

nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on Land to the Rear of The Angel Inn, 79 The Street, Bramford, Suffolk

BRF 090



Prepared for Merchant Projects (Ipswich) Ltd 11 Silent Street Ipswich Suffolk IP1 1TF





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May 2012



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Location: Land to the rear of The Angel Inn, The Street,

Bramford, Suffolk

District: Mid Suffolk
Grid Ref.: TM 122 465

Planning Ref.: 4063/11
HER No.: BRF 090
OASIS Ref.: 127028

Client: Merchant Projects, Ipswich Ltd

Dates of Fieldwork: 30 April 2012

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Merchant Projects, Ipswich Ltd ahead of a new residential development to the rear of The Angel Inn, Bramford in Suffolk.

There were no features of archaeological significance within the evaluation trench, however one large un-abraded sherd of late medieval pottery was found within the subsoil.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site was situated to the rear of the Angel Inn, which was located on The Street at the centre north of Bramford (Fig. 1). The development plot measured approximately 0.1ha in size.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Mid Suffolk District Council (Ref. 4063/11) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Ref: Land to the rear of the Angel Inn, 79 The Street, Bramford, Suffolk; Rachael Monk 29 March 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3052/NP). This work was commissioned and funded by Merchant Projects, Ipswich 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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 SCCAS/CT stores, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying solid geology is described as Newhaven Chalk Formation - a type of sedimentary bedrock which formed around 71 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, in a warm chalk sea environment. The superficial geology

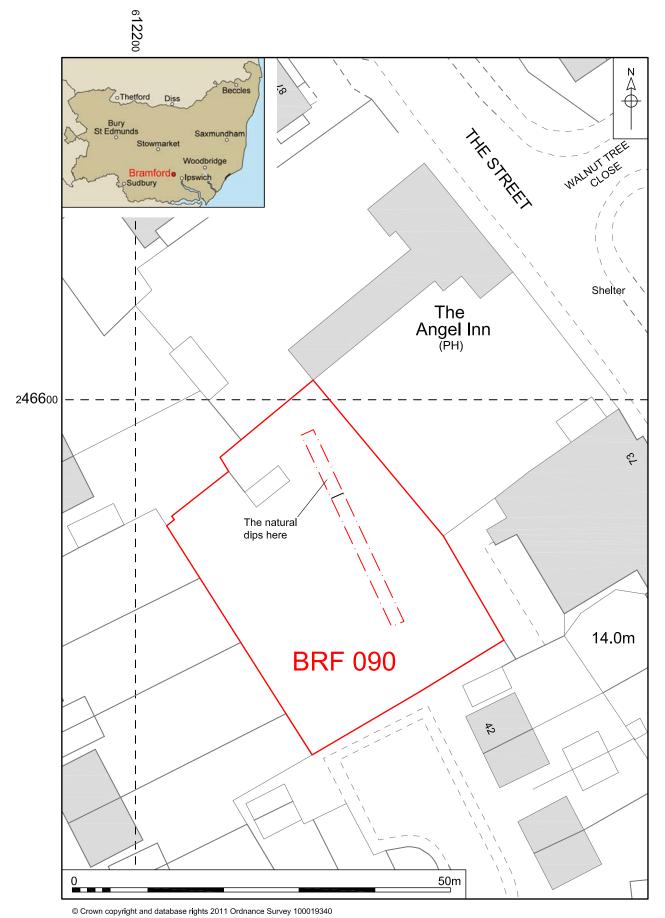


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:500

consists of sand and gravel which was laid down up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period during Ice Age conditions. (www.maps.bgs.ac.uk)

The specific topsoil observed at the site consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy silt which included occasional small stones. Its thickness varied between 0.90m at the northern end of the trench to 0.50m at the southern end. The subsoil consisted of a mid yellowish brown sandy silt which included frequent small stones. It was 0.20m thick at the northern end of the trench and 0.15m at the southern end.

The site was situated on a reasonably high point (17mOD) within the village. There was evidence that the area had been subjected to a large amount of truncation and dumping. It was known to have been a bowling green until relatively recently, which would have involved its own landscaping regime in order to prepare a flat surface. The River Gipping runs through the village approximately half a kilometre to the east of the site. The drainage was not tested on the day of the project, but the sand and gravel natural substratum and the sandy nature of the deposits above would probably have facilitated good drainage.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) search produced a number of entries, the most relevant of which are reproduced below to set the site in context. Additional information has been obtained from the Historical Atlas of Suffolk (Dymond and Martin 1989)

Prehistoric to Roman

Long-blade style flints have been found in the vicinity of Bramford Road. These were produced in the early Upper Palaeolithic during the latter part of the last ice age some 30-35,000 years ago (Wymer 1989, 34). The Historical Atlas of Suffolk shows that there are concentrations of sites and find spots in the general area for the periods that followed.

The SHER holds three entries of prehistoric date close to the current site. A short distance to the north is site BRF 010 which refers to the finding of a cinerary urn in 1904. It was recorded as being "Found north of carriage drive leading to Bramford Hall, about nine chains north northwest of the Angel Inn". A selection of prehistoric flint flakes and other flint knapping debris were also found in the garden of 76 The Street (BRF 013). SHER entry BRF 027 records a suspected single ring ditch which appears on an aerial photograph. It has a 40m diameter and is now partly built over. Another ring ditch is recorded at BRF 003 also to the north of the site.

For the Roman period The Historical Atlas of Suffolk shows a Roman road (BRF 023) leading southwards from Coddenham passing just to the west of the development site. This road became known as Pye Road in the medieval period. (Plouviez 1989, 43)

Anglo Saxon to medieval

Bramford is located approximately 3.5 miles north-east of Ipswich which was arguably the most important settlement in East Anglia in the earlier Anglo-Saxon period and unsurprisingly there are concentrations of activity close to the town throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. This activity is supported by several find spots close to the development site. For example, there was an assemblage of Ipswich ware and Thetford ware sherds collected from a back garden between 1988 and

1992 (BRF 040), just to the east of the site. Other find spots also seem to suggest that the earlier focus for the village was slightly to the south of its present location. SHER entry BRF 061, just to the south of the village, records the finding of a Late Saxon-medieval bridle fitting. It was found whilst metal detecting in January 2000. In the same general area, BRF 037 refers to the finding of a cast lead disc brooch and other Late Saxon finds which were unearthed through metal detecting. Various stray finds including one sherd of gritty Ipswich Ware were also located in this field south of the village (BRF 041).

The parish church appears as record BRF 024. The original church - on the same site - was possibly a minster at the time of Domesday when the village was known as 'Brunfort' or 'Branfort'. A further church was recorded during the Domesday survey and is thought to be within what is now the parish of Sproughton.

The village may have been reasonably large during the high medieval period as it is known that the Austin Canons of the Priory of Dodnash held land here (www.british-history.ac.uk). Thirteenth-century pottery has been found close to the site at SHER BRF 005.

There are several historic buildings located close to the current site, many of which started life in the later medieval period. To the south of the site, also situated on The Street, was SHER 433441. This Public House was probably constructed in the 16th century as a timber-framed and plastered structure although it has had major alterations in the 18th and 19th century and is now encased in brick. Almost opposite to this, and very close to the development site on The Street, was another historic building. Now three houses, these buildings once formed part of the Bell Inn - a late medieval H-plan open-hall house and some parts of the structure may be as early as 1400 (SHER 433448). SHER 433443 represents a former terrace of cottages, also once part of a single building. It has a jettied cross wing with an open hall and may date to the late 14th century/early 15th century. The former Royal Oak Inn (SHER 433447) which dated to the late 18th century. possibly with a 17th-century core also lay close by. Close to the site on the east was SHER 433444, a late 15th-/early 16th-century house which has had later modifications. SHER 433446 refers to a mid 16th-century house of timber-framed construction. It was once originally jettied and is structurally part of 78, The Street. Late 16th-century house (SHER 433445) is very close the current site; it is timber framed and plastered.

Post-medieval to modern

There are several find spots from this period in the vicinity of the development site. A post-medieval scatter of material was found in 1994 within a field at BRF 054; it has since been suggested that it was the site of a post-medieval building.

There is thought to be a mill (BRF 048) in the area. The symbol used for a water mill can be seen on Bowen's map of 1755 and Hodkinson's map of 1783 however no physical trace of this structure has been found.

An entry in the Ipswich Journal of March 26 1853 refers to the Angel Inn itself. "Francis Flory and his wife Susan had been drinking in the Angel on the night of the 24th August 1853, he returned home after his wife at 22.45. Their daughter then witnessed her father strike his wife twice around the head. Susan died the next morning having been found in bed and insensible by the doctor. Francis was

tried and found guilty and sentenced to 1 year in jail." (http://www.suffolkcamra.co.uk/pubs/pub/77)

Archaeological Interventions

There have been a number of archaeological projects in the area which have yielded results. Monitoring in 2006 of footing trenches revealed two pits and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (ESF19498). Similar monitoring in 2008 revealed a single undated ditch at ESF19719. Work at Runcton Cottage revealed no features, although six sherds of 13th- to 14th-century courseware pottery were recovered. SHER ESF20765 refers to a Desk-based Assessment of a site which revealed the potential for peat deposits, a palaeo-channel, two ring ditches and scatters of medieval pottery in that area. It suggested that an Anglo-Saxon cemetery may extend into the survey area.

Several pieces of fieldwork undertaken around the development site have produced negative results. These include monitoring at ESF 19171 and ESF 20253 (24 The Street), ESF 21059, ESF 21378 and trenching at 108 The Street (SHER ESF20982).

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 5% of the development area be sample excavated with the use of a 28m by 1.80m trial trench (Fig. 1)



Plate 1. Machining, looking south

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological

supervision (Plate 1). The machine was supplied by GB Digger Hire and driven by Gordon.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. There were no finds found through this method.

Environmental samples were not taken due to the absence of suitable deposits.

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

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 15.10m OD, located on the front wall of Bramford Methodist church in The Street.

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

5.0 RESULTS

The single evaluation trench was orientated north to south and located at the centre of the plot (Fig. 1, Plate 2 and 3).



Plate 2. The trench, looking south



Plate 3. The trench, looking north



Plate 4. The truncation of the natural substratum at the northern end of the trench, looking west

There were no archaeological features observed during the fieldwork.

At the northern end of the trench there was evidence of large-scale truncation (Plate 4) which contained various modern brick fragments, a large un-abraded sherd of late medieval pottery and a sherd of 1950s pottery.

Several slightly dark patches were examined and proved to be tree holes. These tree holes were mostly situated in the area presumably to the north of the old bowling green, where a leafy border to the site had possibly been located.



Plate 5. The site (during backfilling), looking north

6.0 FINDS

by Rebecca Sillwood

The finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining their broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is included below organised by material. A list of all finds ordered by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the site, both from subsoil (2). One piece is a large rim sherd possibly from a bowl, of late medieval and transitional ware (LMT), with a reduced core, olive green glaze on its lower interior which is also splashed on the exterior. This piece is probably 16th-century in date. A smaller rim sherd, also possibly from a bowl or a plate, was also recovered. This piece is a factory-made whiteware, and has a geometric design around the edge almost certainly of 1950s date.

The pottery from the site indicates some activity in the vicinity (although not necessarily very near by during the 16th century, along with a presence in the 20th century.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains were observed during the evaluation trenching. It appeared that the area had previously been subject to a large amount of truncation and disturbance. Many of the houses located around the development site had themselves been excavated into the slope of the hill, and it is possible that the top of the slope itself (where the bowling green had been located) had been levelled off to provide the flat surface required.

A large drop in the depth of the natural substratum around 10m from the northern end of the trench indicated further truncation, probably due to construction works connected with the creation of the Angel Inn's car park or other building projects; the sherd of 1950s pottery from near the base of the subsoil suggests that this disturbance occurred reasonably recently. A very recently constructed soakaway was also situated in the northern part of the trench.

The large fragment of late medieval transitional pottery is interesting in that it does suggest that there is medieval activity close to the site. Its un-abraded character suggests that it has not moved very far and it could be linked with the life of the historic properties that cluster around this part of Bramford e.g. the late 15th-/early 16th-century house SHER 433444.

Recommendations for mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

Acknowledgements

Thanks also to Martin Blake and Jacquie Ormston of Merchant Projects (Ipswich) Ltd for funding the project and their help in setting it up.

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author and Rob Brown to whom thanks are expressed.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson after initial digitising by the author. It was produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Unknown
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Unknown
3	Deposit			Natural substratum	Unknown

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Pottery	1	14g	Modern	1950s china
2	Pottery	1	183g	Med./Post-Med.	LMT

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Med./Post-Med.	Pottery	1
Modern	Pottery	1

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-127082

Project details

Project name Bramford

Short description of

the project

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Merchant Projects, Ipswich Ltd ahead of a new residential development to the rear of The Angel Inn, Bramford in Suffolk. There were no features of archaeological significance within the evaluation trench, however one large un-abraded sherd of late

medieval pottery was found within the subsoil.

Project dates Start: 30-04-2012 End: 30-04-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated

project reference

codes

BRF 090 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference

codes

BAU3052 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type **NONE None** POT Medieval Significant Finds Significant Finds POT Modern

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country **England**

Site location SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BRAMFORD Rear of the Angel Inn, 79 The Street

Study area 0.10 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 122 465 52.0756037709 1.096911284870 52 04 32 N 001 05 48 E Point **Project creators**

Name of

NPS Archaeology

Organisation

Project brief originator

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services

Project design originator

NPS Archaeology

Project

Nigel Page

director/manager

Project supervisor Peter Crawley

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Merchant Projects, Ipswich Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

No

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Contents 'Ceramics', 'other'

Digital Media available

'Images raster / digital photography', Images vector', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'

Paper Archive

Paper Contents

Exists?

'Ceramics','other'

Paper Media available

'Context sheet','Photograph','Report'

Project bibliography 1

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The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1RX

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

ΑT

Land to the rear of the Angel Inn, 79 The Street Bramford, Suffolk

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Mid Suffolk District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 4063/11

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TM 122 465

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of 2 no. dwellings, associated

double and single garages and the

creation of vehicular access

AREA: 0.1 ha

CURRENT LAND USE: Former bowling green

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Rachael Monk

Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel.: 01284 741228

E-mail: rachael.monk@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 29 March 2012

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 2) relating to archaeological investigation:

No development shall commence within any part of the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation ('the Scheme') which shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and:

- i. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;
- ii. The programme for post investigation assessment;
- iii. Shall make provision for analysis of the site investigation and recording;

- iv. Shall make provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
- v. Shall make provision for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
- vi. Shall nominate a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the scheme;

The site investigation shall be completed in accordance with the approved Scheme prior to any other part of the development being undertaken unless the local planning authority has agreed in writing otherwise. All other elements of the Scheme shall be implemented as approved unless the local planning authority has agreed in writing to a variation of the previously approved details.

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

2.1 This application lies within an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Artefacts of prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have been recorded from the immediate area of the proposed development site (HER nos. BRF 010, BRF 013 and BRF 040), which also lies 150m to the east of the route of the Roman road known as Pye Road (HER no. BRF 023). As a result, there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.

Planning Background

3.1 There is potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

3.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Paragraph 141), which replaced PPS 5 in March 2012, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the development site (0.1ha. in area), which is c.50.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site but will in particular target the main areas of development. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.28.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites

and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER 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 all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.*
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and reissued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2.

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.

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.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.