

The Old Rectory,
Barsham,
Suffolk.
BRS 038

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/47

Client: Mr Howard Trust

Author: Linzi Everett

May 2014

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HER Information

Report Number: 2014/47
Site Name: The Old Rectory, Barsham
Planning Application No: n/a
Date of Fieldwork: 8th April 2014
Grid Reference: TM 3965 8962
Commissioned by: John Quinlan Architect
Curatorial Officer: Richard Hoggett
Project Officer: Linzi Everett
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1- 176841
Site Code: BRS 038

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Prepared By: Linzi Everett
Date: May 2014

Approved By: Dr. Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a drainage bowl at The Old Rectory, Barsham, was carried out in order to record any archaeological evidence present. The area had been subject to a degree of modern disturbance but one small archaeological feature was identified from which medieval pottery was recovered. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from the top of an otherwise sterile, homogenous subsoil layer, filling an apparent natural hollow up to 0.55m deep in the eastern side of the stripped area.

1. Introduction and methodology

Construction of a storm water drainage bowl at The Old Rectory, Barsham (BRS 038; TM 3965 8962), required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent, due to the sites location within an area of archaeological potential (see Paragraph 2.1, SCCAS Brief). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’) consisted of an area of c.240 square metres.

One visit was made to the site by a member of the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated groundworks. A brief for the archaeological work was produced by Richard Hoggett of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The fieldwork was commissioned by John Quinlan on behalf of a client.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at on the edge of the Waveney marshes, at a height of approximately 13m OD. The underlying geology of the development area, as recorded by the British Geological Survey, is liable to comprise glacial sands and gravels with areas of glacial till (clay with chalk and flint).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The Old Rectory is a grade I listed building immediately west of the medieval Holy Trinity church recorded as BRS 003 in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). Findspots of medieval, Saxon and prehistoric date are also recorded close to the site.

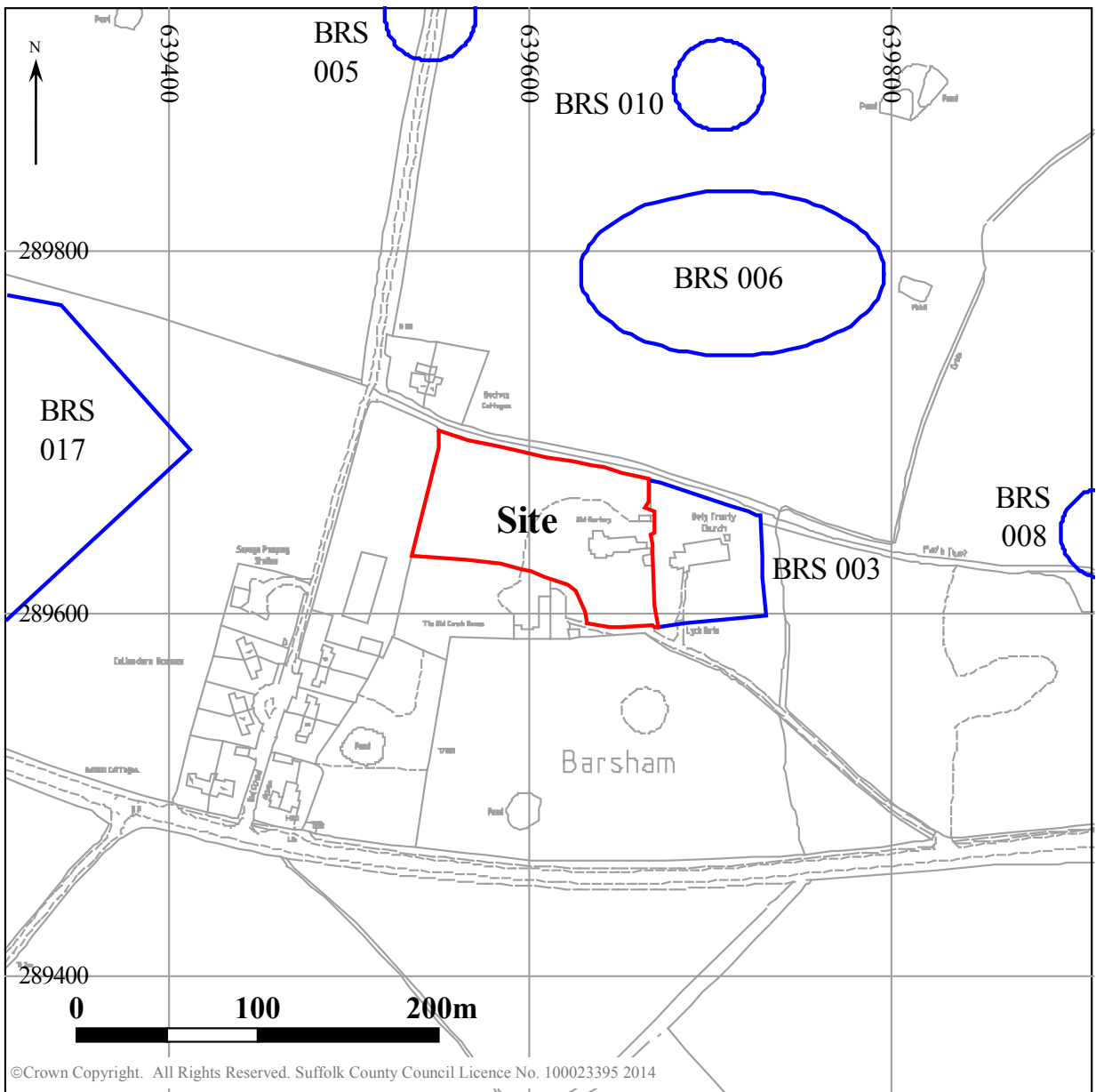
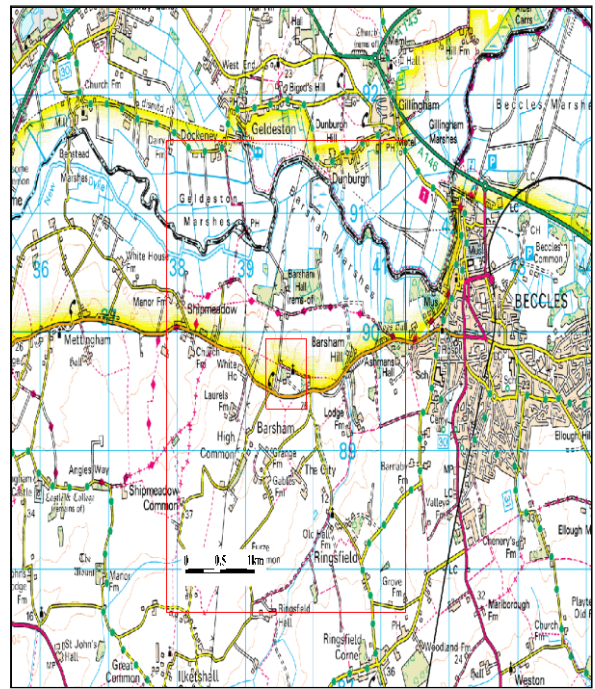
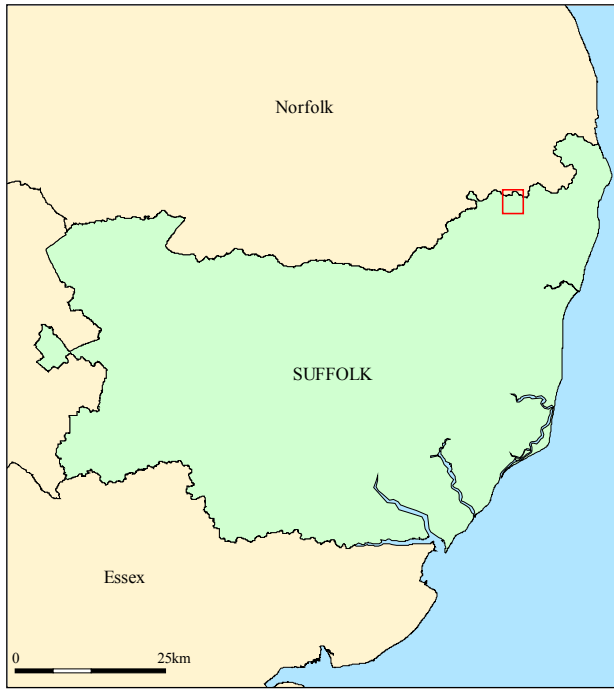


Figure 1. Site location showing Historic Environment Record entries

4. Results

Initially, the pond area was stripped of up to 0.3m of turf and mid greyish brown sandy loamy clay topsoil with regular rubble inclusions. Areas of modern disturbance were visible at this level. The deeper central part of the pond was then stripped to the depth of archaeology or the natural subsoil under the direction of an archaeologist (Figure 2).

One archaeological feature was observed cutting the clean yellow clay natural subsoil (Figure 3). 0003 was a small, shallow feature, somewhat linear in plan and of uncertain form and function. Its northern end shallowed out and became difficult to define, possibly having been truncated, whilst the southern end was destroyed by modern disturbance. A section excavated through the feature showed steeply sloping sides breaking fairly sharply to a flat base. It measured 0.2m deep at the section and was filled by 0004, a mid grey brown clay sand mottled with lumps of mid yellow clay, probably redeposited natural subsoil.

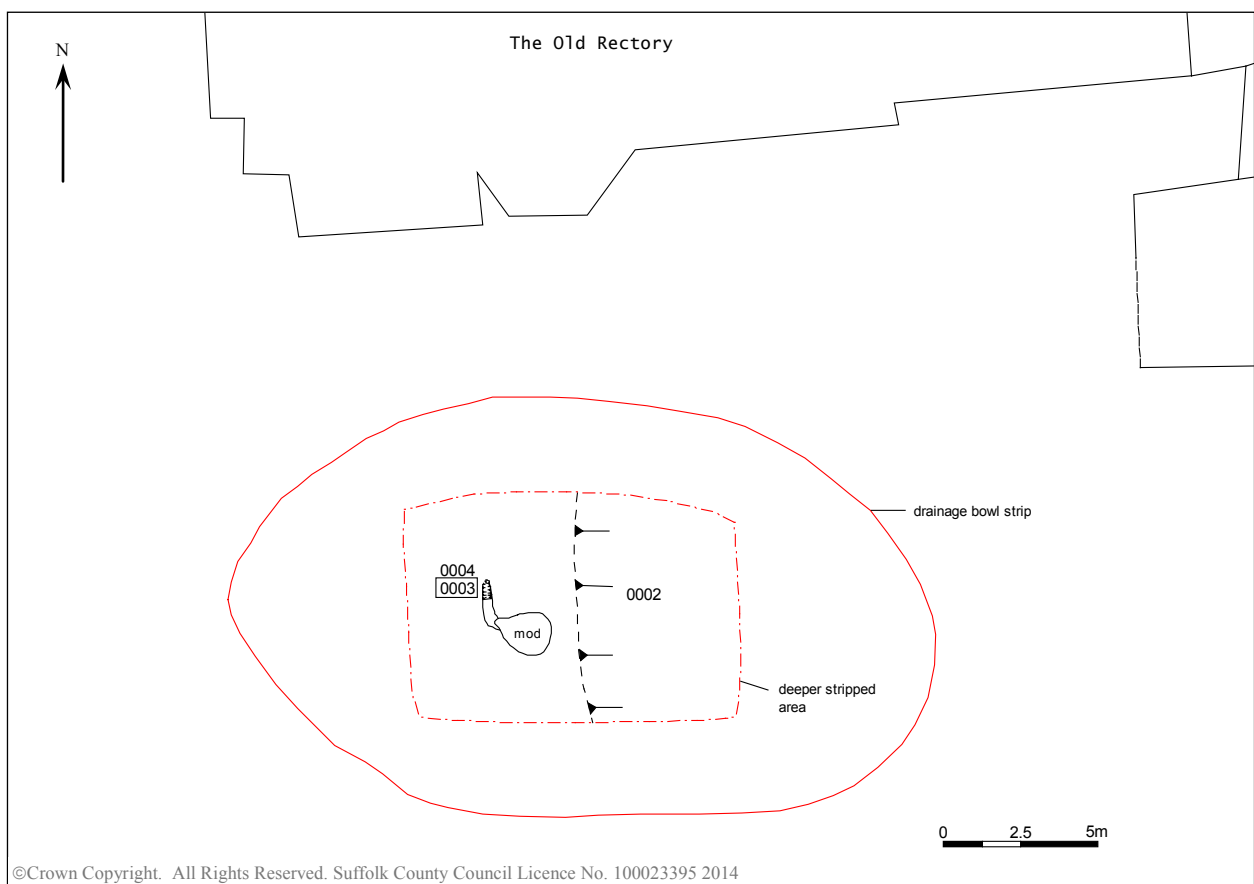


Figure 2. Location and plan of monitored area

Two fragments of medieval pottery were found in the fill of a small cut feature 0004. The largest sherd (8g) is a wheelthrown medieval coarseware (MCW) which is sooted externally. It has a fine sandy fabric. The second fragment (6g) which is also a medieval coarseware has a medium sandy fabric which is slightly micaceous. Both sherds date to c. L12th-14th century.

To the east of 0003, a homogenous layer of pale greyish brown clay sand subsoil (0002) was present, gradually sloping to a total depth of 0.55m at the eastern edge of the monitored central strip. This layer was flecked with charcoal but generally sterile, apart from a few fragments of brick and coal in the upper part of the deposit. A single fragment (3g) of Late medieval and transitional ware (LMT) dating to the 15th-16th century was recovered from the subsoil deposit 0002. It is a small, slightly abraded body sherd which has spots and dribbles of a thin lead glaze on the external surface. It was accompanied by a later post-medieval roofing tile, probably part of a pantile in a hard dark grey fabric which may have been deliberately reduced (54g).

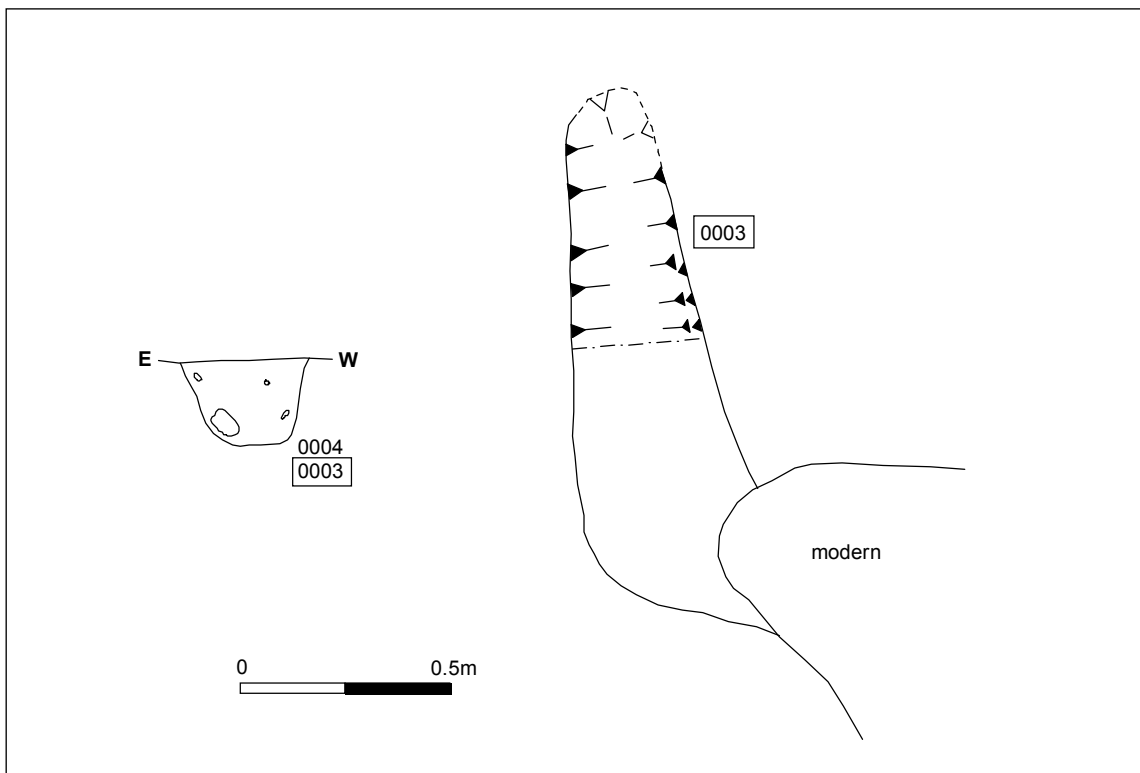


Figure 3. Plan and section of feature 0003



Plate 1. E-W section through 0003

5. Discussion

Monitoring of the groundworks for the drainage bowl revealed a low level of medieval activity. One small archaeological feature was identified, albeit of uncertain function and medieval pottery was present in a subsoil deposit. The presence of medieval activity is not surprising given the sites location next to the church and other recorded findspots. It is possible that the site has been truncated during past phases of construction or landscaping, which could have impacted on the survival of features; various modern interventions were observed cutting the natural subsoil.

Appendix 1. Brief



The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for Constant Archaeological Recording

at

THE OLD RECTORY, BARSHAM

Planning Authority:	Waveney District Council
Grid Reference:	TM 396 896
Development Proposal:	New drains and drainage bowl
This Brief Issued By:	Dr Richard Hoggett, Archaeological Officer Tel. : 01284 741226 E-mail: richard.hoggett@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	20 February 2014

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking 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 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 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.5 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.

- 1.6 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.

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This site lies within the curtilage of the Grade I Listed Old Rectory and in close proximity to the Grade I Listed parish church. As such, there is potential for any groundworks to reveal buried archaeological deposits associated with these structures.
- 2.2 The effects of any groundworks associated with the construction of pond should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring to ensure that any archaeological deposits which may be exposed are adequately recorded.

3 Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor (and subject to metal-detecting survey) 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

4 Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation 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.
- 4.3 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 other ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

5 Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 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 all documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 A 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.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.

6 Standards and Guidance

- 6.1 Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Gurney, D. and Bryant, S. (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/Regional%20Standards.pdf>
- 6.2 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. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>
- 6.3 Detailed archive requirements are to be found in *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (2010), which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/archaeology/planning-and-countryside-advice/>

7 Notes

- 7.1 The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net/ro> 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 summary

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-176841

Project details

Project name	BRS 038 The Old Rectory, Barsham
Short description of the project	Monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a drainage bowl at The Old Rectory, Barsham, was carried out in order to record any archaeological evidence present. The area had been subject to a degree of modern disturbance but one small archaeological feature was identified from which medieval pottery was recovered. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from the top of an otherwise sterile, homogenous subsoil layer, filling an apparent natural hollow up to 0.55m deep in the eastern side of the stripped area.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2014 End: 02-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRS 038 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY BARSHAM BRS 038 The Old Rectory
Study area	240.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3965 8962 52.4513083621 1.52737086303 52 27 04 N 001 31 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.00m Max: 13.00m

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	Richard Hoggett

Project director/manager Rhodri Gardner

Project supervisor Linzi Everett

Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Physical Archive ID BRS 038

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient AHDS

Digital Archive ID BRS 038

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Paper Archive ID BRS 038

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Correspondence","Photograph","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title BRS 038 The Old Rectory, Barsham

Author(s)/Editor(s) Everett, L.

Other bibliographic details 2014/47

Date 2014

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Place of issue or publication SCCAS