

Report 2910



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at St Winifreds,
Yarmouth Road, Corton, Suffolk**

COR 054



Prepared for
Mr and Mrs F Browne
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January 2012



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Plate 1 Foundations facing north-west

Location:	St Winifreds, Yarmouth Road, Corton, Suffolk
District:	Waveney District Council
Planning Ref.:	DC/11/1039/FUL
Grid Ref.:	TM 528 988
HER No.:	COR 054
OASIS Ref.:	116895
Client:	Mr and Mrs F Browne
Dates of Fieldwork:	11 November 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Mr and Mrs F Browne during the excavation of foundations for a new bungalow.

Despite there being extensive cropmarks of an early fieldsystem and associated trackways in the area and prehistoric flintwork has previously been recorded close by, there were no archaeological features or finds present at the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project monitored the groundworks associated with the construction of a new bungalow located on the eastern side of the A12 between Hopton in Norfolk and Corton in Suffolk (Fig. 1).

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Waveney District Council (Ref.DC/11/1039/FUL) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (A. Antrobus 20.10.11, St Winifreds, Yarmouth Road, Corton, Suffolk). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2910/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Mr and Mrs F Browne.

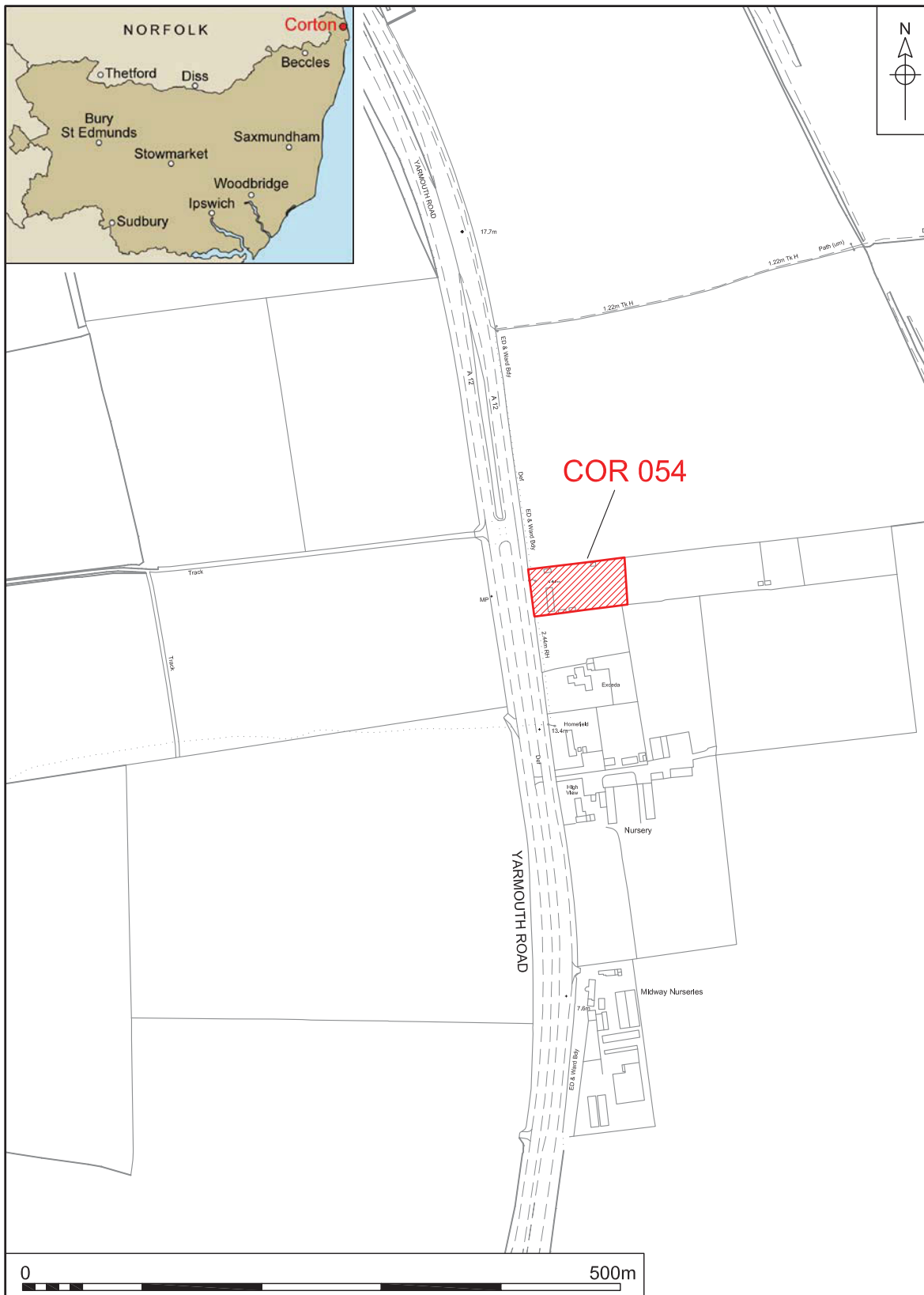
This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

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

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lay on Anglian glacial sands and gravels (BGS 1991) above Palaeogene London Clay (BGS 1985).

The site was located adjacent to the modern A12, in the north-eastern corner of Suffolk, adjacent to the border with Norfolk. To the north lies the village of Hopton, while Corton village lies to the south-east and Blundeston to the south-west. The



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

site is located on flat land at a height of c.13m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) and historic mapping were consulted in the preparation of this section and the most relevant results are shown below.

In 1956 a Bronze Age stone axe/hammer fragment (COR 001) was found 200m north of St Winifreds.

A collection of worked flints (COR 021), including a scraper, a knife fragments and several waste flakes, were found prior to 1986 some 150m south of St Winifreds.

Aerial photographs of the surrounding fields have produced evidence of a large north-west to south-east aligned rectangular field system with associated north-west to south-east aligned trackways (COR 012, COR 013, COR 014 and COR 017). These are undated and there is little evidence of this field system in the modern landscape.

Hodkinson's map of 1783 (Dymond 2003) shows the area of St Winifreds as a patch of woodland.

The 1:2500 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1884) shows the site of St Winifreds as a field. The field boundaries suggest that the area was subject to parliamentary enclosure.

On the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1905) a north to south railway has appeared 350m east of St Winifreds.

The present bungalow at the front of the plot first appears on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey (1927), with an orchard to the rear.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation 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 development area.

The Brief required that all groundworks be constantly monitored.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features 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.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

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



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

5.0 RESULTS

The foundations for the new bungalow at the site were excavated on 11 November 2011 (Fig. 2). The trenches were 0.6m wide and 0.9-1m deep exposing 0.2m of topsoil (very rooty dark brown sand with occasional flint gravel) above 0.2m of subsoil (reddish brown sand with occasional flint gravel) which rested on natural sand (soft pale yellow sand with occasional flint gravel-rich patches).

No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.



Plate 1. Foundations facing north-west

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of excavation for foundations of a new bungalow at St Winifreds, Corton produced no evidence of archaeological features and no artefacts.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs F. Browne for commissioning and financing this project. Thanks must also go to the builders on site for their co-operation.

This report was edited by Jayne Bown and the illustrations completed by David Dobson.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| British Geological Survey | 1985 | <i>East Anglia Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology</i> |
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| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2010 | <i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i> TSO, Norwich |
| Dymond, D. | 2003 | <i>Hodskinson's Map of Suffolk in 1783</i> , Larks Press |

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-116895

Project details

Project name	Corton
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Mr and Mrs F Browne during the excavation of foundations for a new bungalow. Despite there being extensive cropmarks of an early fieldsystem and associated trackways in the area and prehistoric flintwork has previously been recorded close by, there were no archaeological features or finds present at the site.
Project dates	Start: 11-11-2011 End: 11-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	COR 054 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU2910 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/11/1039/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY CORTON St Winifreds
Study area	540.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 528 988 52.5276995004 1.727458065990 52 31 39 N 001 43 38 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology

Project brief originator Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services

Project design originator Nigel Page

Project director/manager Nigel Page

Project supervisor Steve Hickling

Type of sponsor/funding body Private Individual

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr and Mrs Browne

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Appendix 2: Archaeological Specification

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Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

ST WINIFREDS, YARMOUTH ROAD, CORTON, SUFFOLK (DC/11/1039/FUL)

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 has been granted by Babergh District Council for the erection of a replacement bungalow at St Winifreds, Yarmouth Road, Corton, NR32 5NG (TM 528 988), conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being implemented.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority was advised that 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) (which replaced PPG 16 in 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The proposal is for the erection of a bungalow, following demolition of the existing structure. The site is in an area of archaeological interest and potential, in an area of known prehistoric activity identified in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies immediately to the south of a complex of cropmarks of fieldsystems and an enclosure that are interpreted as prehistoric settlement activity (COR 012, COR 013). A Bronze-Age hammer was found within the cropmark area (COR 001). As suggested by their alignments, some of the features may continue into the development area, which is not on the footprint of the building to be demolished. There is therefore potential for prehistoric settlement archaeological remains to exist on the site.
- 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) 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 Following approval of the WSI, our office will advise the Local Planning Authority that an acceptable scheme of work is in place, and therefore we (will) have no objection to the work commencing. Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation (assuming planning permission is granted). 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 Local Planning Authority that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged; only the Local Planning Authority can effect discharge of the condition.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. 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 high resolution digital images. The resolution and format must be specified in the WSI.
- 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 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: Dr Abby Antrobus

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Date: 11 October 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.

