

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/208

**Foxburrow Farm, Waldringfield Road, Brightwell
BGL 046**



HER Information

Planning Application No: C/09/1020

Date of Fieldwork: 5th August 2009; 12th-15th October 2009

Grid Reference: TM 263 442

Funding Body: Mr. P. Brown

Curatorial Officer: Edward Martin

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS Ref: suffolkc1- 69105

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Summary

Brightwell, Foxburrow Farm, Waldringfield Road (TM 263 442; BGL 046) A condition of a planning application to fill a pronounced depression on agricultural land at Foxburrow Farm, Brightwell required a programme of archaeological work. The first phase of this was trial-trenching, in order to determine the character and origins of the depression. This revealed no evidence of the feature being man made and is probably a natural hollow, filled by various layers of quite sterile silty deposits. Two parallel undated ditches were identified on flat ground east of the depression, otherwise, no cut features were observed. The only finds recovered were located by metal detector. Those which were recognisably modern were not retained.

Following the trench evaluation, the site was subject to several monitoring visits while the topsoil was stripped from the area. No incised features or significant deposits were observed, nor were any finds recovered from the stripped area or upcast spoil.

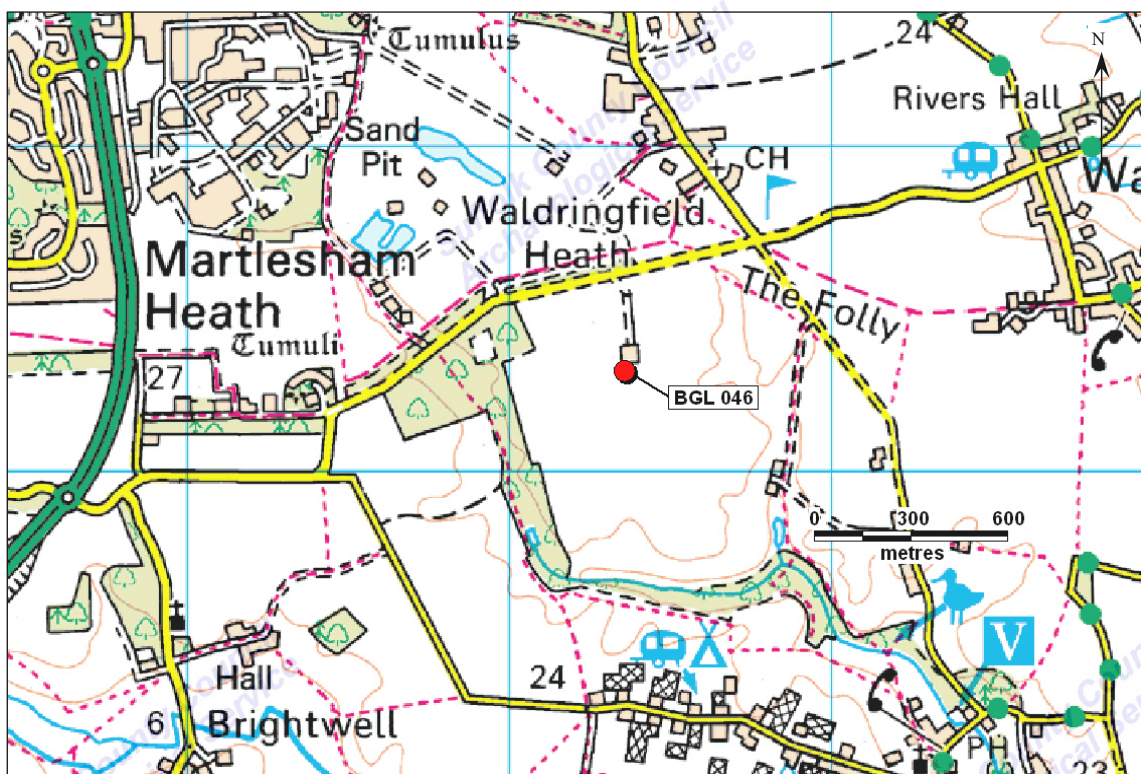
(Linzi Everett for Suffolk County Council & Mr. P. Brown)

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

Prior to the determination of Planning Application C/09/1020, covering landfilling of a pronounced depression at Foxburrow Farm, Brightwell (Fig. 1) (TM 263 442), the local planning authority were advised that an archaeological impact assessment should be provided by the applicant. In order to facilitate this, a Brief and Specification document was prepared by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix I) in which details of the required programme of archaeological works are outlined.

Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Team was commissioned by Peter Brown to undertake the evaluation, the fieldwork for which was carried out on 5th August 2009.



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Figure 1 Site location

1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background

The site lies within the area of high archaeological potential due to the presence of significant known archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity that are recorded in the county Historic Environment Record (HER). Immediately north of the site, aerial photographs show a crop mark feature of unknown date (BGL

045). No systematic archaeological investigation has taken place within the development area.

1.3 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

The site overlooks a tributary of the River Deben to the south and lies at a height of c.25m OD. Whilst the surrounding land is generally flat, the proposed development area exhibits a pronounced depression over an area of some 1.8 hectares.

The underlying drift geology comprises glaciofluvial deposits of deep sand.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Fieldwork

A HER code BGL 046 was allocated to the site. Identified features and their stratigraphic elements were allocated OP/context numbers within a unique continuous numeric sequence under the HER code.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

A metal detector survey was undertaken by Alan Smith during the evaluation, with the exposed surface of the trenches and the upcast spoil examined.

2.2 Post-Excavation

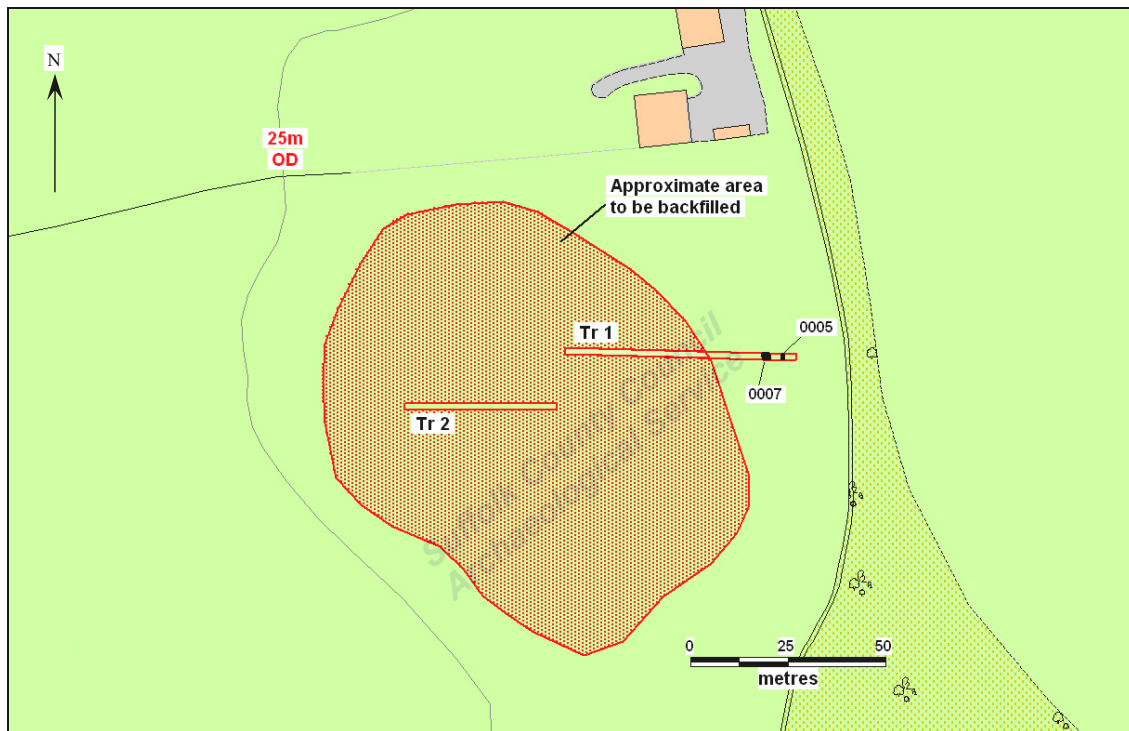
The site archive (including photographs, finds & other site records) was prepared and deposited in the county HER in Bury St. Edmunds. The information recorded during the project was compiled into a single coherent report (this document).

The report has also been submitted to OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code suffolkc1-69105.

3. Results

3.1 Trial-trenching

Trenching was intended to determine whether the depression to be filled was of natural or man-made origin, and to characterise any deposits it contained. In order to do this, trenches were opened where they would give a good indication of the profile of the feature, testing the ground just outside of the depression and the lowest point within it.



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Figure 2 Location of the trial-trenches within the depression

Trench 1: Orientated from the east to west, Trench 1 measured 1.5m wide and 59m long. (Fig. 2).

The trench was cut through the following soil sequence (Plate 1):

- Topsoil 0001- Uniform 0.1m of mid greyish brown sandy loam topsoil with occasional brick flecks
- Subsoil 0002- Mid-pale brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks and moderate flint inclusions. 0.5m thick at the eastern end of the trench, thinning to 0.35m. Seals natural subsoil for the first 20m of the trench and 0003 thereafter.

- Subsoil 0003- Mid orangey brown clay sand with moderate flint inclusions. Present throughout the west end of trench, starting at a point c.20m from the east end. 0.3m thick. Grades into subsoil 0004.
- Subsoil 0004- Mid-pale brown clay sand with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Present throughout the west end of trench, starting at a point c.20m from the east end. 0.3m thick. Grades into natural subsoil.

Total depth: east end 0.6m; west end 1.05m

The natural subsoil consisted of a pale yellowish brown silty sand with regular small flint inclusions.



Plate 1. Trench 1 soil profile

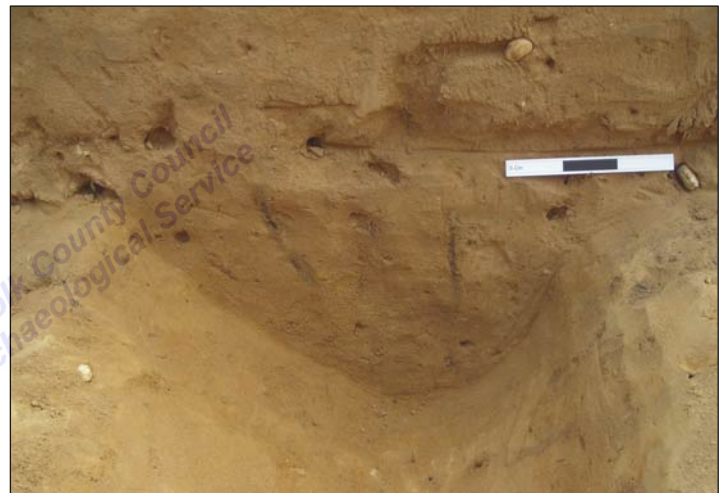


Plate 2. Ditch 0005, E-W section

Two features were identified in the trench (Figs. 2 & 3), both north to south aligned ditches. 0005 was a shallow, narrow ditch with a rounded base. It was filled by 0006, a pale greyish brown silty sand with very occasional small flint inclusions and evidence of worm action. The ditch measured 0.5m wide and 0.23m deep.

0007 was a 1.65m wide, 0.51m deep ditch with an uneven but generally rounded base. Its fill, 0008, was a mid-pale brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions and signs of worm action. No finds were recovered from the upcast spoil of either feature.



Plate 3. Ditch 0007, E-W section

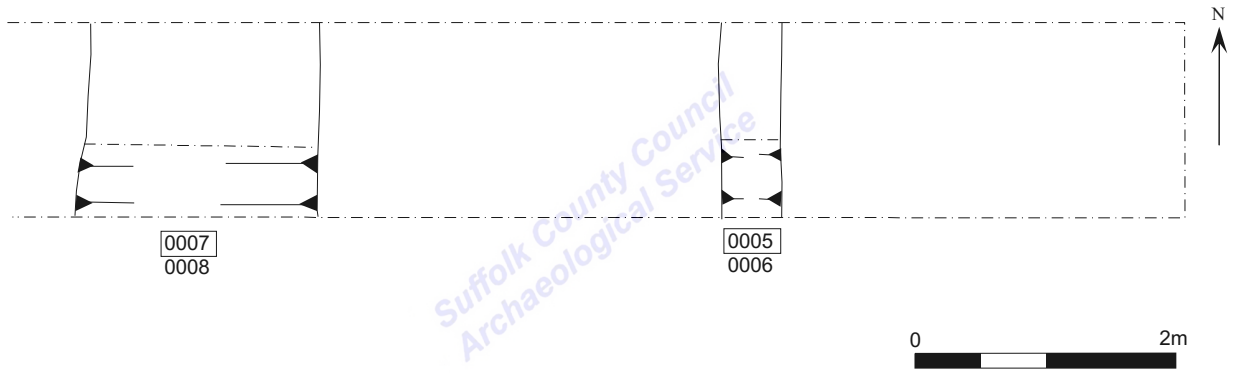


Figure 3. Plan of features in Trench 1

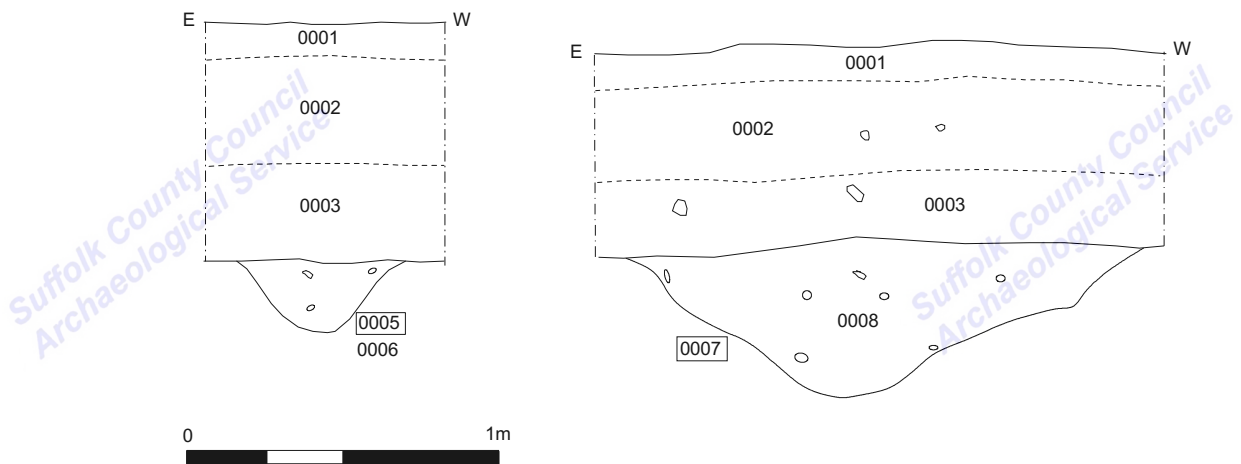


Figure 4. Ditch sections



Plate 4. Trench 2 from W

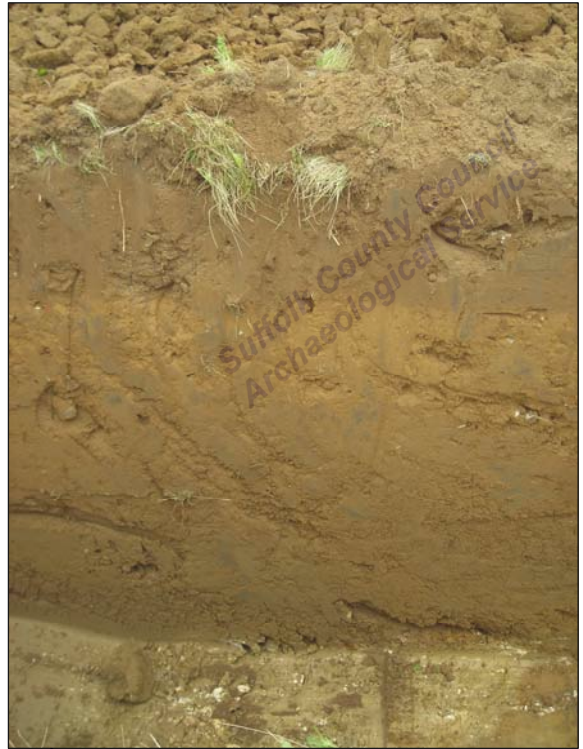


Plate 5. Trench 2 soil profile (1.7m deep)

Trench 2: Located within the lowest point of the area to be filled, Trench 2 measured 1.5m wide and was 39m long. (Fig. 2).

The trench was cut through the following soil sequence (Plates 4 & 5):

- *Topsoil* 0001- Uniform 0.1m of mid greyish brown sandy loam topsoil with occasional brick flecks
- *Subsoil* 0002- Mid-pale brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks and moderate flint inclusions. 0.35m thick. Seals 0003 for 28m from the east end of the trench and natural subsoil thereafter.
- *Subsoil* 0003- Mid orangey brown clay sand with moderate flint inclusions. Present throughout the east end of trench, thinning then ending 11m from the west end. Grades into subsoil 0004.
- *Subsoil* 0004- Mid-pale brown clay sand with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Present throughout the east end of trench, thinning then ending 11m from the west end. 0.3m thick. Seals subsoil layer 0009 where present, otherwise grades into natural subsoil.
- *Subsoil* 0009- Mid greyish brown clay sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Present over a c.10m area in the middle of the trench sealing natural subsoil.

Total depth: east end 1.05m; west end 0.45m; deepest point 1.7m.

The natural subsoil consisted of a pale yellowish brown silty sand with regular small flint inclusions at the east end, changing to a chalky boulder clay at the deepest point in the centre of the trench.

3.2 Metal detector survey

The exposed surfaces within the trenches were examined, as was the upcast spoil.

A number of signals were recorded, although on examination all but one related to objects of clearly modern date (cartridge cases etc.), none of which were retained. A possible worn fragment of a late medieval/early post medieval copper alloy token was recovered from the topsoil.

3.3 Monitoring

Approximately 0.4m-0.5m of overburden was stripped from the development area over the course of several days. Visits were made whilst this took place to observe the freshly stripped surface and the upcast spoil, both visually and with a metal detector. The exposed subsoil was a mid orangey brown clay sand with moderate flint inclusions identified as 0003 in the trenches, within which no features or artefactual evidence was visible. No finds were recovered from the spoil, although only a small sample of this was subject to metal detecting.

4. Discussion

The trial-trenches were designed to assess whether archaeological deposits were present within the development area but also to determine the character and possible origin of the depression intended to be filled. The two trenches provided a profile through almost the whole depression. There was no evidence to suggest that the depression was a man made feature such as a quarry, bomb crater or pond barrow, and the deposits observed within it contained no archaeological features or material culture. It is most likely that the depression represents a natural feature.

The only archaeological features observed during trenching were two parallel ditches, from which no datable evidence was recovered. These were located

outside of the depression and were thus not threatened by the development. Their presence suggested that other isolated features could lie within the development area, although none were revealed during monitoring of the soil strip.

Linzi Everett
December 2009

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

FOXBURROW FARM, WALDRINGFIELD ROAD, BRIGHTWELL, 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 A planning application has been made for the landfilling of a depression at Foxburrow Farm, Waldringfield Road, Brightwell, Suffolk (TM 263 442).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority (Suffolk County Council) has been advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance. In order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required, prior to consideration of the application, to provide an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed site as suggested in DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16 (November 1990), para 21.
- 1.3 The proposed development area measures c. 1.80ha. in area, overlooking a tributary of the River Deben (see accompanying plan). It is situated on glaciofluvial drift geology (deep sand) at c. 25.00m AOD.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, immediately to the south of a crop mark feature recorded by aerial photograph (HER no. BGL 045). However, this area has not been the subject of systematic investigation. There is high potential for important archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 The following archaeological evaluation work is required:
 - non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
 - 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 suitability of the area for development, and also 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 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: 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 (1.80ha. 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 c. 900.00m². 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 500.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

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 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.

- 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 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.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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.
- 6.20 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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Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Date: 16 July 2009

Reference: / FoxburrowFarm-Brightwell2009

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.

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