

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/068

Nursery Gardens, Main Road Woolverstone WLV 049

M. Sommers
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HER Information

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Curatorial Officer: Edward Martin

Project Officer: M. Sommers

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on at Nursery Gardens, Main Road, Woolverstone, in advance of a proposed housing development. The development area consists of the kitchen gardens associated with the nearby Woolverstone Hall. The development is to enable the restoration of the walled gardens, which are 18th century in date (Grade II Listed), and some of the associated 19th century structures.

Seven trenches with a total length of 160m were excavated across two zones earmarked for the construction of new housing but no significant archaeological features of any period were identified and no artefacts were recovered. The natural subsoil consisted of a layer of very pale orange silty clay, over sand and gravel, and generally occurred at a depth of c. 0.4m. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Ingleton Contracts Limited).

1. Introduction

A housing development has been proposed on land at Nursery Gardens, Main Road, Woolverstone. It is to consist of a series of houses to be built in two separate areas located to the east and west of the former kitchens gardens associated with the nearby Woolverstone Hall. The development is being undertaken to enable the restoration of the walled gardens, which date from the 18th century, and some of the associated structures. Planning permission was granted (B/08/01067 and B/08/01068) 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 Edward Martin, 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 National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3186 7280. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site. Figure 2 shows the locations of the two areas of proposed housing, the walled gardens and the structures to be retained.

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

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated upon a level plateau with no perceptible slope. It is within an area of high ground that overlooks the River Orwell some 700m to the north. The underlying geology comprises sands and gravel capped by loess (a fine-grained, silty, pale yellow or buff, windblown sediment from glacial sources).

The kitchen gardens are located on the southern edge of the Woolverstone estate adjacent the main road through the village of Woolverstone. The kitchen gardens are in

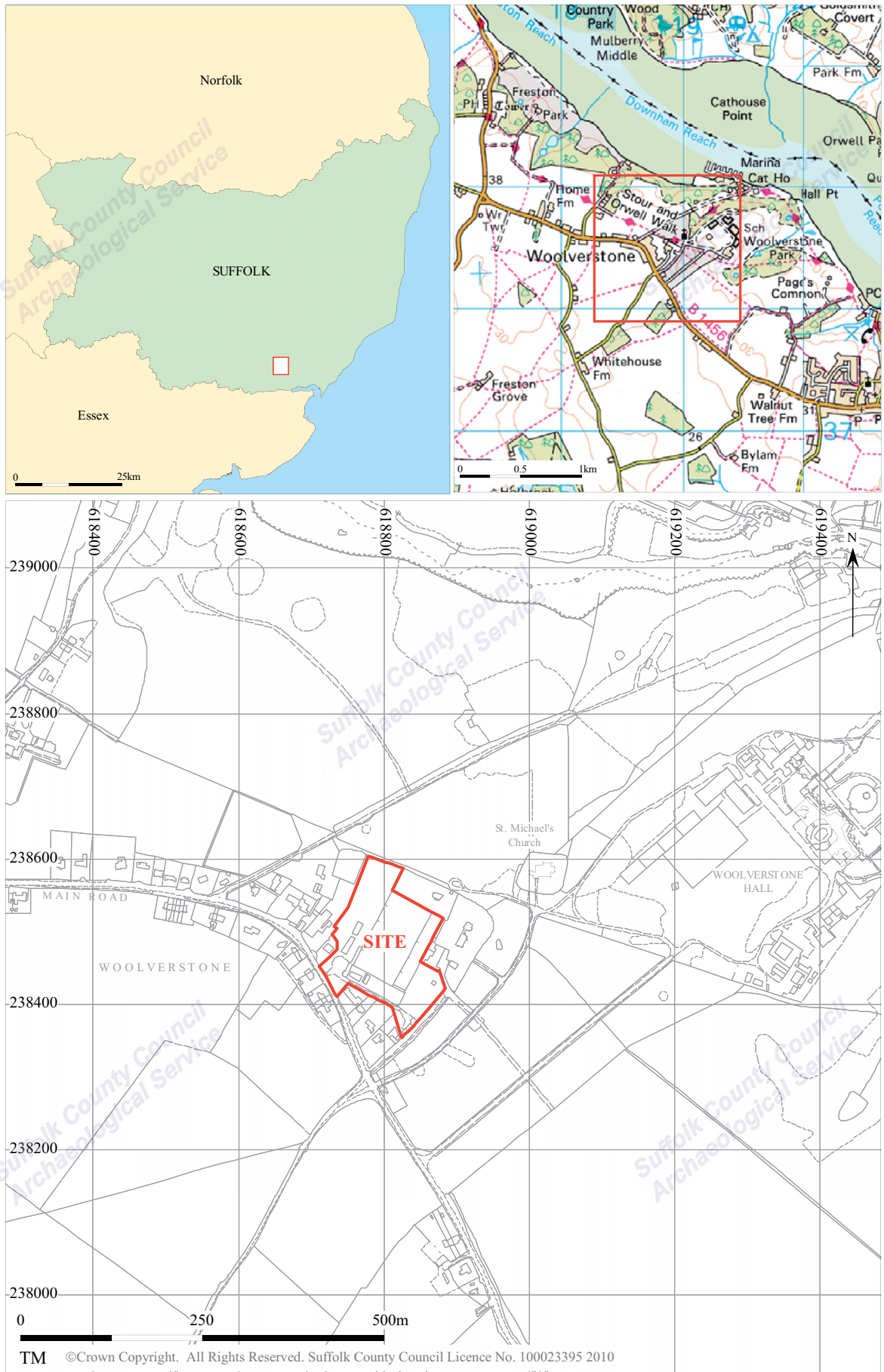


Figure 1. Site location plan

use as a garden nursery and have been for a number of years. The areas of proposed housing are located in areas formerly used by the nursery but they have been neglected in recent years and have become heavily overgrown. Two late 19th/early 20th century greenhouses (The Vinery and the Peach House) stand within the western area and a group of timber sheds are located in the eastern area at the time of the evaluation but these will all be removed prior to development.

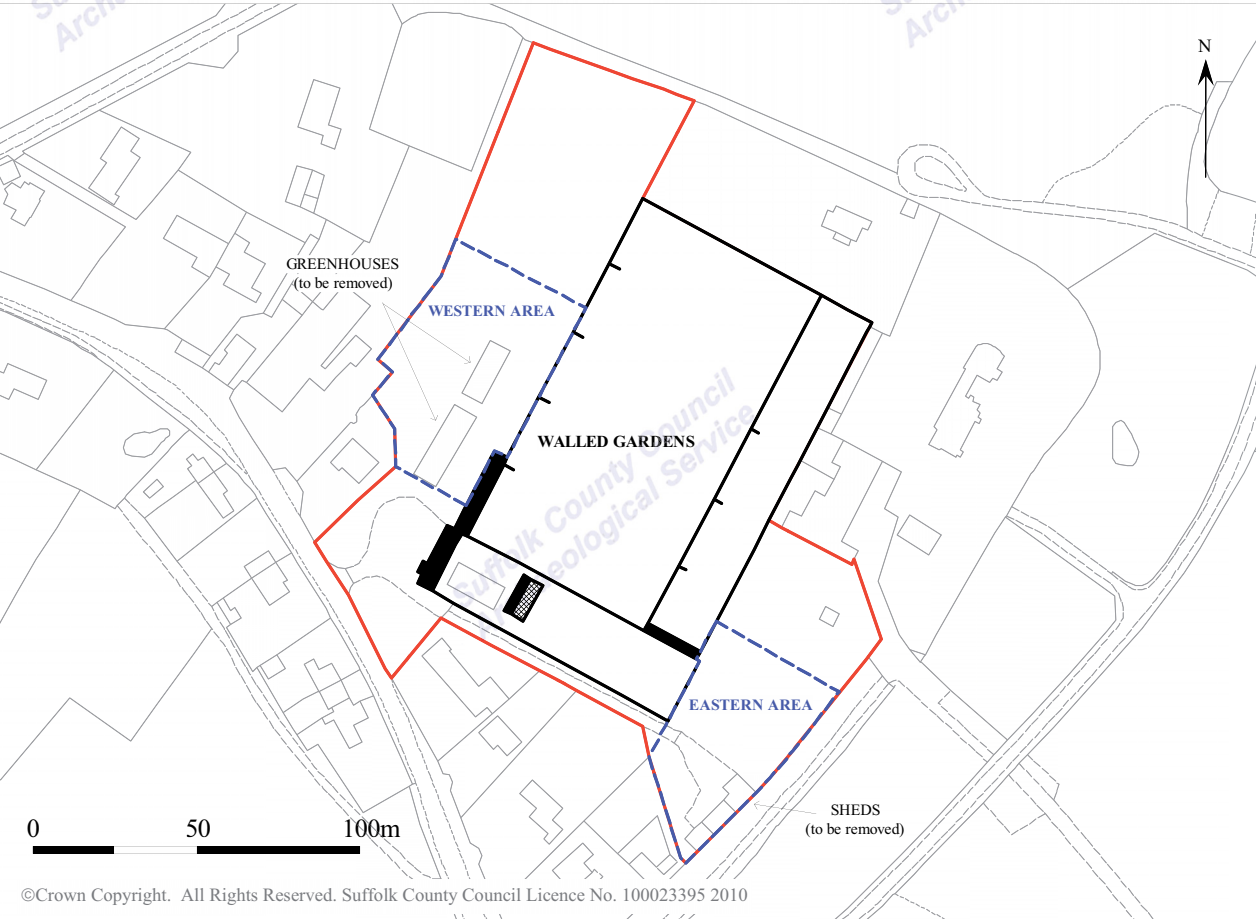


Figure 2. Plan showing the two proposed building areas (blue) and the walled gardens and structures that are to be retained (black)

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within the proposed site but it is situated within an area of archaeological importance recorded on the County Historic Environment Record.

It lies close to an area of cropmarks recorded by aerial photograph and thought to be Iron Age and Roman in date (HER ref. WLV 012) and is within 250m of the medieval church of St Michael (HER ref. WLV 023). The church is now isolated within the Woolverstone estate deer park (HER ref. WLV 024) but it was probably linked to an adjacent settlement which may have been moved when the park was created. Consequently there is a high potential for Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains to be located at this site.

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The location of the trenches was, on the whole, in accordance with a plan approved by the County Archaeological Service Conservation Team although it was necessary to modify some of the locations due to the presence of the greenhouses, concrete trackways and areas of dense vegetation.

The machining of the trenches 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. Had any features/deposits been noted they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts. Due to ambiguity of the nature of the natural subsoil the overlying loess was removed, once it was ascertained that no features were cut into its surface, to reveal the underlying sand and gravel.

Following excavation the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench locations were plotted and the depths were noted. A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera.

5. Results

Seven trenches with a total length of 160m were excavated, three across each of the two areas of proposed housing with an addition trench adjacent to Main Road to assess for earlier roadside activity (Fig. 3). They were numbered 1 to 7 in order of their excavation. In the western area it was necessary to adjust the position of Trench 2 due to the presence of the greenhouse (Plate I) which had not been removed at the time of the evaluation. In the eastern area Trench 5 was moved slightly to the southeast and Trench 6 was cut parallel as it was not possible to trench in the southern part of the area due to a thick concrete surface and dense vegetation.

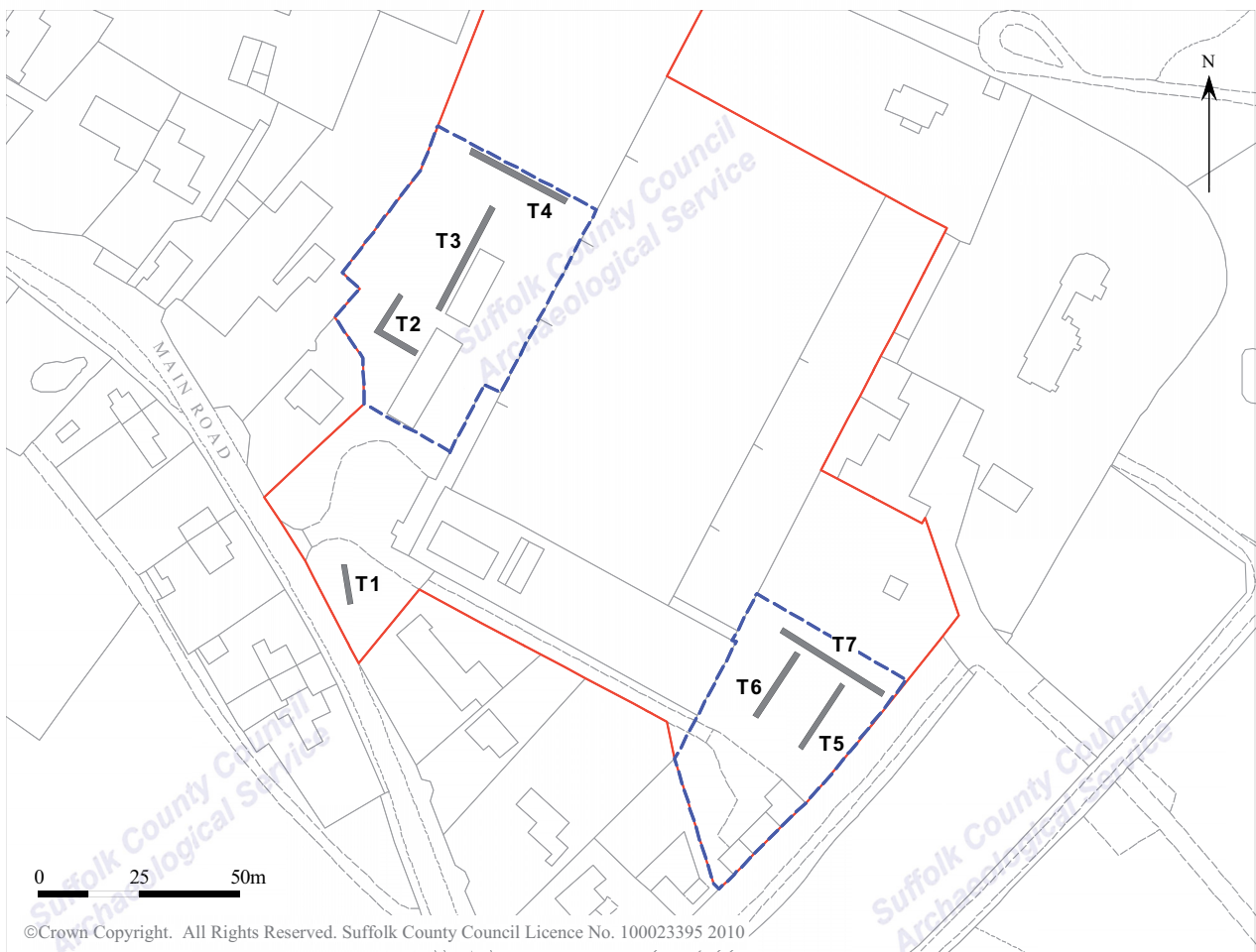


Figure 3. Trench location plan

No archaeological features of any period were revealed in any trench. The natural subsoil as revealed in all nine trenches consisted of a very pale orange fine grained silty loess. It lay immediately beneath the topsoil at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.35m.

The interface between the topsoil and the underlying natural subsoil was very abrupt suggesting a certain degree of truncation although this is probably related to nursery activity and is unlikely to have been substantial. It was found that this layer was found to be between 0.4m and 0.45m thick and overlay sand and gravel at a depth of c. 0.8m. Once it was established that no archaeological features were cut in to the surface of the loess it was removed to reveal the underlying sand and gravel deposits. Plate II shows a sample of the revealed soil profile, as seen in Trench 6.

No significant artefacts were recovered from the spoil although very occasional fragments of brick and tile were present within the topsoil across much of the site.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No environmental or artefactual evidence was recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

No evidence for earlier activity was recovered from the excavated trenches. They were cleanly cut and had any features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified. This does not entirely preclude the possibility that some small isolated features could occur outside the actual trenches but given the complete absence of any significant artefacts of any period recovered during the evaluation this would seem unlikely.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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

Paper archive: T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Woolverstone\2010-068 (WLV 049) Nursery Gardens

Photo Archive: HAD 84 – HAD 99 in T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\Digital photos\HAD

Historic Environment Record reference under which archive is held: WLV 049.

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-75764

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Phil Camps and Mark Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The machine and operator was provided by the client

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



Plate I. The Vinery, general view, looking N (ref. HAD 91)



Plate II. Trench 6, soil profile as revealed in NW edge (ref. HAD 96)
1m scale divided into 0.5m sections

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

NURSERY GARDENS, MAIN ROAD, WOOLVERSTONE
TM 188 384
(B/08/01067 and 01068)

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

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Applications for planning permission have been made to Babergh District Council (B/08/01067 and 01068) for a housing development to enable the restoration of the walled garden and associated structures.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The walled gardens are a Grade II Listed Building (LB no. 495873) and were built to serve Woolverstone Hall, which is a Grade I Listed Building which is now a school and is situated at some distance to the north-east. The Hall was built in 1776 and the gardens are probably contemporary – with 19th- and 20th-century additions and alterations. After the sale of the estate the gardens became the Paul Doubles Nursery. The history and structures of the gardens are covered in a report by Philip Aitkens (October 2005) entitled: *The Kitchen Gardens to Woolverstone Hall, now known as Doubles Nursery, Woolverstone, Ipswich. A Report on the Historic Buildings and their Context.*
- 1.4 The gardens also lie in the vicinity of two areas of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER):
 - Site WLV 012 is an area of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography which are thought to be Iron Age and/or Roman in date. Saxon and medieval pottery was also found when a sewage pipe was passed through this area in 1991.
 - Site WLV 023 is the medieval church of St Michael, Woolverstone, now isolated, but probably formerly linked to an adjacent settlement.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - **A linear trenched evaluation is required of the housing 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 further 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 for Archaeologists (IfA) 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.

The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and the Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).*

- 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover **5% by area** of the area of the proposed housing development (Plots 1-11 on Plan 1764/101A dated June 2008 – **please contact the applicant for a recent and accurate plan of the site**). These trenches shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method.
- 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 the 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 fulfil 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) and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).
- 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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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
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Date: 12 March 2010

Reference: SpecEval(EM)_WalledGds_Woolverstone_01067_08

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.