

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

---

## Land adjacent to Leahigh, Church Lane, Barnham

### BNH 064

Planning App. No SE/06/2025

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-35340

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007

Robert Atfield  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© December 2007

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

---

SCCAS Report No. 2007/224

## SMR information

---

Planning application SE/06/2025  
County Historic Environment Record BNH 064  
Date of fieldwork: 06-03-2007 and 12-03-2007  
Grid Reference: TL 8706 7923  
Funding body: Mr. P.R. Plummer  
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-35340

## Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land adjacent to Leahigh, Church Lane, Barnham as a condition of planning consent. The site lies immediately to the north of the existing dwelling (Leahigh), in an area of likely medieval settlement, opposite St. Gregory's Church (BNH 046). However, the footing trenches for the new dwelling were relatively shallow and did not reach sufficient depths to reveal any natural deposits or therefore, discernible archaeological features. On the second visit to the site, it was possible to record much deeper soil profiles where ground reduction for the entrance was taking place. The topsoil was found to be exceptionally deep, measuring around 0.80m and likely to represent either extensive progressive occupation build up, or made up ground. The lack of archaeological features or finds suggests that the latter possibility is the most likely.*

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## Contents

---

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Methodology

3.0 Results

4.0 Conclusions

5.0 Acknowledgements

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

## List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Site in the context of The County Historic Environment Record

Fig. 3 First Edition of The Ordnance Survey Map (c.1880s)

Fig. 4 Plan of areas of ground disturbance

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## 1. 0 Introduction

The site lies between the 20m and 25m contours on a gentle slope descending northwards into the river valley of the Little Ouse. Immediately to the east is Church Lane, a narrow sunken route leading north from The Street. St. Gregory's Church and graveyard lies at a similar height to Leahigh on the opposite side of Church Lane. The size and structure of the village appears to have changed very little in recent centuries. Considerable numbers of ancient listed buildings survive in the present village, suggesting that much of the medieval street layout is largely preserved. At one time Barnham comprised of twin villages with two medieval churches; the remains of St. Martin's lie on the north-west edge of the present village (see Figures 1 to 4). Stray ecclesiastical artefacts have also been recorded from other areas of the village. An alabaster head of St John The Baptist dating to around 1420 (BNH 031) and two fragments of stone coffin covers of thirteenth century date (BNH Misc.), were both found within one hundred metres to the north of Leahigh (see Figure 2.). Earlier finds within the immediate village include a Saxon brooch (BNH 056) and a large Saxon cooking pot (BNH 001); numerous prehistoric sites are also recorded in the immediate area surrounding the village.

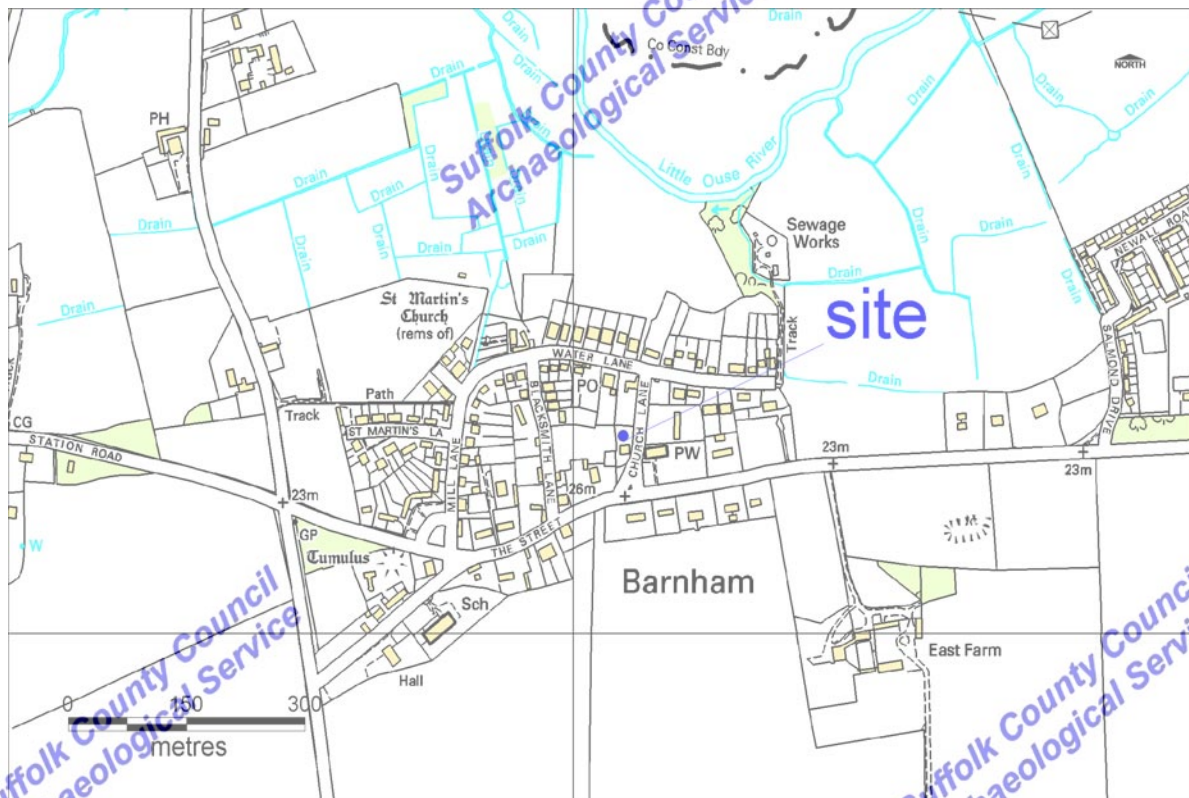


Figure 1. Site location

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

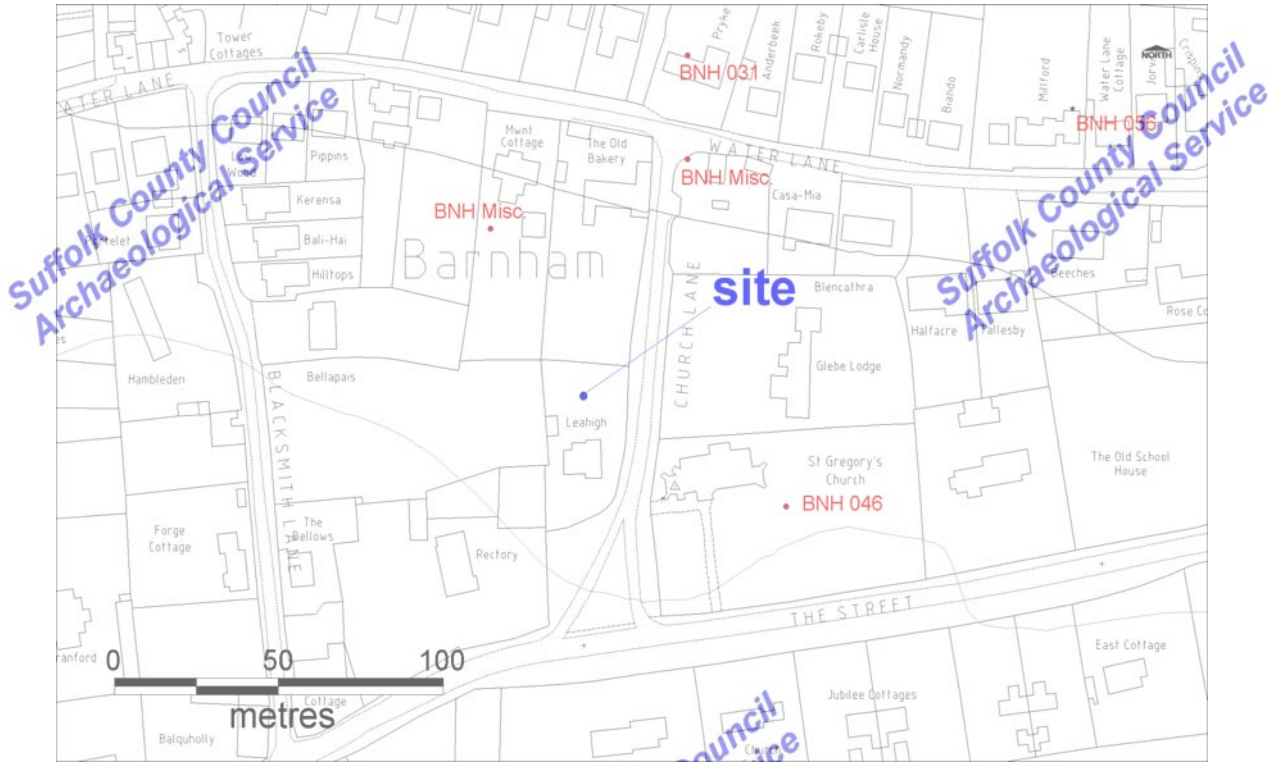


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record  
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

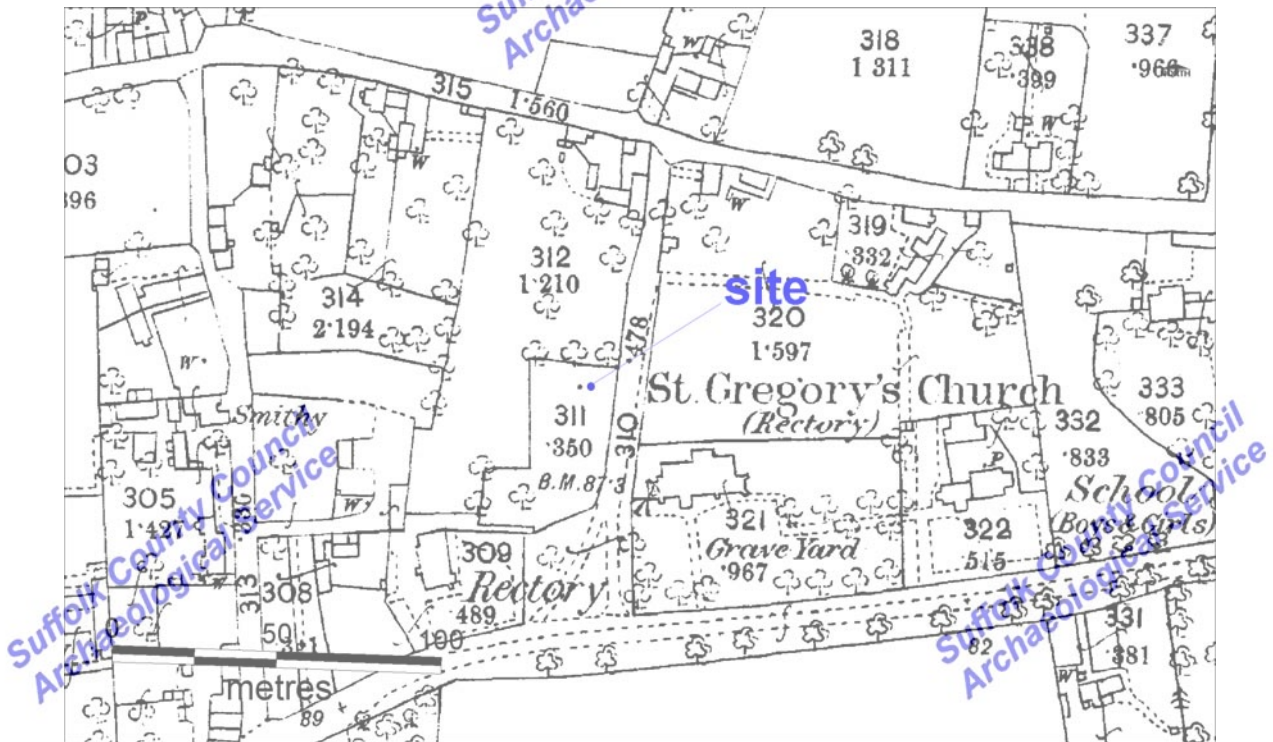


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS  
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

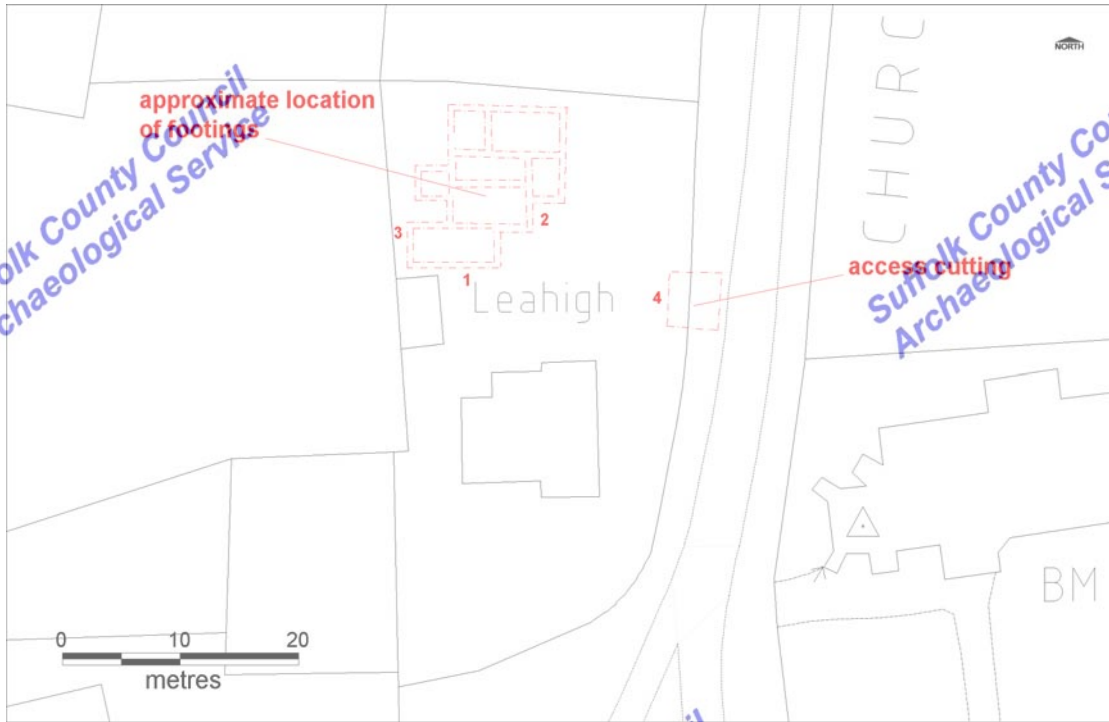


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

## 2.0 Methodology

Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team produced the brief and specification for the archaeological monitoring (see Appendix 1.). The site was visited on two occasions, in order to examine all phases of ground disturbance. This included minor site levelling, footings and ground reduction for the access drive. The ground-works were mainly carried out using a back-acting wheeled mechanical digger, fitted with toothless buckets. Details of all ground disturbances were recorded onto measured sketch plans, which were prepared on site. The extent of the areas of ground disturbance, features, approximate levels and soil profiles were plotted and described. Exposed sections were hand cleaned, examined and recorded at four locations within the site (numbered 1 to 4) (see Figure 4.) 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 artefactual material. Dry and bright conditions on the site allowed good levels of visibility.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-35340).

### 3.0 Results

The footing trenches for the new house covered an extensive area within the northwest corner of the site. The trenches measured 0.60m wide, with depths of between 0.50 to 0.60m. A deep, homogeneous deposit was revealed across the entire area of ground disturbance, consisting of mid-brown loamy silty sand with very few inclusions other than occasional small pebbles and flint of between 10-40mm. The only slight variation in the character of this deposit occurred at the western edge of the footing trench configuration (Location 3) (see Figure 4), where an undulating sandy layer was present near the surface. A recently removed dog kennel had been situated at this location and orange sand had been used as a levelling base for the structure. Although the general deposit was remarkably clean in terms of inclusions, slight variations were observed in the frequency of charcoal flecks, ceramic building material and bone. However, the occasional fragments of accompanying datable material, such as modern domestic ceramics, clay pipe stems and glass suggest that these levels were formed at relatively recent dates.

During the second visit to the site, an area to the east had been excavated to a depth of up to 1.50m in order to provide an access point for the new development from Church Lane. The deep mid-brown loamy silty sand layer recorded in the western area also extended to this part of the site. This deposit was found to have a depth of 0.80m at Location 4 (see Figure 4), but again displayed no visible signs of intrinsic stratification or features. Below this deposit was a layer of mottled pale yellow-brown sand around 0.50m deep and finally a mixed pale brown coarse sand with patches of chalk and gravel, the extent of which was not reached. Both of the lower deposits appeared to be natural geological layers.

### 4.0 Conclusions

The character of the deposits across the site are unusual, the very considerable depth of the 'topsoil' is not typical of rural locations which occupy relatively elevated locations and the very infrequent inclusions within this deep deposit give little indication of any medieval occupation. The character of the deep homogeneous upper deposit suggests that large quantities of soil have been imported or moved to this part of the site, perhaps quite recently, as levelling, prior to the construction of Leahigh. The loamy and developed qualities of this deposit, coupled with the lack of occupation debris, suggest it may have been former agricultural soil. This is supported by evidence from the early edition of the Ordnance Survey map (see Figure 3.) on which the site appears to consist of a small agricultural field of around a third of an acre. This area of land may have performed a similar role during the medieval period and may never have been densely built upon. However, because the majority of the trenches failed to reach depths which would allow archaeology to be revealed it is not possible to discount the potential of a site which may contain unseen features at deeper levels.

## 5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mr P.R. Plummer and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

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.



## 6.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

*Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

LAND ADJACENT TO LEA HIGH, CHURCH LANE, BARNHAM IP24 2NB

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a **general building contractor** and may have financial implications.*

#### 1. Background

1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a dwelling and garage with vehicular access on land adjacent to Lea High, Church Lane, Barnham (TL 8706 7923), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/06/2025). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 This proposal lies within an area of medieval settlement, opposite the church and churchyard recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (BNH 046). There is high potential for encountering medieval settlement deposits at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.3 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.

1.4 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

## 2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are 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 groundworks associated with the construction of the dwelling and garage and also any topsoil stripping and landscaping associated with the access. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

## 3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.

3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works 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 time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### 4. **Specification**

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.4 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.5 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.

4.6 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).

4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 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. 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.

5.3 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

5.5 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.

5.6 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  
E-mail:  
jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 21 November 2006

Reference: /LeaHigh-Barnham2006

**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.**

**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.**