

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Elevenways, Freckenham Road, Worlington WGN 030

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT ELEVENWAYS, FRECKENHAM

Planning Application No. F/2005/0723/RMA
NGR: TL 6895 7335
OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-16357

Funded by: Kopec Construction Ltd

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/99

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at Elevenways, Freckenham Road, Worlington, located an undated pit and possible peat filled hollow but did not locate a former green boundary or indication of associated medieval settlement.

Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site from 4th to 14th July 2006 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of five houses and garages. 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/2005/0723/RMA. The work was funded by the developer, Kopec Construction Ltd.

Interest in the site was based upon its general location (Fig. 1) across the probable boundary of a former medieval green. The First Edition OS, c.1880, shows the northern part of the site as lying within 'The Green' (Fig. 2). A boundary, on the same alignment as the more substantial ditch to the east, is shown crossing centre of the site. The ditch to the east still exists but stops at the edge of the site. A medieval moated site, WGN 002, lies 200m to the east while finds from the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, WGN 027, have been recovered from the field 150m to the west. This meant that there was high potential for the development to disturb medieval settlement deposits and so a program of archaeological monitoring of groundworks was required.

The site was occupied by a single bungalow and driveway surrounded by an open lawn. A large swimming pool lay to the south-west of the house. The development demolished the bungalow to ground level and removed and infilled the pool.

Methodology and Results

The footing trenches for each plot (Fig. 3) were excavated by a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothed bucket, under the observation of an archaeologist. The trenches generally

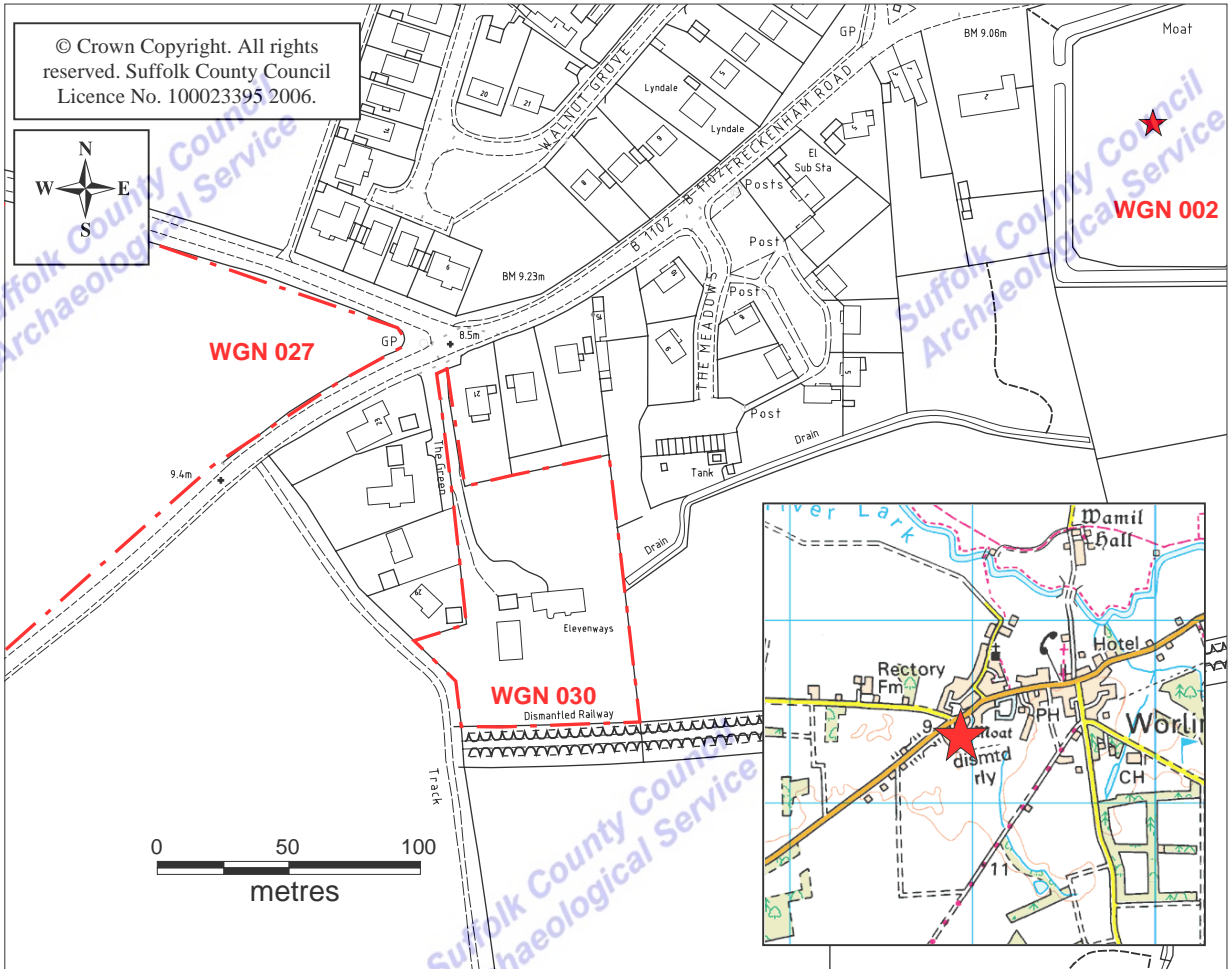


Figure 1. Site location plan

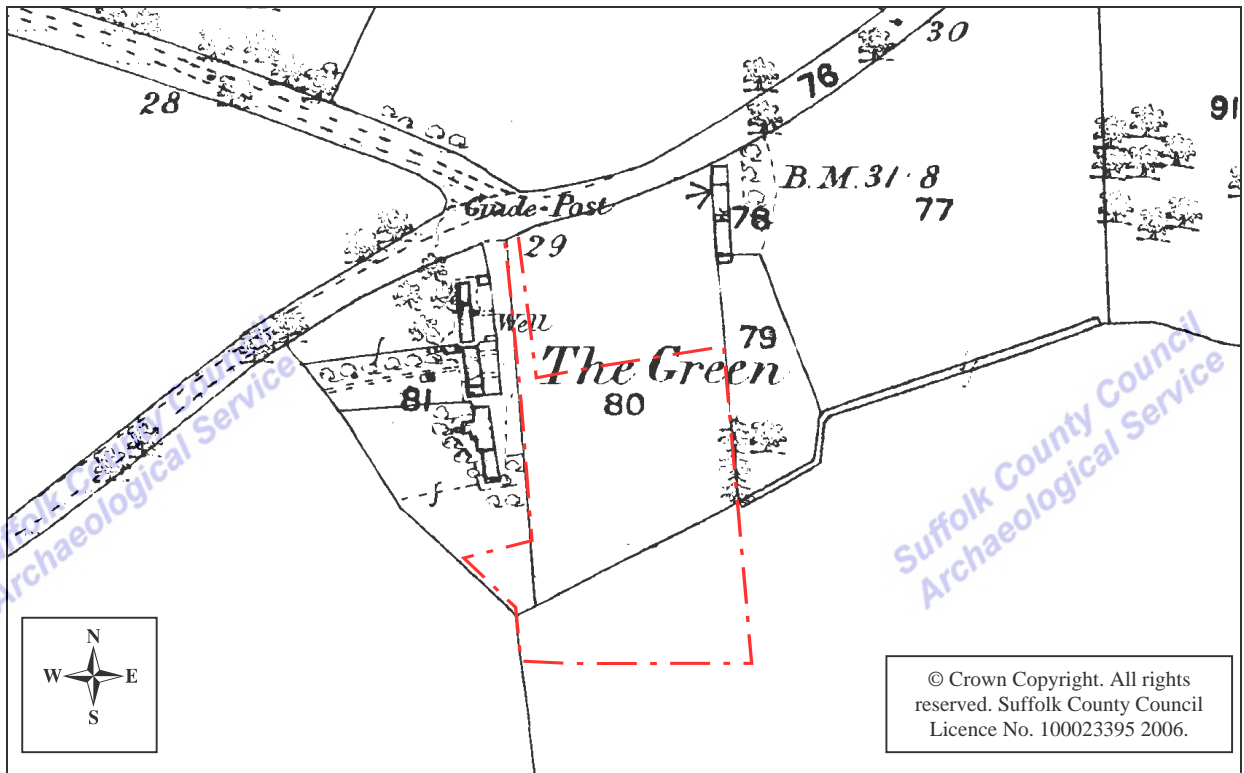


Figure 2. Site on the First Edition OS

measured 0.8m wide and up to c.1.1m deep. Following the pouring of concrete the centres of each plot were stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.2m-0.3m. The results for each plot are listed below.

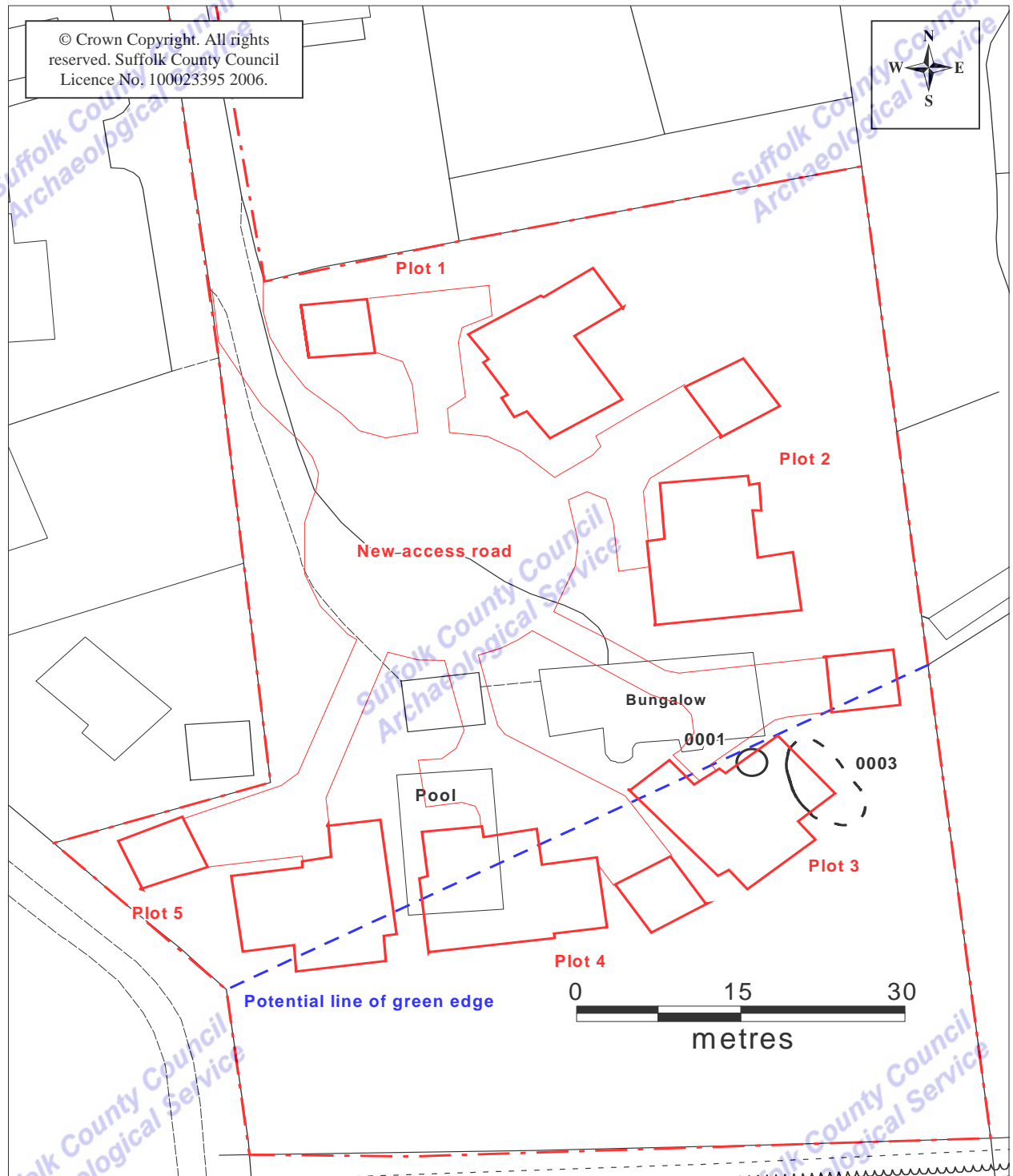


Figure 3. Site plan

Plot 1 and garage

0.3m of topsoil overlaid up to 0.2m of mixed light-dark grey/brown sands. Natural subsoil of yellow sands seen at 0.5m. Central strip only exposed mixed sand layers. No features seen.

Plot 2 and garage

To north, 0.3m of topsoil overlaid 0.2m of mixed light-dark grey/brown sands. This layer gradually thinned and, to the south and in the garage footprint, the topsoil directly overlaid the natural yellow sands seen at 0.5m. Central strip only exposed the mixed sand layers under the house, but did show the undisturbed natural subsoil under the garage. No features seen.

Plot 3 and garage

0.3m of topsoil overlaid 0.3m of mixed light-dark grey/brown sands, except in the northwest corner where the topsoil lay directly over the natural yellow sands. The central site strip only showed the layer of mixed sands.

A possible pit, 0001, was identified, visible at a depth of 0.6m and sealed beneath the mixed sand layer (Fig. 4). It measured c.1.4m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0002, was a dark grey/brown sand with iron pan mottling, but no finds were recovered.

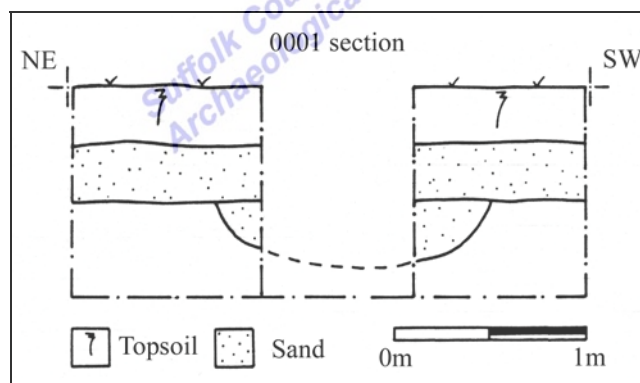


Figure 4. 0001 section

The southeast part of the plot was occupied by a possible shallow hollow, 0003. Measuring over 6m wide and 0.2m deep it was sealed below the mixed sand layers and infilled with a mix of peat and dark brown/black silt, 0004. No finds were recovered.

Plot 4 and garage

The plot was totally disturbed by the swimming pool on the northern side. 0.3m of topsoil overlaid 0.3m-0.4m of mixed dark grey/brown/orange sands. Central strip only exposed mixed sand layers. No features seen.

Plot 5 and garage

0.3m of topsoil overlaid up to 0.3m of mixed dark grey/brown sands. Natural subsoil of yellow sands seen at 0.5m. Central strip only exposed mixed sand layers. No features seen.

Discussion

The majority of the trenching showed a generally uniform stratigraphy with the undisturbed subsoil of natural yellow sands at a depth of c.0.5m. Above this lay a former soil horizon of mixed, probably windblown deposited, sands, which in turn was sealed beneath the topsoil. Plots 1, 2 and 5, which lay predominantly within the former green, were totally devoid of archaeological evidence.

The pit 0001 is undated but, as it is preserved at depth below the windblown sands, may perhaps be an isolated prehistoric feature. The possible hollow 0003, also undated, did not appear to be a linear feature; it certainly did not extend westwards and so is not a continuation of the green edge ditch seen immediately to the northeast, although it may have been a shallow pond attached to such a ditch.

There was no indication of the former boundary marked on the 1880 OS although its probable route may have only just passed through plots 1 and 5 and may have been largely removed by the swimming pool in plot 4. Also, it may not have been a substantial boundary as it is clearly differentiated on the map from the ditch to the east; perhaps it was just a simple fenceline. Evidence of such a boundary could well have been missed by the placement of the trenches.

Finally, there was no indication of any medieval settlement to the south, in plots 3, 4 and 5 that may have fronted onto the south side of the green.

J. A. Craven
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Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
September 2006

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

ELEVENWAYS, FRECKENHAM ROAD, WORLINGTON

*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.*

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect five dwellings with access and garages at Elevenways, Freckenham Road, Worlington (TL 689 733) has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application F/2005/0723/RMA). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The application lies across the probable line of the medieval green and green edge ditch. There is high potential for medieval settlement deposits at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

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 medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches and the provision of services for the dwellings, and also any topsoil stripping and levelling associated with the construction of vehicle access. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological 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 and main service trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **two 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. In the case of any topsoil stripping unimpeded access at the rate of **two hours per 10 sq metres** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.
- 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 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. Sidell, 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.
- 4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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 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.
- 5.6 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

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Date: 20 June 2006

Reference: /ElevenwaysWorlington2006

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.