

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/007

Land off Lady Lane, Hadleigh HAD 089

S. Cass
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HER Information

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Funding Body: Persimmon Homes

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Simon Cass and Mark Sommers

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Lady Lane, Hadleigh, as part of the fulfilment of a planning condition placed on the development of the land for mixed use by Persimmon Homes. An earlier phase of work (SCCAS Report No.: 2008/059) investigated the majority of the site, and this current phase was to investigate an area unavailable for evaluation at the time. 13 trenches were excavated across the site, avoiding the previous structures, and no artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed. No further work is recommended as necessary in this area of the overall site.

1. Introduction

A second phase of evaluation was carried out at land off Lady Lane, Hadleigh, in January 2011, related to the planned development of the site by Persimmon Homes Anglia Ltd for a mixed use development (planning application number B/06/01488). Two prior phases of work have already been carried out and are documented in SCCAS report no.: 2008/059. Briefly, they identified scattered areas of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval activity across the development area. The current evaluation was intended to investigate the north-western corner of the site, which had been unavailable for evaluation at the time of the prior works.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on undulating land to the north-east of the town of Hadleigh at TM 0377 4342. The land slopes down from c.60m AOD in the north-east to c.55m AOD on its south-western limit. The geology of the site varies between glacio-fluvial drift to chalky till with calcareous clay, as observed in the trenches.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background of the site has been summarised in the previous report for the main site. In general its position on a hillside overlooking the River Brett valley, and proximity to the medieval town of Hadleigh, along with numerous significant prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites nearby in the river valley, suggested that there was a high potential of further archaeological deposits being located within the development area.

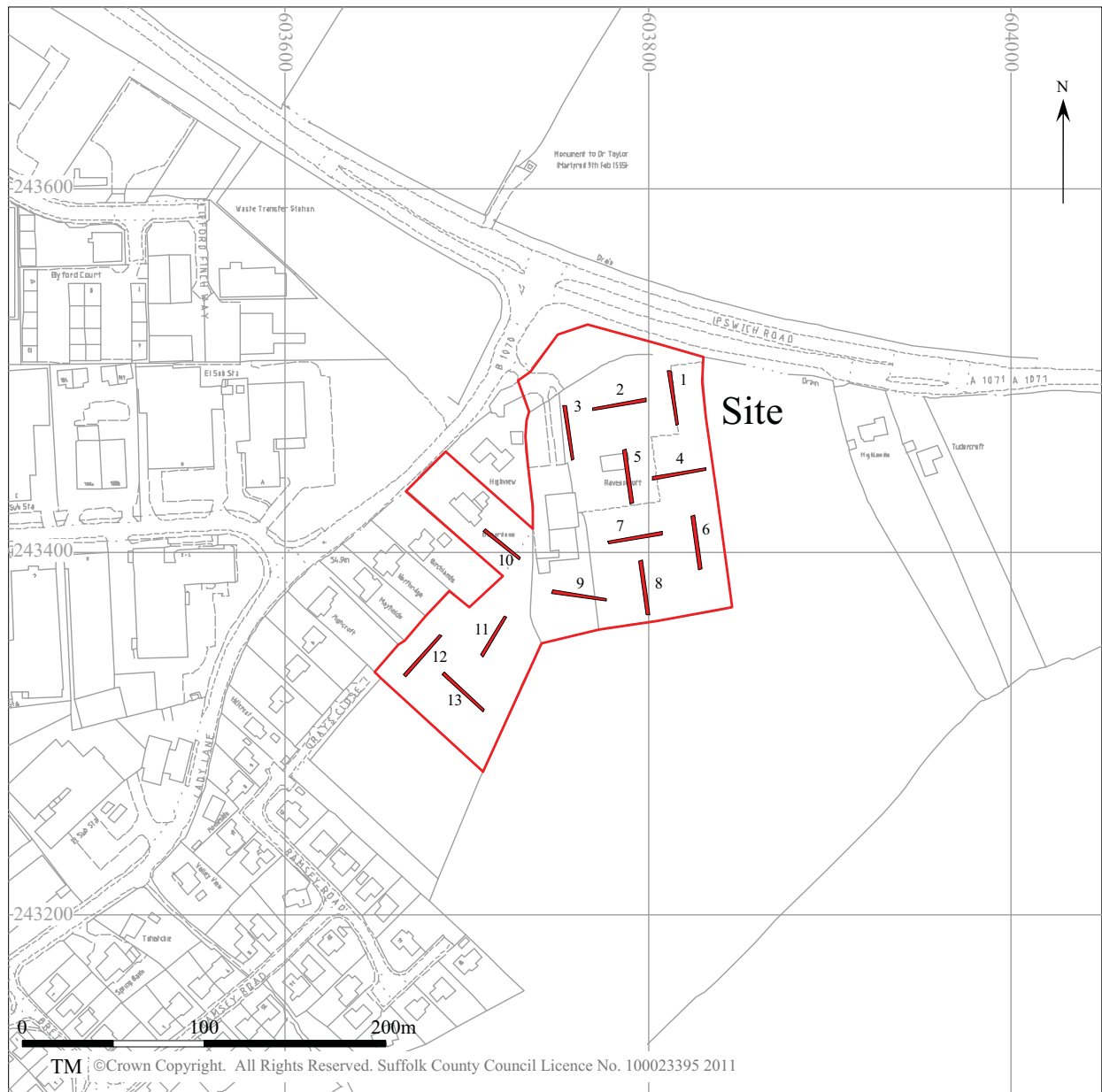
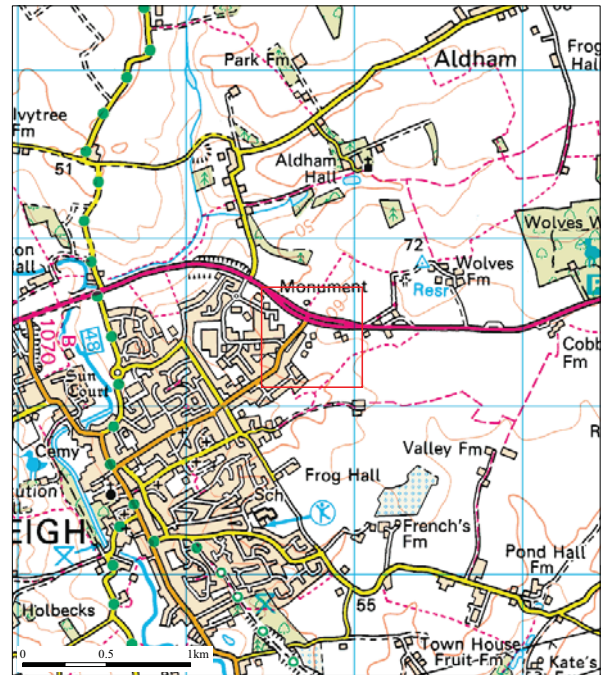


Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The trenches were excavated using an 8-tonne tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Some trenches were repositioned slightly to avoid large tree-stumps that were still present on the site, but normally, this involved repositioning less than 0.5m from the planned locations.

Trenches were hand-cleaned where appropriate, and all potential archaeological features were investigated, with hand-drawn plans and sections where results required. A photographic record was made of each trench, using a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera and measurements taken and recorded on *pro forma* context and trench recording sheets. Any features identified were to be sampled for environmental processing, with a minimum suggested sample size of c. 40l (feature size allowing).

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Thirteen trenches were excavated across the site, in a standard grid pattern. The northern part of the evaluation area was not evaluated due to the presence of both overhead and underground live services, and the area of the demolished Ravenscroft house was also not trenched, given the likely truncation and damage associated with the construction, usage and demolition of a significantly sized building.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.45m deep, orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.31m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.14m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. Numerous tree-stumps were encountered, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.47m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.22m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow

clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. Numerous tree-stumps were encountered, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 3

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.65m deep, orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered at the northern end consisted of 0.37m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.28m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. At the southern end of the trench the depths were 0.26m and 0.2m respectively, with a total depth of 0.46m. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. A row of mature tree stumps immediately adjacent to the trench caused major root disturbance throughout the trench.



Plate 1. Trench 3, facing south (2 x 1m scales)

5.2 Trench 4

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.36m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.23m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.13m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. Numerous tree-stumps and root disturbances were encountered, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 5

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.45m deep, orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.27m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil, with moderate/frequent modern demolition detritus inclusions, above 0.18m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

5.2 Trench 6

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.46m deep, orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.31m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.15m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks, gradually becoming more orangey-brown towards the southern end, with more gravel and chalky inclusions. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. Several tree-stumps and root disturbances were encountered, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 7

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.46m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.31m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.15m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. Tree-stumps and root disturbances were encountered, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 8

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.44m deep, orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.23m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.11m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. A row of tree-stumps and associated root disturbances were encountered on the western edge of the trench, originating from the previous use of this part of the site as an orchard.

5.2 Trench 9

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.54m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.31m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.23m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. A small copse just to the south of the trench, and several tree stumps in and to the north of it, appear to have caused significant root disturbance throughout the trench, modern brick, tarmac and rubble fragments were scattered throughout the deposits.

5.2 Trench 10

This trench was 25m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.55m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast and located in a garden to the rear of the property previously known as 'Emmerdene'. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.20m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.25m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench. The trench was shortened due to the presence of several large tree stumps along the previous garden boundary.

5.2 Trench 11

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.55m deep, orientated northeast-southwest. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.32m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.23m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

5.2 Trench 12

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated northeast-southwest. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.24m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.26m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

5.2 Trench 13

This trench was 30m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.45m deep, orientated northwest-southeast. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.32m of dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil above 0.13m of pale yellow/brown silty clay subsoil with chalk flecks. This sealed pale yellow clay with chalk flecks. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed in this trench.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological significance were encountered during this evaluation.

7. Discussion

The absence of any archaeologically relevant deposits in this part of the overall site may have several reasons, given that features found near the limits of the adjacent site appeared to have the potential to cross into this area. The previous use of a large part of the site was as an orchard, the roots of which had spread over much of the area evaluated and could have destroyed any smaller features passing through. Equally, the presence of the previous house with its associated driveway, garden structures, underground services, etc, could also have caused features to be damaged or otherwise obscured. That being the case, the lack of any visible plough-scarring would suggest that in the southern and western part of the site (Trenches 10-13) conditions for preservation might have been better, although here too, no features were identified.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Due to the negative nature of this evaluation, and taking account of the results of the prior evaluation in the adjacent fields, it would appear that the archaeological potential for this site is very low, with much of it highly disturbed, and no redeposited or stray finds being recovered from top or subsoil. No further work is recommended to be undertaken for this area.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Hadleigh

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Bill Brooks, Simon Cass and Mark Sommers, with the assistance of Andy Beverton) 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 production of site plans and sections was carried out by Simon Cass, and the report was checked by Rhodri Gardner.

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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND BETWEEN LADY LANE AND TOWER MILL LANE, HADLEIGH, 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 consent (application B/06/01488/OUT/MF) has been granted by Babergh District Council for mixed use development on Land between Lady Lane and Tower Mill Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk (TM 0384 4320; see attached plan) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures c. 16.4 ha. The site is located at c. 62 - 40.00m AOD, sloping down north-east to south-west. The underlying dominant geology of the site varies, from glacio-fluvial drift comprising loamy and sandy soils, in places over gravel, in the west to chalky till with calcareous clay and loam to clay in the east.
- 1.3 The application lies affects a large area that has not been the subject of previous systematic archaeological investigation. There is high potential for important archaeological features to be located in this area, given the size of the development site and the landscape setting, overlooking the River Brett. Aspects of the proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 As a first stage, and in order to inform an impact assessment and subsequent mitigation, the following staged scheme of evaluation work is required:
 - non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
 - linear trial-trenching.
- 1.5 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 outline specification, 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 establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 The surveys should 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 The evaluation should 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. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage. The mitigation strategy will be the subject of a further archaeological brief, once the results of the evaluation have been reported.
- 2.7 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this specification are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety 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 for each stage of the evaluation, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification for non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey

- 3.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (16.4 ha. in extent). The strategy for assessing the artefact content of the topsoil must be presented in the WSI.

4. Specification for trenched evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a 5% by area, which is 8,200m² of the total area of the development site (16.4 ha.). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, and informed by the results of the non-intrusive evaluation surveys. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 4,556m of trenching at 1.80m in width. 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.

- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the trenched evaluation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.14 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 All arrangements for the field survey, 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.
- 5.2 Careful consideration must be given to obtaining specialist advice and the appointment of an appropriate contractor.
- 5.3 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of survey on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 5.4 The composition of the Archaeological investigation contractors staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. There must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Data collection must be undertaken under the supervision of an experienced project manager (three-plus years' experience). Data interpretation must be undertaken by experienced personnel (three-plus years' experience).
- 5.5 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.6 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.7 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 SCCAS/CT before execution.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 Any changes to the WSI 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* 1991 (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.2 There must be an analytical report with description and interpretation of the results. The objective record of the evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation.
- 6.3 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.4 The methodology should be set out carefully, and explained as appropriate. It must include a non-technical summary to make the report intelligible to both specialists and non-specialists.
- 6.5 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.

- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an event 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.
- 6.8 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.9 The project manager should consult 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.
- 6.10 The results of the evaluation should be easily related to present-day landscape features and tied in to the OS Grid.
- 6.11 The results of the evaluation should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County HER.
- 6.12 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the Report.
- 6.13 The Report 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).
- 6.14 An opinion as to the necessity for archaeological mitigation 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.
- 6.15 Three copies of the report must be sent to SCCAS/CT as well as one copy sent to the Developer.
- 6.16 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 11 January 2008

Reference: / LadyLane_Hadleigh2008

This 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.