

Land adjacent to Green Ridge Stables,
Hamilton Road, Newmarket
NKT 038

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/027

Client: Woodhurst Construction Ltd.

Author: Simon Cass

February 2012

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HER Information

Report Number: 2012/027

Site Name: Land adjacent to Green Ridge Stables, Hamilton Road, Newmarket

Planning Application No: F/2010/0709/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 21/02/2012

Grid Reference: TL 6266 6386

Client/Funding Body: Woodhurst Construction

Client Reference: -

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Simon Cass

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Site Code: NKT 038

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 Cass
Date: 22/02/2012

Approved By: Jo Caruth
Position: Contracts Manager
Date: 23/02/2012
Signed:

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Summary

Planning consent was given by Forest Heath District Council for the construction of a new stable and two new dwellings for staff on land adjacent to Green Ridge Stables and Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Road, Newmarket. A condition relating to archaeology was imposed on this development, requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of the development in order to assess the likelihood of archaeologically relevant deposits being disturbed and if so, to provide for an appropriate mitigation strategy. No artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed during this evaluation and no further works are recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the condition placed on these parts of the redevelopment of the site.

1. Introduction

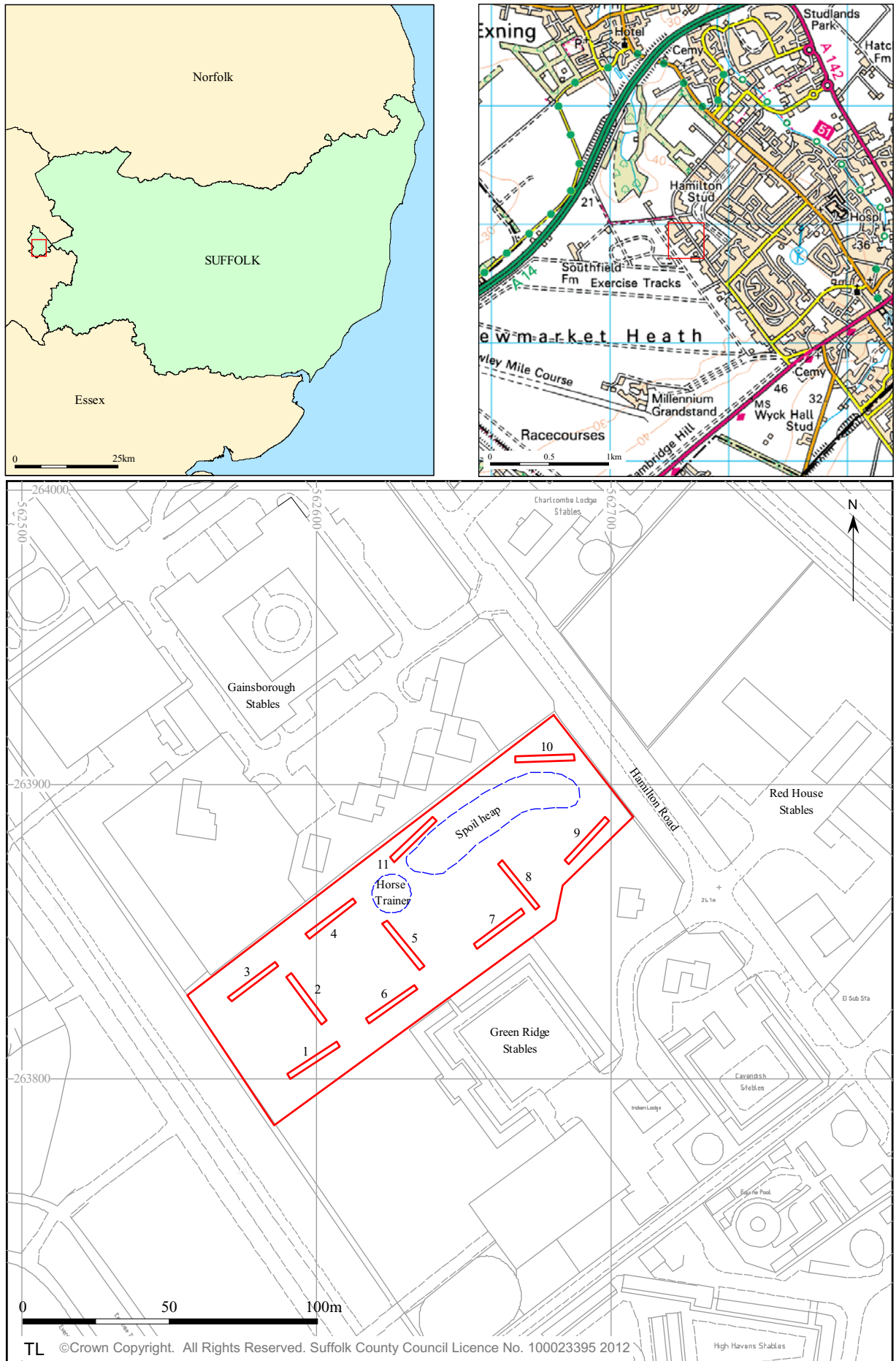
Planning consent (F/2010/0709/FUL) was given by Forest Heath District Council for the construction of a new stable and two new dwellings for staff on land adjacent to Green Ridge Stables and Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Road, Newmarket (Fig. 1). A condition relating to archaeology was imposed on this development, requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of the development in order to assess the likelihood of archaeologically relevant deposits being disturbed and if so, to provide for an appropriate mitigation strategy. SCCAS Field Team were contracted to undertake this work by EHP architects on behalf of the developer – Woodhurst Construction Ltd.

2. Geology and topography

The site is generally flat, between 23.4 and 23.9m OD, and the geology in the vicinity is recorded as loamy deposits over chalk. The geology noted in the trenches was a mixed mid-dark orangey brown silty sand with very frequent flints and stones, with occasional patches of chalk fragments and lumps.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, as noted on Suffolk County Council's Historic Environment Record. It is located to the south of Iron Age and Roman occupation material (HER no. EXG 030) and to the north-west of Bronze Age burials (EXG 027) and it was felt that there was a strong possibility that early occupation deposits could be encountered in this location. Prior evaluation on the site immediately north-west of this one (Gainsborough Stables – EXG 087) identified a wall foundation and some pits/postholes though was unable to provide dating evidence for the features.



4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 380m²) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to 210m of trenching, at 1.8m wide. The trenches were located in a standard grid array and would cover the areas most affected by the proposed development on the site (the stable blocks on the northern side and the two new dwellings at the north-eastern end). In total, 220m of trench was excavated (c.396m²).

The trenches were excavated by a 7-tonne 360⁰ tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

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

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using GPS surveying equipment to an accuracy of within 0.05m. The positions of some trenches were altered slightly in order to avoid some obstructions within the site (a large heap of earth towards the northern corner of the site and some foundations for previously existing horse-yard structures towards the centre of the site). This is not thought to have unduly affected the coverage of the evaluation trenches.

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.

The site archives are kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds under HER No. NKT 038.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Due to the presence of a large pre-existing spoil heap and the remains of a horse trainer/exerciser, some of the trenches had to be repositioned within the site, although not significantly far that the overall result of the evaluation is likely to have been affected. This mainly affected Trenches 5, 8, 10 and 11.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.67m deep (though more usually c.0.5m), orientated approximately northeast-southwest towards the southern corner of the site (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.32m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.35m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). The top 0.2m of this natural deposit appeared to have been slightly root-disturbed. No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 2

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast towards the south-western end of the site (Pl. 2). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.30m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.2m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). The top 0.1m of this natural deposit appeared to have been slightly root-disturbed. No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing south-east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 3

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.52m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast towards the western corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.28m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.24m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). The top 0.14m of this natural deposit appeared to have been slightly root-disturbed. No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

Trench 4

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.39m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast towards the western corner of the site (Pl. 3). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.26m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.13m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). The top 0.08m of this natural deposit appeared to have been slightly root-disturbed. No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.



Plate 3. Trench 4, facing north-east (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 5

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.28m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast towards the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.28m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench but two buried cables were encountered leading towards the remains of the horse trainer.

Trench 6

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.34m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest along the southern edge near the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.24m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.1m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

Trench 7

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.52m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest along the southern edge near the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.42m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.1m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

Trench 8

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.33m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast towards the northern end of the site (Pl. 4). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.24m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.09m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.



Plate 4. Trench 8, facing north-west (2m and 1m scales)

Trench 9

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.35m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest at the eastern corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.25m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.1m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

Trench 10

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.3m deep, orientated approximately east-west and situated at the northern corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.25m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.05m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

Trench 11

This trench was 20m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.3m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest alongside the northern edge towards the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c.0.25m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil over up to 0.05m of mid orangey brown silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, and small flints and gravel inclusions (interpreted as natural geology). No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted in this trench.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation. Modern internal tile fragments and a doormat were discarded on site.

7. Discussion

The absence of any archaeological activity in the trenches, coupled with the shallow depth of natural geology suggests that this area has probably only ever been used as grassland/grazing land. The presence of ephemeral stables-related structures within the site was noted, though these features appear to have only rarely impacted on the archaeological horizon, and the large spoil pile within the site is suggested as being the upcast of various neighbouring developments over the years, with a visible mix of topsoil and redeposited natural present throughout the heap.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The results of this evaluation indicate that there is little potential for the ground works involved in the creation of the ménage, viewing platform and new barn in this field to disturb archaeological deposits of significance. This result concurs with the previous evaluation, within the adjacent site of Gainsborough Stables, which found little archaeology on towards the shared boundary of the two sites.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\
Newmarket\NKT 038 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HOA-HOZ\HOX 26-36

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics production and final editing of the report was carried out by Simon Cass.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

**GREEN RIDGE STABLES,
HAMILTON ROAD,
NEWMARKET,
SUFFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Forest Heath District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	F/2010/0709/FUL
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 626 638
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Construction of racehorse training yard
AREA:	0.76 ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Paddocks, horse exerciser, earth mound
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	2 November 2011

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 9) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched

Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not 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 (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This application lies in an area of archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment. It is located to the south of Iron Age and Roman occupation material (HER no. EXG 030) and to the north-west of Bronze Age burials (EXG 027). There is a strong possibility that early occupation deposits will be encountered in this location.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was 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 any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
 - 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.380.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.211.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
 - 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1.

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.

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.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

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