

# Land adjacent to Sandown, Withersfield Rd, Withersfield WTH 037

**Archaeological Evaluation Report** 

SCCAS Report No. 2011/194 Client: Mark Wilsher

Author: Jezz Meredith

November 2011

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Report Date: November 2011

## **HER Information**

Report Number: 2011/194

Site Name: Land adjacent to Sandown, Withersfield Rd

Planning Application No: SE/11/0403

Date of Fieldwork: 15th November 2011

Grid Reference: TL 6575 4669

Client/Funding Body: Mark Wilsher

Client Reference: n/a

Curatorial Officer: Jude Plouviez

Project Officer: Jezz Meredith

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-113226

Site Code: WTH 037

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: Jezz Meredith

Date: 21st November 2011

Approved By: John Craven
Position: Project Officer

Date: 22nd November 2011

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#### **Summary**

Withersfield, Land adjacent to Sandown, Withersfield Road (TL 6575 4669; WTH 037).

Trial trenching in advance of residential development revealed no archaeological features or evidence of ancient land use. There was no indication that a known Roman cemetery identified in the 18th century, which lies nearby but in an unverified location, extended into this area. Occasional topsoil finds of brick fragments and white glazed pottery sherds were of likely 19th or 20th century date.

(Jezz Meredith, S.C.C.A.S., for Mark Wilsher; report no. 2011/194)

## 1. Introduction

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the west of Sandown, Withersfield Road, Withersfield (Fig.1; grid reference TL 6575 4669). This work was in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission granted by St Edmundsbury District Council (Planning Application number: SE/11/0403) for a proposed residential development. A Brief and Specification issued by Jude Plouviez (Appendix 1) specified the manner of the fieldwork and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by John Craven (November 2011). The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), during the morning of Tuesday 15th November 2011.

## 2. Geology and topography

The site is located just above the 70m contour and is a long and thin tapered parcel of land bounded on its north edge by a disused railway line and on it southern and western boundaries by a curving road embankment leading to a bridge over the railway (Fig. 1). At the eastern end of the site is a steep ramp down from the road which is the access to the site (Fig. 2). The proposed building plot is an area of c.15m (east to west) by c.10m immediately to the west of the ramp.

The underlying drift geology is stiff brown orange sandy clay with occasional assorted gravel. Sand and gravel deposits occur at a depth of 2.9m (Oakley Soils and Concrete Engineering Ltd, 2011; borehole 2).

## 3. Archaeology and historical background

The development area is close to a number of significant sites of archaeological interest (Fig. 1). Closest is a Roman cemetery (HER reference WTH 001), thought to be located c.70m to the south-east, and reported to be associated with both burials and cremations. An archaeological monitoring conducted to the west of the recorded cemetery site revealed a single undated ditch, suggesting that the cemetery did not extend in this direction (HER reference WTH 034). The cemetery was discovered in the 18th century during quarry working and its precise location has not been verified.

Other nearby sites include a possible east to west running Roman road (HER reference WTH 007) which, if projected eastwards, could pass within c.70m of the development area. Surface finds from c.250m to the north-east (HER reference WTH 004) include a scatter of Iron Age, Roman and medieval artefacts.

In recent years the development area has been used as a vegetable garden. No previous land-use, settlement or industry is known within the boundary of the site.

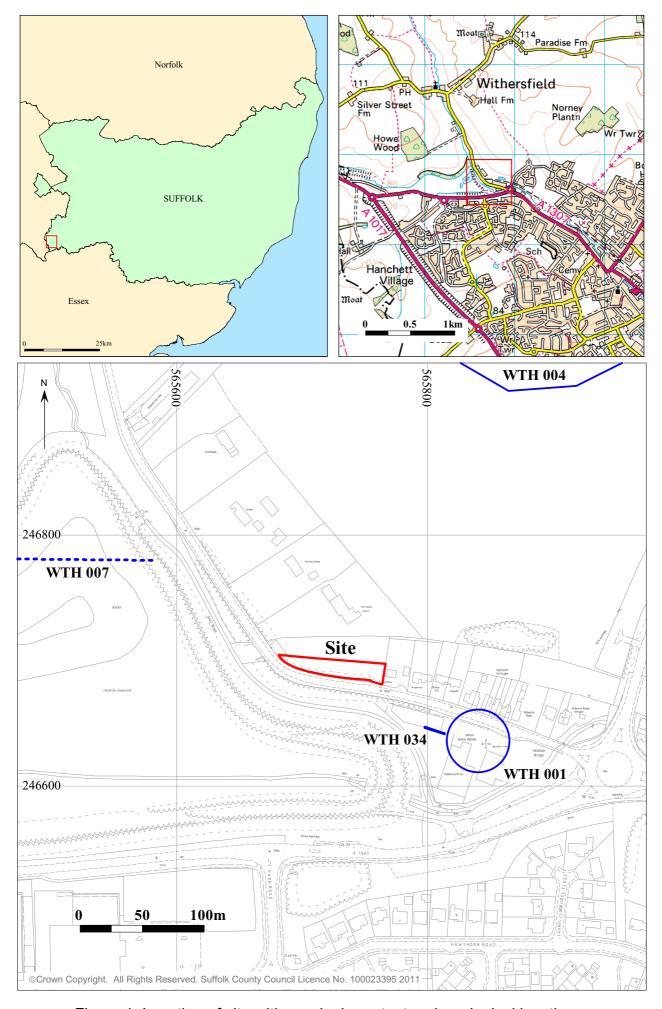


Figure 1. Location of site with nearby important archaeological locations

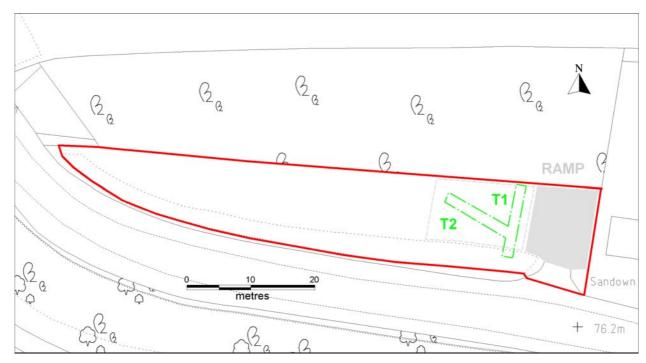
## 4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification issued by Jude Plouviez (Appendix 1) required a 5% sample by trial trenching. Two trenches were dug; Trench 1 was positioned along the eastern edge of the proposed building plot with Trench 2 running westwards and forming an approximate T-formation with Trench 1 (Fig. 2).

Trenching was conducted using a mechanical digger (JCB) equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist, with topsoil and other overburden removed by the machine to reveal undisturbed natural deposits (hereafter referred to as 'the natural'). At the northern end of Trench 1 the natural was examined in a test-hole to a depth of c.0.8m. The trench bases were checked using a metal detector and upcast spoil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

The locations of trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:200 and specimen sections along each trench were recorded on *pro-forma* trial-trenching record sheets. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

The site has been given the Historic Environment Record (HER) code WTH 037. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code..An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-113226) and a digital copy of this report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit).



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Figure 2. Location of trenches (ramp down to site represented by grey block; dashed grey outline indicates approximate outline of development area)

### 5. Results

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west and was located along the western edge of the ramp leading down to the site (Fig. 2). This trench was c.11.5m in length and was 1.6m wide. This trench had a maximum depth of 0.35m.

Topsoil consisted of dark brown humic clay loam and was of c.0.25 – 0.30m depth. This was directly over natural deposits of mid orange brown slightly sandy clay with occasional chalk and flint pieces.

A buried steel post was encountered at the northern end of the trench and was presumed to be of modern date. No features of archaeological significance were observed in the base of the trench; no finds were detected in the upcast spoil.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 formed a 'T' with Trench 1 to the east and was orientated north-west to south-east (Fig. 2). This trench was of 10.5m length, was 1.6m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.35m.

Topsoil and natural were the same as in Trench 1.

No features of archaeological significance were observed in the base of the trench. The upcast spoil contained occasional fragments of red brick and white glazed pottery presumed to be of 19th or 20th century date. These were not retained. No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No archaeological evidence for ancient use of the site has been recorded. The Roman cemetery (WTH 001), presumed to be located nearby, did not appear to extend to within the development area. Other than occasional surface finds of likely 19th/20th century date, no other indications of previous land use was revealed.

The topsoil had a sharp contact with the underlying clay natural, suggesting that there might have been some degree of truncation across the site. Given that the development area is so close to a railway cutting, the road ramp and probable extraction pits (associated with brickworks on the north side of the railway), truncation, landscaping or other soil moving activities could have taken place across the site.

It is recommended that no further archaeological work be undertaken at this site.

## 7. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference WTH 037. Digital photographs have been given the SCCAS archive codes FTH 83-87. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-113226.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental

Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Withersfield\WTH 037 Sandown.

## 8. Acknowledgements

Jude Plouviez produced the Brief and Specification. The project was managed by John Craven. The fieldwork and was carried out by Jezz Meredith. Mark Wilsher provided the digger, driver and assistance during the morning.

## 9. Bibliography

Craven, J., 2011, Land Adjacent Sandown, Withersfield, Archaeological Evaluation: Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment, unpublished SCCAS document, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Oakley Soils and Concrete Engineering Ltd, 2011, Job No: WW/17, Land Adjacent to 'Sandown', Withersfield Road, Haverhill, unpublished technical report, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



## Appendix 1.

#### The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1RX

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

#### Land adjacent Sandown, Withersfield Road, Haverhill (parish of Withersfield)

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 for the erection of a new dwelling on Land Adjacent Sandown, Withersfield Road, Haverhill (TL 656 466) has been granted by St Edmundsbury District Council, subsequent to submission of a Heritage Statement, conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work (SE/11/0403).
- 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 is located on the north side of the Stour Brook, on deep clay soils over chalky till (but possibly also deep loam over glaciofluvial drift) at *c*.75.00m OD. The area affected by development measures *c*.0.11ha. in extent.
- This site lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. in or very close to a Roman cemetery (HER ref WTH 001). As the burials, which certainly included cremations associated with glass vessels but may also include inhumations, were recorded as found in an extraction pit in the mid 18th century (c.1758) there are problems with identifying exact details. However it was said to lie alongside the road from Haverhill to Withersfield, on the south-west side. It is quite likely that the original course of the road (pre-railway) ran through the present development area and that cemetery evidence might survive below or north of the road line. There were also brick pits and kilns recorded to the north and to the east of the present development area, but no extraction is shown within it. There is thus moderately high potential for surviving deposits, including human burials, of Roman date within the development area. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological strategy, the following 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 further 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 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 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 One or two linear trial trenches, 1.80m wide, are to be excavated in the area of the new building, to cover a minimum of 5% of the total site area.
- 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 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 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.
- 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.
- 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: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1R X

Suπoik iP33 1R X Tel: 01284 741235

Email: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 28 September 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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