Suffolk County Council

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/286

Land North of Upper Lodge, Wades Lane, Shotley SLY 165

L. Everett
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HER Information

Planning Application No:	**B/08/01216/AGD**
Date of Fieldwork:	**30th October 2009**
Grid Reference:	**TM 234 369**
Funding Body:	**Mr. R. Wrinch**
Curatorial Officer:	**Jess Tipper**
Project Officer:	**Linzi Everett**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1-67672**
	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 north of Upper Lodge, Wades Lane, Shotley in advance of construction of an irrigation reservoir. No archaeological interventions were recorded and the only finds, a sherd of Roman greyware and a later prehistoric worked flint, were unstratified.

1. Introduction

A planning application was made to construct an irrigation reservoir on land north of Upper Lodge, Wades Lane, Shotley. The site is centred on approximately TM 234 369 and comprises a total of approximately 1.5 hectares.

The site is in an area recognised as being of high archaeological importance as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was an initial requirement for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench, as outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the landowner, Mr. R. Wrinch.

2. Geology and topography

The development area lies on a south-east to north-west slope down towards a creek which feeds into the River Orwell to the north of the site. It lies at a height of between 5-10m OD where the geology comprises glaciofluvial drift.

3. Archaeological and historical background

This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a known area of extensive archaeological activity. It is situated within, and adjacent to, an area of known late prehistoric and Roman occupation (SLY 023). There is high potential to encounter important occupation deposits at this location.

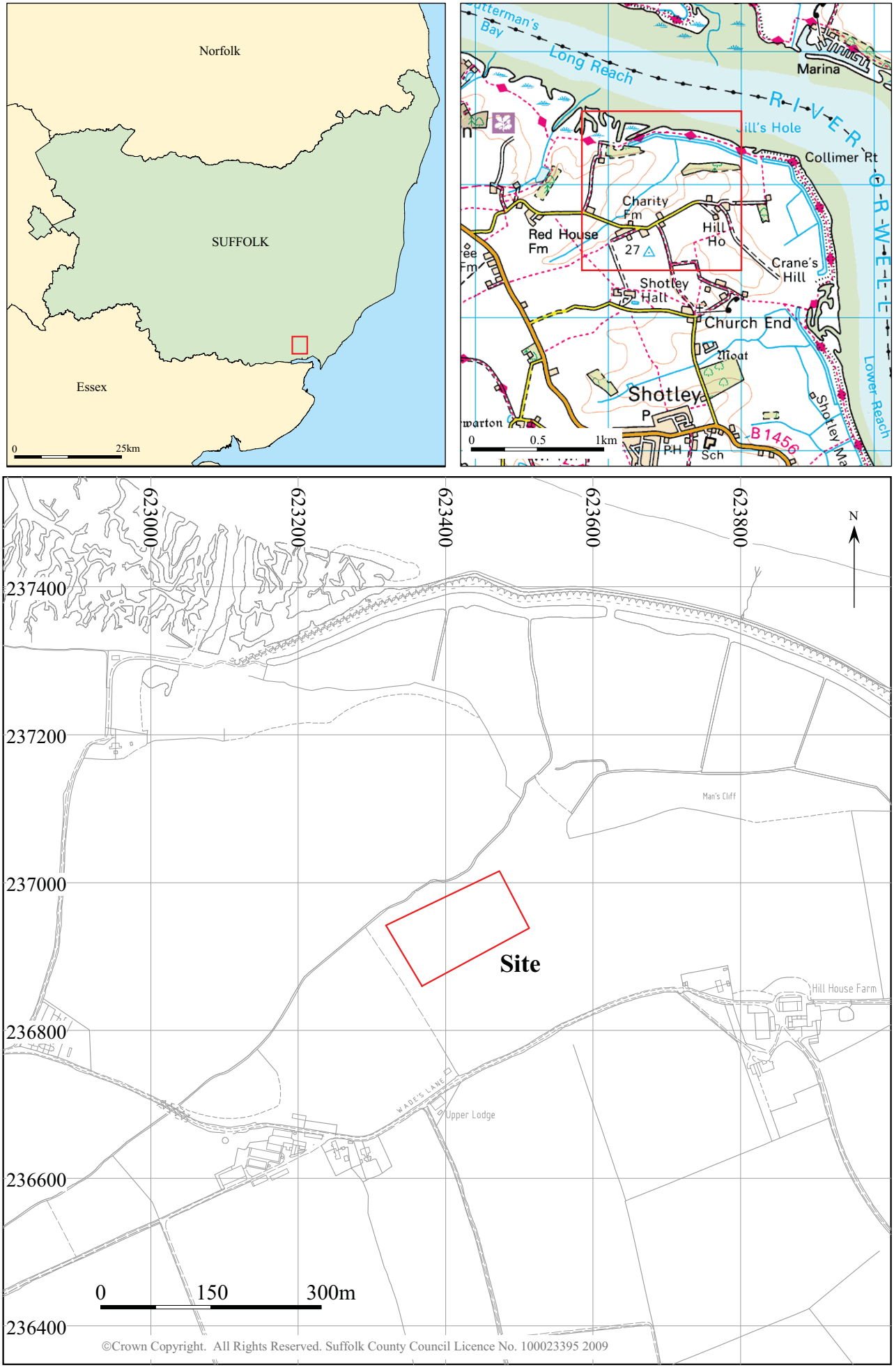

Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on 30th October 2009. The trenches were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist, using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, removing overburden until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the exposed surfaces was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify cut features.

The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code SLY 165. Context information was recorded on Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service 'pro-forma' recording sheets.

A photographic record, both monochrome prints and digital shots, was made throughout.

5. Results

Seven trenches were opened within the development area, the basic dimensions of which were as follows:

	Length (m)	Area sq. m
Trench 1	32	51.2
Trench 2	30.5	48.8
Trench 3	31.5	50.4
Trench 4	28	44.8
Trench 5	26.5	42.4
Trench 6	25	40
Trench 7	25	40
Total		317.6

Table 1. Trench dimensions

The soil profiles were fairly uniform in each trench, comprising c.0.3m of mid-dark brown sandy clay loam topsoil (0001) over c.0.2m thick mid-pale brown sandy clay subsoil with occasional charcoal flecks and regular angular flints (0002). This sealed the natural subsoil, which comprised a pale-mid yellowish brown sandy clay with regular angular flints. Modern interventions such as field drains were observed at various points but no pre-modern features were seen cutting the subsoil or natural subsoil.

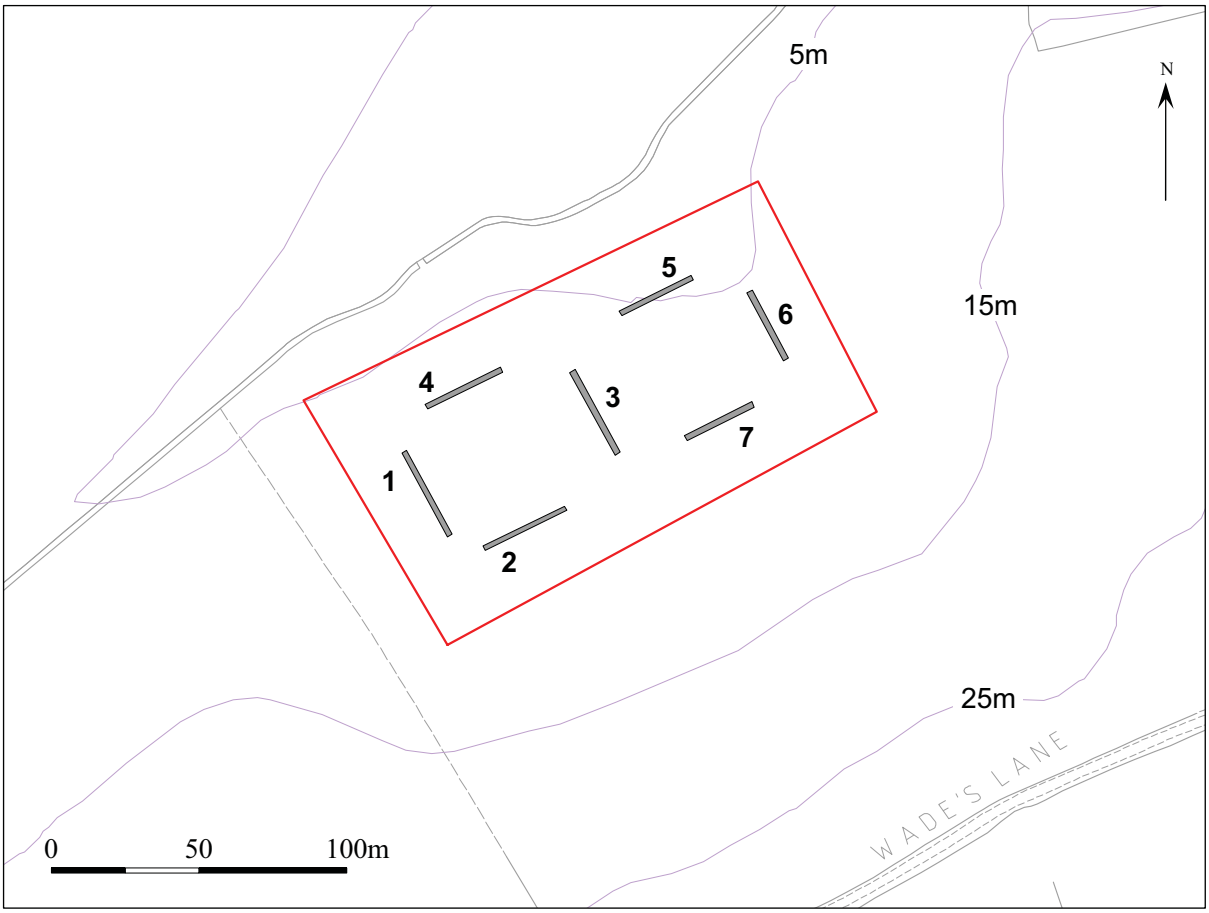

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Figure 2. Trench locations and contours

Despite visual examination of the exposed trench surfaces and upcast spoil, as well as a metal detector survey of the trenches, only two artefacts were recovered during the evaluation. One worked flint came from the topsoil adjacent to Trench 1 and a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 6 during machining.

6. Finds evidence

Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001			1	7	Unstratified, Late Prehistoric
0002	3	23			Roman
Total	3	23	1	7	

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery (identification by Cathy Tester)

Three joining fragments of the base of a roman greyware vessel were identified from subsoil layer 0002 (BSW Black Surfaced Ware). The sherds are abraded and laminated on the outer surface, and can only be assigned an overall Roman date.

Flint

A single flint was present as an unstratified find. It is a hinge-fractured flake with limited crude edge retouch and is later prehistoric in date (Colin Pendleton, pers.comm).

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In spite of the proximity of the site to an area where late prehistoric and Roman occupation has been recorded, the evaluation revealed no archaeological features and the few finds recovered were unstratified and from the topsoil. Based on these results it is recommended that no further archaeological work is undertaken in relation to the proposed development.

Disclaimer

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

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
Shire Hall
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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND NORTH OF UPPER LODGE, WADES LANE, SHOTLEY, SUFFOLK

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission for the construction of an irrigation reservoir on Land north of Upper Lodge, Wade Lane, Shotley (TM 234 369), has been sought from Babergh District Council (B/08/01216/AGD).

1.2 The Planning Authority was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance and should be evaluated, prior to consideration of the application, to establish the archaeological resource both in extent and quality.

1.3 The proposed development area measures *c.* 1.50 ha, on the southern side of the River Orwell (see accompanying plan). It is situated on glaciofluvial drift (deep loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel) at *c.* 5 - 10.00m AOD, sloping south-east to north-west.

1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a known area of extensive archaeological activity. It is situated within, and adjacent to, an area of known late prehistoric and Roman occupation (SLY 023). There is high potential to encounter important occupation deposits at this location.

1.5 The proposed works will cause extensive ground disturbance that will involve comprehensive destruction to any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as a first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, the following work is required:

- non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
- A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

This will form part of an integrated evaluation strategy for the project, and may require subsequent geophysical survey; if required, a separate specification will be also issued for this work.

1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.

1.7 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* [at the discretion of the developer].

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

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

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

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

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

Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

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

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

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

3. Specification: Non-destructive Field Survey

3.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (1.50 ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

4. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 750.00m^2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 417.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. The exact area and extent of the access road is undefined and this area will also need to be evaluated.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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).

4.6 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.

4.7 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 J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

4.8 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.

4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

4.11 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.

4.12 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.

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

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

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

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 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.

5.2 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.

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

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

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

5.6 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.

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 report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

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 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.

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, 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).

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

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

6.9 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.

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

6.11 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.

6.12 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).

6.13 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.

6.14 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.

6.15 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.

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

6.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

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

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

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 6 October 2008 Reference: / LandnorthofUpperLodge-Shotley2008

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.