

Report 2838



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief at Icklingham Village Mains Replacement Scheme, Suffolk

IKL179



Prepared for
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	Icklingham Replacement Main, Icklingham, Suffolk
District:	Forest Heath
Grid Ref.:	TL 774 727 - TL 766 733
HER No.:	IKL179
OASIS Ref.:	120617
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	22 September – 17 October 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water ahead of the laying of a new water mains in fields to the north of the village of Icklingham in Suffolk.

The excavation of a 1.3km length of narrow pipe trench through farmland beside a track was monitored. A few features that may have been drainage or boundary ditches of indeterminate date were recorded crossing the pipe trench. No other archaeological remains were encountered during these works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The village of Icklingham in Suffolk required a new water mains pipe to be laid in order to fulfil demand on the water supply and increase water pressure in the area (Fig. 1). The proposed route of the new pipeline passed close to areas of archaeological interest and therefore a programme of archaeological monitoring was required.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Suffolk County Council and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (IcklinghamVillageMains_2011). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2838/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

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 site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The bedrock in the area of Icklingham consists of chalk (Holywell nodular and New Pit chalk formations) with no superficial deposits recorded. The natural deposits

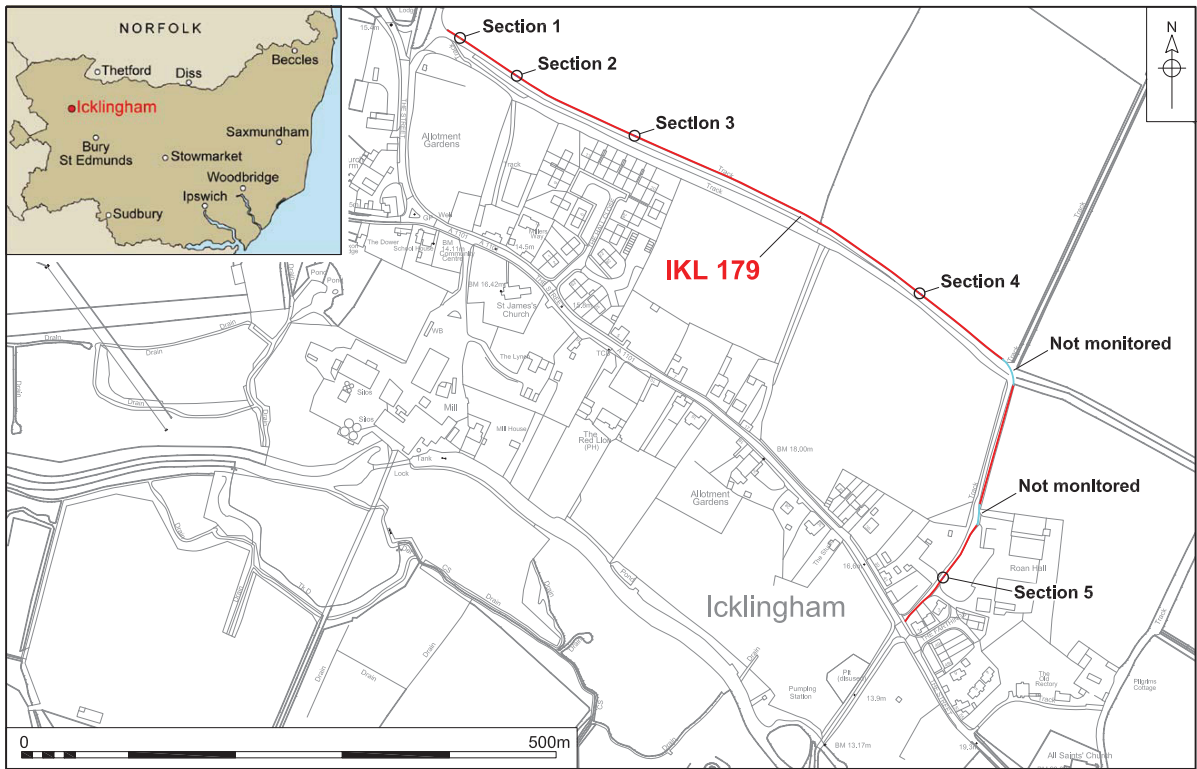


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

encountered during the monitoring were chalk which appeared high in the section of the pipeline trench (see section in Fig. 2).

The topsoil at the site is a stiff but friable compacted greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional medium and small pieces of flint. The subsoil is a moderately compact mid-brown silty-sand that is mottled in places with frequent chalk lumps and occasional nodules of flint. Both deposits were very dry and dusty.

The route is approximately 350m north of the River Lark and runs parallel to it for 600m of its length before turning southwards.

The area is slightly undulating, very well draining arable land that lies at around 16m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of records held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) produced a number of entries in the vicinity of the site as well as listed buildings in Icklingham itself. There are two entries that are most relevant to the route - IKL 066 and IKL 099.

A scatter of Roman coins was recorded in 1977 (IKL 066, SHER 10231) in close proximity to the track which the pipeline route follows, north of The Hall Close estate.

Icklingham Hall (IKL 099, SHER10305) was located just to the south of the pipeline route (The Hall Close). The Hall appears on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1904 and was owned for a time by William Sturge, who was a renowned physician in the early late 19th and early 20th centuries and a keen archaeologist and collector. It is thought that some of his collection - notably palaeolithic and Neolithic flints were sourced nearby.

Just south of the route, approximately halfway along its length, the location of a socketed axe is recorded (IKL 106, SHER 11980) however it would appear that the information is erroneous.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to mitigate the impact of the scheme by the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that may be adversely impacted by the pipeline route.

The Brief required that the upcast soil from the pipe trench to be visually inspected and scanned for finds once it had been excavated by the main laying contractor.

Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked mini 360° excavator equipped with a narrow toothed bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The pipe trench was approximately 900m long, 0.40m wide and 1m deep (Plate 1). On average 60-80m of pipe trench were excavated per day, the new pipe itself which had already been bonded to the previous section was inserted and the trench was immediately backfilled.

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 because no suitable deposits were encountered.

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.



Plate 1. Pipe trench looking south-east

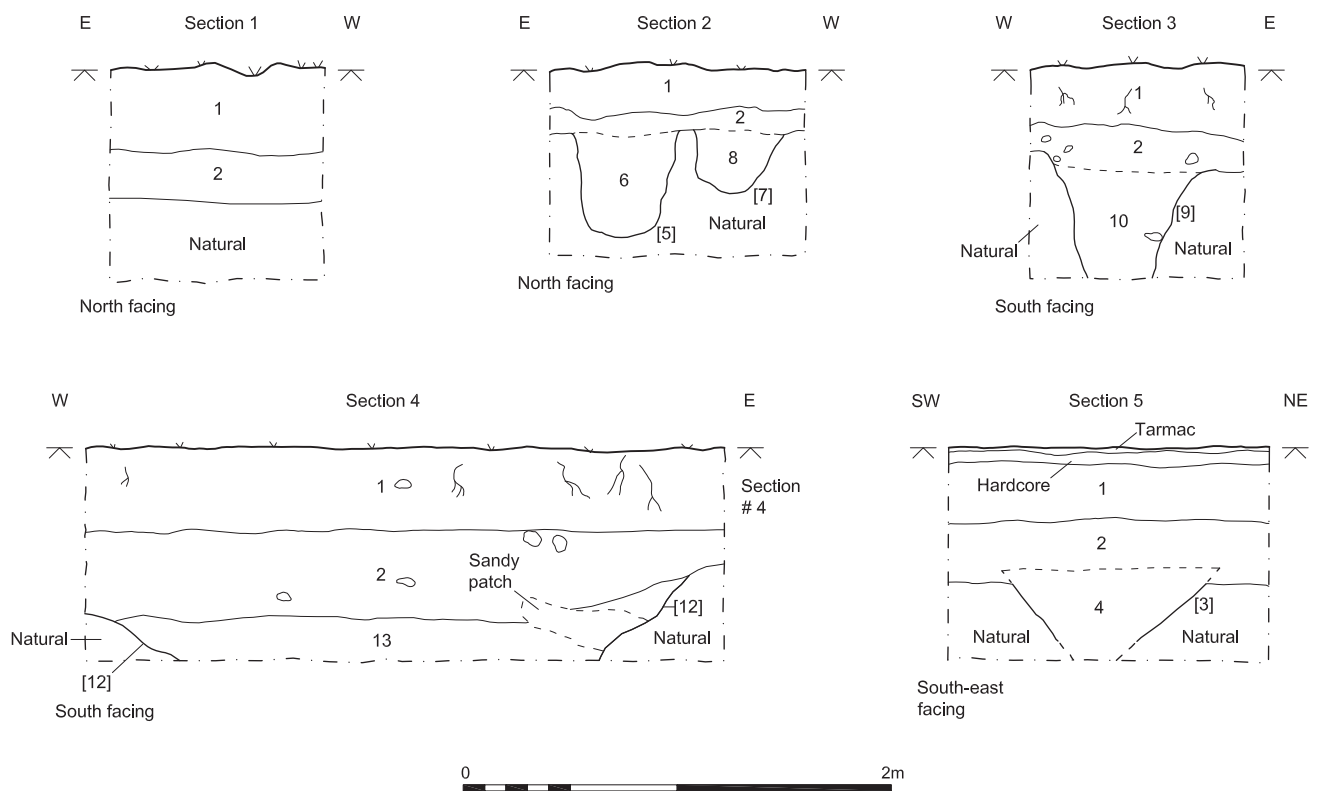


Figure 2. Sections. Scale 1:25

5.0 RESULTS

Along the 900m route of the pipeline only five features were identified ([3], [5], [7], [9] and [12]) and all of these were in section (Figs 1 (location) and 2). The fills of these features were very similar to surrounding deposits hence it was at times difficult to determine the interface between the two especially as the trench was relatively narrow and over 1m deep. The features were also slightly irregular in nature and highly disturbed by roots or perhaps the burrowing of animals.

Feature [3] appears to be a ditch with fairly regularly sloping sides. It perhaps originally formed part of a boundary and/or perhaps had a drainage function (Fig. 2 Section 5).

Features [5] and [7] were small, slightly irregular, possible linear features, although it is very difficult to say for sure in such a narrow trench (Fig. 2 Section 2, Plate 2). It is feasible that one or possibly both of these features may have been made by animal action.



Plate 2. Possible linear features [5] and [7]

Feature [9] may have been a narrow gully, perhaps for drainage or maybe even a natural feature created where water has run off the fields and created channel through the underlying chalk. The sides were quite steep and the bottom of this feature was outside the limit of excavation and therefore not seen (Fig. 2 Section 3, Plate 3). It is difficult to be certain whether this was a natural feature or a man-made one.



Plate 3. Possible linear feature [9]



Plate 4. Large ditch [12]

Feature [12] was a distinct, large, wide ditch (Fig. 2 Section 4, Plate 4) however the base of this, perhaps substantial, feature lay below the limit of the trench. From its location (Fig. 1) it is not hard to suggest that this may have been a boundary ditch that had designated two smaller 'strip'-like fields that have since been amalgamated into one larger land holding, more suitable for modern day, agricultural practices.

Only two artefacts were recovered during the monitoring of the pipeline excavation and these consisted of two fragments of ceramic building material from the upcast soil from the pipe-trench. No metalwork finds were recovered, other than those that were obviously modern and which were discarded.

The natural chalk that was exposed during the works is worth remarking on. It was an off-white colour and appeared very high in the sequence – being exposed in section directly underneath thin layers of topsoil and subsoil. This was particularly apparent as when the topsoil and subsoil were removed they were each stockpiled separately on opposite sides of the trench (Plate 1).

6.0 FINDS

by Rebecca Sillwood

The finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Appendix 2a contains a list of finds ordered by context number.

6.1 Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from this site, and make up the entirety of the finds assemblage. The pieces came from subsoil [11] and comprise a piece of nibbed pan tile (47g) and plain roof tile (13g), both of hard fired sandy fabric of bright orange colour. These pieces are likely to be 19th-century in date.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

A small number of potential linear features were observed in the exposed side of the pipe trench however only one – ditch [12] - can be confidently identified as such. As none of the features yielded any finds and the stratigraphy is limited, it has not been possible to assign any dates.

It is significant that there were so few finds recovered from the site, suggesting in this case an absence of activity in earlier periods. The tile that was collected came from the subsoil layer, and was relatively modern in date.

As the excavated trench was just 0.40m wide trench it is possible that evidence may lie outside it, however it is clear that settlement and occupation along the route of the pipeline was not present.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Anglian Water for commissioning and finding the work and the Balfour Beatty team on site who undertook the groundworks (especially Site Manager, Chris Taylor) for their hospitality and accommodation during the archaeological monitoring.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Michelle Bull, Rebecca Sillwood and Andy Barnett.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood.

The report was edited by Jayne Bown and produced by David Dobson who also produced the plans.

Bibliography and sources

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

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> Accessed 12.12.11

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Uncertain
3	Cut	Linear		Cut of ditch	Uncertain
4	Deposit		[3]	Ditch fill	Uncertain
5	Cut	Linear		Cut of possible ditch	Uncertain
6	Deposit		[5]	Ditch fill	Uncertain
7	Cut	Linear		Cut of possible gully	Uncertain
8	Deposit		[7]	Gully fill	Uncertain
9	Cut	Linear		Cut of ditch	Uncertain
10	Deposit		[9]	Ditch fill	Uncertain
11	Deposit			Subsoil in next field	Uncertain
12	Cut	Linear		Large ditch	Uncertain
13	Deposit		[12]	Ditch fill	Uncertain

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Uncertain	Linear	4
	ditch	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
11	Ceramic Building Material	2	60g	Post-medieval	Roof tile & nibbed pan tile

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	2

Appendix 3: OASIS Report

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-120617

Project details

Project name	Icklingham Replacement Main
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water ahead of a new water mains supply which was laid in fields to the north of the village of Icklingham in Suffolk. One 1.3km narrow pipe trench was excavated through farmland beside a track and was monitored. A few features that may have been drainage or boundary ditches of indeterminate date were recorded crossing the pipe trench. No other archaeological remains were encountered during these works.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2011 End: 17-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	IKL 179 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU2838 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ICKLINGHAM Icklingham Replacement Main
Study area	360.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 774 727 52.3232374045 0.603371759174 52 19 23 N 000 36 12 E Line
Site coordinates	TL 766 733 52.3288855992 0.591959827852 52 19 43 N 000 35 31 E Line

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	David Whitmore
Project director/manager	David Whitmore
Project supervisor	Michelle Bull
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at Icklingham Village Mains Replacement Scheme, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bull, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2838
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Entered on	9 March 2012

OASIS:

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Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification

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Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording

ICKLINGHAM VILLAGE MAINS REPLACEMENT SCHEME, SUFFOLK

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 The installation of replacement water mains pipeline is to be undertaken in Icklingham village between TL 774 727 and TL 766 733, and measuring 1.3km in length. **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 Anglian Water has been advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) that this development would require a scheme of archaeological investigation to accompany the groundworks.
- 1.3 The proposed pipeline lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The route lies in close proximity to extensive scatters of Roman and medieval metalwork (HER ref IKL 066 and numerous PAS records).
- 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 archaeological monitoring of upcast soil from the 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 and artefacts, which are damaged or removed by any development associated with the proposed works.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of a 1.3km trench, c. 30-40mm in width and 900mm depth. The upcast soil from this trench is to be visually inspected and scanned for metalwork finds once it has 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: 03 August 2011

Reference: /lcklinghamVillageMains_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.