

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Stanley House, Alderton, Suffolk ADT 068

Planning App. No C/06/1832/FUL
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-35488

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007



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HER information

Planning application C/06/1832/FUL
County Historic Environment Record ADT 068
Date of fieldwork: 14-05-2007 and 15-05-2007
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Oasis reference Suffolkc1-35488

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Stanley House, Alderton as a condition of planning consent for a rear extension and boundary wall. The site is adjacent to an area where archaeological finds of Roman, Saxon and medieval date were located during previous monitoring (ADT 065; SCCAS Report No. 2005/135) (Everett, 2005). In August 2005 a small area of development 13.50m SSW of the extension to Stanley house revealed a layer of subsoil, rich in pottery fragments, from wide ranging periods. The assemblage consisted of mostly locally made medieval wares, but also included a few sherds of Roman and Middle Saxon pottery. However, no archaeological features were located which may be associated with the pottery.

The latest monitoring was carried out during two visits in May 2007, when an area of ground reduction covering the footprint of the new extension was examined. During the second visit, the footing trenches and underground service routes were also recorded. The monitoring failed to reveal any additional archaeological finds material or features. A very thorough search was also made of all upcast soils from the ground works, but only later post medieval items were retrieved. The material was mostly of nineteenth and twentieth century date and not retained for further analysis.

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1. 0 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Stanley House, Alderton as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a rear extension and boundary wall. The site is adjacent to an area where archaeological finds of Roman, Saxon and medieval date had been located during previous monitoring (ADT 065; SCCAS Report No. 2005/135) (Everett, 2005). In August 2005 a small area of development 13.50m SSW of the extension to Stanley house (see Figure 4.) revealed a layer of subsoil rich in pottery fragments from wide ranging periods. The assemblage consisted of mostly locally made medieval wares, but also included a few sherds of Roman and Middle Saxon pottery. However, no archaeological features were located which may be associated with the pottery. A number of locations have produced scatters of similar finds around the village of Alderton, especially to the west of Stanley House near to the church and the medieval manor site of Alderton Hall (see Figure 2). A wide time-span of ceramic periods is a distinctive characteristic of the archaeological record of the village, typically with combinations of Roman, Saxon and medieval material (for example ADT 011, ADT 024, ADT 041 and ADT 065). However, prehistoric artefactual material and features are also recorded on the outskirts of the present village (ADT 014, ADT 016 and ADT Misc.).

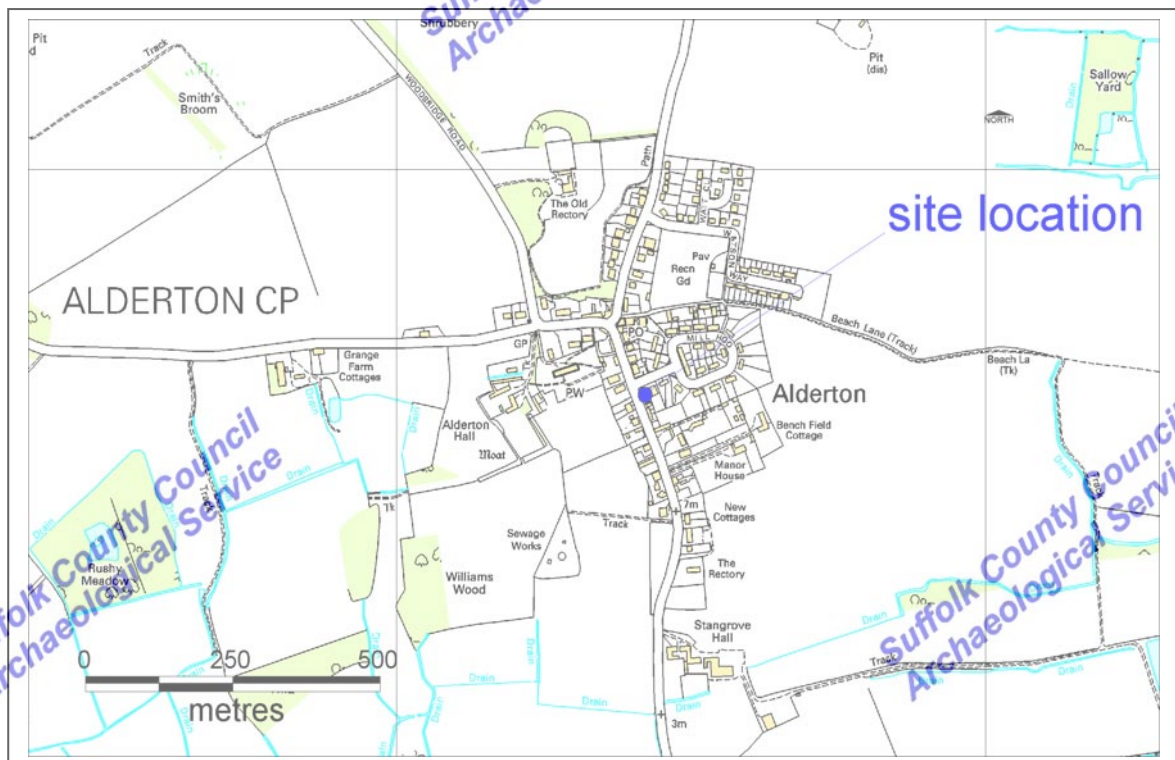


Figure 1. Site location

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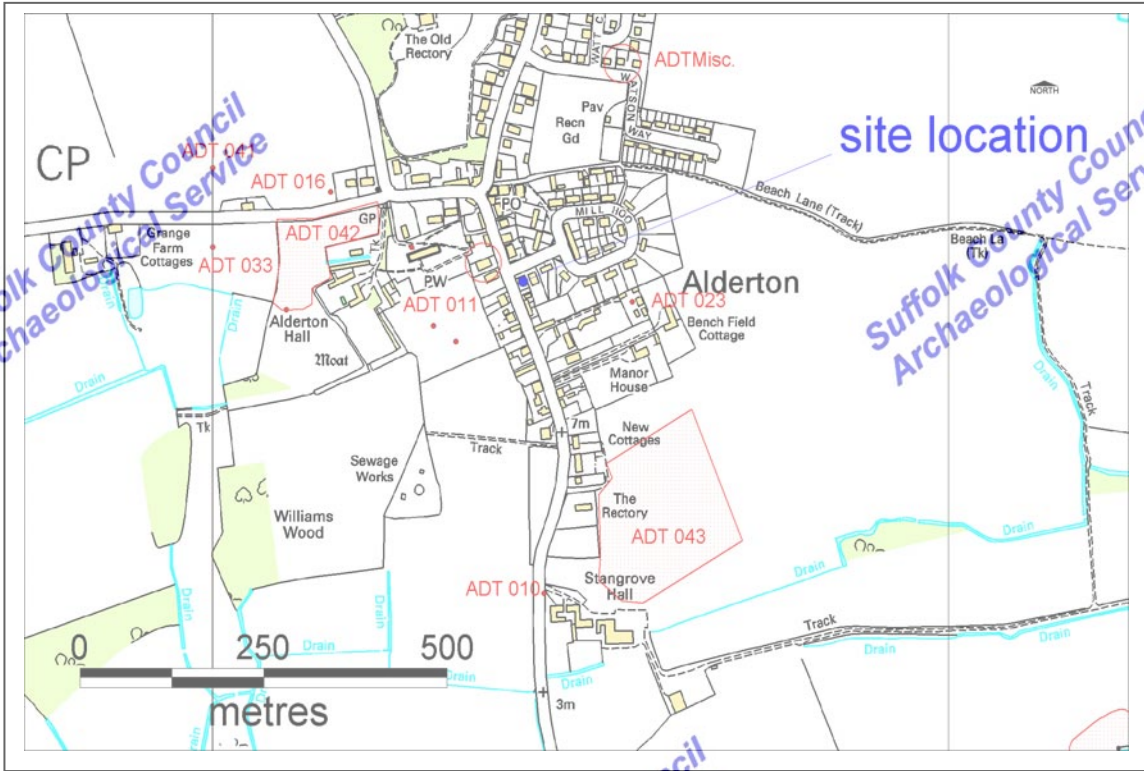


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record
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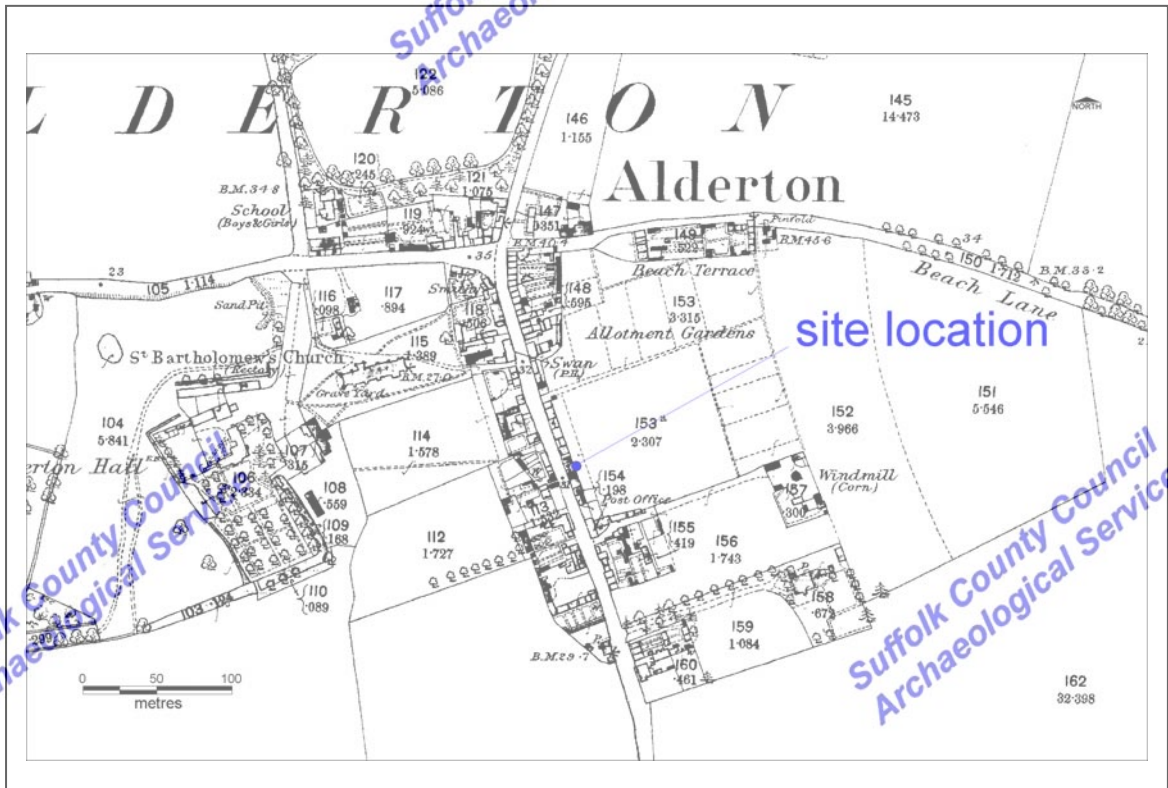


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS
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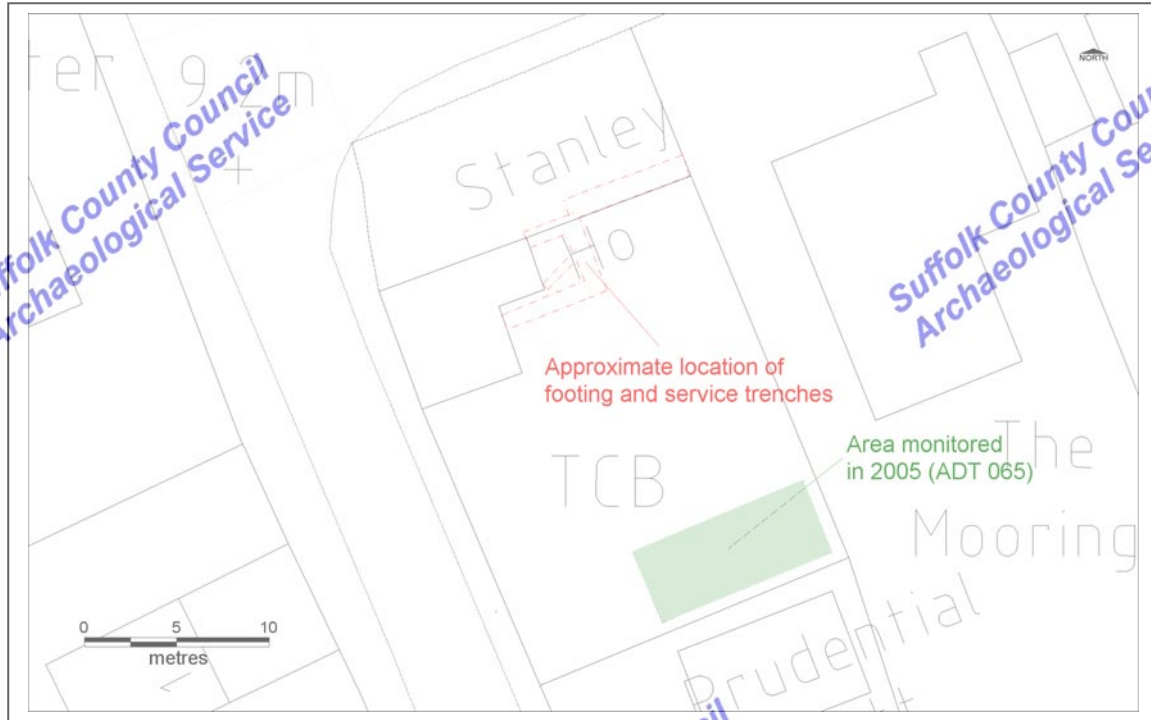


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

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3.0 Methodology

Robert Carr (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 1.). During the site visits, it was possible to examine all of the development area after it had been stripped of garden features and undergrowth. The area of the extension had been reduced in height by removing 0.25m of the topsoil. Footing trenches and trenches for laying service pipes were also recorded. Ground-works were carried out using a mechanical 360° mini-digger fitted with a range of toothed and toothless buckets. Details of the ground disturbance and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 7.1mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the upcast spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were generally good in terms of visibility and moisture levels. The site was allocated an Historic Environment Record number (ADT 068) and an OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-35488).

2.0 Results

The topsoil was around 0.50m deep (including turf) and consisted of a mid-dark brown sandy loam with few stones. Immediately below the topsoil was a layer of orange-brown sand 0.60m deep. The footing trenches reached a total depth of 1.20m and in the base, a layer of Suffolk crag was marginally exposed. The trenches were particularly fragile and shoring boards were required to prevent collapse; these were removed temporarily in order to examine the section faces. No archaeological features were located within the trenches or the area of ground reduction and no artefactual material was visible. The topsoil contained regular modern ceramic building material, fragments of modern window glass and coal. Other items were observed in the topsoil when examined on the spoil heaps but all were of nineteenth and twentieth century date and were not retained.

4.0 Conclusions

The ground-works associated with this development covered a small area, but provided a valuable opportunity to see if the concentration of pottery recorded at the adjacent site continued to occur further north. Clearly this is not the case within this particular area. However, the area of ground disturbance only covered around a third of the width of the plot and archaeological features or finds could easily survive in other areas of the property. Alternatively, occupation features and artefacts may be occurring in very localised discrete locations, perhaps suggesting dispersed dwelling concentrations, but also possibly a long continuity of chosen locations.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by C. Papazian and was monitored by Robert Carr (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 Bibliography

Everett, L., 2005 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: Stanley House, Alderton (ADT 065)' SCCAS Report No. 2005/135, SCCAS, Ipswich.

7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

STANLEY HOUSE, ALDERTON

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (C/06/1832/FUL) has been made to add a rear extension and boundary wall. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site is adjacent to known archaeological finds of Roman, Saxon and medieval date recovered from development (SCCAS Report 2005/136). There is high potential for occupation at this location.
- 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 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

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 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 earlier occupation of the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of footing trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the 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.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **one hour per 5 metres** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 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. 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.
- 4.7 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, 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 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must 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: R D Carr

Date: 15 December 2006
/Stanley House

Reference:

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.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443