

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/051

## Ubbeston Lodge, Low Road, Ubbeston UBB 034

**M. Sommers**  
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[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** C/09/0571  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 16th March 2010  
**Grid Reference:** TM 3186 7280  
**Funding Body:** Mr I. Stennet, Allan's Farm  
**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Jess Tipper  
**Project Officer:** M. Sommers  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1- 74419

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





## Contents

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### Summary

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

### Disclaimer

### List of Figures

1. Site location plan	2
2. Location of sites recorded on the County HER	3
3. Trench location plan	4
4. Trench plan	5
5. Ditch 0002, northwest-southeast section	5
6. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1880	6

## List of Tables

Table 1. Location of sites recorded on the County HER	3
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## List of Plates

Plate I. Stratigraphy as revealed in northeast face of the trench (ref. GES 38)	8
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Plate II. Ditch 0002, northwest-southeast section (ref. GES 37)	8
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## List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification	9
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## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the proposed site of Ubbeston Lodge, Low Road, Ubbeston. A single 10m trench was excavated immediately adjacent the footprint of the proposed structure, which revealed a single undated ditch aligned approximately northwest-southeast. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch fill or the upcast spoil from the trench. The natural subsoil consisted of pale orange clay which occurred at a depth of 0.4m. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Mr I. Stennet).

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## 1. Introduction

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It has been proposed to construct a single residential dwelling on land to the north of Allan's Farm, Low Road, Ubbeston, to be known as Ubbeston Lodge. Planning permission was granted (C/09/0571) but with attached conditions, one of which required an agreed programme of archaeological work to be in place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Dr. J. Tipper, of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team, (Appendix 1) was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the proposed development site and to inform any mitigation strategies that may be deemed necessary.

The proposed development site is located in an area of grassland within the dispersed settlement of Ubbseton village. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3186 7280. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Mr I. Stennet.

## 2. Geology and topography

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The site is situated on an area of high ground overlooking the upper reaches of the Blyth valley. The River Blyth, which at this point is a small stream, is located some 180m to the south.

The landscape in this area of the county primarily consists of gentle valleys that cut through the central clay plateau of Suffolk. Most of the soils in these valleys are the better drained and more workable clays of the Hanslope series.

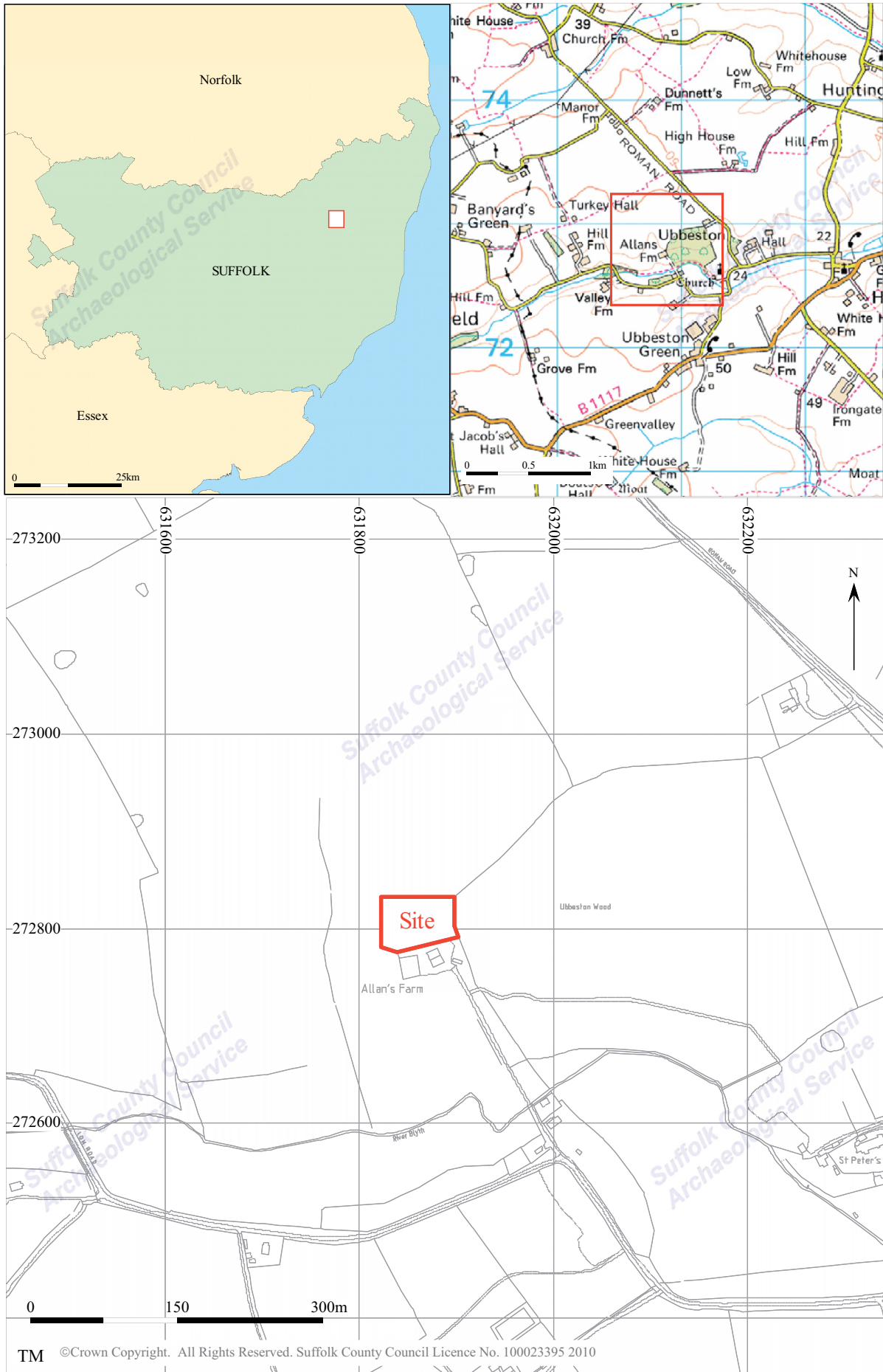


Figure 1. Site location plan

### 3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record within the proposed site but it is situated within an area of archaeological importance recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It is adjacent to scatters of medieval pottery and stray Roman finds (UBB 010, 011 & 020). See Figure 2 and accompanying table for details.



Figure 2. Location of sites recorded on the County HER

UBB 001:	Probable moat site, the north and east sides and the north corner are still visible as hollows in the ploughed field
UBB 008:	Scatter of Neolithic flint flakes
UBB 009:	Scatter of Roman (1st and 2nd century) and medieval pottery
UBB 010:	Scatter of medieval pottery (13th and 14th century)
UBB 011:	Scatter of Roman pottery (includes fragment of 2nd century samian flanged bowl) and medieval pottery
UBB 020:	Scatter of medieval pottery (13th-14th Century), some green glazed with pinched base
UBB 022:	Scatter of Neolithic flint flakes plus two sherds of samian ware
UBB 023:	Medieval Church of St Peter. Saxo-Norman (Romanesque) origins and fabric
UBB 031:	Ubbeston Wood, classified as Ancient Woodlands

Table 1. Sites recorded on the County HER



## 4. Methodology

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The trial trench was machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

The location of the trench was in accordance with a plan approved by the County Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

The machining of the trench was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features or deposits. Any features/deposits noted were sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench locations were plotted and the depth noted. At least one cross section of any excavated features was created and a surface plan of the trench was drawn. A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.



Figure 3. Trench location plan



## 5. Results

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A single trench, 11m in length, was excavated immediately adjacent the footprint of the proposed house (Fig. 3).

The natural subsoil, which comprised a pale orange clay, was encountered at a depth 0.4m and lay beneath a single deposit of dark topsoil (Plate I).

A single linear feature, interpreted as a ditch, was encountered running almost perpendicularly across the trench (context no. 0002). It measured 1m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.43m. The fill (0003) consisted of a silty grey clay with occasional flints (Plate II). A 1m wide section was excavated across the ditch but no dateable artefacts were recovered. See Figures 4 and 5 for a plan and section of the feature.

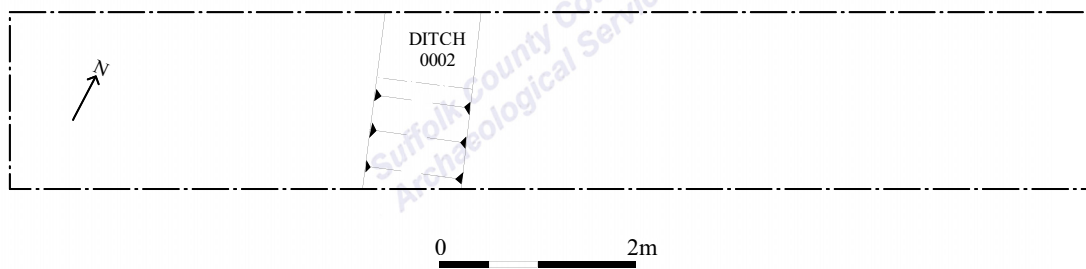


Figure 4. Trench plan

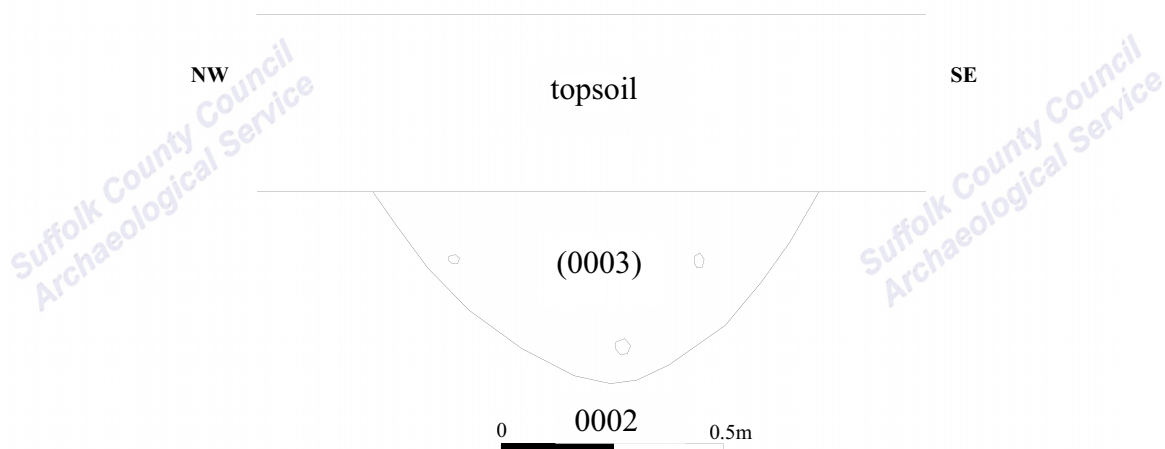


Figure 5. Ditch 0002, northwest-southeast section

The interface between the topsoil and the underlying natural subsoil was relatively abrupt suggesting the surface had been previously truncated.

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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No artefactual evidence was recovered during the evaluation but a soil sample was taken from the ditch fill but it has not been assessed.

## 7. Discussion

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No evidence for any significant early activity in the area of the proposed development was identified in the evaluation trench. The ditch is probably a field boundary and the complete lack of artefactual evidence recovered from its fill would indicate that no actual occupation or settlement is located in the immediate vicinity.

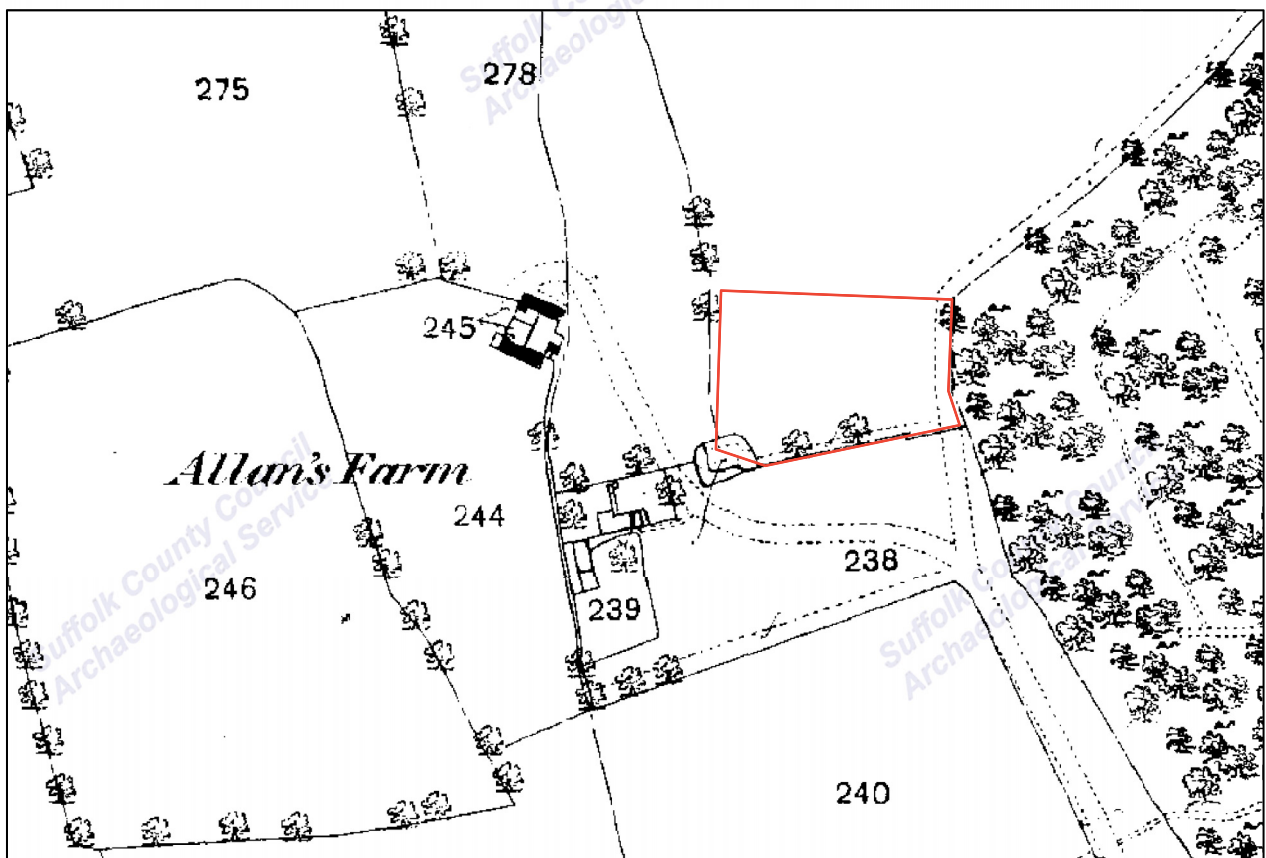


Figure 6. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1880  
(unscaled extract, site outlined in red)

The ditch does not appear on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map although, interestingly, it does show that Allan's Farm was formerly located to the southwest of its present location.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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It is unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits or features are under threat from the proposed development and consequently no further work is recommended.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper archive: T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Ubbeston\2010-051 Ubbeston Lodge

Photo Archive: GES 37 – GES 40 in T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\Digital photos\GES

Historic Environment Record reference under which archive is held: UBB 034

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1- 74419

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The evaluation was carried out by Mark Sommers and Tony Fisher from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The machine was provided by Holmes Plant & Construction Limited and driven by Alan Philpot.

The project was directed by Mark Sommers, and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

### **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.



# Plates

(The visible scales are 1m in length, divided into 0.5m sections)



Plate I. Stratigraphy as revealed in northeast face of the trench (ref. GES 38)



Plate II. Ditch 0002, northwest-southeast section (ref. GES 37)  
(note: the apparent layering within the topsoil is a result of differential cleaning)

## Appendix 1

### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

#### UBBESTON LODGE, LOW ROAD, UBBESTON, SUFFOLK (C/09/0571)

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 Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/09/0571) for the construction of a new dwelling at Ubbeston Lodge, Low Road, Ubbeston, Suffolk, IP19 0EX (TM 318 728). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
  - 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
  - 1.3 The site is located on the north side of Allan's Farm at c. 40.00m AOD. The soil is deep clay of the Hanslope series derived from the underlying chalky till.
  - 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, on the northern side of the Blyth Valley and close to several medieval finds scatters that are indicative of further occupation depositions (HER: UBB 010, UBB 011 and UBB 020). There is a strong possibility that archaeological deposits will be encountered in this valley location. Aspects of the proposed works would 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 development area.
  - 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.**
  - 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
  - 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
  - 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.



- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Suffolk Coastal District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

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

### 3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 A single trial trench 10.00m in length is to be excavated to cover the area of ground disturbance associated with the current planning application (across the area of the proposed house). A linear trench is thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. The trench is to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:  
  
For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;  
  
For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, 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 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.14 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>).
- 5.15 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.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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.

- 5.20 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.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
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Date: 26 February 2010

Reference: / UbbestonLodge-Ubbeston2010

**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.**