

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/170

Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket SKT 056

S. Cass
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HER Information

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Abbot's Hall, off Crowe Street and adjacent to the Museum of East Anglian Life site, in Stowmarket. This was as a result of a condition placed upon the proposed development of the Abbot's Hall estate and the northern area of the Museum complex. A single ditch of Roman date was observed, orientated approximately east-west and containing well-preserved pottery dating to the second century AD. No further works are recommended to be required for this phase of the development (the temporary car parking area).

1. Introduction

As part of the proposed redevelopment of the Abbot's Hall estate, the Museum of East Anglian Life was required to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land affected by a proposed temporary car park area at the end of Crowe Street, off Market Place in Stowmarket.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies near the crest of the hill overlooking the confluence of the Rattlesden River to the south and the River Gipping to the north with the land rising slightly to the south of the site. The underlying geology is listed as deep clay and chalky till, although Trench 1 encountered naturally deposited sands with gravel and Trench 2 was found to lie across silty clay without chalk inclusions.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site of Abbot's Hall (SKT 016) has a varied history, and has been traced through documentation back to its creation out of the Manor of Thorney by Henry II in the 12th century and early ownership by the Abbey of St Osyth. The current building on the site dates to the Queen Anne period, and various additions and alterations have occurred since that time. The land in front of the house, containing the evaluation area, is recorded as the site of the medieval 'camping lands' - medieval and later recreation areas (Easton, T., 1989; p.76) - in the town (SKT 010) and a single sherd of Roman pottery was also found close by to the evaluation trenches, within the camping land. Documentary research being undertaken by the museum suggests that it may have also served for a militia training ground and the town fair. The site lies on the edge of the medieval core of the town (SKT 022), between the church and market place to the east and the manor house to the west. Two kilometres east of the museum, within the Cedars Park development, lies the site of a small settlement with mid/late Iron Age origins (SKT 018) which appears to have become more prominent in the 2nd Century with the construction of several new buildings (including a bathhouse) and evidence of occupation that extends at least to the mid/late 3rd century and possibly later (into the early 4th Century).

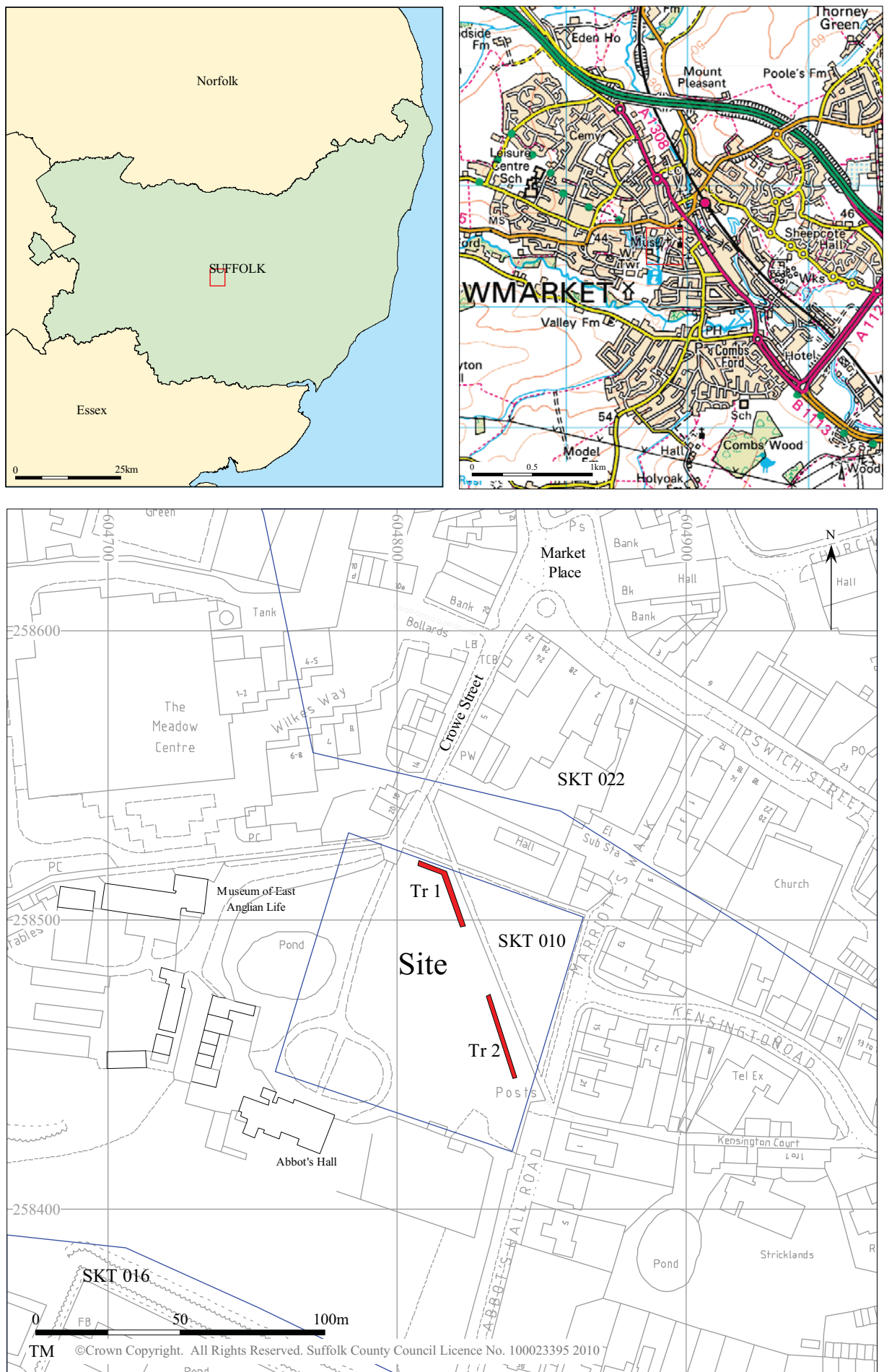


Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The two trenches were sited alongside the existing boundary wall of Abbot's Hall, in order to cover the area of the proposed temporary car park (Fig. 1). They were excavated using a 6-tonne tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket, under constant archaeological supervision down to the top of the natural geological layers or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The single feature encountered was hand-cleaned and excavated carefully, in order to recover any finds present, and a soil sample was retained for processing in order to examine the potential for environmental evidence to be preserved within it. A full text description was made, alongside measured drawings of the feature (both in plan and section) and a photographic record was made using a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera. The site was assigned a unique Historic Environment Record accession number (SKT 056) and all the records and artefactual evidence retained will be archived under this code.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.82m deep. The trench turned after 20m to follow the boundary wall towards the entrance gate. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil above 0.36m of mid brown silty sand subsoil. This sealed natural pale yellow/orange sands with gravel.

Ditch 0001 was found c. 5m from the southern end of the trench, orientated approximately east-west. It was 1.0m wide, 0.22m deep and filled with a loose mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small flints and stones and frequent bioturbation was evident. The section drawn was against the eastern trench edge, and as a result appears to be wider than the true profile although the feature could be widening out towards the east.



Plate 1. Ditch 0001, facing east (1m scale)

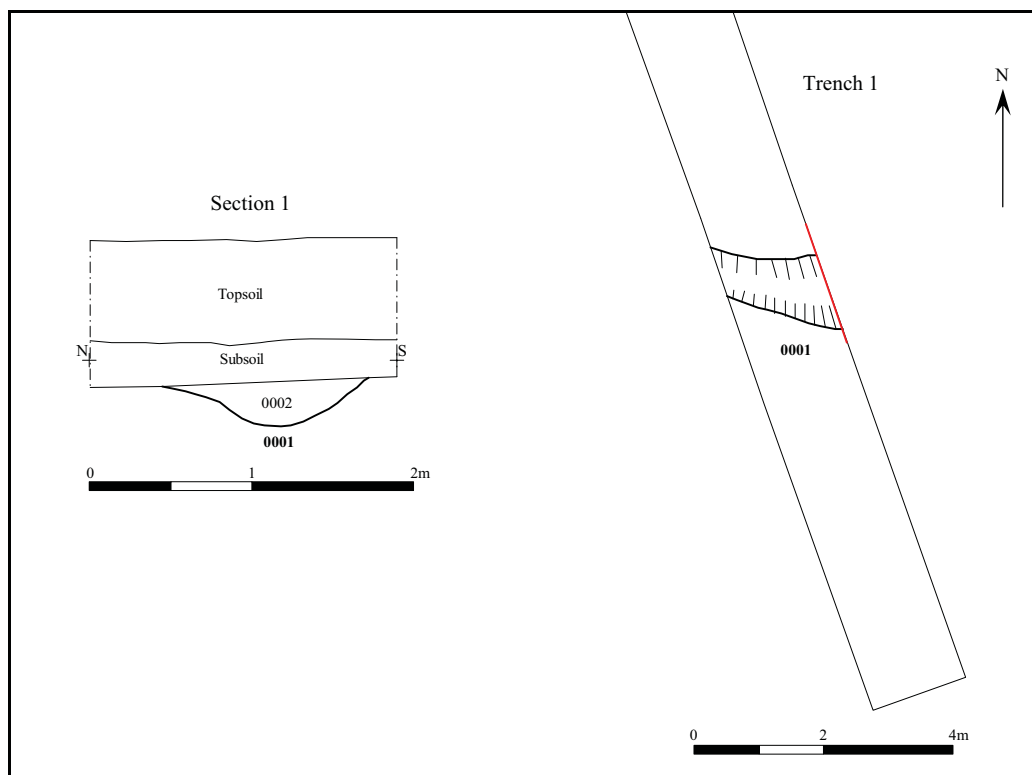


Figure 2. Trench 1 plan and section

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.84m deep (at the southern end). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of up to 0.64m of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil above dark orange/brown silty clay. The clay content in the natural geology increased towards the southern end of the trench and a test pit was excavated to the greater depth in order to check that this was a natural deposit. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

By Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A total of 141 finds with a weight of 2838g was collected from three contexts, as shown in the table below.

| Context | Pottery No. | Wt/g | CBM No. | Wt/g | Fired clay No. | Wt/g | Worked flint No. | Wt/g | Miscellaneous | Spotdate |
|---------|----------------|------|------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------------|------|--|--------------------------|
| 0002 | 107 | 1664 | | | 6 | 25 | 3 | 26 | Burnt stone 1 @ 66g Slag 3 @ 742g Iron nail 1 @ 4g Animal bone 3 @ 6g | Early/mid to later 2nd C |
| 0003 | 4 | 80 | 7 | 181 | | | | | Clay pipe 2 @ 3g Glass 1 @ 1g | |
| 0004 | | | | | | | | | Glass 3 @ 42g | |
| Total | 111 | 1744 | 7 | 181 | 6 | 25 | 3 | 26 | | |

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Introduction and methodology

A total of 111 sherds of pottery with a weight of 1744g was recovered from two contexts. The main assemblage is Roman (107 sherds @ 1664g) and has been recorded in ditch fill 0002. The pottery has been examined at x20 vision and separated into fabric groups and a list of fabric types and their quantitative totals can be seen in Table 2. These codes have been assigned using the Suffolk fabric series and form types have been catalogued using the Suffolk Roman type series (unpub). A full contextual breakdown of all these forms part of the site archive and a version of this can also be seen in Appendix 3. The Roman assemblage as a whole only suffers from slight abrasion and has many joining sherds.

| Fabric | Code | No | Weight/g | Eve |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----|----------|------|
| Black surfaced ware | BSW | 8 | 69 | 0.12 |
| Colchester buff ware | COLB | 37 | 877 | 0.62 |
| Grey micaceous ware (black-surfaced) | GMB | 7 | 58 | 0.18 |
| Grey micaceous ware (grey-surfaced) | GMG | 18 | 207 | 0.84 |
| Miscellaneous sandy grey ware | GX | 31 | 417 | 0.83 |
| Miscellaneous red coarse wares | RX | 6 | 36 | 0.08 |
| Total Roman pottery | | 107 | 1664 | 2.67 |

Table 2. Roman fabric quantities

Roman

This assemblage is entirely made up of coarsewares and of these only one can be sourced. This is Colchester buff ware (COLB) and the fabric is represented by the base of a flagon and a *mortarium*. This latter form (7.2) is in the Cam 195 style with an everted rim. The fabric is quite coarse and has very worn surfaces with only a small number of trituration grits remaining. A version of this Colchester *mortaria* fabric is thought to have been produced in East Anglia (Tyers 1996). A small number of black-surfaced (BSW) and red coarse wares (RX) have been noted, as indicated in Table 2, however the remainder of the assemblage is chiefly made up of grey wares (GMB, GMG & GX). The form assemblage contains one coarseware (GMG), a cornice rimmed beaker fragment (3.6.2) dated from the early to later 2nd century. Thereafter the assemblage is made up of jar rim fragments, most of which cannot be identified beyond their general class. However, a small number can be placed in categories 4.1 (plain everted rim), 4.5 to 4.6 (rolled rim) as well as in 5.1 to 5.2 (groove & cordon style). An example in this latter form category (in a GX fabric) is represented by several joining sherds (20 fragments @ 253g). The jar has an everted rim with a cordon on the shoulder and an acute lattice pattern below.

Medieval to post-medieval

The remainder of the pottery (4 sherds @ 80g) was recovered from the unstratified context 0003. The collection is made up of abraded body sherds and spans the medieval to post-medieval period. The pottery includes include a medieval coarseware (MCW), dated from the late 12th to 14th century (<1g), a Glazed red earthenware (GRE), dated from the 16th to 18th century (69g) and an Ironstone and Refined white earthenware (10g) dating from the late 18th/early 19th to 20th century.

Conclusion

The condition and number of joining sherds within the Roman assemblage suggests that the pottery is in its original place of deposition. There are no finewares present within the collection and the vast majority of coarseware forms can either not be closely identified or are long-lived. However in general the style, combination of forms and fabrics indicate a date range of early/mid to later 2nd century.

6.3 Ceramic building material

All of the CBM (7 fragments @ 181g) has been recorded as unstratified in context 0003. The collection contains a very abraded Roman brick fragment (42g) in a fine sandy and micaceous fabric (fsm). A single piece of an abraded *imbrex* is also present (13g). This has a depth of 14mm and is in a fine sandy fabric with clay pellets (fscp). The remaining pieces (5 fragments @ 126g) are all examples of post-medieval roof tile. These are only slightly abraded and occur in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe).

6.4 Fired clay

All of the fired clay was recovered from ditch fill 0002 (6 fragments @ 25g). Most of the pieces are small and abraded with the exception of one. This piece weighs 20g and has an uneven buff surface with an oxidised underneath; the fabric is made of ill-sorted sand and calcite (msc). Ditch fill 0002 also contained Roman pottery.

6.5 Worked flint

Colin Pendleton

Three fragments of worked flint (26g) were noted in ditch fill 0002. The first of these is a probable shatter piece and the second a patinated snapped flake. The flake has a small retouched notch and is dated from the Mesolithic to later prehistoric period. Finally an unpatinated blade with a somewhat denticulated retouch along one edge has been recorded. This also displays parallel blade scars on the dorsal face and is probably dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods.

6.6 Animal bone

Three worn fragments of animal bone (6g) were present in ditch fill 0002. They consist of two large mammal rib bone pieces, as well as an extremely worn and unidentifiable fragment.

6.7 Burnt stone

A single piece of burnt sandstone (66g) was noted in ditch fill 0002. It occurred alongside Roman pottery and worked flint.

6.8 Slag

Three pieces of slag were identified (742g), all of which are magnetic. They were recovered from ditch fill 0002 which also contained Roman pottery.

6.9 Iron objects

A single iron nail (4g) was recovered from ditch fill 0002, and was found alongside Roman pottery.

6.10 Clay pipe

Two stem fragments of clay pipe (3g) was recorded in the unstratified context 0003.

6.11 Glass

Post-medieval bottle glass (4 fragments @ 43g) was noted in the two unstratified contexts, 0003 and 004. Also noted in these contexts are clay pipe and post-medieval roof tile.

6.12 Small finds

Two small finds have been recovered, both from ditch fill 0002.

SF1001

Iron fragment, possibly part of a brooch/nail
Length 52mm, width 22mm
Awaiting the results of x-ray.

SF1002

Stone hone
Length 110mm, width 37mm, height 32mm

Although the hone is generally rectangular in shape all of its edges are sub-rounded indicating that the artefact has been well used. The hone occurs in ditch fill 0002 alongside Roman pottery.

6.13 Plant macrofossils and other organic remains

Rachel Fosberry AIFA

Introduction and Methods

The flot from a single 20L bulk sample excavated by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service was submitted to the Environmental Department at Oxford Archaeology East for an initial assessment in order to assess the quality of

preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

The flot had been obtained by the manual flotation of bulk samples carried out by a member of the Suffolk Archaeology team using a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = *rare*, ++ = *moderate*, +++ = *abundant*

Results

| Sample No. | Context No. | Cut No. | Feature Type | Flot Contents |
|------------|-------------|---------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1 | Ditch | Charcoal++, cereal grains ##, single glume base, weed seeds # |

Table 3. Plant macrofossil quantification

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common weed seeds such as nettles are present.

The charred plant assemblage consists of charcoal, cereal grains and chaff and occasional weed seeds. The grains have tentatively been identified as wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) based on their morphology. The presence of a single glume base of Spelt (*T.spelta*) wheat suggests that the grains are most likely those of this species. The charred weed seeds include cotyledons of either cultivated or wild pea (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.) and single seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*).

Discussion

The charred plant assemblage is dominated by cereal grains, most probably of spelt wheat which was the most common form of wheat grown in Britain in the Roman period (Greig, 1991). The grains were probably accidentally burnt during cooking on an open fire. The weed seeds were most likely crop contaminants that were hand-picked from the grain prior to consumption.

Further Work and Recommendations

This particular sample from the watching brief at Abbots Hall has not produced a quantifiable assemblage and no further work is required. If further excavations are planned for this area, it is recommended that a schedule for environmental sampling should be appended to the updated project design. By extensive sampling the nature of cereal waste and weed assemblages should provide an indication of whether these cereals were locally grown or imported.

6.14 Conclusion

Ditch fill 0002 provides the main focus for this finds collection, and the most prolific finds category within it is the Roman pottery assemblage. Other find types alongside the 2nd century pottery group include fired clay, animal bone, slag, a hone, burnt stone, ironwork and worked flint. The remainder of the finds assemblage has been recovered from unstratified contexts and only two abraded pieces of CBM within this are dated to the Roman period.

Although the Cedars Park area (about 2km to the east of the current site) has consistently yielded substantial Roman pottery assemblages, relatively little material dated to this period has been identified within a kilometre of the museum. The HER records 3rd century (SKT 002) and 2nd century individual coins (SKT 007) as well as a late 1st century kiln (SKT 008) and finally Roman pottery at the Camping ground (SKT 010).

7. Discussion

The feature encountered in this evaluation would appear to be sited within reasonably close proximity to some form of dwelling during the 2nd century AD. The state of preservation of the pottery is unusually good, suggesting that it lay where it was

discarded in the ditch, unlikely to have been far from where it ended its useful life. This period also saw a distinct alteration in the occupation characteristics at the site across the valley under Cedars Park. With only a single feature it is not possible to identify such a change in activity at the site identified at Abbot's Hall at the present time.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

It appears that the identified feature from Trench 1 is likely to relate to nearby occupation/habitation, due to the condition and nature of the finds recovered. This would appear to be the first identifiable feature indicating Roman settlement on this hillcrest, potentially with a view looking across the River Gipping valley towards a villa site identified at Cedars Park Estate (SKT 018). It seems possible that there may well exist another similar site somewhere close by to the present evaluation. The finds from this site however, do not at present suggest a tiled-roof structure or the presence of hypocaust heating, so it may be that the site was a more modest farmstead-type settlement. At present, no further work is recommended for this particular phase of development on the site, as the temporary car park will not threaten the preservation of Roman (or other) features at such a depth and the potential remains for future investigation should any more permanent developments be undertaken.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

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Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: **H / 81 / 2**

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Andy Beverton, Bill Brooks and Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the production of site plans and sections was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and Simon Cass respectively, and the specialist finds report by Andy Fawcett. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton and Rachel Fosberry. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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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.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK

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 sought from Mid Suffolk District Council (application number 0043/10) for the construction of a new car park, and associated works, at The Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket (TM 047 584). **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 in accordance with PPG 16 (Paragraph 30) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The site is located to the south-east of Crowe Street at c.35–40.00m OD. The soils are deep clay of the Hanslope series, derived from the underlying chalky till.
- 1.4 The proposal lies in an area of archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The site is overlooking the valleys of the Rivers Gipping and Rattlesden and it is topographically favourable for early occupation. The location has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its location. In addition, a Roman pottery is recorded from the area of the proposed car park (HER no. SKT 010), indicative of further occupation in the immediate vicinity. The area is also recorded as the site of a medieval (and later) fair.
- 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.

In addition, continuous archaeological monitoring will be required for other areas of ground disturbance relating to this planning application (stripping for new access, works associated with the realignment of entrance on Crowe Street, associated services); these works are the subject of a separate 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 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 Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).
- 1.10 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 fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA 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 The following trenched evaluation is required:
- A single linear trial trench is to be excavated across the location of the proposed car park, measuring 60.00m x 1.80m.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 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 depository 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 depository 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 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 hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.20 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 8 July 2010

Reference: / MEAL–Stowmarket2010

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.

Appendix 2. Context Database

| CONTEXT | FEATURE | GRID SQ | IDENTIFIER | DESCRIPTION | PERIOD/PHASE |
|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---|--------------|
| 0001 | 0001 | TR1 | Ditch Cut | Linear ditch feature, orientated approx. E-W. Up to 1.05m wide, and 0.28m deep with medium sloped sides and a shallow concave base. | Roman |
| 0002 | 0001 | TR1 | Ditch Fill | Fill of ditch 0001, a loose mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small flints and stones and frequent bioturbation evident. Finds include large well-preserved pottery, Fe fragments, Slag, Bone. | Roman |
| 0003 | | TR2 | Unstratified | Unstratified finds from Trench 2 | Modern |
| 0003 | | TR1 | Unstratified | Unstratified finds from Trench 1 | Modern |

Appendix 3. Pottery table

| <i>Context No</i> | <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Form</i> | <i>Sherd No</i> | <i>Weight (g)</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Context date</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 0002 | BSW | Body | 7 | 48 | | Early/mid to later 2nd C |
| 0002 | BSW | 4.5 or 5 | 1 | 21 | 0.12. | |
| 0002 | COLB | 1 | 31 | 209 | Base 1.00 | |
| 0002 | COLB* | 7.2 | 6 | 668 | 0.62, base 0.76. Trituration grits virtually worn off. *Local version? In style of Cam 195. | |
| 0002 | GMB | Body | 5 | 26 | | |
| 0002 | GMB | 5 | 1 | 27 | 0.15 | |
| 0002 | GMB | 4 or 5 | 1 | 5 | 0.03 | |
| 0002 | GMG | Body | 11 | 81 | Miscellaneous sherds | |
| 0002 | GMG | 4.1 | 1 | 12 | 0.05. In the Going 20/23 style | |
| 0002 | GMG | 4 | 3 | 62 | 0.46 | |
| 0002 | GMG | 4.5 | 1 | 33 | 0.20 | |
| 0002 | GMG | 3.6.2 | 1 | 4 | 0.03 | |
| 0002 | GMG | 4.1 or 5.2 | 1 | 15 | 0.10. | |
| 0003 | GRE | Body | 1 | 69 | | |
| 0002 | GX | 5.1 or 2 | 20 | 253 | 0.60 | |
| 0002 | GX | 4.6 | 7 | 95 | 0.23. Cam 268 style | |
| 0002 | GX | Body | 4 | 69 | Miscellaneous sherds | |
| 0003 | IRST | Body | 1 | 9 | | |

| <i>Context No</i> | <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Form</i> | <i>Sherd No</i> | <i>Weight (g)</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Context date</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0003 | MCW | Body | 1 | 1 | Less than one gram | Late 12th to 20th C |
| 0003 | REFW | Body | 1 | 1 | Less than one gram | |
| 0002 | RX | Body | 5 | 20 | | |
| 0002 | RX | 4.5 | 1 | 16 | 0.08 | |