

# **Cockerell's Hall, Buxhall, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 0399/10**

**HER Ref: BUX 029**

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(March 2010)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Cockerell's Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall

Client: Mr & Mrs M Angela

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0399/10

Development: Erection of Orangery

Date of fieldwork: 20 & 21 May 2010

HER Ref: BUX 029 (moat ref: BUX 002)

Listed Building Ref: 279814, Grade II

Grid ref: TL 9867 5770

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*Summary: Buxhall, Cockerell's Hall (BUX 029, TL 9867 5770). Monitoring of foundation trenches for an Orangery to the rear of the hall and towards the western side of the moat, whose western limit is unclear, revealed only brick foundations for an outbuilding of later 19<sup>th</sup> century date and a probable garden soil (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs M Angela).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs M Angela commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under condition 3 for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 0399/10. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of an Orangery on the western side of Cockerell's Hall.

1.2 Buxhall parish lies to the south west of Stowmarket in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk (see Fig. 1). Cockerell's Hall is located some 1500m west of the parish church in a landscape characterised by dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens and tyes (formerly areas of common grazing). The site is just above the 65m OD contour in an isolated location close to the parish boundary with Rattlesden. Cockerell's Hall is recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Suffolk under the reference number BUX 002 as a moated site of medieval origin and the centre for one of the sub-manors within Buxhall parish. The moat is now represented by wet arms forming a south west corner and a separate portion of the western arm. A large pond also exists to the north east of the Cockerell's Hall itself which is located to the north west side of what would have been the central part of the original moat island. The hall is grade II listed and described as a 'farmhouse, late 16<sup>th</sup> century with alterations....parallel rear range late 17<sup>th</sup> century' and the Orangery site is immediately adjacent to this rear range in an area that recently has been a patio (see Fig. 2). The Orangery is also on the southern side of a large late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding that was built by a former owner, W A Copinger, as a library between 1897 and 1910 (Copinger was an eminent Victorian lawyer, antiquarian and one of the founders of the Bibliographic Society).

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Foundation trenches for the Orangery only had to be excavated on the southern and western sides of the structure and this was done by hand following breaking of the concrete base to the existing patio. Two visits were made to inspect the foundation trench and the upcast spoil was also examined. Where necessary the trench sides were trowelled clean to aid the inspection; site records were made using the existing wall lines to measure from and a series of digital images were taken (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The 500mm wide foundation trenches were taken to 800mm deep revealing a general sequence of modern upper layers above what appeared to be a uniform garden type clay soil. At two points on the longer, southern side, of the Orangery foundation trench two crude, narrow (280mm wide) and relatively shallow wall (300mm thick below 200mm of patio base) foundations made up of fragments of later Post medieval red brick were recorded (see Fig. 2 & Appendix I). To the west of these brick wall foundations the deposits observed in the trench sides was as follows:

200mm concrete patio base & make up  
50mm black asphalt surface  
50mm sand base to asphalt  
250mm mid/dark grey clay loam with small brick/tile fragments  
250mm natural yellow/orange clay

Between the brick foundations seen in section and the back of the hall the deposit was similar but lacked the asphalt surface and its sand base, however this area was also heavily disturbed by modern service trenches running parallel to this rear wall.

At the point where the foundation trench for the western wall of the Orangery met the library wall a large foundation cut was observed and this relates to a substantial chimney base which is located at this point on the southern side of the library.

Examination of the upcast spoil did not reveal any finds of interest with largely 19-20<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile fragments being observed.

### 5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is towards the western side of a site of archaeological importance recorded as a medieval moat and manorial centre the ground works for the proposed Orangery did not reveal any finds or features of pre-late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The western boundary to the moated area is not known and it is possible that the moat island was not completely surrounded by large excavated moat arms. The site and hall has also certainly seen various periods of development and change over the last few hundred years as indicated by the listing description and shown by the library building and the more ephemeral brick foundations revealed in the foundation trench. These shallow brick foundations that have been recorded probably relate to small outbuildings erected to the rear of the hall and a range is shown in the angle between the hall and the library on the second edition OS map of 1904 but is not present on the tithe map of 1840. This range is most likely to be stables (pers. comm. Mrs Angela) whose roof line is still visible on the rear of the hall with the recorded brick foundations forming internal subdivisions.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the limited nature of the monitored footings has had a minimal impact on the area of archaeological importance within the area of the moated site. It is likely that the main concentration of medieval activity lies on the other side of the hall to the east which is more central to the moat island.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to the Mr & Mrs M Angela and to the contractor, Mr A Rowe, for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring)*

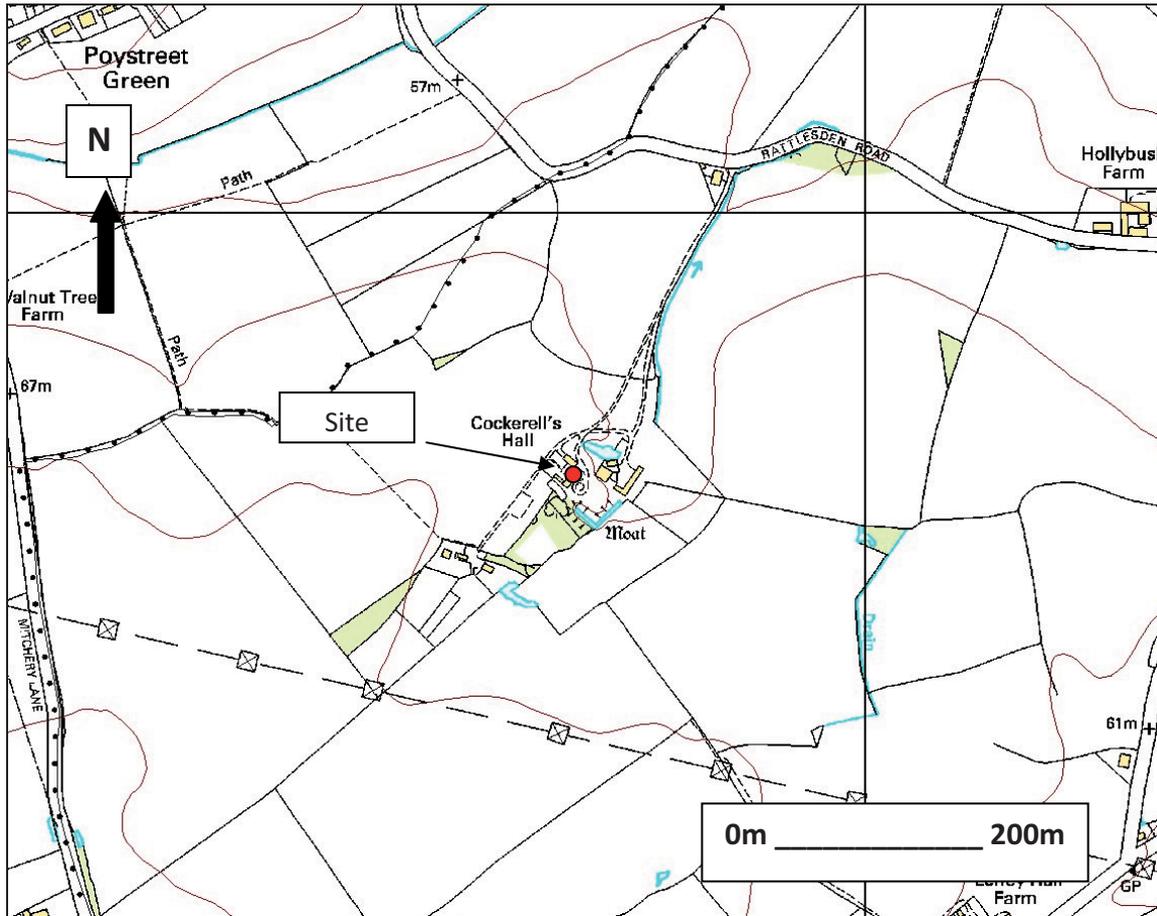


Fig. 1: Site location- Cockerell's Hall, Buxhall (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence number WL1005096)

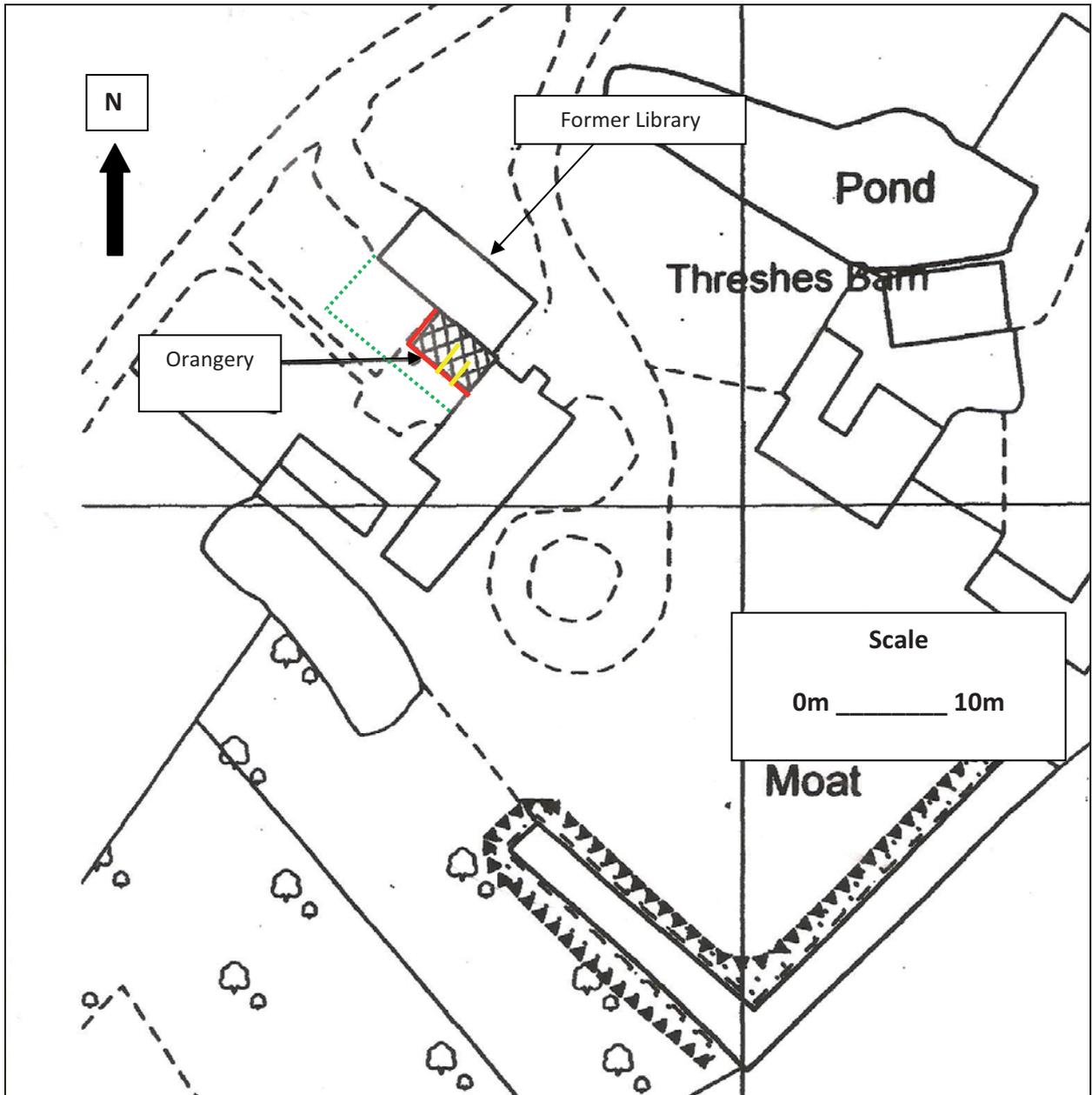


Fig. 2: Orangery, Cockerell's Hall (BUX 029)- monitored footings (red), shallow brick foundations revealed (yellow) & former location of later 19<sup>th</sup> century stables (green) (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence number: WL1005096)

## Appendix I- Images



Shallow 19<sup>th</sup> century brick foundation revealed in foundation trench



Foundation trench revealing large base to chimney structure in adjacent library building

Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
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## **Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording**

### **COCKERELLS HALL, BUXHALL, SUFFOLK, IP14 3DR**

***Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications***

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect an orangery at Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall (TL 986 577) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0399/10).
- 1.2 The development lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. The proposed orangery at Cockerells Hall is situated within a rectangular medieval moat (BUX 002), and there is high potential for encountering medieval or early post-medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks. **(Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development).**
- 1.4 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>*).
- 1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the

full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excitation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.6 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is groundworks associated with the new orangery, which measures 6.8 x 3.9m in area. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, 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 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

#### **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer 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.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.9 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.12 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 Historic Environment Record. 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
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Date: 19 April 2010

Reference: / Cockerells Hall 2010

**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.**