

**Site adjacent to Bower House, Thornham Road,
Gislingham, Suffolk**

Planning application: 1864/10

HER Ref: GSG 037

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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(July 2010)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land adjacent to Bower House, Thornham Road, Gislingham, IP23 8HP

Clients: Ms M Warner & Mr C Berry

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1864/10

Development: Residential dwelling & garage

Date of fieldwork: 26 July 2010

HER Ref: GSG 037

OASIS ref: johnnewm1_80191

Grid ref: TM 0778 7180

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Summary: Gislingham, land adjacent to Bower House, Thornham Road (GSG 037, TM 0778 7180) evaluation trenching did not reveal any features or significant finds on a proposed single house plus garage development some 150m east of the parish church and within the area of potential medieval activity in the village (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms M Warner & Mr C Berry).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Ms M Warner and Mr C Berry commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on that part of the garden on the western side of Bower House that is to be developed as required under advice for a programme of archaeological works conditional to the planning application 1864/10. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the specified trial trenching being carried out before the application is to be determined. This development concerns the erection of a single residential dwelling and garage on part of the garden to the west of Bower House, Thornham Road, Gislingham which has been detached.

1.2 Gislingham is a relatively large parish located on the Till plateau in north central Suffolk in an area of typically heavier soils described as 'fine loam over clay' and where, historically, relative agricultural prosperity gave rise to high population levels through to the early Post medieval period. Settlement in much of East Anglia is characterised by apparently unplanned village forms surrounded by other dispersed habitation across the landscape along roads and lanes and surrounding the numerous greens. The main settlement at Gislingham is focused around the parish church with other settlement foci to the west at Little Green and southwards along Mill Road. Historically the parish has seen a potentially complex medieval era with evidence for one main manor and at least 5 sub-manors including one apparently held by the Knights Templar and evidence from various sources indicate a high population with 67 individuals recorded in the Domesday period of the later 11th century and 43 taxpayers in 1327 (allowing for a multiplier of around 4 or 5 to give a true population of tax payers plus dependants). The site at Bower House is some 150m east of the church, just above the 55m OD contour, and on the main east-west road frontage (see Fig. 1a) and therefore potentially within an area where medieval activity might be anticipated given the linear form of the settlement. A small stream also exists some 200m to the north forming the closest apparent water supply. The site lies on a potential medieval road frontage and the number of moated sites, some of which are relatively close (HER GSG 008 & 020), reflects the high medieval population and complex of sub-manors within the parish. A rapid examination of historic map sources for the site indicates that it was open field in the later Post medieval period at least with no structures on the tithe map of 1839 (see Fig. 1b- plot 289) or the OS map of 1903.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area adjacent to the Bower House site was trenched to a previously agreed plan with one trench across the house footprint and one across the detached garage (see Fig. 2). In all 10m of trench at a width of 1.8m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying natural clay with chalk and flints surface using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket giving a sample of 18m², or some 10%, of the combined footprints following breaking of the very hard upper 250mm using a toothed bucket. The exposed orange/yellow clay was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. The upcast spoil from the trench was examined visually and by an experienced metal detector user for any finds. Site visibility for

features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation. The trench was recorded in relation to existing mapped details. A full photographic record in digital format was taken of the trenching works (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 By trench:

Trench 1- a 6m long trench aligned north-south across the proposed house footprint, under 250mm of dark brown clay loam topsoil and 250mm of mid brown clay loam subsoil this trench revealed a natural Till surface comprising a chalky orange clay mix with occasional natural light brown clay bands. The only feature noted was a brick rubble filled soak away at the northern end of the trench dating from the construction of the Bower House in the 1970s. The only metal detector find of any note was a half penny of Edward VII (date ?1906).

Trench 2- a 4m long trench aligned east-west across the proposed garage footprint, as in Trench 1 the overburden comprised 250mm of dark brown clay loam over 250 of mid brown clay loam subsoil. The natural Till surface was slightly different in being largely an orange/brown clay with chalk at the western end of the trench. The only feature was a 900mm wide, north-south aligned, modern service trench whose approximate location was already known.

4. Conclusion

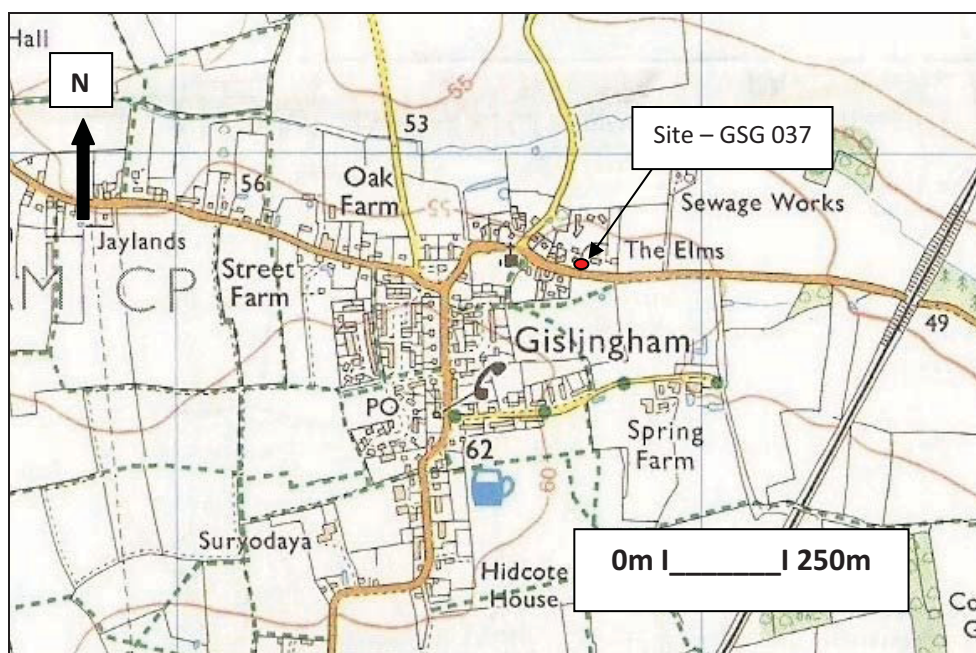
4.1 The lack of any archaeological features or significant finds from what represents a substantial sample of the proposed development area indicates that this site, though relatively close to the parish church and on a street frontage, does not directly impinge on deposits of archaeological importance. From the evaluation results it appears that the proposed development area has been in agricultural use in the past and contains little direct evidence for past activities.

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations be carried out on the proposed site adjacent to the Bower House.

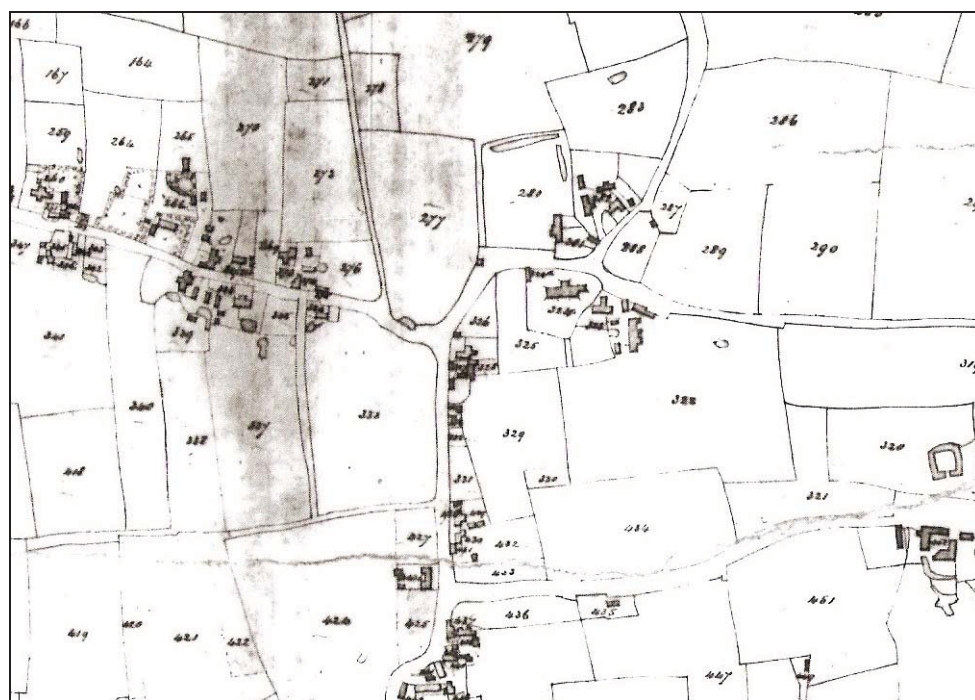
Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. GSG 037 .

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful James Armes for the metal detector search and Mike for his expert machine operation).



1a



1b

Fig. 1: a- Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved
Licence number: WL1005096) & b tithe map of 1839, plot 289 (SRO ref. P461/111)

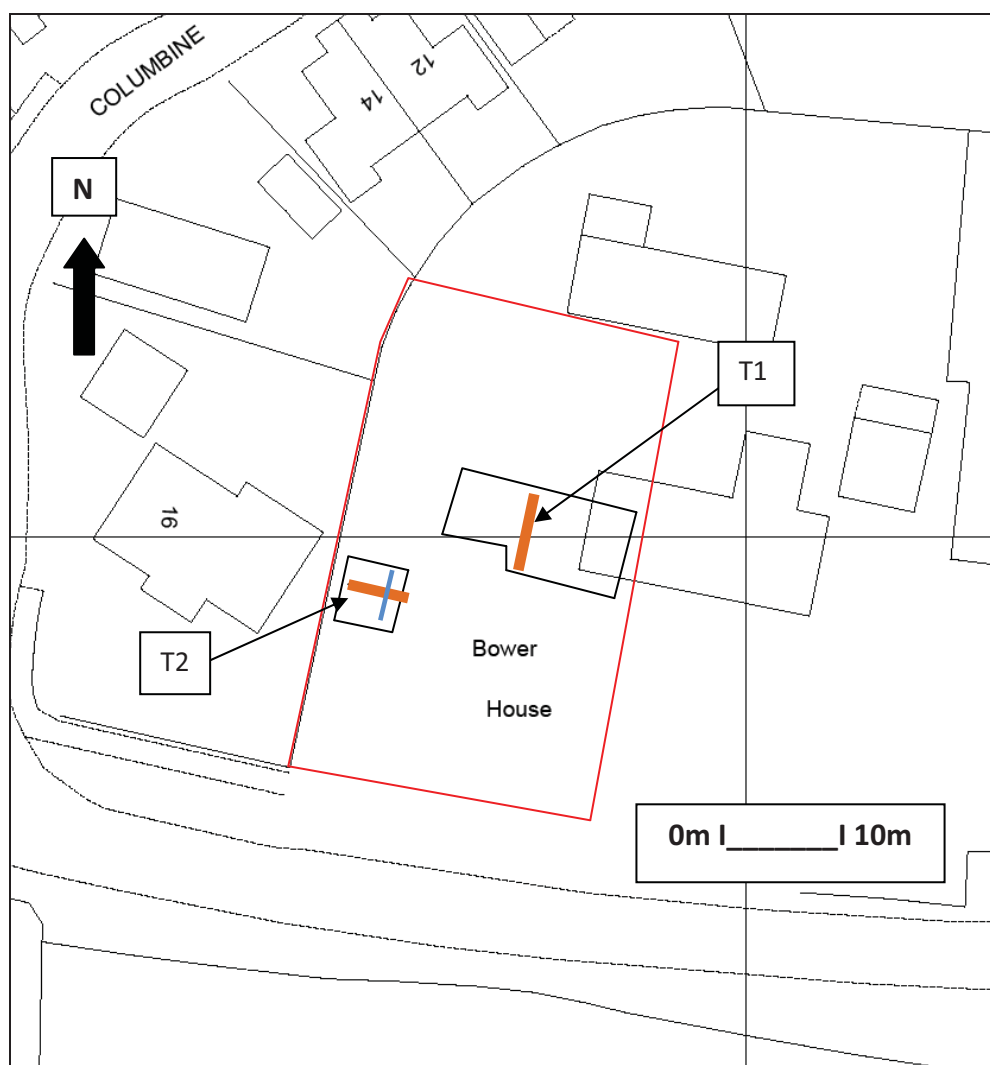


Fig. 2: Trench location within the proposed development- showing modern service trench in blue across Trench 2 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2010 All rights reserved. Licence number WL1005096)

Appendix I – Images



Trench 1 from north- modern soak away in foreground



Trench 2 from east

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

BOWER HOUSE, THORNHAM ROAD, GISLINGHAM, SUFFOLK (1864/10)

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 permission has been sought from Mid Suffolk District Council (application 1864/10) for the erection of a new dwelling and garage at Bower House, Thornham Road, Gislingham, (TM 077 717). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 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 in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The proposed development area is located on the north side of Thornham Road, on clay soil (of the Beccles Series) derived from the underlying chalky till at c.55.00m AOD.
- 1.4 This proposal affects a site of archaeological interest, less than 150m from the medieval church of Gislingham (County Historic Environment Record (HER) GSG 019). There are medieval moated sites to the west and south-east (GSG 008, GSG 020). Whilst there has not been systematic archaeological investigation of this site, there is potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to exist on the site, particularly dating to the medieval period. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be defined at this location.
- 1.5 Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.7 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 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 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 of 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/>).
- 1.10 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-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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 The following trenched evaluation is required:
- A single linear trial trench is to be excavated, 10.00m long x 1.80m wide to cover the area of the new dwelling and garage.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 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 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 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 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 Dr 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.
- 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 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example, in the form of an open day and/or local public lecture and/or presentation to local schools.

- 4.4 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.5 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.6 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.7 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 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 depository 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.

- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 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.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.18 An unbound hardcopy 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.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 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.
- 5.21 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 (paper copies should also be included with the report and with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
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Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 21 July 2010

Reference: / BowerHouse-Gislingham2010

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.