

**59 Chapel Street, Bildeston
BIL 028**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/092

Client: Mr M. Denman

Author: Kieron Heard

June 2011

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Report Date: June 2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/092
Site Name: 59 Chapel Street, Bildeston
Planning Application No: B/09/01270/FHA/SMC
Date of Fieldwork: 16 June 2011
Grid Reference: TL 9911 4937
Client/Funding Body: Mr M Denman
Client Reference: N/A
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Officer: Kieron Heard
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-103433
Site Code: BIL 028

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Kieron Heard
Date: June 2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner
Position: Acting Contracts Manager
Date: June 2011
Signed:

Summary

BIL 028, 59 Chapel Street, Bildeston: An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the property.

The monitoring revealed a vertical sequence of alluvial and dumped deposits of post-medieval date. These were cut by a shallow foundation of tile, brick and flint construction that is assumed to have been part of a former outbuilding.

In the light of these limited results it is recommended that no further fieldwork is required in relation to the proposed development of the site. This report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 59 Chapel Street, Bildeston in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of an extension to the house and a new garage block (planning application number: B/09/01270/FHA/SMC). Brown and Scarlet Architects commissioned the fieldwork on behalf of their client Mr M. Denman. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by Keith Wade (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and is appended to this report.

The site is located close to the western edge of the village and adjacent to a north–south tributary of the River Brett (Fig. 1). The underlying geology of the site is glaciofluvial sand and gravel, overlaid generally by deep loams of the Ludford series. At this location alluvial deposits associated with the nearby stream might be anticipated.

2. Methodology

The proposed development of the site includes the construction of an extension to the house and an attached double garage. The monitoring was carried out immediately following the excavation of the foundation trenches for the house extension. The foundation trenches were 0.50–0.60m wide x 1.50m deep, and had a combined length of approximately 20m. Ground level was at approximately 9.2m OD.

Similar deposits were observed throughout the trenches. A representative section at the southwest end of the extension was cleaned and recorded. It was drawn at a scale of 1:20 on gridded drawing film; written descriptions of the archaeological deposits were made on the same sheet. The drawn section has been reproduced digitally for inclusion in this report. A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images: this forms part of the SCCAS photographic archive, referenced as HIB 64–67. No artefacts were retained and no soil samples were taken.

The results of the fieldwork have been given the county Historic Environment Record number BIL 028. The site archive (paper and digital) is located currently at the SCCAS office at St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich.

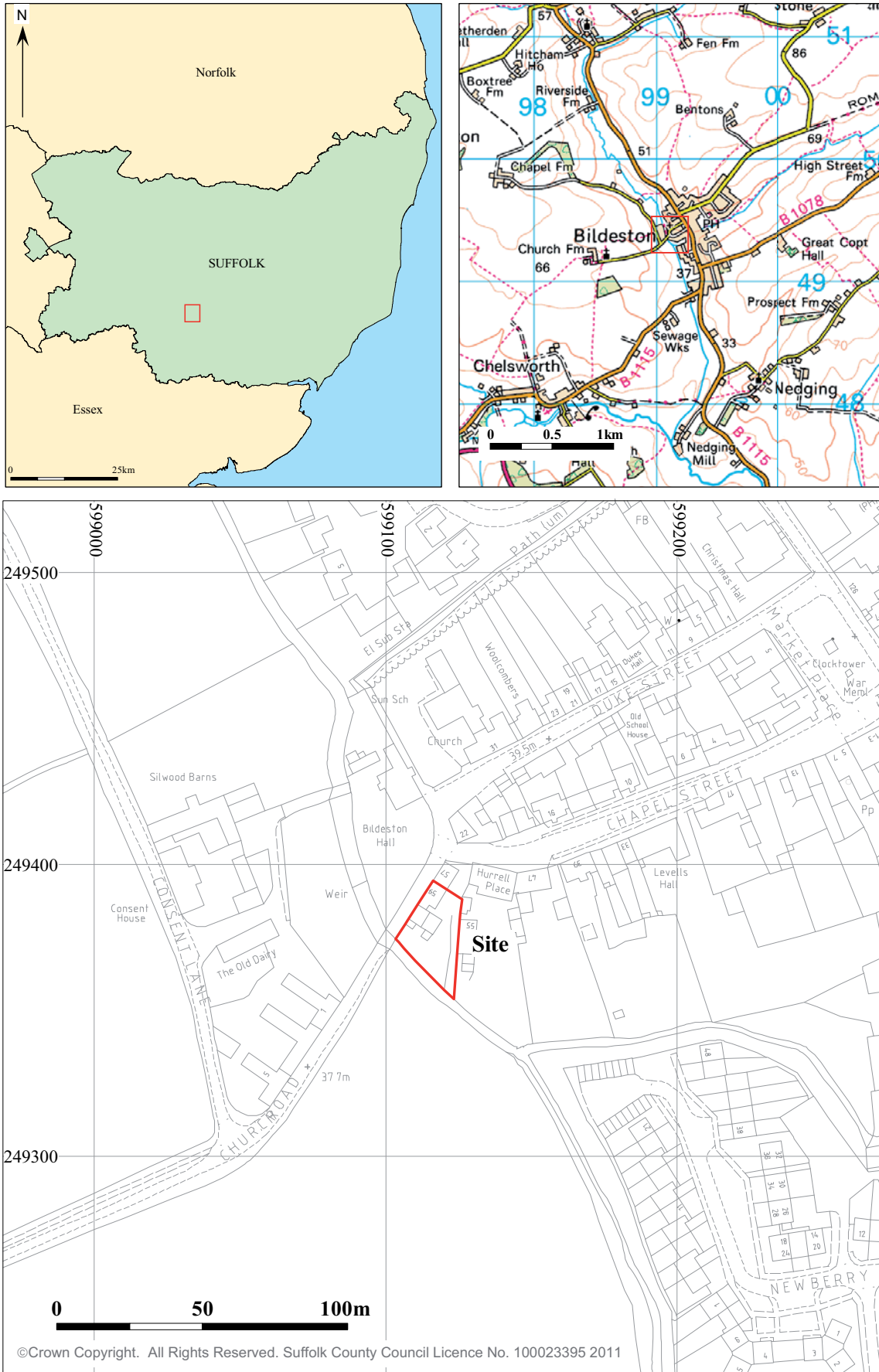


Figure 1. Site location



Figure 2. Sketch plan of the monitored trenches (blue)



Plate 1. General view of the monitored trenches looking north

3. Results

Archaeological deposits and features were observed throughout the area of the proposed extension. These are described in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 3.

Although no artefacts that could be dated closely were found, the large amounts of brick and tile that were seen were clearly of post-medieval date (AD 1500–1900).

Context	Type	Description	Depth below GL
0001	Alluvium	Soft, mid grey silt with frequent patches of black staining by decayed vegetation. Occasional pebbles.	1.50 – >1.75m
0002	Alluvium	Firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent small pockets of mid reddish brown sandy silt (similar to 003).	0.75 – 1.75m
0003	Alluvium	Slightly cohesive, mid reddish brown slightly sandy silt. Frequent small to medium pebbles, and occasional small fragments of chalk, brick and roof tile.	0.70 – 1.60m
0004	Dumping	Mixed deposits of soft mid yellowish brown clayey silt and mid grey silt. Moderate small to medium fragments of brick, roof tile, chalk and mortar.	0.30 – 0.90m
0005	Dumping	Soft, light grey sandy silt (80%) and medium to large fragments of roof tile (20%), with moderate small fragments of mortar.	0.30 – 0.80m
0006	Foundation	A shallow masonry foundation oriented approximately SW-NE. It was 0.30m wide x 0.40m deep, and was constructed of heavily mortared, coursed roof tiles with some brick fragments and flint cobbles. It extended for approximately 2.10m to the NE of the recorded section before turning to the NW. Its extent in that direction is unknown.	0.30 – 0.70m
0007	Dumping	Very mixed deposits with frequent modern brick, concrete etc	0.00 – 0.30m

Table 1. Deposit descriptions

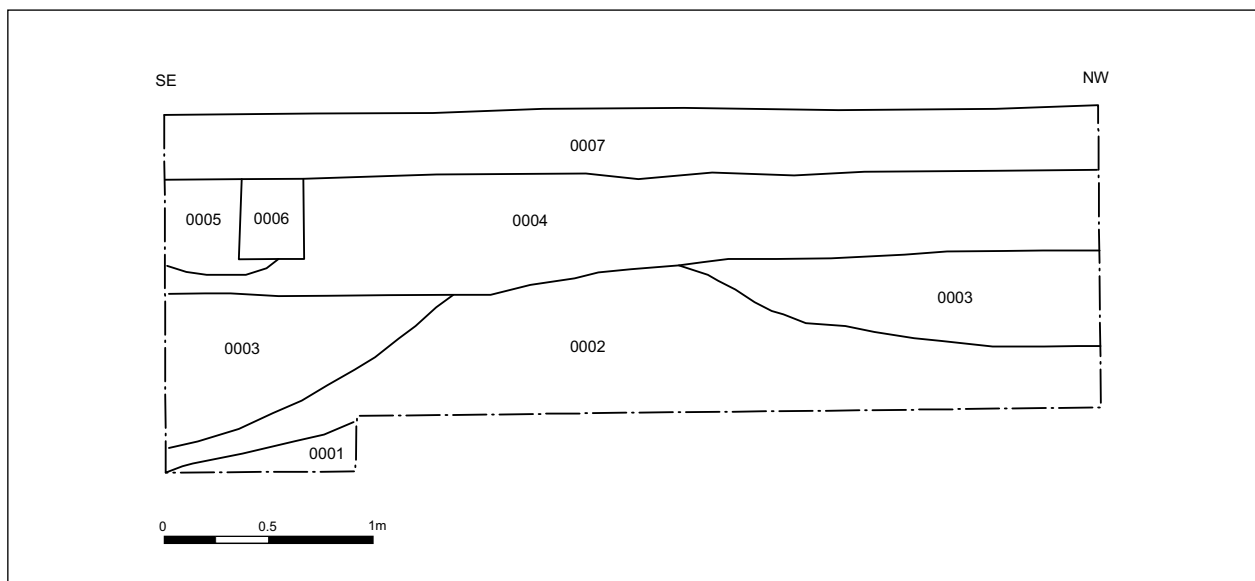


Figure 3. Representative section

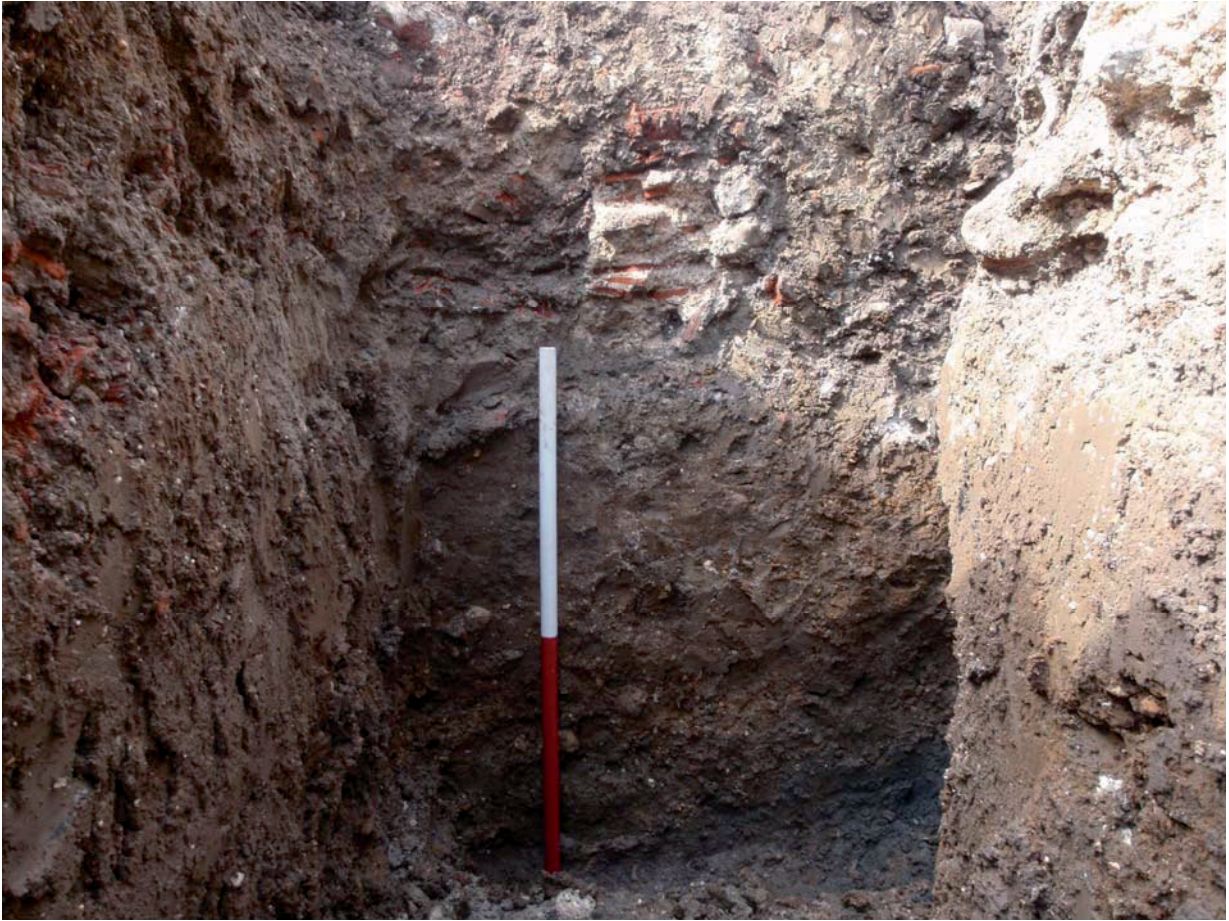


Plate 2. Deposits at the SE end of the drawn section (1m scale)

4. Discussion

Deposits 0001–0003 are assumed to have accumulated within the former bed of the small stream that defines the south-western boundary of the site.

Deposits 0004 and 0005 contained much post-medieval building rubble and were probably dumped in order to reduce the width of the stream. It is noted that the stream flows through a culvert beneath a bridge adjacent to the southwest corner of the site; deposits 0004 and 0005 probably date to the time when the culvert and bridge were constructed.

Foundation 0006 probably belonged to a small outbuilding located between the existing house and the stream.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The monitoring revealed evidence for post-medieval land use but this has little archaeological significance.

In the light of these limited results and following a discussion with the Curatorial Officer, it is recommended that no further fieldwork is required in relation to the proposed development of the site.

This monitoring report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

59 CHAPEL STREET, BILDESTON

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a new garage block and extend 59 Chapel Street, Bildeston has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/09/01270/FHA/SMC). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval small town of Bildeston in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed and the site has previously been partly built on in modern times there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. **Reporting Requirements**

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results. If significant archaeological features or finds are found:**
- 5.2 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 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also 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. 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).

- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report)
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software for integration into 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.

When no significant features or finds are found

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
- Grid Ref
 - Parish
 - Address
 - Planning Application number
 - Date(s) of visit(s)
 - Methodology
 - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
 - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
 - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
 - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
 - Recorder and Organisation
 - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment Department
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 15th February 2011

Reference: 59 Chapel Street, Bildeston.doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.