

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, The Street, Hunston HUN 012

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. 1709/05)

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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Anna West	Finds supervisor

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr R. Strugnell and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The evaluation was carried out by John Craven and Jonathan Van Jennians from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by John Craven, and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation, carried out in advance of the construction of a house on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, The Street, Hunston, did not identify any archaeological deposits except for one possible undated pit.

SMR information

Planning application no.	1709/05
Date of fieldwork:	31 st January 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 9744 6851
Funding body:	Mr R Strugnell
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-12617

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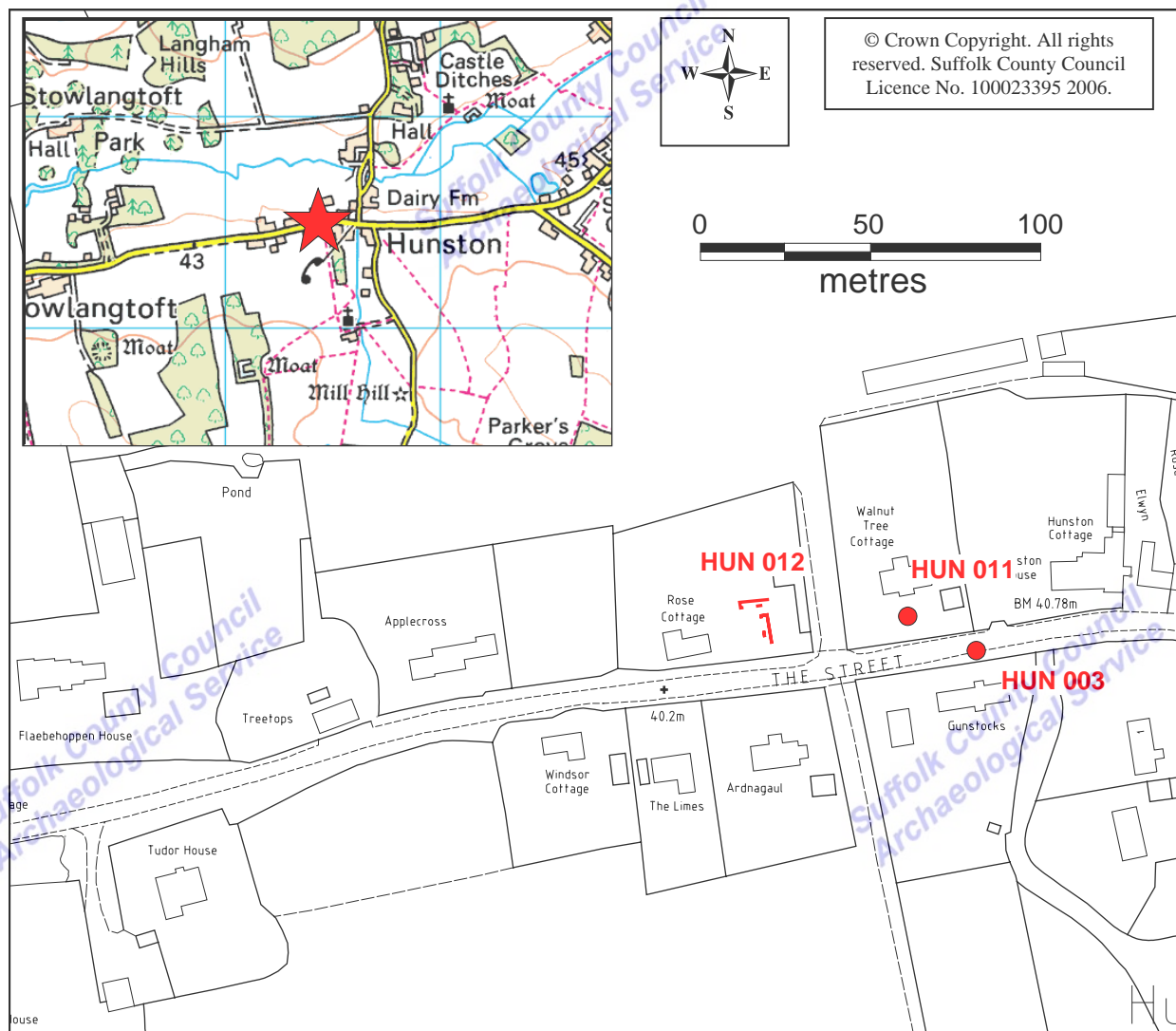
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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a house and driveway on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, The Street, Hunston. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application 1709/05. The work was funded by the developer, Mr R. Strugnell.

The site, which measured c.200sqm, was situated in the garden of Rose Cottage, fronting the road, at TL 97446851 and c.40m OD. The site consisted of areas of lawn, flowerbeds, a concrete driveway and oil tank, the latter of which affected the proposed trenching plan.

The site was of interest due to its location within an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Two findspots had been previously recorded in gardens in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 1), a Roman glass unguentarium (HUN 003) and Roman, Early Saxon and medieval pottery sherds (HUN 011). The development therefore had the potential to affect archaeological deposits, with the nearby artefacts suggesting a possible cemetery site. A programme of archaeological evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to establish any archaeological implications for development.



2. Methodology

Two trenches, measuring 1.6m wide and 16m length in total, were excavated by a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Due to the presence of an oil tank the proposed trench plan could not be fully adhered to, although the 25.6 sqm excavated, approximately 12% of the total area, was deemed sufficient by the curatorial archaeologist Jess Tipper.

The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural subsoil surface, a heavily ironpan mottled, dark orange/grey sand/gravel, with excavated soil being examined for unstratified finds. Areas of the trenches and soil profiles were then cleaned by hand and sections of possible features excavated.

Feature sections and soil profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and digital photographs are included in the digital archive. The trench plan was measured by hand and site levels were taken using a dumpy level, relating to an OS benchmark at TL 9755 6852.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-12617).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. HUN 012.

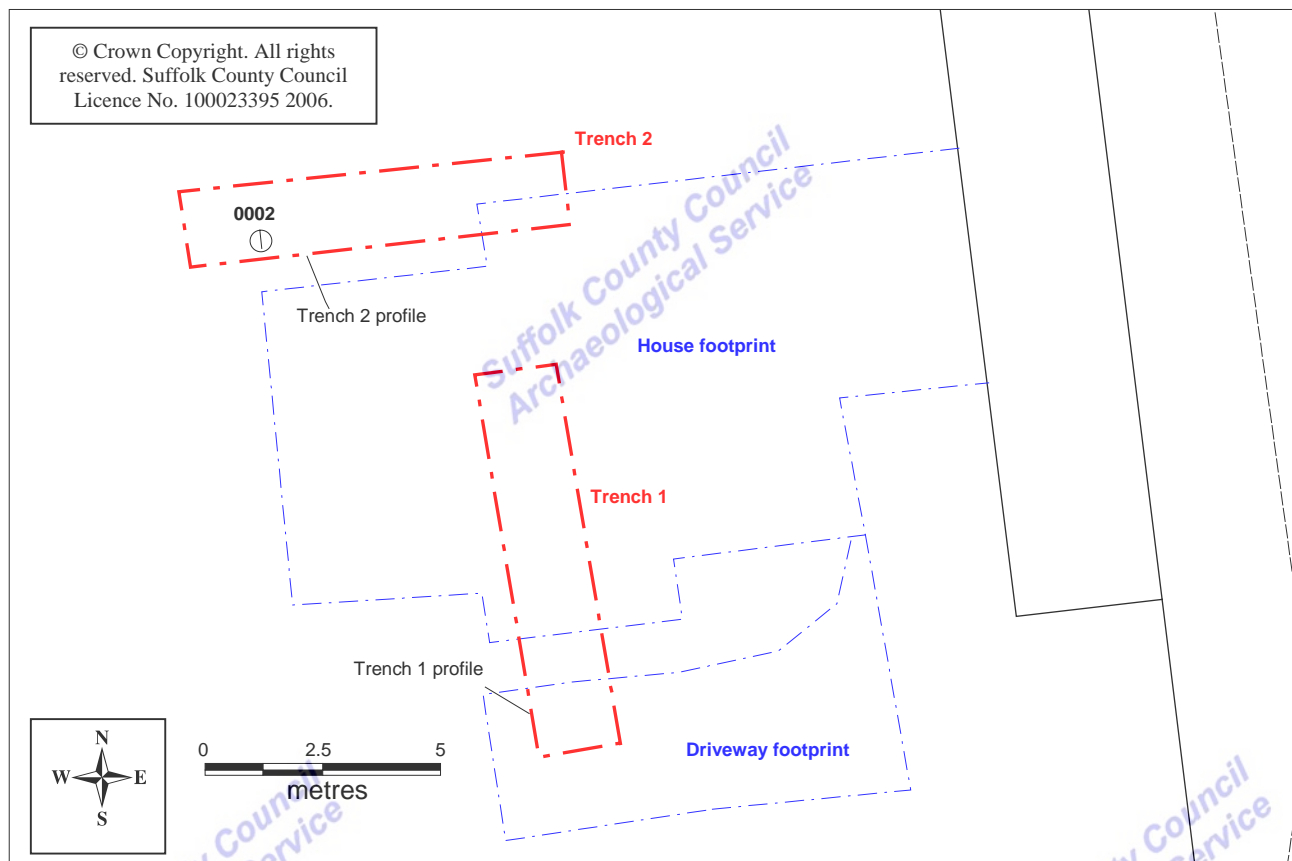


Figure 2. Trench plan

3. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

3.1. Trench 1

This trench was aligned north to south and measured 8.15m long and 0.6m deep. It was placed through an area of lawn fronting onto the road. The removal of 0.4m of garden topsoil exposed a 0.2m thick layer of grey/brown loamy sand, thought to be a former topsoil, which directly

overlaid the natural subsoil. Two modern service trenches cut east-west across the trench. No archaeological features were seen and no artefacts were recovered.

3.2. Trench 2

This trench was aligned east to west and measured 7.7m long and 0.8m deep. It was placed through an area of lawn and a concrete pad. Beneath the 0.2m thick modern topsoil or concrete was a 0.2m thick buried soil of dark brown silt/sand. This in turn overlaid a 0.4m thick layer lighter brown silt/sand. The natural subsoil of yellow/orange sand was exposed at a depth of 0.8m and had one clear area of tree bole disturbance.

A single possible undated feature was identified. 0002 was a circular pit at the western end of the trench, measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.12m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It was 50% excavated and had a fill, 0003, of dark brown silt/sand, from which no artefacts were recovered.

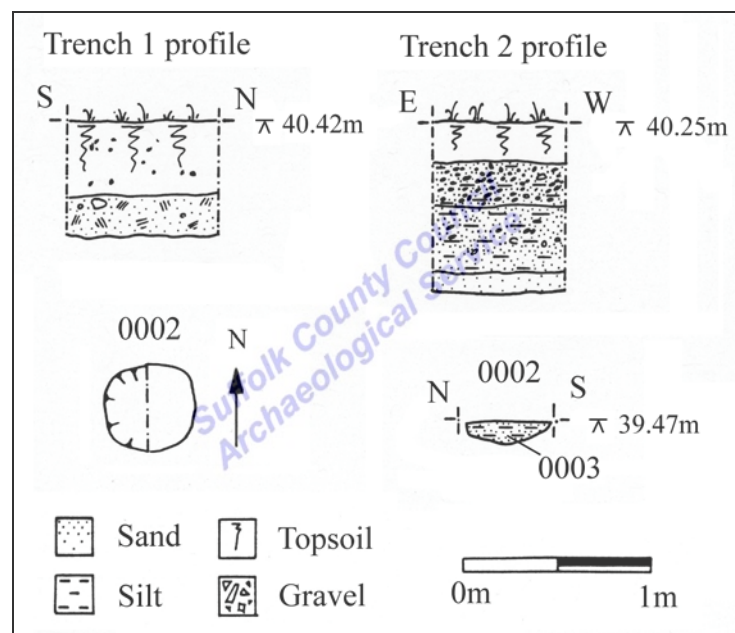


Figure 3. Trench profiles and 0002 plan and section

4. Discussion

Trench 1 was totally devoid of any archaeological deposits, with the removal of buried soils exposing a clean subsoil surface. Trench 2 was similar although one possible feature was identified. However as this pit was very similar to a clearly identifiable treebole close by, it may simply be a natural feature.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation did not identify any archaeological evidence of any period, particularly anything that could be associated with the Roman and Saxon artefacts found in the vicinity. The development of the site therefore is unlikely to affect archaeological deposits and no further work is recommended prior to, or during the development.

However it is worth noting that the area evaluated was limited and it is entirely possible that future development in the vicinity may still affect unknown archaeological deposits.

J. A. Craven
February 2006

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT TO ROSE COTTAGE, THE STREET, HUNSTON IP31 3EL

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (application 1709/05) has been granted for the erection of a house on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Hunston (TL 9744 6850) with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 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 (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the evaluation.
- 1.3 The application lies in an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The site lies adjacent to the findspots of both Roman (HUN 003) and Anglo-Saxon (HUN 011) artefacts. The nature of the finds, from both periods, suggests the presence of a probable cemetery site. The evidence of probable burials within the immediate area demonstrates the high potential for archaeological deposits of a similar nature to be disturbed by this development.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.7 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.

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* [at the discretion of the developer].

- 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 whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.
- 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (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: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover the area of the new house and also the turning area to the south, to sample all parts of the area to be disturbed by development. Two linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, forming either a T or L-shaped arrangement: one 14m trench aligned E to W and another 10m trench aligned N to S. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. The detailed trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 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 further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 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 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 J. Heathcote, 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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 the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

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 the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* 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 data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 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 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 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 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 the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 6 December 2005

Reference: /LandAdjacentRoseCottageHunston2005

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.