ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/238

Land to the rear of Woodlands, East View, Freckenham
FRK 096

E. Muldowney

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

Lucy Robinson, **County Director of Environment and Transport**
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

HER Information

Planning Application No:	**F/2009/0210/FUL**
Date of Fieldwork:	**04. 11. 2009**
Grid Reference:	**TL 669 723**
Funding Body:	**Mr. Manuell**
Curatorial Officer:	**Dr. Jess Tipper**
Project Officer:	**Liz Muldowney**
Oasis Reference:	**Suffolkc1-66895**

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 to the rear of Woodside, East View, Freckenham on the 4th November 2009 in advance of the construction of a new dwelling following subdivision of the existing plot. Three linear trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed structure. No pre-modern features were encountered, no finds were retrieved and no environmental samples were taken.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Woodside, East View, Freckenham on the 4th November 2009 in advance of the construction of a new dwelling on the subdivided plot. 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. Funding was provided by the property owner Mr. Manuell.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 669 723 to the north of East View, to the rear of properties fronting onto Mildenhall Road (Fig.1). The development area measured 0.14 hectares in total, however a number of constraints affected the positioning and size of the trenches. The plot had been subdivided and a new fence erected around the existing dwelling. A large workshop was sited in the north-east corner of the development area and was associated with an area of hard standing and an access road leading south past the present dwelling to East View Road (Fig. 2). This reduced the area available for evaluation to 0.068 hectares (67.96m^2). Several outbuildings/structures and their associated concrete bases within the development area had been demolished prior to the evaluation and the area roughly levelled. The evaluated area was slightly undulating, with a difference in height of 0.50m between the modern ground surface at the higher southern part of the development area (9.71m OD) and the northern end (9.21m OD). This difference is likely to be the result of the recent groundworks. The natural geological horizon was generally flat at between 9.02m and 9.13m OD. This geological horizon was solid yellowish white chalk with some blocky eroded chalk present.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies to the north-east of the core of the medieval settlement at Freckenham. A fragment of undated human jaw bone was recovered from the garden of Number 23 Mildenhall Road (FRK 060) just to the south-east of the development area and Anglo-Saxon and medieval features were recorded during an evaluation conducted

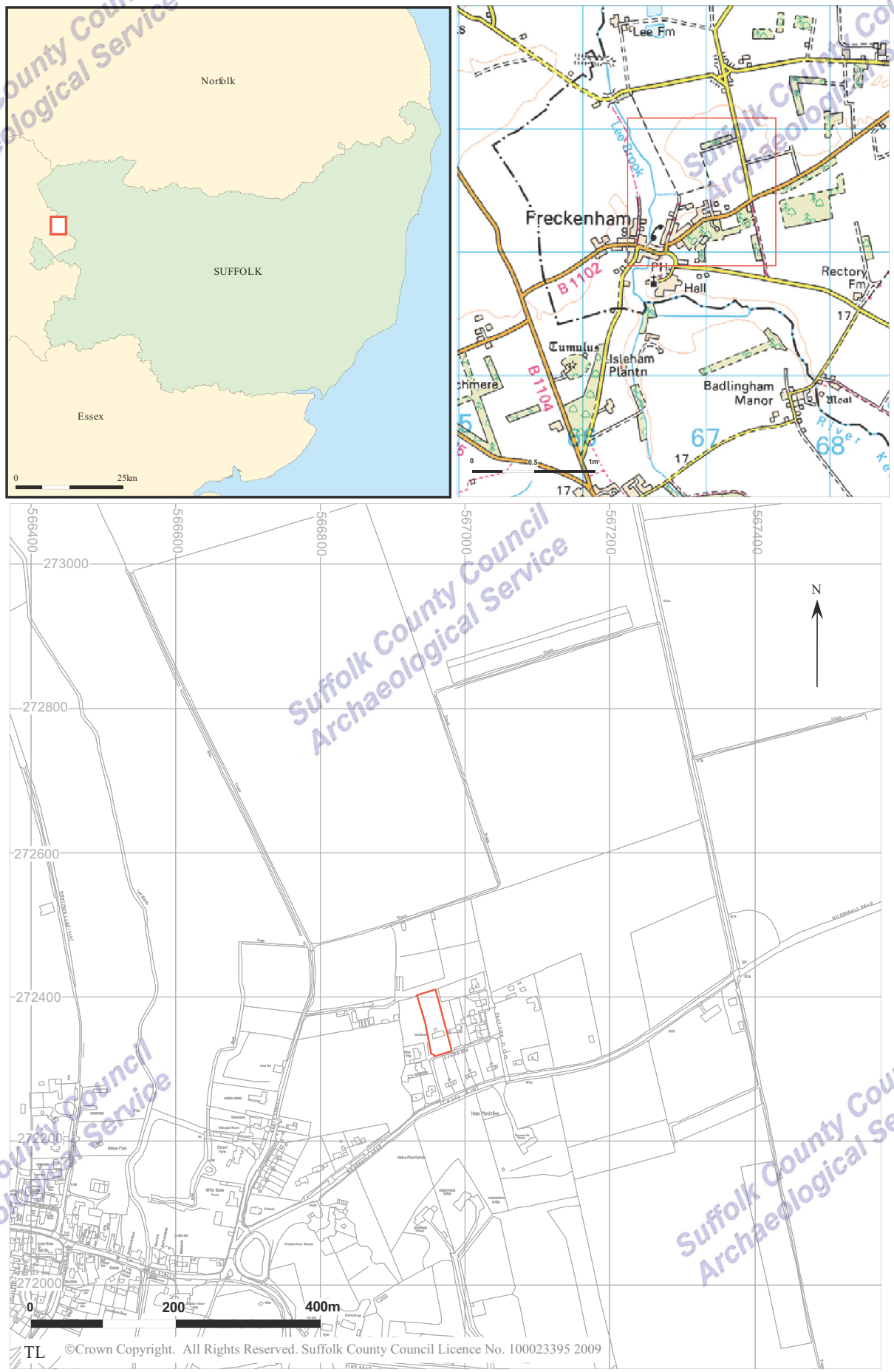

Figure 1. Location map (development area in red)

in 2000 on land immediately to the north-west of the subject site (FRK 037 and FRK 044) (Fig. 3). The 1st edition OS map dating from the 1880s shows the development area was part of a large sub-square field to the north of Mildenhall Road. The south-west corner of the field had been developed and a number of narrow linear plots and small structures are recorded on the map (Fig. 4). These do not survive and have been replaced by dwellings 11 and 13 Mildenhall Road and their associated plots. The site has strong potential for encountering pre-post-medieval archaeological remains.

Figure 2. Trench location

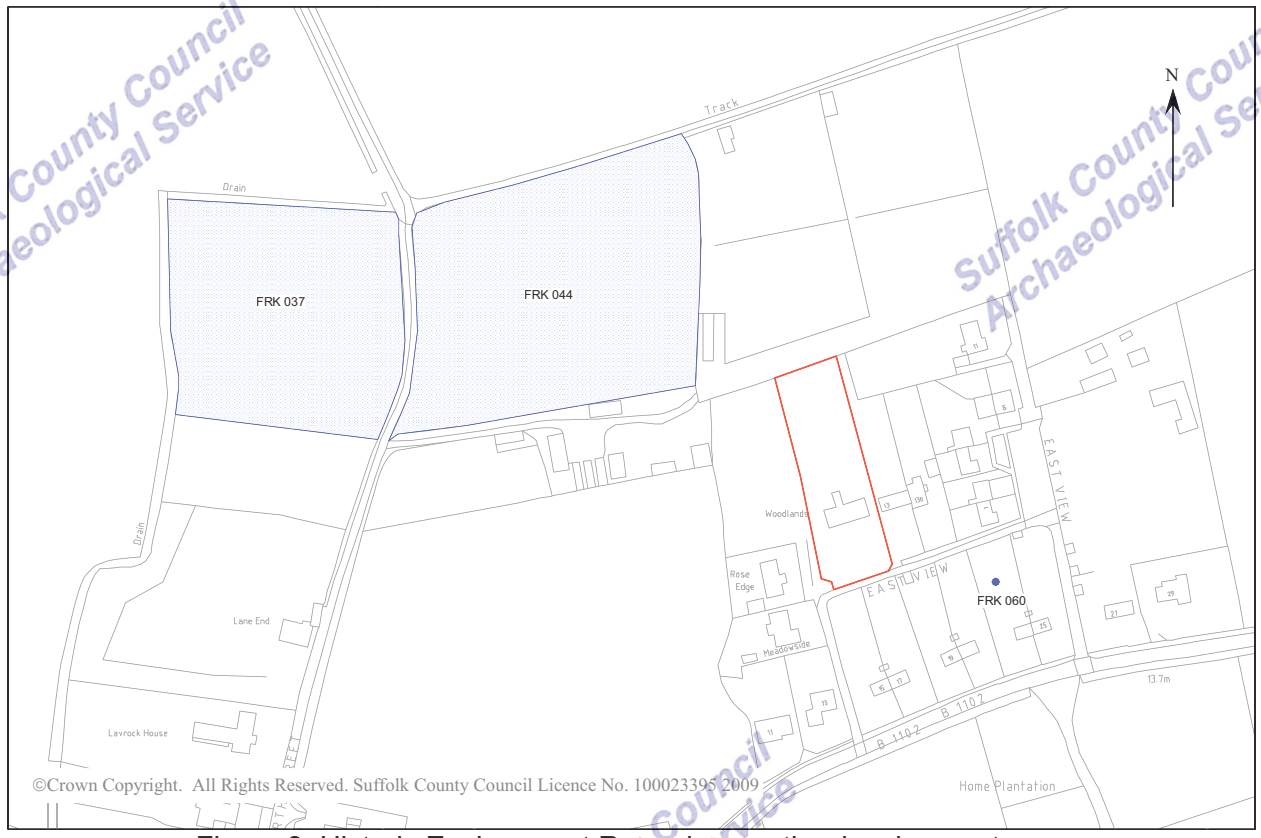

Figure 3. Historic Environment Records near the development area

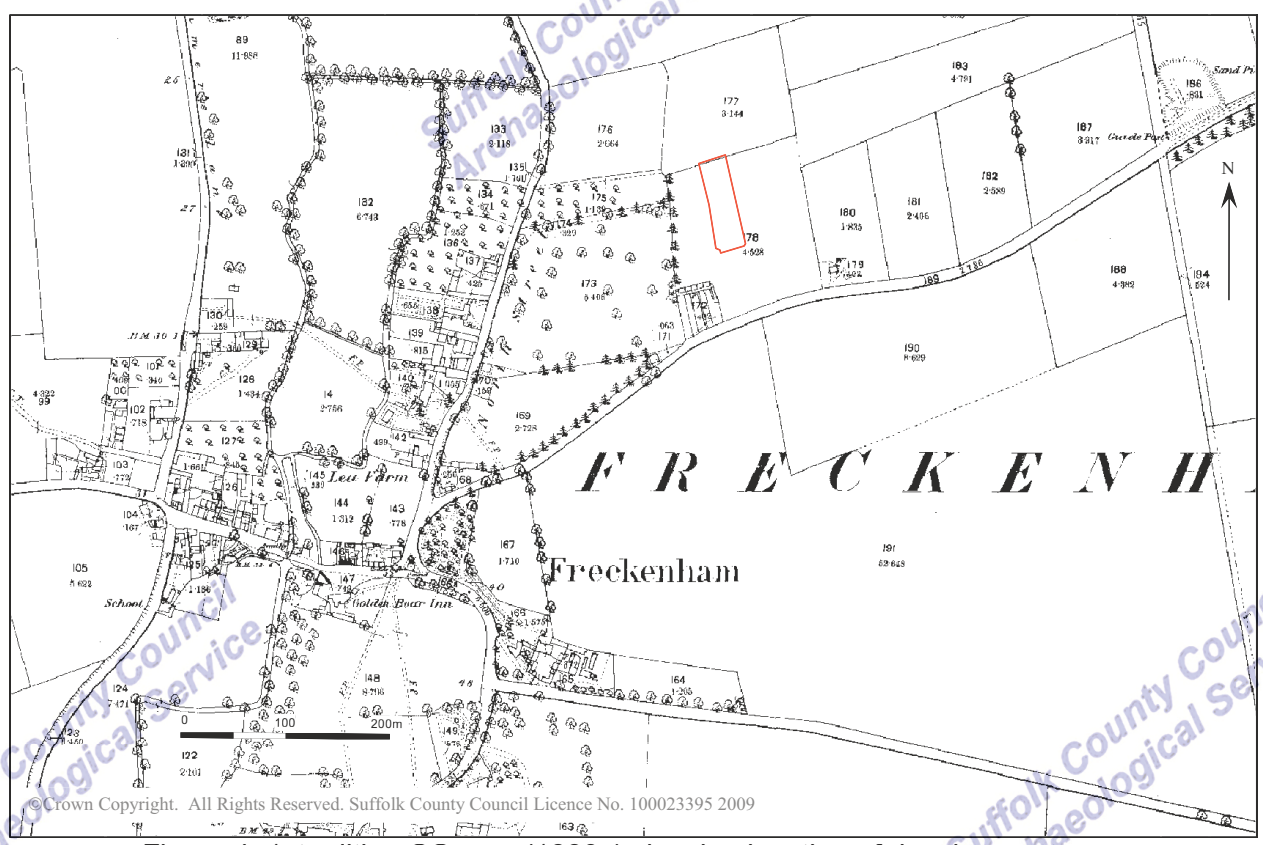

Figure 4. 1st edition OS map (1880s) showing location of development area

4. Methodology

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief and specification provided by Jess Tipper. This required the excavation of 40m (70m^2) of trenching, forming 5% of the development area, based on the original estimation of its size (0.14 hectares). Due to the constraints previously mentioned (Fig. 2), only 0.56 hectares (533.2m^2) was available for evaluation and the three trenches covered 67.96m^2 forming 12.75% of this area.

The trenches were excavated by a 3 tonne tracked 360 degree Kubota excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The position of the trenches, the modern feature and levels on the modern ground surface as well as 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 a high resolution (7 megapixel) digital camera.

No finds were retrieved and no environmental samples were taken.

5. Results

No pre-modern features were encountered within the three excavated trenches. Trench 1 contained a modern pit and Trenches 2 and 3 were devoid of features (Fig. 5). A layer of recently reworked mid greyish brown clay silt topsoil directly sealed the natural chalk over much of the development area. It varied in depth from 0.2m at the east end of Trench 1 and across Trench 2 to 0.3m in depth at the west end of Trench 1. Subsoil was present only in the southern half of Trench 3. It was light greyish brown clay silt with frequent chalk flecks and was deepest at the southern end of the trench at 0.2m. It became shallower to the north and disappeared after approximately 5m.

The modern pit was located towards the western end of Trench 1 and was partially obscured by the northern baulk. It was likely to have been sub-square or rectangular in plan, but it was not excavated within the trench. The upper fill was very dark brownish

grey clay silt with frequent ash, charcoal and chalk flecks. Steel wire and a modern beer bottle (with the majority of the label intact) were observed within the fill. The pit was sealed by the recently reworked topsoil. The results of the trenches are summarized in Table 1 below.

Trench	Size	Orientation	Topsoil depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Notes
1	17m x 1.8m x 0.3m	ENE to WSW	0.30	None present	Square modern pit 6m from west end of trench
2	11.7m x 1.8m x 0.2m	NNW to SSE	0.20	None present	No features present
3	11.8m x 1.8m x 0.45m	NNW to SSE	0.25	0.20	Subsoil present only in southern half of trench increasing to maximum depth towards south

Table 1. Trench Summary

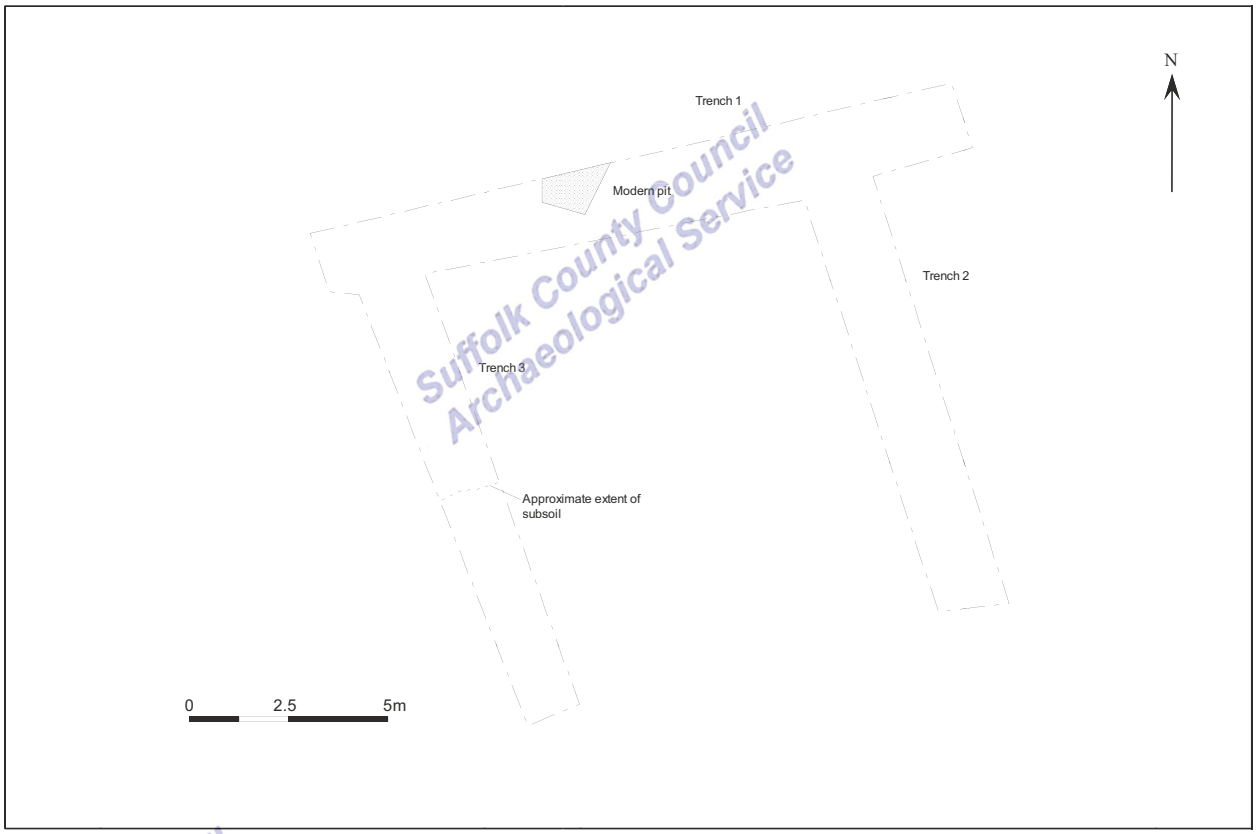

Figure 5. Trench plan

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Despite the high potential for encountering archaeology in this part of the village of Freckenham the development area contained no evidence for pre-modern occupation or land use. The absence of subsoil in the majority of the trenches and the shallow topsoil coverage is probably a result of the construction and demolition of the modern outbuildings that previously occupied the plot. It is likely that part of the area had been

previously stripped to the top of the chalk natural horizon for their construction. However, it is thought that this activity is unlikely to have altered the level of the natural horizon significantly as there was little variation in height for the chalk layer across the evaluated area. No evidence for disturbance to this horizon was observed and therefore it is thought unlikely that these structures would have affected any archaeology that may have been present. Further archaeological mitigation within the scope of this project is considered unnecessary.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds
T:\Arc\ALL_site\Freckenham\FRK 096 Woodlands land at

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 post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin, who also checked the report.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND AT WOODLANDS, EAST VIEW, FRECKENHAM (F/2009/0210/FUL)

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 has been granted by Forest Heath District Council (F/2009/0210/FUL) for the erection of a new dwelling, cartlodge garage and access at Land at Woodlands, East View, Freckenham (TL 669 723). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**

1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

1.3 The site, which measures 0.14 ha. in size, is located on the north side of East View. The soil is calcareous coarse loam over chalk and chalk rubble at *c*. 8 – 10.00m AOD.

1.4 This application is in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to the find spot of an undated human burial (HER no. FRK 060) and the location of an Early Anglo-Saxon building (HER no. FRK 044). The site has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its proximity to known remains. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:

A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, 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 specification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

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

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

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

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is *c*. 70.00m2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 40.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m 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).

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

3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

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

3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

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

4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

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

4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

5.18 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.

5.19 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.

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

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper
Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 28 October 2009 Reference: / Woodlands-Freckenham2009 **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.**