

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/024

Rear of 4 Highfield Approach, Ipswich IPS 618

Stuart Boulter
© February 2010
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

HER Information

Planning Application No: IP/07/00867/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 13/10/2009

Grid Reference: TM 1468 4643

Funding Body: Mr J. Whyte

Curatorial Officer: Jude Plouviez

Project Officer: Stuart Boulter

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-71821

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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Contents

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	2
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
4. Methodology	2
5. Results	3
6. Finds and environmental evidence	7
7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	7
8. Archive deposition	8
9. Contributors and acknowledgements	8
Disclaimer	8
10. Bibliography	

List of Figures

1. Site location	1
2. Location of trench	3
3. Plan of trench, scale 1:50	5
4. Section drawings, scale 1:20	6

List of Plates

1. Pit 0002	6
2. Features 0006 & 0008	6

List of Tables

Table 1	IPS 618: Context list and descriptions	4
---------	--	---

List of Appendices

1. Brief and Specification	9
----------------------------	---

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Summary

Ipswich, rear of 4 Highfield Approach (TM 1468 4643; IPS 618) An archaeological trial-trench excavated within the footprint of a proposed new dwelling revealed a two pits; one of Roman date and the other modern. Two other irregular shaped features were recorded, but were thought to be natural in origin.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Mr J. Whyte)

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

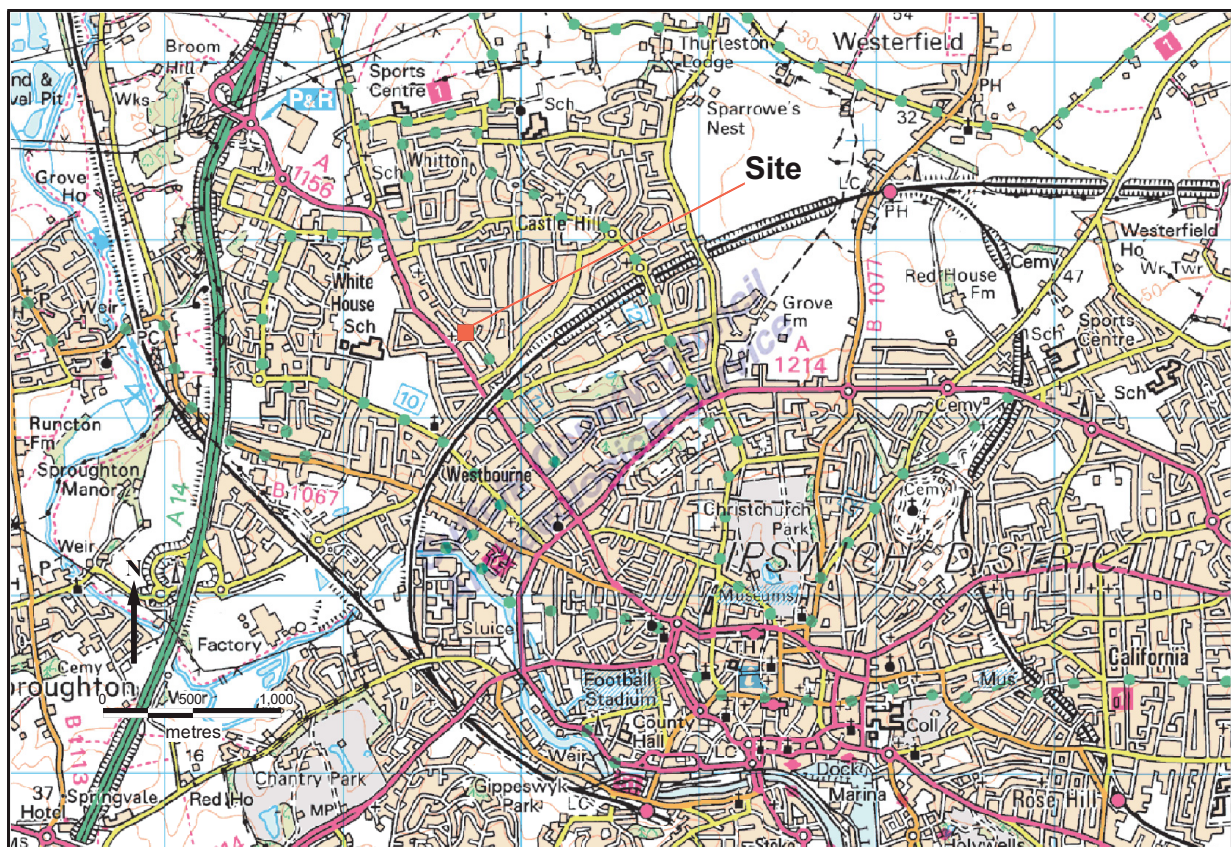
Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

1. Introduction

The consent for Planning Application IP/07/00867/FUL, covering the construction of a new dwelling on land that previously formed part of the rear garden of 4 Highfield Approach, Ipswich (Figures 1 and 2) (TM 1468 4643), was conditional on the applicant providing for a programme of archaeological works. In the first instance, these would involve a mechanically excavated trial-trench on the site, within the footprint of the proposed building.



© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved, Suffolk County Council License No. 100023395 2010

Figure 1. Site location

Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in her role as Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority, prepared a Brief and Specification document detailing the scope of the required archaeological works (Appendix 1). Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Team was commissioned by the applicants (Mr. J. Whyte) to undertake the evaluation, the fieldwork for which was carried out on 02/02/2010.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at approximately 27mOD on a south facing slope overlooking the river Gipping some 1.25km to the south. The underlying drift geology comprises heavy glaciogenic chalky till.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The perceived high archaeological potential for the site was based predominantly on its location in the vicinity of the known Roman Villa (IPS 015), a site deemed to be of national importance. In addition, Roman building (IPS 044) and a boundary ditch, the latter previously identified in c.1950, lie close to the development area.

4. Methodology

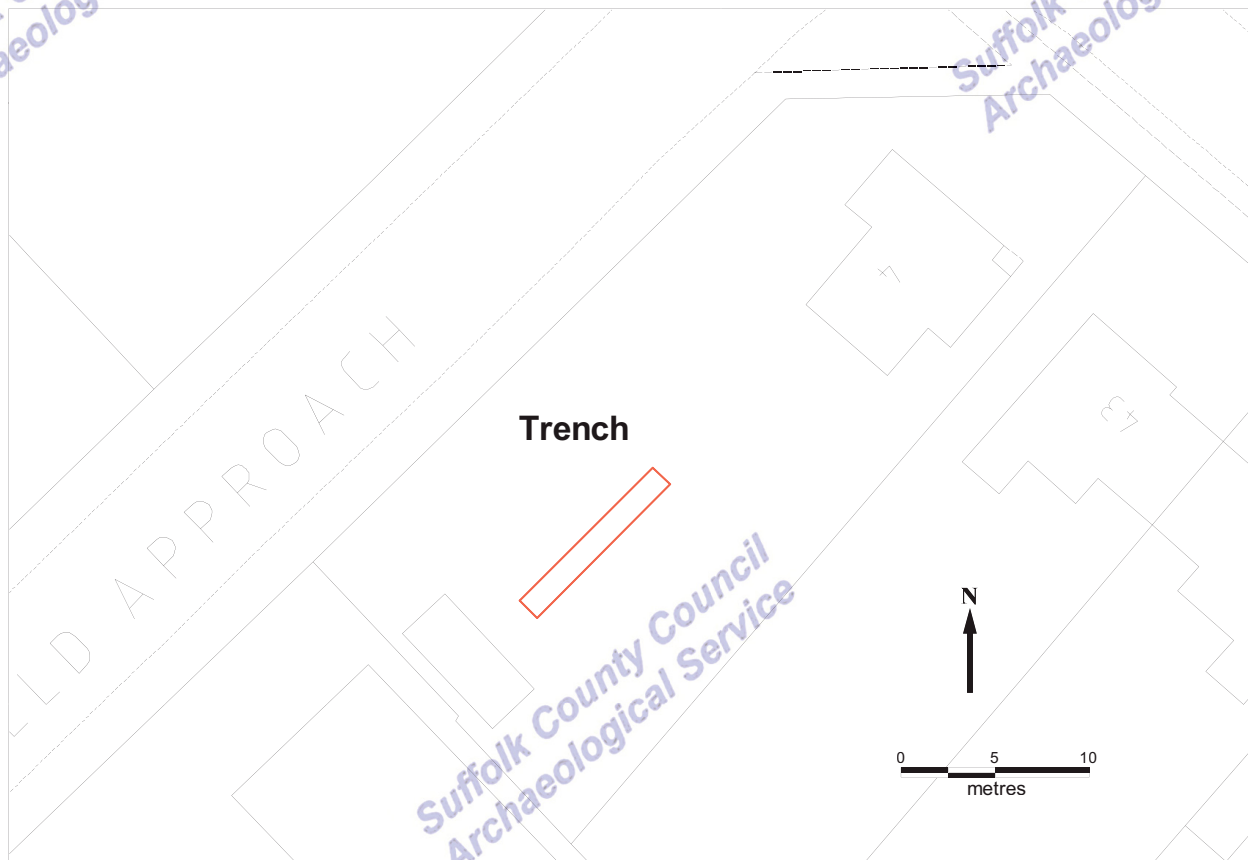
The location for the specified trench was measured on the ground by triangulation from the standing buildings and was placed centrally to the footprint of the proposed building. The 10m long trench was opened using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.3m wide ditching bucket, to give a good clean cut.

Identified contexts were allocated 'OP' (Observed Phenomena) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code IPS 618 (Table 1). 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

Figure 2 shows the location of the excavated trench within the building plot.



© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved, Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2010

Figure 2. Location of Trench

A c.0.25m thick layer of topsoil (0002) was removed along the entire length of the trench and was found to overlie brown silty clay subsoil that increased in thickness from 0.2m, at the northernmost end of the trench, to 0.25m at the southernmost end. Removal of the subsoil layer revealed the naturally occurring clay subsoil.

Four features were recorded in the trench (Table 1, Figs. 3 & 4 & Plates 1 & 2).

Pit 0002 was recorded at the southernmost end of the trench. The feature was of indeterminate size as it continued under the end and southern side of the trench. The feature was 0.2m deep with a flattish bottom and relatively steeply sloping sides. The fill (0003) comprised brown coloured sandy, silty clay which was indistinguishable from the laterally persistent subsoil layer. Finds recovered included tile fragments and greyware pottery. While attributed to the pit, the finds were all from relatively high in the

excavated section, arguably in the subsoil layer rather than the feature. However, as the subsoil layer was sterile throughout the remainder of the trench, it seems reasonable to assume that the finds were associated with the underlying pit.

Pit 0004 continued under the northern edge of the trench and remained unexcavated as the ashy fill (0005) was clearly modern, due to the inclusion of silver paper, and the feature could be seen to cut the subsoil to the base of the topsoil.

Feature 0006 was small, roughly oval in shape, measuring 0.60m by 0.30m with a depth of only 0.10m and a gently rounded profile. The fill (0007) comprised homogenous light brown silty sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

Feature 0008 was an irregular linear, approximately 0.5m wide with a length in excess of 2.5m and a depth varying between 0.05m and 0.12m (Sections a & b respectively) in the two excavated sections. The fill (0009) was similar to that of 0006, comprising homogenous light brown silty sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the excavated sections.

Both 0006 and 0008 were located along a discernable variation in the naturally occurring clay subsoil and were themselves probably natural in origin.

OP No.	Context No.	Identifier	Description	Date
0001	0001	U/S finds	Unstratified finds (none recovered)	-
0002	0002	Pit (Cut)	Pit, irregular shape, steep-sided	Roman
0003	0002	Pit (Fill)	Brown silty, sandy clay fill of 0002	Roman
0004	0004	Pit (Cut)	Pit, cuts subsoil to base of topsoil, unexcavated	Modern
0005	0004	Pit (Fill)	Ash fill of pit 0004, includes silver paper	Modern
0006	0006	Feature (Cut)	Small irregular feature, probably natural	Undated
0007	0006	Feature (Fill)	Homogenous light brown silty, sandy clay fill of 0006	Undated
0008	0008	Feature (Cut)	Irregular linear feature, probably natural	Undated
0009	0008	Feature (Fill)	Homogenous light brown silty, sandy clay fill of 0008	Undated

Table 1 IPS 618: Context list and descriptions

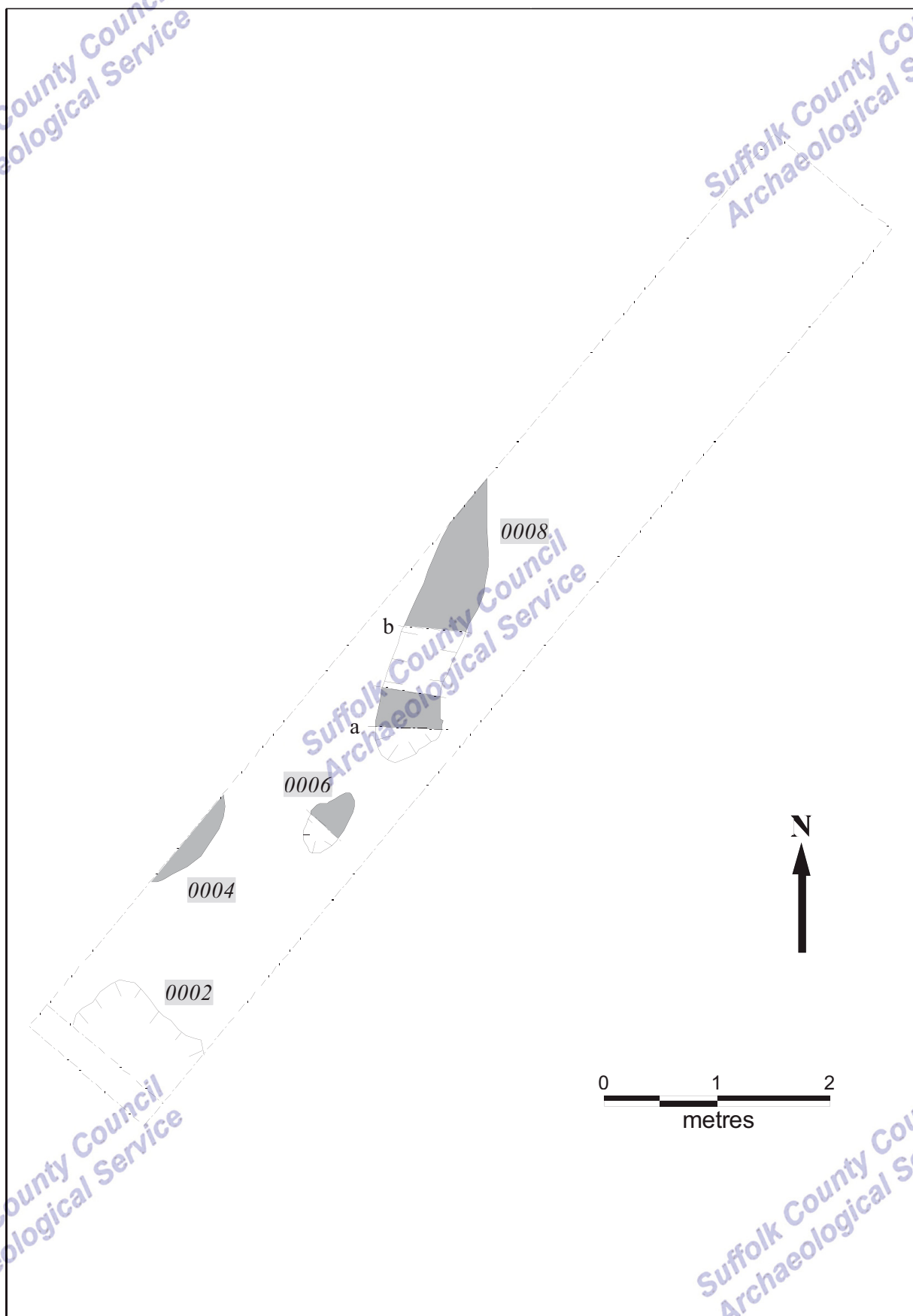


Fig. 3 Plan of trench, scale 1:50

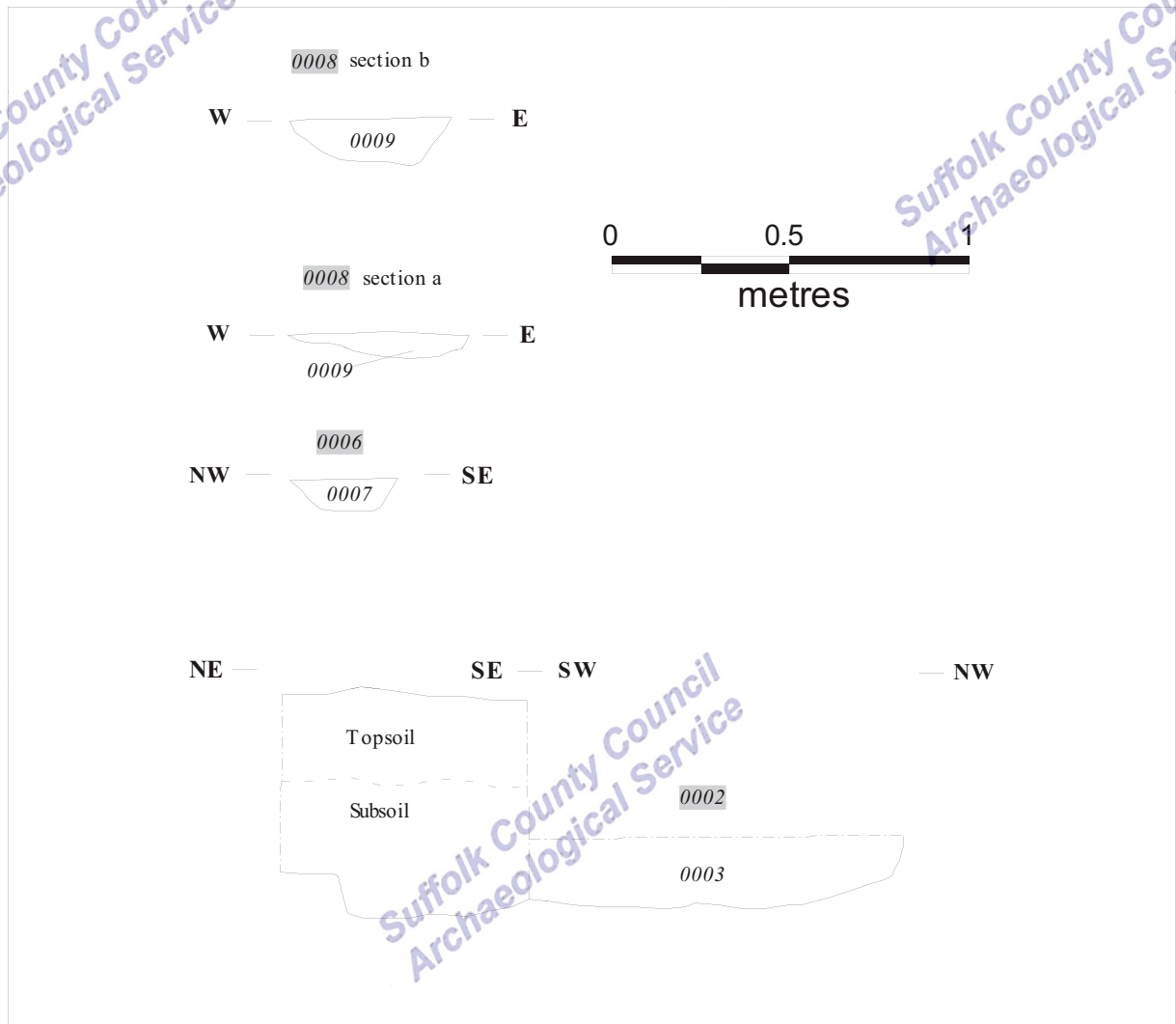


Fig. 4 Section drawings, scale 1:20



Plate 1 Pit 0002



Plate 2 Features 0006 & 0008

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Introduction

Pit 0002 was the only feature to contain finds (13 @ 471g) and just two categories were noted, CBM and pottery.

No soil-samples for paleoenvironmental analysis were collected during the evaluation.

Pottery

A total of 6 sherds with a weight of 11g was recovered from pit fill 0003, and their condition may be described as between abraded and slightly abraded. Two greyware sherds (GX) from the rim of a miniature jar were identified (9g). This form has a fairly long life-span within the Roman period at Colchester however, the preponderance of these types date from the early 2nd to 4th century AD (Symonds & Wade 1999). The second fabric (GMG) is a micaceous greyware (4 @ 3g), and the sherds belong to a small base.

Tile

With the exception of one abraded fragment (1 @ 10g) all of the pieces join to form part of a Roman flat tile (6 @ 449g). The tile displays little abrasion and the fabric is fine, containing sparse clay pellets and black iron ore, although the main recognisable element is common elongate voids. The tile has a depth of 18mm and it is possible that these fragments are part of a *tegula* mid-section; this depth measurement corresponds to a known frequency of *tegula* depth ranges (Fawcett unpub).

Conclusion

This small group of finds are all dated to the Roman period, and their general condition suggests that they are all in their original place of deposition.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

While clearly the site of the proposed development is located close to the Roman Villa complex, the lack of complex archaeology and limited finds evidence from the evaluation trench suggests that it lies within one of the quieter areas. It has been suggested (Plouviez *pers. comm.*) that evidence elsewhere from the wider villa site

demonstrates a high degree of land management, with the intervening areas between building groups kept relatively clean and rubbish removed to specific disposal areas.

In addition, the boundary ditch previously identified in c.1950 was not encountered.

Based on these results it is thought unlikely that further archaeological work will be required in relation to the proposed development.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital Archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:ENV\ARC\PARISH\Ipswich\2010-024

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner and the evaluation was carried out by Stuart Boulter, both of SCCAS Field Team.

Finds processing was undertaken by a member of SCCAS Finds Team (Jonathan Van Jennians while the finds report was prepared by Andy Fawcett.

10. Bibliography

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Fawcett, A. R.,
Unpub. | <i>A corpus of Roman brick and tile from the Roman small town of Ware</i> , Hat Report No. 238 |
| Symonds, R. &
Wade, S., 1999 | <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i>
Colchester Archaeological Report No 10, Colchester
Archaeological Trust Ltd |

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.



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

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench: Rear of 3 Highfield Approach, Ipswich

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (IP/07/01066/ful) has been granted for erection of a single dwelling and new access.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.3) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation is required of the site. **The evaluation is the first part of the programme of archaeological work and decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies at TM 1466 4645 within the area of a Roman villa (IPS 015) defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of national importance. The development is near to an area of Roman building (IPS 044) which is south-west of the main complex and close to the line of a boundary ditch identified in c.1950 on that site (see attached plan). There is a high probability that the development will damage or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will provide

the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

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

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 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) three working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.6 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3 Specification: Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. A single linear trench south-west to north-east across the middle of the site within the proposed house footprint is thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The contractor shall 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 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.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 3.11 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome and colour photographs or high-res digital images (using a minimum 5megapixel camera).

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

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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* 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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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 archaeological work 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. 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 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 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.

- 5.9 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez, Archaeological Officer

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
9-10 Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352448 Email: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 1st October 2009-10-01

Reference: \Spec eval JP_Oct2009.doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.