

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

The Old Rectory, Kedington Hill Little Cornard COL 034

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no.B/07/00345)



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Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mr & Mrs D Mann and was monitored by Judith Plouviez (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.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard, as a condition of planning consent. A new dwelling with additional access is the subject of the proposal. The site is adjacent to a recorded Roman settlement, a probable villa (CLO 025), and lies within an area of dispersed archaeology, including evidence of activity associated with the late Iron Age, early Anglo Saxon and Roman periods. These locations are defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record).

The evaluation entailed the excavation of two trial trenches, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. A total length of 40m of trenching was excavated within the footprint of the new development. However, the trenches only revealed a single archaeological feature, consisting of a shallow ditch [0005]. No associated artefactual material was located within the fill of the ditch, therefore the feature remains undated. A thorough visual and metal detector search, carried out over all of the trench surfaces and upcast soil, failed to locate any archaeological finds.

HER information

Planning application	B/07/00345
HER number	COL 034
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-35755
Date of fieldwork:	18-12-2007
Grid Reference:	TL 8953 3894
Funding body:	Mr & Mrs D Mann

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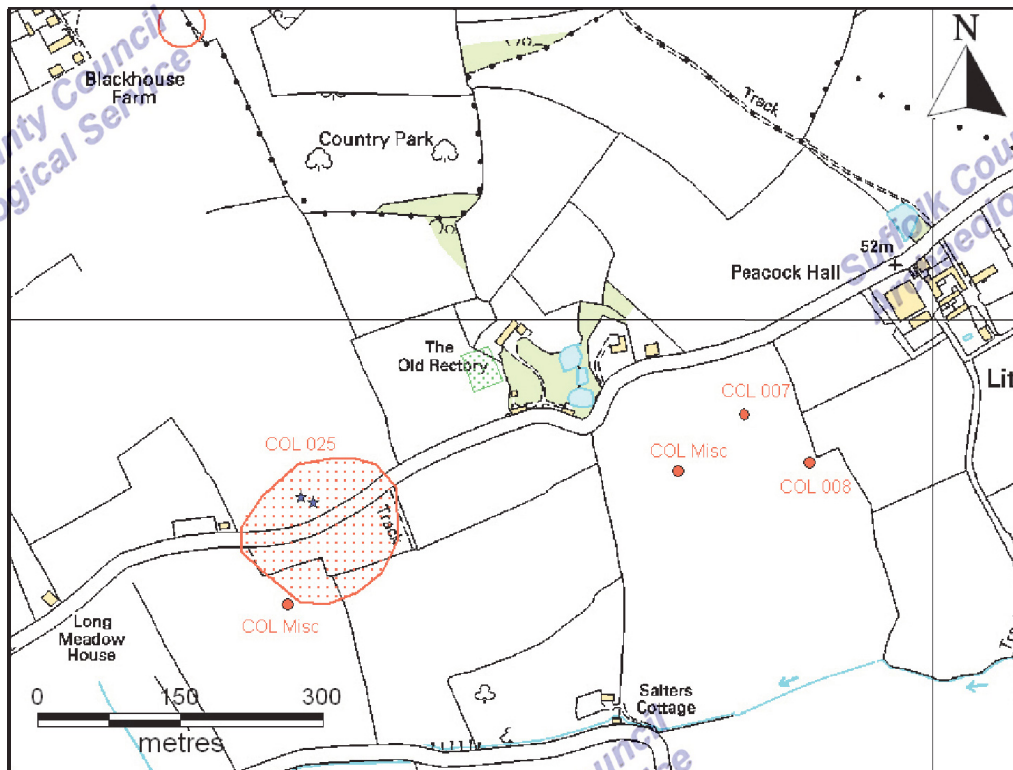
Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

The development lies at TL 8953 3894 between 45 and 50m OD, on the west side of a spur between tributaries of the River Stour. An application has been made to build a new dwelling with access on land to the south west of the Old Rectory building. The soil is generally heavy, with a loamy clay topsoil and chalky clay subsoil.

The remains of substantial Roman settlement, probably in the form of a villa (COL 025), lay 150m upslope to the south-west. Metal detecting finds have revealed evidence of late Iron Age and Roman activity across the area. There is also a single record of an early Anglo Saxon brooch, suggesting a long period of activity can be associated with this location. (See Figure. 2)

The Brief and Specification for the evaluation programme was produced by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1).



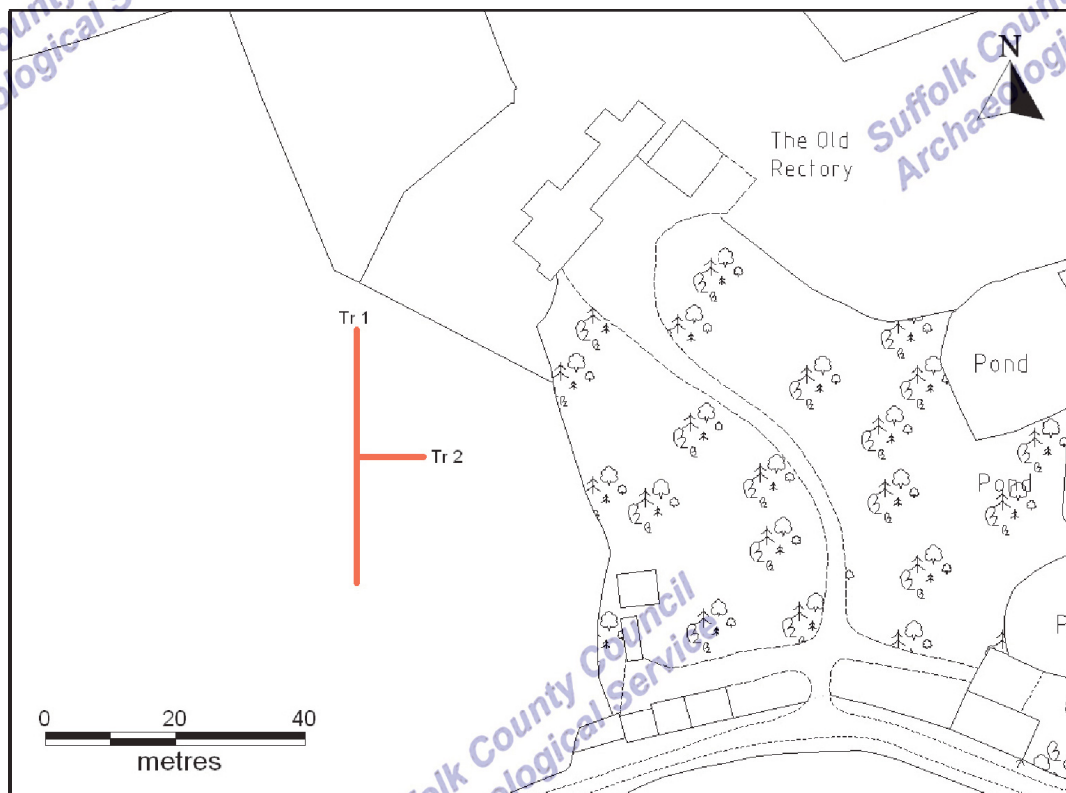
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Figure 2. Site in the context of The County Heritage Environment Record

Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was completed during a single day of field-work. Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling (see Figure 3). Trench 1 was aligned north to south, with Trench 2 running east from the mid point of Trench 1. Both trenches were mechanically excavated to the optimum depth for revealing potential archaeological features which, if present, would be seen contrasting with the underlying natural geological deposits. Excavation was carried out using a wheeled back-acting mechanical digger, equipped with a toothless 1.50m wide bucket; additional hand cleaning was carried out in order to clarify the soil profiles. The trenches had an average width of 1.60m and had a combined total length of 40m (64m²).

The mechanical soil stripping was constantly monitored by an archaeologist. The spoil was searched for any unstratified finds and also thoroughly metal-detected. All of the trenches were recorded in terms of dimensions, location and soil profiles and photographed using a 7.1mp digital camera. Details of the deposits and feature 0005 were recorded on *pro forma* Context Sheets and Trench Record sheets, accompanied by sections and plans drawn at 1:20 and 1:50 respectively. Conditions allowed good visibility with dry bright weather, moist soil deposits and minimal standing water. The site was allocated a County Historic Environment Record code (COL 034) and an Oasis record (Suffolkc1-35755).



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Figure 3. Plan showing location of the evaluation trenches

Results

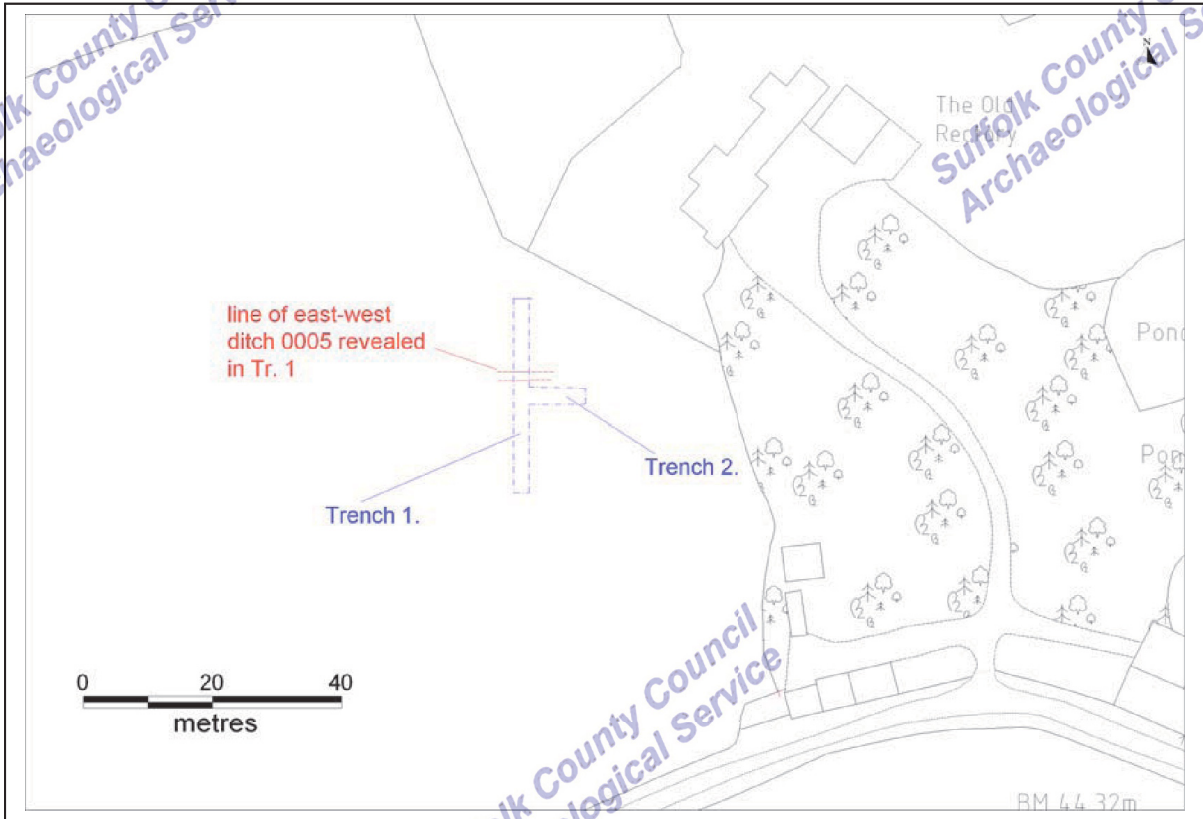
Trench 1

This trench was orientated north to south down the slope to the south west of The Old Rectory property (see Figure 3) and measured 30m long, by 1.60m wide by 0.50m deep. A topsoil overburden (0002), 0.25–0.3m in depth, was visible as the upper layer in this trench, consisting of a mid-grey brown loamy clay found across the whole development area. It probably represents an enriched former plough soil, although the site is now under grass. Below this to a depth of c 0.45-0.5m is a subsoil of pale brown soft clay (0003). The underlying drift deposits were of pale brown chalky clay (0004). A solitary archaeological feature, Ditch 0005 was excavated in this trench.

Feature 0005 - a shallow ditch ran exactly east to west across the trench, 13m from its northern extent (see Figures 4-6). Forming a rounded 'V' shape in section, the ditch had slightly convex sides and a narrow concave base. The ditch had a single fill (0006), consisting of pale-mid brown clay, with very occasional charcoal flecks and mineralised iron spots. No dateable finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch or from the soil layers within the trench.

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Figure 4 Location of ditch 0005 in trench 1



Figure 5. Ditch 0005

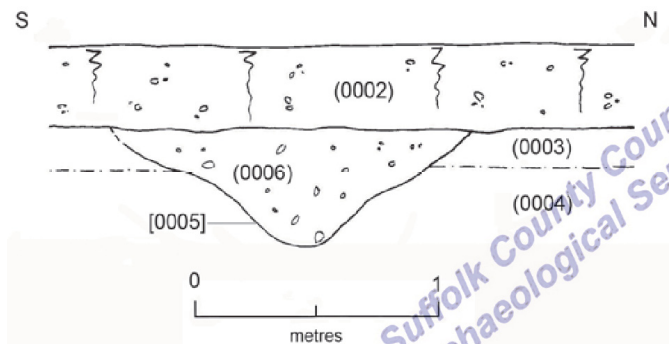


Figure 6. Ditch 0005

Trench 2

This trench was orientated west to east, across the slope, from the mid point of Trench 1 towards The Old Rectory property (see Figure 3). It measured 10m long, by 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep. The soil profile was consistent with Trench 1, with topsoil (0002), a mid-grey brown loamy clay, visible as the upper layer to a depth of 0.25–0.30m. Below this, to a depth of c 0.45-0.50m was subsoil (0003), consisting of pale-brown soft clay. The underlying drift deposits were also the same as those seen in Trench 1, consisting of pale brown chalky clay. No archaeological features or finds were located within this trench.

Conclusion

Despite the high potential for this site to reveal evidence of early settlement in the area, the trenching revealed only a single archaeological feature, ditch 0005, which contained no dateable finds but was sealed by the overlying topsoil (0002). Feature 0005 possibly represents an earlier field boundary ditch, however it does not relate to either the early maps or the current boundary structure. Despite its uncertain date it is possible that this ditch represents early land use within this area and it is possible that other scattered features are present but were not revealed during this evaluation.

As the evaluation did not reveal any evidence for significant early activity on the site, no further archaeological input is recommended in relation to this development.

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 – Table of results

Context	Identifier	Trench	Description
0001	Finds		Unstratified finds – none found
0002	Topsoil	1-2	Mid grey-brown clayey loam, (probably former plough soil – now meadow) Few stones – occasional flints (30-50mm) rare chalk flecks. Loose. Across entire site. Depth c. 0.26–0.30 m.
0003	Subsoil	1-2	Pale brown soft clay – homogeneous. Few occasional small flints and pebbles (30-40 mm) rare charcoal flecks, occasional chalk flecks. Firm. Across entire site. Depth c 0.15–0.20m.
0004	Natural drift	1-2	Pale brown / olive soft chalky clay. Occasional stones (30-80mm) very firm, across entire site. Very clean, undisturbed clay.
0005	Ditch cut	1	Linear E-W (exactly) running ditch, shouldered/rounded 'V' shape. Dished base. Central area of Tr 1. Boundary ditch? Uncertain date – not on maps, does not relate to present boundary structure. Width c1.5m, depth 0.80m
0006	Ditch fill	1	Pale-mid brown soft clay with frequent iron flecks. Few stones- occasional flints/pebbles (20-30mm) Very rare charcoal flecks. No finds.

Appendix 2 – Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

THE OLD RECTORY, KEDINGTON HILL, LITTLE CORNARD

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent [B/07/00345] has been given for a new dwelling and access.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.8) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..
- 1.3 The development area is at TL 896 389 between 45 and 50m OD on the west side of a spur between tributaries of the River Stour. There is substantial Roman settlement, probably a villa (COL 025), 150m upslope to the east; this area has also produced Late Iron Age and one early Anglo-Saxon finds. Further late Iron Age and Roman coins (COL 007) have been found to the west of the Old Rectory, suggesting fairly widespread activity. The main potential in the development area is for Iron Age and Roman activity.
- 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. 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.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area.
- 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 natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 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 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 of the development area and shall be positioned to sample the new house and access area. 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. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The 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 fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. 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 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed will be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.7 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.8 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).
- 3.9 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.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 3.10 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.

- 3.11 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies or digital colour pictures taken using a minimum 5 megapixel camera.
- 3.12 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.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 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 3.1).
- 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.
- 5.4 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. 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.

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: Judith Plouviez

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

Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 26 November 2007
Hill

Reference: /The Old Rectory, Kedington

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.