

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/050

**Egg production building, Worlingworth Hall
WGW 026**

HER Information

Planning Application:	MS/2390/09
Date of Fieldwork:	23rd February 2010
Grid Reference:	TM 4348 6904
Funding Body:	C. E. J. & L. C. Wells
Curatorial Officer:	Edward Martin
Project Officer:	Linzi Everett
OASIS ID:	suffolkc1- 74382

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Worlingworth Hall, (TM 4348 6904; WGW 026) in advance of a proposal to build a new egg production unit. Pottery mainly dating from the Roman period was recovered from the ploughed field surface, and is likely to have originated from a Roman site in the field north of Worlingworth Hall. A single ditch was identified as a former boundary visible on the 1945 aerial photograph and thus backfilled after this date.

1. Introduction

A planning application was made for a new egg production building at Worlingworth Hall, Worlingworth. The site is centred on approximately TM 4348 6904 and comprises a total of approximately 3300 square metres.

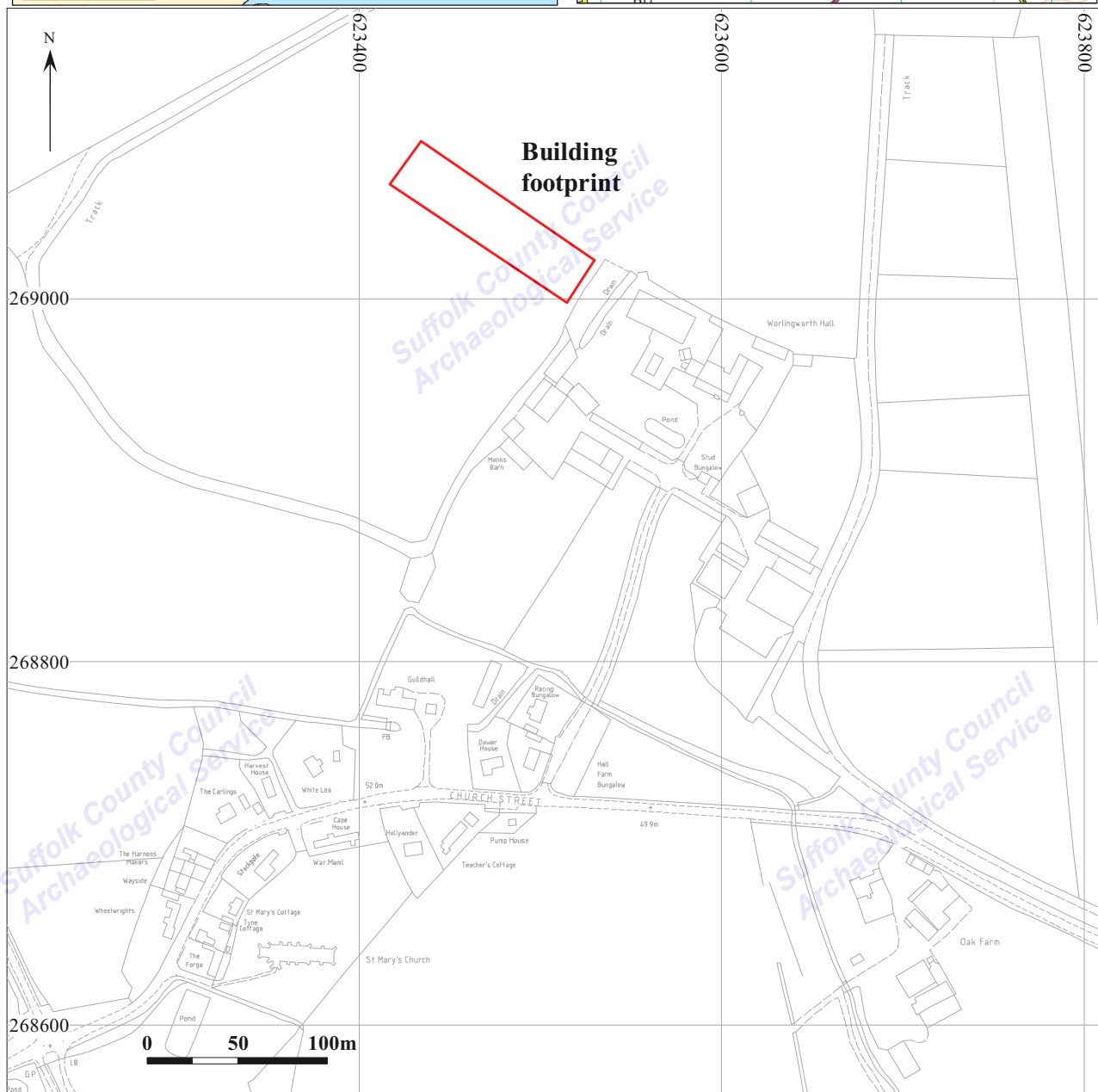
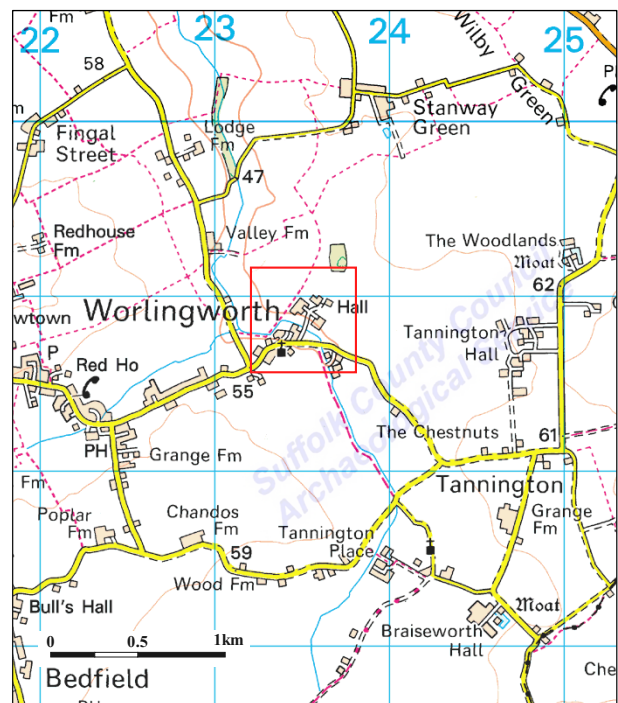
The site is in an area recognised as being of high archaeological importance as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was an initial requirement for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench, as outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Edward Martin of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team (Appendix II). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work which was funded by C. E. J. & L. C. Wells.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on the eastern edge of Worlingworth parish at approximately 55m OD, on a gentle north east to south west slope. The soils are deep clays derived from the underlying chalky till.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The high archaeological potential for the site was based predominantly on its location adjacent to the medieval moated site of Worlingworth Hall (WGW 011). It was felt that the location had good potential for evidence of medieval or earlier activity to be present which could be damaged by the proposed ground disturbance.



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Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on 23rd February 2010. The trench were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist, using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, removing overburden until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the exposed surfaces was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify cut features. Both the exposed trench surfaces and upcast spoil were examined visually for artefactual evidence, and subject to a metal detector survey.

Identified contexts were allocated numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the HER code WGW 026 (Appendix I). Context information was recorded on SCCAS 'pro-forma' recording sheets.

A photographic record, both monochrome prints and digital shots, was made throughout. The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

5. Results

A single 98m long trench was opened within the proposed building footprint, the location of which is shown on Figure 2. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.3m, revealing the pale yellowish brown chalky boulder clay natural subsoil.

One feature was observed in the SE end of the trench. 0003 was a NE-SW aligned ditch measuring c.2.25m wide and 0.92m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded 'V' shaped profile (Figure 3). This ditch represents a field boundary which was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1880; Figure 4) and was still visible on aerial photographs from 1945 (Plate 2). Two distinct fills were noted within this ditch, neither of which yielded any finds evidence.

The only finds recovered during the evaluation were collected from the ploughed field surface as the trench was being opened and are therefore unstratified. A metal detector survey of the upcast spoil produced no pre-modern finds.

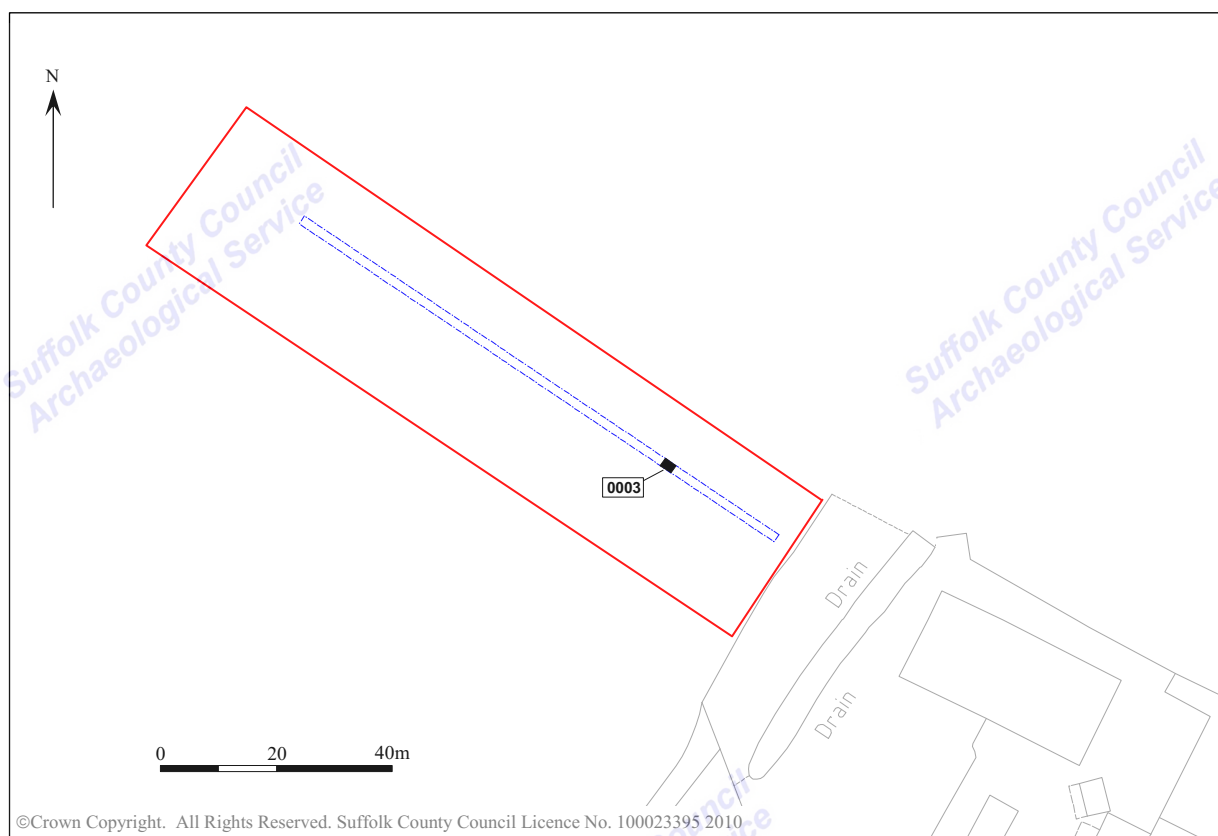


Figure 2. Location of trial trench with ditch 0003 shaded black



Plate 1. View of excavated trench looking NW.

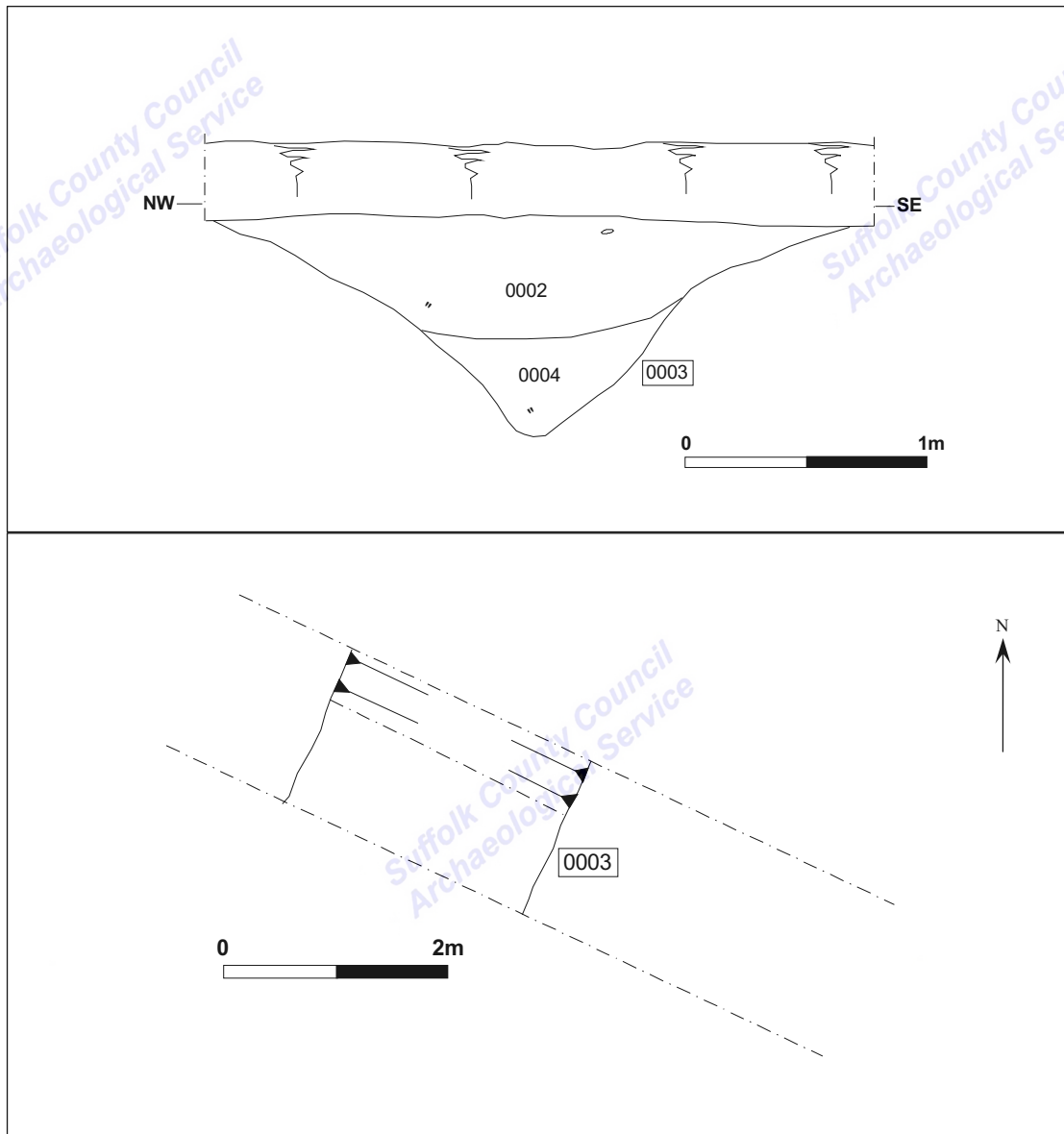


Figure 3. Section through ditch 0003 and plan of trench

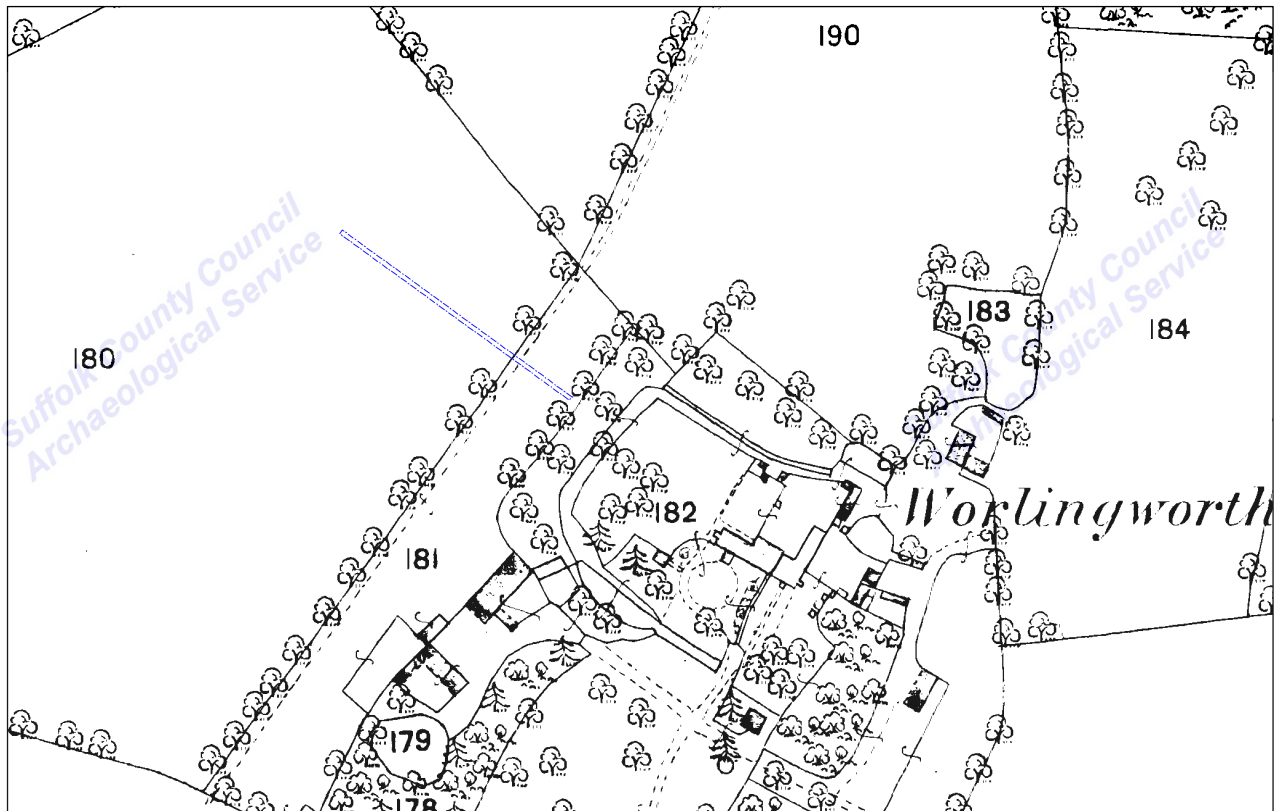


Figure 4. 1st edition (c.1880) Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the trial trench and former field boundary

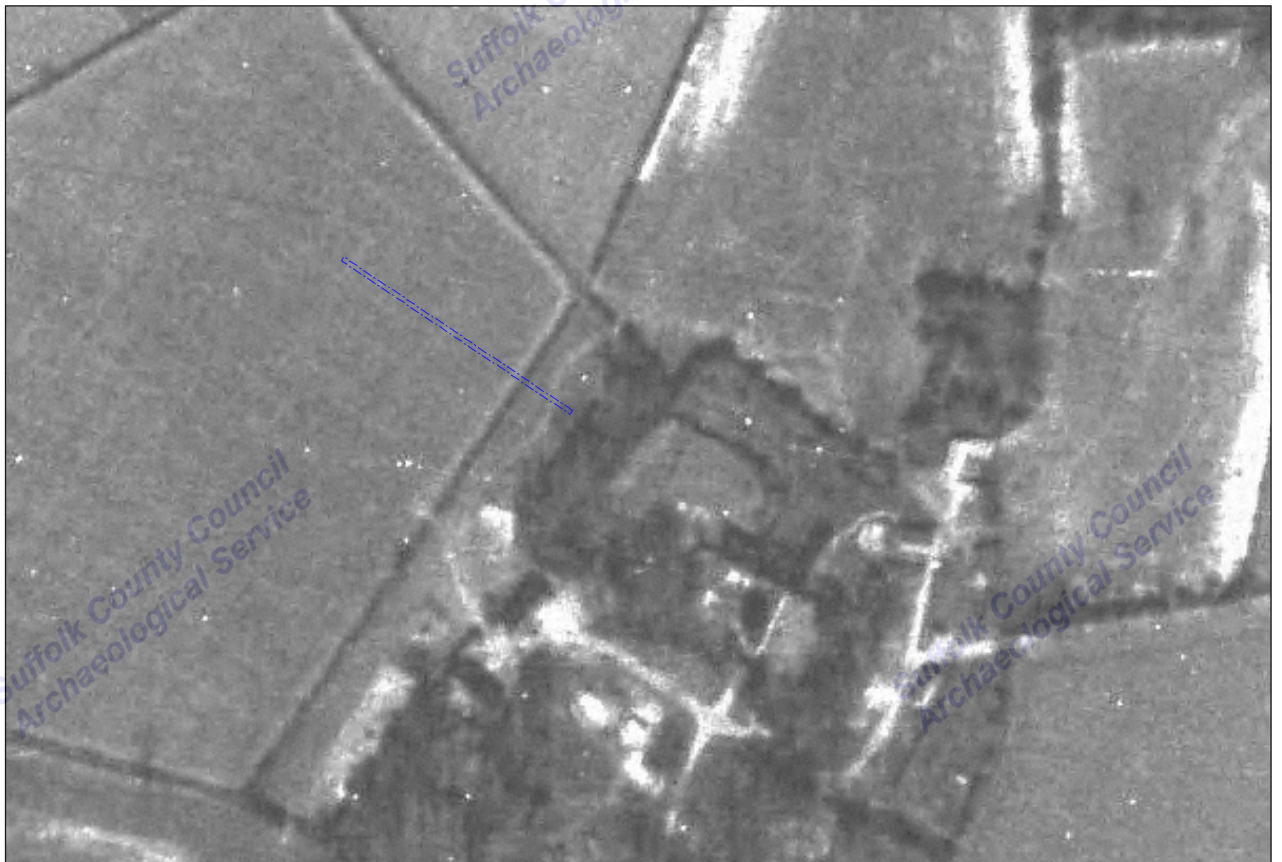


Plate 2. 1945 aerial photograph showing the location of the trial trench and former field boundary

6. Finds evidence (Cathy Tester)

Seven small and abraded sherds of pottery weighing 19g were collected from the topsoil in Trench 1 (0001). The sherds are briefly described in the table below.

Fabric	No	Wt./g	Notes	Date
GMB	1	2	Base sherd	Rom
GMG	1	3	Jar rim (c 140mm dia)	Rom
GX	1	1	Very abraded bodysherd	Rom
GX	1	2	Abraded bodysherd	Rom
GX	1	7	Bodysherd	Rom
HMS	1	1	Bodysherd coarse sand, black surfs and core	NCD
MCW	1	3	Bodysherd v abr	Med
Total	7	19		

Table 1. Pottery descriptions

Three Roman coarseware fabrics were identified including Grey micaceous wares in the black surfaced (GMB) and grey surfaced (GMG) variants and miscellaneous sandy greywares (GX). A single medieval coarseware sherd (MCW) was also found. A very small thin hand-made bodysherd with dark brown/black surfaces and core and made in a coarse sandy fabric (HMS) with larger rounded clear quartz grains is not closely datable (NCD).

7. Discussion and recommendations for further work

Despite the sites potential for evidence of early activity, besides the known field boundary, no archaeological deposits were encountered. It is still possible for isolated features to exist within the building footprint but outside of the trenched area. A small collection of finds retrieved from the topsoil consist of small, abraded sherds, mostly of Roman date. The single medieval sherd may be the result of manuring but the Roman sherds are likely to have originated from a site thought to exist in the field north of Worlingworth Hall, where fieldwalking carried out by an employee of the farm has yielded a significant quantity of Roman artefacts. These are currently with Faye Minter of the Portable Antiquities Scheme for identification.

The evaluation suggests no need for further intensive archaeological work, however, given the presence of Roman pottery in the topsoil and the likely existence of a Roman site within 100m, monitoring of the groundworks associated with the new building may be recommended by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Edward Martin.

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.

Appendix I

CONTEXT	FEATURE	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	OVER	UNDER
0001		Deposit	Topsoil. Dark-mid greyish brown friable clay loam with regular small flints <20mm. Average 0.3m thick throughout trench.	0002	
0002	0003	Ditch fill	Mid brown friable-compact clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and flint pebbles <40mm.	0004	0001
0003		Ditch cut	SW-NE aligned ditch known from map evidence and 1945 AP's. Fairly steep sides, V shaped profile.		
0004	0003	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown compact clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and small flint pebbles <30mm.		0002

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

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

FREE RANGE EGG PRODUCTION BUILDING, WORLINGWORTH HALL, WORLINGWORTH IP13 7NS TM 234 690 (Planning consent 2390/09)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

- 1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
 - 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council (2390/09) for the erection of a free range egg production building, access way and hard standing at Worlingworth Hall.
 - 1.2 This consent is conditional upon the implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place before development begins (Condition 8).
 - 1.3 The development site covers 11ha. and is located on the north and west sides of Worlingworth Hall at c. 55.00m AOD. The soils are deep clays of the Beccles series, derived from the underlying chalky till.
 - 1.4 This is in close proximity to Worlingworth Hall, which is a medieval moated site recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as site WGM 011. In addition, Worlingworth Hall itself is a Grade II* Listed Building (LB no. 281392) with a 13th-century core. There is therefore a high potential for occupation deposits of this period to be disturbed by development. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
 - 1.5 **In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:**
 - **A linear trenched evaluation is required of the footprint of the chicken building. The suggested location of this 103m long building is approximately 100m to the north-west of Worlingworth Hall.**
 - **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
 - 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.**
 - 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence

of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 A single linear trial trench is to be excavated across the length of the proposed building,
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Email: edward.martin@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 11 November 2009

Reference: SpecEv(EM)_WorlingworthHall_2390_09

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.