

**Land to the Rear of The Laurels,
Up Street, Bardwell, Suffolk**

Planning application: SE/11/0846

HER Ref: BAR 081

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(October 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land to the rear of The Laurels, Up Street, Bardwell, Suffolk

Client: Mr D Ruffles

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/11/0846

Development: Erection of detached dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 19 October, 2011

HER Ref: BAR 081

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-112307

Grid ref: TL 9432 7374

Conservation area

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Evaluation methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trench

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Brief & Specification

Summary: Bardwell, land to the rear of The Laurels, Up Street (BAR 081, TL 9432 7374) evaluation trenching for a single house development did not reveal any features with the only finds in the being stray items of post c1900 date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr D Ruffles).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr D Ruffles commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on that part of the garden to the rear, and west, of The Laurels, Up Street, Bardwell (see Fig. 1) which is to be detached and developed as required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application SE/11/0846. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification (see Appendix II) set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition. This development concerns the erection of a detached residential dwelling.

1.2 Bardwell parish is located to the north of Bury St Edmunds in central Suffolk in an area of deep, loamy, soils over chalky till and glaciofluvial drift with previous archaeological interventions in the area revealing a mix of sandy gravel and heavier clays. The main village settlement is laid out around a pattern of streets which form a square with the parish church just inside this enclosed area midway along its western side and the site behind Laurel House being c200m to the east and central to the enclosed area at c35m OD with a footpath shown on the first edition OS map of 1880 along its southern edge which still exists. A rapid examination of Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 throws more light on Bardwell as it suggests that the present square of streets surround a former area of green, called Bardwell Green, or common grazing which has been enclosed and developed in more recent times. That the parish church appears to be on what was Bardwell Green rather than outside it is unusual but is not without parallel and the great majority of the historic, listed, buildings in the village are located around the peripheries of the area formed by the four streets. Interestingly the conservation area in the village, which includes this site, excludes the mid to late 20th century development area of mainly bungalows immediately to the west/northwest of the rear boundary of The Laurels indicating an area of modern infill over what appears to have once been green.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area some 60m to the rear of The Laurels was trenched to a previously agreed plan with a single trench along the northwest-southeast axis of the planned dwelling (see Fig. 2) using a 360 machine equipped with a wide, toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision (please note that the footprint area for the new house has been moved 30m to the east in the rear garden of The Laurels at the request of the LPA). The evaluation trench was 10m long and 1.8m wide which, with an area of 18m², gave a substantial sample of c20% of the proposed dwelling footprint. The exposed drift geological deposit at the site proved to be a pale grey to light brown clay surface with flints and chalk fragments and occasional very pale brown silty pockets and this was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. The upcast spoil from the trench was examined for any finds both visually and with a metal detector as work progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken on a dry, sunny day. Finally the trench was recorded in relation to existing mapped details and in relation to the planned footprint and a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) and monochrome film was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 The trench revealed a uniform depth of 400mm of topsoil over 300/400mm of mid brown silty subsoil which increased to 450mm at the western end giving an overall trench depth of between 700mm and 800mm. As noted in section 2.1 above the underlying, naturally occurring geological drift deposit proved to be a light grey to brown clay with flints and chalk fragments. No archaeological features were revealed in the trench under what were conditions giving good visibility and the only finds proved to be a small number of 19th/20th century or later brick or tile fragments and a large amount of scrap iron work of similar date from the nearby works directly to the south.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The lack of any archaeological features or finds of any age from what represents a substantial sample of the proposed development footprint indicates that this site, though within the area of the medieval and earlier Post medieval village as evidenced by the proximity of various listed buildings and the parish church, was peripheral to earlier activity of any intensity. The lack of any evidence for pre 19th century activity perhaps supporting the suggestion above that much of the central area in modern day Bardwell was open green used for grazing until c1800.

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site to the rear of The Laurels, Up Street.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BAR 081.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work 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 to David Ruffles and everyone on site for their close cooperation and to James Armes for carrying out the metal detector search).

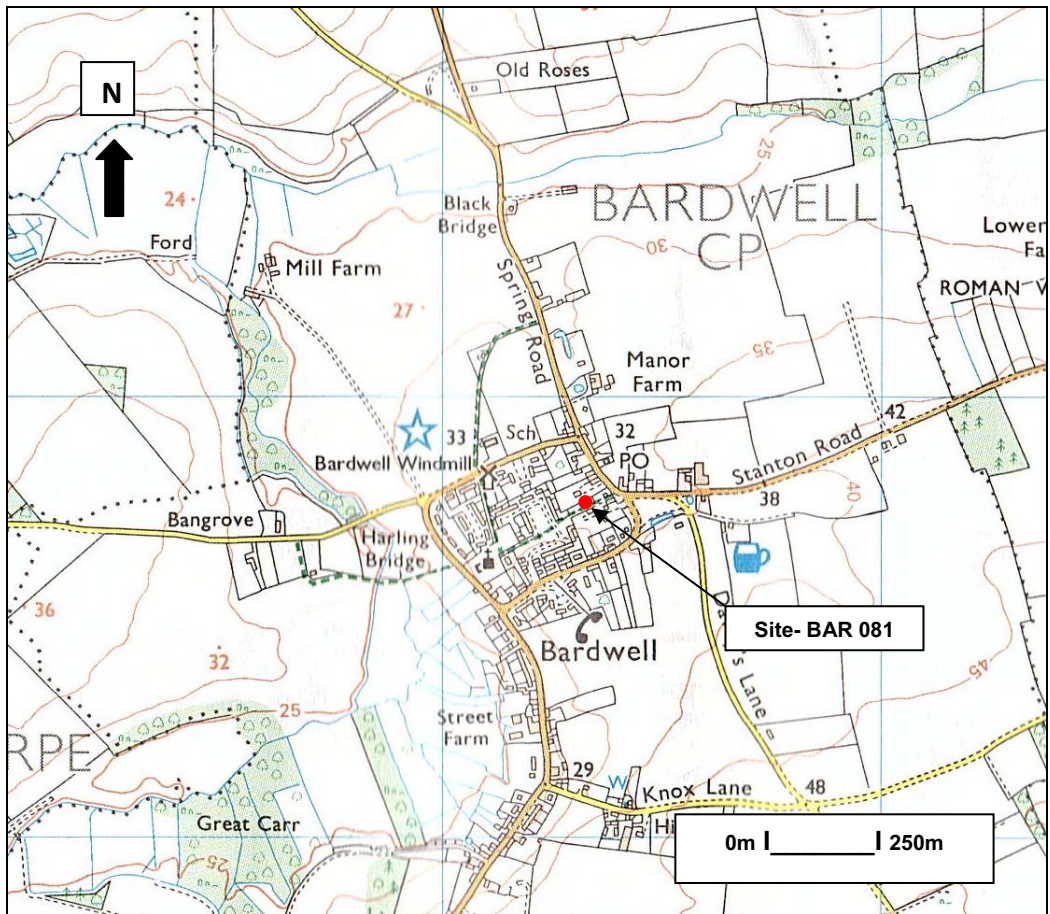


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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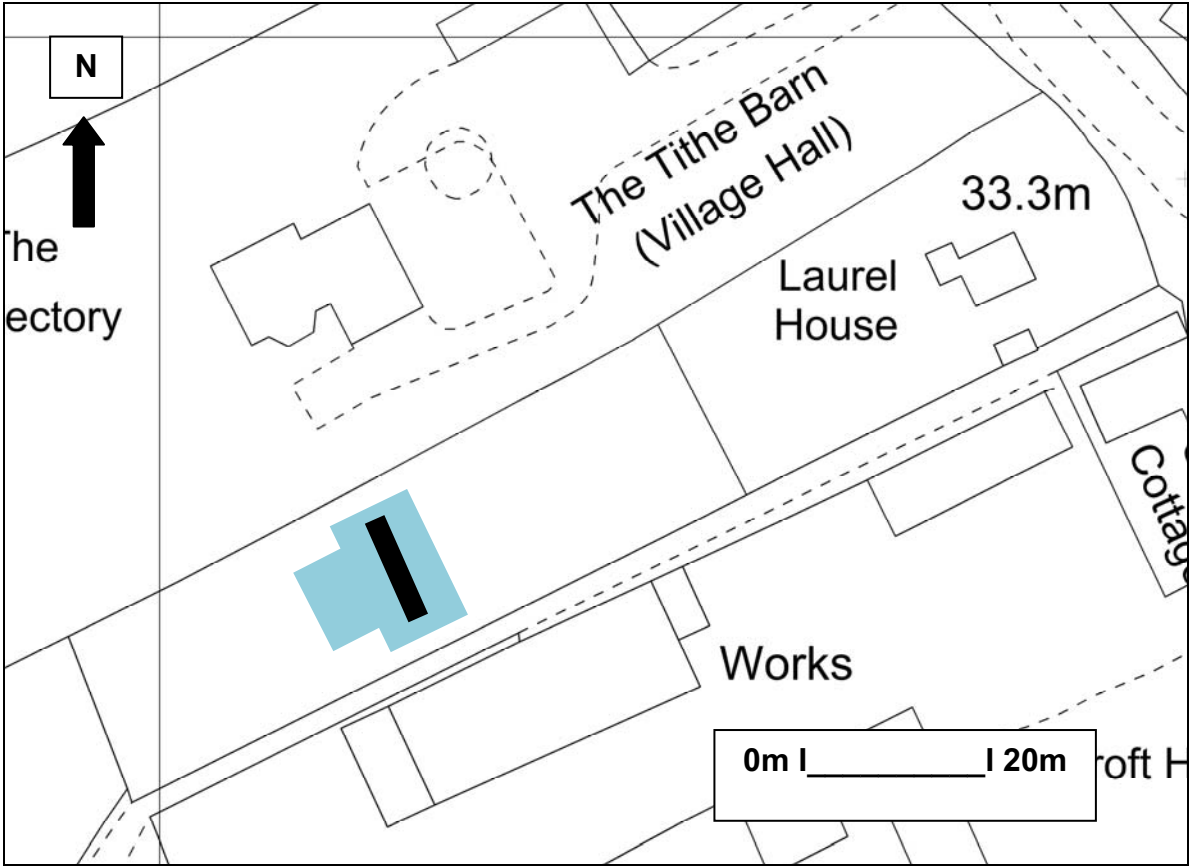


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench (planned house footprint in blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Trench from north

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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAUREL HOUSE, THE GREEN, BARDWELL, BURY ST EDMUNDS (SE/11/0846)

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 is to be sought for the erection of a house and garage on land at Laurel House, The Green, Bardwell, IP31 1AW (TL 942 737). **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 PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) 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 behind Laurel House, on the west side of Up Street, on deep loam over chalky till and glaciofluvial drift, at c.35m OD.
- 1.4 This application lies within an area of archaeological interest, within the historic settlement core of Bardwell, in proximity to previously recorded medieval building remains on the County Historic Environment Record (HER refs BAR 067 and 072). The 1883-4 OS map shows that it lies on a route to the church. There is high potential for important heritage assets of archaeological interest remains to be defined at this location. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets of archaeological interest.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 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 further 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 standards and guidance produced by the Institute for 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 (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR) 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 satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, 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 A linear trial trench, 10m long x 1.80m wide, is to be excavated to cover the area of the new house footprint.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m wide minimum must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench 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 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 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. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

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

- 4.7 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities, for example (and where appropriate), in the form of open days/guided tours for the general public, local schools, local councillors, local archaeological and historical societies and for local public lectures and/or activities within local schools. Provision should be included for local press releases (newspapers/radio/TV). Where appropriate, information boards should be also provided during the fieldwork stage of investigation. Archaeological Contractors should ascertain whether their clients will seek to impose restrictions on public access to the site and for what reasons and these should be detailed in the WSI.

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 a 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 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.13 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. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.

- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 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 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 hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained. A paper copy should also be included with the report and also with the site archive.

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Date: 22 September 2011

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.