

Land East Of Ipswich Road, Holbrook, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

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Site details

Name: Land east of Ipswich Road, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2QT

Client: Thorcross Builders Ltd

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application refs: DC/18/05228

Proposed development: Erection of up to seven dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_DC1805228_Land East Of Ipswich Road, Holbrook, IP9 2QT_Evaluation Brief

Grid ref: TM 17060 36640

HER ref: tbc

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-518829

Area: 3600m²

Current site use: Greenfield

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Location of trial trenches

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1. Introduction

1.1 Springfields Planning & Development Ltd on behalf of their clients Thorcross Builders Ltd have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for development of up to seven dwellings that has received consent to go ahead under application DC/18/05228. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application DC/18/05228 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr H Cutler of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This overall proposed development site (PDS) concerns the construction of up to seven dwellings at land east of Ipswich Road, Holbrook.

1.2 The evaluation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003), locally in *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2021* (Suffolk CC) and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 & 2020) and SCCAS excavation requirements (2023).

1.3 The evaluation as detailed in this document is the first phase of a programme of archaeological investigation secured by negative condition on planning consent DC/18/05228. Where the results of the evaluation indicate the presence of heritage assets further archaeological works will be required to mitigate the impact of the development on the historic environment. The SCCAS officer will identify the type and extent of works in a new brief necessary to adequately mitigate the impact of the proposed development. All further archaeological works, as recommended by SCCAS, must be undertaken in accordance with an additional WSI, submitted and approved by SCCAS and the LPA. All further archaeological investigations must be undertaken prior to commencement of development, unless specifically referenced as monitoring of groundworks in the approved WSI.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Holbrook is located some 7 miles south of Ipswich in the western part of the Shotley peninsula with the southern boundary of the parish being formed by the River Stour. The modern village covers a large area having seen a moderate amount of recent development but the historic core is located around the parish church and the main street with a subsidiary settlement at Lower Holbrook just over a mile to the south-east. The proposed development site (PDS) is c750m north of the church just below the 30m OD contour and is at present a greenfield site with evidence from aerial photographs revealing cropmarks in the area indicative of past activity, perhaps of pre-historic or Roman period date.

2.2 The British Geological survey describes the superficial deposits in this area being part of the Kesgrave catchment subgroup, therefore sands and gravel.

2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates that the site is on Lowestoft diamicton at c70m OD so therefore a mix of clay, sands and gravel can be anticipated.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological interest in this site was therefore generated by its location within an area where cropmarks have been recorded (HER FRT 011, 012 & 013). In addition an archaeological investigation (HER HBK 064) to the north of the PDS revealed features of prehistoric date and a number of prehistoric finds are recorded from this area (HER HBK 009 & 019). Therefore, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within the PDS and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.

A site evaluation by trial trenching prior to any other works starting is therefore 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. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of this site relates to its location within an area of cropmarks with additional evidence suggesting activity of prehistoric date in particular. The evaluation will examine the specified sample of the site to assess whether archaeological deposits exist in this area.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for the construction of four dwellings. To inform the results of the evaluation if archaeological deposits are revealed a search will be commissioned from the County HER, with information on recorded cropmarks, for the area within 500m of the PDS and the relevant invoice number will be included in

the report. Ten days notice of the evaluation starting will be given to SCCAS so a monitoring visit can be agreed. Contact will also be maintained with SCCAS as the evaluation progresses and through the post-excavation study and work with regard to the results from the site, the finds and any samples and the main report preparation.

5.2 The relevant Brief required some 100m of sample trenching, which will be 1.8m wide with provision for a 0.5m²% by area contingency should clarification of deposits be required. This will be undertaken using a wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined as required. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation including before the trenches are opened (see specialists section below) for both ferrous and non-ferrous finds and between the trenches. The up-cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in past rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits. Allowance has been made for one member staff on site for one day with additional detector survey for half a day plus a machine and operator for one to two days to cover the opening of the trenches plus back-filling once full approval for the latter has been gained from SCCAS following a site monitoring visit. If required further investigation of the trenches will be carried out in particular following a SCCAS monitoring visit and examination of the exposed deposits. Any requirement to vary the related brief requirements and this WSI will only be carried out following communication with SCCAS.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record in high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5 camera with allowance for .jpeg and higher definition .tif images depending on what is revealed).

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed

archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling) as will any evidence of pottery production which will be sampled by hand so it can be characterised while left in situ when revealed. Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%- possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. These features will be hand investigated unless agreed with SCCAS that larger/more recent features can be partially machine/hand investigated. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption is to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage depending on SCCAS advice if lifting remains appears to be sensible at this stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on-site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial evidence is assessed as being low given the scale of the evaluation).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer and any finds that qualify under the Treasure Act will be reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer within 14 days.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2011). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor (RSA) if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of

preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape, the archiving requirements will be to SCCAS guidelines (2022). Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the evaluation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- if any RC dates are required for features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost).
- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will be ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for

species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required in the evaluation on such deposits this will incur an additional cost and will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless deep deposits are revealed).

- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* (and the guidelines in the Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007). This archive, including the digital content, will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk- Guidelines for preparation and deposition*' (SCCAS Conservation Team revised version 2019). As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.9 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site. Any developments during the site and reporting works will be communicated to SCCAS.

5.10 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results, and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required if this application receives consent. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as

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appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and earmuffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the owners and the machine operator for excavation of the trench and examination of the up-cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather. COVID guideline requirements will be adhered to with social distancing, no sharing of equipment and separate rest areas.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Prior to evaluation work starting on site the client will be consulted with regard to any potential contamination at the site. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations and the client will be consulted regarding any possible underground services. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	tbc

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Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period small finds:	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman period ceramics:	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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Location of trenches (5 x 20m)