

Report 2743



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief on Land East of Fox & Hounds Public House, Groton Street, Groton, Suffolk

GRT 014



Prepared for
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Plate 2 Site looking north-east

Plate 3 Site looking south-east

Plate 4 Site looking west

Location:	Groton Street, Groton, Suffolk
District:	Babergh
Grid Ref.:	TL 9586 4156
HER No.:	GRT 014
OASIS Ref.:	105141
Client:	Anglian Water Services
Dates of Fieldwork:	16–18 May 2011

Summary

Between 16 and 18 May 2011 an archaeological watching brief was conducted on land directly east of the Fox and Hounds Public House, Groton Street, Groton, Suffolk on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd. The work entailed removal of topsoil and elements of subsoil from an area measuring 45m x 35m prior to the construction of a temporary site compound.

During the watching brief monitoring no archaeological features or deposits were noted. A number of finds were recovered from the subsoil which may suggest that where the subsoil remained in situ it is possible that it masked archaeological features.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This work was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT Sarah Poppy 26 April 2011) (Ref. GrotonSiteCompound_2011). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2743/DW) This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Limited.

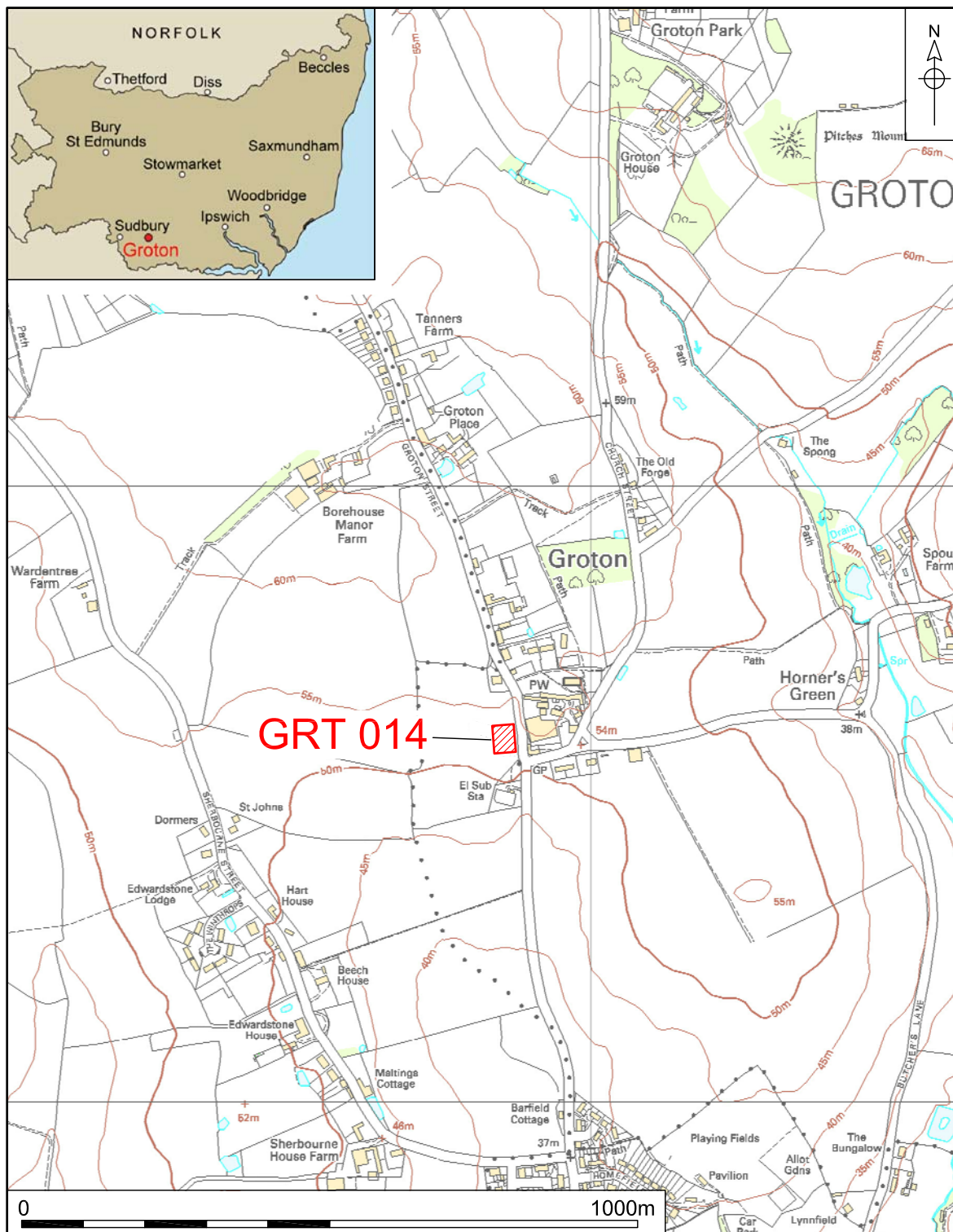
This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology in the area is London clay (clay/silt/sand) overlain by Lowestoft formation sands and gravels (British Geological Survey).

Topsoil (1) overlay sparse subsoil (2) which was similar in consistency. These soils contained a large amount of irregularly shaped and sized flint gravel and overlay the glacial and fluvial silts and clays combined with glacial sand and gravel.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

The site is located on Groton Street at the south end of the village opposite the Fox and Hounds Public House (Fig. 1). It is situated just within the parish boundary on a well-drained south facing slope. A tributary of the River Box flows southwards some 600m east of the area of the site compound.



Plate 1. Site compound looking south (pre-excavation)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The heritage assets around the site have been researched using mainly the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). A search within a 2km radius of the compound was carried out which highlighted seven findspots within 1km of which five were situated within 500m.

The three closest records (GRT 004, GRT 005 and GRT 013) are all prehistoric in date. GRT 004 and GRT 005, 300m west and north-west of the site respectively, record the findspots of an Early Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flaked axe head and a Palaeolithic hand axe. GRT 013, 120m to the north, records the location of two patches of burnt flint.

Approximately 450m to the north-west of the site compound is EDN 005, a multi-period finds scatter recovered by metal detecting. It consists of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval metalwork and pottery sherds.

A single Iron Age coin was found 450m to the south-west.

No archaeological interventions are recorded within 1km of the site.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area of the site compound.

The Brief required that continuous monitoring be carried out during the removal of overburden to facilitate the construction of a temporary site compound.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil and exposed surfaces were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal detected and hand collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were present.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology *pro forma*. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of the site during machining.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

During the whole period of monitoring no archaeological features were apparent.

The topsoil/subsoil covering the site was rarely more than 350mm deep except at the north-east corner where the underlying natural deposits appeared to dip towards the east and Groton Road itself.

Despite there being no features, artefacts were recovered during machine stripping of the topsoil/subsoil (located both visually and by metal detector survey). They were almost exclusively of post-medieval date, with a few being modern.



Plate 2 Site looking north-east



Plate 3 Site looking south-east



Plate 4 Site looking west

6.0 THE FINDS

Finds from the site were processed and identified, the information being entered on an Excel spreadsheet. The finds are described below in order of material and a summary list of all the finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

All of the artefacts were recovered from subsoil deposit (2).

6.1 The Pottery

by Lucy Talbot

Two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE); one, a body sherd and the other a fragment of base, possibly from a jar, were recovered from subsoil (2), weighing 24g. Both examples date from 17th to 18th centuries, with the base possibly being slightly later.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Lucy Talbot

Seven pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from subsoil (2), weighing 507g. The assemblage consists of a single fragment of yellow brick, a medium sandy red brick, a piece of nibbed pan tile and four fragments of plain, flat roof tile.

6.3 Flint

by Lucy Talbot

A single partial cortical flake was collected from subsoil (2).

6.4 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

A total of eleven metal finds were recovered from the site; all came from the subsoil (2).

A single cast iron object was recovered, and is likely to be a decorative building clamp. The piece is symmetrical and has pointed *fleur-de-lys* terminals with a central attachment hole.

The rest of the metal finds are of copper alloy and are post-medieval to modern in date; they include two buckle fragments, two buttons, a thimble, an undiagnostic sheet fragment, an undiagnostic openwork object and a tiny floriate decorative mount or stud.

Two coins (both farthings) were also recovered, one dated to 1864, the reign of Queen Victoria; the other is illegible.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features were uncovered during topsoil and subsoil stripping however finds of post-medieval and modern date were recovered from the subsoil.

It is possible that archaeological features were present below the areas of subsoil that were not removed by the stripping of the site compound area, however as none appeared elsewhere on the site and the subsoil that did remain on the surface was patchy and rather thin, the potential for features to be present is quite low.

Acknowledgements

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood. Lucy Talbot reported on the pottery, ceramic building material and flint and Rebecca Sillwood reported on the metal finds.

The figure was prepared by David Dobson who also produced the report which was edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/> Accessed 06.07.11

Department for Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* TSO, London

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Type	Description	Period
1	Deposit	Topsoil	Mid grey/brown sand silt	Modern
2	Deposit	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown sand silt	Post-medieval

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Description	Qty	Wt	Period
2	Ceramic Building Material		7	507g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Coin; 1864	1	2g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Coin; illegible	1	5g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Sheet fragment	1	20g	Modern
2	Copper-Alloy	Thimble	1	2g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Button	1	4g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Buckle fragment	1	3g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Buckle fragment	1	4g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Stud/Mount	1	1g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy	Button	1	5g	Post-medieval
2	Copper-Alloy		1	2g	Post-medieval
2	Flint – Struck		1	5g	Prehistoric
2	Iron	Building Tie	1	1,289g	Post-medieval
2	Pottery		2	24g	Post-medieval

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	7
	Copper-Alloy	9
	Iron	1
	Pottery	2
Modern	Copper-Alloy	1

Appendix 3: Archaeological Specification

9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
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IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

GROTON SITE COMPOUND, LAND OPPOSITE FOX AND HOUNDS, GROTON STREET, GROTON

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 A temporary construction compound measuring approx 30 x 30m, is to be constructed by Anglian Water on land opposite the Fox and Hounds, Groton Street, Groton, centred on TL 958 416.
- 1.2 Anglian Water has been advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SSCAS/CT) that this development will require a scheme of archaeological investigation.
- 1.3 The route of the proposed compound is located within an area of archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, opposite the medieval church of St. Bartholomew (HER ref GRT 003) and to the south in the vicinity of a multi-period metal detecting finds scatter (HER EDN 005). There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be defined at this location.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any heritage assets of archaeological importance that exists.
- 1.5 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.6 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 establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 The Institute for 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 Recording

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] associated with the proposed works.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is topsoil stripping for the construction of a temporary compound measuring approx 30 x 30m. This and the upcast soil are to be closely monitored during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.
- 2.3 Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive 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.

- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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>).
- 5.9 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).
- 5.10 An unbound hardcopy of the 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.
- 5.11 Following acceptance, a single copy of the 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.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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 report and also with the site archive.

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Date: 26 April 2011

Reference: /GrotonSiteCompound_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.