

Bell Farm, The Street, Carlton Colville, Suffolk

Planning application: DC/10/1492/AGO

HER Ref: CAC 045

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(January 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Bell Farm, The Street, Carlton Colville, Suffolk, NR33 8JS

Client: Calco Steel Co Ltd on behalf of Mr T Meadows

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/10/1492/AGO

Development: Erection of building for agricultural use

Date of fieldwork: 11 January 2011

HER Ref: CAC 045

OASIS ref: johnnewm1_91130

Grid ref: TM 5126 8962

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Summary: Carlton Colville, Bell Farm, The Street (CAC 045, TM 5126 8962) evaluation trenching did not reveal any features or significant finds on the proposed site of an agricultural building on the north western side of Bloodmoor Hill. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Calco Steel Co Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Calco Steel Co Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on the site of a proposed agricultural building at Bell Farm, Carlton Colville (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification (see Appendix II) set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service in response to application DC/10/1492/AGO in order to examine the archaeological potential of the proposed site before consideration of this application.

1.2 Carlton Colville parish is located in north east Suffolk, on the southern side of the River Waveney and just to the south west of Lowestoft. Historically, settlement has been scattered with small concentrations of cottages and farms around the parish church and around at least two small greens but in recent years suburban expansion from Lowestoft has all but covered much of the eastern and central parts of the parish. The south western part of the parish has seen much less development as it rises up onto Bloodmoor Hill and what was Mutford Common with Bell Farm being located on The Street in this area and towards the base of the hill on its north western side at c5mOD. Soils in the parish vary between lighter sands and gravels across much of the eastern part and somewhat heavier soils in the Bell Farm area derived from the underlying chalky till of the Beccles series.

1.3 As suburban development has extended over much of the eastern part of Carlton Colville various phases of archaeological investigation have taken place including, most notably, the excavation of a nationally important Anglo-Saxon cemetery and settlement (HER CAC 016) on the north eastern flank of Bloodmoor Hill. While this Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery is located some 800m to the east of Bell Farm, metal detector finds indicating further contemporary activity have been recorded from the intervening area (CAC 007 & 008) as have finds of Roman date. Unfortunately these detector finds are only recorded as having come from the relevant fields with exact find spot information lacking and therefore the real extent and character of Anglo Saxon settlement and cemetery on the slopes of the hill is unclear. It should also be noted that a high status Anglo Saxon burial was revealed towards the top of the hill in the late 18th century and other burials were disturbed nearby in the 19th century which, coupled with the recent excavation evidence, makes Bloodmoor Hill an area of high archaeological potential for this period.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed site for the agricultural building, which will measure 30.2m by 15.2m, is located on the south eastern edge of the Bell Farm complex some 120m from The Street (see Fig. 2) with a very gentle northerly aspect. At the time of the evaluation the site was bare ground following the lifting of a sugar beet crop. The footprint was trenched to a previously agreed plan with a single north east-south west aligned trench along the main axis giving an extensive sample of the proposed development area. In all 30m of trench at a width of 1.8m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying naturally occurring drift geological deposit using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket giving a sample of 54m², or some 12%, of the footprint. The exposed mixed sandy gravel and clay drift geological surface 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 detector user as was the surrounding area of bare ground within the footprint area. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation on a cold, clear day. 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 The 30m of trench revealed a depth of 400mm of a dark brown sandy topsoil across the site with the trench running along the slope. Below the topsoil a 200mm deep layer of a mid brown sandy subsoil was revealed and at the eastern and western ends of the trench the removal of the subsoil exposed the local Till surface as comprising a grey to light brown sandy clay with small chalk fragments at an overall trench depth of 600mm. Through the central part of the trench these drift clay deposits gave way to a yellowish orange sand with gravel drift surface and the trenching was taken into the upper 200mm of this deposit to ensure clarity in the search for archaeological features giving a trench depth of 800mm (see Appendix I for images of the trenching). Being close to the bottom of a gentle slope on the north western flank of Bloodmoor Hill there clearly has been some accumulation of hillwash as evidenced by the 400mm deep layer of topsoil over 200mm of subsoil. However as this accumulation is relatively shallow the trial trenching was able to expose the specified sample of the proposed building footprint down to the underlying drift geological deposits.

3.2 No archaeological features were revealed by the trenching. Close examination of the upcast spoil did not reveal any finds and the metal detector search did not recover any finds apart from iron fragments of recent or indeterminate date and a few scraps of aluminium.

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 close to areas where Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds have been recovered, does not directly impinge on any deposits of archaeological importance.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. CAC 045.

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 everyone from Calco Steel Co Ltd for their close cooperation and to Jimmy Woodrow for undertaking the metal detector search).

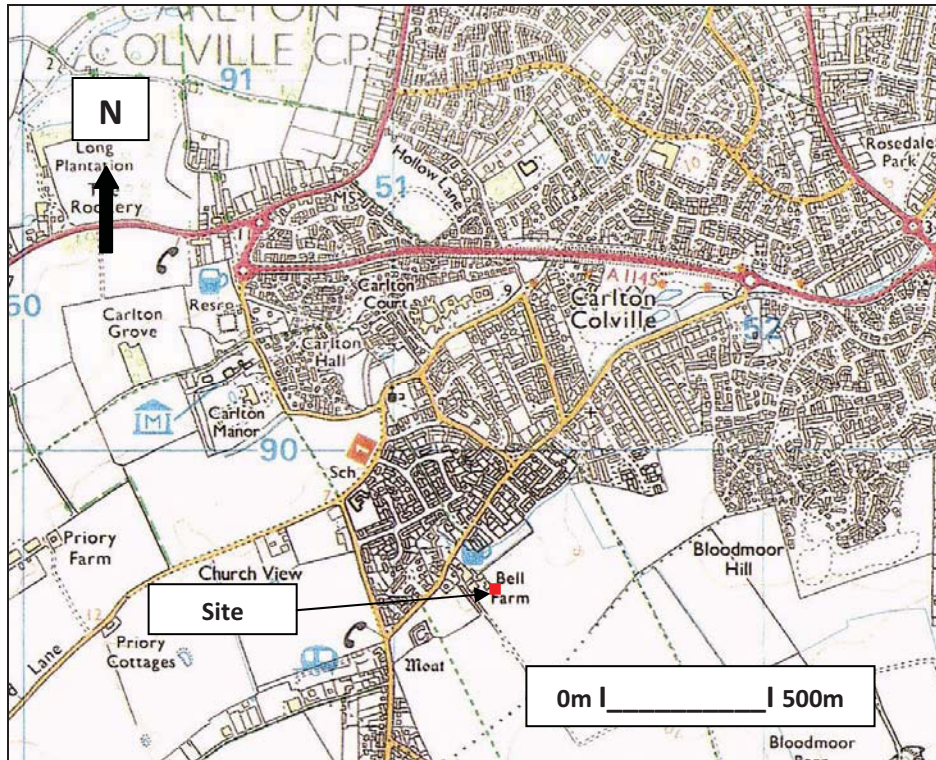


Fig.1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2010.
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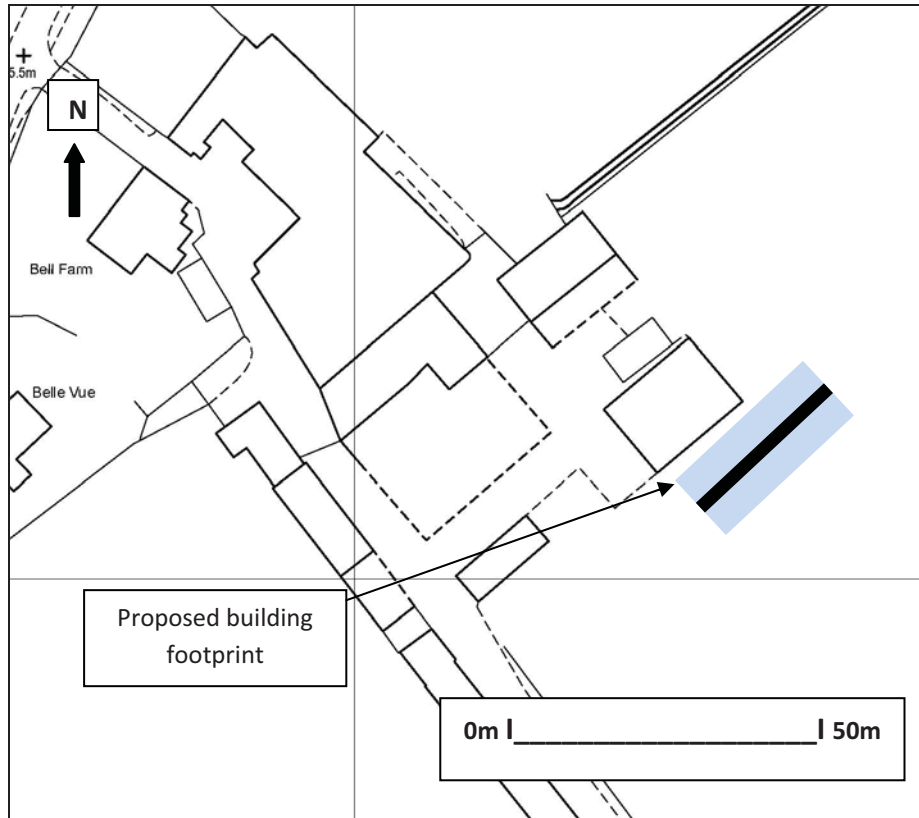


Fig. 2: Proposed building footprint with trial trench (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011
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Appendix I- Images



Trench from west



Trench from east



Soil profile- 400mm topsoil over 200mm subsoil over sandy drift deposit

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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

BELL FARM, THE STREET, CARLTON COLVILLE, SUFFOLK (DC/10/1492/AGO)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 A Prior Notification application (DC/10/1492/AGO) has made to Waveney District Council for the construction of an agricultural storage building, measuring 30.00 x 15.00m in size, at Bell Farm, The Street, Carlton Colville (TM 512 896). Please contact the developer for an accurate location plan.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that the location of the proposed building could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest. The applicant should be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 6).
- 1.1 The proposed application area is located on the south side of The Street, to the south-east of the farm buildings associated with Bell Farm, at c.5.00m OD. The soil is deep loam to clay derived from the underlying chalky till of the Beccles Series.
- 1.3 The proposed location the building is within a heritage asset of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record; it is within the area of a possible early Anglo-Saxon cemetery and, although the site is not currently scheduled, it is considered to be of national importance. Archaeological investigation of about 40 hectares to the east has identified four previously unknown sites, which included the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery (HER no. CAC 016) of national importance.
- 1.4 The following archaeological evaluation work is required across the application area:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.5 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the suitability of the area for the erection of the building will be based on the results of this work.
- 1.6 The evaluation will also provide information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost. The need for any further evaluation, should unusual archaeological finds of significance be recovered, will be based upon the results of this 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; 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 satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 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.
- 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 single trial trench is to be excavated across the site of the proposed building, 30.00m long x 1.80m wide.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m 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).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 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.
- 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.

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) and reported in the desk-based assessment.
- 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 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.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
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Bury St Edmunds
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Tel: 01284 352197
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Date: 15 December 2010

Reference: /BellFarm_CarltonColville2010

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.