

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/185

The Meadows, The Street Holbrook HBK 045

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HER Information

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Date of Fieldwork: 19th – 21st July 2010
Grid Reference: TM 1661 3687
Funding Body: Ingleton Contracts Limited
Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mark Sommers
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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 a plot formerly occupied by Vine Cottage, The Street, Holbrook, in advance of a housing development (The Meadows). Three trenches with a total length of 40m were excavated across the site of the proposed building footprints but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Ingleton Contracts Limited)

1. Introduction

A small residential development is proposed for an area of land formerly occupied by Vine Cottage, The Street, Holbrook. Planning permission has been granted (B/07/01236/OUT/LJB) but with an attached condition calling for an agreed programme of archaeological work to be in place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1) is the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may be deemed necessary.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1661 3687. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

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

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated on an area of relatively level ground at a height of approximately 25m OD. The underlying geology consists of sands and gravels which can be masked by an overlying fine-grained loess like deposit

The proposed development site consists of grassland with occasional large trees and shrubs. The adjacent roadway is slightly lower than the main portion of the development site which lies across the boundary of two previously separate plots of land. The northern plot appears to have been partially landscaped resulting in a gentle slope down to the edge of the road.

The site is located on the edge of Holbrook and is some 500m from the commercial centre of the village and 900m from the medieval parish church.

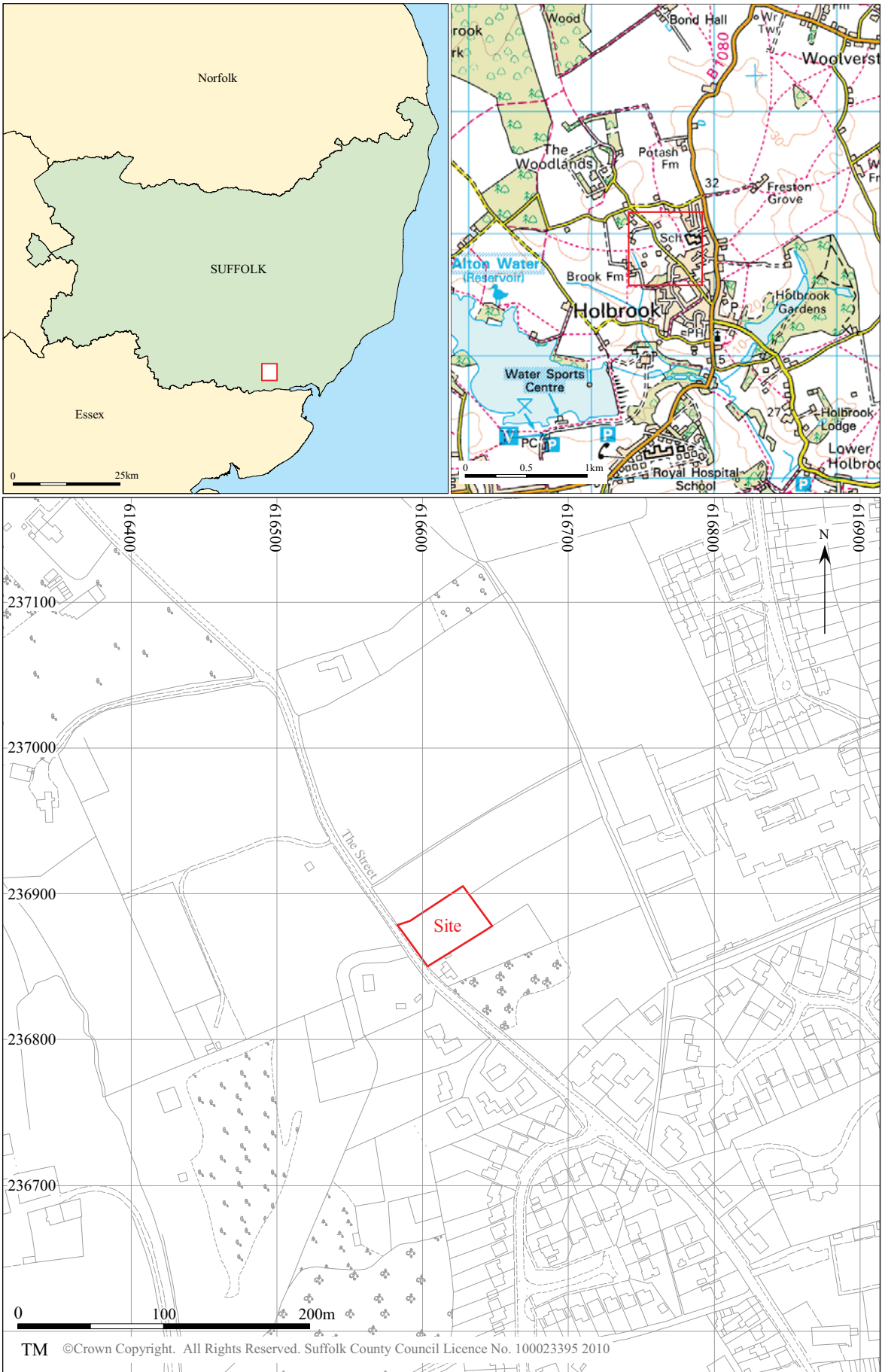


Figure 1. Site location plan

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are no known sites recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within the proposed site although an undated crop-mark complex recorded by aerial reconnaissance lies in the field to the west (HER ref. HBK 006).

This site is considered to have a high potential for archaeological deposits to be present. This development will entail significant disturbance to the existing land surface which could result in damage and/or destruction of any archaeological remains that may be present.

4. Methodology

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

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features or deposits. Any features/deposits identified were sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts. All features excavated were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their excavated sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. Once the features had been sampled the excavated sections were enlarged to maximise the chances of retrieving datable artefacts. Samples of the fills were taken from the majority of the features to enable further analysis if deemed to be useful.

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

5. Results

Three trenches with a total length of 40m were excavated (Fig. 2). They were numbered 1 to 3 in order of their excavation.



Figure 2. Trench location plan

Occasional modern disturbances were noted in Trench 1 and 2 but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

A description of each trench follows:

<u>Trench</u>	<u>Max depth of natural</u>	<u>Stratigraphy</u>
T1	1m	The natural subsoil comprised a yellow sand and gravel. At the southeast end of the trench it lay at a depth of 0.6m beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.25m of a pale brown silty sand with infrequent small rounded stone (0002). The natural subsoil sloped gently downwards towards the northwest end of the trench. At the northwest end it was at a depth of 1m. The pale brown silty sand layer (0002) had increased to a thickness of 0.6m. This was overlain by a layer of topsoil mixed with post-medieval building debris associated with the demolition of Vine Cottage. The upper surface of 0002 had clearly been truncated during the demolition work.

- T2** 0.6m The natural subsoil comprised a yellow sand and gravel and lay at a depth of 0.6m beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.25m of a pale brown silty sand with infrequent small rounded stone (0002). The recorded profile was identical to that recorded in the southeast end of Trench 1.
- T3** 0.6m This trench was excavated across the earlier boundary between two separate plots to investigate the height difference. At the southeast the recorded profile comprised topsoil over pale brown silty sand (0002) with the natural subsoil laying at a depth of 0.6m. At the point of the height change the natural subsoil dropped abruptly by c. 0.5m and was overlain by a mass of grey sand (see section).

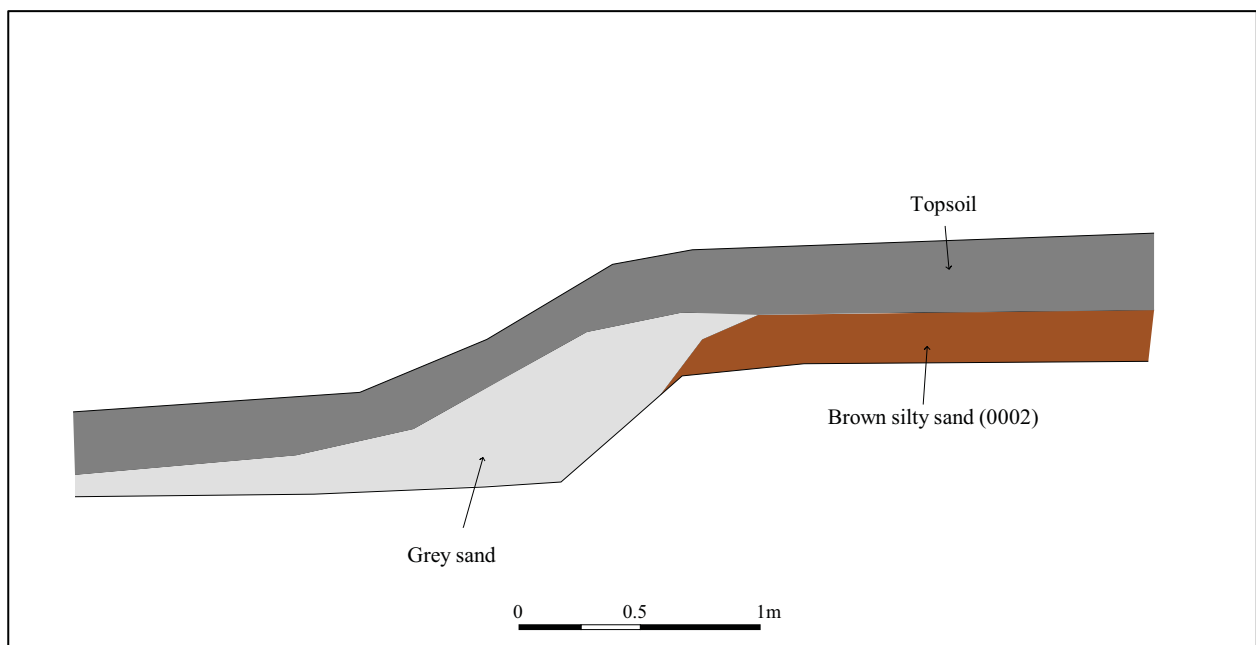


Figure 3. Trench 3, section (from a measured sketch)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No environmental or artefactual evidence was recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

No evidence for any significant evidence for earlier activity was recovered from the excavated trenches. The pale brown silty sand material (0002) noted in all three trenches is likely to be a result of weathering of the upper surface of the natural subsoil

and as such is a natural deposit. It had clearly been truncated in Trench 1 which may have resulted in a loss of evidence but this seems unlikely given the complete lack of evidence recovered elsewhere on the site.

The difference in height noted between the two formerly separate plots of land has undoubtedly been caused by truncation of the lower, northern plot. This is possibly a result of ploughing although this area is presently pasture. It is possible that this northern plot may have once been a residential and the truncation could be the result of deliberate landscaping.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation found no evidence for any significant earlier activity. It is therefore unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits or features are under threat from the proposed development and consequently no further work is recommended.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Holbrook\The Meadows

Historic Environment Record reference under which archive is held: HBK 045.

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-83355

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Michael Smith and Mark Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The machine and operator was provided by the client, Ingleton Contracts Limited.

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

Plates (Scales = 1m length divided onto 0.5m sections)



Plate I. Profile as revealed in Trench 1



Plate II. View of Trench 3 (camera facing northeast)

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.

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

VINE COTTAGE, THE STREET, HOLBROOK, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK (B/07/01236/OUT/LJB)

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

1. **The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by Babergh District Council (B/07/01236/OUT/LJB) for the erection of two detached dwellings and associated works at Vine Cottage, The Street, Holbrook IP9 2PX (TM 1660 2386). Please contact the developer for an accurate location plan.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The area of the proposed development is located on the east side of The Street and measures 0.14ha. It is situated on glaciofluvial drift (deep loam) at c. 29.00m AOD.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the east of an undated crop-mark complex recorded by aerial reconnaissance (HER no. HBK 006). There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. Aspects of the proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required to the rear of the development area.
- 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.**
- 1.7 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*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c. 70.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, prior to demolition of existing buildings. 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 39.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 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 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 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 Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill 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 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 7 July 2009

Reference: / VineCottage-Holbrook2009

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.