

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Trimley Road, Kirton KIR 056

OASIS ID: suffolkc1 – 20195

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006
(Planning app. no. C/06/1490/FUL)

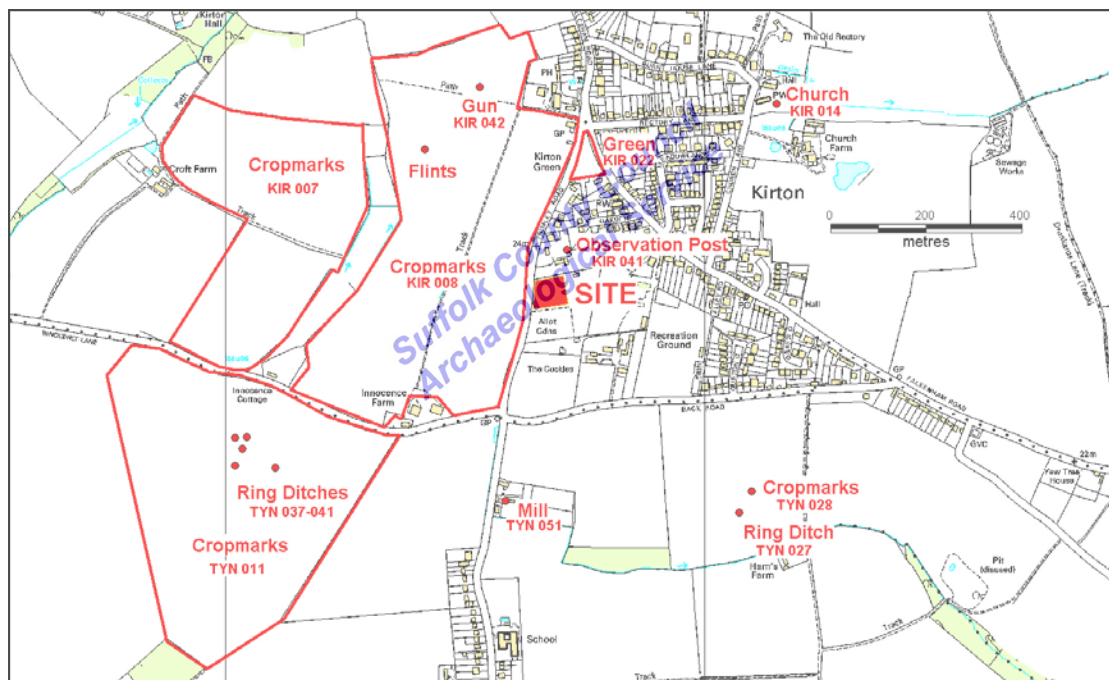


Figure 1: Location of site and surrounding areas of archaeological interest

Jezz Meredith
Field Team

Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

Summary

As part of a 5% sample of the site, 136m of trial trenches were laid out across the area. Despite its close proximity to cropmarks (indicating previous field systems) and to Second World War defensive features, no remains of archaeological interest were encountered. The site's slightly north-facing aspect and heavier clay soils probably made this area unattractive for past occupation and land-use.

SMR information

Planning application no. C/06/1490/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 6th November 2006
Grid Reference: TM 2766 3931
Funding body: Hastoe, Housing Association Ltd

Introduction

Kirton parish is situated between Ipswich and Felixstowe in the south-east corner of Suffolk. The site of the proposed development for new housing is on the south side of Kirton village, off Trimley Road (figure 1). Adjacent to allotment gardens to the south, this land is now used for grazing horses.

The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) has been advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent for new housing. An evaluation was therefore proposed to determine the archaeological potential of the area and a 5% sample by trial trenching was required (Appendix 1).

The site is across the road from an area of rectilinear cropmarks recognised from aerial photographs (KIR 008) indicating earlier field boundaries, a collection of Bronze Age (2,300 – 700 BC) worked flints have also been recovered from this area. Other evidence from aerial photos include linear cropmarks (KIR 007) to the west and another complex in the parish of Trimley Saint Martin (TYN 011) to the south-west. This latter complex was associated with ring ditches (TYN 037 – 041) probably indicating the site of prehistoric burials. An isolated ring ditch (TYN 027) and other cropmarks (TYN 028) are known to the south-east.

The medieval, and possibly Saxon, core of the village is to the north and north-east. The church of Saints Mary and Martin (KIR 014) is 650m away and is recorded in Domesday and is thus probably of Saxon origin. The medieval green (KIR 022), 250m to the north, is known from the Hodskin's map of 1783. A post-medieval post mill with roundhouse is recorded c.400m to the south (TYN 051).

Significant 20th century features are also nearby, with a 2nd World War field artillery observation post (KIR 041) situated just to the north of the site. A light anti-aircraft battery is also known to the north-west (KIR 042).

The site is situated well above the 20m contour with the highest point, the south-west corner, at c.24m OD. From here there is a very gradual slope to the north and north-east. Within the north-west corner a slight hollow c.0.5m lower than the surrounding field was situated. Allotment holders from the adjacent gardens reported that this area often flooded in the winter. A deeper silty subsoil was encountered in the trenches across this area.

The natural drift geology of this area is mixed glacial sand and clay. Although the underlying natural geological deposits had a high clay content it was nonetheless quite soft and easy to dig. Due to the considerable mixing of the natural and its soft character a number of potential features were encountered but all proved to be of natural origin and were the product of either root action or inconsistencies in the natural.

Method

Trenching was conducted using a 180° mechanical digger (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Four trenches were spaced across the site to provide a 5% sample of the area under investigation (123m linear trenches were specified, 136m were dug).

Trenches were positioned to cover as much of the site as possible, with two long trenches running north to south (trenches 1 and 2) and two shorter ones running east to west (trenches 3 and 4). The position of the trenches is shown in figure 2.

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed separately by the digger to reveal natural deposits of clay sand. Potential features of archaeological interest were observable at this level.

The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds. All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated but all proved to be of natural origin.

A metal detector survey was conducted by Robert Atfield of the SCCAS Field Team. The base of the trenches and spoil heaps were detected.

Records were made of the position, length and depth of trenches. Observations were made of the depth of topsoil and other deposits encountered.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Ipswich. The site code KIR 056 will be used to identify all elements of the archive associated with this project.

Results

No features or finds of archaeological interest were revealed. Potential features sampled proved to be either root-holes or changes in the underlying natural. The locations of trenches are shown in figure 2.

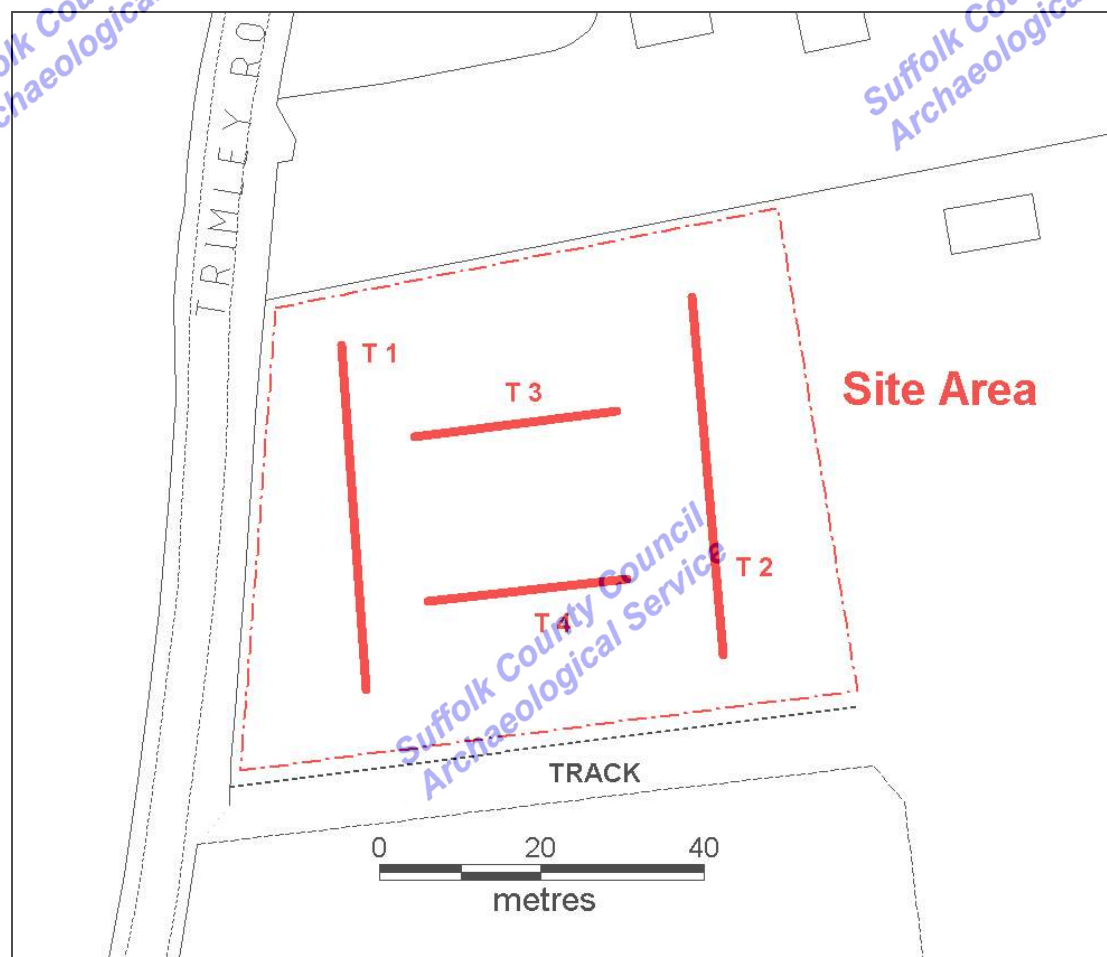


Figure 2: Trench plan

Trench 1

This trench was orientated north-south, parallel with the western boundary of the site and was 42.5m in length. The topsoil (0002) was dark brown humic clay loam of 250mm depth. This was over a mid to pale orange brown clay sand subsoil (0003) which was 100mm depth at the southern end but became increasingly deeper towards the north – as it extended into a slight hollow or dip – becoming 250mm thick. Under this was a natural deposit of orange and grey sand and clay sand with frequent pockets of grey clay.

No features of archaeological significance were observed. Natural features were tested but these proved to be either variations in the natural or due to root disturbance.

Trench 2

This trench was orientated north-south, parallel with the eastern boundary of the site and was 44m in length. The topsoil (0004) was 250mm thick, no subsoil was

recognised but a further 250mm of weathered, dirty natural (0005) was removed by the digger to check for features. The natural was slightly more clay than that encountered in Trench 1.

A small fragment of fire-cracked flint was recovered from topsoil (0004). This item was not kept.

No features of archaeological significance were observed. Natural features were tested but these proved to be due to root disturbance.

Trench 3

This trench, aligned east-west, was parallel with the northern edge of the site and was 25m in length. Topsoil (0006) of 250mm thickness was over a layer of weathered natural (0007) also of 250mm thickness.

No features of archaeological significance were observed. Natural features were tested but these proved to be variations in the natural.

Trench 4

This trench, aligned east-west, was parallel to the southern edge of the site and was 24.5m in length. Topsoil (0008) was of 250mm thickness and was over a layer of weathered natural (0009) of 200 - 250mm depth.

No features of archaeological significance were observed.

Finds

A thin scatter of 19th and 20th century artefacts, mainly white earthenware pottery sherds and small metal items, were observed within the topsoil. Probably introduced during manuring or casual loss, none of these items were kept.

A small fragment of fire-cracked flint, c.15mm in length was recovered from topsoil 0004 in Trench 2. This item was not kept.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No archaeological features were encountered, a small number of possible features proved to be of natural origin.

Small scatters of 19th and 20th century finds within the topsoil are probably due to manuring during this period. Fire-cracked flint is often an indication of Bronze Age activity but without any other evidence for prehistoric use on the site, the small fragment recovered from the topsoil is not thought to be significant.

The site's slightly north-facing aspect and heavier clay soils probably made this area unattractive for past occupation and land-use. Gardeners from the adjacent allotments said that the ground for the site tended to become waterlogged in the winter and was poor pasture for the horses that now graze it.

In view of the absence of evidence for past activity it is recommended that no further archaeological work be undertaken on this site.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Trenched Evaluation

PART OF LAND SOUTH OF THE MALTINGS, TRIMLEY ROAD, KIRTON

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.7.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (C/06/1490/FUL) has been made for the erection of housing (four flats and eight houses) with new access road on Part of Land South of The Maltings, Trimley Road, Kirton (TM 2768 3931).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). A trenched evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of a programme of archaeological mitigation; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon this stage of the work.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. There is a large archaeological cropmark complex (KIR 008) immediately to the west that is indicative of further occupation deposits in the immediate vicinity. This proposal will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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* and will be used 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.

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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- 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, which is c. 222m² of the total application site that measures 0.444ha (Figure 1). Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of c. 123m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. The detailed 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 with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket. 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 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 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.
- 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. 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. The archaeological contractor will give not less than ten days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 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.
- 6.4 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, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.
- 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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

Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov
.uk

Date: 19 October 2006
Kirton2006

Reference: / LandSouthofMaltings-

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.

Archaeological contractors are strongly advised to forward a detailed Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council for approval before any proposals are submitted to potential clients.

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.