

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/018

The Fire Station, Gregory Street, Sudbury SUY 092

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HER Information

Planning Application No: B/06/01909

Date of Fieldwork: 29th January 2010

Grid Reference: TL 870413

Funding Body: Farrans (Construction) Ltd. on behalf of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Liz Muldowney

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<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the grounds of the Fire Station, Gregory Street, Sudbury on the 29th January 2010. The work was carried out in advance of the construction of a smoke training building. A trench was excavated and a series of layers and pits were encountered. All were post-medieval or modern in date. Excavation stopped at a depth 1.2m because the sides of the trench were unconsolidated. The natural geological horizon was not encountered within the trench. Artefacts were collected from most layers and the pits. No environmental samples were taken.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the grounds of the Fire Station, Sudbury on the 29th January 2010, in advance of the construction of a Smoke Training Building. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This document is included as Appendix 1. The evaluation was undertaken for Farrans (Construction) Limited on behalf of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

2. Geology and topography

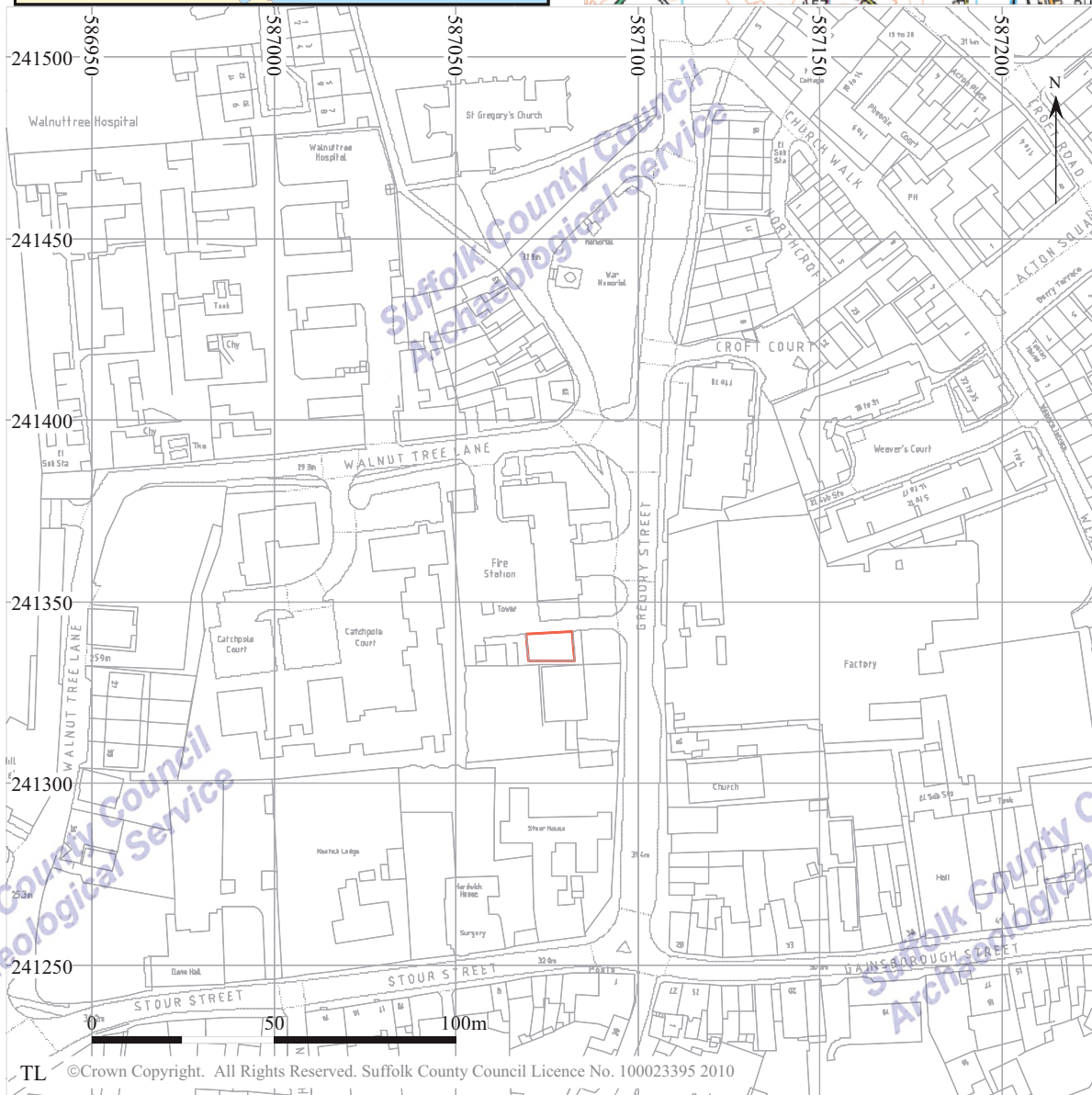
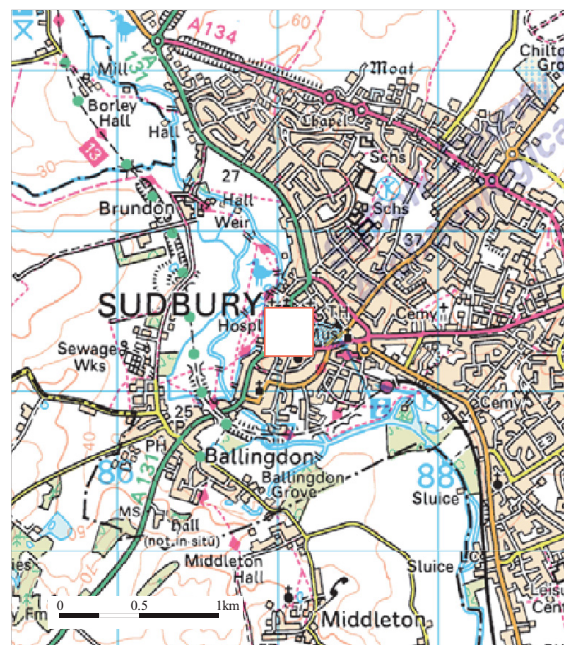
The site lies at TL 870413 within the town of Sudbury (Fig. 1). The development area was rectangular and measured 96.33m². It was located within the grounds of Sudbury Fire Station on the west side of Gregory Street. The area was used as a tarmac surfaced car park and fire training area. It was generally flat at approximately 32.17m OD. The geological horizon was not encountered within the development area.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The development area lies within the core of the medieval town of Sudbury and as such has a high potential for encountering archaeological remains of this date. To the north of the development area was the site of the medieval St Gregory's College (SUY 004) associated with the 14th century St Gregory's Church (SUY 032), replacing earlier medieval and Anglo-Saxon churches on the same site. Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered during excavations to the west of the Fire Station (SUY 029), however, this had been recovered from 18th or 19th century quarry pits which had removed the majority of the archaeological features. A few pits were recorded in unquarried parts of the site. Features and finds from the Bronze Age, late Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods have been recorded in numerous interventions in the vicinity (SUY 014, SUY 028 and SUY 047). A summary of a search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) within the vicinity of the development area is contained in Table 1 below, and their locations are recorded on Figure 2. In the late 19th century the development area contained buildings of unknown function (Fig. 3).

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Figure 1. Site location

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
SUY 004	Documentary ref.	Building	Medieval	St Gregory's College, 14th to 16th century. Site reused as the Workhouse then the Walnut Tree Hospital
SUY 005	Documentary ref.	Priory	Medieval	Site of medieval Dominican Friary, destroyed in the 16th century
SUY 011	Findspot	Pottery	Medieval	Pottery found during construction work to the rear of Lloyd's bank
SUY 014	Excavation	Features	Iron Age; Anglo-Saxon; medieval	Iron Age gully and hollow associated with pottery. Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery retrieved
SUY 015	Excavation	Pottery	Medieval	11th to 12th century pottery found in 1977 excavation
SUY 016	Excavation	Pottery	Medieval	12th century pottery found in 1977 excavation
SUY 017	Excavation	Features	Undated	Pit and ditch date unknown
SUY 018	Monitoring	Pottery	Medieval	Pottery recovered from foundation trench
SUY 019	Excavation	Pits etc.	Post-medieval	Two pits (17th and 19th century)
SUY 020	Excavation	Pottery	?prehistoric	One sherd recovered from buried soil on Walnut Tree Hospital site
SUY 024	Unknown	Defensive feature	Undated	Possible location of town defences
SUY 025	Monitoring	Layers	Medieval; post-medieval	Non-diagnostic layers recorded
SUY 026	Reference	Building	Medieval	Location of Chapel of Holy Sepulchre found in 1826 during building work
SUY 027	Monitoring	Pits	Medieval	12 to 13th century pottery recovered and pits noted
SUY 028	Excavation	Settlement	Bronze Age; Iron Age to Romano-British; Anglo-Saxon; medieval	Bronze Age pits with grooved ware and beaker ware pottery Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosure and pits Late Anglo-Saxon pits with Thetford ware and St Neots ware pottery Medieval pits and property boundary on same alignment as late Iron Age ditch
SUY 029	Excavation	Pits etc.	Iron Age; Romano-British; Anglo-Saxon; post-medieval	Multi-period artefacts recovered from backfill of 19th century quarry pits. Small area of Anglo-Saxon features survived
SUY 030	Findspot	Pottery	Medieval	Thetford ware and medieval pottery recovered by builders
SUY 032	Building	Church	Medieval	Church of St Gregory. 14th century building on site of earlier Anglo-Saxon and medieval church
SUY 034	Excavation	Flint	Undated	Three worked flints found in excavation
SUY 040	Documentary ref.	Town	Medieval	Area of the medieval town. Urban from late Anglo-Saxon period. Located between mill stream and defensive ditch below current main road
SUY 043	Documentary ref.	Building	Post-medieval	Watermill on site of medieval mill, now a hotel
SUY 044	Monitoring	Pits	Medieval	Five medieval pot sherds recovered during construction
SUY 046	Excavation	Pit	Anglo-Saxon	Late Anglo-Saxon pit in area disturbed by 18th and 19th century quarrying
SUY 047	Monitoring	Pits	Iron Age; medieval	Two Iron Age pits and a series of late medieval pits seen in foundation trenches
SUY 049	Findspot	Coins	Romano-British	Seven late 3rd to 4th century coins found in a back garden
SUY 051	Reference	Building	Post-medieval	16th century Moot hall, demolished 1844
SUY 052	Monitoring	Pits	Undated	Two undated pits recorded on a truncated site
SUY 058	Evaluation	Ditch	Anglo-Saxon	13m by 3.4m deep defensive ditch. Medieval pottery in upper fill
SUY 062	Monitoring	Feature	Undated	Pit recorded in Market Hill
SUY 063	Monitoring	Features	Undated	Features possibly associated with town defensive ditch
SUY 064	Monitoring	Well	Medieval; post-medieval	Late medieval or post-medieval well constructed in built up ground

Table 1. HER references in the vicinity of the development area

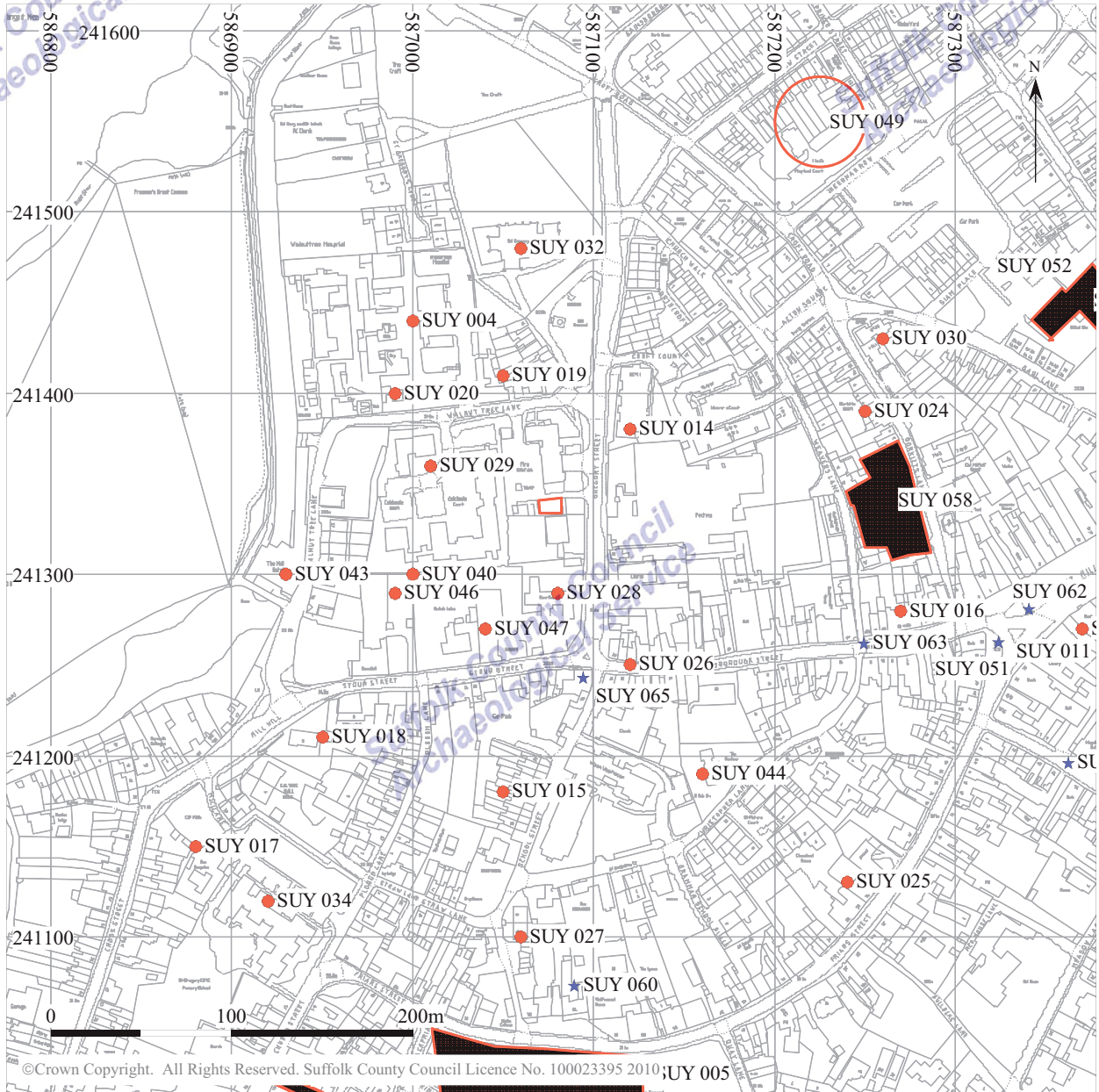


Figure 2. HER references in the vicinity of the development area

4. Methodology

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This required the excavation of an 8m evaluation trench along the main axis of the building. The trench was set out by tape and located using differential GPS (Leica

1200). The trench measured 13.68m² covering 14.2 % of the 96.33m² development area (Fig. 3).

The trench was excavated using a 7 tonne 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. This followed the breaking up of the tarmac surface over the trench using the breaker fitted to the excavator. The recording was carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines, all records were created using SCCAS proformas and high resolution (7 megapixel) digital images were taken of all features and trenches. All finds were retained for inspection, and no environmental samples were taken.

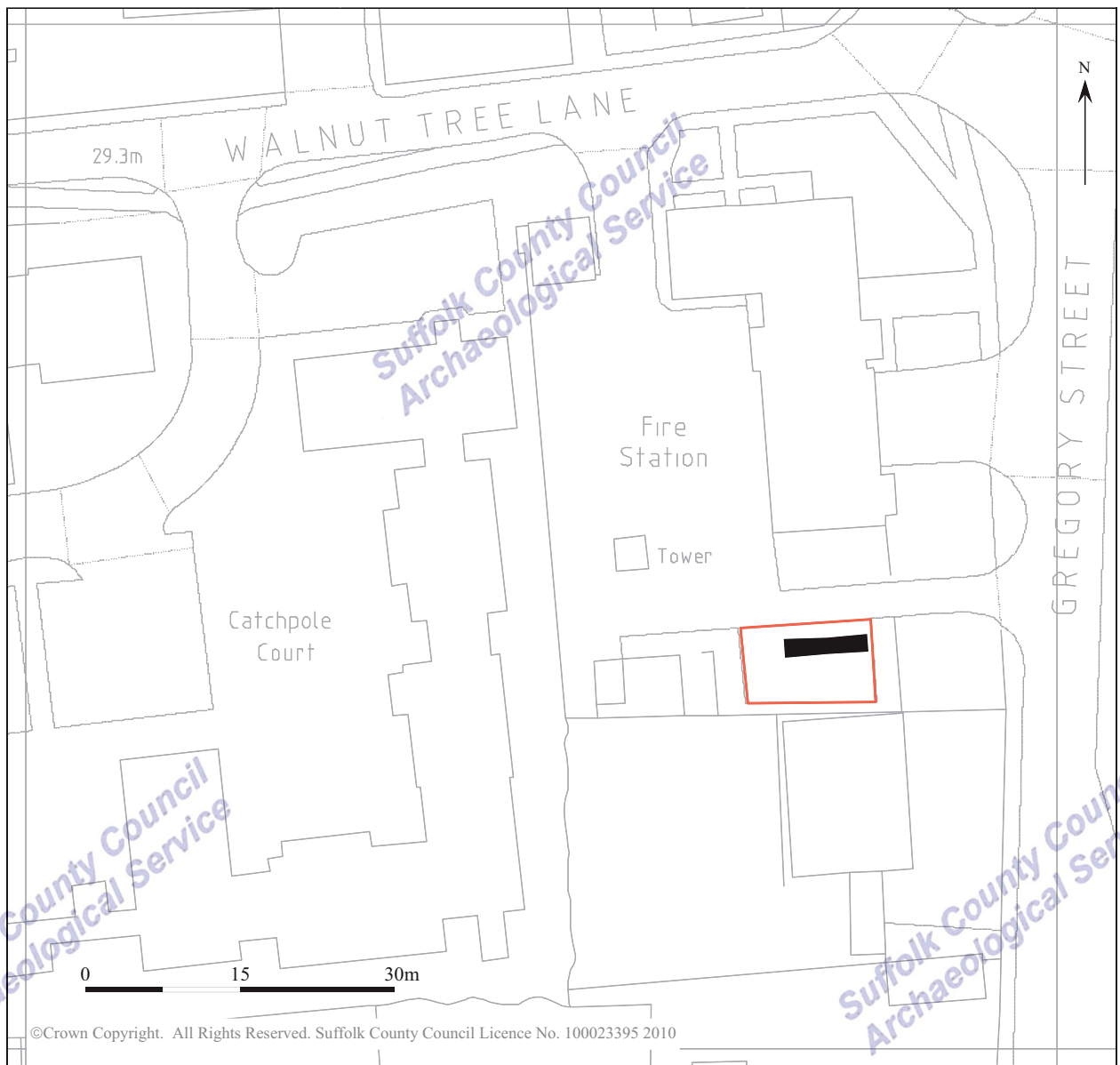


Figure 3. Location of trench (black) within development area (red)

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The trench was oriented east to west and measured 7.2m in length and 1.8m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m. The natural geological horizon was not encountered within the trench, and excavation stopped due to the instability of the unconsolidated deposits. A sequence of layers and cut features was recorded. These are described below in stratigraphic sequence.

5.2 Trench 1

Layer 0006 was the earliest deposit encountered (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was recorded in the western half of the trench only. It was friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with some clay content with rare gravel and rare chalk fleck inclusions, measuring 0.12m+ in depth. It was either an accumulated layer or the fill of a very large cut feature. It contained significantly less domestic debris than the overlying layers with two 16th to 18th century pottery sherds and four ceramic building material fragments recovered. A steel girder frame (Fig. 4) measuring 1.7m+ in length by 1.5m in width and 0.10m in height was recorded lying on this layer. It was not set within a cut, but had been compressed into the layer.

Layer 0009 was recorded in the south-west corner of the trench above layer 0006 (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was very dark grey loose silty sand with abundant gravel, abundant ash, abundant clinker and abundant small glass fragments included within it. It measured 0.32m at its deepest and lensed out to the east. A single sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from the base of the deposit. It was sealed by layer 0005.

Layer 0005 was recorded across the length of the trench and sealed layer 0009 and the steel frame (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was 0.70m at its deepest and was friable mid grey brown clay silt with some sand. It contained frequent small chalk fragments, frequent small rounded flint pebbles and moderate ceramic building material flecks. A sherd of 16th to 18th century pottery and a tile fragment were recovered from the deposit. It was either an accumulated layer or a fill of a large cut feature. It was below layer 0004 and cut by pit 0014.

Layer 0004 extended from the east side of the trench for 6m before petering out (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was friable mid to dark brownish grey clay silt approximately 0.20m in depth. It contained moderate quantities of ceramic building material fragments, moderate glass fragments, moderate small rounded flint pebbles and moderate chalk flecks. It had a fairly high humic content and was similar to underlying layer 0004 but darker in hue. It was either an accumulated layer or the fill of a large cut feature, a stocking was observed in the deposit. The layer was cut by pit 0008.

Pit 0008 was located in the eastern half of the trench (Fig. 4, Section 1). It extended across the width of the trench and was 3.1m in length and greater than 0.68m in depth. It had near vertical sides but the base was not seen within the trench. The pit was cut down to the level of the steel girder frame but was slightly offset from it. The fill of the pit 0007 was very dark brownish grey loose clay silt containing frequent amounts of rubble, iron debris, ceramic building material fragments and moderate amounts of whole glass bottles (wine and milk). The pottery recovered from the pit dated to the 19th century or later. This fill was sealed by layer 0010.

Deposit 0015 was recorded in the base of the trench within the steel girder frame (Fig. 4). It was very similar to fill 0007 and is likely to have been the same deposit in the base of the pit above the frame.

Layer 0010 sealed pit 0008, and was recorded as extending for 4.5m from the east end of the trench before petering out to the west (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was a firmly compacted layer of very dark brownish grey silty clay containing frequent small sub-rounded flint fragments, abundant ceramic building material fragments and flecks, frequent small glass fragments, a milk bottle and a plastic button measuring 0.06m at its deepest. This layer was cut by pit 0012 and may have been cut by pit 0014 but the relationship between these two had been removed by the later pit.

Pit 0014 was located at the west end of the trench (Fig. 4). It was probably sub-rectangular in plan, oriented north to south with a near vertical side to the west, and the east side was entirely truncated by the recut pit 0012. It measured 1.6m+ in length, 0.5m+ in width and 0.3m+ in depth. The single fill of the pit 0013 was friable dark greyish brown clay silt containing moderate quantities of small rounded flint pebbles.

The pit was probably cut through layer 0010 like its replacement pit 0012, however, the level of truncation was such that it was only seen to cut into layer 0005.

Pit 0012 cut layer 0010 and truncated pit 0014 (Plate 1, Fig. 4). It was sub-rectangular in plan, oriented north to south and measured 1.75m+ in length, 1m in width and 0.8m+ in depth. To the south the pit terminated 0.05m from the trench baulk and thus was not recorded in Section 1. The pit had near vertical sides but the base was not seen. The single fill 0011 was loose dark brownish grey clay silt mottled with yellow clay. It contained frequent small angular flint fragments, moderate quantities of large coal lumps and frequent charcoal flecks. Large pieces of ironwork and steel fragments were noted in the fill. Four sherds of 19th century or later pottery were retrieved from the fill. A large slightly corroded spanner was noted in the fill but not collected. The pit was sealed by layer 0003.

Layer 0003 was recorded across the full extent of the trench and measured 0.20m in depth (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was compacted mid orangey yellow clay becoming yellowish brown in colour towards the west. It contained moderate ceramic building material fragments and moderate amounts of glass fragments, and a piece of clay pipe was recovered from the layer. It sealed pit 0012 and was in turn sealed by layer 0002.

Layer 0002 was recorded extending across the full extent of the trench and measured 0.1m in depth (Fig. 4, Section 1). It was loose very dark grey silty clay containing frequent brick rubble and moderate flint cobbles. This layer was sealed by layer 0001.

Layer 0001 was stratigraphically latest in the sequence within the trench (Fig. 4, Section 1). It comprised a layer of bright orange gravel substrate 0.12m in depth below a tarmac surface 0.06m in depth. This was the Fire Station yard/carpark surface that formed the present ground level.

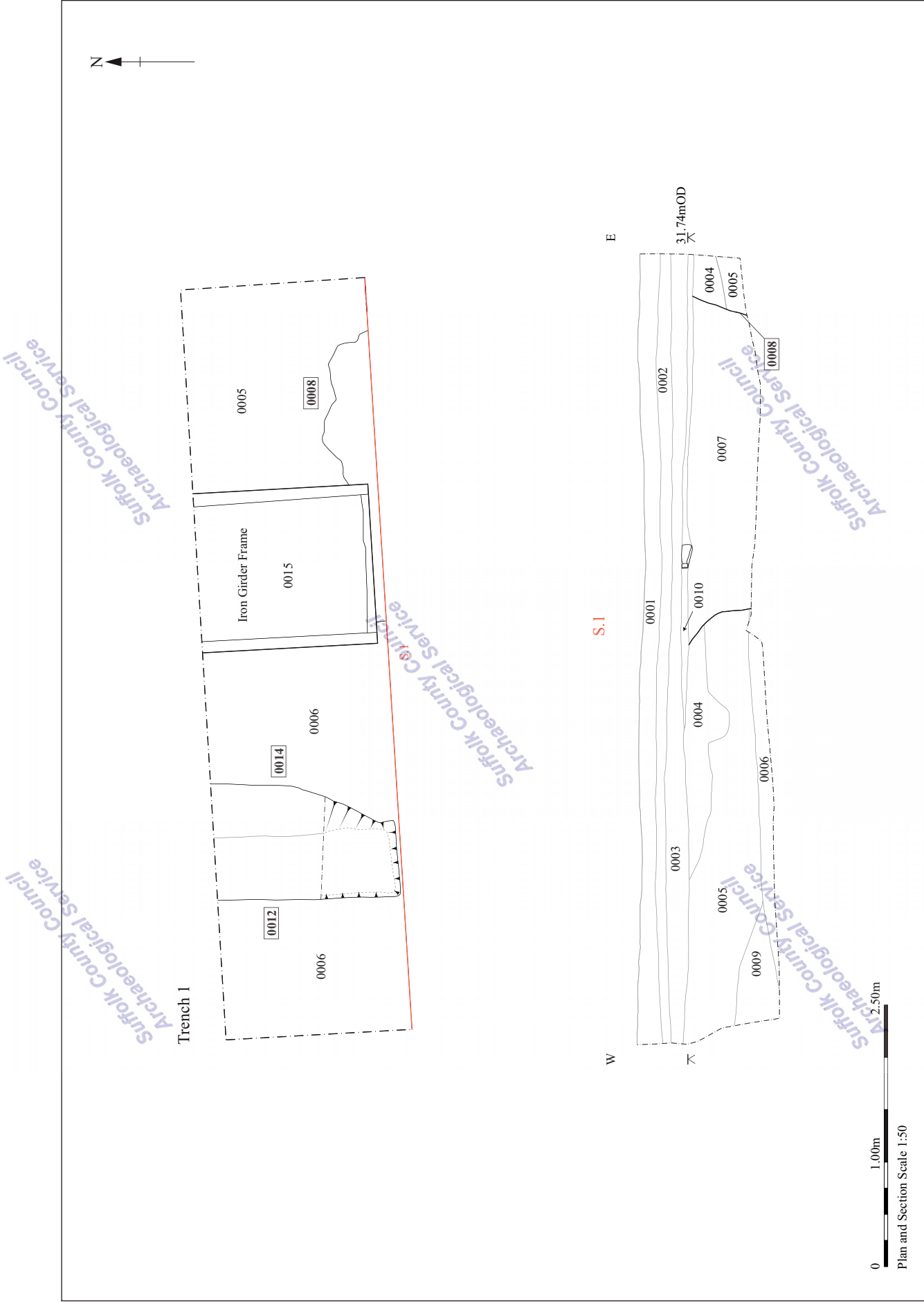


Figure 4. Trench plan and section



Plate 1. Pit 0012 truncating pit 0014, looking south, scale 1m

6. Finds and environmental evidence

6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		CBM		Clay pipe		Shell		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0003					1	8				19th C
0005	1	18	1	27						16th-18th C
0006	2	22	4	111						16th-18th C
0007	18	375			1	3	1	2	1 frag leather, 1 glass @ 2g	19th C+
0009	1	6								19th C
0011	4	38								19th C +
Total	26	459	5	138	2	11	1	2		

Table 2. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

A total of 26 fragments of pottery weighing 459kg was recovered from the evaluation. The majority of the assemblage is post-medieval in date, but a single fragment dating to the late medieval and early post-medieval period was identified. The pottery has been fully recorded (Appendix 3).

The earliest fragment of pottery is a sherd of unglazed late medieval and transitional ware (15th-16th C). It is from the base of the vessel and has the remains of a small broken perforation in the base, suggesting that it is likely to be the remains of a horticultural vessel or possibly even a sprinkling pot. Similar more complete horticultural redwares have been recently recovered from the excavations at the Cattle Market in Bury St Edmunds (Goffin 2009).

The rest of the ceramic assemblage dates to the post-medieval period. A fragment of Iron glazed Blackware was found in layer 0005 and a sherd of Glazed red earthenware in layer 0006 both date to the 16th-18th century. The largest quantity of ceramics was recovered from pitfill 0007. The group was made up of small quantities of English stonewares, a late post-medieval earthenware flowerpot base, ironstone china fragments, refined white earthenware and some highly fired porcelaineous sherds, all of which date to the 19th century or later. In addition there was a small quantity of earlier pottery from this context, three sherds of different creamware vessels dating to c1740-1880 and a sherd of Black Basalt stoneware (1770-1900).

A sherd of refined white earthenware was present in the ashy deposit 0009 at the south-west end of the trench dating to the 19th century. English stoneware and late post-medieval earthenwares also dating to the 19th century or later were found in pitfill 0011.

6.3 Ceramic building material

Five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from two contexts (138g). A single fragment of post-medieval roofing tile was found in layer 0005, which is likely to have been reused in some capacity, as it has mortar over broken edges. Four fragments from layer 0006 include two roof tile fragments made in post-medieval fabrics but also two small slivers of ceramic building material which are made in finer fabrics with red clay pellet inclusions which date to the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

6.4 Clay tobacco pipe

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were collected (11g). A highly decorated bowl fragment was found in levelling layer 0003 dating to the 19th century. The briar-shaped bowl has a fluted spur with two initials, an E and a C or G? It is rusticated on the lower half and has a repeating design of Masonic symbols on the upper part of the bowl (Kieron Heard, pers. Comm.). Further research would be needed to find some parallels on the details of the decoration and also where the pipe was produced. A fragment of pipe stem was present in 0007.

6.5 Miscellaneous

A small fragment from the base of a blue glass vessel in pitfill 0007 dates to the late post-medieval period. In addition a circular piece of leather from the same feature, with crimped edging and two slits cut from the outer edge, of unknown function is likely also to date to the 19th century or later.

6.6 Shell

A single fragment of mussel shell was collected from pitfill 0007.

6.7 Finds discussion

The earliest finds recovered from the evaluation date to the late medieval/early post-medieval periods, but they are residual elements in a finds group which is predominantly later post-medieval in date, which comes from one of a series of

accumulation layers, or deposits within a very large feature. There is no artefactual evidence predating the 15th-16th century in the evaluation assemblage. The sherd from a redware horticultural vessel, although extremely fragmentary, is of interest, as these are rare finds before the later part of the post-medieval period.

7. Discussion

All the features and layers encountered within the trench were of post-medieval or modern date. Lower layers 0006, 0009, 0005 and 0004 were either part of a sequence of layers that accumulated during the use of the area in the late post-medieval period or the fills of a large cut feature of unknown dimensions and form. The iron girder frame was tipped in or laid down after layer 0006 was deposited but before layer 0005 was accumulated. They have been interpreted as layers because they were generally horizontal. Although layers 0006 and 0005 contained 16th to 18th century pottery, layer 0009 between them contained a much later sherd of 19th century origin suggesting that the earlier material was residual and had been redeposited at the earliest in the 19th century.

Pit 0008 cut through the upper layer in the sequence 0004. Its original function is uncertain but it was backfilled with mid 20th century domestic debris associated with 19th to 20th century pottery.

Layer 0010 accumulated above the backfilled pit and extended beyond its limits. It also contained significant quantities of similarly dated domestic debris.

Pit 0012 was constructed after the deposition of this layer (0010). It is likely that its precursor pit 0014 originally cut through this layer but the relationship between the two does not survive. It contained 19th or 20th century debris.

This pit was sealed by a sequence of three layers; layer 0003 was a very compacted clay layer that had the appearance of a levelling layer presumably deposited to seal and level the uneven ground below. This was sealed by a rubble layer 0002 that appeared to derive from demolition debris. It was in turn sealed by the yard/carpark surface 0001 associated with the Fire Station.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The earliest pottery recovered from the excavated sequence was 16th to 18th century in date, however, these sherds are likely to be redeposited within 19th or 20th century contexts. The finds assemblage and the section suggests either that there was a late post-medieval build-up of layers of great depth within this area or that there was a very large and very deep late post-medieval cut feature in this location. This was in turn cut into by three modern pits that were backfilled with domestic refuse. These were then sealed by levelling layers and modern yard/carpark surfacing.

The presence of extensive 19th century quarry pits to the west of the site (SUY 029) might have extended into this area and the evaluated area may have coincided with a large quarry pit. If any pre post-medieval features were present in this area they would be either at a depth of greater than 1.3m below modern ground level or would have been entirely removed by the later activity.

The foundations for the proposed new smoke training building are designed to be no more than 1m in depth and as such no medieval or earlier features or deposits are likely to be disturbed by this development. Therefore no further work is recommended.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich MSworks3:\Rod\Project Management\Costings\2009_10\Sudbury\Fire Station Smoke House

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish box H/81/3

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Liz and Mo Muldowney from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney, and managed by Rod Gardner.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathon van Jennians, digitizing was carried out by Gemma Adams, illustrations were produced by Crane Begg, and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Goffin, R., in Gill, D., 2009, Site of the Former Cattle Market, Bury St Edmunds BSE 252, Archaeological Excavation Report, SCCAS Report No. 2009/129

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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

SUDBURY FIRE STATION, GREGORY STREET, SUDBURY

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.8 & 1.9.

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 has been granted for the construction of a new Smoke Training Building at Sudbury Fire Station, Gregory Street, Sudbury (B/06/01909)
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition 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 within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan and there is a high probability that the development will damage or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 Excavations in 1990 to the west of the site, prior to the construction of Catchpole Court, revealed a large post medieval quarry which had removed all the archaeological deposits except in the south-west corner where Anglo-Saxon occupation features survived.

Excavations to the south at Stour House and Hardwick House have revealed a complex of Iron Age and medieval occupation.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 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.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4. **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the building footprint and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. A single linear trench 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.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 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).
- 4.10 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.*
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.

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

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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 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.

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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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. 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 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.
- 6.8 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.

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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: Keith Wade

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Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 1 September 2009

Reference: /Sudbury Fire Station

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.

Appendix 2. Context information

Context of	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description		Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0001			Layer	Surface (external)					0.18	Tarmac and orange gravel substrate forming fire station yard surface
0002			Layer	Levelling layer	Very dark grey	Loose	Silty clay		0.10	Frequent brick rubble; moderate flint cobbles
0003			Layer	Levelling layer	Mid orangey yellow (becoming yellowy brown)	Compact	Clay		0.20	Moderate ceramic building material fragments; moderate glass fragments
0004			Layer	Accumulation	Mid to dark brownish grey	Friable	Clay silt		0.20	Moderate ceramic building material fragments; moderate glass fragments; moderate small rounded flint pebbles; moderate chalk flecks
0005			Layer	Accumulation	Mid grey brown	Friable	Clay silt (some sand)		0.70	Frequent small chalk fragments; frequent small rounded flint pebbles; moderate ceramic building material flecks
0006			Layer	Accumulation	Mid greyish brown	Friable	Sandy silt (10% clay)		0.12+	Rare gravel; rare chalk flecks
0007	0008		Fill	Pit	Very dark brownish grey	Loose	Clay silt		0.68	Frequent rubble; frequent iron debris; moderate glass bottles (wine and milk); frequent ceramic building material fragments
0008		0007	Cut	Pit	Unknown shape	Very steep	Base not seen		0.68+	Large pit. Extends beyond the trench to the north and

0009	Layer	Accumulation	Very dark grey	Loose	Silty sand	0.32	Abundant gravel; abundant ash; abundant clinker; abundant small glass fragments	0.32	south. Cuts over the top of the collapsed iron girder frame. Some of the fill within the frame 0015 likely to be in base of pit Ashy, clinkery deposit at south-west end of trench only. Tipping in from the south-west side. Could be a fill of a large cut feature Very thin layer full of small fragments of refuse. Lenses out to the west. Seals relatively recent pit 0008.
0010	Layer	Accumulation	Very dark brownish grey	Firm	Silty clay	0.06	Frequent small sub-rounded flint fragments; abundant ceramic building material fragments and flecks; frequent small glass fragments; a milk bottle; a plastic button	0.06	Fill of a large pit. Contains large pieces of iron bedstead (?), steel fragments. Very recent. Contained coal, modern pottery and a large spanner (not collected). Fill peeled away loosely from edge of pit. Pit appears to be a recut of similar pit 0014. Possible refuse pit. Fill of truncated pit 0014 Pit, replaced by pit 0012. Upper sides almost entirely truncated. Might have been cut from same level as pit 0012 but can't tell now. It was later than layer 0005. This material was within the steel girder frame. However, this could be the base of pit 0008 and therefore same as 0007
0011	Fill	Pit	Dark brown grey (mottled with yellow)	Loose	Clay silt	0.80+	Frequent small angular flint fragments; moderate large coal lumps; frequent charcoal flecks	0.80+	
0012	Cut	Pit	Sub-rectangular	North to south	Near vertical sides	1.0	Base not seen	1.8+	
0013	Fill	Pit	Dark greyish brown	Friable	Clay silt	0.30+	Moderate small rounded flint pebbles	0.30+	
0014	Cut	Pit	Sub-rectangular	North to south	Near vertical sided to west, east side	0.5+	Base not seen	1.6+	
0015	Layer	Dump	Dark greyish brown	Loose	truncated Silty clay		Frequent domestic refuse (organics; bed springs; glass; bottles; china; ornaments; ceramic		

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building material;
ironwork)

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Appendix 3. Pottery catalogue

Context	Ceramic	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0005	PM	IGBW	BODY		1	18		16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0006	PM	GRE	BODY		1	4		16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0006	LM	LMTE?	BASE		1	18	Base, abraded, with perforation, poss sprinkling pot or garden pot	15th-16th C	
0007	PM	LPME	FLOP		1	83	Flower pot with hole in base	18th-19th C+	
0007	PM	ENGs	BOTT		1	15	Body sherd from bottle	19th C+	19th C+
0007	PM	BLSW	BODY		1	2		1770-1900	
0007	PM	CREA	PLATE		1	4	Green rim	1740-1880	
0007	PM	CREA	BODY		1	6	Annular	1740-1880	
0007	PM	ENGs	BODY		1	7	Moulded fragment of marmalade jar or similar	19th C+	
0007	PM	IRST	BODY		5	85	Includes several vessels, one of which has footring base	19th C+	
0007	PM	CREA	BODY		1	2		1740-1880	
0007	PM	REFW	BODY	BW	2	43		19th C+	
0007	PM	PORC	VASE?		2	96	Plain white	19th C+	
0007	PM	PORC	BODY		1	27	Plain white	19th C+	
0007	PM	REFW	BODY		1	2	Blue fabric and glaze	19th C	19th C+
0009	PM	REFW	BODY	BW	1	6	Blue and white sponged	19th C+	19th C+
0011	PM	ENGs	BOTT		1	10		19th C+	
0011	PM	LPME	BODY		2	26		18th-20th C	
0011	PM	REFW	MUG?		1	2	Blue-purple sponged decoration	19th C+	19th C