

Biomass Boiler Room, Culford School, Culford CUL 047

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/135 Client: Culford School

> Author: Simon Picard September/2011

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Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: September/2011

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HER Information

Report Number: 2011/135

Site Name: Biomass Boiler Room, Culford School

Planning Application No: Pre-planning

Date of Fieldwork: 17th August, 2011

Grid Reference: TL 834 704

Client/Funding Body: Culford School

Curatorial Officer: Dr Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-108060

Site Code: CUL 047

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: Simon Picard

Date:

Approved By: Dr Abby Antrobus

Position: Conservation Officer

Date: Signed:

Contents

	mary ving conventions	
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Geology and topography	1
3.	Archaeology and historical background	1
4.	Methodology	4
5.	Results	4
5.1	Introduction	4
5.2	Trench results	5
	Trench 1	5
	Trench 2	5
	Trench 3	5
	Trench 4	6
6.	Conclusions and recommendations for further work	6
7.	Archive deposition	8
8.	Acknowledgements	8
9.	Bibliography	8
List	of Figures	
Figur	re 1. Site location (red), with HER entries mentioned in the text (blue)	2
area	re 2. 1904 Ordnance Survey map of the site (2nd edition), showing development (red) and greenhouses within walled garden re 3. Trench plan	3 7

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Culford School, Culford on the 17th August 2011, prior to development. Four evaluation trenches were excavated in which no archaeological features were found. In addition, no artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken. The second, third and fourth trenches did not effectively sample the northern development area due to the presence of several greenhouse foundations, although the geological/archaeological levels appeared to be preserved.

Drawing Conventions

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the 17th August 2011 at Culford School, Culford (Fig 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Abby Antrobus (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The work was carried out prior to the construction of a proposed Biomass Boiler Room and was commissioned by Culford School. The aim of the evaluation was to determine if any archaeological deposits existed on the site, with particular reference to an excavation carried out approximately 50m to the south, recorded under Historic Environment Record (HER) code CUL 045. These works will then be used to inform any further mitigation strategy. Two potential construction areas were to be investigated so that the developer could avoid damaging the archaeological resource unnecessarily.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 834 704 within a former walled garden associated with Culford Hall, now used by Culford School to house maintenance buildings and storage sheds. The localised topography was generally flat and sited at approximately 30m above the OD. The geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of alluvium, which usually comprise silty-clay with further layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel, overlying bedrock formations of chalky till (BGS 2011). On site, the geology presented itself as pale yellow/ mid orange sand.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies to the west of the modern village of Culford within the grounds of Culford School, formerly Culford Hall. The development area is bounded to the north and east by a wall which previously provided the boundary to a walled garden, which housed several greenhouses, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (Fig. 2). The site is approximately 180m northeast of the early village of Culford (CUL 033), where a scatter of medieval pottery was found (CUL 023) and which is now part of Culford Park (CUL 022), and 200m to the northeast of the medieval church of St Mary (CUL 024). Approximately 50m to the south of the site an excavation took place (CUL 045) which uncovered an area of Late Bronze Age activity including a child inhumation with

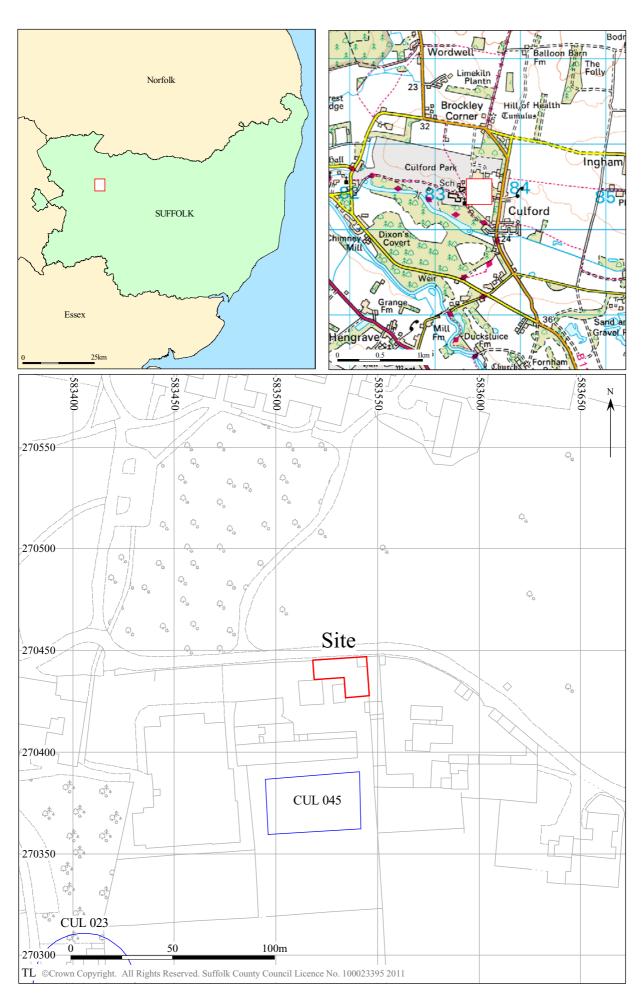


Figure 1. Site outline (red), with HER entries mentioned in the text (blue)

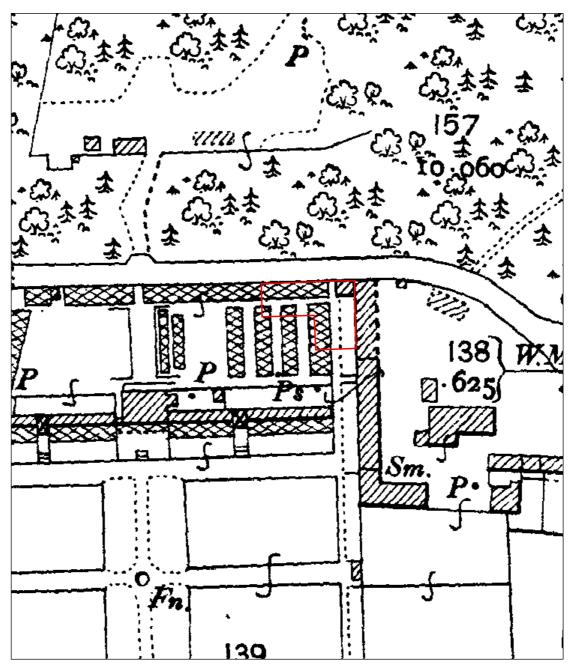


Figure 2. 1904 Ordnance Survey map of the site (2nd edition), showing site outline (red) and greenhouses within walled garden

complete food vessel and a group of seventeen pits. Approximately 450m to the east, two scatters of worked flint from the Bronze Age have been found (CUL 039 and CUL 040). Along with the Bronze Age flints at CUL 039 a single rimsherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware was found. To the west approximately 450m from the site a Saxon *sceatta* was found. Another scatter of possible Bronze Age worked flints was found 750m to the north (CUL 041). The combined evidence of these Bronze Age finds, together with the presence of a round barrow scheduled monument to the south-west (CUL 004) and three undated cropmark ring ditches, (CUL 028 to the south and CUL 026 and CUL 027 to the east), all within 1100m of the site, shows that it is fair to assume that the site lies within a prehistoric landscape.

4. Methodology

Four trenches, measuring in total 15.9m in length and covering 43sqm, were excavated by a JCB with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). Originally two trenches were planned but due to the heavily disturbed nature of the northern area of the site and the presence of services, three trenches were dug, only one exceeding 2.3m in length. The positions of the trenches and their levels were recorded using a Leica GPS. The trenches were recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* record sheets and photographs of all the trenches were taken on 35mm monochrome print film and with a high resolution digital camera. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-108060) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/ catalogue/library/greylit. The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code CUL 047.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

No archaeological features or finds were encountered within the four excavated trenches and no environmental samples were taken. Modern disturbance was encountered in all of the trenches and two attempts at starting a trench were aborted after turf stripping due to the presence of greenhouse wall foundations (Fig. 3). The aborted trenches were not numbered but are shown on Figure 3.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench measured 10m by 1.6m and was aligned from north to south. The trench was 1.4m deep with topsoil accounting for the first 0.2m. Below the topsoil was a layer 0.7m thick consisting of tarmac, concrete and redeposited topsoil. This layer overlaid the subsoil which was 0.5m thick and was made up of pale orangish brown sand with occasional stones. The natural geology in this trench was pale yellow mid orange sand. The final 1.2m of the southern end of this trench was not fully dug to natural because of an electric cable running across it from east to west. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 1m x 1.4m and was O.7m deep. The trench was aligned from east to west. Topsoil in this trench was 0.1m thick and was over a modern foundation which was also 0.1m thick. Below the foundation was a layer of dark grey silty-sand modern subsoil that was 0.4m thick. Above the natural there was a dark orange sand subsoil for 0.1m, the natural geology here being pale yellow sand. Excavation of this trench was abandoned because of a high pressure water main running along the southern edge of the trench from east to west. Again this trench uncovered no archaeological features.

Trench 3

This trench was irregularly shaped and measured 3.6m from east to west and up to 3.2m from north to south. Below the topsoil, which was 0.25m thick, was a modern demolition layer 0.65m thick consisting of brick rubble, mortar and dark grey silty sand. Within this layer were some surviving foundations, which related to the greenhouses that previously stood in the walled garden. These were of red brick construction and truncated the natural geology by a maximum of 0.1m to 0.15m. There were two different foundations, one at the northern end of the trench aligned from east to west and one running out of the western edge of the trench for approximately 2m then turning a right angle and running into the southern trench edge. A narrower bucket was used to excavate a small sondage between one of the foundation walls and a modern service aligned east to west across the trench, this being 2.8m from east to west and 0.5m from north to south. Overall this trench was 1m deep with the natural geology presenting

itself as pale yellowish orange sand. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned from north to south and was 2.3m long and 1.6m wide. The trench was excavated to the bottom of the topsoil which was 0.55m thick. Directly below the topsoil were two more red brick foundation walls running parallel to each other from east to west, approximately 2m apart. Between these two walls was a metal grate which was probably part of a heating system for the greenhouses that were on the site. Excavation of this trench was abandoned here so the natural geology and any archaeological features which may have been present were not seen. However, by measuring through the grate with a hand tape a void between 0.12 and 0.5m deep was recorded, suggesting that the natural may be heavily truncated.

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 revealed partially preserved soil horizons, despite post-medieval and modern disturbances, but the lack of features and finds suggests that there is low potential for archaeological deposits being found in future work. However, the limited percentage that was sampled in the area of Trenches 2 and 3 did not adequately examine the archaeological potential in this part of the site and as such monitoring of any further groundworks may provide a more accurate record of any existing archaeological deposits. The evaluation also shows that the development area is likely to be outside the Bronze Age activity identified 50m to the south at site CUL 045.

Figure 3. Trench plan, showing site outline (red)

7. Archive deposition

Paper, digital and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

8. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Rob Brooks and Adam Yates from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was directed by Rob Brooks and managed by David Gill. Illustrations and graphics were produced by Rob Brooks and Ellie Hillen. The report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2011 Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Cass, S., 2011, Culford School Air Tennis Hall, Culford CUL 045 Archaeological Excavation Report, SCCAS Report No. 2009/058, SCCAS: Bury St Edmunds

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

PROPOSED BIOMASS BOILER ROOM, CULFORD SCHOOL, CULFORD (ref Pre Culford 2011)

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 is to be sought from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the erection of a biomass boiler room at Culford School, Culford, Suffolk (TL 834 704). 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, in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3), to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before development begins and it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The site is located on within the school complex, to the north of the Tennis Centre. It lies at c 30m OD. The underlying geology of the site comprises deep loam to clay over chalky till.
- 1.4 The proposal lies in an area of archaeological interest, approximately 50m to the north of an Early through to Late Bronze Age settlement and funerary site that was excavated in advance of the construction of the tennis centre (CUL 045). The site is also to the north west of the early village core that was centred on the church (CUL 033). There is therefore high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any features that exist.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological strategy, the following first stage of work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation 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.

- 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.
- Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of any 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 District 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 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 A linear trial trenches 10m long x 1.8m wide is to be excavated to evaluate the area of the new biomass boiler room.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m wide minimum must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench 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 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: Dr Abby Antrobus Date: 11 August 2011

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

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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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