Suffolk County Council

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/077

Land at former Telephone Exchange, Hartest Hill, Hartest HRT 023

J. A. Craven

www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No:	**B/10/00121**
Date of Fieldwork:	**22/04/2010**
Grid Reference:	**TL 835524**
Funding Body:	**Mr J Morgan**
Curatorial Officer:	**Sarah Poppy**
Project Officer:	**John Craven**
Oasis Reference:	**Suffolkc1-75854**
	Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service: http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out on land at the former Telephone Exchange, Hartest Hill, Hartest, in advance of the construction of a residential property identified a single ditch, relating to a boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1885.

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

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new residential property at the former Telephone Exchange, Hartest Hill, Hartest, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by a condition placed upon planning application B/10/00121 in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, Mr J Morgan.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies within the settlement core of Hartest at TL 835 524. It is situated at a height of c.55m AOD, at the base of a narrow valley on the eastern bank of a tributary stream of the River Glem.

The site geology is of clayey soils overlying chalky till (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, within the historic settlement core. The medieval parish church and churchyard (HRT 002) lies c.50m to the north and the village green lies c.50m to the west. An archaeological evaluation was therefore required to assess the potential of the site, in particular to establish if evidence of medieval occupation was present, as an initial stage in an archaeological mitigation strategy for the development.

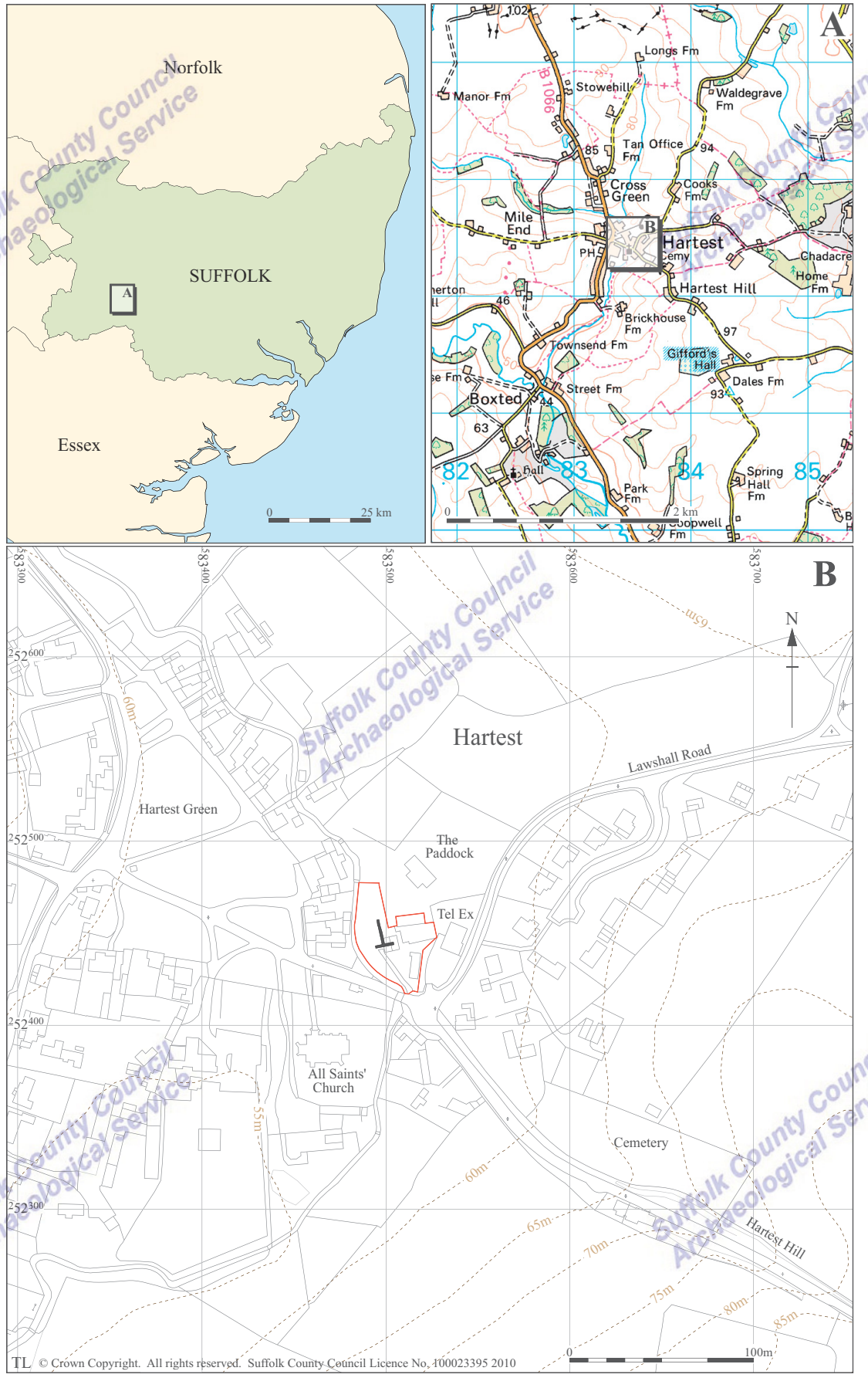

Figure 1. Site location, showing area of development (red) and evaluation trench (black)

4. Methodology

A 'T' shaped trench with a total length of 25m (Fig. 2) was placed across the proposed building footprint. Measuring c.1.4m wide this amounted to a total area of c.35m or 2.5% of the development area. This was considerably less than the required 5% as the southern third of the site was unavailable for trenching due to the presence of a protected maple tree and the western side because of overhead power cables. The trench was excavated by a small mechanical digger, equipped with a 1m 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 0.6m to 0.9m. Apart from the northern and eastern extents of the trench where there was modern surface disturbance the trench profile typically showed a thin modern topsoil, c.0.15m thick overlying a 0.3m-0.4m thick layer of mid brown clayey loam, 0001. Under 0001 was a c.0.25m thick layer of mixed yellow/brown silt and fine gravel, 0002, which in turn sealed the natural subsoil of mid yellow/orange silty gravels. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed for finds material during the evaluation.

Archaeological features or deposits were 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. Trench profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Site levels were recorded using a dumpy level and relate to an OS benchmark of 56.31m AOD marked on the adjacent parish church. 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.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-75854) 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. HRT 023.

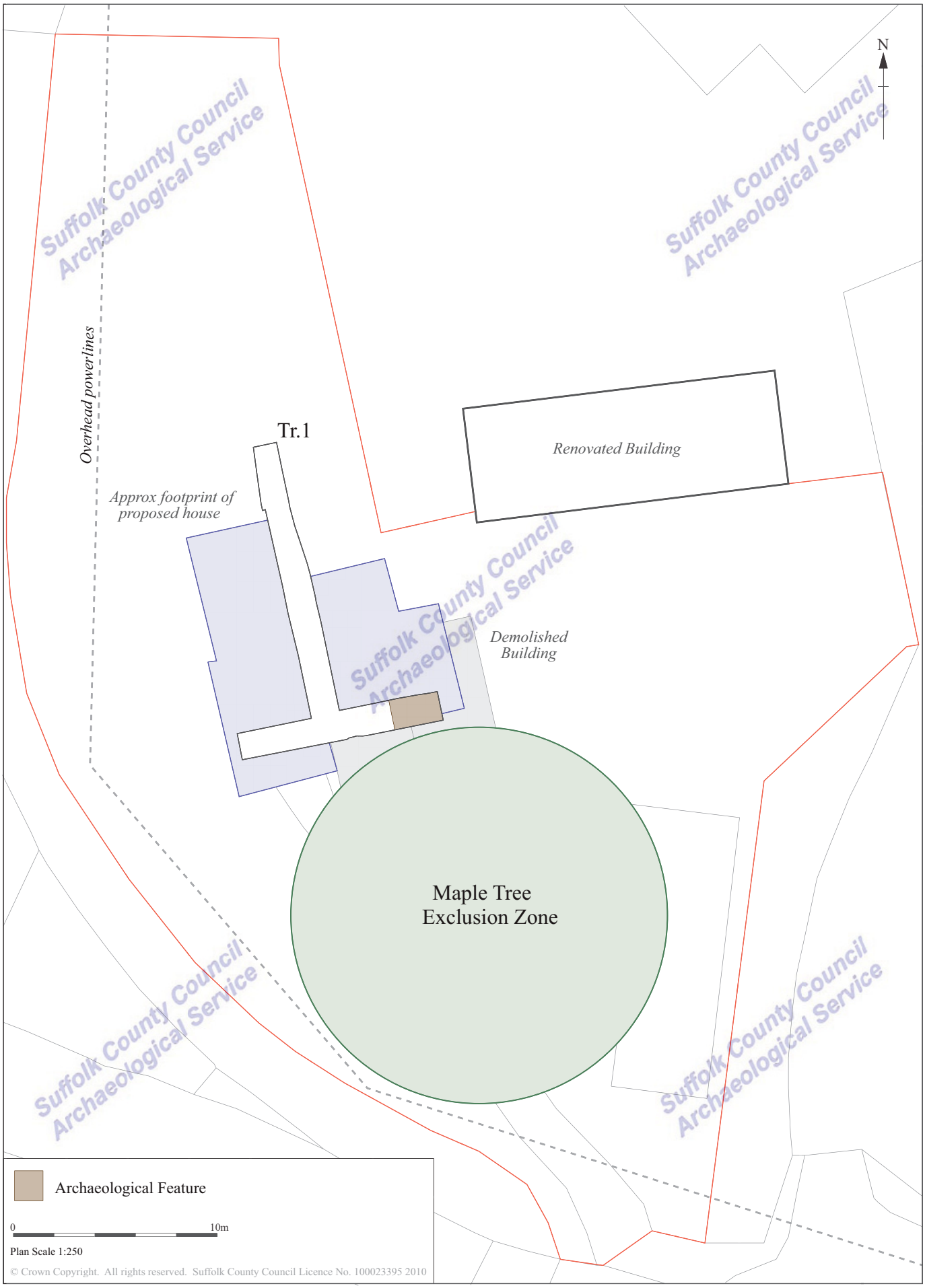

Figure 2. Trench location plan

5. Results

(Fig. 3)

In the southern half of the trench the natural subsoil lay at a height of 54.4m AOD, beneath layers 0001 and 0002. Midway along the N-S trench the subsoil rose up a gradual south facing natural slope to a height of 55m AOD and changed from silty gravels to an orange/brown clay. As this slope rose first layer 0002, then 0001 gradually thinned and disappeared until, at the northern end of the trench, 0.7m of modern and topsoil deposits directly overlaid the natural subsoil.

Two sondages were excavated through two areas of mid grey silty clay and gravels which were originally thought to be possible features. In both cases these deposits were seen to irregularly undercut the surrounding natural subsoils and appear be natural in origin, probably created by phases of erosion and deposition associated with the adjacent stream.

A single feature, 0003, was identified in the eastern part of the trench. In this part of the trench the upper deposits had been removed by demolition of the pre-existing building but an apparent ditch was visible, cutting layers 0001 and 0002. Measuring c.1.8m wide and c.0.75m deep it was aligned north to south and had a fill, 0004, of very dark grey silty clay which contained occasional fragments of wood and modern brick. The lower 0.2m of this deposit was waterlogged and the base was only seen in a small central sondage.

On its western side 0003 appeared to also cut 0005, a layer of mid/dark grey clayey silt and gravels and 0006, a dark grey silty gravel. Both of these deposits are thought to be parts of layer 0002 that have been heavily discoloured by leaching of material from the overlying ditch. To the east 0004 lay above a deposit, 0007, of dark grey/brown mottled clay which may have been an earlier fill of the feature.

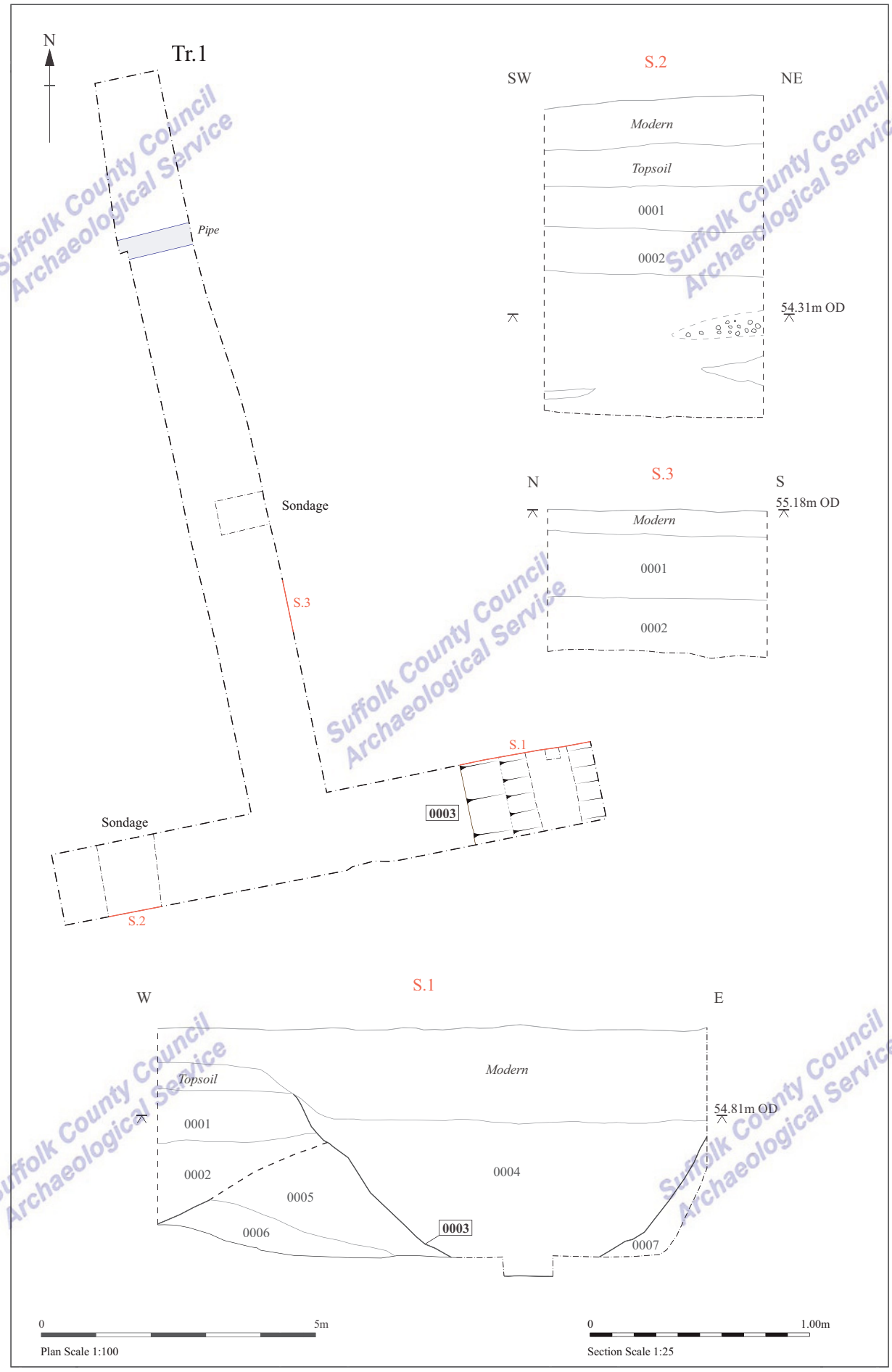

Figure 3. Trench plan and sections

6. Discussion

The trenching identified a slight natural slope beneath the modern landscaping and a single feature, 0003, cutting the mixed alluvial gravels deposited by the adjacent stream. This ditch, which cut layers 0001 and 0002, is of a relatively late date and probably corresponds to a boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1885 (Fig. 4) which continues the line of the current north-east garden boundary southwards past the maple tree.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has identified the natural topography of the site and a single post-medieval ditch marking a 19th century boundary.

As the north part of the plot is to remain as open lawn and only limited operations to create a driveway in the area of the maple tree will be carried out, the proposed development will only have an impact upon potential archaeological deposits within the building footprint. Although the trenching was of limited size in regards to the total development area it has targeted this footprint and shown an absence of archaeological deposits, other than ditch 0003. The development therefore has minimal potential to disturb archaeological remains 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:arc\archive field proj\Hartest\HRT 023 Former BT Exchange

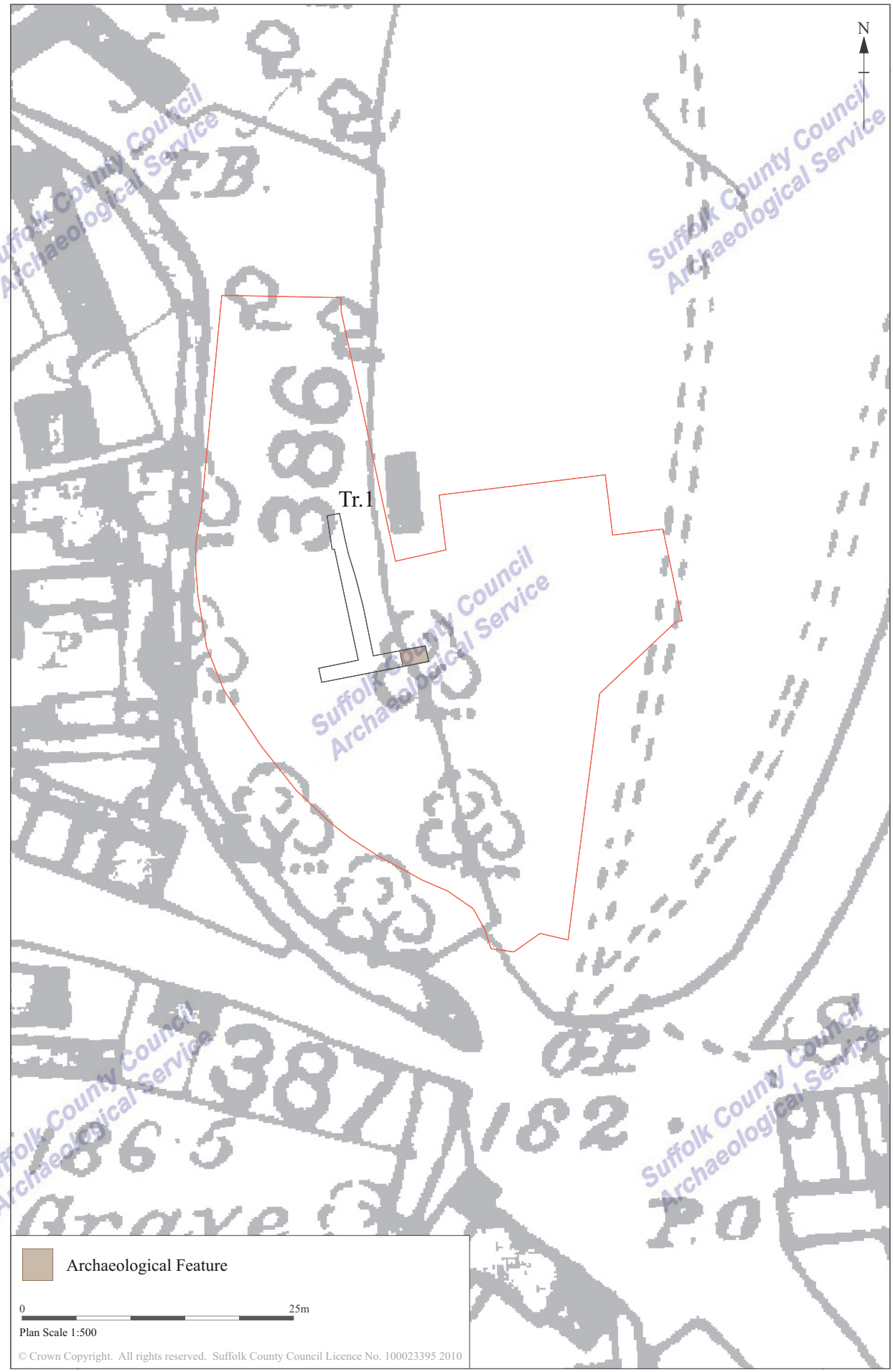

Figure 4. Site overlain on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1885)

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed by John Craven and managed by Andrew Tester. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and John Sims from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Crane Begg. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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.

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND AT FORMER BT EXCHANGE, HARTEST HILL, HARTEST

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 Babergh District Council (B/10/0121/FUL) for the construction of new dwelling and cartlodge on land at Former BT Exchange, Hartest, Suffolk (TL 835 524). **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 (0.14ha) is located on the north side of Hartest Hill at *c.* 57.00m AOD. The soil is deep clay derived from the underlying chalky till.

1.4 This application lies within an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the north of the medieval church (HER no. HRT 002) and within the historic settlement core. There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location, which has not been subject to systematic archaeological investigation.

1.5 Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:

- A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.

1.7 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 the Planning Authority 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 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is *c.* 72.00m^2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 40.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

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 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example, in the form of an open day and/or local public lecture and/or presentation to local schools.

4.4 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

4.5 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

4.6 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.7 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 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: Sarah Poppy

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
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9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
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Tel: 01284 352199
Email: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 12 April 2010 Reference: / Land at Former BT Exchange Hartest_2010

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.