ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/287

Fire Station, Bear Street, Nayland-with-Wissington
NYW 034

HER Information

Planning Application No:	**B/06/01910/CDP**
Date of Fieldwork:	**October 2009**
Grid Reference:	**TL 9712 3433**
Funding Body:	**Suffolk County Council**
Curatorial Officer:	**Will Fletcher**
Project Officer:	**Linzi Everett**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1-73621**

Contents

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to the Fire Station, Bear Street, Nayland. Whist much of the area had been subject to significant damage associated with a recently demolished building, a small area in the south west corner revealed a series of medieval post-holes, likely to be the remnants of a building.

1. Introduction

Planning consent (application B/06/01910/CDP) has been granted by Babergh District Council for the redevelopment of Nayland Fire Station, on Bear Street, Nayland, Suffolk. This development also has a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition, which requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of, or during, the development. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicated that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

2. Geology and topography

The development area lies on the north side of Bear Street on a gentle north to south slope down towards the River Stour. It lies at a height of approximately 15m OD where the geology is deep loam glaciofluvial drift.

3. Archaeological and historical background

This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It is close to and adjacent to a number of listed buildings, and is part of the medieval extension to the core of Nayland, which follows Bear Street out to the west. There is high potential for medieval and possibly earlier occupation deposits to be found at this location.

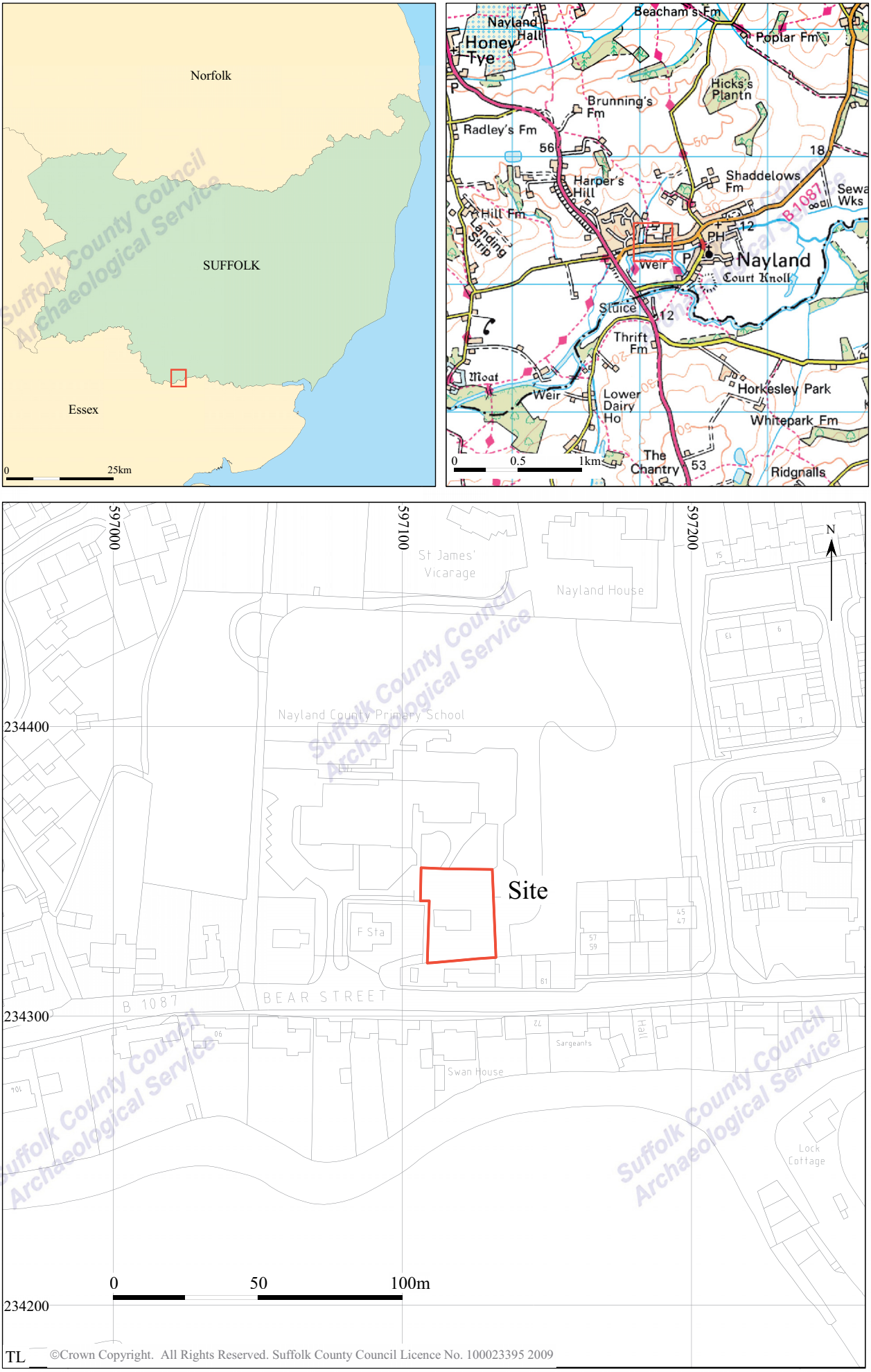

Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

Two monitoring visits were made during October 2009 to monitor the removal of overburden to the required formation levels for the new building. Hand cleaning of the exposed surfaces was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify cut features.

The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code NYW 034. 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. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

5. Results

Between 0.3m and 0.5m of dark brown silty loam topsoil and demolition rubble were stripped from the development area. The majority of the site had been subject to considerable modern damage associated with the buildings which previously occupied the site. In the south west corner of the site, *c.*0.5m of overburden was stripped to reveal an area of approximately 50 square metres of subsoil 0002, into which five post-holes had been cut (Figure 2). These appeared to be closely associated, but formed no obvious ground plan for a building, partial or otherwise. The three post-holes in the south of the stripped area (0003, 0005 and 0007) were oval in plan with rounded profiles and measured approximately 0.45m long, 0.35m -0.5m wide and up to 0.22m deep. The two post-holes to the north (0009 and 0011) were sub-circular with rounded profiles, *c.*0.25m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It is possible that these two features were originally of similar form and dimensions to the larger post-holes but have been truncated as some point. All five post holes were filled by an almost identical matrix, a pale-mid brown sandy silt with frequent roots, regular small flints and pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds were recovered from each of the features, with the exception of 0011.

Deposit 0002 was a pale brown sandy silt, originally believed to be natural subsoil but hand cleaning exposed fragments of peg tile and occasional charcoal flecks. It is

possible that this represents a hillwash layer into which later features have been cut. A large excavation for a soakaway in the north east corner of the site was also monitored. This was cut to a depth of over 2m entirely through natural gravel deposits.

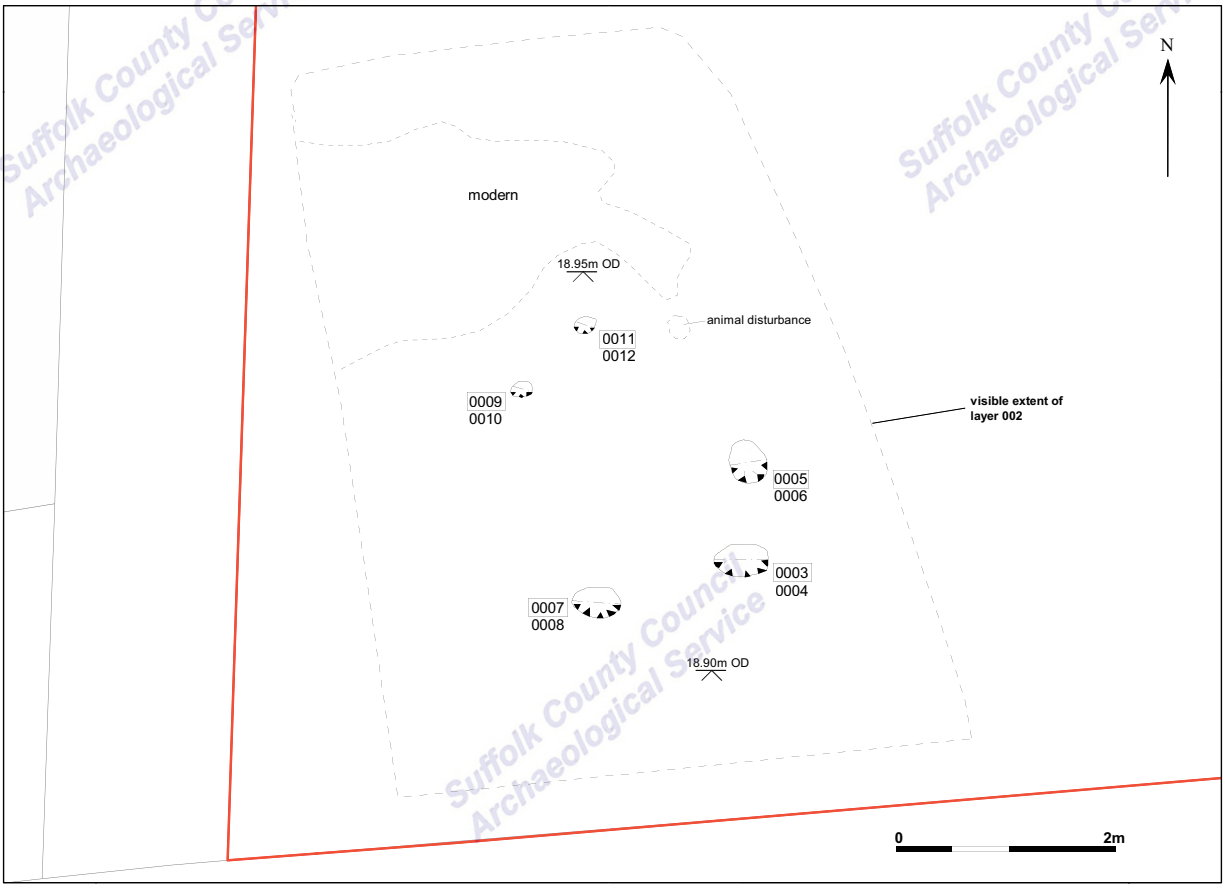

Figure 2. Plan of post-holes within the development area

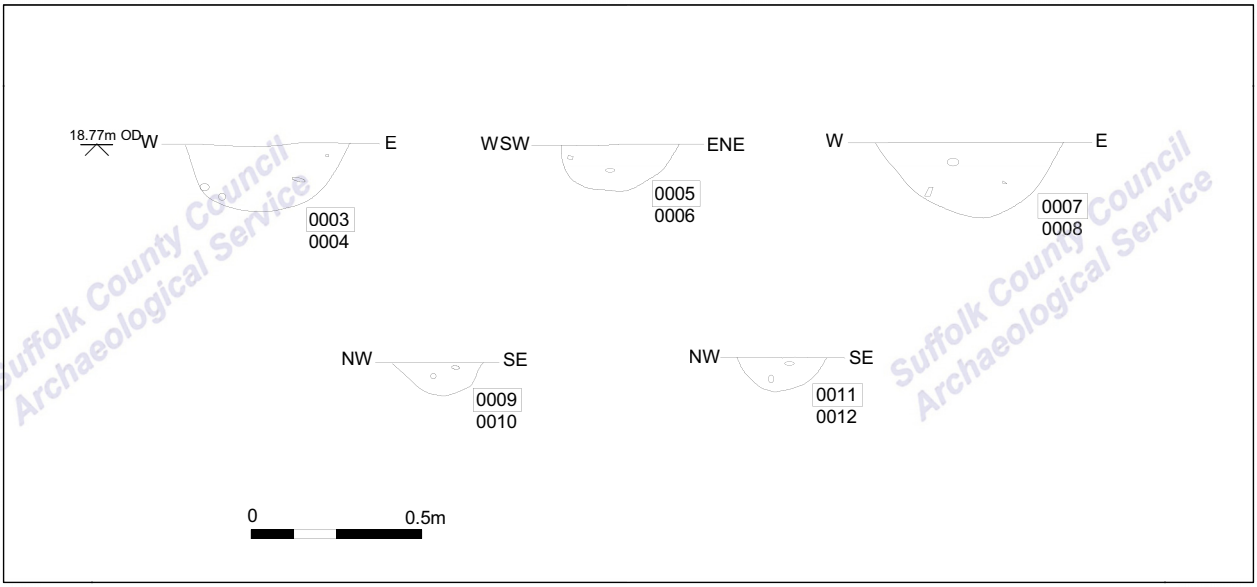

Figure 3. Post-hole sections

6. Finds evidence (Richenda Goffin)

Introduction

Finds were collected from 5 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Flint		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	1	4	5	171	1	16				Med-Late med
0004	1	2							1 Burnt flint @ 4g, 2 iron @ 9g, l charcoal	Medieval
0006							14	24	1 slag @ 32g, 1 iron @ 1g	Undated
0008			2	7					1 iron @ 9g	Late/p med
0010	2	1					2	1		?Medieval
Total	4	7	7	178	1	16	16	25		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

Four fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (0.007kg). A small sherd of a medieval sandy orange ware of probable Essex origin was identified in posthole fill 0004, and a fragment of a wheelthrown micaceous redware dating to the 14th-15th century was present in layer 0002. Two very small body sherds from the fill of posthole 0010 are likely to be medieval coarsewares (L12th-14th C).

Ceramic building material

Seven fragments of ceramic building material were collected (0.178kg). Four fragments of roofing tile made in a coarse sandy fabric (cs) with a reduced core date to the high or late medieval period. A further fragment from this context may also be of this date. Two small chips from posthole fill 0008 are made in a fine sandy fabric with clay pellet inclusions dating to the late or post-medieval periods.

Metalwork

Four iron fragments were collected in total, none of which were allocated small find numbers. Two circular ferrous objects were present in posthole fill 0004, and another fragment, probably part of the shank of a nail was found in the fill of posthole 0006. A circular iron fragment with a diameter of 28mm from posthole fill 0008 is likely to be a nail head or stud.

Flint (identification by Colin Pendleton)

A single fragment from layer 0002 is an unpatinated core rejuvenation flake, which has been reutilised with limited edge retouch. It is possibly Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

Burnt flint

A fragment of burnt flint was recovered from posthole fill 0004.

Miscellaneous

A single fragment of slag was recovered from posthole fill 0006.

Animal bone

Fourteen fragments of animal bone were collected from the monitoring (0.025kg). These are mainly small splinters from the shaft of a bone from an unidentified animal in the fill of posthole 0006.

7. Discussion

Small quantities of medieval and late medieval finds were recovered from the features identified in the south-west corner of the site. It is possible that these post-holes are structural remains associated with medieval roadside occupation but no obvious building ground plan survives. The site has been subject to significant recent disturbance which may have destroyed any shallower deposits present. As such, the features recorded here could represent only bases of the deepest post-holes within a more extensive building structure. The two northernmost post-holes are smaller and shallower than the others which may suggest they had been truncated, perhaps in the process of levelling the slight north to south slope that the site occupies during a previous development.

Appendix I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

NAYLAND FIRE STATION, BEAR STREET, NAYLAND, SUFFOLK

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications.

1. **Background**

1.1 Planning consent (application B/06/01910/CDP) has been granted by Babergh District Council for the redevelopment of Nayland Fire Station, on Bear Street, Nayland, Suffolk. This development also has a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition, which requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of, or during the development. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 The site is situated close to and adjacent to a number of listed buildings, and is part of the medieval extension to the core of Nayland, which follows Bear Street out to the west. There is therefore, a high potential for medieval occupation deposits to be found at this location, that predates existing buildings, and for these deposits to be disturbed by the development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.3 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 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 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.

1.4 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liase with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.5 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 SCCAS/CT before execution.

1.6 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

1.8 Any changes to the specification that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT for approval.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits that are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval occupation remains on the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is firstly, during the removal of existing buildings and preparation of the ground for new construction. Secondly, disturbance is likely during the construction of new buildings and other structures relating to the new Fire Station at this location. This may Include for example, excavation of the footing trenches, and trenches for drains, cabling and other services.

2.4 These activities and the subsequent upcast soils are to be closely monitored during and after the building contractor has excavated them. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT - see 1.3 above.

3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. **Specification**

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.6 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. 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, P L and Wiltshire, P E J 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (*MAP2*), particularly Appendix 3.This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event 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.

5.3 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 SMR 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

5.4 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.5 An unbound copy of the 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.

5.6 Following acceptance, two copies of the evaluation report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT and also a single hard copy to the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments. A single hard copy should be presented to the county SMR as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.7 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

5.8 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 Sites and Monuments Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.9 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.

5.10 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: William Fletcher

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel.: 01284 352199
E-mail: william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 15th August 2007 Reference: /FireStation_Bear Street, Nayland2007

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.

Appendix II

CONTEXT	FEATURE	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER	FINDSYN
0001		Deposit	Dark brown silty loam topsoil and unstratified finds					Y
0002		Deposit	Layer in SW corner of site consisting of pale brown sandy silt with regular stones, occasional tile frags and charcoal flecks. Hillwash/subsoil layer			0003, 0005, 0007, 0009, 0011	0001	Y
0003	0003	Post hole cut	Small, sub-circular post hole, steep sided, gradual break of slope to flattish base. 0.48m diameter, 0.2m deep	0002				
0004	0003	Post hole fill	Pale-mid brown sandy silt with frequent roots, reg small flints and pebbles, occ charcoal flecks					Y
0005	0005	Post hole cut	Small, oval post hole, open 'U' shaped profile. 0.34m wide, 0.14m deep.	0002				
0006	0005	Post hole fill	Pale-mid brown sandy silt with frequent roots, reg small flints and pebbles, occ charcoal flecks					Y
0007	0007	Post hole cut	Small, sub-circular post hole, steep sided, gradual break of slope to concave base. 0.54m diameter, 0.22m deep	0002				
0008	0007	Post hole fill	Pale-mid brown sandy silt with frequent roots, reg small flints and pebbles, occ charcoal flecks					Y
0009	0009	Post hole cut	Small, circular post hole, steep sided, gradual break of slope to rounded base. 0.26m diameter, 0.09m deep	0002				
0010	0009	Post hole fill	Pale brown sandy silt with frequent roots, reg small flints and pebbles, occ charcoal flecks					Y
0011	0011	Post hole cut	Small, circular post hole, steep sided, gradual break of slope to rounded base. 0.26m diameter, 0.1m deep	0002				
0012	0011	Post hole fill	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent roots, reg small flints and pebbles, occ charcoal flecks					N