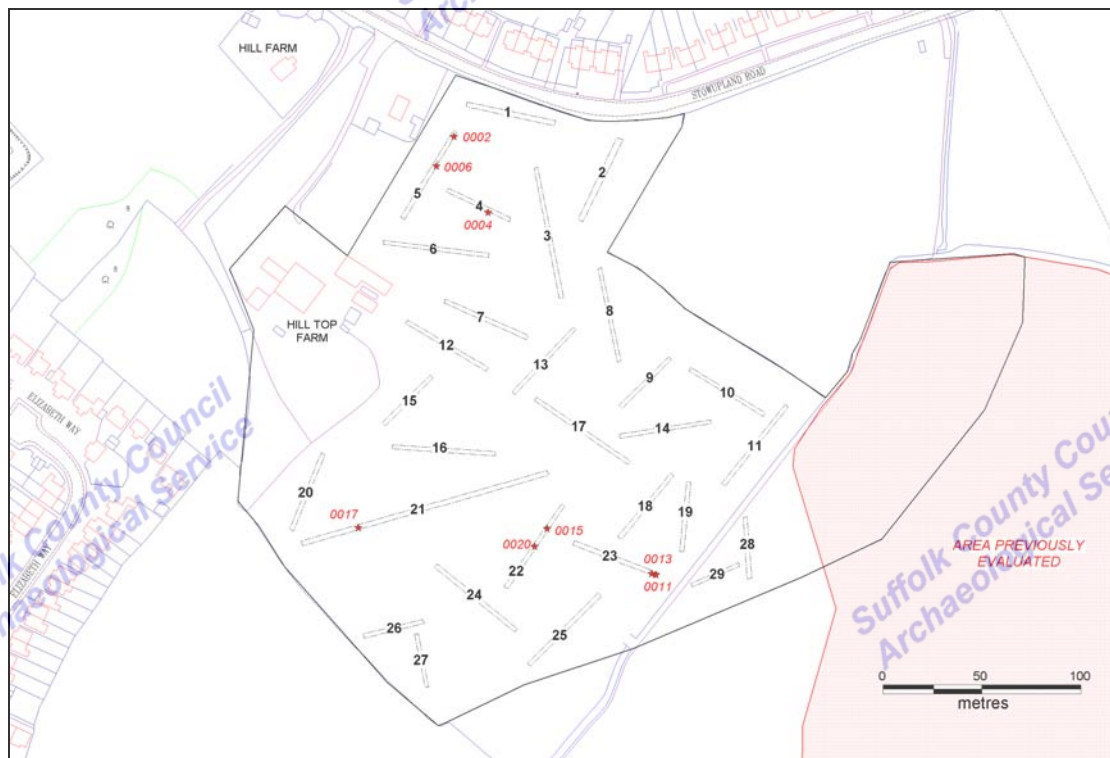


Figure 2: Trench and Feature Location Plan

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Trenches 1, 2 & 3 measured 47m, 46m and 67m in length respectively. In each trench the topsoil was c.0.3m in thickness and overlay c.0.2m of a grey brown silty clay subsoil. No features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 4 measured 36m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay a 0.2m thick layer grey brown silty subsoil. A single feature, **0004**, was recorded in this trench. It was situated adjacent the southern edge and extended beyond the limit of the trench. It is believed to have been circular in shape and measured 0.6m in diameter. The portion within the trench was half sectioned and found to be 0.26m deep with a bowl shaped profile. The fill (0005) was a mid to pale brown silty clay with inclusions of fired clay and charcoal throughout. No easily datable finds were found although fragments of heat altered flint and struck flint were recovered.

Trench 5 measured 51m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay a 0.1m thick layer grey brown silty clay subsoil. Two features, **0002** and **0006**, were recorded in this trench.

0002 was situated close to the northern end of the trench and appeared as a small circular conical shaped cut interpreted as a posthole. It measured 0.28m across and had a depth of 0.15m. The fill (0003), which comprised a mid brown silty clay mixed with pale brown clay, was half-sectioned. Frequent flecks of charcoal were present within the top 30mm of fill but no finds were recovered.

0006 appeared as an irregular shaped area of fill. A 0.6m wide section running parallel with the trench was cut across which revealed a feature 1.7m wide which cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.64m. Four separate fills were identified (0007-10). The basal fill (0010) was 0.2m thick and comprised light brown orange clay with flecks of chalk from which two sherds of pottery and twelve pieces of struck flint were recovered. This was overlain by a 0.22m thick layer of mid grey silty clay (0008) which yielded two sherds of pottery, fragments of animal bone and struck flint. The final filling of this feature comprised a layer of light brown silty clay (0007) and an area of light yellow brown clay (0009) from which only occasional fragments of burnt flint were recovered.

The area around this feature was cleaned in an attempt to positively identify its precise shape in order to determine its nature. Unfortunately the results were not conclusive and it was not possible to determine if this feature was a ditch or a pit. If it was a ditch it is likely that it would have been identified crossing an adjacent trench. Although Trench 5 was situated on the northeastern edge of the evaluation area Trenches 4, 6 and possibly 3 lay across the line of an apparent alignment but it was not identified in any other trench. This suggests that the feature meandered or was an irregular shaped pit. The final interpretation in the field was that on the balance of probabilities it was a pit type feature.

Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9 measured 54m, 46m, 48m and 35m in length respectively. In each trench the topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay c.0.1m of grey brown silty clay subsoil, except for Trench 7 where the subsoil was 0.24m thick. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from these trenches.

Trench 10 was 44m in length and ran down the sloping hillside. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick. The underlying subsoil was 0.2m thick at the northwest end whilst at the southeast end a 0.6m thick deposit of fine, homogenous, pale brown silt with very occasional pieces of stone (mostly flint) and interpreted as 'hillwash' was present. No features were identified and no artefacts recovered although a linear cut was investigated close to the southeast end of the trench this was found to contain a ceramic pipe and was interpreted as a modern field drain.

Trench 11 was 51m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick whilst the underlying hillwash of fine pale brown silt varied from 0.6m to 0.7m along its length. No features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trenches 12 and 13 measured 48m and 45m in length respectively. In each trench the topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay c.0.35m of grey brown silty clay subsoil. No features were identified and no artefacts recovered in these trenches.

Trench 14 was 47m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and the underlying subsoil was 0.2m thick. No features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 15 was 35m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and the underlying subsoil, which comprised a pale brown silty sand, was 0.2m thick. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 16 was 52m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay c.0.2m of grey brown silty clay subsoil. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trenches 17 and 18 measured 57m and 43m in length respectively. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and the underlying subsoil was 0.25m thick. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 19 measured 36m in length. The topsoil was c.0.3m thick and overlay c.0.4m of fine pale brown silt hillwash at the north end deepening to 0.9m at the south end. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 20 measured 42m in length. The topsoil was c.0.35m thick and overlay c.0.2m of grey brown silty clay subsoil. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 21 measured 129m in length. The topsoil was c.0.30m thick and overlay c.0.2m of grey brown silty clay subsoil. A single feature, **0017**, was recorded. It was situated adjacent the northern edge of the trench and extended beyond the trench limits. It comprised a shallow intervention into the weathered subsoil surface. It had a depth of c. 0.22m. The base was filled with a layer of charcoal and silt to a depth of 0.04m. This was overlain by mid brown silty clay. The natural subsoil under this feature had been scorched to a reddish colour indicating an *in-situ* fire. The edges were very clear cut suggestive of having been made relatively recently. No other features were identified in this trench and no artefacts were recovered.

This trench was initially only 53m in length but it was noted during the evaluation that there appeared to be a large gap between trenches 16 and 24. As the Total Survey had been completed this trench was extended by a further 76m along its existing alignment to fill the gap. By simply extending it the need for further surveying was avoided.

Trench 22 measured 51m in length. The topsoil was c.0.35m thick and overlay a 0.25m thick layer grey brown silty clay subsoil. Two features, **0015** and **0020**, were recorded in this trench.

0015 was a small circular shaped cut interpreted as a pit. It measured 0.6m in diameter and was 0.1m deep with a fill consisting of grey orange sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small angular flints. The fill was half-sectioned but no finds were recovered.

0020 was an area of dark silty loam running for 13.6m across the full width of the trench. Occasional fragments of timber posts and rusted iron fragments were visible. Its location coincides with a pond marked on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

Trench 23 measured 46m in length. The topsoil was c.0.35m thick and overlay a deposit of hillwash. This was 0.38m thick at the northwest end but deepened to 0.8m at the southeast end. Two features, **0011** and **0013**, were recorded in this trench. Both were cut into the natural subsoil and sealed by the hillwash deposit.

0011 was a small circular shaped cut interpreted as a posthole. It measured 0.18m in diameter and was 0.17m deep with a fill consisting of light orange brown silty clay. The fill was half-sectioned and a small two sherds of pottery were recovered.

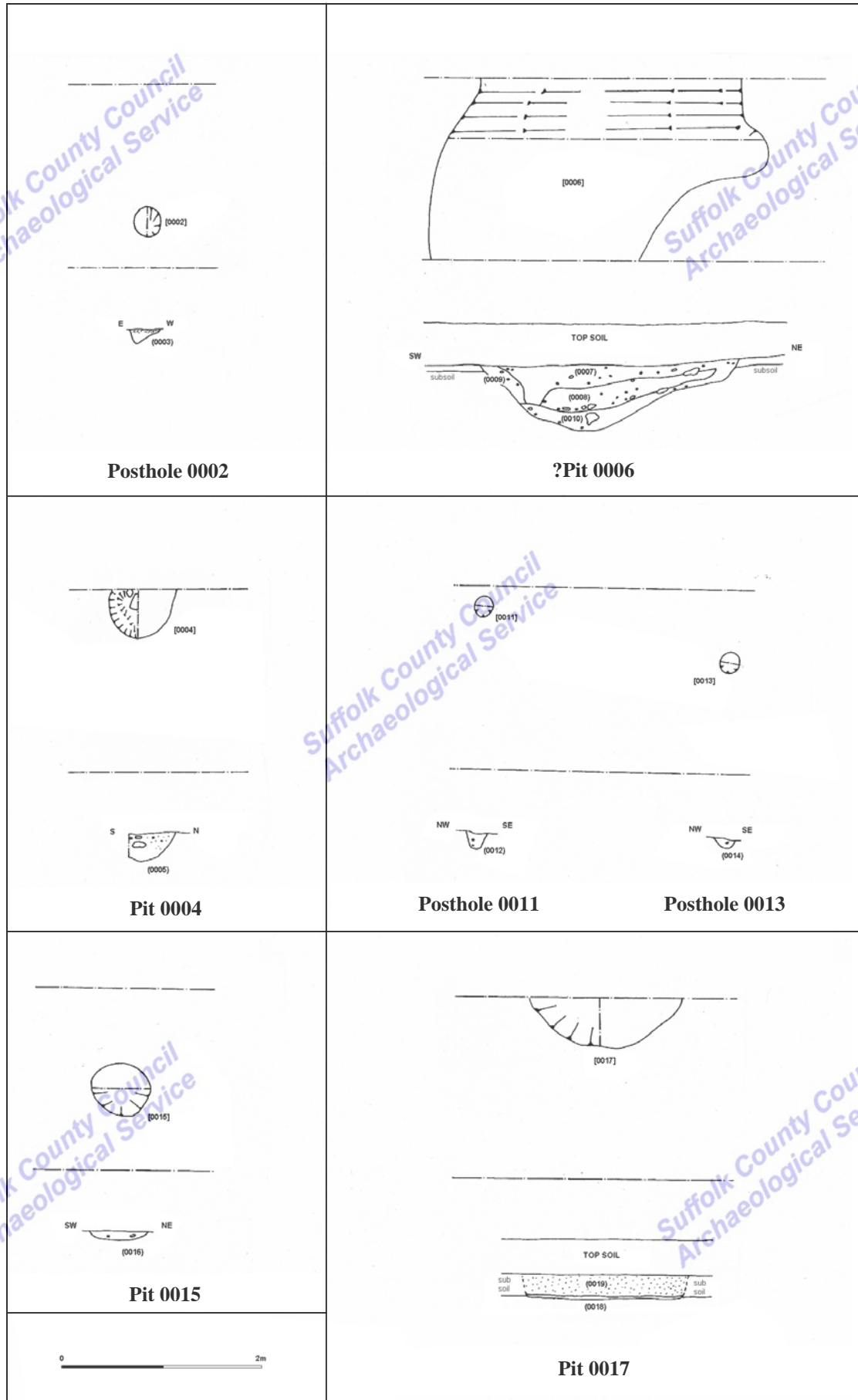


Figure 3: Feature Plans and Sections

0013 was a small circular shaped cut similar to 0011 which has also been interpreted as a posthole. It measured 0.2m in diameter and was 0.1m deep with a fill consisting of light orange brown silty clay. The fill was half-sectioned and a small two sherds of pottery were recovered. These two features were situated 2.5m apart and are likely to relate to a structure. The vicinity of these two features was trowelled clean but no further postholes were identified.

Trench 24 measured 53m in length. The topsoil was 0.35m thick and overlay a hillwash deposit which was c.0.2m deep at the northeast end and 0.6m at the southwest end of the trench. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 25 measured 51m in length. The topsoil was 0.32m thick and overlay a hillwash deposit which was c.0.35m deep. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 26 measured 31m in length. The topsoil was 0.30m thick and overlay a hillwash deposit which ranged from c.0.2m to 0.3m deep. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 27 measured 28m in length. The topsoil was 0.34m thick and overlay a hillwash deposit which ranged from c.0.26m to 0.40m deep. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Trenches 28 and 29 were excavated within the adjacent field to the southeast. The topsoil in this area was found to be 0.35m thick and overlay a dense, homogenous, pale brown silt. This was removed until a yellow silty clay was encountered at a depth of c.1.7m. Trench 29 was continued at this depth but was abandoned after a length of c.8m had been completed. Trench 28 was then started but the same soil profile was encountered and this trench was also abandoned after only c.5m had been completed. No features were identified and no artefacts were recovered. These two trenches were adjacent a public footpath and were consequently immediately backfilled.

4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin, March 2005.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 7 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint		Burnt stone		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001	3	6	10	74	2	48	23	1750			Unstratified
0005	1	2	1	8	2	15					Prob BA/IA
0008	2	18	1	15	76	1635	16	361	49	370	EBA/EIA
0009					3	112	3	87			
0010	2	8			12	271	9	236			EBA/EIA
0012	2	3									EBA/EIA
0014	2	2									?Iron Age
Total	12	39	12	97	95	2081	51	2434	49	370	

Pottery (identifications by Edward Martin)

A total of 12 fragments of pottery was recovered, weighing 39 grammes. Two sherds of medieval coarseware were unstratified finds from the development area. In addition a fragment of an everted jar rim made of a fine and micaceous greyware which is likely to date to the Roman period was also an unstratified find.

A very abraded small fragment of oxidised fired clay was found in pit 0004 (fill 0005), together with a small quantity of burnt flint. It is made from a fine sandy

matrix with occasional inclusions of flint and has a slight curvature, suggesting that it may be a vessel fragment. Two hand-made body sherds of pottery with a broad date range of the Bronze Age - Early Iron Age date were identified in pit 0006 (fill 0008). They are both heavily tempered with frequent flint inclusions varying in size between 1mm and 4mm in length. Two more abraded fragments with similar characteristics were present in pit 0006 (fill 0010). Two sherds of hand-made flint tempered wares were recovered from the posthole 0011 (fill 0012). The pottery recovered from another posthole 0013 (fill 0014) is made from a finer fabric. A single very simple hand-made rim was present, made from a sandy matrix with organic inclusions. A second smaller fragment is made from the same fabric. Although probably Iron Age, the simple shape of the rim and the type of fabric is also characteristic of hand-made wares of Early Saxon date.

Animal bone

Forty-nine pieces of animal bone were recovered from pit 0006 (fill 0008). The material is fragmentary and comprises many pieces of broken and featureless large mammal bone. In addition seven fragments of cattle horn core are present, including one piece which shows evidence of cut marks.

Worked flint (identifications by Colin Pendleton)

Ten fragments of unstratified worked flint were collected from the evaluation. At least two phases of flint types are represented. The presence of a flake and a possible small blade is suggestive of a Mesolithic and/or Neolithic date. The lightly patinated flake is probably from a small blade core. However the majority of the flint consists of 8 retouched flakes dating to the Bronze Age, or possibly even as late as the Middle Iron Age. Most of them are simple flakes with crude and steep edge retouch. One of these is squat, 2 have hinge fractures, and 1 has an incipient cone of percussion. An additional large irregular patinated flake has been re-utilised and has later unpatinated bifacial retouch., which is also likely to belong to the Bronze Age/Iron Age phase.

Additionally a single squat, irregular secondary flake present in pit 0004 (fill 0005) is of probable Bronze Age/Iron Age date. A natural flint present in pit 0006 (fill 0008) has been retouched along one edge to form a side scraper during the later prehistoric period.

Burnt flint and stone (Colin Pendleton)

Fragments of burnt flint and burnt stones were present in three of the four fills of pit 0006. Many of the flints are fire-crackled, and two fragments in fill 0008 are shattered. Two fire-crackled flints in pit 0004 (fill 0005) show some evidence of possibly being previously worked. Fire-reddened stones were present in pit 0006 (fills 0008, 0009, and 0010). These vary in size, and completeness. The majority appears to be sandstone, some of which is micaceous. Further fragmentary and complete rounded reddened stones were collected amongst the unstratified material. Two fragments of fire-crackled flint were recovered from pit 0004 (fill 0005). All this material is likely to date to the later prehistoric period.

Finds Discussion

The finds recovered from the evaluation are sufficient to indicate evidence of possible Iron Age date. Only a small quantity of pottery was recovered, and most of it is heavily flint-tempered and is not closely dateable, spanning the Bronze Age through

to the Early Iron Age. The unstratified worked flint indicates two dating phases. Some of this material is earlier Mesolithic and/or Neolithic, but the majority are retouched flakes which are of Bronze Age or possibly even Middle Iron Age date. The presence of quantities of heat-affected stone and fire-crackled flint in the fills of pit 0006 is of interest. This material may have been deposited into the pit after being used in a hearth.

These features may be indicative of peripheral activity associated with the Iron Age settlement on the adjacent hilltop to the south-east.

5. Discussion

The evaluation has indicated that there are significant archaeological deposits surviving within the development area.

Two specific zones of interest were identified, one centred around pit 0006 in trench 5 and the relatively close pit 0004 in trench 4. These pits and associated finds are evidence of activity on this hilltop plateau in the Bronze or Iron Age and may possibly have been associated with other shallower features, such as the possible posthole (0002) north of pit 0006, the majority of which are now lost to erosion.

The second zone of interest is the two postholes in the southeast end of trench 23. These are presumably related to a structure of possible Bronze or Iron Age date and positively indicate settlement in this specific area which may be earlier and separate to that recorded within the site SKT 036 to the east. The features in this trench are under c.1.1m of overburden indicating a substantial amount of soil movement since prehistoric times that is presumably associated with changes in land use such as woodland clearance and other agricultural practices.

Features 0015 and 0017 did not yield any dating evidence but the nature of the fills suggests they are not contemporary with the pits and postholes discussed above. They are probable of post-medieval or modern date. The pond (0020) is marked on early Ordnance Survey maps, which is evidence that it existed into the 20th century but does not reveal the date of its origin. The fact that it could originally have been a natural feature such as a spring of issuing groundwater which formed a waterhole that existed during earlier periods cannot be ruled out.

None of the Mesolithic or Neolithic flints were recovered from any features and presumably they just represent a background of early prehistoric activity on these valley slopes.

6. Recommendations for Further Work

It is unlikely that the levels of archaeology recorded during the evaluation warrant preservation *in-situ* although they should not be damaged or destroyed without record. In order to adequately record the archaeological deposits that, in the light of evaluation's results, are likely exist within the development area it would be prudent to undertake an open area excavation of the area in the immediate vicinity of pits 0004 and 0006 to excavate and record any further features and deposits that may be revealed.

The same should apply for the area of the two postholes (0011 and 0013) although it must be remembered that the archaeological features in this area are buried under a 0.8m thick deposit of hillwash. If groundworks in this area could be restricted it may be possible to mitigate against open area excavation in this zone.

Any groundwork that disturbs the area of the pond should be undertaken under archaeological supervision in order to record any significant stratigraphy that may be revealed as well as to recover dating evidence for its origin.

Finally, as prehistoric features are often scattered and under-represented in trial-trenching it may also be prudent to call for archaeological monitoring of any surface stripping that reveals the natural subsoil and of all excavated footings and service trenches within the development area in order to excavate and record any significant features that may be revealed.

M. Sommers
Suffolk County Council, Field Projects Team

14th March 2005

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

CEDARS PARK, STOWMARKET, PHASES 6A & 6B

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.

1. Background

- 1.1 Outline permission for residential development at Cedars Park includes a requirement for a programme of archaeological work (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition); on future applications specific to Phases 6A and 6B, the planning authority will be advised that any consent should include a similar condition.
- 1.2 The development area of c.7ha is centred at TM 057 590 between 40 and 55m OD, mostly on the north-west side of a minor tributary of the River Gipping to the south-west. Iron Age settlement evidence has recently been identified on the equivalent 50m spur to the east (SKT 036), and also occurs intermittently over lower areas to the south and east (SKT 018 etc). A Roman villa building and associated enclosures is also located to the south-east (SKT 018) but another area of Roman activity is indicated by the 1st century pottery kiln (SKT 008) c.130m south-west of Phase 6B. Overall the Cedars Park area is revealing the changing landscape from the Iron Age through to the medieval period and the Phase 6 development area has the potential for more evidence of this.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.6 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.

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 whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.
- 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 It is expected that the evaluation will proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation (there is a possibility that some aspect of the site's history may indicate limits to the extent of field evaluation required); the results of the desk-based work are to be used to inform the trenching design.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where possible, photocopies or tracings should be included in the report.
- 3.3 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order, etc).

4 Specification B: Field Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and 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 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The contractor shall 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 P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.

- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. 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).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 14 December 2004

Reference: /CedarsPark6a&b

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.

Cedars Park, Stowmarket (SKT 037): Context List

APPENDIX 2

Context	Feature	Comp.	Identifier	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Spot Date	Period
0001	0001	0001	Unstratified finds	unstratified finds from across entire evaluation area						
0002	0002	0002	Posthole Cut	Small, roughly circular cut interpreted as a possible posthole. Conical in profile. c.0.3m in diameter and 0.15m	natural					
0003	0002	0002	Posthole Fill	Fill of cut 0002. Comprises mid brown silty clay with some pale brown clay mixed. Frequent charcoal fragments in upper 3cm of fill. Fill half-sectioned.						
0004	0004	0004	Pit Cut	Probably circular although it ran beyond the limit of the trench. Roughly bowl shaped profile. Interpreted as a pit. c.0.68m wide and 0.28m deep.	natural					
0005	0004	0004	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0004 comprising mid to pale brown silty clay with inclusions of burnt clay and charcoal throughout						
0006	0006	0006	Pit Cut	Irregular shaped cut running full width of trench. Not clear if a ditch or pit but it does not appear in adjacent trenches suggesting pit.	natural					
0007	0006	0006	Pit Fill	One of four fills of cut 0006. Upper fill comprising light brown silty clay				0008, 0009		
0008	0006	0006	Pit Fill	One of four fills of cut 0006. Comprising mid grey silty clay				0010	0007	
0009	0006	0006	Pit Fill	One of four fills of cut 0006. Comprising light yellow brown clay				0010	0007	
0010	0006	0006	Pit Fill	One of four fills of cut 0006. Lower fill comprising light brown orange clay with occasional chalk flecks					0008, 0009	
0011	0011	0011	Posthole Cut	Small circular cut interpreted as a posthole	natural					
0012	0011	0011	Posthole Fill	Fill of cut 0011 comprising light orange brown clayey silt						
0013	0013	0013	Posthole Cut	Small circular cut interpreted as a posthole	natural					
0014	0013	0013	Posthole Fill	Fill of cut 0014 comprising light orange brown clayey silt						
0015	0015	0015	Pit Cut	Circular cut interpreted as a pit. 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep	natural					
0016	0015	0015	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0015 comprising grey orange silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and angular small flints						
0017	0017	0017	Pit Cut	Shallow oval shaped feature cut, c.1.6m in length, ran beyond limit of trench therefore unable to determine width. 0.2m deep	natural					
0018	0017	0017	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0017. Basal layer of 2-3cm of charcoal rich silt. Natural scorched red.					0019	
0019	0017	0017	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0017. Mid brown silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal				0018		
0020	0020	0020	Pond	Large cut filled with dark silty loam and 20th century debris. Site of pond marked on 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition OS maps. Not excavated	natural					