

## Land at Meadowcroft, Kedington KDG 040

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

SCCAS Report No. 2011/123 Client: J.A.P Architects

> Author: Simon Cass August 2011

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**Author: Simon Cass** 

Contributions By: Richenda Goffin

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

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## **HER Information**

Report Number: 2011/123

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#### **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: Simon Cass

Date: 31st August 2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager

Date: Signed:

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## Summary

A planning permission was granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the demolition of an extant structure and the erection of four new dwellings. This permission contained a condition relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological works, as approved by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in order to assess the potential for the preservation of any archaeological remains within the area to be affected by the development and, if necessary, develop and inform a suitable mitigation strategy to preserve or record the remains identified. A trenched evaluation was conducted on the site in August 2011, and no artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered. No further archaeological work was recommended as being necessary.

## 1. Introduction

Planning permission (SE/10/1224) was granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the demolition of the current buildings and the erection of four new dwellings on the property. A condition relating to archaeology was attached to this permission, requiring that a programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken in advance of the commencement of the development in order to record and advance understanding of the heritage asset before it was damaged or destroyed and to provide sufficient information to construct a suitable archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost should the results prove this necessary.

## 2. Geology and topography

The site lies just off the valley floor of the River Stour, some 55m south and west of the river itself, at a height of approximately 59m OD. The underlying geology is recorded as glaciofluvial drift deposits, characterised by deep loam and sandy soils.

## 3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, considered to have been within the historic village settlement core and close to a river crossing point. It is also situated within a landscape setting overlooking the River Stour floodplain often considered to be a favourable position for prehistoric occupation. The previous buildings on site, visible on early Ordnance Survey maps show a row of small cottages or a short terrace, which were apparently demolished between 1950 and 1960 prior to the construction of the present single dwelling.

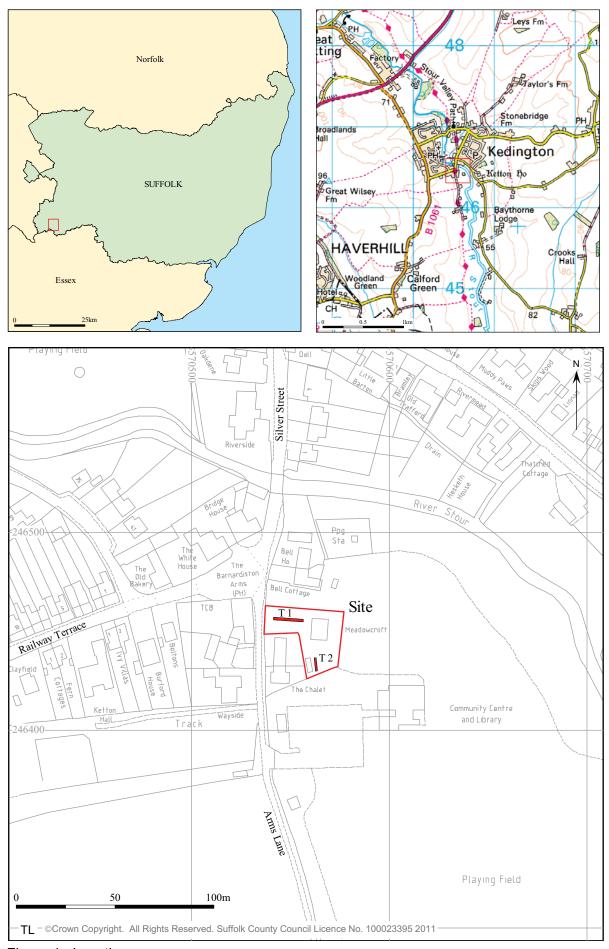


Figure 1. Location map

## 4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to trial trenching. On this occasion two trenches were required, examining the land to the west and south of the present building, 1.8m wide and 25m long in total. The trenches were located using hand-tapes from established reference points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site.

The trenches were excavated by a 360<sup>0</sup> mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered. Where services were encountered they were stepped over if possible.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera (6.2 megapixels).

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit) upon completion of the project.

### 5. Results

#### 5.1 Trench results

#### Trench 1

This trench was 15m long, 1.2m wide and approximately 0.3m deep, orientated eastwest. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of mid brown silty clay topsoil over natural chalky gravel with sand. The natural in the western end of the trench is slightly more clayey. A single pit was noted in the eastern end of the trench, containing modern glassware, metal objects such as nails and tin ends and modern ceramics, including a bottle labelled as being from Chivers and Sons Ltd, "The Cambridge Lemonade" – this could have been produced up until the mid 1950's. This pit is believed

to be a modern rubbish pit. A water pipe crossed the trench, and this was stepped over after its discovery. No archaeologically relevant finds or features were encountered.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing west (2 x 1m scales)

#### Trench 2

This trench was 6.7m long, 1.2m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately north-south within the rear garden of the current property. The stratigraphy consisted of c. 0.3m of mid brown silty clay topsoil above a heavily disturbed subsoil. The southern end of the trench was excavated to natural at a depth of 0.5m and a suspected active foul water drain was identified near this end. The northern 4m of trench encountered walls interpreted as the remains of cottages visible on early Ordnance Survey maps and demolished in the 1960's. No archaeologically relevant finds or features were observed in this trench.

### 6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

#### 6.1 Introduction

Unstratified finds were collected under the context number 0001.

Context	Ро	ttery	С	ВМ		med ass	lı	on	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	
0001	9	94	1	23	1	416	1	40	Unstrat, med and post- medieval
Total	9	94	1	23	1	416	1	40	

Table 1. Finds quantities

## 6.2 The pottery

A total of nine fragments of pottery was recovered, weighing 94g. Four sherds of medieval coarseware were identified. A large body sherd of an orange-brown wheelthrown coarseware with red pellets (probably haematite) and silver mica inclusions is likely to be a product of one of the Essex kilns. Three other more reduced sherds are also medieval coarsewares dating to the late 12th-14th centuries. Although similar to Hedingham coarseware, they are not made from the same fabric variants.

The remaining sherds are post-medieval. They include a large fragment of English stoneware (17th-19th century), a sherd of undecorated creamware (1740-1880), an abraded fragment of ?pearlware (1770-1850), a small fragment of Yellow ware (L18th-19th C) and the rim of an unglazed plain cream earthenware bowl (16th-18th C).

## 6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

A single fragment of an abraded roofing tile made in a sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions was identified, dating to the post-medieval period.

#### 6.4 Miscellaneous

A square jar made in brown glass with the remains of a screw top iron lid was recorded but not retained. It dates to the twentieth century. A small fragment of iron which may be part of the lid is also modern.

#### 7. Discussion

This evaluation suggests that the site was outside the historic village core, with the sparse medieval and post-medieval finds likely to be present as a result of manuring or accidental loss from the road to the ford nearby. The previous development of the site appears to have caused significant damage within the footprint of the old cottages, although there appears to have been little damage outside this area – likely due to the

manual construction methods which would not leave a visible archaeological footprint unlike modern site requirements.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, this evaluation indicates that the historic village core is likely to be closer to the church to the north, possibly limited by the river passing through the village. The ford, while a likely crossing point, does not appear to have resulted in early development reaching this area, and no trace of prehistoric occupation has been identified. No further works are recommended as being necessary for this development.

## 9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Ipswich.

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\ Kedington\KDG 040 Evaluation.

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\ Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HLI.

Finds and environmental archive: H / 80 / 4.

## 10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by Rhodri Gardner. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Preston Boyles from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed and directed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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#### The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2AR

## **Appendix 1. Brief and Specification**

## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

LAND AT MEADOWCROFT, KEDINGTON, SUFFOLK (SE/10/1224)

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

- 1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements
- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SE/10/1224) for the construction of four dwellings on land at Meadowcroft, Kedington, Suffolk (TL 705 464). Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been 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 proposed development area, which measures *c.* 0.86 ha. in area, is located on the south side of Silver Street, Kedington. It is situated on geofluvial drift deposits (deep loam soils) at *c.*59.00m OD.
- 1.4 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core and close to the river crossing, recorded in the Historic Environment Record. However, the location of this proposed development has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey. The location has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown heritage assets of archaeological interest, in view of its proximity to the historic core and given the landscape setting above the flood plain of the River Stour, which is topographically favourable for early occupation.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation (5% sample) is required of the development area.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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) 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 St Edmundsbury Borough Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 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 geoarchaeological and palaeo-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*.44.00m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. 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 will result in *c*.25.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 For mechanised excavation a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (<a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html</a>) 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 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 <a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/</a> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 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

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 741226

Email: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 05 July 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.



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#### Contact:

#### **Rhodri Gardner**

Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221 rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/