

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

---

## Jewers Site, New Road, Elmswell, Suffolk

### EWL 024

Planning App. No 0189/03/OL and 2692/06

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-35927

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007



Robert Atfield  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2008

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

---

SCCAS Report No. 2007/238

## HER information

---

<b>Planning application</b>	0189/03/OL and 2692/06
<b>County Historic Environment Record</b>	EWL 024
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	DATE -2007
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	TL 9887 6349
<b>Funding body:</b>	Mixbrow Ltd.
<b>Oasis reference</b>	Suffolkc1- 35927

## Summary

A small housing development, affecting 0.2ha was granted planning permission on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological work was carried out. The development lies at TL 9887 6349, on high ground between the 65 and 70m OD contours, with a slight inclination to the east. It is close to a broad area of scattered Roman activity, apparently mainly centred to the west, but with occasional finds to the east. The site also lies just to the north of an east-west road linking medieval settlements. A single visit was made to the site on 30-08-07 when a limited number of footings were inspected and a substantial area of topsoil disturbance was searched. Natural sandy gravel deposits were recorded at a depth of 0.45m below the original surface levels. No archaeological features were observed during the visit and no artefactual material was located. Some nineteenth to twentieth century domestic ceramics and occasional animal bone fragments were observed within the topsoil, none of which are significant and were not retained.

---

## Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mixbrow Ltd.  
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.

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

---

# Contents

---

Historic Environment Record Information

Summary

Acknowledgements

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Methodology

3.0 Results

4.0 Conclusions

5.0 Bibliography

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

## 1.0 Introduction

The site lies towards the southern edge of the present village of Elmswell, on high ground between the 65 and 70m OD contours, with a slight inclination to the east. It is close to a broad area of scattered Roman activity, apparently mainly centred to the west (EWL 013 and EWL 003 see Fig. 2), but with occasional finds to the east. The site also lies just to the north of an east-west road linking medieval settlements. An excavation covering an area of 1.5ha, around 150m north-west of the present site, was carried out during 1999 (EWL 013) (Everett and Tester, 2002). A group of ditches were revealed, three of which are of probable Roman date and one appeared to form part of an enclosure. The ditches were orientated along north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east alignments, but did not extend outside the site area to the south-east towards the present site. Early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps indicate that during the nineteenth century the location formed part of the rear gardens of cottages situated along the west side of New Road, while also extending into a small agricultural field to the rear (see Figure 3).

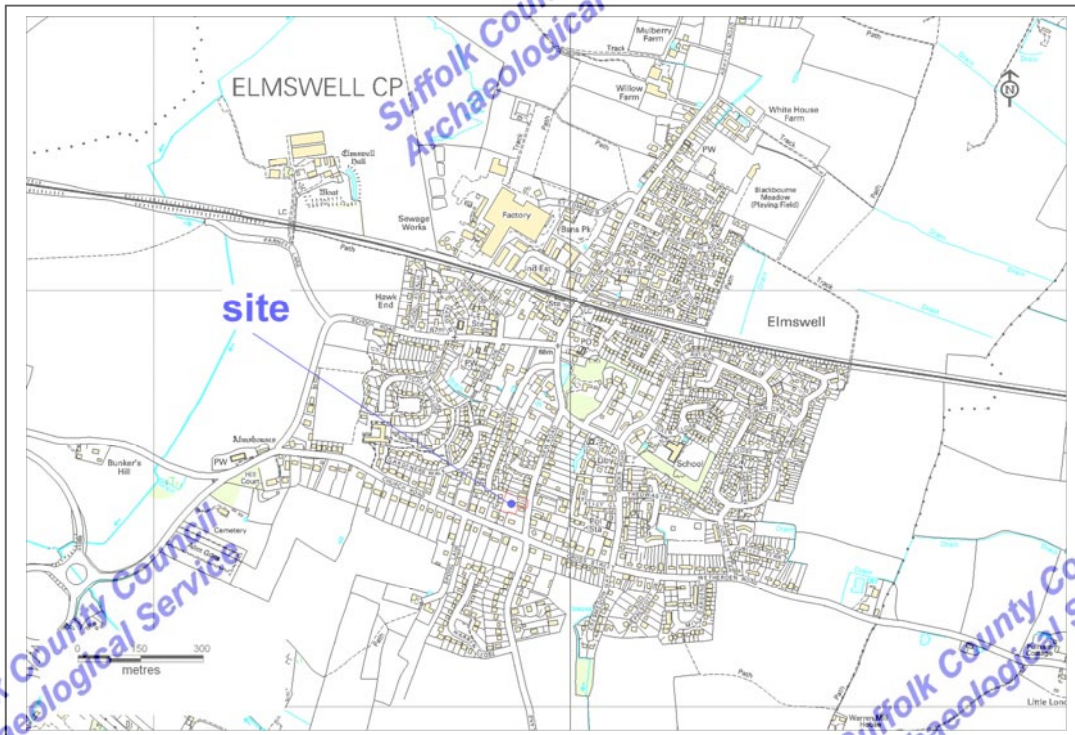


Figure 1. Site location

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



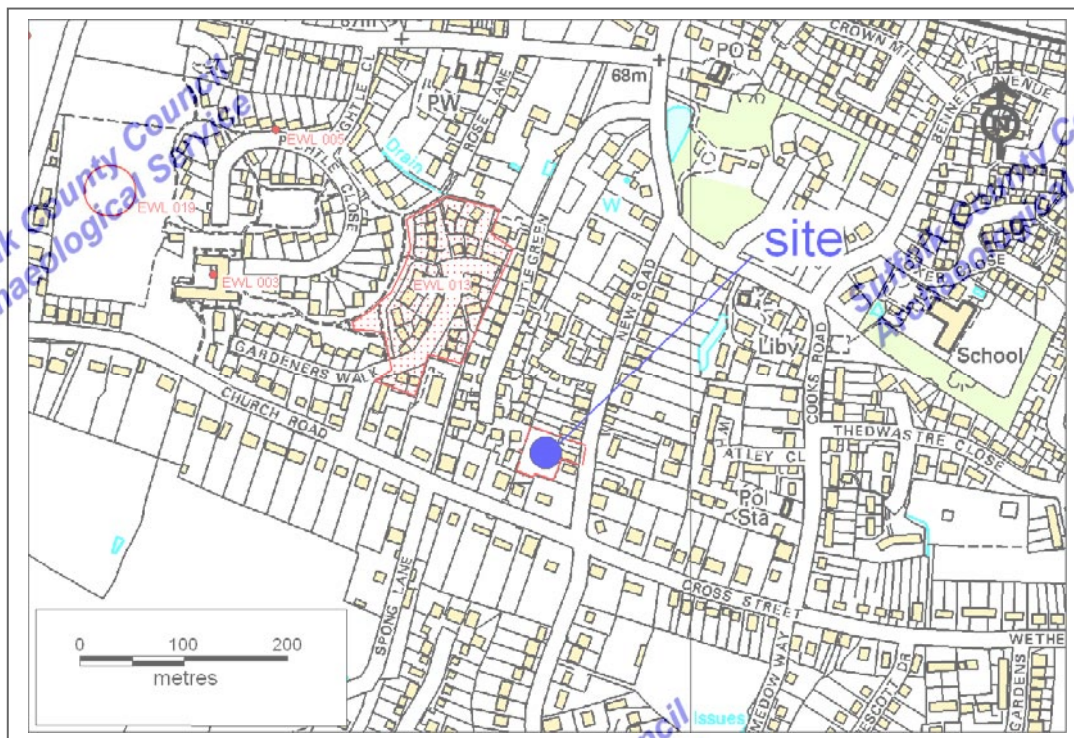


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record  
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

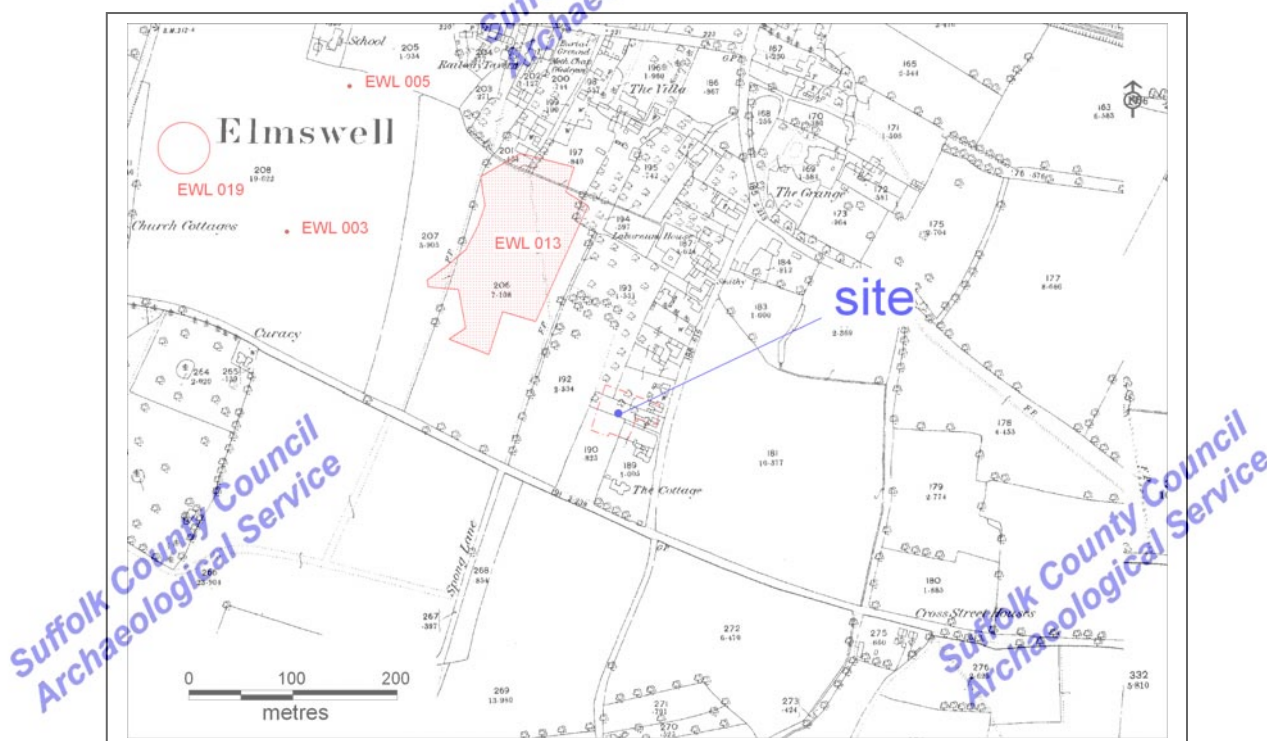


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS  
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

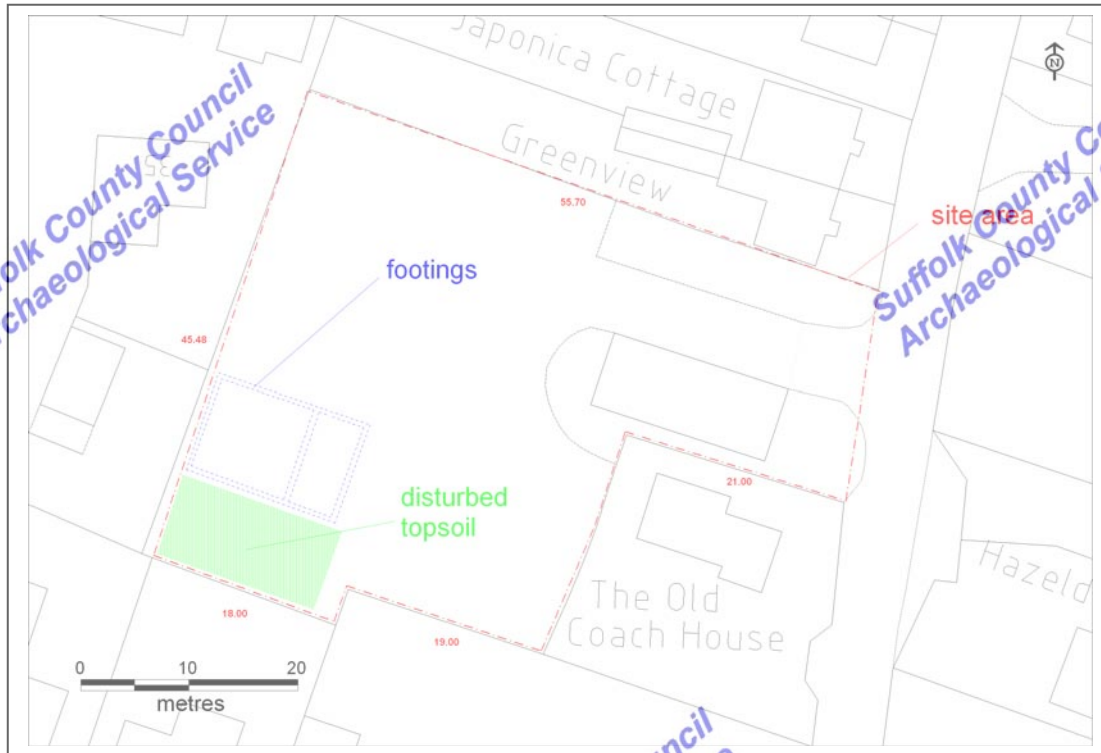


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

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

## 2.0 Methodology

The Brief and Specification for the archaeological monitoring was produced by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1). The site was visited on a single occasion (30-08-07), when a small proportion of the footing trenches were examined and an area of disturbed topsoil was searched for any exposed surface finds.

The details of trenches and other ground disturbance 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 area. 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 site: suffolkc1-35927

### 3.0 Results

Footings were examined in the south-west area of the site (see Figure 4), where clear views of the upper soil profiles were visible. The topsoil had an average depth of 0.45m and consisted of mid-brown sandy loam typical of cultivated garden or arable soils. Extensive root disturbance was evident throughout the deposit. Only very occasional fragments of ceramic building materials, animal bone fragments, glass and modern domestic ceramics were observed. The subsoil consisted of orange sandy gravel, but the full extent of the depth of this deposit was not seen. The subsoil was clearly defined from the topsoil, but no features or disturbance was observed within the subsoil layer.

An area of topsoil had been disturbed and levelled further to the south, but after careful searching, only sparse fragments of modern ceramic building materials, animal bone and domestic glass and china were observed (not retained).

No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.

### 4.0 Conclusions

Limited areas of the site deposits were available for examination, but there were no indications of any archaeological features or finds. Few conclusions can be drawn from such a restricted exploration of the site, except perhaps that even if archaeological features and finds existed in other areas of the development, they are unlikely to have occurred in any great density.

### 5.0 Bibliography

Everett, L. and Tester, C., 2002 'Land off Gardeners Walk, Elmswell. EWL 013' *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Report No. 2001/106, Ipswich.*



## 6.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

##### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

#### JEWERS SITE, NEW ROAD, ELMSWELL

*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 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (applications 0189/03/OL and 2692/06). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.

#### 1.2

The development, affecting 0.2ha, lies at TL9887 6349 on high ground between 65 and 70m OD, with a slight inclination to the east. It is close to a broad area of scattered Roman activity, apparently mainly centred to the west but with occasional finds to the east and it lies just to the north of an east-west road linking medieval settlements. There is therefore potential for Roman or later activity within the development area.

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 site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been 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 timetable.

- 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 topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of one hour per 100 square metres must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 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: Judith Plouviez

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 Reference: \Elmswell\2006\_2692\Spec Mon Jewers Site New Road 200705.doc

**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