

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/108

### **Outbuildings at Bentley Hall, Bentley, Suffolk BTY 033**

#### **HER Information**

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**Planning Application No:** B/09/01361/FHA  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 30 March & 03 June 2010  
**Grid Reference:** TM 1187 3839  
**Funding Body:** Mr. N. Angel  
**Curatorial Officer:** Edward Martin  
**Project Officer:** Kieron Heard  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-78053

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



## Summary

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BTY 033, Outbuildings at Bentley Hall, Bentley: An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the construction of an attached boot room and a detached garage block.

The monitoring revealed two post-medieval pits and the brick foundation of a former garden wall, of 18th- or 19th-century date.

### 1. Introduction and methodology

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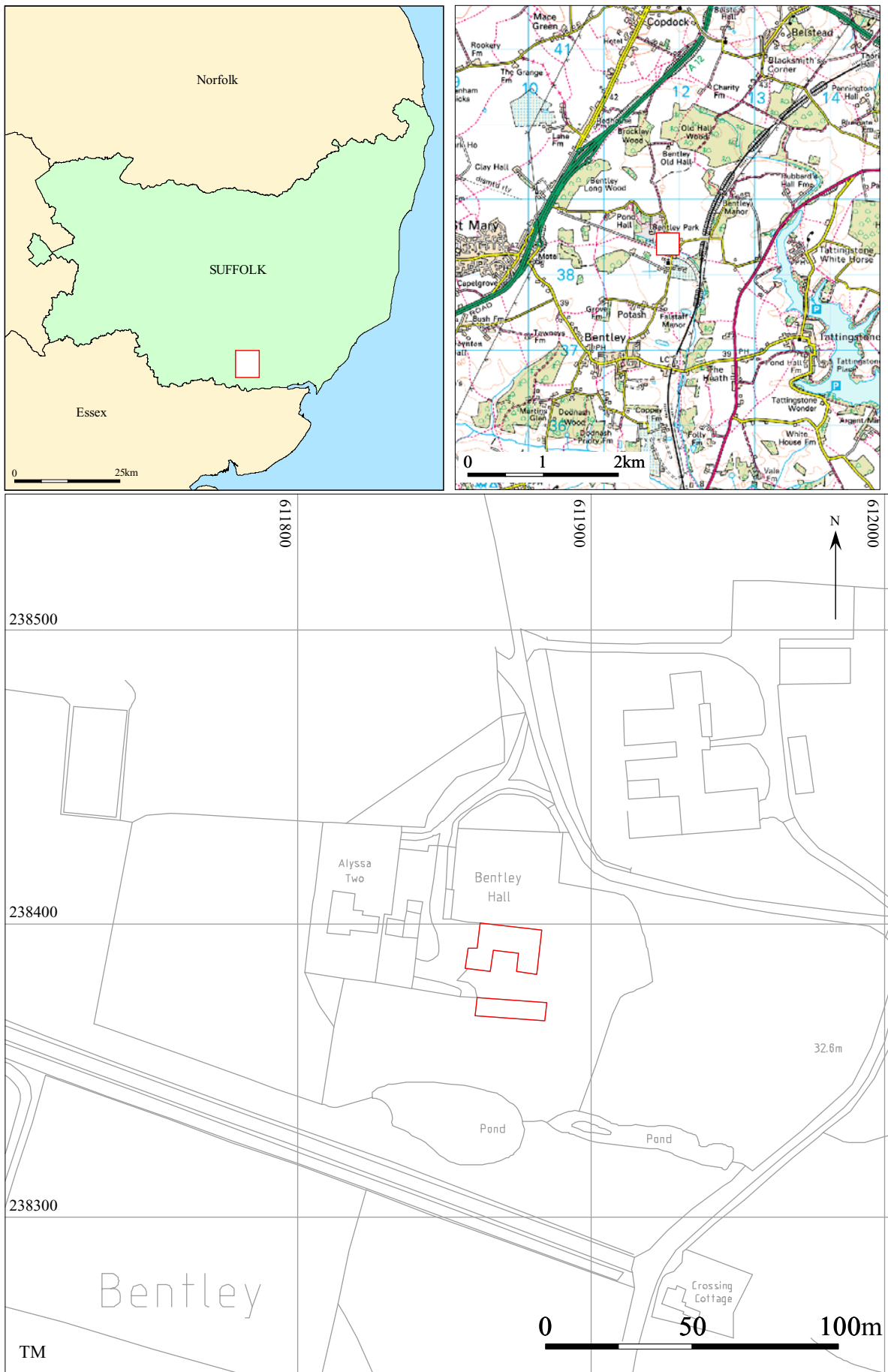
An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Bentley Hall (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of an attached boot room and a detached garage block (planning application number B/09/01361/FHA). It was commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr. N. Angel. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by Edward Martin (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and is appended to this report.

The development area is within the curtilage of Bentley Hall, a Grade II\* Listed Building (LB no. 278793) dating from the 15th/16th century. An adjacent 'Meeting Hall'/barn is another Grade II\* listed building (LB no. 278794) and is of the same date. Significant archaeological finds in the vicinity of Bentley Hall are recorded in the county's Historic Environment Record. They include an 8th-century Saxon coin (BTY 012) and a Late Saxon stirrup mount (BTY 025).

The writer visited the site on 30 March 2010 to inspect the trenches for the attached boot room and on 03 June 2010 to monitor the excavation of the trenches for the detached garage block. The trenches for the boot room were 0.50m wide x 1.20m deep. Those for the garage block were 0.50m wide x 1.20–1.50m deep (Fig. 2).

Horizontal soil deposits, archaeological features and some modern features were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001–0015. Two vertical sections (Fig. 3) were drawn at a scale of 1:20 on sheets of gridded drawing film and context descriptions were written on the same sheets. The drawn sections

and context descriptions have been reproduced in full in this report. A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images; this forms part of the SCCAS photographic archive, referenced as HAE 006–010, 072–073.



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Figure 1. Site location, showing Bentley Hall and the Meeting hall / barn (red)

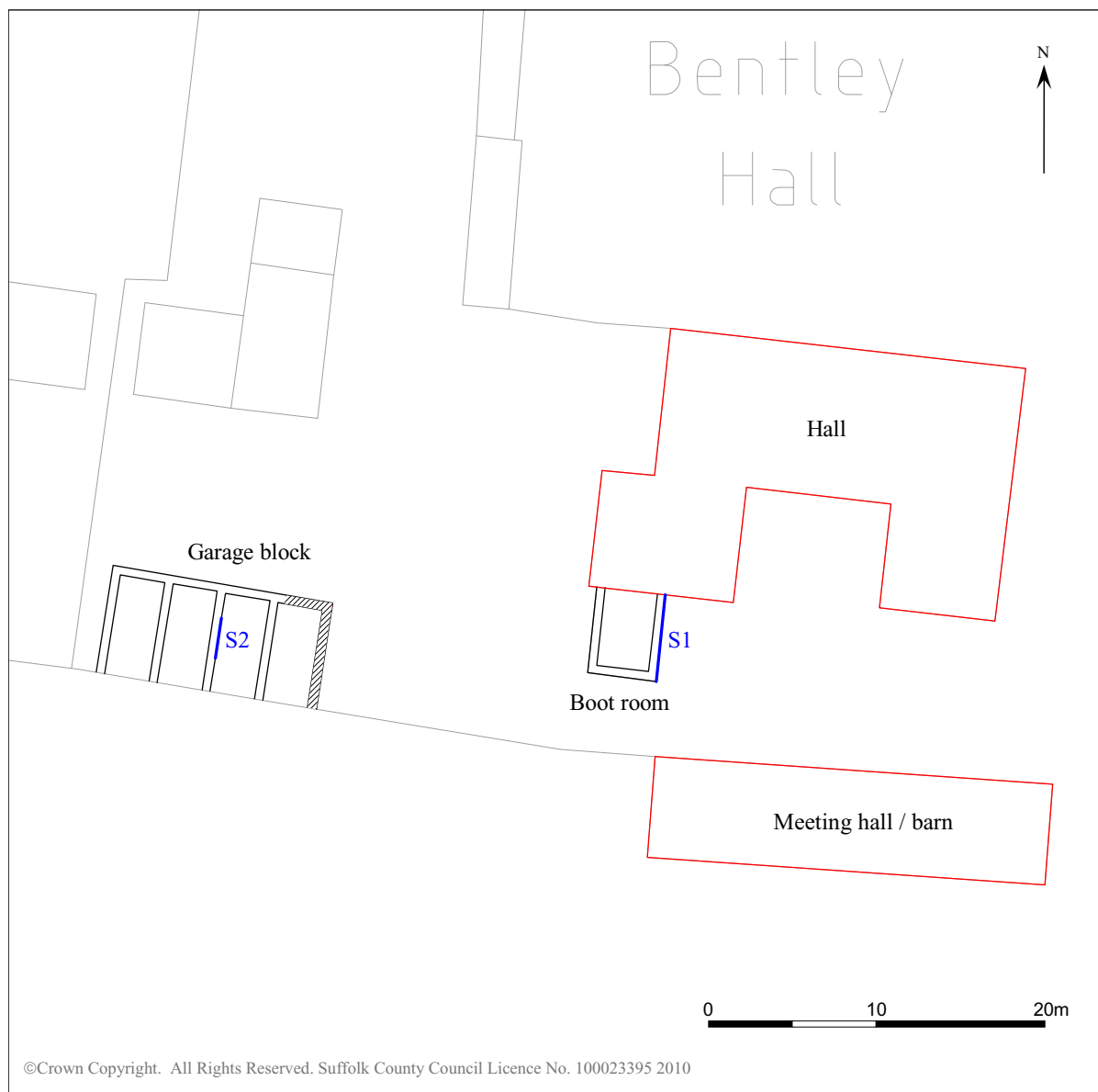


Figure 2. Plan locating the monitored trenches (black) and Sections S1 and S2 (hatched area = trench not observed)

## 2. Results

### The boot room (Fig. 3; Section S1)

The natural stratum 0011 was a deposit of loose, yellowish brown or orangey brown sand and gravel at an average depth of 0.30m below ground level.

Four intrusive features were identified in the trench on the east side of the boot room, all cutting the natural stratum:

0008 was a modern service trench for a 60mm diameter cast-iron pipe. The trench was backfilled with loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent pebbles and occasional small fragments of brick (0007).

0010 was another modern service trench, for an armoured electric cable. Its fill 0009 was loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent pebbles and occasional small fragments of brick.

Pit 0004 measured 1.00m N–S x >0.50m E–W x 0.40m deep, with steep to vertical sides breaking gradually into a flat base. Its lower fill 0003 was loose, mid brown silty sand containing moderate pebbles and occasional small to medium fragments of brick and roof tile. Upper fill 0002 was compact, light greyish brown slightly sandy silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks to small fragments of charcoal.

Cut 0006 measured >0.90m N–S x >0.50m EW x 0.44m deep. It had vertical sides, with a stepped profile to the south, breaking sharply into a flat base. The single fill 0005 was a mixed deposit of crushed, off-white mortar and brick rubble (50:50).

The four intrusive features were sealed by a layer of garden soil, 0.20–0.40m thick (0001). This was friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt (loam) containing moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of brick.

### **The garage block (Fig. 3; Section S2)**

The same sequence of horizontal deposits was observed in each of the monitored trenches, as described below. A number of modern service trenches were observed but not recorded archaeologically.

The natural stratum 0014 was a deposit of loose, yellowish brown or orangey brown sand and gravel at an average depth of 1.00m below ground level.

Subsoil layer 0013 overlaid the natural stratum, with an indefinite interface. It was soft, mid greyish brown silty sand containing occasional pebbles and small to medium fragments of red brick and tile, and was 0.40–0.50m thick. It was removed partially to the south by the construction cut for the east–west garden wall along the southern edge of the garage block.

Subsoil 0013 was sealed by a dumped layer of loose garden soil penetrated by frequent tree/shrub roots (0012). It was 0.40–0.50m thick and abutted the garden wall to the south, suggesting that it was of relatively recent date. 0013 was sealed by a thin layer of stone chippings forming the current ground surface.

A brick foundation (0015) was exposed in the west-facing section of one of the north–south trenches (see Figure 2 for location). The foundation ran the length of the trench, apart from 1.2m at the south end of the trench where the foundation had been destroyed by the cut for some modern water pipes. 0015 was observed also in the south-facing section of the east–west trench on the north side of the garage block.

Foundation 0015 survived to a maximum of four courses (0.32m) and was constructed of red, hand-made bricks (un-frogged) measuring 240 x 110 x 65mm; the bricks were laid in an informal pattern of random headers and stretchers, and bonded with soft, light grey lime mortar. The foundation was only 0.24m (one header) wide.

The cut for the foundation had partially truncated subsoil layer 0013, and the foundation was sealed by garden soil 0012.

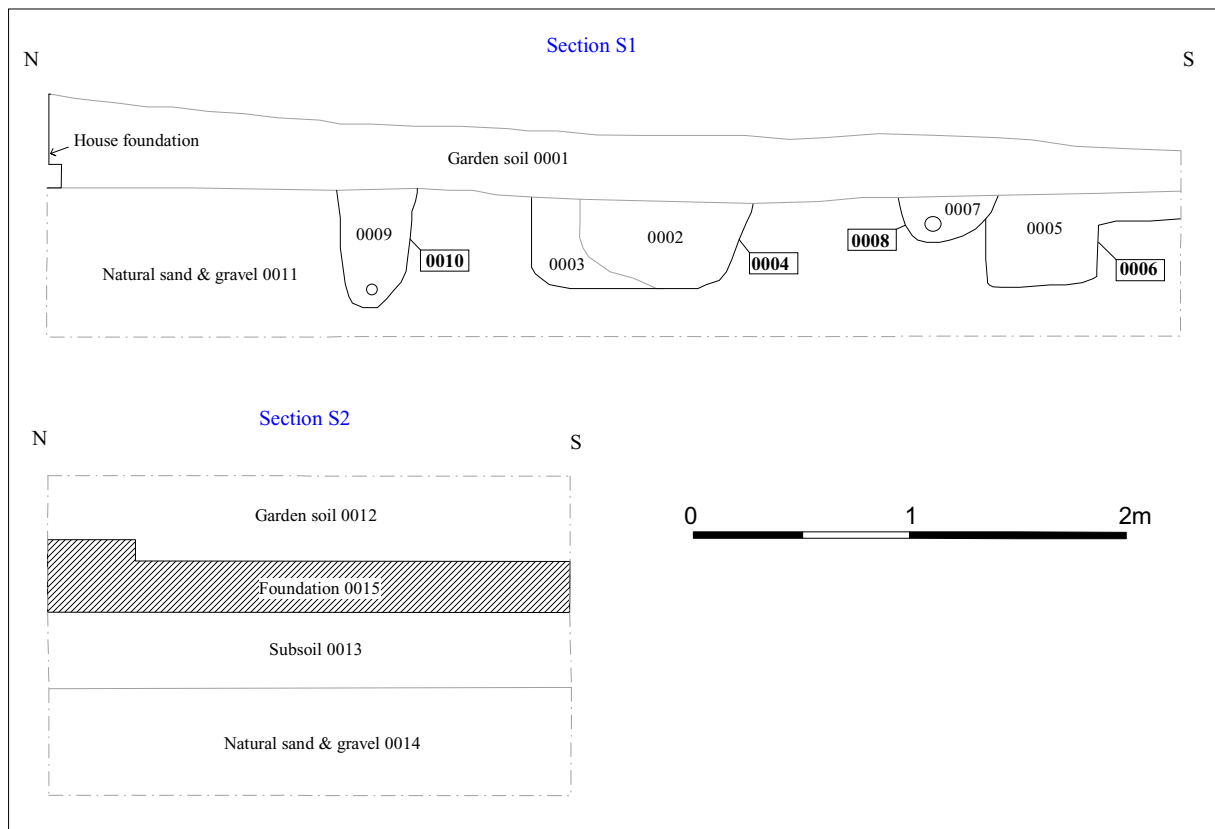


Figure 3. Sections S1 & S2





Plate 1. Pit 0004 in section, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 2. Cut 0006 in section, looking east (1m scale)





Plate 3. View of the trench recorded as Section S1, looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 4. Brick foundation 0015, looking southeast

### 3. Discussion

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The natural sands and gravels (0011 and 0014) are glacio-fluvial drift deposits. They were higher in the area of the boot room than in the area of the garage block, indicating a slight fall from east to west. Generally ground level in the vicinity of Bentley Hall falls from north to south and there is clear evidence that the site has been terraced; a swimming pool immediately to the south of the garage block is on level ground that is approximately one metre lower than the area occupied by the house and its outbuildings.

Subsoil 0013 was present only in the area of the garage block. It was probably derived from the loamy and sandy soils (the Ludford series) that are widespread in this part of Bentley parish, although the presence of brick inclusions indicates that the soil was amended in the post-medieval period. Given the unusual thickness of the deposit (0.50m) it is likely that some of this soil has been redeposited, perhaps during the terracing of the Bentley Hall grounds.

North–south foundation 0015 is assumed to have been of 18th- or early 19th-century date, based on brick form and dimensions, although it is possible that the bricks were reused at a later date. Given the narrow width of the foundation it was probably the footing for a garden wall rather than a building. The wall was demolished prior to the dumping of garden soil 0012, indicating a change of land use in this area of the site.

Post-medieval pit 0004 was located close to the Hall but its precise date and function are unknown. Post-medieval cut feature 0006 also cannot be dated precisely. Its form and the nature of its fill suggest that it might have been a robbing trench, although it should be noted that it was considerably deeper than the foundations of the Hall, as can be seen on Figure 3, Section S1.

## 4. Conclusions

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The monitoring has had limited archaeological results, revealing two post-medieval pits and the remains of a former garden wall of 18th- or early 19th-century date.

In the light of these results it is anticipated that no further fieldwork will be required on this site in relation to the current development. This document will be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS on-line archaeological database and a summary might appear in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

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Kieron Heard  
Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

June 2010



## Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

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### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### OUTBUILDINGS AT BENTLEY HALL, BENTLEY IP9 2LR TM 118 383 (B/09/01361/FHA)

***Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications.***

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission (B/09/01361/FHA) for the erection of outbuildings at Bentley Hall and alterations to Herne Hill Farmhouse has been granted by Babergh District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (Condition 2). The local planning authority has been advised that areas of ground disturbance for the development should be monitored by an archaeologist.
- 1.2 The development area is within the curtilage of Bentley Hall which is a Grade II\* Listed Building (LB no. 278793) dating from the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century; the 'Meeting Hall'/barn, also within the curtilage, is another Grade II\* listed building (LB no. 278794) of the same date. An 8<sup>th</sup>-century coin and a Late Saxon stirrup mount have also been found in the vicinity of Bentley Hall (Suffolk Historic Environment Record nos. BTY 012 and 025). Groundworks for the development may therefore reveal important archaeological information concerning the history of this site.
- 1.3 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. 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/>).

- 1.4 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the monitoring, the assessment of the findings and the final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.6 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.7 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, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 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.
- 1.8 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Recording**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are the building foundations and any associated landscaping. The groundworks, and the upcast soil from them, are to be monitored during and after their excavation by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the historical context, development and significance of the site.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.

- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### **4. Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. 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.

- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

## **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a 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.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER Officer if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 A copy of the 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 approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT

- 5.8 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.9 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel.: 01284 352442  
E-mail: [edward.martin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:edward.martin@suffolk.gov.uk)

Date: 5 March 2010

Reference: SpecMon(EM)\_BentleyHall\_01361\_09

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**The work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must therefore be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

## Appendix 2. Contents of the stratigraphic archive

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Type	Quantity	Format
Plan/section drawing sheets	2	420 x 300mm drawing film
Plan/section drawing sheets	1	290 x 320mm drawing film
Digital images (HAE 006–010, 072–073)	8	3648 x 2736 pixel .jpg
This evaluation report (SCCAS report no. 2010/108)	1	A4 comb-bound

## Appendix 3. Digital image register

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Code	Frame	Parish	Site	Description
HAE	006	Bentley	033	Pit 0004 in section, looking east (1m scale)
HAE	007	Bentley	033	Pit 0004 in section, looking east, wider angle (1m scale)
HAE	008	Bentley	033	Cut 0006 in section, looking east (1m scale)
HAE	009	Bentley	033	General view of trench, looking northeast
HAE	010	Bentley	033	General view of trench, looking northeast, wider angle
HAE	072	Bentley	033	Brick foundation 0015, looking southeast
GES	073	Bentley	033	Brick foundation 0015, looking east