

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/043**

**93 and land to rear of 97 Friday Street,  
West Row, Mildenhall  
MNL 624**

**J. A. Craven**  
© March 2010  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** F/2009/0082/OUT

**Date of Fieldwork:** 25th February 2010

**Grid Reference:** TL 674 757

**Funding Body:** Balmforth Estate Agents

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** John Craven

**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-69971

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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# Contents

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	Page
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Geology and topography	3
3. Archaeological and historical background	3
4. Methodology	5
5. Results	6
6. The finds	9
6.1 Introduction	9
6.2 Discussion	9
7. Discussion	9
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	10
Disclaimer	10
9. Archive deposition	11
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	11
11. Bibliography	11

## List of Figures

1. Site location plan	4
2. Trench and feature plan and sections	8

## List of Tables

1. Small finds	9
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## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 93 and rear of 97 Friday Street, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk in advance of residential development. Other than a single post-medieval or modern pit, a 3rd century Roman coin and a 17th-18th century silver love token, no archaeological deposits were identified although the potential archaeological horizon was well preserved. No further archaeological work is recommended.

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## 1. Introduction

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of housing development on land at 93 and rear of 97 Friday Street, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by a condition placed upon planning application F/2009/0082/OUT in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The project was funded by the site agent, Balmforth Estate Agents.

## 2. Geology and topography

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The site, which consists of a late 20th century bungalow, garage and garden allotments, lies in the settlement of West Row in the parish of Mildenhall at TL 674 757. The site lies on an area of broadly level ground at a height of c.7m AOD, c.750m to the north of the River Lark, overlooking the fen-edge to the east.

The site geology is of well drained, calcareous, coarse and fine loamy soils overlying chalky drift and chalk (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

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The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lay in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record, within the dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that exists along the edge of the fens. A Neolithic findspot is recorded 150m to the north (MNL 312) and evidence of Roman occupation has been excavated 300m to the north-west (MNL 193).

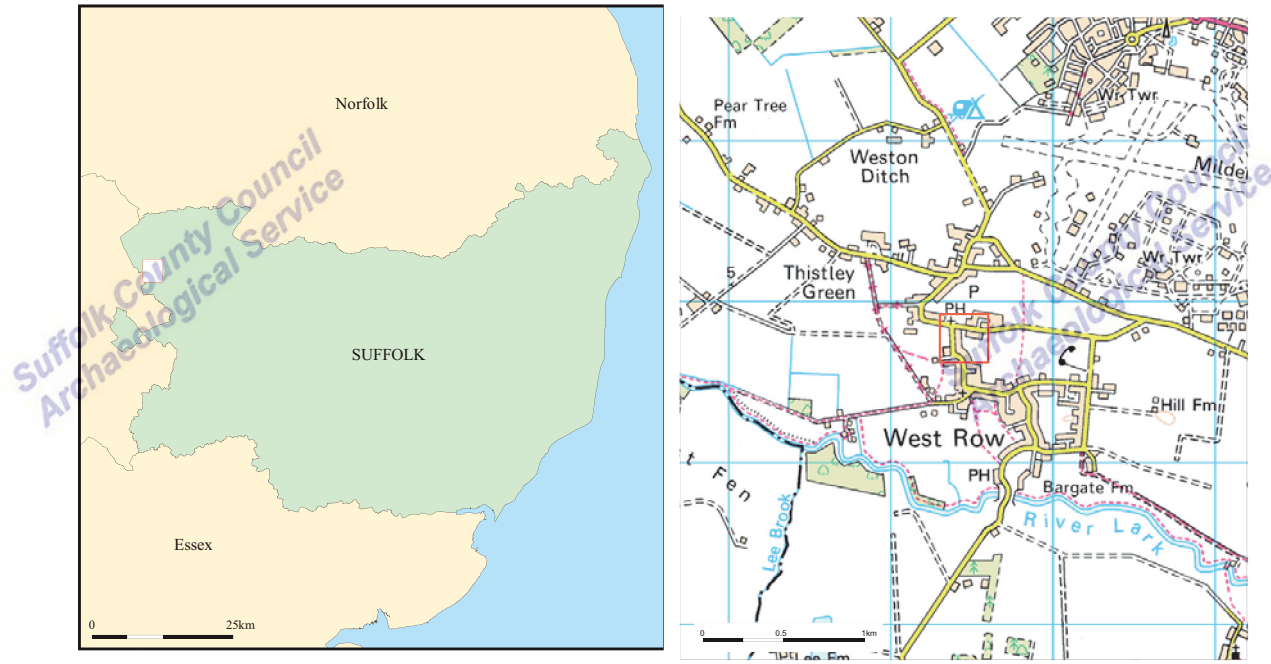


Figure 1. Site location plan

## 4. Methodology

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The five trenches (Fig. 2) were marked out by hand and excavated by a mechanical digger, equipped with a ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Measuring 91.5m in total length and 1.8m wide this amounted to 165sqm, or 5.3% of the 0.31ha area.

The depth of the trenching varied from 0.5m to 1.1m, largely depending upon the thickness of a layer of mid grey/brown silt/sand, 0002, that lay under the modern ploughsoil, 0001. 0002 lay above the undulating natural subsoil of mid yellow/orange sands and outcrops of broken chalk. This basic soil profile appeared throughout the trenching. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist both during the machining and subsequent hand-excavation of features.

Archaeological features or deposits were normally clearly visible cutting the natural subsoil and were cleaned and excavated by hand as required. The site was recorded using a separate single context continuous numbering system. Trench positions were recorded by hand and those containing archaeological deposits were planned on A3 gridded permatrace sheets at a scale of 1:50, as were feature sections and trench profiles, at a scale of 1:20. Site levels were recorded using a dumpy level and relate to an OS benchmark of 7.18m AOD extant on the front of No. 97 Friday Street. Digital colour and black and white print photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital and physical archives respectively. As no firm archaeological contexts dating to before the post-medieval period were identified no environmental samples were taken.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-69971) and a digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER Nos. BSE MNL 624.

## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Trench 01

This trench was aligned north to south, measured 24m long, and varied from 0.65m deep at the south end to 1.1m deep to the north. The trench profile consisted of 0.3m-0.4m of modern ploughsoil, 0001, overlying 0.3m-0.7m of layer 0002. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 5.5m AOD at the north end and rose to 5.87m AOD to the south. A single possible archaeological feature, 0003, was investigated and was shown to be an irregular small pit, c.0.5m in diameter and 0.22m deep with a mid/dark grey/brown sand fill, 0004. The feature was undated and may simply have been an area of natural disturbance. A single small find, Roman coin 1001, was recovered from the spoilheap at the northern end of the trench.

### 5.2 Trench 02

This trench was aligned west to east and measured 24m long and c.0.6m-1m deep. The trench profile consisted of 0.3m-0.4m of ploughsoil 0001 overlying 0.3-0.6m of layer 0002, which thickened towards the west. The natural subsoil was seen at 6m AOD at the east end, 5.6m in the west end. No archaeological deposits were identified.

### 5.3 Trench 03

This trench was aligned west to east and measured 15.5m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of c.0.4m of ploughsoil overlying c.0.5m-0.6m of layer 0002. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of c.5.3m AOD. A single feature, pit 0007, was identified once the ploughsoil was removed, cutting layer 0002 and the natural subsoil. Partially visible within the trench it was oval in plan, measuring 1.95m wide and 0.9m deep, with a fill, 0008, of mid grey/brown silt/sand. A single small find, post-medieval silver token, 1002, was recovered from the trench spoilheap.

#### **5.4 Trench 04**

This trench was aligned north to south and measured 18m long. The trench profile consisted of 0.3m-0.55m of ploughsoil, thickening to the north, overlying 0.3m-0.5m of layer 0002, which thickened to the south. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of c.5.4m AOD. A series of probable, but undated, features with similar fills were seen along its length.

#### **5.5 Trench 05**

This trench was aligned east to west and measured 10m long. The uniform trench profile consisted of c.0.2m of ploughsoil overlying 0.5m of layer 0002 and 0.1m of layer 0007. The natural subsoil lay at a depth of 5.65m AOD. No archaeological deposits were identified.

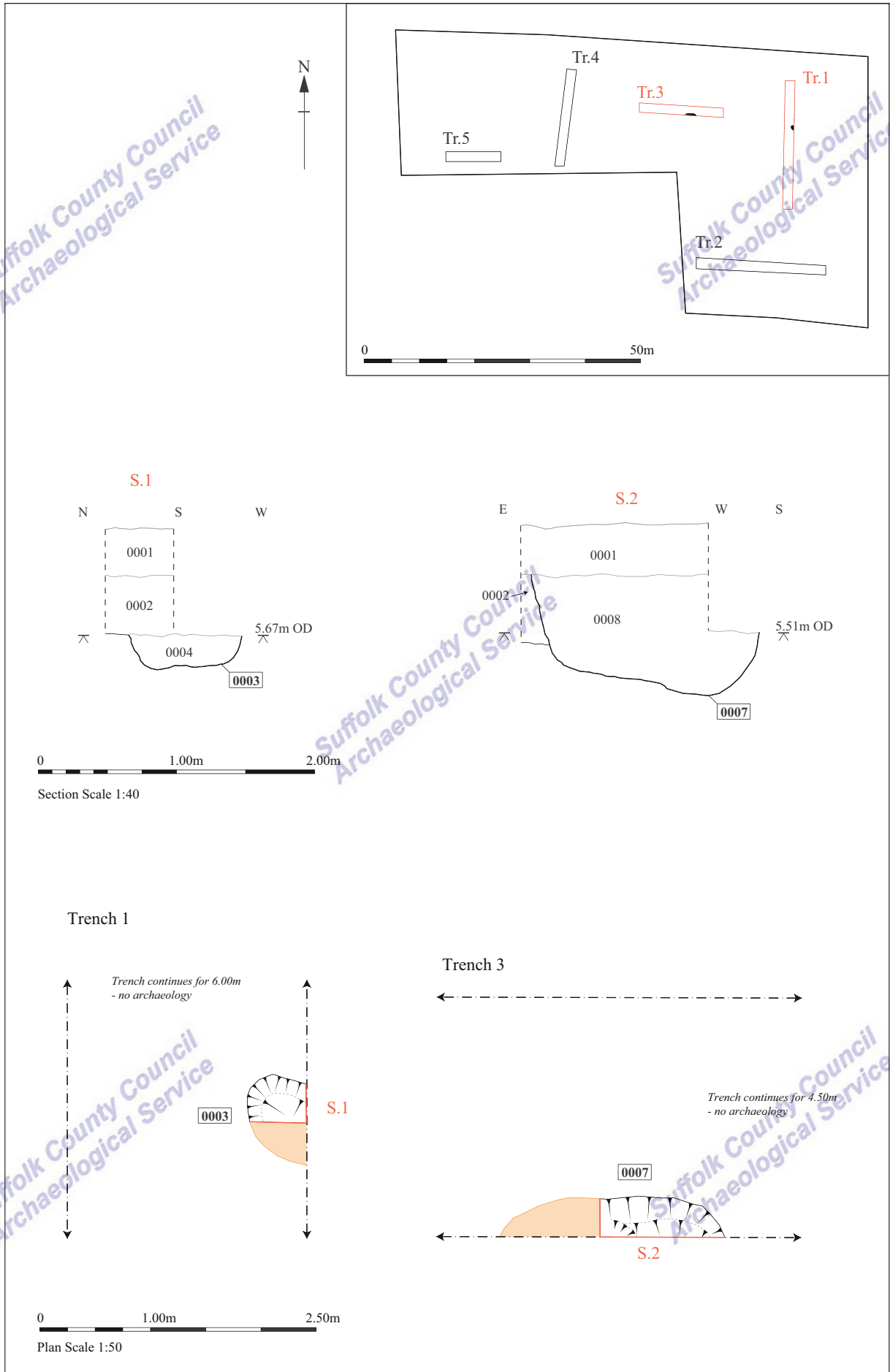


Figure 2. Trench plans and sections

## 6. The finds

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Richenda Goffin

### 6.1 Introduction

The only finds recovered from the evaluation were two small finds which are listed below.

Small find No	Context No	Period	Object Name	Material	Description
1001	0009	Roman	Coin	Copper alloy	Small clipped radiate
1002	0006	P-med	Token	Silver	Love token

Table 1. Small finds

### 6.2 Discussion

Identifications by Andrew Brown

Two unstratified small finds were recovered. A single worn and folded silver love token with the remains of some initials on one face was found in the Trench 03 spoilheap, dating to the 17th-18th century. A clipped, moderately worn Roman coin, a radiate dating to AD 238-244 was found from the spoilheap for Trench 01.

## 7. Discussion

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The majority of the trenching showed a uniform soil profile, with a thick ploughsoil sealing layer 0002 which showed plough marks truncating its surface. The natural sand/chalk subsoil, and potential archaeological levels, lay undisturbed below this deposit.

Apart from one possible feature, 0003, the only evidence of past human activity seen on the site was a relatively late post-medieval or modern pit which cut layer 0002. The two small finds have probably arrived by casual loss or manuring practices and do not represent any defined phase of activity on the site.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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The evaluation has identified a well preserved subsoil surface but no evidence of past human activity other than two stray metalwork finds and a post-medieval pit. Subsoil levels across the site are, in many areas, at a significant depth below ground and so will only be affected by deeper groundworks. This, combined with the lack of archaeological deposits, means that the development will have negligible or no effect upon archaeological remains and so no further archaeological mitigation is thought necessary.

### **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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## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\archive field proj\Mildenhall\MNL 624

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff (Robert Brooks, John Craven and Alan Smith) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Crane Begg and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Andrew Brown.

## 11. Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

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## Appendix 1

### Brief and Specification

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

**93 FRIDAY STREET AND LAND TO REAR OF 97 FRIDAY STREET, WEST ROW,  
MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK (F/2009/0082/OUT)**

*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/2009/0082/OUT) for the erection of nine dwellings, associated parking and access at 93 Friday Street and land to rear of 97 Friday Street, West Row (TL 674 757). **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 (0.31 ha. in area) is located on the east side of Friday Street at c. 6.00m AOD. The soils are chalky loam, derived from the underlying chalk and chalky drift.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, defined in the County Historic Environment Record, to the south of a Neolithic find spot (HER no. MNL 312) that is indicative of further occupation deposits. There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by any development at this location. 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 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Forest Heath District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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. 155.00m<sup>2</sup>. 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 86.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m 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

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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Date: 7 December 2009

Reference: / FridayStreet-West Row2009

**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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