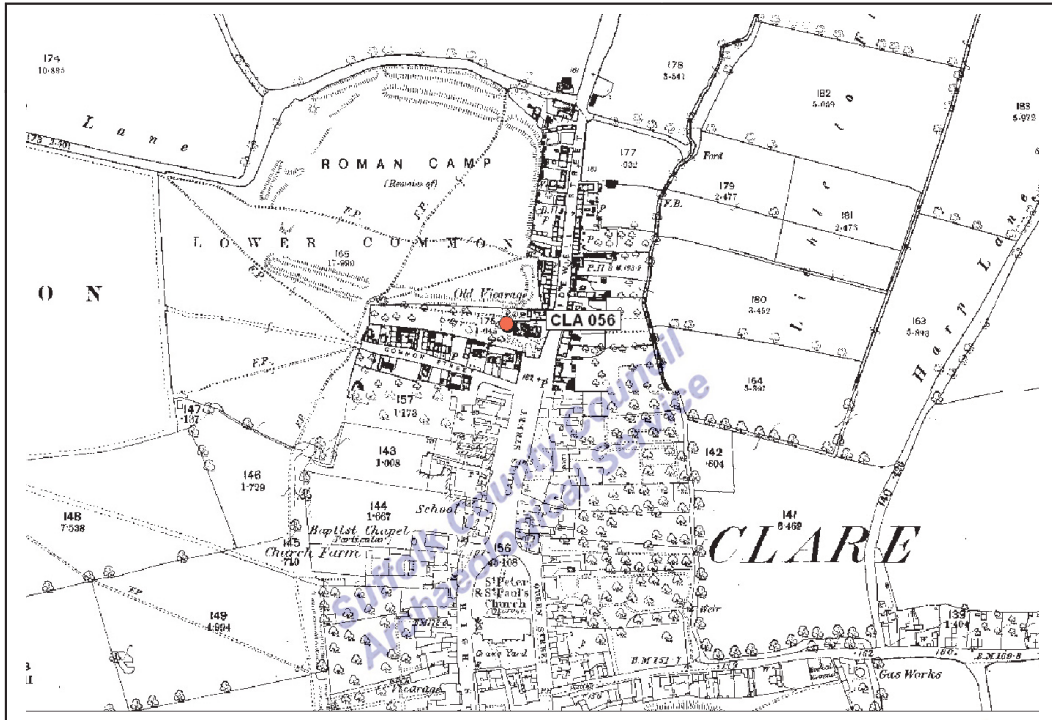


ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE OLD VICARAGE, CLARE CLA 056

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
(Planning app. no. SE/07/1636)
OASIS ID: 36767



Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey map c.1880

Linzi Everett
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2008
SCCAS Report No. 2008/033

Lucy Robinson, Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX
Tel. (01473) 264384

List of Contributors

Linzi Everett Project Officer Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

Summary

Monitoring of groundworks at The Old Vicarage, Clare, was required to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. Three incised features were recorded in the exposed sections of the footing trenches, each sealed by a layer of topsoil. A large east-west aligned ditch from which a small sherd of possible Iron Age pottery was recovered was cut by a medieval pit and a large undated pit. The latter pit may represent an extraction pit whilst the ditch could be associated with the Clare Camp earthwork immediately north and west of the site. Whilst the evidence is only slight, the pottery from the ditch raises the possibility that the Clare Camp earthwork could have Iron Age origins.

HER information

Planning application no. SE/07/1636
Date of fieldwork: January 2008
Grid Reference: TL 7697 4572
Funding body: Mr. J. Knapp
OASIS ID: 36767

Introduction

Conditional planning consent for a c.5m x 3m extension to the rear of The Old Vicarage, Clare, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TL 7697 4572, at a height of approximately 50m OD, towards the base of a fairly sharp NW-SE slope. The development lies immediately south of Clare Camp (CLA 010), a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a large doubled bank and ditch earthwork. This site is known to have provided a focus for activity when it was used as a manorial compound during the medieval period but the earthworks may be of greater antiquity. Clare Camp, also known as Erbury, has sometimes been interpreted as a possible Iron Age hillfort but there is currently no firm evidence to support this or any other pre-medieval date. There is high potential for deposits associated with medieval and earlier activity to survive within the development area.

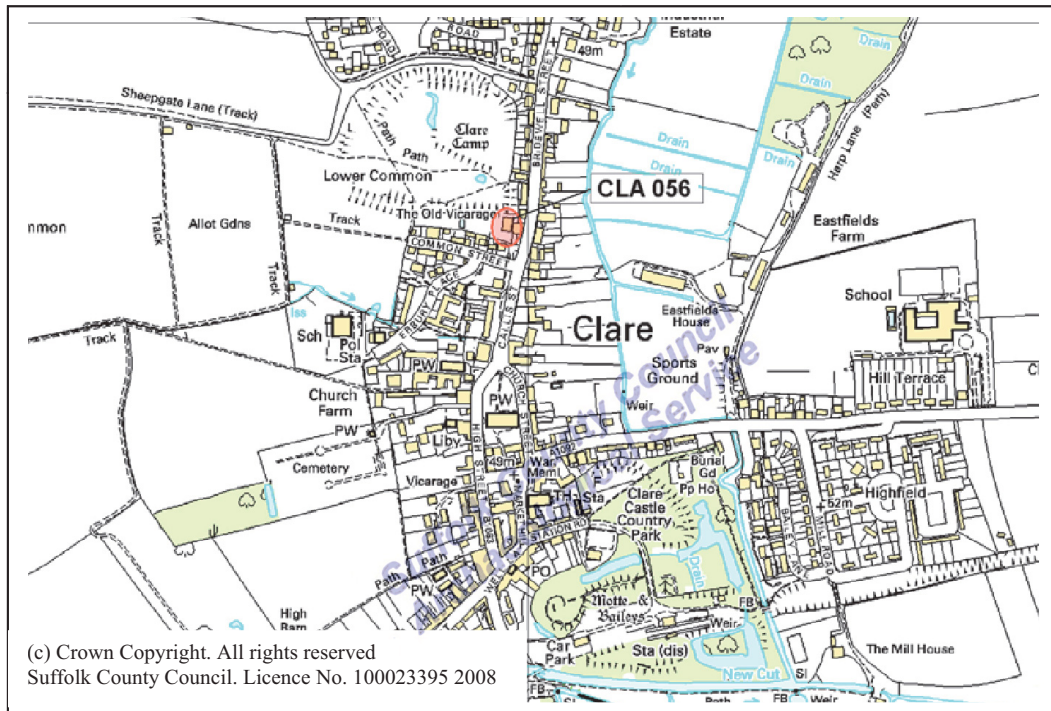


Figure 1. Site location

Methodology

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various groundworks. Where features were revealed in section, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code CLA 056 (Appendix I). Features were drawn on site at a scale of 1:20 and photographs taken as a part of the site archive. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix II).

All finds were washed and marked before being quantified, identified and dated by the finds management staff of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The monitoring archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The monitoring work took place in January 2008 and was funded by Mr. J. Knapp.

Results

Trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.8m on the north and south side and 1.2m on the west side, showing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. The topsoil (0001) comprised a pale mid brown clay loam mixed with modern building rubble, measuring up to 350mm thick. The natural subsoil, which was only visible in the northern trench and in small pockets within the western trench, comprised a pale brownish yellow chalky clay.

Three features were recorded within the exposed sections:

0002 was a very large pit visible in the whole of the southern trench and part of the western trench. The full depth was not revealed within the excavated footings but the angle of the cut and general size of the feature suggest a significant depth. It was filled by 0004, a mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and very occasional small flints. This fill was fairly sterile and homogenous, apart from one small charcoal lens. 0003 was a pale yellowish brown chalky clay some 240mm thick above 0004. It may have been an upper fill of pit 0002 but the relationship was not clear and it could equally represent a discreet layer of redeposited natural subsoil.

0005 was a large east to west aligned ditch cut by 0002 and 0007. It was filled by 0006, a mid brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal flecks. Two thin, gravel bands were noted within the fill, implying phases of gradual silting up of the open ditch, but no distinct differences in fill were visible. One small sherd of possible Iron Age pottery was recovered from this context.

0007 was a large pit in the north western corner of the footings. It was filled by 0008, a mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk lumps and flecks and occasional stones. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the pit fill.

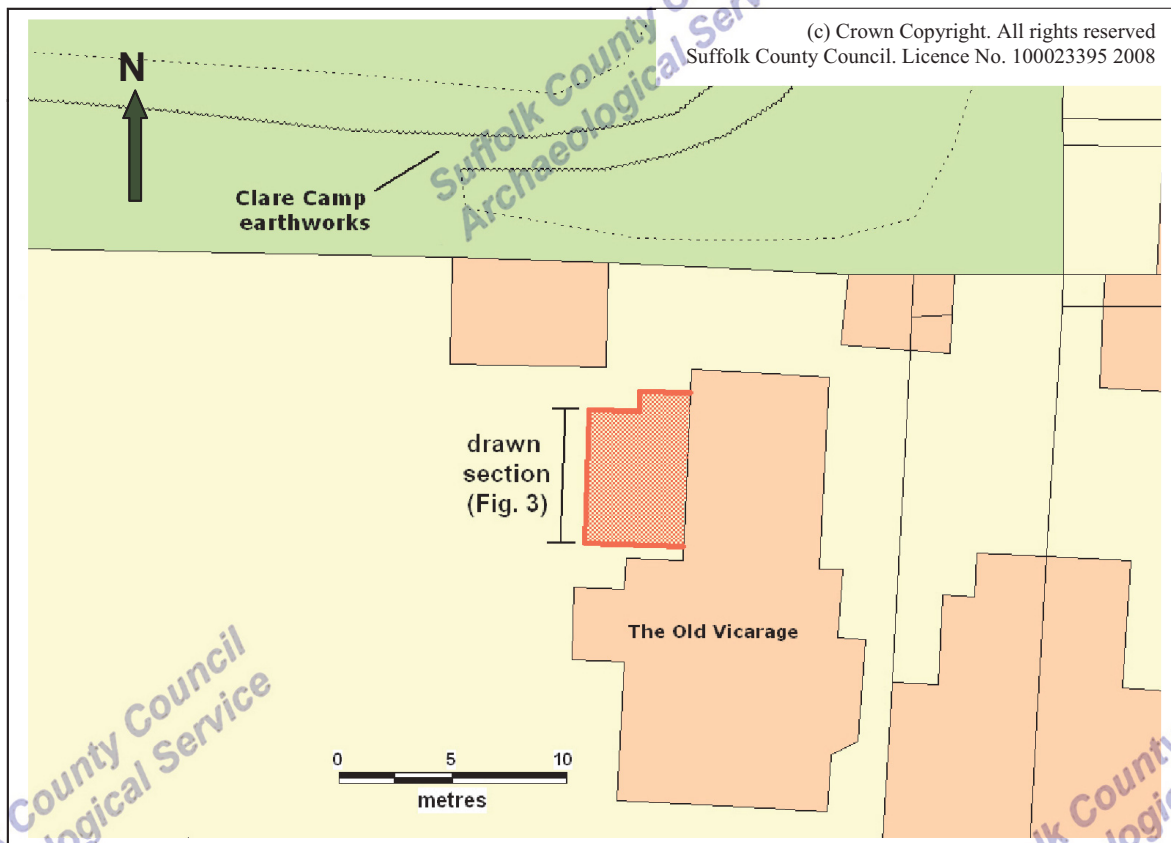


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks

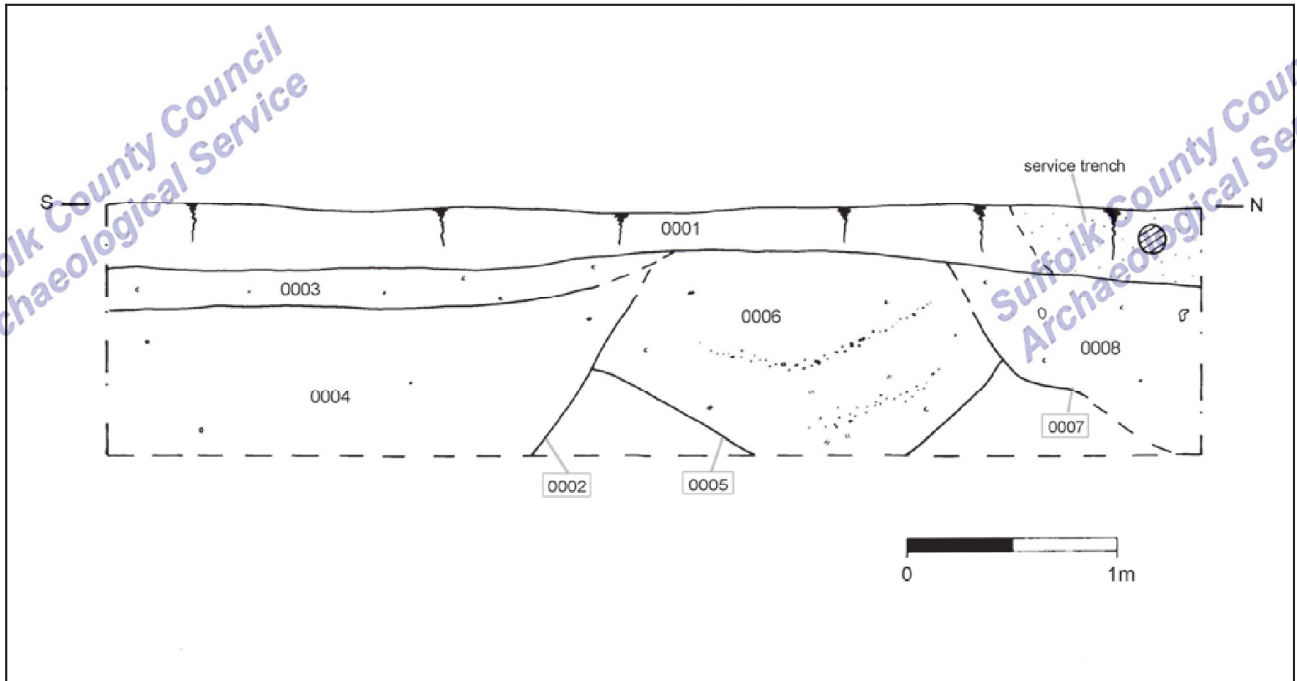


Figure 3. South-north footing section

The Old Vicarage, Clare (CLA 056): the finds

Richenda Goffin, January 2008.

Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0006	1	1	
0008	2	46	
Total	3	47	

Pottery

Three fragments of pottery were recovered in total, weighing 0.047kg. A small laminated sherd from the fill 0006 of the large ditch cannot be closely dated. It is handmade, reduced and made from a sandy fabric with voids of burnt out organic material. It may be Iron Age or Early Saxon in date.

Two sherds, non-joining but probably from the same vessel, were collected from 0008. A large fragment of the rim of a wheelthrown greyware jar is likely to be medieval in date (L12th-14th century), although it is very similar to Thetford-type ware. It has a thickened, almost squared rim and is made in a grey/brown sandy fabric containing moderate sparse silvery mica, with a grey core.

Discussion

The small fragment of pottery recovered from the ditch fill may date to the Iron Age, and if so, provides slight evidence for the possibility that Clare Camp was originally of this period. The ditch was cut by the pit containing the medieval pottery, which reflects known activity of this date focussed on the area around the manorial compound.

Discussion

The footings had been excavated through three identifiable archaeological features, however, as such trenches afford only a keyhole into the site, it can be difficult to make accurate interpretations of the archaeology revealed in section.

No datable artefacts were recovered from pit 0002 which was a large, deep steep-sided feature with a homogenous, sterile fill. This suggests an extraction pit of some kind which was quickly backfilled with material rather than allowed to silt gradually or fill with domestic rubbish.

The earliest feature identified was ditch 0005, which was cut by a medieval pit, showing that the ditch had gone out of use, filled up and consolidated by the 12th-14th century. The dimensions, orientation and appearance of the ditch strongly suggest an association with the Clare Camp earthwork. A portion of the southern part of the earthwork complex known as Lower Common was allocated to the vicar during the nineteenth and maps show that The Old Vicarage may impinge on part of the southern bank and ditch. One small fragment of pottery was recovered from the lower part of the ditch fill and was identified as being of probable Iron Age or Early Saxon date. Whilst a single, tiny fragment of pottery cannot be used to date the feature with any certainty, in the context of the likely association with Clare Camp, it is tempting to see this as the first tangible evidence of the earthworks Iron Age origins. If this did prove to be the case, it would be the only site of its kind known in Suffolk.

Linzi Everett
Field Projects Team,
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
August 2008.

Appendix I

OP	Context	Description	Cuts / overlies	Cut by / under
0001	0001	Topsoil- pale-mid brown clay loam with modern building rubble	0003; 0006; 0008	
0002	0002	Pit cut- large pit, probably extraction due to size and nature of fill. Full extent not revealed but amount exposed and angle of cut suggests a large, deep feature	0006	
0003		Pit fill/layer- pale yellowish brown chalky clay, 240mm thick. Possible upper fill of 0002 but could be a discreet layer over it- relationship unclear	0004	0001
0004	0002	Pit fill- mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and very occasional small flints. Homogenous, fairly sterile, one small charcoal lens		0003
0005	0005	Ditch cut- large E-W aligned ditch, c.1.2m deep. Appears to align with extant earthworks associated with Clare Camp		0002; 0007
0006	0005	Ditch fill- mid brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal flecks. Two thin, gravel bands were noted within fill		0001
0007	0007	Pit cut- large pit, full extent and form not determined. Irregular profile	0006	
0008	0007	Pit fill- mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk lumps and flecks and occasional stones		0001

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

THE OLD VICARAGE, CALLIS STREET, CLARE, SUFFOLK

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 to erect a single storey extension to the rear elevation at the Old Vicarage, Callis Street, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8PX (TL 7697 4572), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/07/1636). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to the earthwork enclosure, Clare Camp (CLA 010), that is statutorily protected (Scheduled Monument 5963). There is high potential for occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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 (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 remains on the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of trenches for the wall footings for the new extension that measures c. 6.20 x 3.60m in area, and any associated services trenches and also any ground reduction for the insertion of the new floor. These, and the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and 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.

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 SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted 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 scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 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 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.3 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 Historic Environment Record 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 Historic Environment Record may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

5.4 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).

5.5 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

5.6 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.7 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.

5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.9 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.

5.10 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. 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: 29 November 2007

Reference: /OldVicarage-Clare2007

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.