

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/166

Stowmarket Golf Course, Great Finborough FNG 036

S. Cass
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HER Information

Planning Application No: 2757/08

Date of Fieldwork: 31st August to the 8th September 2010, also monitoring work carried out on 22nd January 2009.

Grid Reference: TM 0122 5800

Funding Body: Stowmarket Golf Club

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Simon Cass

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-82331

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Stowmarket Golf Course, to the rear of Great Finborough Church, in August and September 2010. A single ditch was observed during the course of the evaluation, running in an approximate north-east/south-west direction. A strip-and-record monitoring was carried out during the removal of topsoil across the eastern part of the new reservoir, to observe the area around this feature and record any further remains. This revealed a series of small ditches, likely to relate to field subdivisions and boundaries, one of which produced a small fragment of prehistoric pottery though this does not necessarily provide a definite date for the features as it appears to be a residual inclusion. In addition, monitoring works carried out elsewhere on the site in January 2009 did not encounter archaeologically relevant deposits (though the works observed did not penetrate through the topsoil in that area).

1. Introduction

Archaeological evaluation and a monitored strip was carried out in advance of the construction of a new water reservoir at Stowmarket Golf Course, Great Finborough in August and September 2010 in order to comply with a condition attached to planning application 2757/08 issued by Mid Suffolk District Council.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies just off the crest of a hill, to the northwest of the parish church of St Andrew in Great Finborough at a height of between 49m and 59m AOD on Chalky Till with flints.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological potential of the site stems in the main from its location adjacent to Great Finborough Parish Church, a Victorian building likely to be sited on a much earlier, possibly Anglo-Saxon, church mentioned in the Domesday Survey (FNG 012). There is the potential for the Anglo-Saxon core of the village to be nearby to the church. In addition, two Anglo-Saxon strap-ends (FNG 007) were discovered close by to the western edge of the churchyard. A post-medieval mound, 'Devils Hill' (FNG 003) is situated just to the north of the development site, within the present golf course. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the parishes of Great Finborough, Buxhall and Onehouse, so the locations and bounds of the earlier villages are relatively unknown.

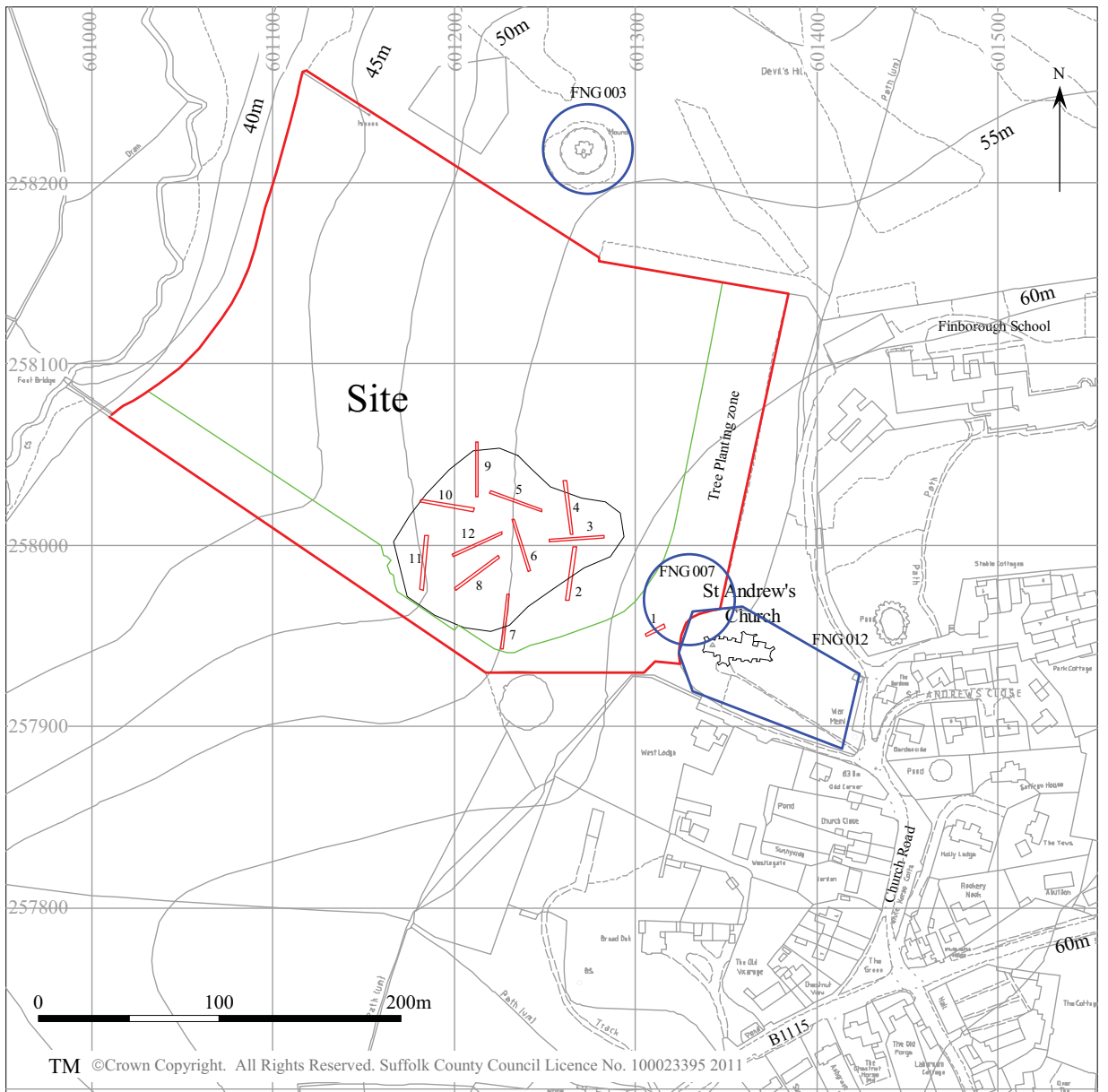
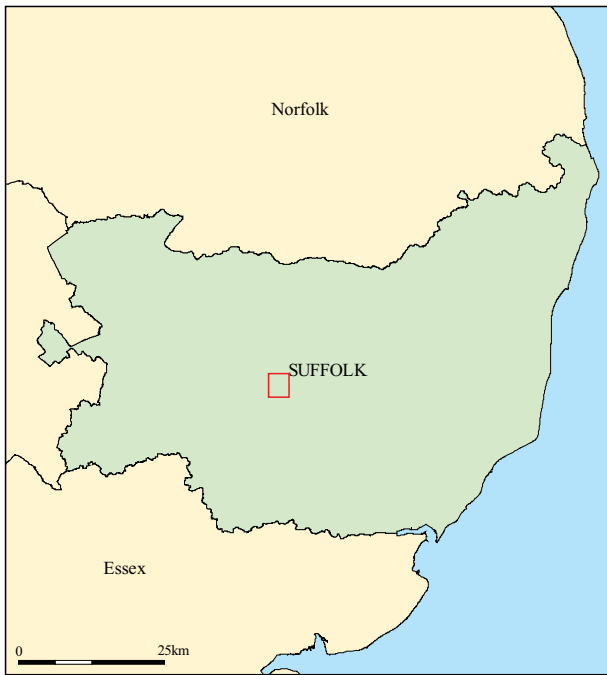


Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The evaluation was carried out using a small tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket 1.6m wide and under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches were recorded, with measured sketches made of stratigraphic details and any features were hand-cleaned and investigated, prior to being photographed and a full drawn plan and section being recorded for each feature.

Plans and sections were recorded at 1:50 and 1:20 scales respectively, and the photographs were taken using a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera. Contexts were recorded using standard SCCAS context sheets and recording conventions.

The monitored strip which followed the evaluation used the same excavator, and was also under constant archaeological supervision. The area to be monitored was agreed with Jess Tipper of SCC Archaeological Service Conservation Team, and the features revealed were hand-cleaned and excavated where necessary on order to investigate their composition and relationships, with a site plan being produced using a Leica GPS surveying system capable of <50mm accuracy.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

This report documents both the evaluation phase and a small monitored strip requested after the evaluation was carried out, in addition to the monitoring of a new drain run in the north-western corner of the site in 2009.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 10m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.4m deep, orientated northeast/southwest and situated towards the western boundary of the present churchyard of St Andrew's Church. The trench was located here to investigate the possibility that the churchyard, and potential burials, had previously extended outside of the present boundary. It was decided that a shorter trench would suffice to investigate this, especially as high-voltage underground cables were present nearby. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of dark brown clayey loamy silt topsoil/ploughsoil with moderate to frequent flints of all sizes sitting above a patchy layer of mid orangey brown

clayey silt subsoil c. 0.1m thick where present. Below this was a mid/dark orangey brown silty clay mixed with a mid/pale yellowish brown chalky clay which contained very frequent flint nodules and fragments.

5.3 Trench 2

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.5m deep, orientated north/south towards the eastern end of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above 0.15m of mid brownish orange silty clay with occasional flints and chalk flecks. This overlay natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. A single ditch feature was noted in this trench, recorded as 0001, orientated approximately north-northeast/south-southwest.

5.4 Trench 3

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.35m deep, orientated east/west towards the eastern end of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.35m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. A single ditch feature was identified near the eastern end of the trench, 0003, orientated approximately north-south.

5.5 Trench 4

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.4m deep, orientated north/south towards the eastern end of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. A ditch was noted in the northern end of the trench, containing modern ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and is believed to be the field boundary visible on the early Ordnance Survey maps of the parish, filled in some time after 1920. This feature is also present in Trenches 6 and 7.

5.6 Trench 5

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.35m deep, orientated approximately east/west and situated towards the northern edge of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

5.7 Trench 6

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.3m deep, orientated north/south and situated towards the centre of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. The post-medieval/modern ditch previously noted in Trench 4 continued through this trench, situated towards the southern end.

5.8 Trench 7

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.5m deep (at the south-western end), orientated northeast-southwest and situated towards the centre of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of up to 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk at the north-eastern end. The stratigraphy at the southern end consisted of 0.25m of topsoil above 0.1m of dull grey/orangey brown silty clay subsoil, which sealed in turn a mid orange/brown silty clay, interpreted as a natural alluvial deposit. The pale yellow/brown clay and chalk occurred at a depth of c. 0.5m. The post-medieval/modern ditch noted previously in Trenches 4 and 6 continued though this trench, just visible in the northern end.

5.9 Trench 8

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.3m deep, orientated approximately northeast/southwest and situated towards the centre of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench, although natural geological water-erosion channels were visible.

5.10 Trench 9

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.35m deep, orientated north/south and situated towards on the northern edge of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

5.11 Trench 10

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.3m deep, orientated approximately east/west and situated towards the western edge of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench, although natural geological water-erosion channels were visible.

5.12 Trench 11

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.3m deep, orientated approximately north/south and situated towards the western edge of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk at the northern end. At the southern end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil above 0.55m of mid orangey/greyish brown subsoil, interpreted as an alluvial deposit which overlay the natural clay and chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench, although natural geological water-erosion channels were visible.

5.13 Trench 12

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to c. 0.4m deep, orientated approximately northeast/southwest and situated towards the centre of the reservoir area. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent small/medium sized flints above natural pale yellow/brown clay with chalk. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were noted.

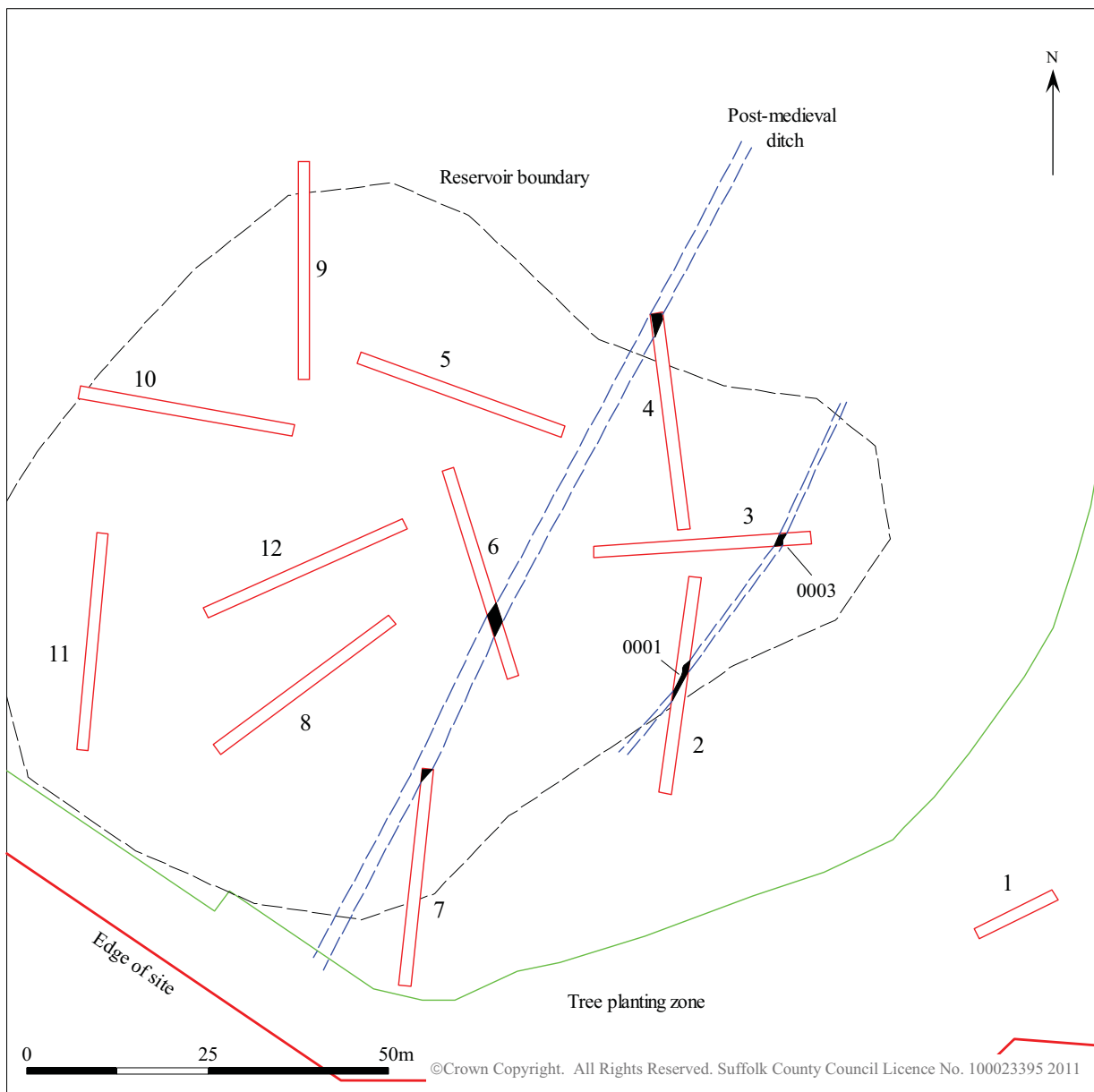


Figure 2. Features uncovered in evaluation phase.

5.14 Monitored strip area

As a consequence of the features identified in the evaluation, SCCAS Conservation Team requested that an area be stripped under archaeological control to reveal the features identified and preserve them by record since they were situated within the area of the new reservoir. This area was to include the eastern edge of the reservoir, up to the features present in the evaluation and as far beyond that as necessary to trace any new features or confirm their absence.

This area strip uncovered several ditches/gullies that had not been picked up by the evaluation (Fig. 3).

Ditch 0023, comprised of sections 0001, 0011, 0018 and 0020, was up to 1m wide and 0.4m deep with a generally steeper southern/eastern edge, a concave base and a slightly shallower stepped northern/western edge, filled with a mid greyish yellow-brown silty clay with occasional flints and chalk flecks. Section 0011 encountered a differing primary fill – a dark brownish grey friable clayey silt which was sampled for further analysis. It entered the site from the eastern edge and turned south after approximately 16m. Ditches 0005, 0007 and 0024 appear to relate to this ditch, terminating at their respective junctions, although no relationships were visible when investigated. A single fragment of prehistoric pottery was found within the sampled deposit from section 0011, although its very abraded nature and small size suggests that it is a residual find that has entered a later ditch, rather than being secure dating evidence for the ditch.



Plate 1. Ditch 0023, section 0011 facing west (1m scale)

Ditch 0024 was 20m long, c. 0.8m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated approximately north-south. A sample taken to investigate some charcoal flecks identified during excavation failed to produce any dateable remains and the quantity of charcoal was insufficient for further analysis. This ditch comprised sections 0003, 0014 and 0016, with a depth varying from 0.35m in section 0003 to as little as 0.05m in section 0014. The relationship with section 0018 of ditch 0023 was inconclusive, with no visible difference between the fills at this point, although the significant change in depth of this ditch between sections 0003 and 0016 could point to a terminus as it met ditch 0023.



Plate 2. Relationship section between 0016 (left) and 0018 (right) facing east (0.2m scale)

Ditch 0005 was visible for c.6.6m heading west from ditch 0023. It was 0.45m wide and 0.05m deep, with shallow sloped sides and a shallow concave base and was filled with a mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate flints and chalk flecks. The feature appeared to peter out to the west as the slope dropped away.



Plate 3. Ditch 0005, facing east (0.2m scale)

Ditch 0007 was similar to 0005 in that it originated at the edge of ditch 0023, and disappeared some 8.5m west where the slope descended. It was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, with shallow sides and an irregular flat/ shallow concave base and was filled with a mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate flints and chalk flecks.

In both these cases, the shallow nature of the features and the similar characteristics of their fills precluded any visible stratigraphic relationship being established with ditch 0023.

Ditch 0009 was up to 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep, with a medium sloped southern side and irregular flat base to a shallow sloped northern side. This feature also petered out to the west, and although it was not picked up in the evaluation trench initially, further examination of the trench edge suggested that it could have continued to the east, although in a much shallower form. This feature appeared to truncate ditch 0023, although as the intersection of the ditches was at the limit of the excavation area, it was not possible to excavate a section to prove the relationship.



Plate 4. Ditch 0009, facing east (1m scale)

Ditch 0022 was a visibly post-medieval ditch, with CBM and modern pottery fragments present in the fill. No sections were excavated though this feature as it was modern; it continued outside the excavation area both to the north and south and its relationship with ditch 0023 was clear.

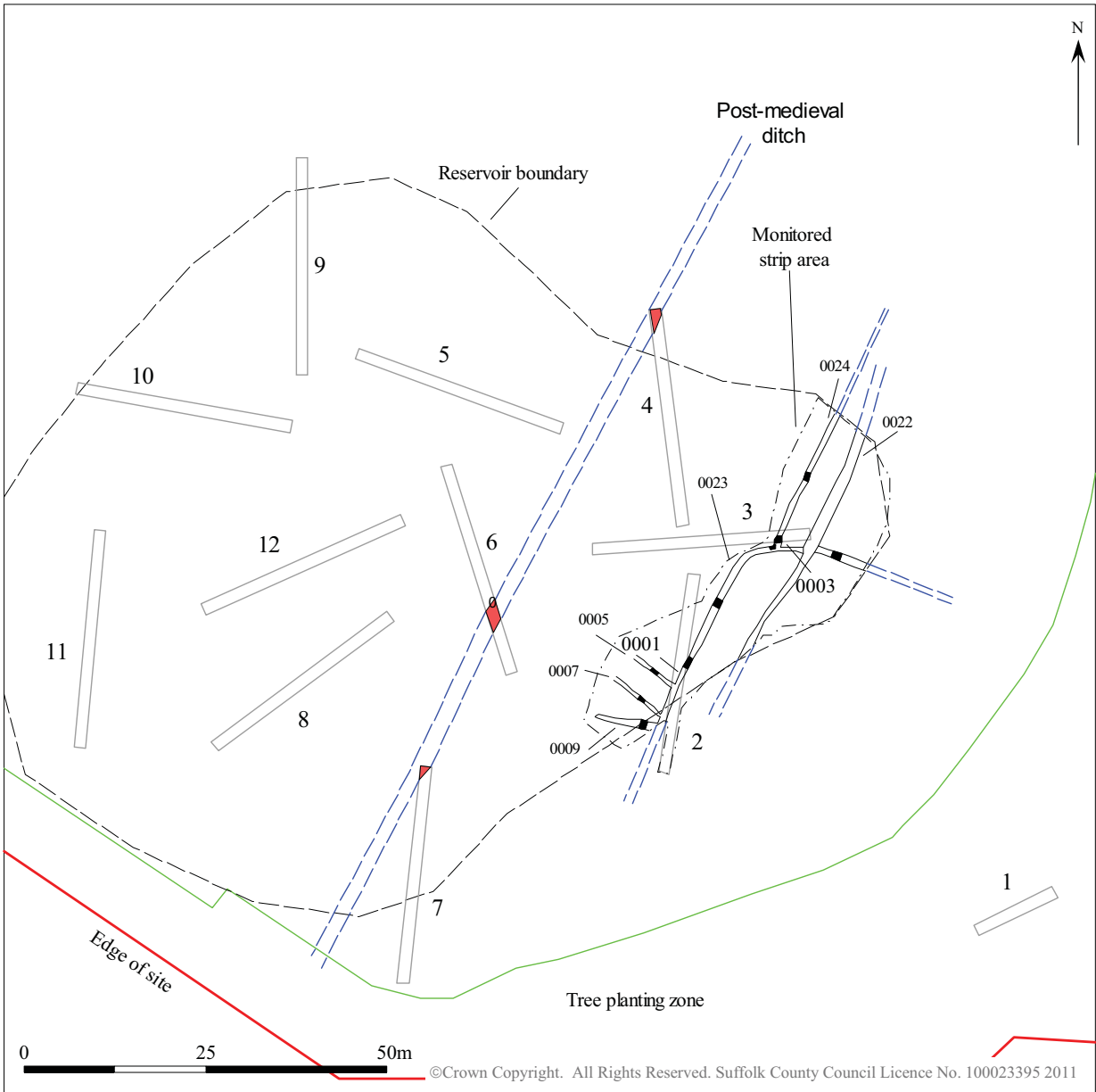


Figure 3. Features uncovered during monitored strip and evaluation.

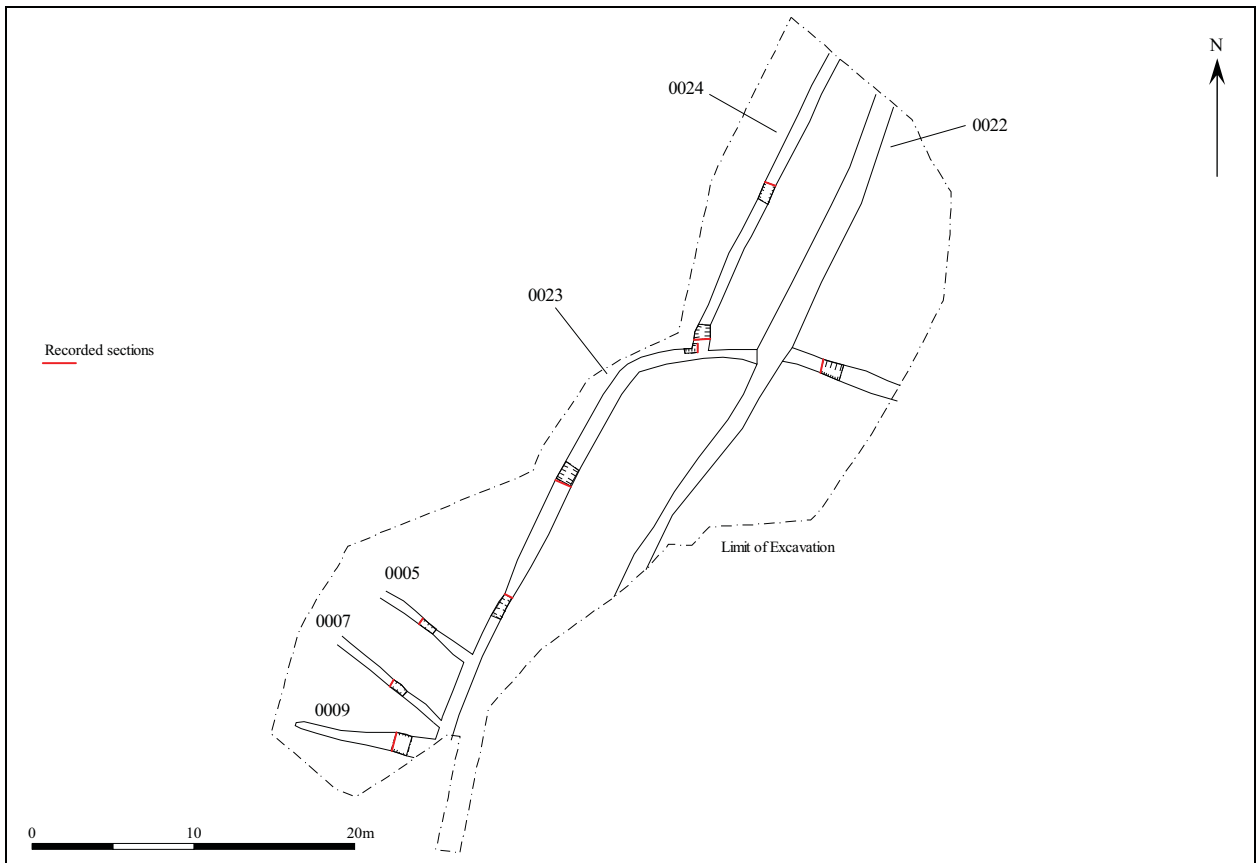


Figure 4. Detailed plan of monitored strip area.

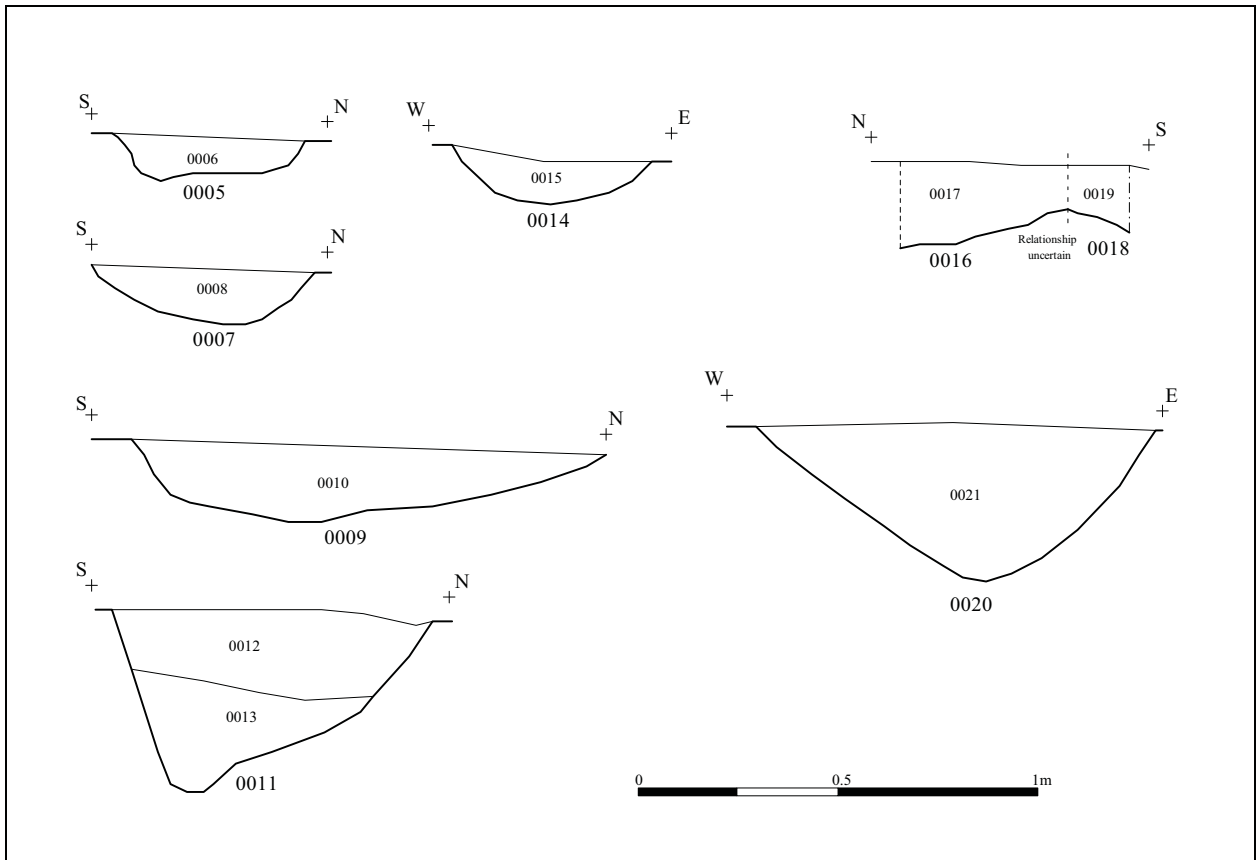


Figure 5. Sections

5.15 Drain monitoring in 2009 (planning permission 0073/04)

A short length of drainage was monitored during January 2009 as part of planning permission 0073/04. The new drain was a replacement for an existing, silted up, ditch that would be built over during the ground works for the proposed golf course extension. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of topsoil over 0.35m of mid greyish orangey brown sandy silty clay with occasional small/medium sub-angular stones, interpreted as a subsoil/colluvial deposit. No natural or archaeologically relevant deposits were encountered during this monitoring.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

Finds were recorded in three contexts, ditch fills 0004, 0013 and 0021 and these contained pottery, animal bone and burnt flint (10 fragments @ 123g). A full contextual breakdown of these forms part of the site archive.

6.2 Pottery

A single very abraded fragment (<1g) of flint-tempered pottery (HMF), dated to the prehistoric period, was noted in ditch fill 0004.

6.3 Burnt flint

Two small fragments of burnt flint were recorded in context 0004 (3g). These are both coloured white and may be related to the 'pot boiling' process; prehistoric pottery was also recorded in this fill.

6.4 Animal bone

Michelle Feider

The animal bone assemblage is very worn and fragmented. Fill 0013 contained a cow distal tibia, one cow incisor, one large mammal vertebra body as well unidentifiable fragments (5 fragments @ 73g). Context 0021 contained a single large mammal long bone fragment which is possibly part of a femur (45g). Finally, an unidentifiable piece was noted in fill 0004 (<1g).

6.5 Charred plant and other environmental remains

Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

The flots from two bulk samples excavated by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service were 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 flots 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 flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	13	11	Ditch	Charcoal, partial cereal grain
2	4	3	Ditch	Charcoal, three cereal grains

Table 1. Environmental results

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Both samples contain charcoal and occasional abraded cereal grains. The grains have tentatively been identified as wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) based on their morphology.

Discussion

The samples from the excavations at Stowmarket Golf Club contain charred plant remains in the form of wheat grains which had probably been discarded after accidental burning. No chaff elements or weed seeds are present precluding further interpretation of these features.

Further Work and Methods Statement

No further work on this plant macrofossil assemblage is required. Identification of the small bone elements may be informative.

If further work is planned in this area, environmental sampling should still be considered as these results show that there is potential for the recovery of plant macrofossils.

6.6 Conclusion

The pottery in ditch fill 0004 (recorded in Sample 2) indicates possible prehistoric activity on the site. However, the single piece of pottery that represents this, is very small and abraded, and cannot be considered as good dating evidence. The animal bone assemblage is small, fragmented and worn and has little archaeological value.

7. Discussion

The ditches revealed appear to form both a field boundary and internal field subdivisions of unknown date, and parts of a post-medieval field system that finally fell out of use some time after 1920. The modern ditch noted in the monitored strip area seems likely to have been an internal field division, possibly for drainage purposes, of the field noted here on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. The only dateable find was the single sherd of prehistoric pottery which was unfortunately not sufficient to assign a date to the ditch it was located in, as its condition could easily suggest it was a residual find that worked its way into the ditch from the ploughsoil nearby.

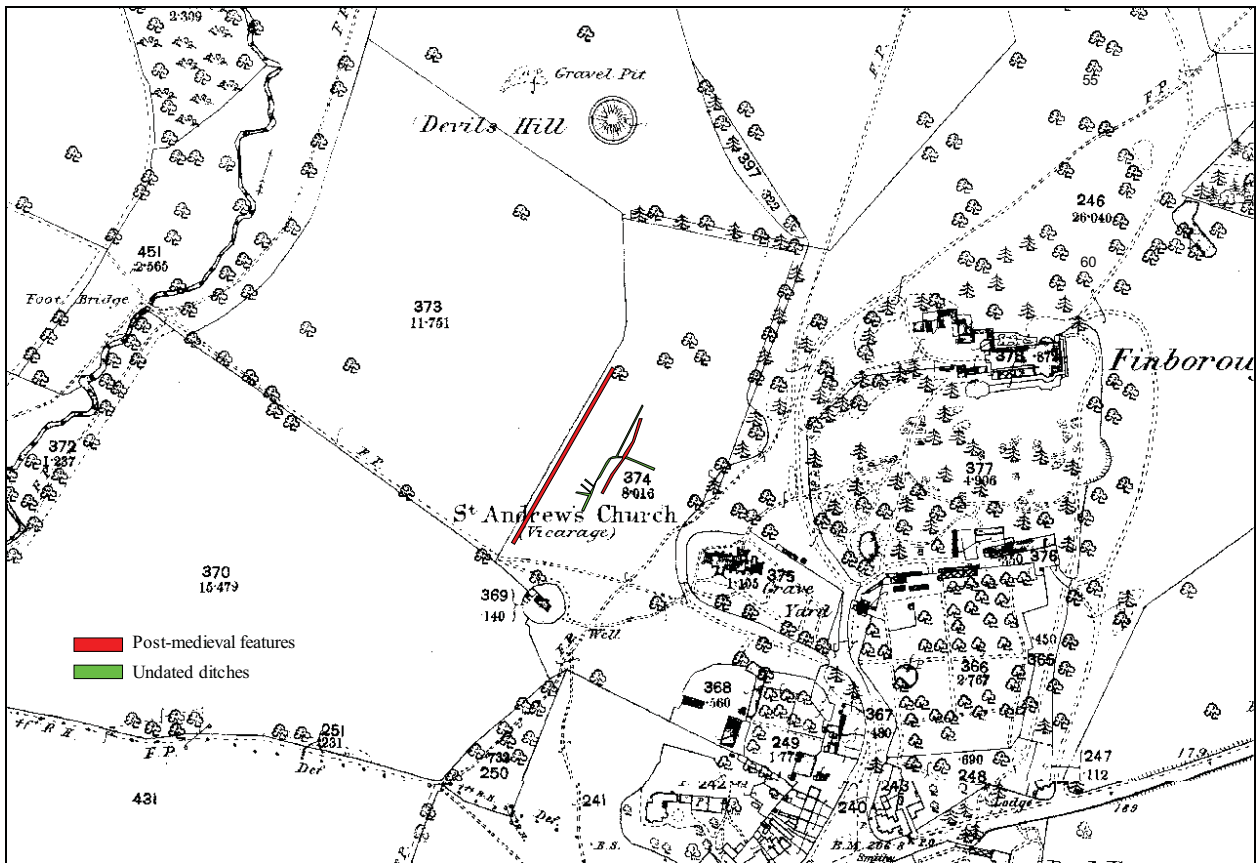


Figure 6. First edition OS map with encountered features.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Although the features revealed have not provided much dating evidence, they do suggest that further features may be preserved elsewhere on the hillside, and that agricultural practices have not totally truncated the archaeological resource. The small fragment of prehistoric pottery is insufficient to provide a secure date for the feature is was located in, and appears to be residual in nature. This does suggest however, that amongst any other features in this area there may well be those dating to the prehistoric period. While future works may be required elsewhere in the development area, for example the sites of any bunkers or ground alteration during construction of the new tees, no further works are recommended to be necessary for the creation of the reservoir.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

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Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: **H / 80 / 3**.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andrew Beverton, Simon Cass and Linzi Everett) all 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 Michelle Feider and Rachel Fosberry. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press
R.T.J. Cappers, R.M. Bekker and J.E.A. Jans, 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands Groningen Archaeological Studies 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde, The Netherlands.
www.seedatlas.nl

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****LAND TO THE REAR OF GREAT FINBOROUGH CHURCH, CHURCH ROAD, FOR AN
EXTENSION TO STOWMARKET GOLF CLUB**

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 for the extension of Stowmarket Golf Club onto land to the rear (north-west) of Great Finborough Church, Church Road, Great Finborough. The initial proposal (application 73/04), was for the development of three new holes, including tees, greens and ancillary works, and was advised as conditional upon a suitable programme of archaeological works being undertaken. A new updated proposal has been lodged with Mid Suffolk District Council (application 2757/08) which in addition to three new greens and golf holes proposes the development of a water storage reservoir. Mid Suffolk District Council have been advised that a similar archaeological condition will be required for this new proposal (our reference: 2008_2757). An acceptable programme of archaeological works will in this case be an evaluation of the reservoir area, and further mitigation on the additional work which will be decided at a later date.
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 7.50 ha, and is situated on north-western side of Great Finborough. The site overlooks and is adjacent to a tributary stream of the Rattlesden River, with soils that are predominantly clays of the Hanslope series overlying chalky till. The site rises from 40.00m AOD at the stream to 60.00m AOD by the church.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies just to the north and west of the historic settlement core, and was once part of great Finborough Park. It is situated to the rear of the location of the parish church, where a church has been known since the time of the Domesday survey in 1086. In addition, to the rear of the church finds of a late Saxon date have been located. This includes two metal strap ends (belt fittings), which are normally associated with funereal practise. An earlier Saxon church and cemetery at this location is a possibility. There is therefore a high potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier occupation deposits at this location.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, and as a first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, the following work is required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the area of the proposed reservoir, before any groundwork takes place.

This will form part of an integrated evaluation strategy for the project, further aspects of the development are likely to require further excavation and monitoring as required. This will be decided at a later date and a separate specification will need to be issued for this work.

- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work 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 brief.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 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 – Reservoir area

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is approximately 666.75m². 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 370m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 The trial trenches should be excavated prior to the demolition of the existing farm buildings, to avoid any disturbance to underlying deposits, which might be of archaeological importance.

- 3.3 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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 J. Heathcote, 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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).

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Date: 12 August 2008

Reference: / StowmarketGolfClub2008

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
0001	0001	TR 2	Ditch Cut	North-South linear ditch feature, steep eastern edge, concave base and a stepped western edge. Filled with 0002
0002	0001	TR 2	Ditch Fill	Pale/mid yellowish brown silty clay deposit with occasional chalk flecks.
0003	0003	TR 3	Ditch Cut	North-south orientated ditch in Trench 3. c. 0.35m deep and 0.8m wide with a V-shaped profile and c. 45 degree sloping sides to a rounded base.
0004	0003	TR 3	Ditch Fill	Pale-Mid yellowish brown chalky clay, compact/friable with frequent chalk lumps and regular angular flints up to 100mm, occasional charcoal flecks.
0005	0005		Ditch Cut	East-west orientated linear gully feature with shallow sloping sides to a concave base 0.45m wide and up to 0.05m deep. Feature peters out to the west as the slope descends, no visible relationship with 0001.
0006	0005		Ditch Fill	Mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay with moderate flints and chalk flecks.
0007	0007		Ditch Cut	East-west orientated linear gully with steep sloping sides to a shallow concave/flat base 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. Feature peters out to the west as the slope descends, no visible relationship with 0001.
0008	0007		Ditch Fill	Mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay with moderate flints and chalk flecks.
0009	0009		Ditch Cut	East-west orientated ditch with medium sloped south side, irregular flat base and a shallow sloped northern side. 1.2m wide and up to c. 0.2m deep.
0010	0009		Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional medium flints and chalk flecks. Modern CBM fragments present.
0011	0011		Ditch Cut	Ditch (orientated east-west at this point), 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep. Steep southern side and moderately steep northern side. Filled with 0013 (lower fill) and 0012 (upper fill).
0012	0011		Ditch Fill	Mid grey/yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flints and chalk flecks.
0013	0011		Ditch Fill	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt. Occasional small flint fragments.
0014	0014		Ditch Cut	North-south orientated linear ditch with shallow sloped sides and a concave base 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep. Same features as 0003 and 0016
0015	0014		Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional/moderate flints and chalk flecks.

CONTEXT	FEATURE	GRID SQ	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION
0016	0016		Ditch Cut	Ditch, orientated north-south. 0.17m deep and 0.4m wide (half-sectioned as relationship with 0018). Feature is the same as 0003 and 0014. Possible terminus of this length of ditch (feature shallows from 0.35m deep in 0003 to c. 0.1m deep in this section). No clear relationship with 0018.
0017	0016		Ditch Fill	Pale-Mid yellowish brown chalky clay, compact/friable with frequent chalk lumps and angular flints .
0018	0018		Ditch Cut	Eas-west orientated ditch, c. 0.12m deep and 0.5m long (relationship slot so only half-sectioned). Same features as 0001, 0011 and 0020. No clear relationship with 0016.
0019	0018		Ditch Fill	Pale-Mid yellowish brown chalky clay, compact/friable with frequent chalk lumps and angular flints .
0020	0020		Ditch Cut	North-south orientated linear ditch with steep eastern edge to a shallow concave base and a medium sloping western edge. 1m wide and 0.3m deep. Same as 0001, 0011 and 0018.
0021	0020		Ditch Fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and flints.