

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/301

**Rear of Elephant and Castle Inn, Eyke
EKE 023**

S. Cass
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HER Information

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Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Simon Cass
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-68138

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 the Elephant and Castle Inn, The Street, Eyke on the 1st December 2009. Two trenches were excavated, sited to investigate the area of new building at the rear of the property and the narrow frontage of the site onto the road. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed and as a result no further archaeological works are recommended.

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1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the development of land to the rear of the Elephant and Castle Inn, The Street, Eyke, by Suffolk Coastal District Council. This permission was subject to a condition requiring archaeological investigation of the site prior to the development commencing. An initial brief and specification provided by Suffolk County Council Planning Archaeologist Jess Tipper called for a trenched evaluation of the property in order to inform the potential for archaeological remains present on the site, and enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be developed should archaeological remains be present on the site.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on the eastern shoulder of the valley of the River Deben, c. 800m to the west. The valley floor lies c. 200m to the west, approximately 20m below the crest the site sits on. The underlying geology is listed as glaciofluvial drift over sand and crag deposits as was observed in both trenches, although chalky till and deep loam deposits are believed to be present within 20m to the east of the site.

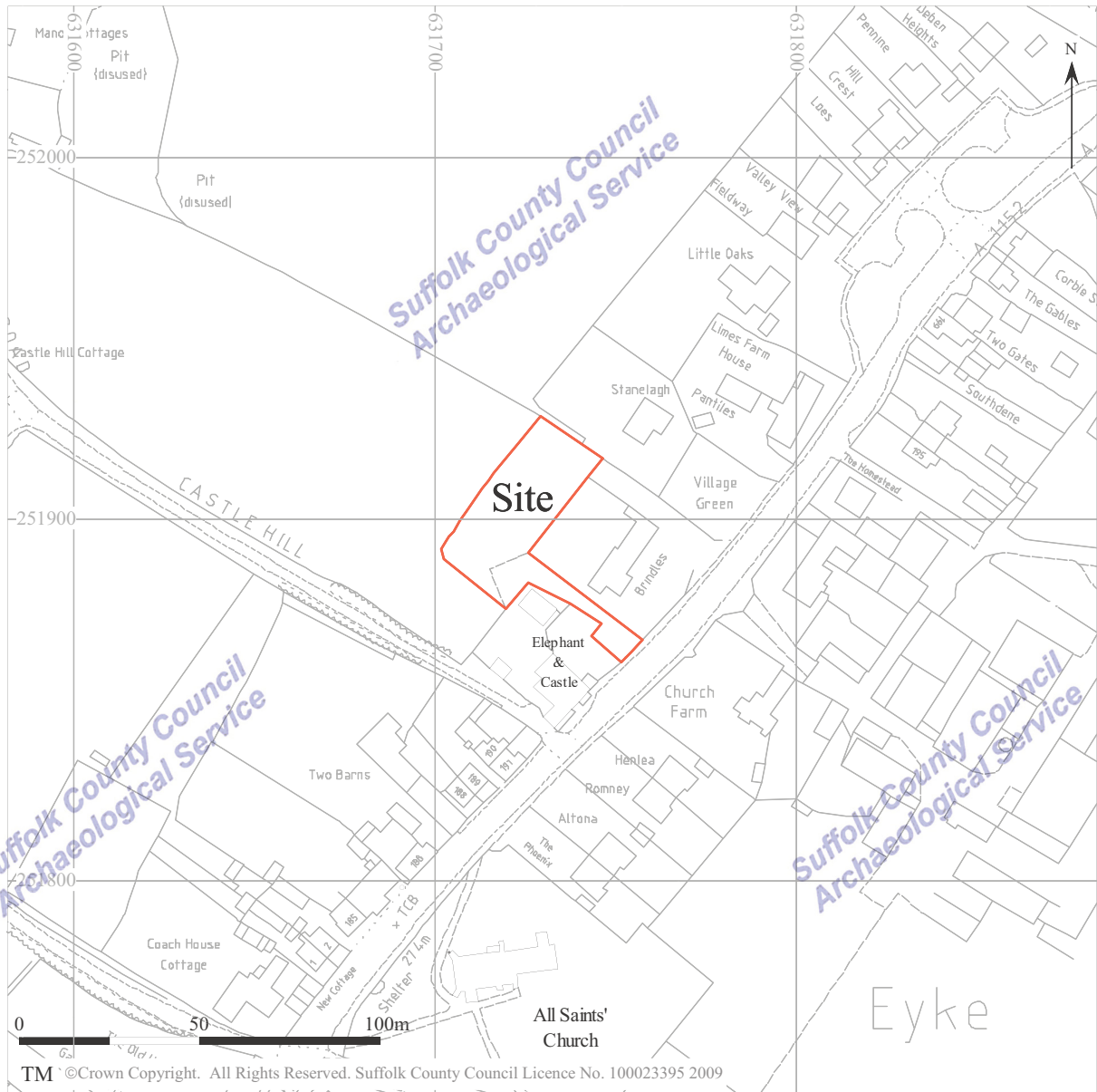
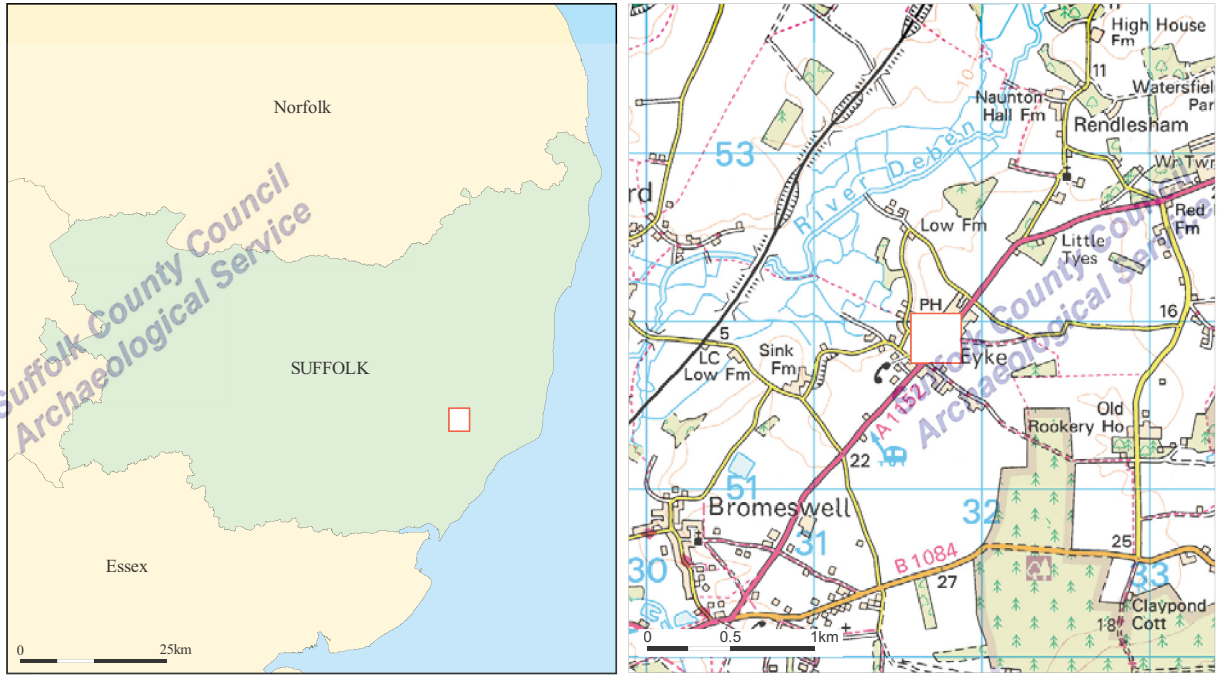


Figure 1. Site Location

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, within the historic core of the settlement. All Saints' Church is known to be of medieval date, and the churchyard is within 100m of the southern end of the site. The Elephant and Castle was present prior to the drawing of the first edition Ordnance Survey map in the early 1880's, while a small-scale (1:2500) segment published in 1882 appears to show some small buildings in the south-western corner of the area at the rear of the site. In the more recent past, the site was used as a fuel station, and two large underground tanks are still present – one of which extends in to the access from the rear of the property to The Street.

4. Methodology

The two trenches were excavated using a 360° 8-tonne tracked machine fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was positioned to investigate the main area of ground disturbance associated with the construction of footings for the new housing, while Trench 2 was intended to examine the road frontage, and ascertain the potential for preservation of medieval, or other, deposits in this area. The potential for truncation by services and modern ground works (such as service trenches, road making, etc) was quite high, although this area was also the most likely to have been in use during historic periods due to its position immediately adjacent to the road.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Two trenches were excavated across the site. Trench 1 was originally intended to be 30m long, orientated north-east/south-west within the main area of the development. Unfortunately it was necessary for this trench to be cut short at 28m, due to an obstruction caused by a smaller digger that had broken down near the north-eastern boundary. Trench 2, towards the front of the property, was able to be excavated in full (5m) and no services were present to prevent it being bottomed.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 28m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.7m deep, orientated north-east/south-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.15m of mid/dark brown silty sand topsoil with frequent small sub-rounded stones above 0.3m of dark brown silty sand with occasional/moderate charcoal flecking, CBM fragments, occasional plastic fragments, etc. This sealed orangey brown clayey sand with very occasional patches of mid grey chalky clay. Two defunct pipes were seen crossing the trench, one a ceramic drain of c. 6" diameter, likely leading to a soakaway, crossing the south-western end of the trench and a 2 ½" ridged yellow plastic pipe bisecting the trench at approximately 9.7m. This pipe was found to be empty and seems likely to have been connected with the services for the caravans. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were noted within the trench.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2x 1m scales).

5.3 Trench 2

This trench was 5m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.1m deep, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.05m of gravel and broken tarmac surface above 0.1m of mid orangey yellow sand and gravel. This overlay a second layer of gravel and tarmac, 0.05m thick. Below this was a layer 0.15m thick of mid/pale grey clay and large flints, forming an initial base layer for the previous gravel surface. Below this clay was a deposit of mid brown slightly clayey silty sand with mixed stones of various sizes, occasional CBM, charcoal flecking and a single oyster shell up to 0.7m thick. Below this, mid orangey brown sandy clay was observed, at a depth of 1.15m below surface level. The disturbed silty sand layer appeared to be a relatively modern truncation, with large pieces of brick and mortar very low down within the trench, and was observed to truncate the natural geology at the base of the trench. This truncation is likely to have removed any archaeological layers present, as the surface level does not appear to have been built up by over 0.5m in the surrounding area.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing north-west (2x 1m scales)

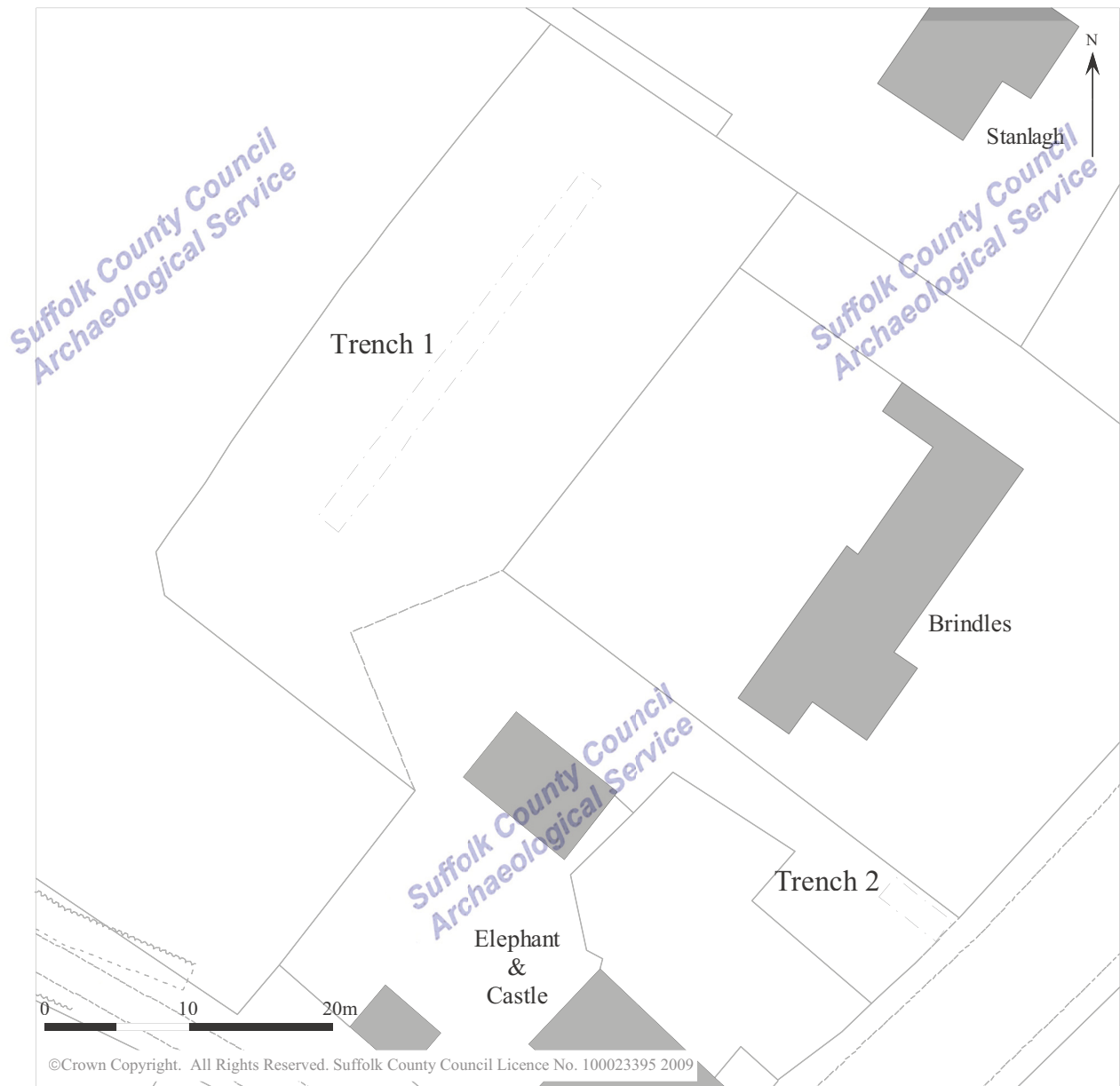


Figure 2. Trench locations

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation. The modern finds that were noted were not retained and a single oyster shell seen in the modern truncation within Trench 2 was discarded as a residual artefact of little further analytical use.

7. Discussion

The trenches have both shown evidence of relatively modern truncations and disturbance, with no significant residual evidence of archaeological activity within the site. The nature of the top- and subsoil towards the rear of the site suggests that the land here was probably always either arable and/or scrub/waste land with no more tangible archaeological activity. The greater depth of surviving natural in Trench 2 does suggest that there has been extensive truncation towards the road, although whether this was connected with the installation of the two fuel tanks or connected with the development of the road/footpath and underground mains services is unknown. This depth of truncation is likely to extend outside the bounds of the site, and it is possible that the medieval road frontage has been severely truncated for some distance (dependant on the reason for the observed truncation).

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The lack of any evidence of intact archaeological deposits, coupled with the disturbed nature of much of the observed stratigraphy would seem to fit the concept of this land being marginal to any development of the village until the very recent past.

Archaeological activity in such locations tends to be less distinct than areas within the core of habitation areas, and the modern disturbance noted could be easily enough to erase such deposits as might have been present. As a consequence, no further archaeological works are recommended for this site at this time.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Eyke

Finds and environmental archive: None

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Simon Picard from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed and directed by Stuart Boulter, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site plans was carried out by Simon Cass, and the report was checked by Stuart Boulter.

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.

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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, THE STREET, EYKE, WOODBRIDGE (C/08/1662)

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 Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/08/1662) for the construction of two dwellings and associated access at the Elephant and Castle Inn, The Street, Eyke, Woodbridge IP12 2QG (TM 317 519). **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 is located on the north side of The Street, at c. 27.00m AOD, overlooking the valley of the River Deben. The underlying geology of the site comprises glaciofluvial drift over Cretaceous sand or Crag (deep sand).
- 1.4 This proposal lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the north of the medieval church and churchyard (HER no. EKE 006) and within the historic settlement core. There is high potential for encountering important medieval remains at this location. The proposed works will 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 Three linear trial trenches are to be excavated across the location of the two new dwellings, and the access from the street frontage, measuring 35.00m x 1.80m in width (in total).

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 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

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Date: 2 October 2009

Reference: / Elephant&CastleInn-Eyke2009

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.