

# Land at the Old Rectory, Risby RBY 044

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2013/109**

**Client: Logan Homes Limited**

Author: Simon Cass

September 2013

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Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Crane Begg

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: September 2013



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** RBY 044  
**Site Name:** The Old Rectory, Risby  
**Report Number** 2013/109  
**Planning Application No:** SE/12/0693/FULCA  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 29/08/2013 – 05/09/2013  
**Grid Reference:** TL 8018 6644  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1- 158322  
**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
**Client/Funding Body:** Logan Homes Limited  
**Client Reference:** -

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: 30th September 2013

Approved By: John Craven  
Position: Project Officer  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footings and services for a new dwelling on land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Risby after an initial stage of evaluation located a Roman ditch with evidence of nearby metalworking. No archaeological finds or features were located during the course of this additional monitoring though it is possible that exceptionally shallow features may have been missed during the machine excavation of footings or been obscured by bucket smearing of trench sides.

# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

Limit of Excavation	-----
Features	_____
Break of Slope	.....
Features - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	.....
Sondages/Machine Strip	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Illustrated Section	----- S.14
Cut Number	0008
Archaeological Features	■ ■ ■
Modern	■

## Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	_____
Modern Cut	_____
Cut - Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Top of Natural	_____
Top Surface	_____
Break in Section	-----
Cut Number	0008
Deposit Number	0007
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD

## **1. Introduction**

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A program of archaeological monitoring was required to be undertaken during the excavation of footings and ancillary ground works for a new dwelling being erected on land at the Old Rectory, Risby (Fig. 1). Previous archaeological evaluation (Brooks 2012) had revealed a Roman ditch and evidence suggestive of possible occupation and metalworking taking place nearby.

The work was carried out to a Brief issued by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Appendix 1) to ensure the adequate recording and reporting of any archaeological remains found within the development area. The fieldwork was undertaken between the twenty-eighth of October and the fifth of September 2013 on behalf of the developers, Logan Homes Limited. The site is located within an area of grass and trees, immediately south of the Old Rectory and north of Church Cottages and north-west of the church at grid reference TL 8018 6644.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site's localised topography is fairly flat with a slight bank down to the existing driveway/access road to the west. Two spot heights to the west of the access road were both recorded as 66.07m above the OD and there was a gradual slope up towards the south-east corner of the site from these spot heights.

The recorded geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton, which usually comprises an extensive sheet of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. This material overlies bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk (Ordnance Survey, 1983). On site, the geology presented itself as mottled patches of orange sandy-clay and pale yellow chalky-clay.

### 3. Archaeology and historical background

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The site is immediately north of an area defined within the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) as one of the two medieval settlement cores for Risby (both recorded as RBY 043, Fig. 1) and only 40m north-west of the medieval church (RBY 024). According to a previous landowner (referenced in the earlier evaluation report), the former rectory to the north (now a house) is a replacement for an earlier, possibly Elizabethan, rectory. This is thought to have stood immediately west of the church and to have burnt down in the 18th or 19th century.

The site is shown as lightly wooded on the on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey of 1885. Immediately to the south this map shows two undated mounds, one with a small square building on top (RBY 032). Archaeological work in the vicinity has previously identified medieval and post-medieval features 160m to the south-west (RBY 042) and features containing Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery, 215m to the south-east (RBY 033).

A former Canon of Risby, A. F. Webling, published a book in 1945 about the village and particularly the church's history. One chapter states that:

'...a pit was being dug at the west end of the nave of the church ... I bade the workmen keep a look-out for buried treasure ... they discovered only about four feet below the surface ... a skeleton buried face downwards ... They retrieved the skull, but the remainder of the bones extended beneath the font. They also found a black patch in the clay (obviously the ashes of a fire) wherein were some lumps of slag containing copper and lead, and a few fragments of pottery ... I sent our finds to the experts at South Kensington, who pronounced the remains to be Roman'.

Whilst it is not clear what age the skeletal remains from these groundworks were, the presence of burnt material, Roman pottery and slag are interesting, with the Roman pottery being of particular note. Together with the evidence seen during the evaluation, this further suggests Roman activity in the immediate vicinity. The only other local Roman find, a brooch, is located over 500m to the west (RBY 018).

Maps for the village survive from as early as c.1600. However, these show little as to this site's history, tending to indicate that it has been used as part of a series of fields and gardens enclosed with ditches as indicated on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

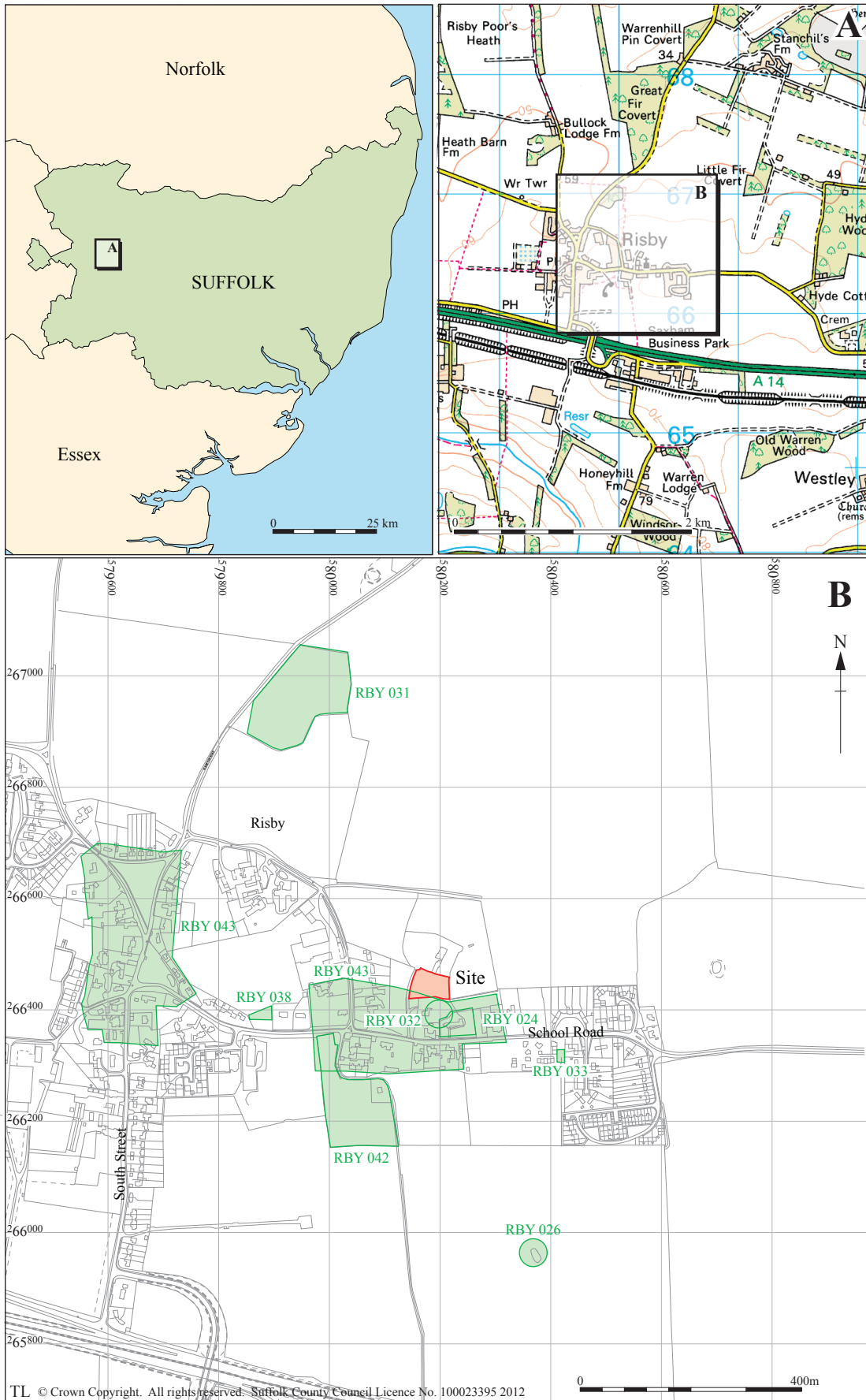




Figure 3. Detailed footing plan (green) also showing location of evaluation feature

## 4. Methodology

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The footings were excavated with an 8-tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket to a depth of between 1.8m – 2.1m with an experienced archaeologist in attendance during the excavations.

Where the footing depths allowed, soil profiles were cleaned and then inspected with relevant descriptions recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* record sheets. Colour digital photographs at 14MP resolution were taken showing the footings observed. Plans of the site were made using a survey based off data taken in the previous phase of work, coupled with detailed footing plans provided by the groundworks contractors.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code RBY 044 and an OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1- 158322). A digital copy of the report has also been 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 HER code RBY 044.

## 5. Results

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The footings were observed across several days since it was necessary to dig and pour the concrete in stages across the site. An initial soil strip of between 0.2-0.45m across the area of the new house plot did not uncover the natural chalky till deposits, which remained some 0.2-0.3m below this working surface. The soil strip for the access road/new driveway was observed but did not fully penetrate to the archaeological horizon and no features were observed cut through the subsoil. The general stratigraphy encountered in the footings (after the overburden had been removed) consisted of between 0.2m-0.3m of mid brown silty clay subsoil with frequent roots and chalk flecking over natural yellowish chalky tills and red/brown silty clay patches. A band of yellow/pale brown sandy gravel was encountered approximately 1.5m below the surface in several areas, returning to hard chalky clays below that. No deposits or finds of archaeological relevance were noted in the sections but occasional tree root disturbance (previously to this development the site was wooded) and natural periglacial striping/solution hollows were seen, as shown in the following plates.



Plate 1. Footings on south side of house plot, facing south





Plate 2. Footings on north side of house plot, facing north



Plate 3. Footings of garage, facing south (2m scale)

## **6. Finds and environmental evidence**

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No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this monitoring. The lack of any identifiable deposits or features also precluded any environmental sampling so there was no opportunity to further investigate the presence of metalworking debris noted in the evaluation stage.

## **7. Discussion**

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It may be that shallow features (the ditch noted in the evaluation trench was only 0.12m deep) have been missed during the monitoring due to the excavation method (toothed buckets do not leave a good horizontal plane to examine for features while bucket smear can easily obscure small features in trench sides) but the absence of any finds or cultural material in the areas that were cleaned suggests that this is not likely to be the case here.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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No further evidence of the potential Roman occupation recorded in the evaluation was observed during this monitoring. This could be due to the nature of the groundworks, which may have meant that smaller features or deposits were missed, but it could be indicative of a genuine absence of past activity, with the previously identified ditch probably being an isolated boundary or drainage feature.

Alternatively, it may be possible that there is an area of Roman occupation spreading westwards from the ditch, between the evaluation trench and the road, where the groundwork's were simply not deep enough to reach any potential archaeological horizon. Any further development in the vicinity therefore may require a similar program of prior archaeological investigation or monitoring to help clarify the nature and extent of Roman occupation.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Risby\RBY 044 Monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HUA-HUZ\HUI 3-75

Finds and environmental archive: None

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass, John Sims and Andrew Tester. Project management was undertaken by John Craven.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## **11. Bibliography**

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Brooks, R., 2012, *The Old Rectory, Risby RBY 044 Archaeological Evaluation Report*, SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds

Ordnance Survey, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales: Soil survey of England and Wales*, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000. Harpenden



**Appendix 1. Brief for archaeological monitoring****Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording**

AT

The Old Rectory, School Road, Risby

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	SE/12/0693
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	RBY 044
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TM 463 560
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Erection of new dwelling, cartlodge and access
<b>AREA:</b>	Small
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	5 October 2012

**Summary**

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) was advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 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, 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 full discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, 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.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 A trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken by SCCAS Contracting Team in September 2012 (SCCAS report 2012/131). This work defined a ditch, c.0.70m below current ground level, containing 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman pottery, residues from crop processing and smithing, which indicates settlement in the immediate vicinity (HER Ref: RBY 044). There is high potential for encountering medieval and early post-medieval settlement remains.

### **Planning Background**

- 3.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority were advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 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.

### **Requirement for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works (primarily topsoil stripping, excavation of footing and service trenches, waste water treatment tank and rainwater recovery tank, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.
- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation 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.
- 5.2 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 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 any 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 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, must be provided. 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).
- 6.7 An digital copy of the 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. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.

- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 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**

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.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (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](http://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.



## Appendix 2. OASIS form

**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-158322**

### Project details

Project name	RBY 044 The Old Rectory, Risby
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of footings excavated in September 2013 revealed no evidence of the Roman occupation suggested by an previous evaluation on the site. Several area of tree-root disturbance and glacial striping were observed but no cultural material was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2013 End: 08-09-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	RBY 044 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2013/109 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SE/12/0693/FULCA - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2012/131 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	suffolkc1-133105 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 1 - Deciduous native
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY RISBY RBY 044 The Old Rectory, Risby
Postcode	IP28 6RQ
Study area	2660.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8018 6644 52 0 52 15 57 N 000 38 26 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Simon Cass
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "other"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at the Told Rectory, Risby RBY 044 Archaeological Monitoring Report 2013/109
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cass, S.
Other bibliographic details	2013/109
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A short report in house style, wire-comb bound and card covered as usual.

Entered by	Simon Cass (simon.cass@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	27 September 2013



# Archaeological Service Field Projects Team

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