

**Land Adjacent to Ivy House Farm, Mellis Road  
Gislingham, Suffolk**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**Planning Application No: 3960/08**

Grid Reference TM 076 718  
HE R No: GSG 035  
Oasis I.D. No. 1-65058  
Dennis Payne  
(Dennis Payne Archaeological Services)  
September 2009

Dennis Payne Archaeological Services  
Commissioned by Nicholas Dickson

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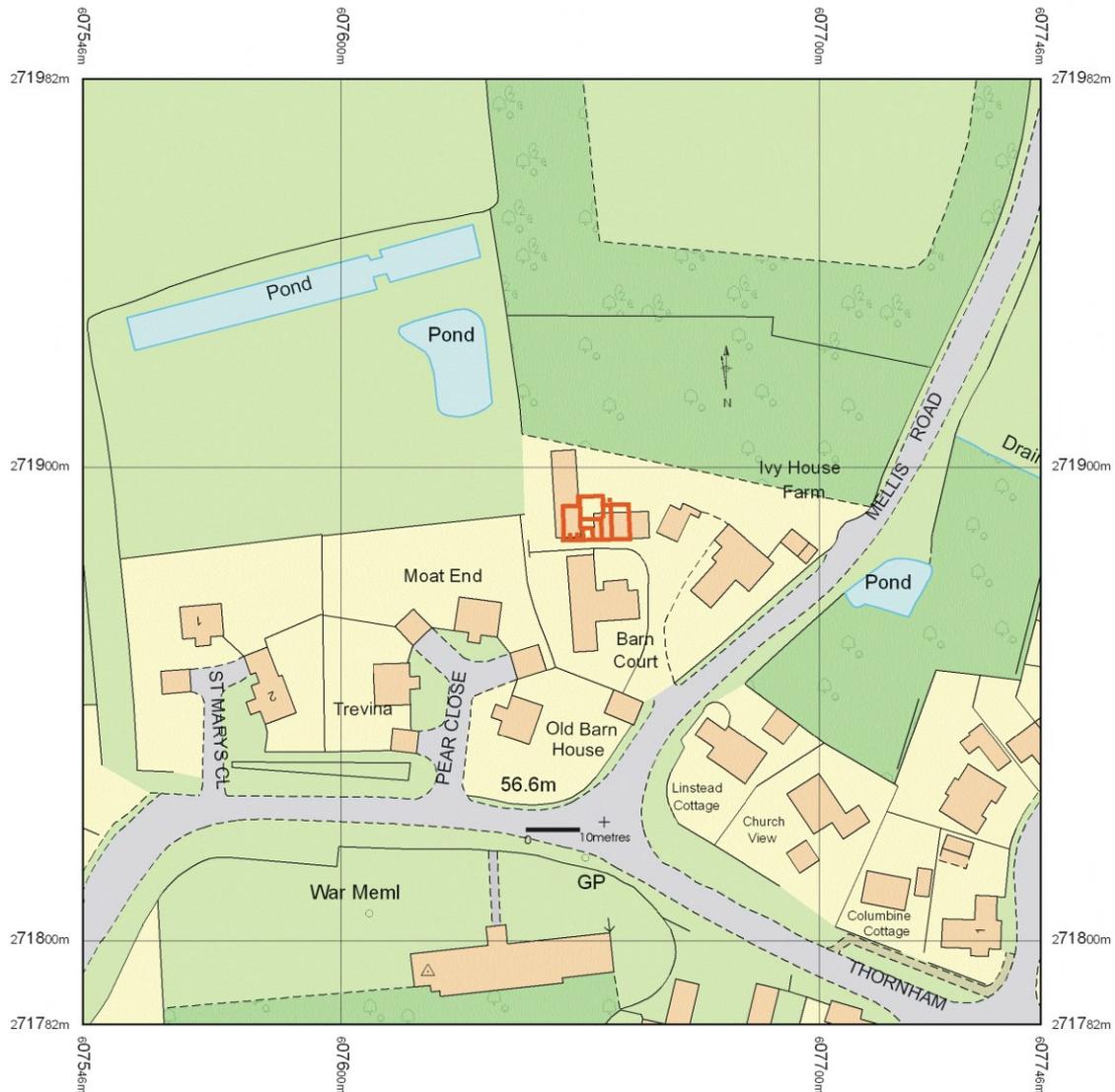
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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 on land adjacent to Ivy House Farm, Mellis Road, Gislingham, Suffolk. The work was carried out in advance of the erection of a new dwelling. A small possible pit, a post hole and a floor layer, all most likely of post-medieval date were observed. No significant archaeology was disturbed by the development.



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Figure 1 Location of footings in red.

## Introduction

Planning permission (3960/08) was granted to build a detached dwelling on land adjacent to Ivy House Farm, Mellis Road, Gislingham, Suffolk, TM 076 718, by Mid Suffolk District Council on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out at the site.

The site lies just to the north of the medieval church (HER: GSG 019) and to the east of a medieval moated enclosure (GSG: 008). In addition, the site lies in close

proximity to the find spot of Middle-Saxon Ipswich ware pottery (GSG: 014), all of which has defined Gislingham as an area of archaeological interest as defined by the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Office. Given the clear archaeological potential of the site and the intrusive nature of the groundworks (foundation trenches) an Archaeological Monitoring condition was recommended by Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

## Site Location

The site lies within the historic settlement core of Gislingham on gently sloping, north-facing, ground at 51.5m AOD. Before development, the site was a disused yard containing a garage and dairy building (*pers. comm.* N. Dickson) within the grounds of Ivy House Farm. To make way for the new dwelling the garage and dairy house were demolished. The slope runs down to a small stream. The site is situated 100 metres north of the medieval church of St Mary's.

The British Geological Survey maps the area as lying on chalky, pebbly, sandy clay over a formation of fine-to coarse grained sands and silts (BGS: 190).

## Archaeological Background

Gislingham has had several archaeological interventions. Approximately 200 metres to the south-west of the development site, a four trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken (SCCAS, 2001; HER No. GSG 022) which did not reveal any features but worked flint and pottery was found in the spoil.

Archaeological monitoring 200 metres to the south west of the development site, of footings for one dwelling and part of the footings for the other were observed but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of any period were identified (GSG 029). The natural subsoil comprised pale yellow boulder clay. (Sommers 2006b).

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of six dwellings and associated car parking at Burgate Road, Gislingham immediately to the west of the probable remains of a medieval moat (GSG 008). This evaluation was undertaken 200 metres to the west of the development site. Five trenches were excavated over the plot and were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil. No archaeological evidence was revealed (Good 2007).

An evaluation 750 metres to the south of the development site found a pit containing medieval pottery (GSG 027). A subsequent archaeological monitoring of two building plots on the site revealed two post-medieval field boundary ditches. (Sommers 2006a).

An evaluation at land to the rear of Home Farm, Mill Street, 1.2 kilometres to the west of the development site found an east to west running undated drainage ditch and two modern pits (Duffy 2006).

The H.E.R., records eight entries within the parish of Gislingham (Appendix II). Roman pottery (GSG 008) and Saxon pottery (GSG 014) were found within the grounds of Ivy Farm House. Directly to the west of the development site is a probable medieval moat (GSG 008).

## Historical Background

Gislingham is listed in 'Whites Directory of Suffolk' as a pleasant village and parish, 5 miles W.S.W. of Eye, and 3 and a half miles S.S.E. of Botesdale, contains 669 souls, and 2251 acres of land. The parish is in two manors, (Swattisfield Hall and Rushes and Jennings), of which Lord Henniker and Geo. St Vincent Wilson, Esq., are lords,' The remainder of the land being owned by various other land-owners. White goes on to say: 'It is mostly freehold, and the fines on the copyholds are arbitrary. The Church (St. Mary) is an ancient structure, with a tower and six bells. The tithes were commuted, in 1839, for a yearly modus of £624. There was here a preceptory belonging to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, and it was granted in the VIth (year) of Edward VI., to John Green and Robert Hall.' (White 1844).

Gislingham was recorded as Gislincham in the Domesday Survey and was a populous and highly cultivated settlement with three Manors and ten estates. Landowners included Robert Mallet, who had been given the lordship of Eye and who built the castle there. He held 170 acres in Gislingham. (*The Time of Domesday – The Knights Templars*, Gislingham Village Website).

## Map Information



Figure 2 Hodskinson's map of Gislingham, 1783



**Figure 3 Ordnance Survey of Gislingham (1950 edition)**

Hodskinson's map of Gislingham, 1783 show buildings in the area of Ivy Cottage in the eighteenth century (fig 2). The resolution of the map is insufficient to relate to the development site. By the mid twentieth century the current out buildings had been established (fig 3).

**Methodology**

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix III). The buildings were demolished and the yard slab removed before the site visit. The footings were excavated with a 0.6 metre toothed bucket to a depth between 0.8 and 1.30 metres below ground level. Some lengths of foundation were cut wider than 0.6metres. The site was monitored on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 when the footings were undertaken. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Dennis Payne.

The site was recorded using a sketch plan, a further scale plan at a scale of 1:50; photographs in digital, black and white and color transparencies. One section was hand-cleaned and recorded at 1:20. The sides and bases of all excavations were examined for archaeological features and deposits, and the excavated material was examined for archaeological artefacts. No samples were taken.

## Results



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**Figure 4 Trench location in red overlaid on dairy house and garage**

Prior to the site visit the dairy house and garage structure had been demolished and the surrounding yard surface had been disturbed and levelled with demolition material. The ground surface consisted of demolition material (01) and there was no indication of the location of the demolished buildings. (01) contained modern plastics and no obvious earlier residual material was found or kept from it. On the east side of the site a small possible post hole feature [06] was seen cut through a layer (02). Below this feature was a possible pit or gully [05] which had a dark fill similar to (02). No finds were found within these features (fig. 5 & fig. 6).

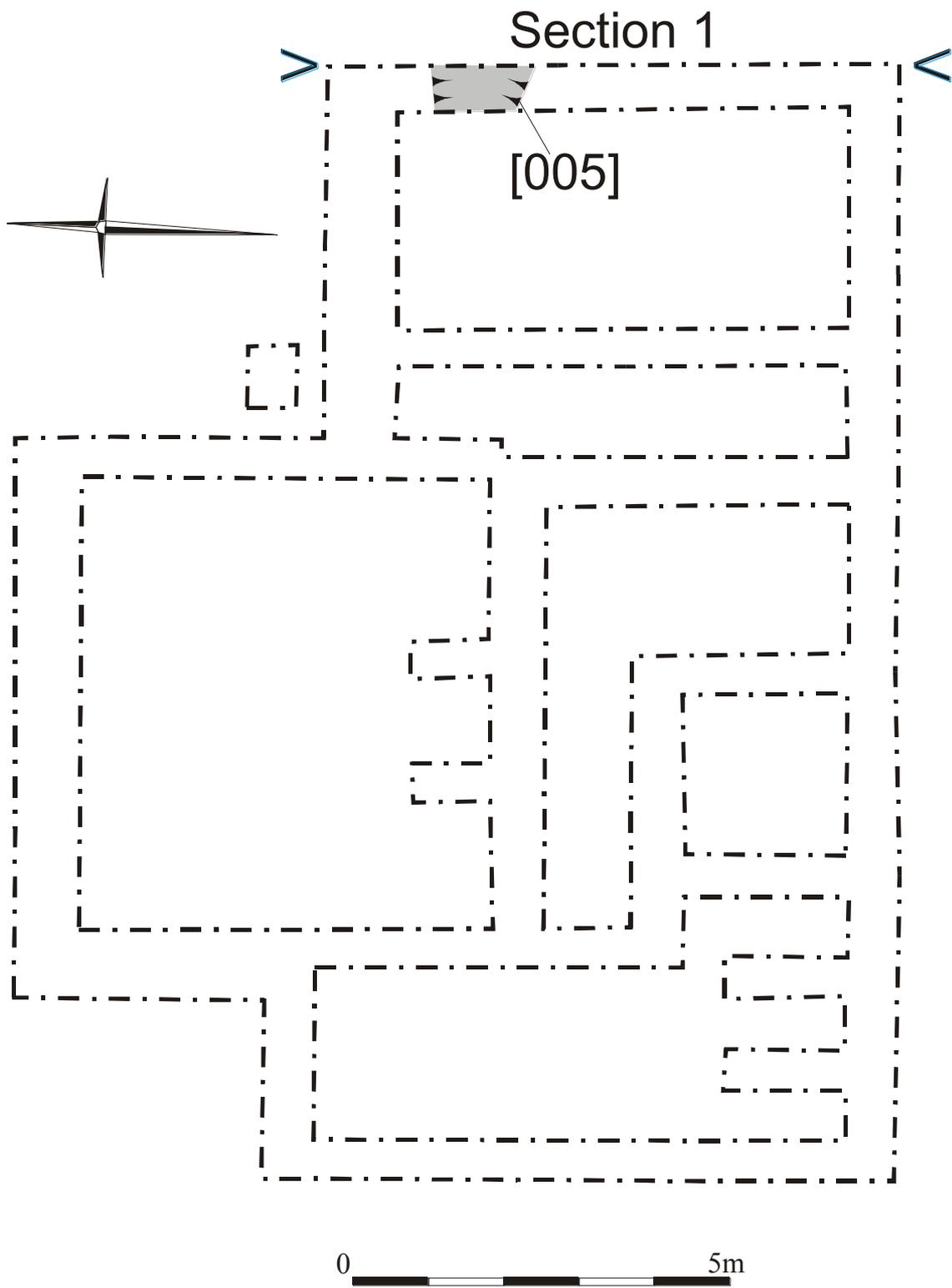


Figure 5 Trench plan

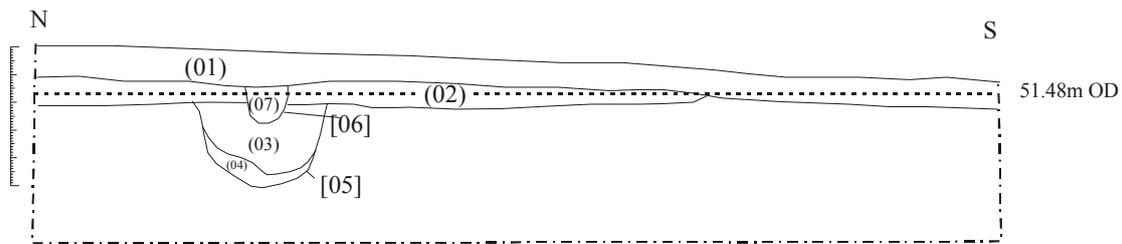


Figure 6 Section 1 West facing with one metre scale.

## Context Description

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation/comments
(01)	layer	Mid brown silty sand with very common crushed building materials	Modern demolition material. No finds.
(02)	layer	Compact blackish- grey clay	Possible floor layer. No finds.
(03)	fill [05]	Blackish-grey (humic?) silty clay	Possible pit. Similar colour to (02). No finds.
(04)	Primary fill [05]	Greyish-yellow silty clay	Possible pit. Appeared to be slumped/washed in material. No finds.
[05]	cut of possible pit	Profile - concave, U-shaped; dimensions: width, 0.87m, depth, 0.58 m	Possibly below dairy footings,
[06]	cut of (07)	U-shaped profile, concave; dimensions: width 0.26m, depth, 0.28m	Possibly modern disturbance and below dairy building footings,
(07)	fill of [06]	Brown silty sand with common crushed building material- similar to layer (01)	No finds.
(08)	natural clay	Yellowish grey with flint and chalk inclusions, darker lenses with depth	Weathered glacial deposit.

## Discussion

No obvious building foundations from the demolished dairy and garage were seen. The cut features [06] and [05] were seen in the area below the presumed footings for the dairy. Layer (02) could have been a floor make-up but presumably one that if it was contemporary with the dairy was situated in an entrance area unless the dairy was further to the south and (02) was yard make-up if contemporary with the dairy.

No dating evidence was found associated with cut feature[05]. The fill (03) had a similar colour to (02) and (04) appeared to be primary wash. [05] was not seen to extend to other sections and was presumed to be a possible pit but may have been a

linear feature. Layer (02) was only seen in the eastern edge of the footings. Although this layer may be much earlier this feature was considered to have related to the demolished dairy or a similar preceding farming use possibly in the nineteenth century related to Ivy House farm..

No deposits were found associated with the moat (GSG 008), which might relate to a manorial environment, possibly because the site is outside the enclosed area. No residual evidence was found to show that there was medieval or earlier activity within the area of the site that might relate to the Saxon pottery (GSG 014) or Roman pottery (GSG 008) that had been found in the grounds of Ivy House Farm.

The aims of this monitoring were to highlight the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains on the subject site and to identify any remains that may be affected by the proposed development. The monitoring has shown that no significant archaeology was compromised by the development within the footings that were excavated by the mechanical digger.

## **Conclusions**

Two cut features were observed but no dating evidence was found. No significant archaeology was disturbed by the development.

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Nicholas Dickson who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological monitoring was written by Dennis Payne, who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

## **Bibliography**

B G S, sheet 190, Eye, 1995

Duffy, J. (2006) '*Land to Rear of Home Farm, Mill Street, Gislingham. GSG 028. Evaluation Report*'. SCCAS Report No 2006/094

Good. C (2007) '*GSG 030 Land at Burgate Road, Gislingham*'. 2007/112

Sommers, M. (2006a) '*Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report: Bungalow Farm, Gislingham GSG 027*'. SCCAS Report No. 2006/150

Sommers, M. (2006b) '*GSG 029 Archaeological Monitoring Report: Former School Playground, Mill Street, Gislingham*'. SCCAS 2006/204

White, W. 1844, *History Gazeteer and Directory of Suffolk (1970 ed.)*, David and Charles (Publishers) Limited South Devon House Railway Station Newton Abbot Devon

## **Sources**

The Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Records office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk.

The Gislingham Village web-site: <http://.gislingham.com>

The National Archive [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

# Appendix I

## Photographs



Figure 7 : General view of site, looking south west.



Figure 8 General view post excavation looking south west.



Figure 9 Showing probable pit [05], possible post hole [06], compacted floor layer (02) and overlying demolition material (01)

## **Appendix II**

### ***Suffolk Historic Environment Records for Gislingham***

Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Records  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Sites and Monuments Record  
18/06/2009 Parish GISLINGHAM, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Ref Site Name Period Summary Description NGR

GSG 008 Rom Sherds found in field behind Ivy House Centroid TM 0760  
MSF5569 Farm. 7185 (MBR: 10m by 10m)

GSG 008 Ivy House Farm (Ivy Med Moat (remains of) probably rectangular, to  
Centroid TM 0755 Cottage) W and NW of farmhouse. 7195 (MBR: 100m MSF5570  
by 100m)

GSG 011 Med Medieval (& 2 sherds Thetford type ware) Centroid TM 0735  
MSF5574 to Post Medieval pottery. 7155 (MBR: 100m by 100m)

GSG 014 Sax Ipswich ware sherd, circular stamp Centroid TM 0763  
MSF5577 decoration. 7192 (MBR: 10m by 10m)

GSG 019 Church of St Mary Med Church & churchyard of St Mary. Centroid TM  
0760  
MSF13166 7179 (MBR: 10m by 10m)

GSG 020 Spring Farm Med Small moated site in a field to the north of Centroid TM  
0800  
MSF15878 Spring Farm. 7163 (MBR: 10m by 10m)

GSG 022 Proposed school site Med Evaluation - 4 trenches opened, no features  
located but pottery & worked flint found in spoil.

GSG Misc Rom Metal detector find: Button and loop Centroid TM 0763  
MSF20079 fastener. 7175  
(MBR: 10m by 10m)

## Appendix III

### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring*

ADJACENT TO IVY HOUSE FARM, MELLIS ROAD,  
GISLINGHAM, SUFFOLK (3960/08)

***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 for the erection of a new dwelling (following the demolition of an existing outbuildings and garage) at Adjacent to Ivy House Farm, Mellis Road, Gislingham (TM 076 718), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 3960/08).

1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).

1.3 This proposal lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core. It is situated to the north of the medieval church (HER: GSG 019) and to the east of a medieval moated enclosure (GSG 008). Moreover, the application is located adjacent to the find spot of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware pottery (GSG 014) that indicates earlier occupation within the immediate vicinity. There is a strong possibility that medieval, and earlier Anglo-Saxon, deposits will be encountered at this location, given the proximity to known remains. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.4 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 brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, 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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 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 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 the ground works associated with the new dwelling and all other associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission (including groundworks associated with the removal of the current outbuildings). Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping 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 palaeoenvironmental 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 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 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.

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 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also 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.

5.5 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>).

5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.

5.7 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).

5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment 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.

5.9 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.

5.10 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.

5.11 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.

5.12 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.

5.13 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).