

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Adjacent The Old Forge, St James Street, Dunwich DUN 091

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
(Planning app. no. C/06/1622/RES)



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© April 2004

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Robert Atfield	Project Officer
Richenda Goffin	Finds Manager
John Newman	Project Manager
Keith Wade	Conservation Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Define Data Ltd. and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division). The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Finds processing and the specialist finds report was carried out by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land adjacent to The Old Forge, St James Street, Dunwich as a condition of planning application C/06/1622/RES. The site lies within an area of archaeological interest in relation to the medieval town of Dunwich.. The present development is located on a steep slope, which required terracing to allow for the construction of a new house and to provide vehicular access. The building known as The Old Forge, had itself previously been monitored in 2006 (Good, 2006). A large single sherd of red earthenware pottery dating from the 16th-18th century was found in an unstratified context on that occasion and similar large fragments were found during the present monitoring in the area which lies immediately adjacent. Earlier pottery fragments were also found and include Medieval coarseware and Rhenish Siegburg stoneware, however all were from unstratified contexts. No archaeological features were located as a result of the monitoring visits.

SMR information

Planning application no.	C/06/1622/RES
Date of fieldwork:	08-12-2006, 10-01-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 4764 7058
Oasis Ref.	Suffolkc1-26254
SMR Code No.	DUN 091
Funding body:	Define Data Ltd.

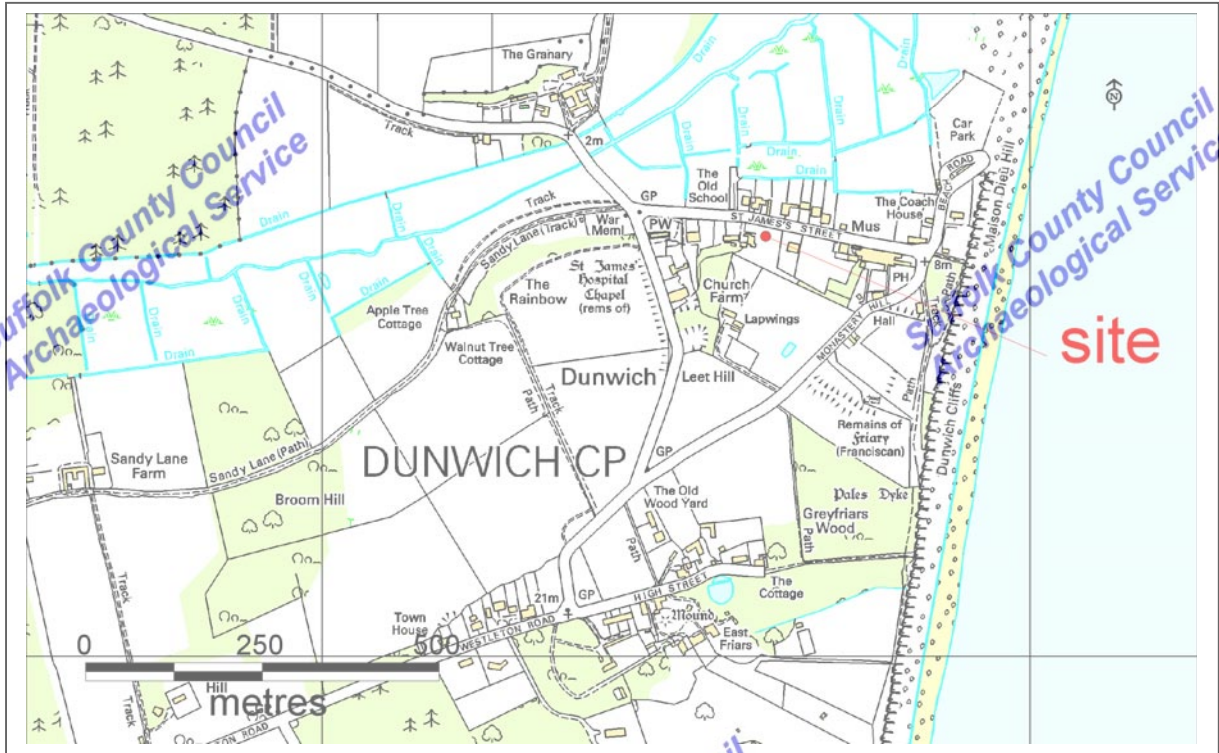


Figure 1. Site location

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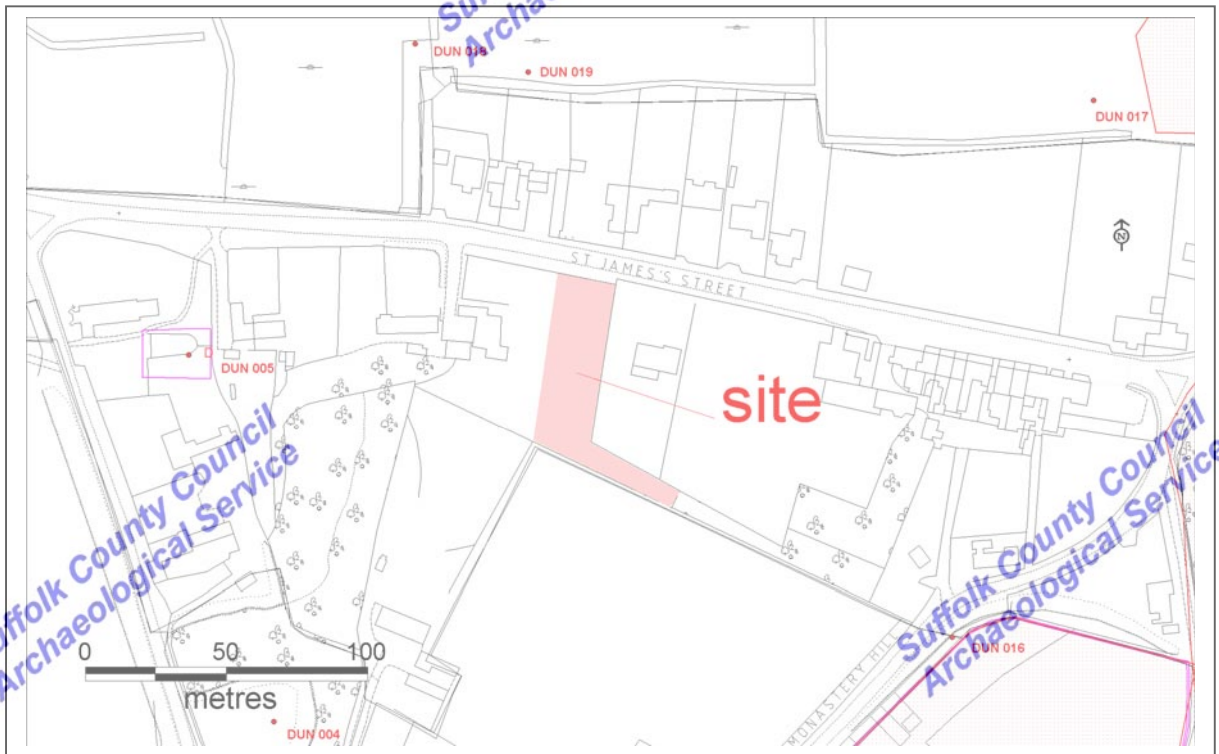


Figure 2. Site location within the context of The Sites and Monuments Record

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land adjacent to The Old Forge, St James Street, Dunwich (TM 4764 7058) as a condition of planning application C/06/1622/RES. The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Keith Wade (Wade, 2006) (see Appendix 1). Two site visits were carried out, the first, on the 8th of December 2006, was to monitor ground reduction for the access provision; while the second on the 10th January 2007, recorded the area where the new dwelling is to be constructed. The site is located on a steep north facing slope between the 5m and 10m O.D. contours, facing marshland which lies beyond St James's Street. Although St James's Street is extra-mural to the medieval town, pottery scatters dating to this period have been recorded to the north of the street (DUN 018 & DUN 019) and it is likely that, as at present, both sides were occupied during the medieval period (see Figure 2.). At the western end of St James's Street lies the remains of the Norman Leper Chapel of St James Hospital (DUN 005) (in the churchyard of the present Victorian church of St James). The leper hospital was built outside the town in c.1150 on the lower slopes of Leet Hill; seventeenth century accounts indicate that by 1631 most of the buildings had become ruinous (Birch, 2004:110). The Old Forge itself is thought to date to the early 1800s and during the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the first editions of the Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the area adjacent to The Old Forge formed part of an area of allotment gardens.

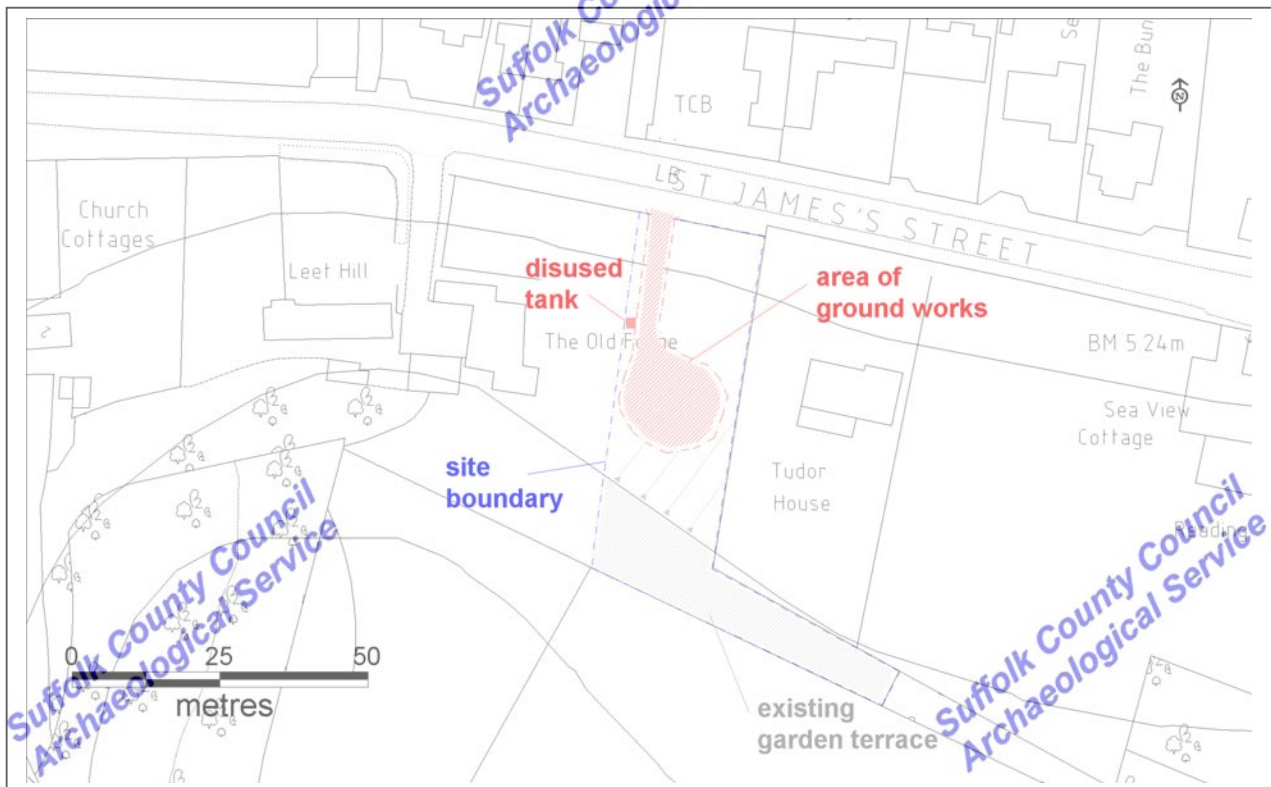


Figure 3. Site features and areas of ground works

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Methodology

The details of all ground works were recorded onto a measured sketch plan, which was prepared on site. The extent of the area of ground reduction, features, approximate levels and soil profiles were plotted and described. Digital photographs were also taken of all aspects of the site including the faces of exposed sections. A thorough search was also made of the upcast and disturbed soil with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological material. Excavation was carried out using a tracked mechanical 360° mini-digger fitted with a 0.50m toothless bucket.

Excavation of the site began at the north end, adjacent to St James's Street and progressed into the hillside to the south. The spoil from the excavation was regularly removed from the site due to the restricted available space. Conditions were generally good in terms of visibility, although rainfall had been considerable, the site was relatively free draining.

Results

The areas of ground works are detailed in Figure 3., which also gives some indication of the site contours. At the southern site limit, it is estimated that the site boundary has a height of around 13m O.D.; this level reduces by around 6m across an area of wooded terraced garden down to the building formation level. Beyond this, the access drive gradually descends towards St. James's Street, which is well below the 5m. O.D. contour. Soil profiles were clearly revealed as a result of the extensive ground reduction, with edge of site sections reaching a depth of up to 1.60m at the south end of the site. The topsoil was of dark brown loamy sand (garden soil), which contained few stones and only occasional fragments of ceramic building material. This deposit was not compacted and varied considerably in terms of depth, in the central area of the site it reached a depth of around 0.80m before decreasing to around 0.60m at the southern limit of the excavation; near to the road the deposit was 0.50m deep. The subsoil was of pale brown sand with occasional small pebbles and also proportionately varied in depth in similar areas to that of the topsoil. At the base of the hillside, adjacent to the road, the subsoil reduced to a depth of around 0.30m; in the central area a depth of 0.60m was recorded; while up-slope at the northern edge of the site the depth dropped to 0.25m. Natural sand deposits were revealed over the entire area of ground reduction and consisted of pale yellow and orange banded sands, with irregular dark orange veins or seams. No archaeological features were revealed during the monitoring, but some modern disturbance was noted, including a pit containing a disused septic tank at the western edge of the site. All of the finds were collected from the topsoil deposits, mainly from the south-western area; this area also contained quantities of modern building debris including rusted metal objects such as discarded paint tins.

The finds

Richenda Goffin.

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single unstratified context, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0001	9	2910	Unstrat, med and post-medieval
Total	9	2910	

Pottery

A total of nine fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the monitoring. The ceramics came from a deposit of garden topsoil and were unstratified. A single fragment of Medieval coarseware (L12th-14th C) and an abraded fragment of a Siegburg stoneware drinking vessel were identified, (14th-15th C). An abraded sherd of a late medieval/early post-medieval jug of LMT-type with a strap handle dates to the 15th-16th century.

The remainder of the pottery is post-medieval and consists of two Glazed Red earthenware vessels dating from the 16th-18th century. In addition to a small bowl fragment, a large cylindrical vessel with a flat base was identified, with a base diameter of 320mm, and an overall height of at least 230mm. The vessel is partially oxidised with an olive glaze covering most of the exterior. A circular iron-stained 'scar' has made a mark on the exterior, and has still left a residue, which is partially magnetic. The inside of the vessel is also lead glazed, but is clearly very worn, with a wear pattern which suggests that the contents may have been repeatedly stirred or held against the side of the pot in a circular motion. As there is no rim or other features to indicate the precise form, it is only possible to say that it is a bucket-shaped vessel, which has clearly been much used.

Discussion

The small quantity of medieval pottery redeposited into the garden soil reflects the location of the site in an area of the town which, although believed to be beyond the town wall, was still close to the centre of the medieval settlement. The fragment of Rhenish Siegburg stoneware is an indication of the status of Dunwich as an important port during this period, which traded with merchants from the Rhineland.

The Glazed red earthenware vessel is also of interest, although it cannot be fully identified. The size and wear pattern suggests that it may have been used as an industrial or semi-industrial container. It is even possible that it may date to the period when the site was used as a smithy during the early years of the nineteenth century.

Summary and Conclusion

The area of ground exposed as a result of this development is relatively small, it is therefore not possible to draw firm conclusions in relation to the very limited evidence. The finds do however add to the record of other nearby pottery discoveries and this may suggest that this location was not entirely peripheral to the main area of medieval settlement. The exceptional depths of topsoil are also of note and perhaps indicate intensive cultivation over a very extended period of time.

References

Birch, M., 2004 *Suffolk's Ancient Sites and Historic Places*, Castell Publishing, Mendlesham, Suffolk.

Good, C., 2006 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: The Old Forge, St James's Street, Dunwich' SCCAS Report No. 2006/209, (DUN 091), Oasis ID No. suffolke1-19196.

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Appendix 1.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Enhanced Archaeological Monitoring

ADJACENT THE OLD FORGE, ST JAMES STREET, DUNWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect one dwelling on part of the side garden of The Old Forge, St James Street, Dunwich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/06/1622/RES). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed ground disturbance indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by enhanced archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for Dunwich medieval town in the County Sites and Monuments Record, and will involve extensive ground disturbance.
- 1.3 St James Street is extra-mural to the medieval town but terminates at the Norman Leper Chapel of St James Hospital (in the churchyard of the Victorian St James Church). Medieval pottery scatters are recorded north of St James Street and it is likely that both sides of the street were occupied at that period.
- 1.4 The site is on a steep slope which will require terracing for the new house and a new vehicular access will cut into the bank alongside the street.
- 1.5 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.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be 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 occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation for the access driveways and to establish terraces on which to build the house and garage.

2.4 All groundworks should be implemented in two stages:

- Phase 1:* (a) Topsoil stripped under archaeological supervision and any archaeological deposits assessed.
(b) Archaeological deposits excavated (if present).

Phase 2: Ground reduction continues to formation levels.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works and any necessary excavation 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 timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 The footprints of the proposed house and garage and access drives will be stripped of topsoil under supervision of the archaeological contractor. It is assumed that low density archaeological features revealed can be excavated as stripping continues. (If dense or complex archaeological deposits are present see 3.4).
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

4.7 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 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.

4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

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. 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.

5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.6 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.

- 5.7 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: Keith Wade

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

Date: 30 October 2006

Reference: /Adjacent Old Forge

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.

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