

Growth, Highways and Infrastructure
Bury Resource Centre
Hollow Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 7AY

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Land south of Darsham Station, Darsham

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	East Suffolk District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	Pre-application
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged with the Suffolk HER Officer (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 4031 6931
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Draft policy (Policy SCLP12.48: Land to the South of Darsham Station) suggests development should be limited to north half of the site but with access from the south, so a road running through. The policy suggests a housing lead mixed use for a minimum 120 dwellings with employment B1 use and public open space.
AREA:	7.4 ha
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Gemma Stewart Senior Archaeological Officer Tel. : 01284 741242 E-mail: gemma.stewart@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	21 st January 2021

Summary

- 1.1 Pre-application advice has been sought and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service recommended that in order to establish the full archaeological implications of this area and the suitability of the site for the development, the applicant should be required to provide for an archaeological evaluation of the site prior to the determination of any planning application

submitted for this site, to allow for preservation *in situ* of any sites of national importance that might be defined (and which are still currently unknown).

- 1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation and should be used in conjunction with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service's (SCCAS) Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2020. These should be used to form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor, commissioned by the applicant, must submit a copy of their WSI to SCCAS for scrutiny, before seeking approval from the LPA.
- 1.4 Following acceptance by SCCAS, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS to advise the LPA that a condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS), the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.7 Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (e.g. excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation must be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The pre-application area is located on the western edge of the parish of Darsham with Main Road along the west of the application area and Westleton Road on the south. It is situated on high ground at roughly 22m AOD sloping to 16m AOD to the north and 10m AOD to the south overlooking the River Yox on Crag Group – sand bedrock geology with Lowestoft Formation – diamicton superficial deposits (BGS accessed January 2021).
- 2.2 Within the pre-application area is Bronze Age ditch and pit (Historic Environment Record reference DAR 040). Adjacent to the proposed development area to the west is Cockfield Hall and Park and associated structures (HER ref YOX 006). Cockfield Hall is said to date from 1613 and grounds include former moated (Hall?) site (YOX 001), medieval ponds, an Early Tudor gatehouse and various other Listed Buildings and structures include a dovecote and Ice-house. To the west is also the historic settlement core of Yoxford (YOX 034).

- 2.3 To the north east of the proposed development area is Darsham Old Hall, built in the 15th century and Park (DAR 012). Archaeological investigations to the north east have identified medieval (DAR 021) and post-medieval occupation (DAR 027). In addition, to the south and east of the application area is artefact evidence of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation (for example, YOX 002, DAR 017, DAR 017).

Planning Background

- 3.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 Given the high potential, lack of previous investigation and large size of the proposed development area, SCCAS recommended that, in order to establish the full archaeological implications of this area and the suitability of the site for the development, the applicant should be required to provide for an archaeological evaluation of the site prior to the determination of any planning application submitted for this site, to allow for preservation *in situ* of any sites of national importance that might be defined (and which are still currently unknown). This large area cannot be assessed or approved in our view until a full archaeological evaluation has been undertaken, and the results of this work will enable us to accurately quantify the archaeological resource (both in quality and extent). This is in accordance with paragraphs 189 and 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 3.3 Decisions on the suitability of the site, and also the need for, and scope of, any further work should below-ground heritage assets of significance be identified, will be based upon the results of the evaluation.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover **5%** by area, which is **3700m²**. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, using, where possible, a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a maximum of 30m in length and a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c. **2070m** of trenching at 1.80m in width (69 x 30m x 1.8m trenches). Further trenching or deposit testing may be a

requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy. Appropriate provision should be made for this eventuality and include **100m** contingency for judgemental trench use, should this prove necessary in the field.

- 4.4 The trial trenches need to consider previous archaeological investigation results.
- 4.5 The trial trenches will be excavated to the depth of the geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever is encountered first.
- 4.6 **All** features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS. Investigation slots through all linear features must be **no less than 1m in width**. Discrete features must be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. All relationships between features or deposits must be investigated and recorded. The use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) is recommended to gain information from very deep deposits/features and should be available in the staff tool kit. Machine assistance may be required for very large/deep features and should be shown as a contingency arrangement in the Written Scheme of Investigation and can only occur after agreement with SCCAS.
- 4.7 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS before fieldwork begins.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the evaluation by a named, experienced metal detector user, including reference either to their contributions to the PAS database or to other published archaeological projects they have worked on. Metal detecting should be carried out before trenches are stripped, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

- 5.4 SCCAS officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Suffolk and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork and review the progress of reports and/or archive preparation.
- 5.5 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS. The archaeological contractor must give SCCAS ten working days' notice of the commencement of ground works on the site and a monitoring visit must be booked with SCCAS prior to works commencing on site. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to agreed locations and techniques in the WSI.
- 5.6 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS for approval.
- 5.7 SCCAS should be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.
- 5.8 If the archaeological trial trench evaluation is undertaken when SCCAS are not able to attend site visits in response to Suffolk County Councils coronavirus (Covid-19) guidelines the WSI will need to include SCCAS' remote monitoring requirements. Please note that these requirements will continuously be updated in line with government guidance. To ensure that the up to date remote monitoring requirements are included in the WSI please contact SCCAS at the time of WSI production.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain a parish code for the work. This number will be unique for each project and must be used on site and for all documentation and archives relating to the project.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER, and an HER search should be commissioned. In any instances where it is felt that an HER search is unnecessary, this must be discussed and agreed with the relevant Case Officer.

ANY REPORTS WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE AN UP TO DATE HER SEARCH WILL NOT BE APPROVED. ALL REPORTS MUST CLEARLY DISPLAY THE INVOICE NUMBER FOR THE HER SEARCH, OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE RETURNED.

- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a digital copy of the approved final report should be submitted to the Suffolk HER. Provision should also be made for a hard copy report to be submitted, however, the need for this should be discussed and agreed with SCCAS who will advise on a case by case basis.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan, also showing recorded archaeological features and excavated sections, which must be compatible with QGIS software, should be submitted to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report or submitted to SCCAS by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is sooner.
- 6.11 **This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.**

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2020 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2019.

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

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2020) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report

Notes

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net> or 0118 378 6446).

The Historic Environment Records Data available on the Heritage Gateway and Suffolk Heritage Explorer is **NOT** suitable to be used for planning purposes and will not be accepted in lieu of a full HER search.

Any reference to HER records in any WSI's or reports should be made using the Parish Code (XXX 000) and **NOT** the MSF0000 number.