

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Thompson and Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Sproughton. SPT 033

OASIS ID: suffolkc1 – 22595

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. B/06/01425/FUL)

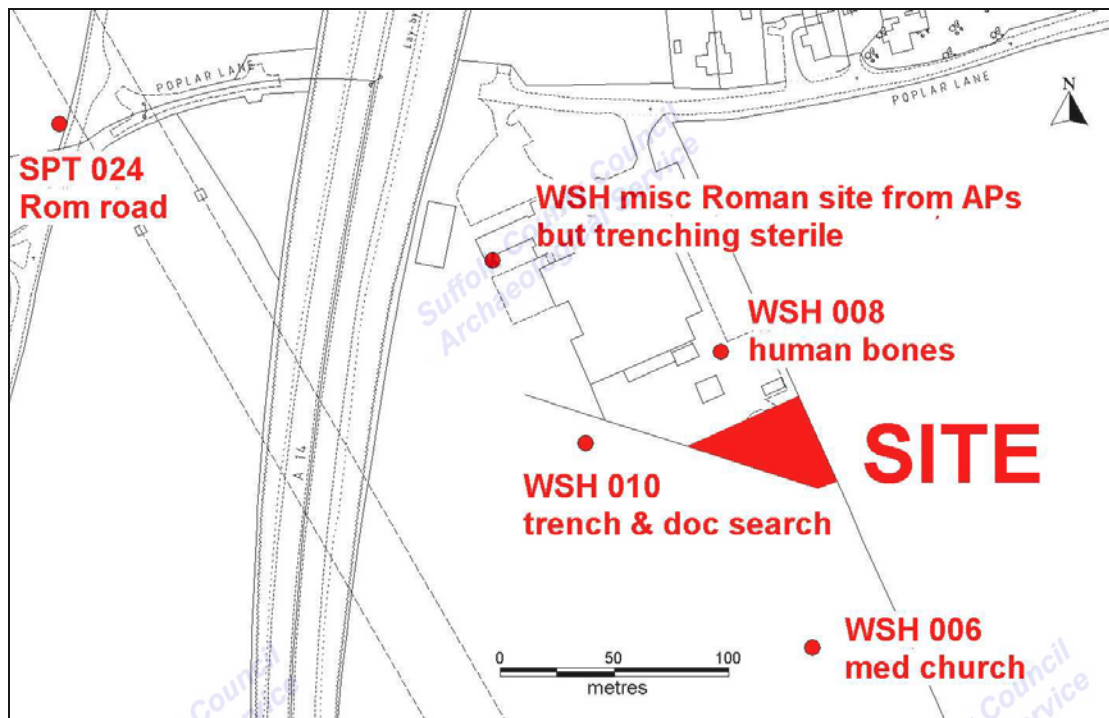


Figure 1: Location of site with surrounding areas of archaeological interest

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Field Team

Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Summary

The site under investigation is close to a findspot of disarticulated human bone. A possible chapel or church once stood in the vicinity (Felchurch), possibly to the south of the site although other locations have been suggested. A Roman road runs to the west and remains of this period in the area are likely.

The site was very restricted for excavation by a large dump of concrete, numerous service trenches and trees. Two trenches were positioned around these obstacles and a single undated ditch, probably of some considerable age, was encountered running approximately north to south through the site. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered from this feature or from the overlying soils.

SMR information

Planning application no. B/06/01425/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 5th January 2007
Grid Reference: TM 1256 4303
Funding body: Thompson and Morgan Group Ltd, Poplar Lane, Sproughton, IP8 3BU

Introduction

The Planning Authority (Babergh 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 a car parking area. 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 premises for Thompson and Morgan Ltd are located on Poplar Lane, formally of Washbrook parish but now belonging to Sproughton. The warehouse and offices are positioned towards the south-east of Ipswich, near to the Copdock interchange between the A12 and A14. The site under investigation is a triangular portion of land, c.50m by 40m, situated at the extreme southern end of the complex and is an area where broken concrete has been piled and stored.

The site is close to a known Roman road to the west (Swan Hill, SPT 024) and the Thompson and Morgan offices were thought to be built over a possible Roman complex of buildings recognised from aerial photographs (WSH misc). Subsequent archaeological trenching however proved to be sterile.

Disarticulated human bone has been reported from a service pipe trench (WSH 008) located nearby to the site under investigation. An area to the west of the site was archaeologically evaluated in 1995, revealing a single, undated pit (WSH 010, Boulter 1995).

The documentary report associated with the 1995 report (by J.M. Ridgard) discusses the likely location of an abandoned church or chapel (WSH 006). Shown on figure 1

c.70m due south of the study area, it could alternatively have been located to the west and could have been a wayside chapel associated with the road. Field name evidence suggests however that it occupied a position further to the east in two fields named 'The Chapel' and 'next the Chapel and Chapel Yard', the latter being a field of over 4 acres and therefore likely to have been a church with a substantial cemetery. The name of the associated hamlet was Felchurch or Velchurch, possibly derived from Vielle church: the old church and could have been the original Washbrook church referred to in Domesday.

It is not known whether the disarticulated human bone found at WSH 008 was associated with the church cemetery or was burial of a different period.

The site is located on a very slightly south facing slope just above the 40m contour. The land rises very gradually towards Poplar Lane to the north. The natural drift geology of this area is mixed glacial orange brown sandy clay with frequent pockets of sand and sandy gravel.

Method

Trenching was conducted using a 180° mechanical digger (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Two trenches were positioned along the northern and eastern edges of the site to avoid services, trees and the large pile of dumped concrete (see figure 2). A 5% sample of the area was required as a planning condition (see Appendix 1, 33m linear trenches were specified, 37m were dug).

All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. Overlying dumped material, topsoil and subsoil were removed by the digger to reveal natural deposits of sandy clay. 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.

The single archaeological feature encountered was planned at 1:50 and drawn in section at 1:20.

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 SPT 033 will be used to identify all elements of the archive associated with this project.

Results

The locations of trenches are shown in figure 2. The only archaeological feature encountered was the undated, north-north-east to south-south-west ditch [0005] (see figure 3 below).

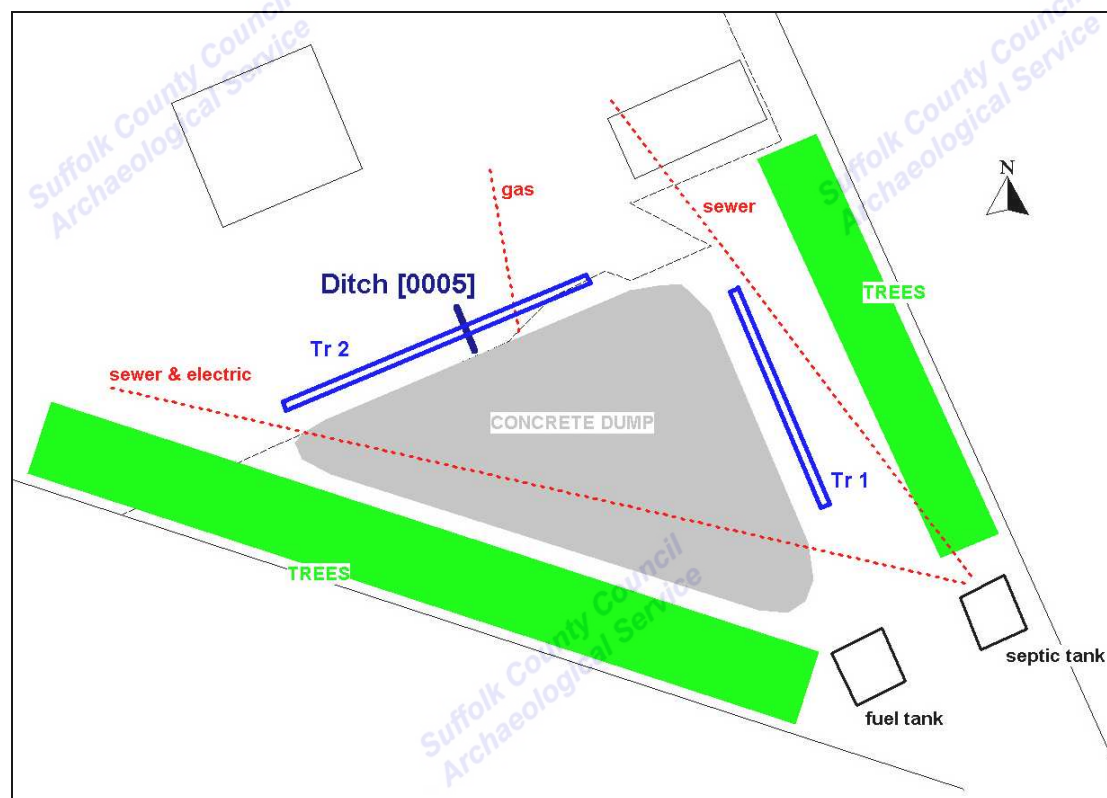


Figure 2: Trench plan, showing the position of ditch [0005], services and other obstructions on site.

The lengths and depths of trenches are recorded in table 1. In both trenches the top 150mm consisted of recently laid surfaces (0002). In Trench 1 this consisted of hardcore laid for a trackway and in Trench 2 fine shingle has been deposited as a carpark surface. Under this, dark, humic, clay-loam topsoil (0003) was between 500mm (Trench 1) and 100mm (Trench 2) in depth. In Trench 2 some of the topsoil had been removed and that remaining was very compacted. The mid brown sandy clay subsoil (0004) varied between 300mm and 350mm thickness (Trenches 1 and 2 respectively). The natural underlying deposits consisted of mixed orange-brown sandy clay with sandier and sandy gravel pockets.

Trench no.	Length	Depth (max)	Surfaces (0002)	Topsoil (0003)	Subsoil (0004)
1	15.5m	800mm	150mm	500mm	300mm
2	21.5m	700mm	150mm	100mm	350mm

Table 1: Trench lengths and depths, with thickness of modern surfaces, topsoil and subsoil.

Ditch [0005] was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, was straight sided and had a steep V-profile with convex sides. It had a width of 1.5m and a depth of 650mm. The upper fill 0006 was mid orange brown sandy clay with moderate small stone. This blended with a slightly darker and damper fill below, 0007, which was mid to dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small stone and charcoal flecks. No artefacts or finds were found in either of these fills.

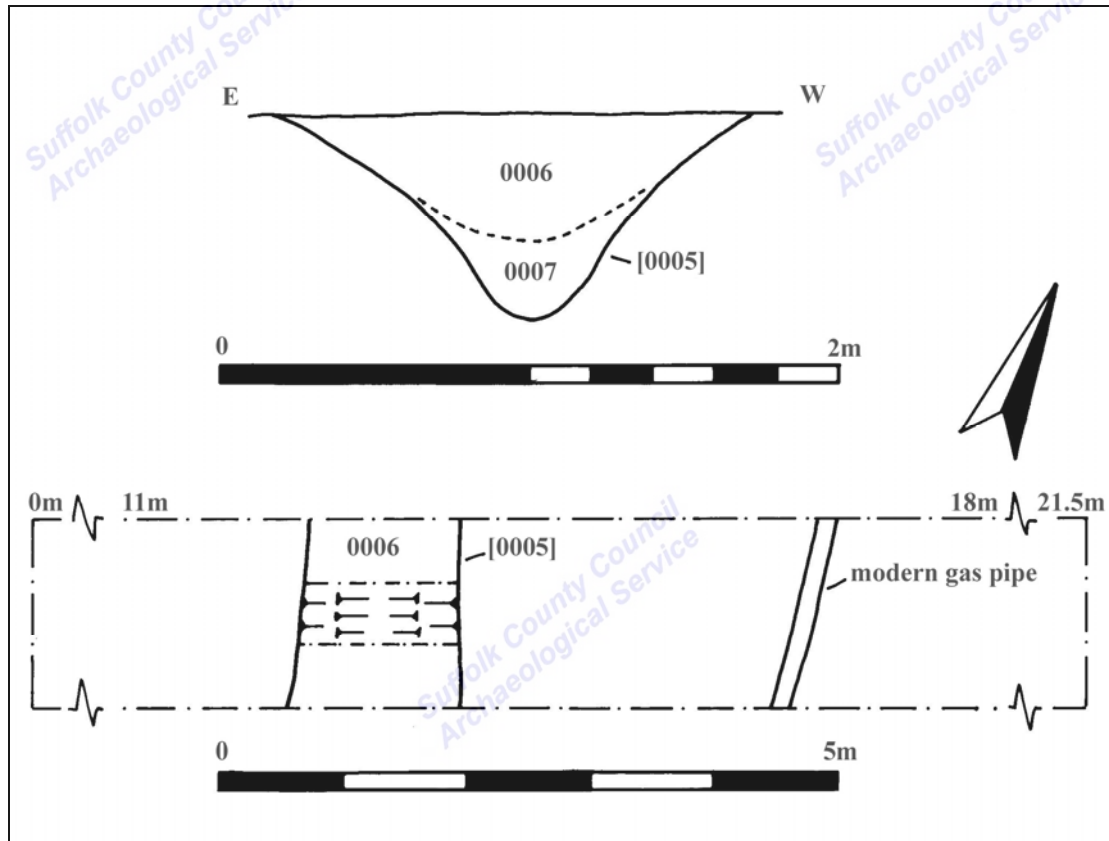


Figure 3: Plan and section of ditch [0005]

Conclusions and Recommendations

The evaluation has revealed a single undated ditch. With its paler and well consolidated fill it is likely to be of some age and is on a different alignment from the early 19th century fields (Boulter 1995). No finds or other cultural material were recovered from the fills of this ditch and the very small amount of charcoal suggests some distance from any past settlement.

With the discovery of this feature (coupled with the difficulties encountered trenching much of the site) it is recommended that archaeological monitoring visits be made during the reduction of this area for a car park.

References

Boulter, S., 1995. *An Archaeological Evaluation Report: Thompson & Morgan, Washbrook (WSH 010)*. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service unpublished report no: 95/54; Ipswich, Suffolk.

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

THOMPSON & MORGAN GROUP LTD, POPLAR LANE, SPROUGHTON, IP8 3BU

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent (application B/06/01425/FUL) has been granted for the construction of car parking area on land at Thompson & Morgan Group Ltd, Poplar Lane, Sproughton IP8 3BU (TM 1257 4302), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority (Babergh 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, indicative of both settlement and burial deposits within the immediate area (WSH 008 and WSH 010). There is high potential for encountering medieval and earlier occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would 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 60m² of the total area for evaluation that measures c. 1200m² (see accompanying plan). These 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; this will result in a minimum of c. 33m of trenching at 1.8m in width. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Project Design and 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

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Date: 14 November 2006

Reference: / PoplarLane-Sproughton2006

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.