

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL, MAIN ROAD, KESGRAVE

PLY 042

Planning App. No C/07/0124

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-38686

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008

Robert Atfield
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2008

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

—
SCCAS Report No. 2008/084

HER information

Planning application	C/07/0124
County Historic Environment Record	PLY 042
Date of fieldwork:	17-04 -2007 and 23-04-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 2250 4606
Funding body:	Suffolk County Council (Property Division)
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-38686

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning consent at the site for a proposed new Sixth Form building for Kesgrave High School. The site lies in an area of archaeological importance, immediately south of an undated earthwork enclosure recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (PLY 038). The application also lies to the east of an important group of prehistoric burial monuments (PLY 003, PLY 004 and PLY 005) that are statutorily protected (Suffolk Scheduled Monument 95). Two visits were made to the site, the first on the 17th April 2007 enabled an inspection of the site area after the topsoil had been removed. The second, on the 23rd April 2007, was to examine the footing trenches. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring visits.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Summary

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Methodology

3.0 Results

4.0 Conclusions

5.0 Acknowledgements and list of contributors

6.0 Appendix 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

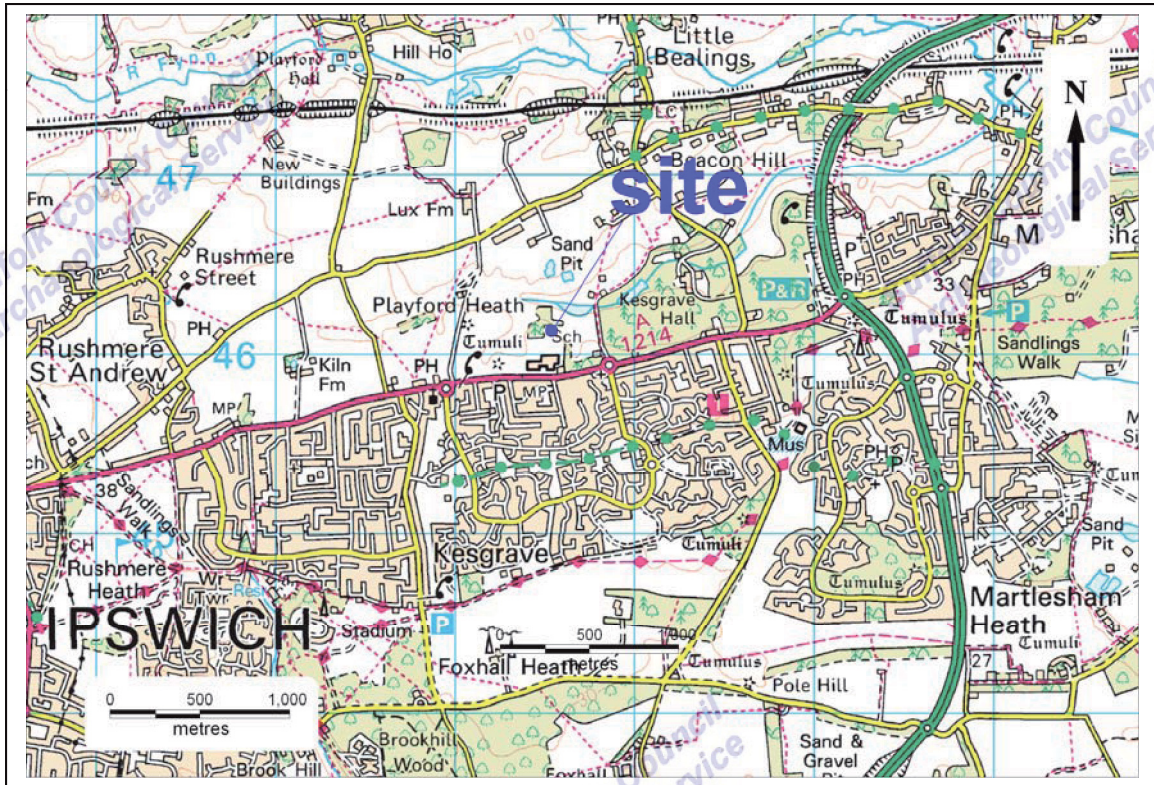


Figure 1. Site location

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008)

1.0 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning consent at the site for a proposed new Sixth Form building for Kesgrave High School. The site lies at a height of between 30 and 35m AOD, in an area of archaeological importance, immediately south of an undated earthwork enclosure recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (PLY 038). The application also lies to the east of an important group of prehistoric burial monuments (PLY 003, PLY 004 and PLY 005) that are statutorily protected (Suffolk Scheduled Monument 95). Additionally, a probable prehistoric field system was recently defined during the construction of a new school playing field north-west of the present proposal.

Two visits were made to the site; the first, on the 17th April 2007, enabled an inspection of the site area after the topsoil had been removed. The second, on the 23rd April 2007, was to examine the footing trenches.

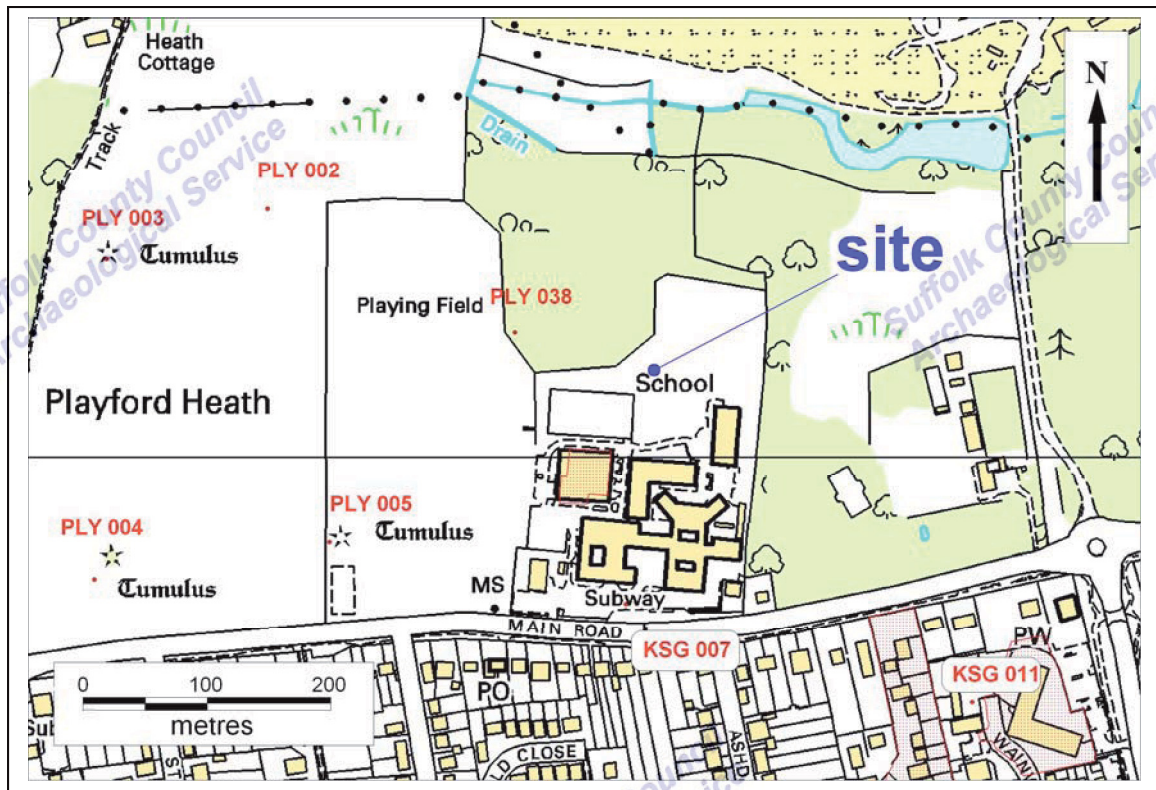


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008)

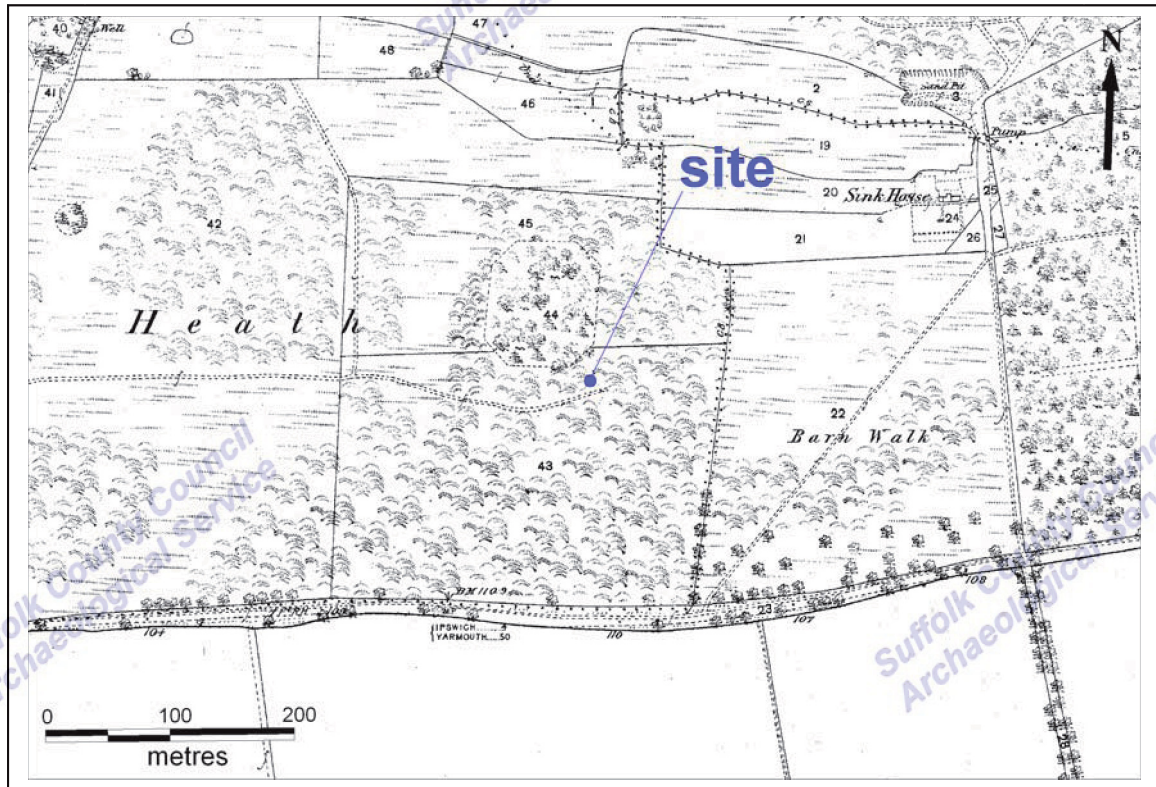


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS
 (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008)

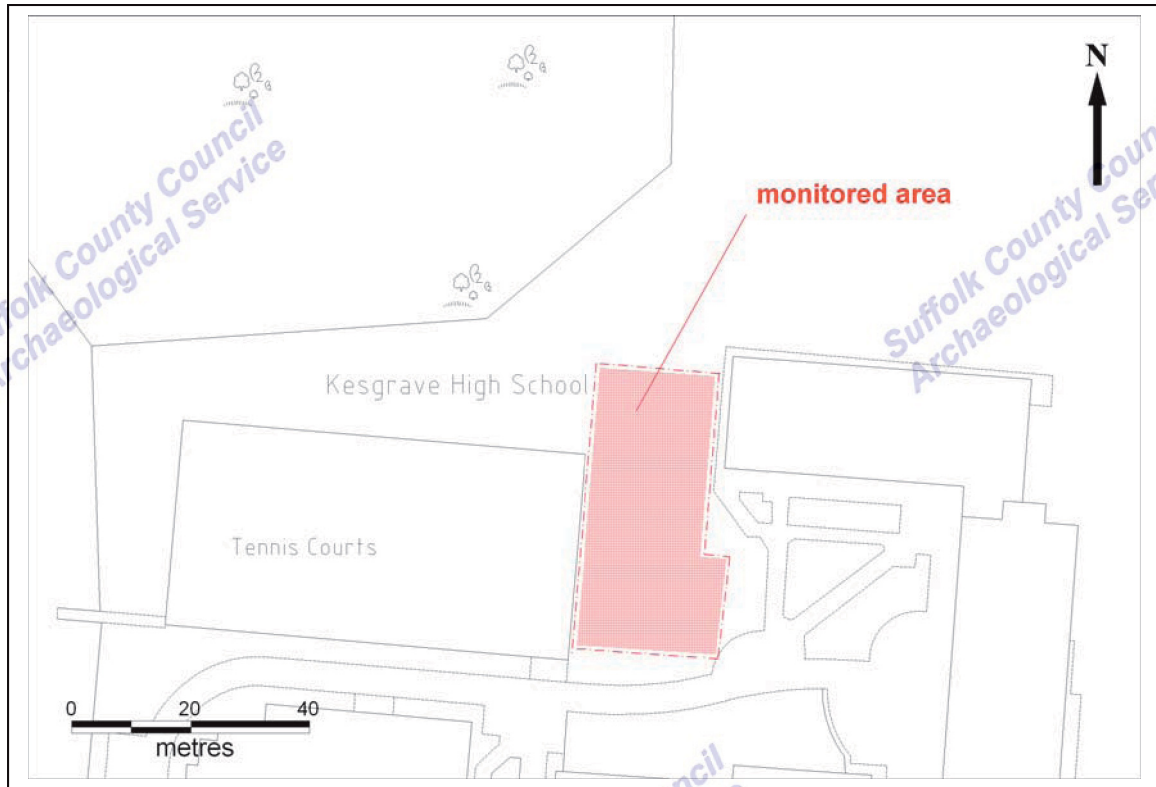


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008)

2.0 Methodology

Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for the Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 1.). All ground disturbance, including site clearance, levelling, excavated pits and footing trenches were closely examined. 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 6.0mp photographs were taken of exposed ground surfaces and all general aspects of the site. Areas 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, although the ground was very dry.

3.0 Results

The first site visit was made on the 17th April 2007. The topsoil had been removed and the section at the north end of the site indicated that this had reached a depth of around 0.40m. The topsoil was a fine, dusty, mid grey-brown sand. This deposit is thought to largely consist of imported soil, spread over the site area during previous construction and landscape work. The site strip proved insufficient to enable a clear view of the underlying natural deposits, but some areas revealed natural orange banded coarse sands. Extensive modern disturbance had taken place towards the south end of the site, consisting mainly of drainage and service trenches. No archaeological features or finds were located.

The second visit took place on the 23rd April, after an extensive area of footing trenches had been excavated. These trenches confirmed that the underlying natural deposits consisted of coarse sand, variable in colour from bright orange to brown and arranged in bands or seams of the two colours. No archaeological features or finds were observed and it was decided that the footings had revealed a sufficient sample area to conclude that the site held minimal potential for archaeology.

4.0 Conclusions

The site displayed no indication of any archaeological features or finds. However, it is possible that shallow features may have existed prior to the extensive modern ground disturbance of recent years. There was no indication of any deeper features (exceeding depths of 0.40m below the former ground surface) that had penetrated the horizon of natural sand deposits.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Suffolk County Council (Property Division) 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 Appendix

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL, MAIN ROAD, KESGRAVE

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 sixth form building with associated car parking (32 places) at Kesgrave High School, Main Road, Kesgrave, IP5 2PB (TM 2250 4606), has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/0124). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This proposal area is located in an area of archaeological importance, immediately south of an undated earthwork enclosure recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (PLY 038). The application also lies to the east of an important group of prehistoric burial monuments (PLY 003, PLY 004 and PLY 005) that is statutorily protected (Suffolk Scheduled Monument 95). In addition, a field system of probable prehistoric date was defined to the north-west, during the construction of a new playing field. There is high potential for prehistoric occupation deposits to extend into this site. 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 (SCCAS/CT) 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 prehistoric and later occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches and the provision of services for the school building (measuring c. 47 x 20m in area), and also any topsoil stripping associated with the construction of the car parking (measuring c. 45 x 15m). These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed 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 (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 SCCAS/CT - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his 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 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 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 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 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 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 three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the SMR 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 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.
- 5.4 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 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.

5.6 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: 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: 22 March 2007

Reference: /KesgraveHighSchool-Kesgrave2007

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.