

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land to the Rear of UNIT 9, PARKER AVENUE, FELIXSTOWE

SMR Ref. TYY 058; OASIS ref. suffolkc1-16523

SCCAS Report No. 2006/149

Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during July 2006 to investigate the potential for buried archaeology within an area of land to the rear of Unit 9, Parker Avenue, Felixstowe (NGR ref. TM 2780 3485), in advance of a proposed electricity substation. Two linear trenches were machine excavated to the depth of the undisturbed natural subsoil but only a single undated ditch was identified. No other features and no artefacts were recovered from the trenches. This evaluation is recorded on the County SMR, reference no. TYY 058. The evaluation was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service who were commissioned and funded by the developer, EDF Energy.

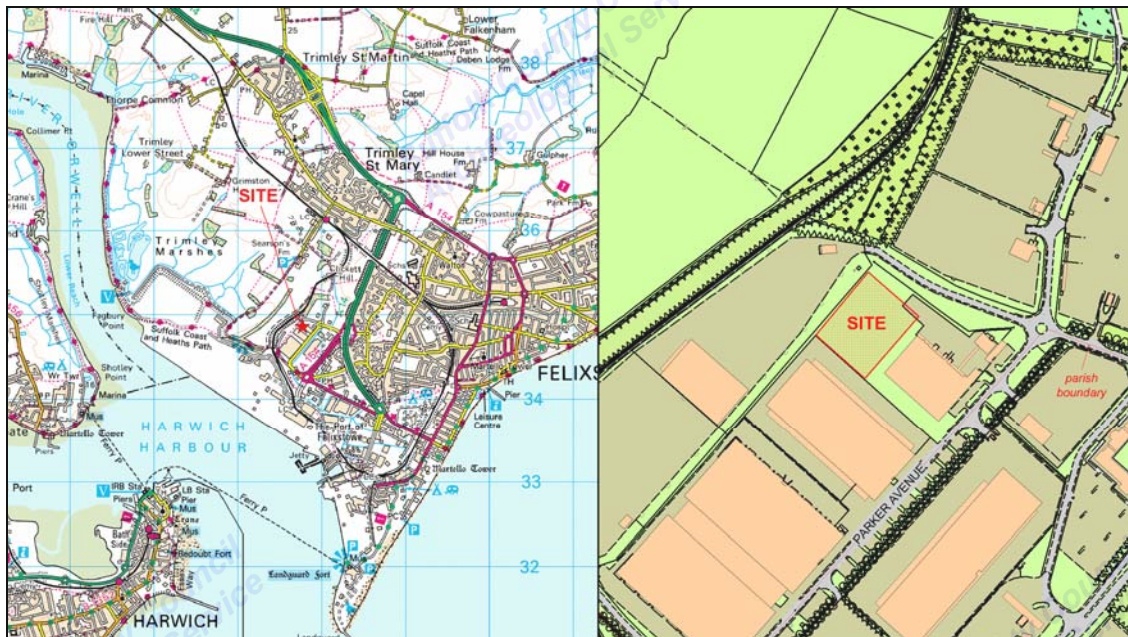


Figure 1: Location Plan

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1. Introduction

It has been proposed to construct an electricity substation on land to the rear of Unit 9, Parker Avenue, Felixstowe (actually in the parish of Trimley St Mary). The site gently slopes down to the east although from its eastern edge the topography of the landscape is flat reflecting the fact that much of the Parker Road area was formerly marsh until 20th century reclamation. The total area of the site equates to approximately 7700 square metres but of this only 4500 square metres is actually

liable to be disturbed by the proposed development. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 2780 3485.

There are no known archaeological sites recorded within the proposed development area although it lies close to a known medieval settlement at Blofield Hall (SMR ref. TYY027), located some 500m to the northeast, and a site of medieval activity (SMR ref. TYY021) c. 340m to the southwest. Prehistoric activity has also been recorded in the immediate area including a substantial settlement on Clickett Hill (SMR ref. TYY026). In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team has requested an archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching of the site be undertaken. This will form the initial stage of a programme of archaeological works with the evaluation results being used to assess the need for any further work. A Brief and Specification has been produced by Mr R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team detailing the work required (See Appendix).

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned and funded by the developer, EDF Energy, and was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service on the 11th July 2006. The evaluation archive is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Sites and Monuments Record reference, TYY 058. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-16523.

2. Methodology

Trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil (or the top of any significant archaeological deposits if encountered) using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with an approved plan.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that may be revealed. Excavation continued until the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features or deposits. Any features/deposits noted were sampled through the hand excavation of a section through the fill in order to determine depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Context numbers were issued to each feature/deposit noted starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site, and their locations recorded on a plan of the trench. The revealed cross-section was then recorded at a scale of no less than 1:20 and photographed using a 4 megapixel digital camera.

Following archaeological investigation the trench locations were plotted and their depths were noted. Upon completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled.

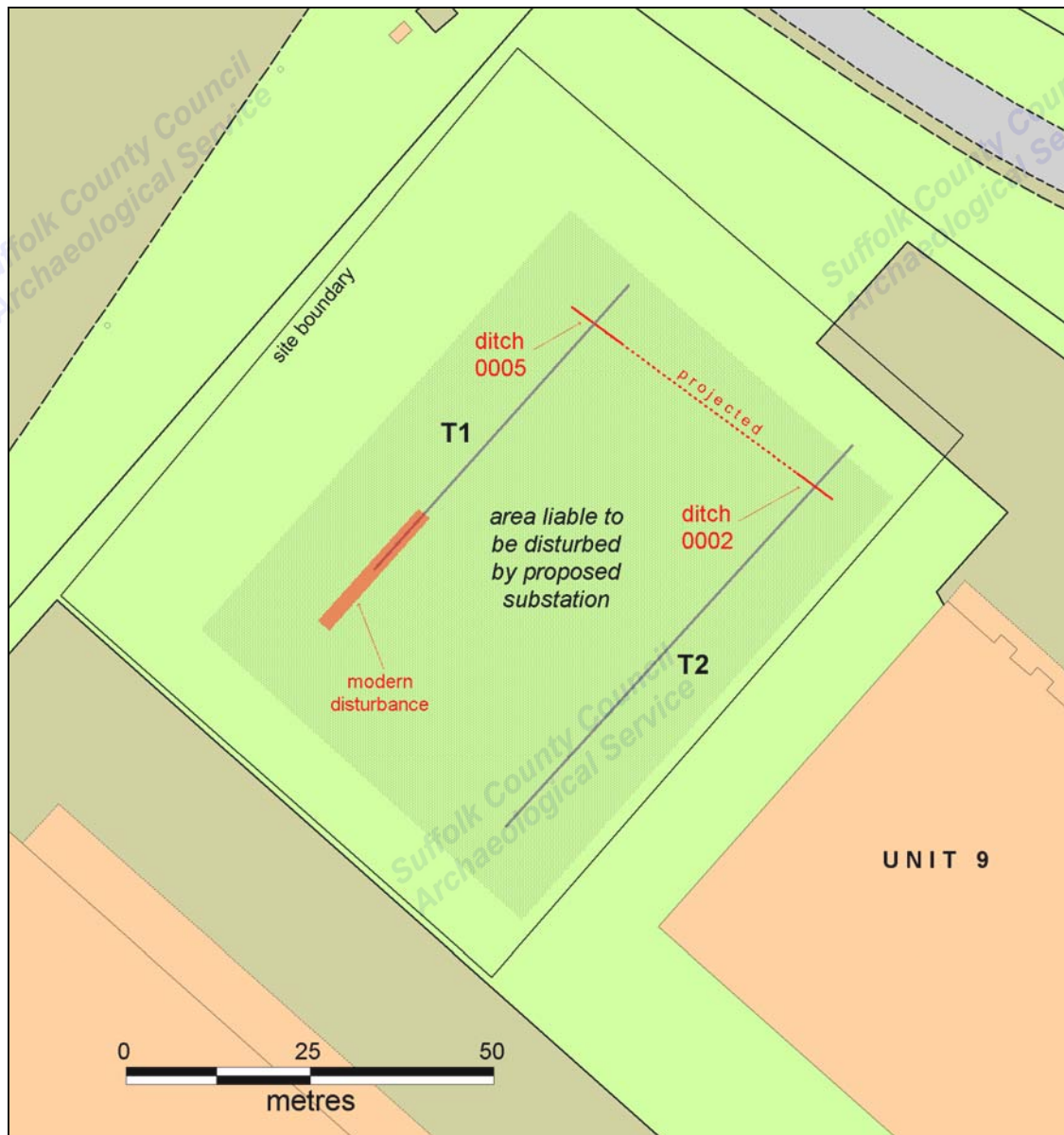


Figure 2: Evaluation Results

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3. Results

Two trenches totalling 120m in length were excavated across the area liable to be affected by the development. See figure 2 for a plan of their locations and the features within. The results for both trenches were consistent across the site with c.0.45m of light silty topsoil, which become paler towards its base, overlying a natural subsoil comprising pale yellow silty sand.

Within **Trench 1** a single linear cut interpreted as a ditch type feature, numbered **0005**, was noted. It measured 1.8m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.55m. The fill (**0006**) comprised pale grey clayey silt. It ran virtually perpendicular to the trench giving it a northwest-southeast alignment. No finds were recovered from its fill although only a narrow section was excavated.

At the southeast end of **Trench 1** a large cut extending beyond the width of the trench was encountered. The fill of this cut comprised very modern rubbish consisting of steel hawsers, corrugated sheet metal, steel drums, Fibreglas insulation and other assorted building debris. When initially encountered an attempt was made to assess its depth but upon reaching a depth of *c.*2.5m excavation was halted. From observation of debris on the surface this cut appeared to continue well beyond the end of the trench.

In Trench 2 a single linear cut interrupted as ditch was recorded. It was numbered **0002**, measured 2.2m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.65m. Two fills were noted within, a primary fill (0004) comprising light blue/grey clayey silt, and an upper fill (0003) of soft light grey brown sandy silt. No artefacts, other than a single flint flake, were recovered from the fill. Initially a narrow section was cut but with the use of the machine this was increased to the width of the trench enabling the recorded section to include the thickness of the topsoil (see Figure 3). It too had a northwest-southeast alignment

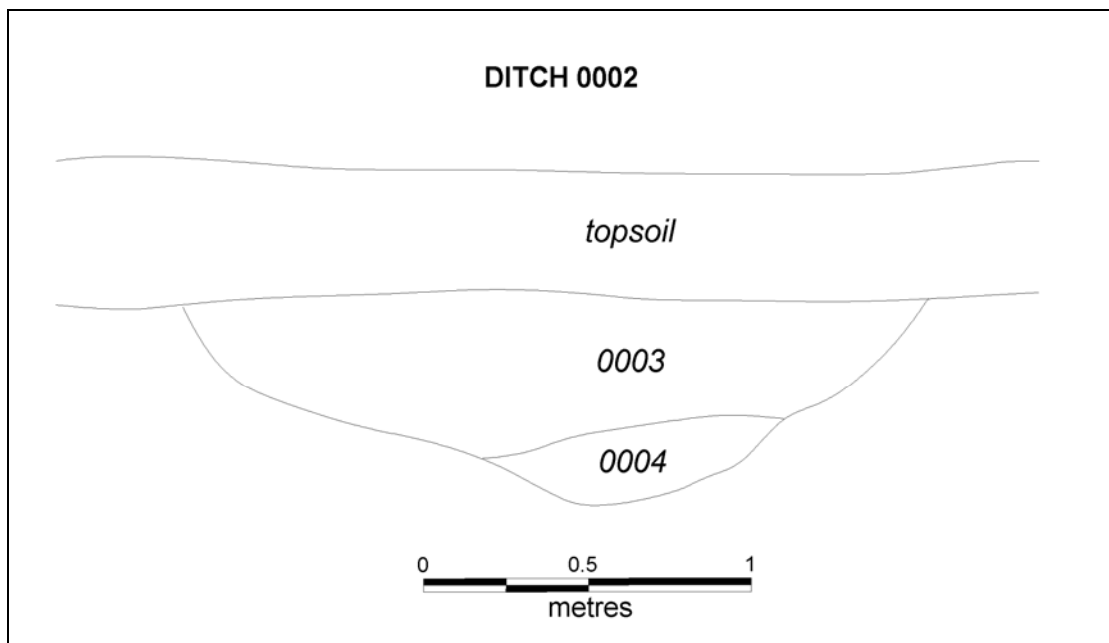


Figure 3: Ditch 0002 - Section

The interface between the overburden and the natural subsoil was relatively blurred with no indication that the natural subsoil surface had been previously truncated.

4. The Finds

A single flint flake was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 0002. This is likely to be a residual find from the surrounding area and of little use in dating the feature. Consequently it was not retained.

5. Discussion

Although a section of ditch was recorded within both trenches (0002 and 0005), based on their alignments it is likely that they are parts of the same ditch running northwest-

southeast. A single flake was recovered from the fill of 0002 but as this is likely to be a residual find from the surrounding area it cannot be used for meaningful dating as it only indicates the ditch is later than the Prehistoric period. The ditch is likely to be a field boundary and its alignment is similar to ditches marked on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

The large cut filled with modern rubbish is probably related to previous construction works in the Parker Avenue area and is either the result of the filling of an existing large pit or it was excavated solely to dispose of the waste.

6. Recommendations for Future Work

Based on the results of the evaluation it is unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits are under threat from the proposed development. Consequently no further work is recommended.

M. Sommers
Suffolk County Council, Field Projects Team

14th July 2006



Ditch 0002 as seen in southeast face of Trench 2

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors. 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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION, PARKER AVENUE, FELIXSTOWE

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application will be made for a new substation for the Trinity Industrial Estate, located at Unit 9, Parker Avenue, Felixstowe.
- 1.2 The developer (EDF) has been advised that in order to establish the full archaeological implications of this proposal a programme of archaeological work is required. **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of this programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The proposal area lies close to known archaeological sites recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, which indicate both medieval and prehistoric settlement in this low lying area adjacent to the Byle Fleet watercourse (which once ran under the adjacent industrial units) There is considerable potential for this settlement to extend into the proposal area, any archaeological deposit which exists would be likely to be significantly damaged by the proposal.
- 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* 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. 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.

- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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](#) and 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. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The 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 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 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.
“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 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. 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.
- 5.4 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. 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: R D Carr

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
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Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 21 June 2006

Reference: /Electricity Substation

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.