

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## QUEEN'S HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, THE SQUARE, DENNINGTON (SMR ref. DNN 045)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008  
(Application No: C/07/2238)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/088  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-39092)

### Summary

**Dennington:** Queen's Head public house (TM 2820 6700; DNN 045). An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of a small extension to the public house.

The monitoring revealed the truncated brick foundations of part of a post-medieval cellared building and an adjoining rectangular brick structure, possibly the lining of a cess pit or a storage tank with an industrial function.

### SMR information

Planning application no:	C/07/2238
Site code:	DNN 045
Date of fieldwork:	07 March 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 2820 6700
Funding body:	Proprietor, Queen's Head PH

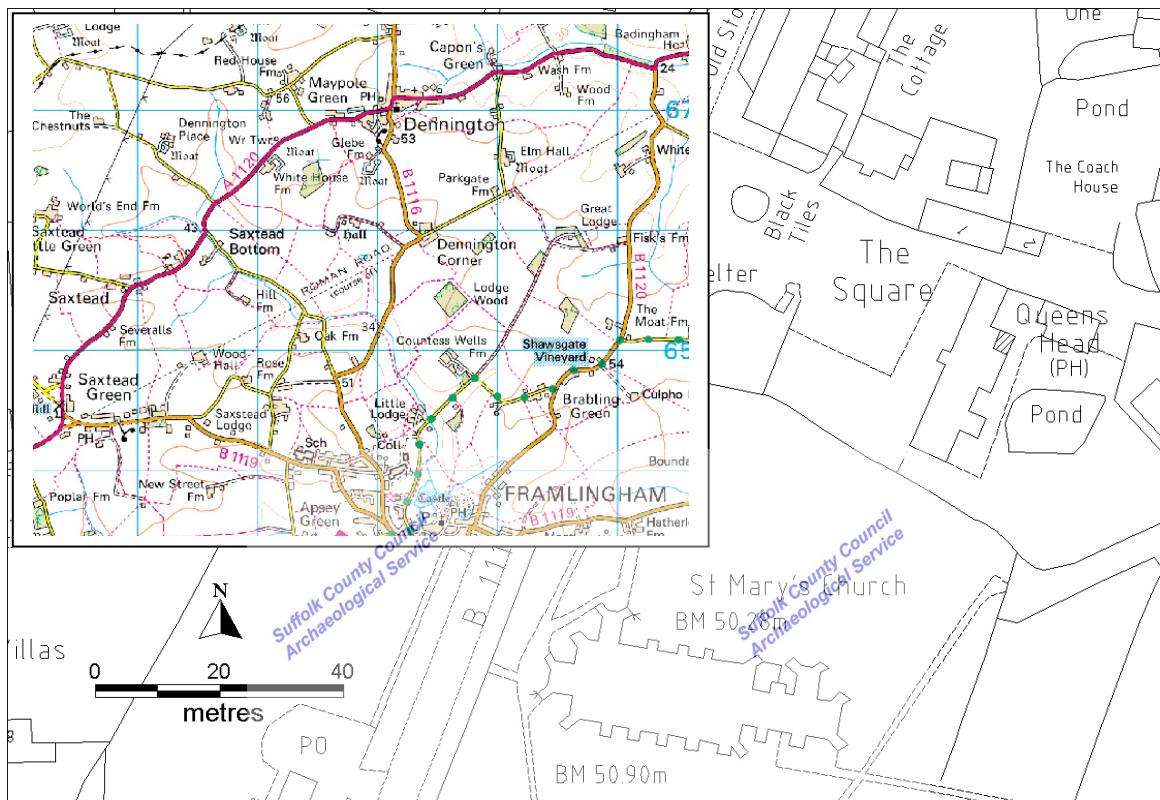


Figure 1. Maps locating Dennington and the Queen's Head. The area of the proposed extension to the public house is hatched

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## Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at the Queen's Head public house, The Square, Dennington (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of an extension at the rear of the public house (Suffolk Coastal District Council application number: C/07/2238).

The Queen's Head is located in Dennington's medieval settlement core and is adjacent to the medieval church (DNN 022 in the County Historic Environment Record). Ground disturbance associated with the proposed development (foundation trenches and drainage trenches) had the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that existed on the site.

## Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The writer visited the site on 07 March 2008 to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches and new drainage trenches associated with the proposed development (Fig 2). The extension measures approximately 3.00m NS x 2.50m

EW and the associated foundation trenches were designed to be 0.40m wide x 1.00m deep. However, the presence of a redundant manhole and numerous drainage pipes in the area of the extension necessitated the excavation of a larger area than was anticipated originally, as shown on Figure 2. The new drainage trenches were generally 0.30m wide and 0.45m deep although a deeper excavation was required for the insertion of a new manhole at the N end of the site.

The sides and bases of all excavations were examined for archaeological features and deposits, and the excavated material was examined for artefacts that might be dated archaeologically. A plan of the excavations and exposed archaeological remains was drawn at a scale of 1:50 on gridded draughting film, and is reproduced here as Figure 2. A digital photographic record was made (images captured at 3008 x 2000 pixels, in .jpg format). Written descriptions and sketched section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were made in a field notebook and all salient details have been reproduced in this report.

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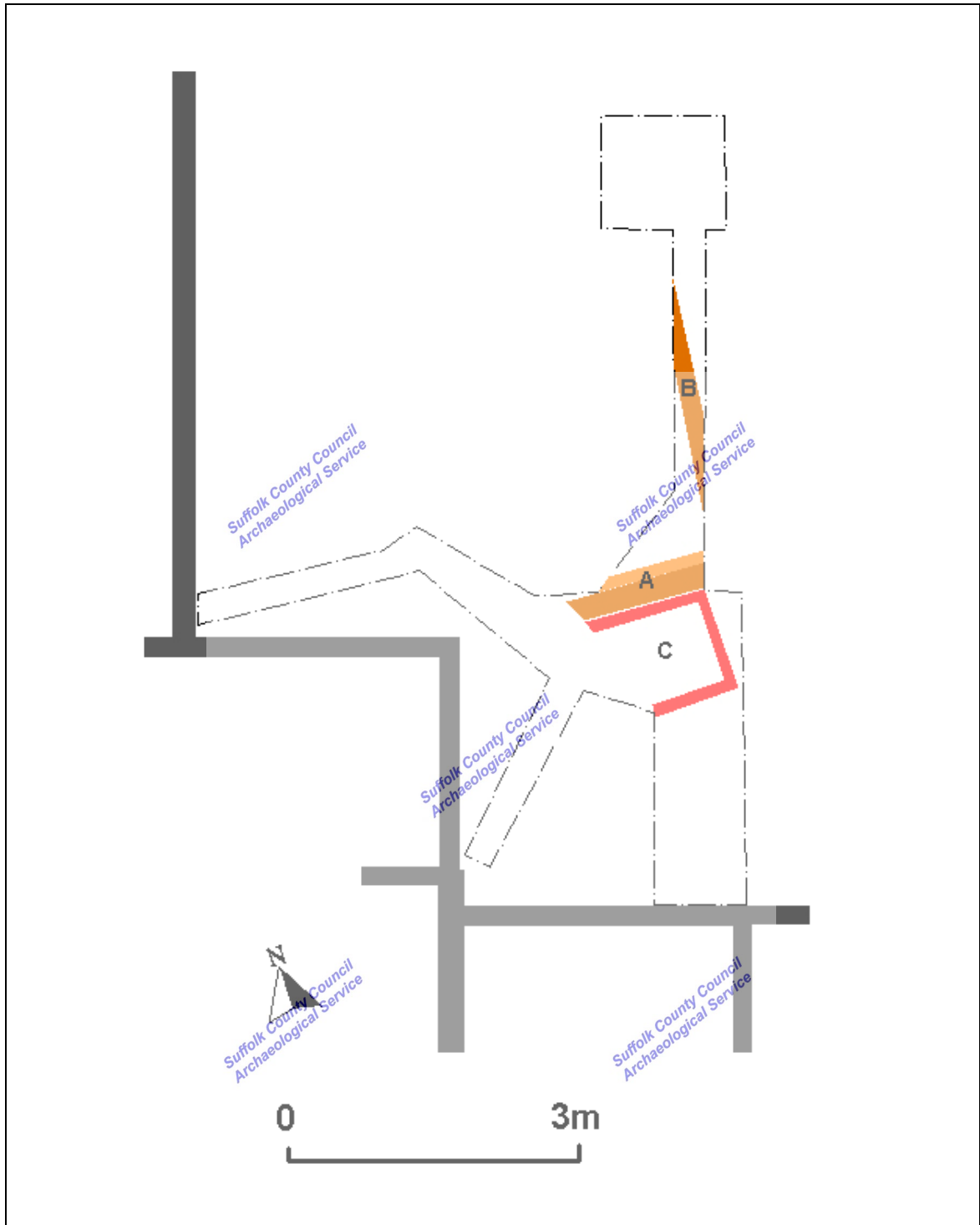


Figure 2. Plan of the excavations and archaeological features

## Results

### Natural stratum

A natural stratum of stiff, mid brownish grey clay/silt was recorded in a limited area at the SE corner of the proposed extension, at a truncated depth of 0.60m below ground level.

### **Post-medieval building**

The brick foundations of a post-medieval building were recorded (A and B on Fig 2). They survived almost to modern ground level, being sealed only by the existing concrete slab (see Fig 3).

Foundation A is oriented EW. It measures >1.50m in length, extending beyond the limit of excavation to the E. Its original extent to the W is unknown, since it has been removed by the construction trench for part of the existing building.

The foundation is constructed of fairly soft, red bricks without frogs measuring 230 x 115 x 65mm, bonded with a hard off-white mortar. The upper part of the foundation (surviving to five courses) has a width of 0.23m, this being the length of a full brick. The bonding pattern is distinctive: each course consists of a double row of stretchers (without a cavity) interrupted by headers after every two stretchers (see Fig 4). At a depth of 0.45m below ground level (the maximum depth of excavation to the N of Foundation A) the foundation widens to 0.40m but only the upper surface of the first wider course was seen and the nature of construction and the depth of this lower build are unknown.

Foundation B is oriented NS and measures at least 3.00m in length, having been truncated by modern pipe trenches at its N end. It is built of similar bricks and mortar to Foundation A but due to modern damage it is difficult to determine the bonding pattern. It is 0.23m wide (the length of a full brick) and survives to at least 0.50m in depth. However, it does not appear to widen at this depth, in the same manner as Foundation A. Its full depth is unknown.

The junction between Foundations A and B is beyond the edge of excavation and their relationship is unknown, although they are probably contemporary. It is possible that they formed the SE corner of a building, but since Foundation B appears to be relatively slight it is more likely that it represents the base of an internal partition wall.

The area between Foundations A and B is filled to a depth of at least 0.50m below ground level (the maximum depth of excavation here) with a deposit of loose, dark grey silt mixed with coal dust, ash and clinker, containing moderate small-large fragments of 19th-century glass vessels, white china pottery and iron objects such as a hammer head, a door fitting, a horse shoe etc. The depth of this deposit and the fact that it does not occur elsewhere within the excavated area suggest that this part of the building was cellared.

### **Post-medieval brick structure**

A rectangular, brick-built structure (C on Fig 2) abuts the S side of Foundation A. It is stretcher-built of soft, red bricks without frogs, similar to those used in Foundations A and B. It includes full bricks and half-bats laid in an irregular bonding pattern. Its internal dimensions are 0.80m NS x at least 1.10m EW x at least 1.00m deep (this being the maximum depth of excavation). Its extent to the W is unknown because its upper courses had been destroyed by modern pipe trenches. Like the adjacent foundations, this structure survives to just below the modern ground slab.

Structure C was built against the external face of Foundation A and there is some indication of mortar rendering between the two, presumably for waterproofing. The upper surviving two courses of the Structure C are off-set to the N and their internal faces have been rendered with mortar, the surface of which is slightly concave.

Structure C is interpreted as either the lining of a cess pit or soak-away or as a storage tank, perhaps with an industrial function.

It was backfilled with stiff, light grey clay/silt containing frequent small-large fragments of mortar and brick rubble. This solid infilling was presumably designed to consolidate the ground once the structure had gone out of use. No datable artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

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Figure 3. A general view of the excavations looking N. Structure C is in the foreground, abutting the south side of Foundation A. Foundation B can be seen running along the base of the modern pipe trench towards the top of the picture



Figure 4. A view of Foundation A (centre left) abutted by Structure C (centre right).

## Discussion and Conclusion

The building and adjoining brick structure are clearly of post-medieval date, and the brick forms and dimensions suggest that they were built in the late 17th- or 18th century (Richenda Goffin, *pers comm*). Clearly the building pre-dates the N end of the existing public house, which (on the evidence of a photograph in the bar) achieved its present form before 1880. This is confirmed by the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1880. The S end of the public house has Tudor origins, although the N half might be a Victorian extension.

It is noted that the earlier building is on a different alignment to the existing public house, although the significance of this is unknown. However, early Ordnance Survey maps show buildings to the N of the Queen's Head on a similar alignment.

The function of the building is not known; the depth of infilling between Foundations A and B (>0.50m below modern ground level) indicates a sunken floor level and suggests that at least part of the building was cellared.

In conclusion, the archaeological monitoring has revealed the remains of a cellared brick building of late 17th- or 18th-century date, which was probably demolished when the public house was extended. Although of some historical interest this is of limited archaeological significance. However, it should be noted that any decision regarding additional archaeological work on the site remains with the Archaeological Planning Officer.



# APPENDIX: Brief and Specification

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### QUEENS HEAD, THE SQUARE, DENNINGTON, 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 rear extension at Queens Head Public House, The Square, Dennington, Suffolk (TM 2820 6700), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/2238). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring. **(Please contact the applicant for an accurate map of the development area).**
- 1.2 This application is situated within the medieval settlement core, recorded in County Historic Environment Record, and adjacent to the medieval church (DNN 022). There is high potential for occupation deposits of this period to be disturbed by development. 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 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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new extension. These, and also 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*.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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).

- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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 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 February 2008

Reference: /QueensHead-Dennington2008

**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.**