

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land adjacent to Greenacres, Coulson Lane, Brandon BRD 194

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. F/2005/0890/FUL)

J.A.Craven
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© March 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds (Richenda Goffin)
 - 4.1. Introduction
 - 4.2. Pottery
 - 4.3. Fired clay
 - 4.4. Animal bone
 - 4.5. Discussion
5. Discussion
6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Trench location
3. 0001 pit, plan and section

List of Tables

1. Finds quantities

List of Contributors

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

John Craven Assistant Project Officer
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager
Anna West Finds Supervisor

Acknowledgements

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

The excavation was carried out by John Craven and Michael Green of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the producing of site plans and sections was carried out by Anna West, and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation, carried out in advance of the construction of a house on land adjacent to Greenacres, Coulson Lane, Brandon, identified a single pit containing sherds of 12th-14th century medieval pottery. The function of this pit is unknown, although it indicates a limited level of activity during the period, and the general lack of features, implies that the site lies just outside the main area of occupation.

SMR information

Planning application no. F/2005/0890/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 02-03-2006
Grid Reference: TL 7827 8668
Funding body: Mr J Brabbs
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-13257

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a house on land adjacent to Greenacres, Coulson Lane, Brandon. 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 F/2005/0890/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Mr J Brabbs.

The site, which measured c.150sqm, was situated on the current gravel driveway of Greenacres at TL 97446851 and 6m-7m OD (Fig. 1). The site was of interest due to its location, 90m to the rear of the high street and overlooking the valley of the Little Ouse. This lies within the area of Anglo-Saxon and medieval Brandon, which is defined in the County SMR as an archaeological site of regional importance and is close to the excavated Middle Saxon settlement, BRD 018, some 200m – 300m to the west.

The development therefore had the potential to affect archaeological deposits, of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date. A programme of archaeological evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to establish any archaeological implications for its development.

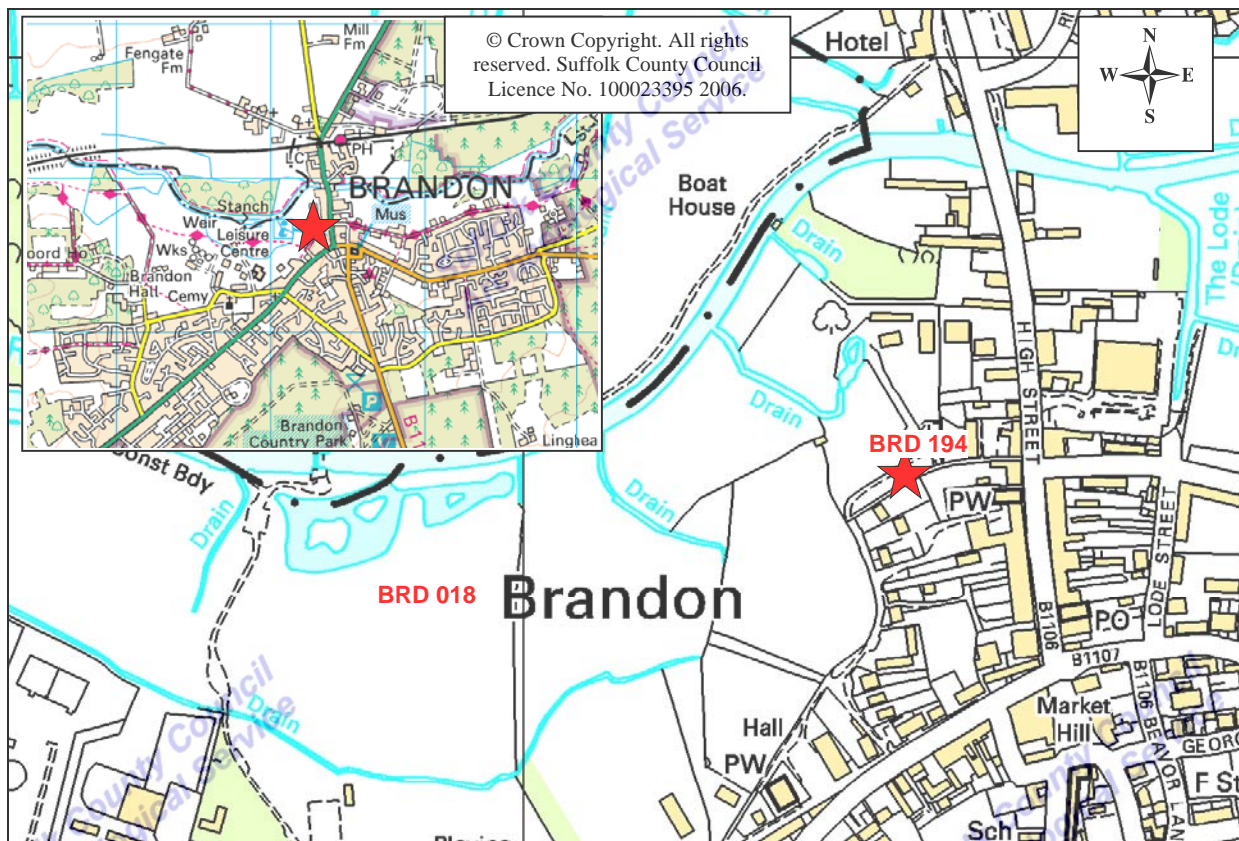


Figure 1. Site location plan

2. Methodology

A single trench, measuring 1.4m wide and 18m long, equal to c.15% of the development area, was excavated by a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Due to the position of the plot the trench had to be placed off centre, along the edge of the existing driveway.

The trench was excavated to the top of the natural subsoil surface, a dark orange/mid brown sand and gravel with large nodules of flint. This involved the removal of 0.3m–0.35m of garden topsoil which directly overlaid the subsoil surface, excavated soil was examined for unstratified finds.

The one feature observed was excavated by hand. Section and plan were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and digital photographs are included in the digital archive. The trench location was measured by hand and a level on the feature section was taken using a dumpy level, relating to an OS benchmark at TL 7837 8667.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-13257).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. BRD 194.

3. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

The excavation of the trench showed a clean natural subsoil throughout its length. A single feature, 0001, that cut into the subsoil was identified. This was a circular pit, approximately 50% of which was visible with the remainder lying under the northern trench edge. The visible part of the feature was fully excavated and was 1.7m wide and 0.38m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0002, was a dark brown silt/sand loam and contained several sherds of pottery.

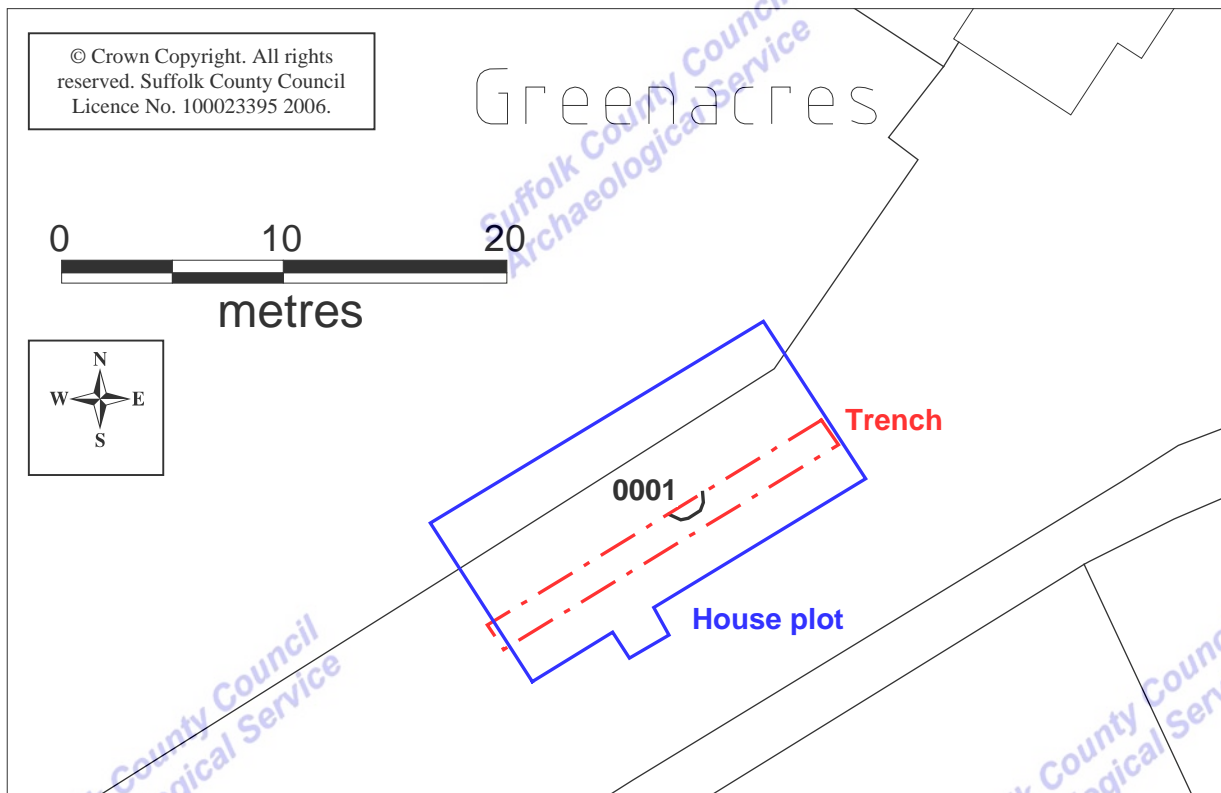


Figure 2. Trench location

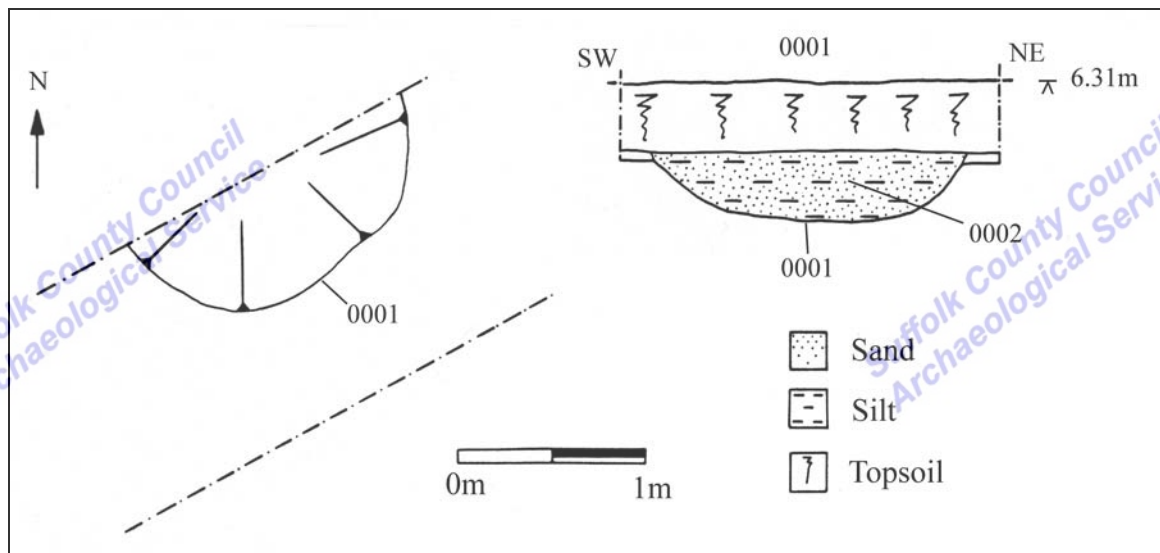


Figure 3. 0001 pit, plan and section

4. The Finds

4.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Animal bone		Fired clay		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	5	37	1	1	1	1	L12th- 14th C
Total	5	37	1	1	1	1	

Table 1. Finds quantities

4.2. Pottery

A total of five fragments of pottery was recovered from the fill 0002 of the pit. A single rim of a medieval coarseware cooking vessel or jar was identified, which had an abraded everted and slightly developed rim. The remaining fragments were less abraded body sherds. Most of the pottery had oxidised margins, or was patchily oxidised. The ceramics date to the Late 12th-14th century.

4.3. Fired clay

A very small fragment of fired clay was also collected. It is made from a fine orange/pink fabric with a buff external surface, but no other additional characteristics.

4.4. Animal bone

A single small and undiagnostic fragment of animal bone was present which was not identifiable.

4.5. Discussion

The small quantity of finds recovered from the pit fill 0002 suggests that if it was originally a rubbish pit it had been mainly cleaned out. As no other features were identified during the evaluation the significance of the medieval pit cannot be fully established, but in view of the proximity of the medieval settlement it is not unexpected. There was no evidence of any artefacts dating to the Middle Saxon period.

5. Discussion

The evaluation revealed the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.3m-0.35m, immediately underlying the topsoil. The majority of the trench was very clean, with no evidence of any past activity. The exception was a single large pit, 0001, which contained several sherds of medieval pottery. The function of this pit is unknown, and the fill and limited number of finds does not imply that it was used as a rubbish or midden pit.

The position of the site, combined with the general lack of features, suggests that it lay just outside the main area of occupation. Coulson Lane, the walled footpath immediately to the south-east of the site, and the rear boundaries of the properties along the High street seem to mark a clear line separating the medieval town from the fields of the river valley.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The presence of one medieval pit indicates a limited level of occupation activity during the period on the site. There was no evidence of activity in any other period. Monitoring of the footing trenches may be useful in establishing the pits context, is it part of a wider spread of features or is it truly isolated, and its function.

J. A. Craven
March 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 GREENACRES, COULSON LANE, BRANDON

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (application F/2005/0890/FUL) has been granted for erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to Greenacres, Coulson Lane, Brandon (TL 7827 8668) 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 This proposal lies within the area of Anglo-Saxon and medieval Brandon defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. In particular, it is located immediately above the flood plain on the fen edge, close to the site of major excavations that defined an extensive Middle Saxon settlement (BRD 018).
- 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 a minimum 5% by area of the entire site (see Figure 1). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 18m of trenching at 1.8m in width. 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 with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. 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: 16 January 2006

Reference: / CoulsonRoad-Brandon 2006

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.