

Report 2773



nps archaeology

## Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, at Leys Farm, Lidgate, Suffolk

LDG 013



**Prepared for**  
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June 2012



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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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BAU 2773

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Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Location of trenches

Location:	Leys Farm, Lidgate, Suffolk
District:	St Edmundsbury
Grid Ref.:	TL 7295, 5635
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
HER No.:	LDG 013
OASIS Ref.:	128624
Client:	R G Boyce Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	1-3 May 2012

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted by NPS Archaeology on behalf of R G Boyce Ltd during May 2012 ahead of an application for planning permission to construct two new poultry barns and replace five existing barns at Leys Farm, Lidgate in Suffolk*

*Fifteen trenches, measuring between 15m and 30m in length and 1.6m wide were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development (five trenches were foreshortened due to the presence of live electricity cables and a propane gas pipeline). The results were negative indicating that there is a high probability that much of the site had been truncated during the construction of the present buildings in the early 1970s. Two trenches showed that brick rubble lies directly above natural clays suggesting that a certain amount of earthmoving on the site had taken place in the past.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were collected.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

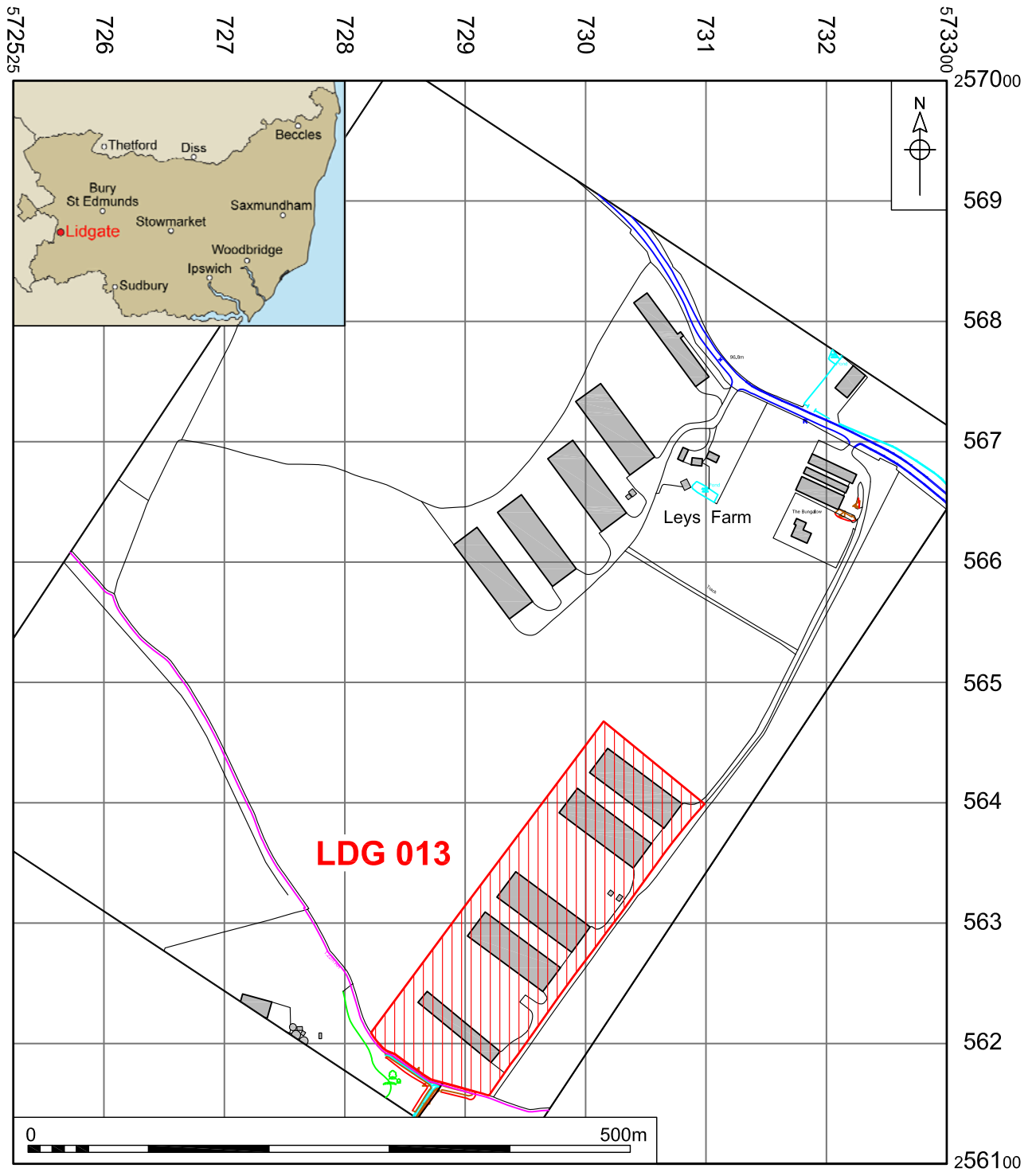
A proposal to construct new poultry barns on land at Leys Farm, Lidgate, Suffolk (Fig. 1) required a programme of archaeological works to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team (Sarah Poppy, 13 June 2011). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref: NPS/BAU2773/DW).

The brief required that fifteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m (810m<sup>2</sup>), be excavated to provide an approximate 5% sample of the total footprint of the proposed poultry barns (1.64ha).

This work was commissioned by Derek Salisbury Practice on behalf of R G Boyce Ltd who funded the work.

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.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Suffolk Historic Environmental Record.

The trenches were set out by NPS Land Survey Team and CAT-scanned prior to excavation. The final location and dimensions of the trenches was determined on the basis of surface or below ground obstructions and all other Health and Safety considerations.

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site is situated on a high tract of land at approximately 112m OD. The land slopes down to the north at Leys Farm to 97m OD. The ground gently rises to 116m OD to the south–west towards Boyden End. To the south–west of Boyden End, lies a flat plateau at approximately 114m OD and a westward slope towards Bridges Farm at 87m OD

The solid geology in the area is chalk (Lewes nodular, Seaford and Newhaven formations) overlain by diamicton (Lowestoft formation). In the valley bottom near to the site are head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer)).

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) produced evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

Site COW 026, lies north–west of the site and produced a series of ditches, a burnt flint spread and a colluvial deposit. Iron Age pottery was recovered from a ditch and a pit.

Site LDG 007 is located to the north of the site, producing a scatter of 30 Roman bronze coins and an enamelled oval plate-type brooch.

To the south of the site lies COW 008, a site of medieval earthworks relating to a moat, an internal building and range of buildings on the western side. To the west of the medieval earthworks are barns to Shardilows Farm (DSF 9435) dating the early 19th century.

## **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.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. Fifteen trenches were opened and it was necessary to reduce the length of a number of them due to the presence of live services.

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.

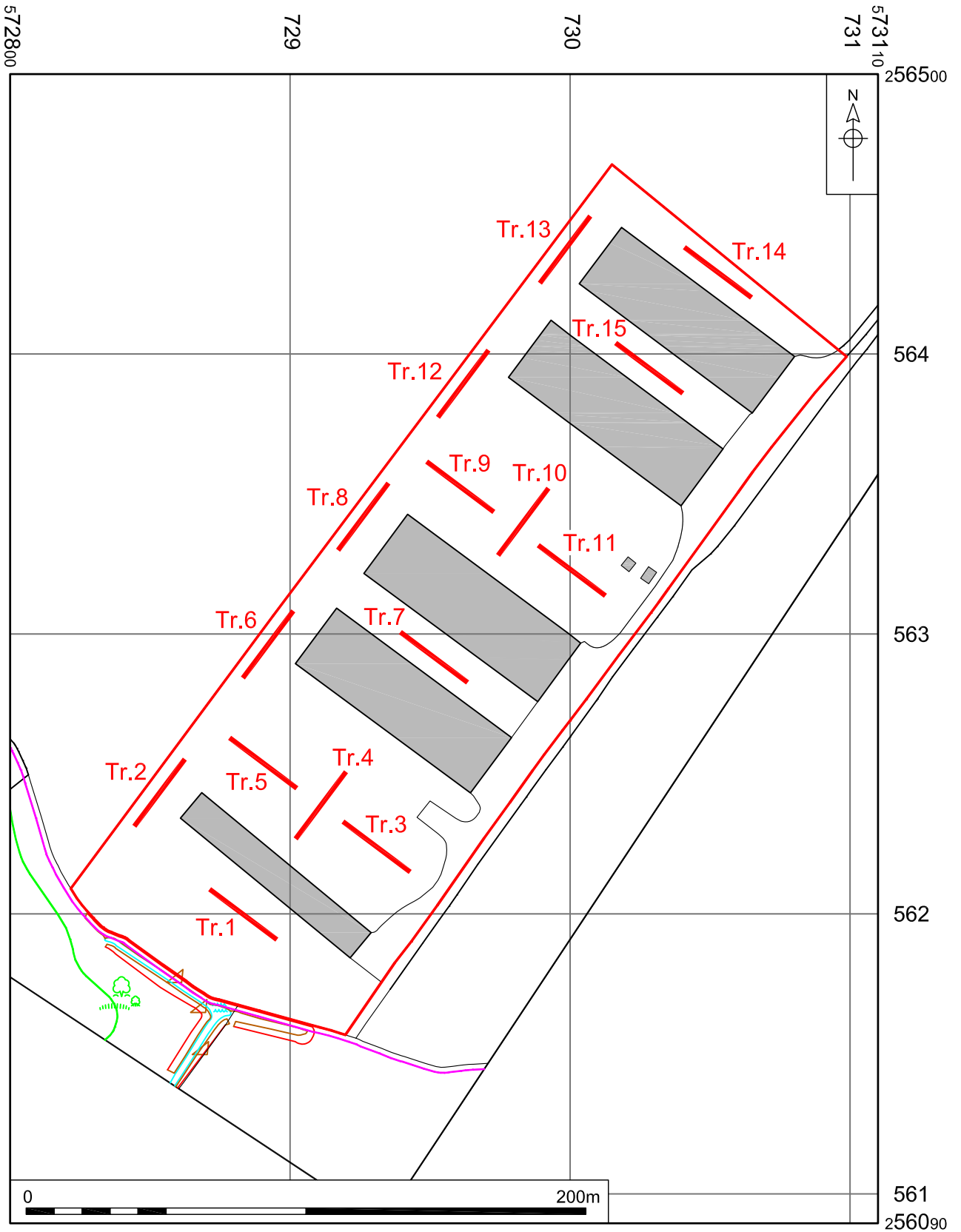
All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were very good, with the work taking place in rainy and windy weather.

All trenches were located using a Leica GPS9000. Temporary benchmarks were positioned at the ends of each trench and were established by the use of Leica GPS9000.

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





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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:2000

## 5.0 RESULTS

The results for each trench are tabulated below.

The topsoil ranged between 0.15m to 0.40m deep and very little subsoil was seen throughout the site.

No archaeological features and deposits were recorded in any of the trenches.

Trench 1				
 <p>Trench 1, looking south-east</p>			<b>Fig. 2</b>	
			<b>Location</b>	
			Orientation	North-west – south-east
			NW End	TL 72871, 56208
			SE End	TL 72895, 56190
			<b>Dimensions</b>	
			Length	30.00m
			Width	1.60m
Depth	0.35m			
<b>Levels</b>		SE End Top	112.17m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Topsoil/grassed area	Grassed over area	0.05m	0.00–0.05m
2	Deposit	Chalk make-up layer	0.10m	0.05m-0.15m
3	Deposit	Mid brown clayey sand	0.20m	0.15m-0.35m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.35m
Discussion				
No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded within this trench.				
Chalk deposit (2) with frequent flint was seen to underlie the grass area across the trench. This chalk deposit has been interpreted as a make-up layer overlying wet ground. Linear (relatively modern) vehicle tracks were evident in the natural clay.				

## Trench 2



Trench 2, looking north-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 72860, 56256

SW End TL 72842, 56232

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.30m

#### Levels

NW End Top 112.51m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.30m	0.00–0.30m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.30m

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 3



Trench 3, looking south-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-west – south-east

NW End TL 72918, 56232

SE End TL 72942, 56214

#### Dimensions

Length 23.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

SE End Top 112.88m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.40m+

#### Discussion

This trench was cut short by 7m at its south-eastern end because of a propane gas pipeline.

It was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 4



Trench 4, looking south-west

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 72919, 56250

SW End TL 72901, 56226

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.35m

#### Levels

NE End Top 112.72m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.35m	0.00–0.35m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.35m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 5



Trench 5, looking north-west

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-west – south-east

NW End TL 72878, 56262

SE End TL 72902, 56244

#### Dimensions

Length 23m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.35m

#### Levels


NW End Top 112.70m OD


Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.35m	0.00–0.35m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.35m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

The trench was reduced in length by 7m because an electricity cable was located at the north-western end of the trench.

Trench 6							
 <p>Trench 6, looking north-east</p>			<b>Fig. 2</b>				
			<b>Location</b>				
			Orientation		North-east – south-west		
			NE End		TL 72899, 56309		
			SW End		TL 72881, 56285		
			<b>Dimensions</b>				
			Length		30.00m		
Width		1.60m					
Depth		0.30m					
<b>Levels</b>							
NE End Top		???.??m OD					
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>			
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.30m	0.00–0.30m			
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.30m+			
<b>Discussion</b>							
This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.							

Trench 7							
 <p>Trench 7, looking south-east</p>			<b>Fig. 2</b>				
			<b>Location</b>				
			Orientation		North-west – south-east		
			NW End		TL 72939, 56303		
			SE End		TL 72963, 56282		
			<b>Dimensions</b>				
			Length		30.00m		
Width		1.60m					
Depth		0.35m					
<b>Levels</b>							
NW End Top		???.??m OD					
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>			
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.05m	0.00–0.05m			
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.35m+			
5	Deposit	Brick rubble	0.20m	0.05m-0.25m			
6	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand	0.10m	0.25m-0.35m			
<b>Discussion</b>							
This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.							
A deposit of brick rubble (5) was located beneath the topsoil and probably indicates a relatively modern made-up ground surface between the chicken sheds.							

## Trench 8



Trench 8, looking north-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 72931, 56355

SW End TL 72913, 56331

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.30m

#### Levels

NE End Top ???.??m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.35m	0.00–0.35m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.35m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 9



Trench 9. looking south-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation	North-west –south-east
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NW End	TL 72948, 56361
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SE End	TL 72972, 56343
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#### Dimensions

Length	18.00m
--------	--------

Width	1.60m
-------	-------

Depth	0.40m
-------	-------

#### Levels

SW End Top	112.66m OD
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Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
4	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m+

### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

The trench became waterlogged after heavy rain.



## Trench 10



Trench 10, looking south-west

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 72992, 56352

SW End TL 72974, 56328

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

NE End Top 112.74m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.40m

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

The trench was shortened by 8m at its north-eastern end due to the presence of a live electricity cable.

## Trench 11



Trench 11, looking south-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-west – south-east

NW End TL 72988, 56331

SE End TL 73012, 56313

#### Dimensions

Length 20.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

SE End Top 113.21m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40	0.00–0.40m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.40m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

The trench was shortened by 10m at its south-eastern end due to the presence of a propane gas pipeline.



## Trench 12



Trench 12, looking north-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 72968, 56402

SW End TL 72950, 56378

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.30m

#### Levels

NE End Top 111.99m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.30m	0.00–0.30m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.30m

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 13



Trench 13, looking north-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-east – south-west

NE End TL 73005, 56450

SW End TL 72987, 56426

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.30m

#### Levels

NE End Top ???.??m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.30m	0.00–0.30m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.30m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 14



Trench 14, looking south-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-west – south-east

NW End TL 73040, 56438

SE End TL 73064, 56420

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

SE End Top ???.??m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40	0.00–0.40m
4	Deposit	Natural clay	-	0.40m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

## Trench 15



Trench 15, looking south-east

### Fig. 2

#### Location

Orientation North-west – south-east

NW End TL 73016, 56403

SE End TL 73040, 56385

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

? End Top ???.??m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Grass / topsoil	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
4	Natural	Natural clay	-	0.40m+

#### Discussion

This trench was devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds.

Brick rubble was intermixed within the topsoil horizon suggesting made-up ground between the current chicken sheds (similar to that observed in Trench 7).

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Information held in the Suffolk Historical Environmental Record demonstrates that the location of Leys Farm is within an area that contains evidence of activity over thousands of years.

The results of the evaluation trenching revealed mixed deposits of chalk and brick rubble overlying natural clays and occasional chalky till. No artefacts were recovered. This result strongly suggests that truncation of the original ground surface has taken place relatively recently, possibly during the construction of the existing poultry barns and associated services. This may explain the absence of subsoil and archaeological features within the trenches excavated within the development area.

Recommendations for further archaeological mitigation, should it be deemed necessary based on the evidence contained in this report will be made by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank Derek Salisbury and Andrew Boyce for commissioning and funding the project.

Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team provided assistance throughout the project. Dr Colin Pendleton supplied the SHER number and historical and archaeological data.

The site work was undertaken by the author and Rob Brown of NPS Archaeology, surveying was undertaken by Sandrine Whitmore of NPS Land Survey Team. Thanks are also given to Bob Paige who undertook the machining of trenches.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

## ***Bibliography and Sources***

Department for Communities      2012    *National Planning Policy Framework* TSO, Norwich  
and Local Government

[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)    Accessed 14.06.2012

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trenches
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	1-15
2	Deposit			Chalk make-up	Modern	1
3	Deposit			Mid-brown clayey sand	?Modern	1
4	Deposit			Natural clay	-	1-15
5	Deposit			Brick rubble	Modern	7
6	Deposit			Mid-brown silty sand	?Modern	7

**Appendix 2: OASIS Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: norfolka1-128624**

## Project details

Project name	Leys Farm, Lidgate
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted by NPS Archaeology on behalf of R G Boyce Ltd during May 2012 ahead of an application for planning permission to construct two new poultry barns and replace five existing barns at Leys Farm, Lidgate in Suffolk Fifteen trenches, measuring between 15m and 30m in length and 1.6m wide were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development (five trenches were foreshortened due to the presence of live electricity cables and a propane gas pipeline). The results were negative indicating that there is a high probability that much of the site had been truncated during the construction of the present buildings in the early 1970s. Two trenches showed that brick rubble lies directly above natural clays suggesting that a certain amount of earthmoving on the site had taken place in the past. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were collected.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2012 End: 03-05-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LDG 013 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BAU2773 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

**Project location**

Country England  
 Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY LIDGATE Leys Farm  
 Study area 2.00 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 7295 5635 52 0 52 10 40 N 000 31 47 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services  
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology  
 Project director/manager David Whitmore  
 Project supervisor John Ames  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Agricultural  
 Name of sponsor/funding body R G Boyce Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology  
 Digital Contents "other"  
 Digital Media available "Images vector","Survey","Text","Images raster / digital photography"  
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council  
 Paper Contents "other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

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 Other bibliographic details Report 2773  
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Entered on                      20 June 2012

## OASIS:

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**Appendix 3: Archaeological Specification**

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Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
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## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

### **PROPOSED CHICKEN SHEDS, LEYS FARM, LIDGATE**

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

#### **1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**

- 1.1 A planning application is to be made to St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the construction of chicken sheds (exact number to be confirmed) on land at Leys Farm, Lidgate (TL 729 563). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 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 PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The area of the proposed chicken sheds (3.5 ha. in size) is located on the north side of Newmarket Road. The site is situated on chalky till (deep clay of the Hanslope series) to the south, at c.110m OD.
- 1.4 The proposed development is located immediately adjacent to a medieval moated enclosure (HER ref COW 008), and south-west of a scheduled Roman villa (SF151) and related Roman artefact scatters (HER ref LID 007). There is a strong possibility that medieval or earlier remains will be encountered at this location, given the proximity to known remains.
- 1.5 The proposed development has the potential to cause damage and destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.8 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of

Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is 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 based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Mid Suffolk District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged (assuming planning permission is forthcoming).
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### **3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.1758m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site around the footprint of the current chicken sheds. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this should result in a minimum of 975.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width. Where possible, the trenches should be distributed across the entire proposed development area (including between the existing structures).
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the

appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

#### **4. General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

- 4.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 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.

- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.
- 5.16 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Date: 17 June 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.**