

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Flemings, The Green, Long Melford LMD 163

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2006
(Planning app. no. B/06/00182/FHA)

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© June 2007

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

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Richenda Goffin	Finds Manager
Gemma Adams	Project Assistant

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mrs R. Davis and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by John Craven from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds reports by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for an extension to Flemings, The Green, Long Melford, did not identify any evidence of medieval occupation. A single post-medieval pit and 19th-20th century brick walls were seen relating to later occupation of the property.

SMR information

Planning application no.	B/06/00182/FHA
Date of fieldwork:	April-May 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 86714658
Funding body:	Mrs R Davis
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-15213

1. Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site from April to May 2006 to monitor the groundworks for an extension to Flemings, Long Melford (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/06/00182/FHA. The work was funded by the developer, Mrs R. Davis.

Interest in the site was based upon its location on the line of the east side of the medieval Melford Green, and the west side of Melford Park. The groundworks had the potential to disturb medieval deposits from earlier buildings on the green frontage that may have once stood upon the site, the green edge ditch, or other medieval occupation material.

Groundworks also had the potential to disturb post-medieval deposits. Flemings is a Grade II Listed Building (LBS No. 278173), its entry in the Listed Buildings Register describes it as a timber-framed and plastered house, probably of 16th-17th century origin. On the First Edition OS map of c.1880 (Fig. 2) the house and garden is shown as being separated into two properties with a small outbuilding to the rear and a possible well. Immediately to the north, separated by a gap of 1m or 2m, another range of buildings is shown extending northwards.

The development involved the renovation of the original structure, which was in a bad state of repair. A single storey rear extension was to be removed and replaced by two new extensions, one to the rear and one to the north. The northern extension would partially overlie the site of the earlier building and the remaining works had the potential to disturb deposits relating to the occupation of Flemings.

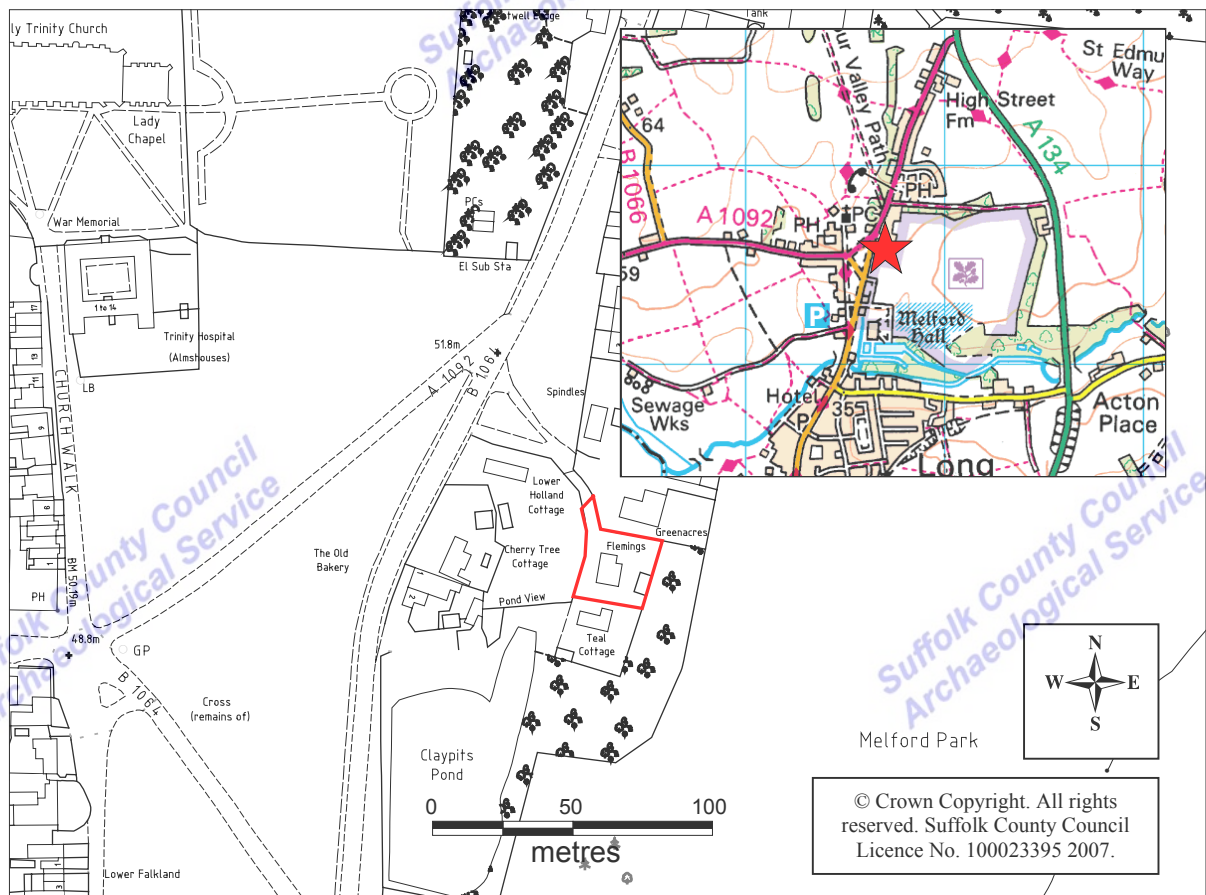


Figure 1. Site location plan

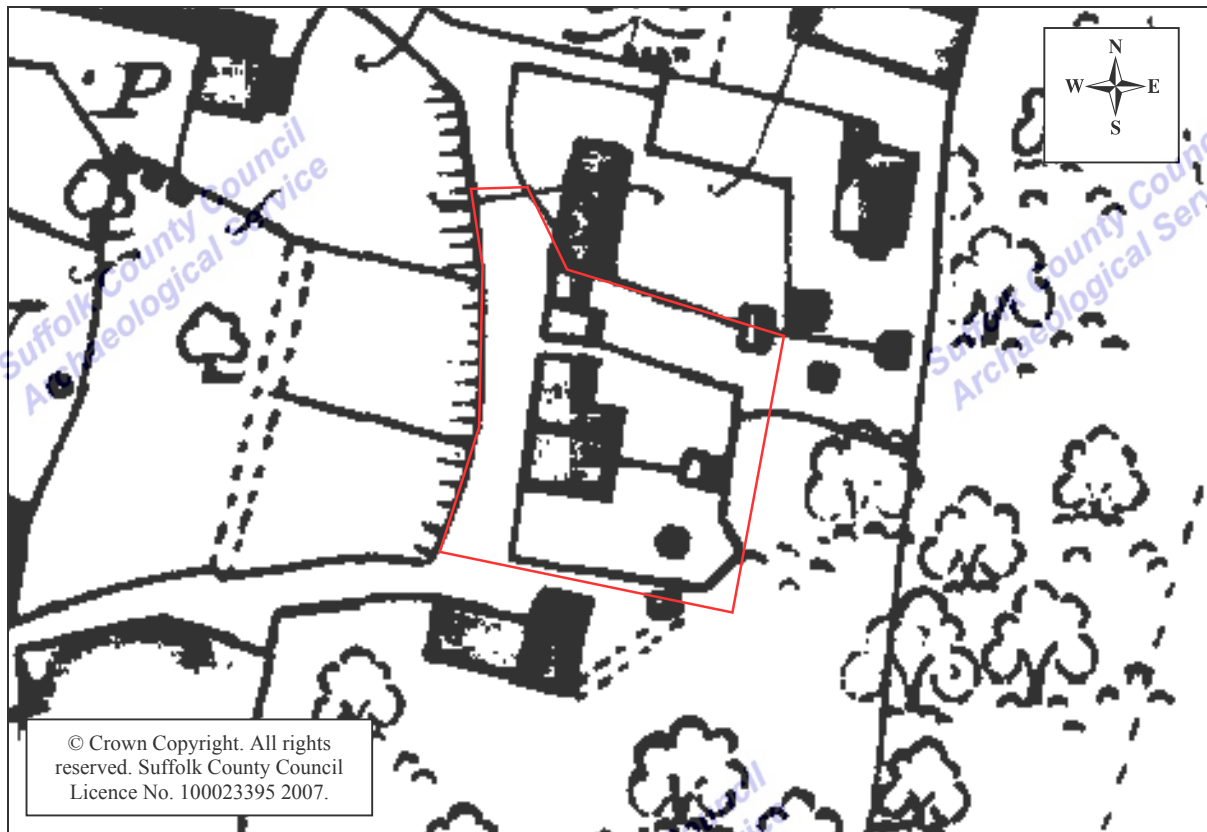


Figure 2. Site on the First Edition OS

2. Methodology

An initial visit was made during the levelling of the rear extension footprint which involved the removal of 0.3m-0.4m of topsoil to the north, lessening to 0.1m to the south. This did not fully remove the modern deposits and the natural subsoil was not seen. A further visit saw the initial site strip for the northern extension. This involved the removal of 0.3m of topsoil and exposed the natural clay subsoil.

Subsequent visits were made to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for the rear extension (Fig. 3). The trenches were c.0.6m wide and c.1m deep and showed that, despite the earlier truncation, 0.1m-0.2m of topsoil still overlaid the natural subsoil of mid yellow/brown clay with chalk.

A partial observation of the existing property's foundations was also made. Digital photographs are held in the project archive.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-15213) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. LMD 163.

3. Results

The site strip for the northern extension exposed the natural clay subsoil and was devoid of archaeological features.

The trenching for the rear extension showed occasional areas of deeper modern disturbance, including a modern pipe running parallel to the rear wall of the building in the western part of the plot.

In the north-east corner a broad, shallow feature, 0001, measuring at least 2.5m long by 1m wide, cut 0.4m deep into the subsoil. Its fill, 0002, was a loamy soil containing occasional fragments of brick. Two pieces of pottery were collected.

To the south of this pit the trench cut through two parallel walls, running east-west, constructed of red brick. Set 0.8m apart these walls were visible just below the surface and extended to a depth of 0.9m. To the north of the northern wall there was a deposit, 0.8m deep, of 19th-20th century debris. The space between the walls was similarly infilled. The southern wall, on its south side was cut through the natural subsoil.

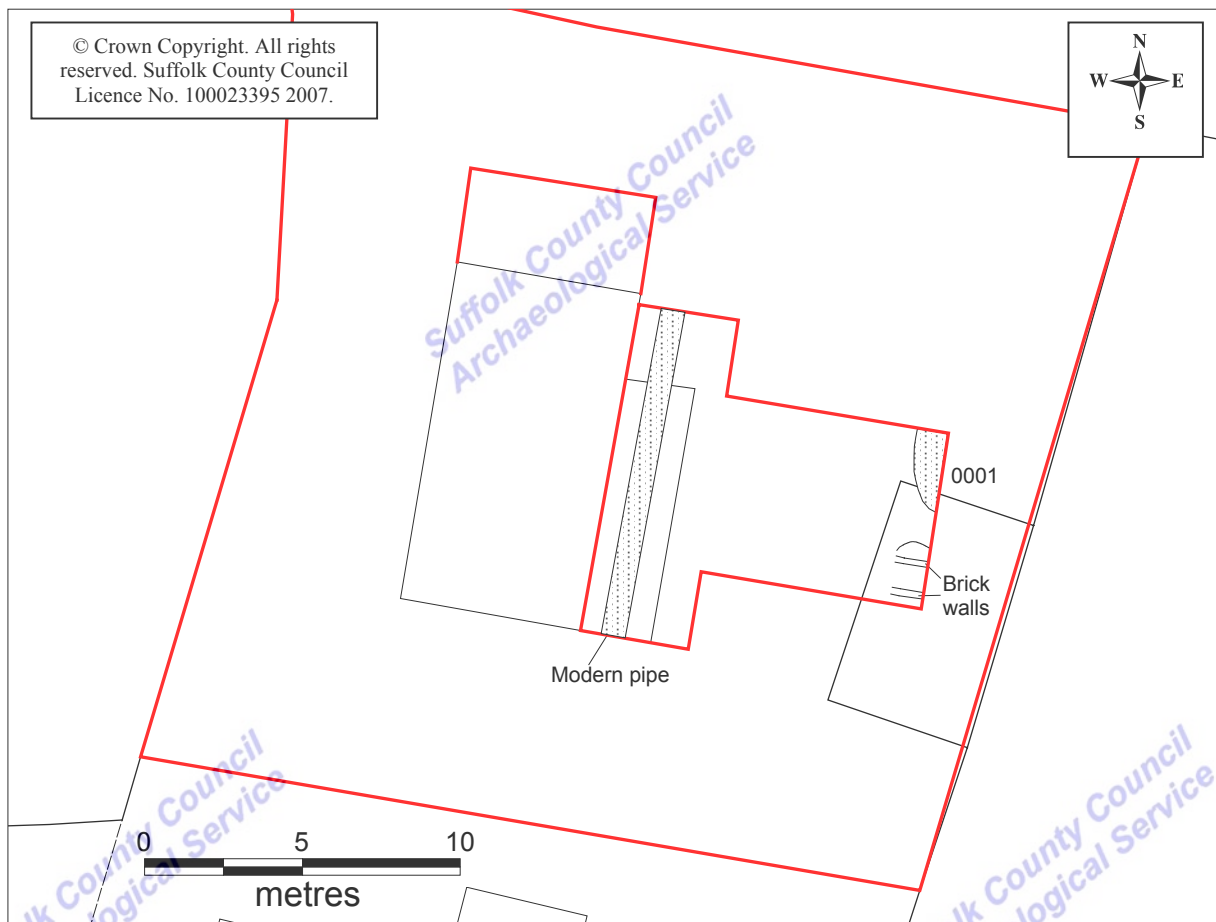


Figure 3. Site plan

The trenches also adjoined the rear wall of Flemings at two places, allowing a partial observation of the building's foundations to be made. These consisted of several brick courses, measuring c.0.4m in total height, rising partially above the original ground level. This brick walling then supported the sill beam and post structure. The building itself was being stripped of its exterior concrete render, which had clearly caused a lot of damage to the structural frame. This was generally exposed and amongst numerous later additions, areas of the original wattle and daub walls were seen (Fig. 4).



Figure 4. 'Flemings' following removal of exterior render, seen from the north-east

4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

4.1. Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0002	2	54	L17th/E18th C
Total	2	54	

Table 1. Finds Quantities

4.2. Pottery

Two fragments of an English stoneware drinking vessel were recovered from 0002, a possible pit located towards the rear of the property. The joining sherds form part of the cylindrical rilled neck of a small globular jug with a pinch-spout. This stoneware jug is likely to have been made in London and dates to the late seventeenth to first half of the eighteenth century (Gaimster 320-321).

5. Discussion

The archaeological monitoring did not locate any deposits indicating medieval occupation prior to the construction of Flemings. Nor did the northern extension identify any traces of the structure, shown on the First Edition OS, that once stood immediately adjacent.

A single probable pit was seen to the rear of the house and contained material of 17th-18th century date. Situated some distance to the rear of the property this is most likely to be a rubbish pit relating to the post-medieval occupation of the house.

The full extent of the two brick walls and associated deposits were not defined and their function is unclear although they are of 19th-20th century date and may relate to the small structure shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey.

References

Gaimster, D., 1997, *German stoneware 1200-1900* (British Museum Press).

John Craven
Project Officer
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
June 2007

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

FLEMINGS, THE GREEN, LONG MELFORD

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (B/06/00182/FHA) has been made to add two extensions to the existing dwelling. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site lies on the line of the east side of the medieval green. There is potential for ground disturbance to impact upon earlier buildings which may have occupied the site; the green edge ditch; occupation debris associated with early settlement.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 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 this office before execution.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footings or ground-beam trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the ‘observing archaeologist’ to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 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. 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, PE J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by ‘*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*’ (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 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.

- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. 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 value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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: Robert Carr

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

Date: 19 April 2006

Reference: /Lmelford_Flemings04

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.