

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/072

**Grange Farm, Old Bury Road, Palgrave
PAL 033**

J. A. Craven

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HER Information

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Date of Fieldwork: 19/04/2010
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Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: J. A. Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-75757

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Grange Farm, Palgrave in advance of the construction of an agricultural building. A single ditch, relating to a boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886, was identified and, although infilled during the 19th and 20th centuries, may have had post-medieval or earlier origins as it appears to have formed part of a wider water management system partially enclosing an area to the south of the farmhouse.

As the proposed development will have only a minimal impact on archaeological deposits no further work is thought necessary.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building and access road at Grange Farm, Old Bury Road, Palgrave, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by a condition placed upon planning application 1457/09 in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, E. R. Ling and Sons Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

Grange Farm lies 1.5km to the south-west of the settlement core of Palgrave and the site lay in an area of scrub ground, c.30m to the south-east of the main farmhouse, at TM 1054 7733. The farm is situated at a height of c.43m AOD, on a ridge of high ground overlooking a tributary, which lies c.400m to the south-east, of the River Waveney. The site itself was broadly flat although ground levels immediately sloped down to the south albeit affected by the modern route of the A143.

The site geology is of loamy soils overlying chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lies in an area of archaeological importance, c.70m to the north-west of an area of Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and medieval occupation (PAL 011). The topographical position of the site, overlooking the Waveney tributary, is also a typical location for prehistoric activity.

Grange Farm itself consists of a series of brick-built post-medieval structures but it is quite possible that it has earlier origins. On Hodkinson's map of 1783 (Fig. 3) the farm

is shown as sitting at a crossroads on the main road. The southern road now exists only as a track whilst the northern road to Palgrave has largely disappeared.

4. Methodology

The 30m long trench (Fig. 2) was placed across the centre of the proposed building footprint. It was excavated by a mechanical digger, equipped with a 2.2m wide ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The depth of the trench varied from 0.4m to 0.6m. The modern topsoil was 0.2m to 0.3m thick and lay above a deposit, 0.2m to 0.3m thick, of mid orange/brown silty clay (0001). This layer sealed the natural subsoil of chalky mid yellow clay and mid orange/brown silty clay. This basic soil profile appeared throughout the trench. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed for finds material during the evaluation.

Archaeological features or deposits were normally clearly visible cutting the natural subsoil and were cleaned and excavated by hand as required. The site was recorded using a separate single context continuous numbering system. The trench location was recorded by hand and planned on an A3 gridded permatrace sheet at a scale of 1:50. The feature section was drawn at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour and black and white print photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital and physical archives respectively. No environmental samples were collected as the fills of the sole feature were of post-medieval or modern date.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-75757) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archives are kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER Nos. PAL 033.

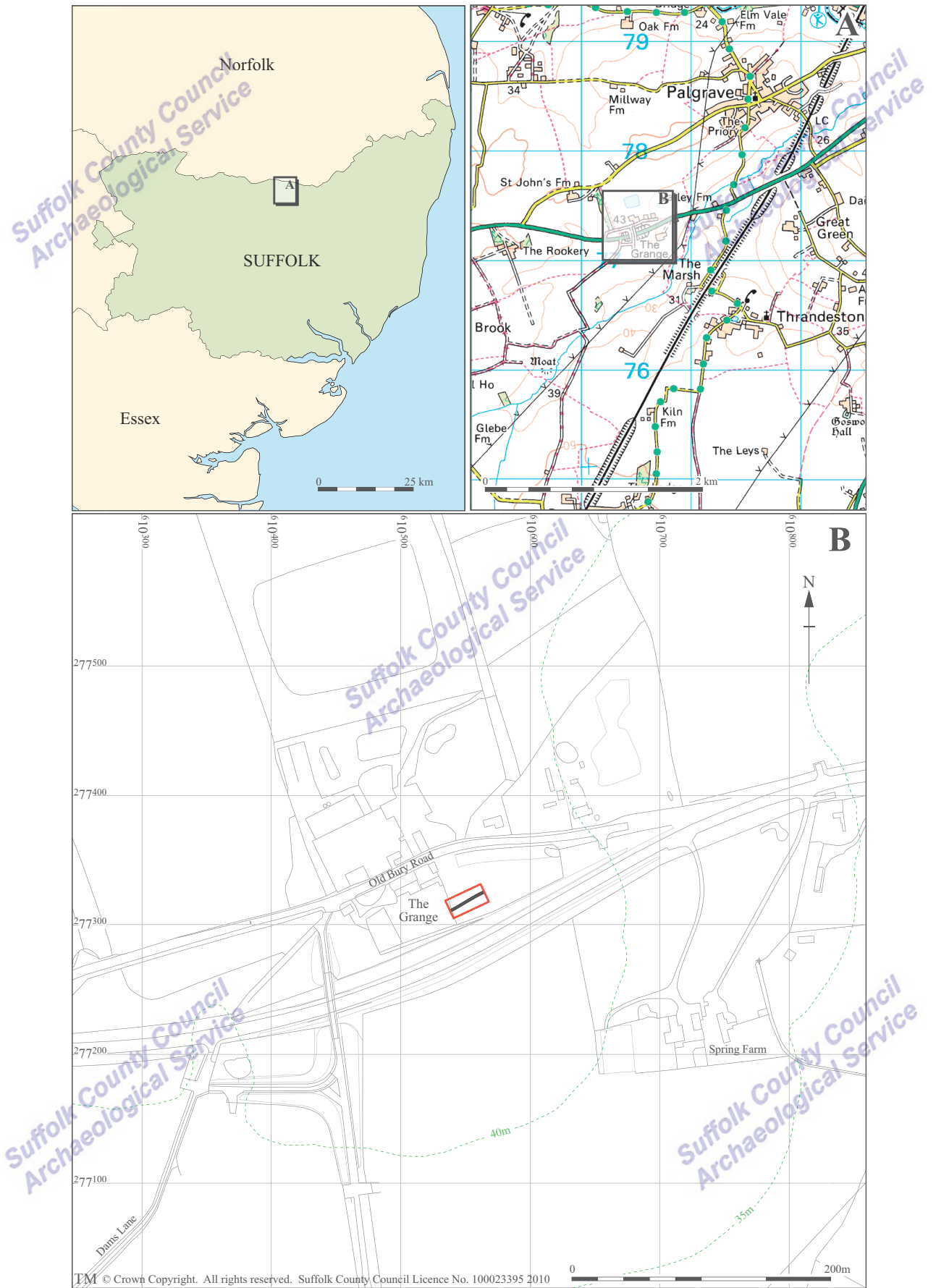


Figure 1. Site location, with the development area (red) and evaluation trench (black)

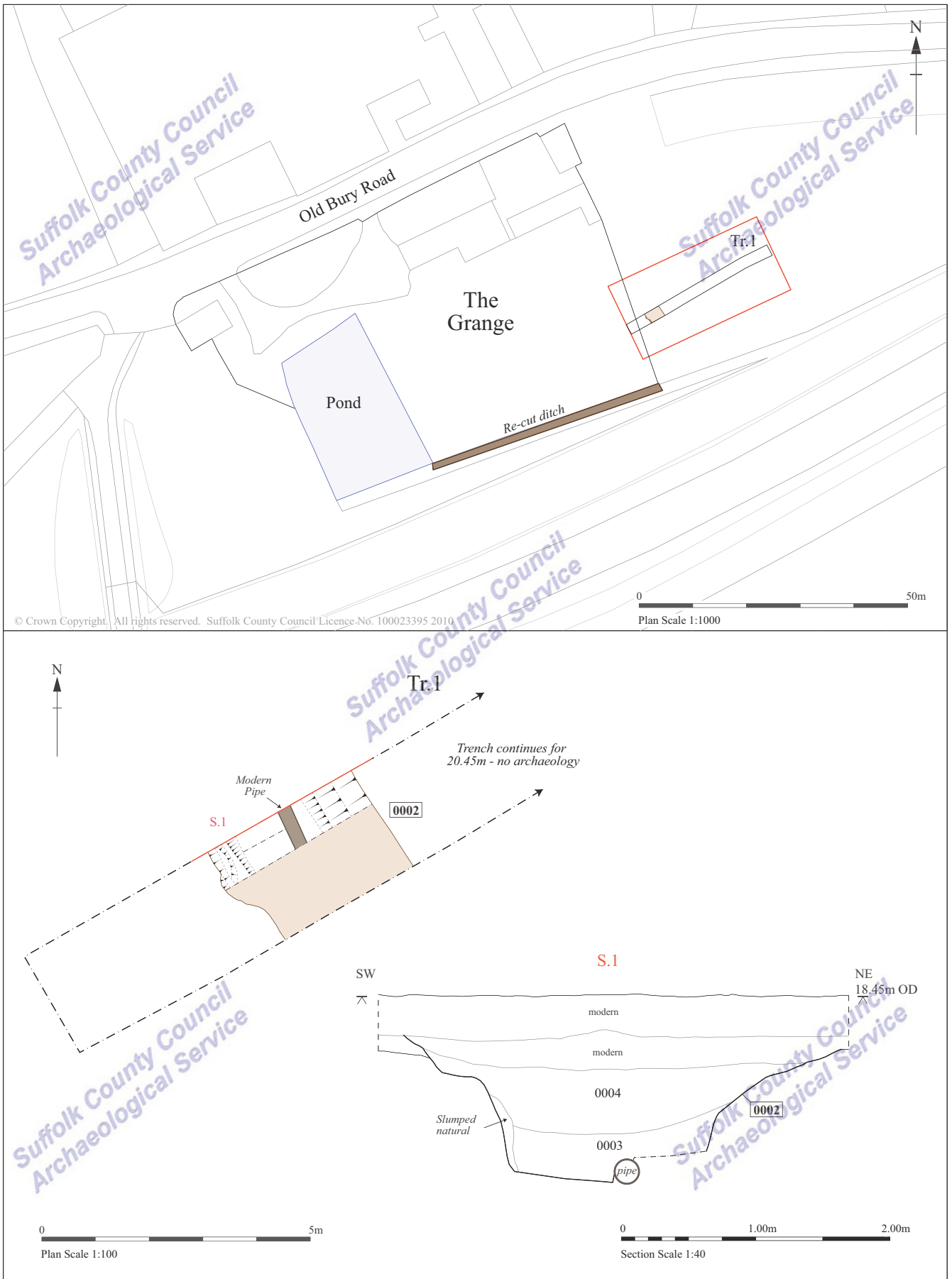


Figure 2. Trench plans and section

5. Results

One feature, 0002, which was a substantial ditch, was identified in the western end of the trench (Fig. 2). Aligned north-west to south-east it measured c.3m wide and 1.4m deep, the upper part of the cut being visible from the ground surface. Its moderate sloping upper sides became near vertical in the lower part of the cut which had a flat base. Disturbance on the edges of the ditch contained tree or hedge root material. Lying on the base of the cut was a ceramic drainage pipe which was then sealed by 0003, a homogenous, waterlogged, light/mid grey silty clay with occasional fragments of wood and modern brick, then 0004, a dark grey silty/clay with frequent wood and charcoal and occasional modern debris. The upper part of the ditch, where it cut through the topsoil and layer 0001, was infilled with a layer of mid/late 20th century rubbish deposits and a final layer of redeposited orange/brown clay silt, which extended up to c.6m wide.

6. Discussion

The ditch clearly relates to a boundary shown on the modern Ordnance Survey although it lies c.2m to the east and appears to have finally been infilled some time ago as it was unknown to the client. It is also shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1880 (Fig. 4) and its projected alignment respects a mature tree c.10m to the north.

Although the fills of the ditch are all likely to be of 19th or 20th century date, as indicated by the ceramic pipe at the base, the size of the cut suggests that it was not excavated simply to lay the pipe and was probably a pre-existing boundary that had been re-cut, and could therefore be of a post-medieval or earlier date.

To the south this feature would have connected with a south-west to north-east aligned ditch, which has recently been re-cut, that extends along the southern edge of the farmhouse lawn towards a pond that borders the western side of the lawn (Fig. 2). Together these three features appear to define a square enclosure to the south of the farmhouse and may represent a partially moated post-medieval site with possible earlier origins.

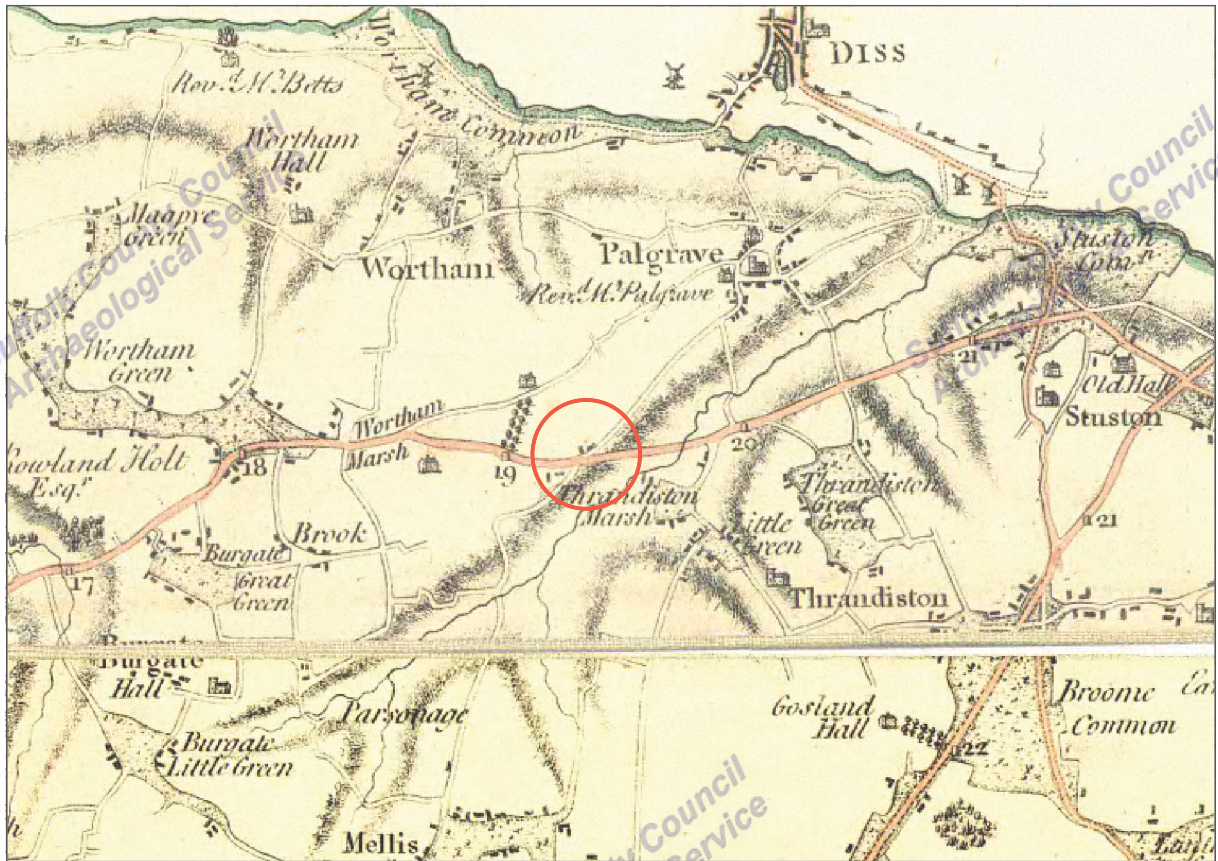


Figure 3. Location of the site on Hodkinson's map of 1783

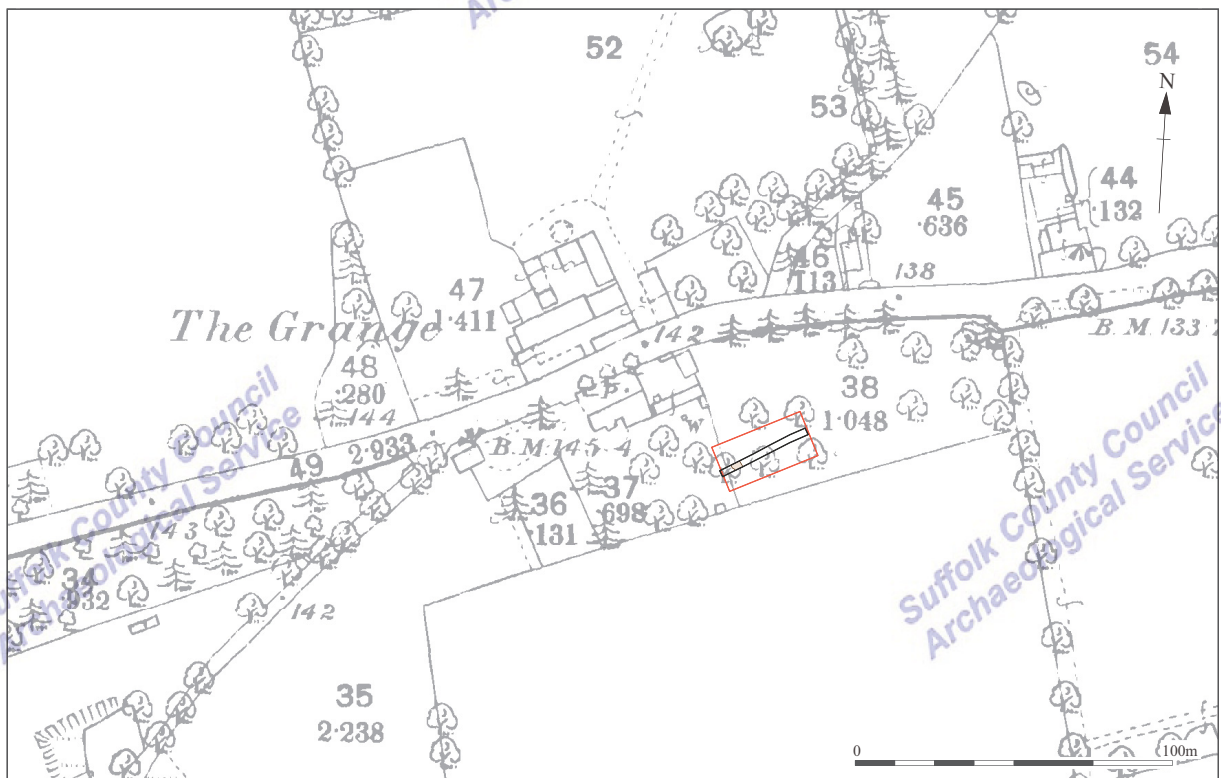


Figure 4. Site overlain on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1886)

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has not found any evidence of activity before the post-medieval period. A single ditch marking a boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey was identified and may have post-medieval or earlier origins. The feature appears to have formed part of a wider water management system around the farmhouse.

The absence of any other features or deposits means that the proposed development will have only a minimal impact and no further work is thought necessary.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\archive field proj\palgrave\PAL 033 Grange Farm

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was managed and fieldwork carried out by John Craven from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Crane Begg.

10. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

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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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

GRANGE FARM, OLD BURY ROAD, PALGRAVE (1457/09)

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 (1457/09) for the construction of a agricultural store at Grange Farm, Old Bury Road, Palgrave IP22 1AZ (TM 105 773).
- 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 area of the new store measures 30.00 x 15.00m in area, on the south side of Old Bury Road. It is located at c. 43.00m AOD, and overlooking a tributary of the River Waveney. The underlying geology of the site comprises chalky fill and glaciofluvial drift (deep loam).
- 1.4 This proposal is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to a Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval occupation site (HER no. PAL 011). There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development in view of its proximity to known remains. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the 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 (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 location of the new store pool, measuring 30.00m in length x 1.80m in width.

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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 23 September 2009

Reference: / GrangeFarm-Palgrave2009

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.