

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

The Granary, Hill House, Needham Market NDM 025

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Mid Suffolk Planning app. no. 3017/06)

*Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service*

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring following a building survey of the Granary at Hill House, Needham Market has identified earlier floor surfaces within the building. One of these is constructed of flint and some brick and probably represents the original stable floor. The second, earlier floor is constructed of compacted chalk and cut by the existing wall footings, indicating that this may be a floor relating to the late 16th century structure identified in the Building Survey.

SMR information

Planning application no. 3017/06
Date of fieldwork: Dec 2007
Grid Reference: TM 0816 5555
Funding body: Mr and Mrs Bolton
Oasis reference: Suffolkc1-39871

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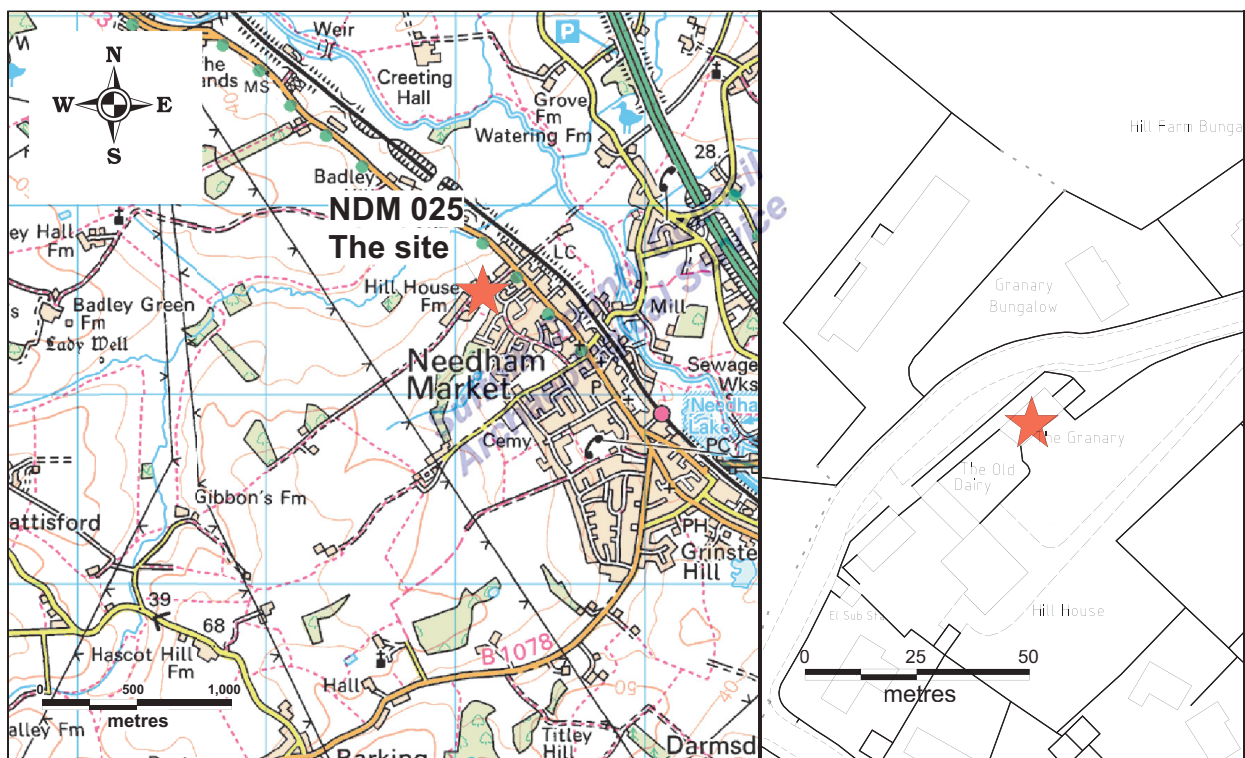
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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the conversion of a redundant stable/granary at Hill House, Needham Market. The site lies at grid ref. TM 0816 5555 near the top of a NE facing hill at c. 37m OD within the boundary of Hill House, formerly called Dod's Farm (Fig. 1). The surface geology is orange silty clay. The archaeological work was required as a condition on planning application 3017/06 and carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1). Prior to the start of works a Building Survey was carried out by Architectural Historian, Leigh Alston (Alston 2008). The building was constructed in the mid 17th century as an ostentatious riding stable, built within a manor complex belonging to Jacob Garrard Esquire. The property became a tenanted farm in the 18th century and the building was subsequently converted into a granary. Evidence in the structure at the south-western end of the building indicated that the 17th century construction incorporated part of an earlier, late 16th century building.



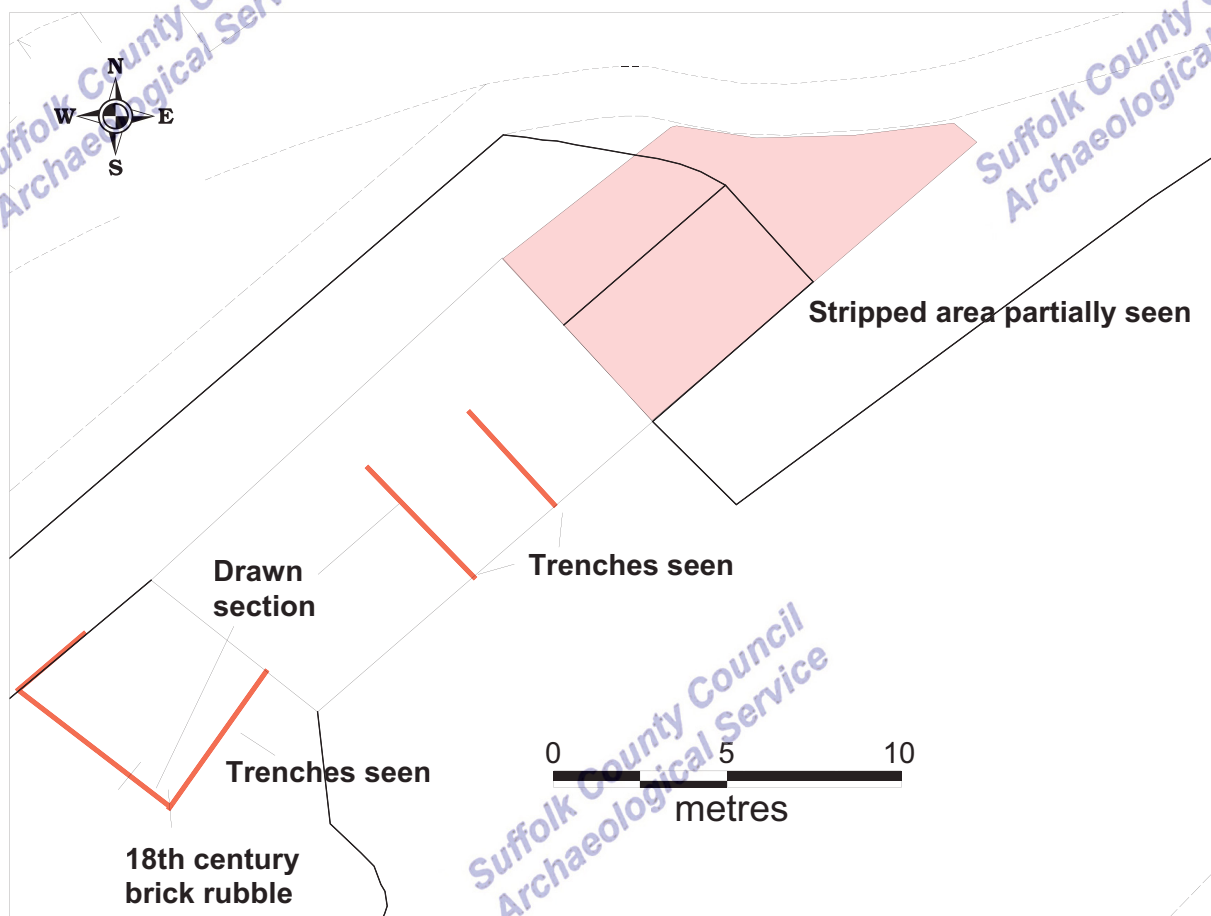
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Figure 1. Site location

Methodology

Three visits were made during December 2007 to examine the groundworks for the conversion. These included a shallow site strip in front of the north-eastern end of the building, two trenches inside the building and footings trenches for a new extension to the south-western end of the building (Fig. 2). These were examined during and after they had been excavated and sections drawn at 1:20. High resolution digital photographs were taken of the works seen. The footings for the north-eastern end were not seen. The field work was carried out by Jo Caruth and John Craven from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team.

The site was recorded under the HER site code NDM 025 and context numbers 0001-0007 issued during the work. A copy of the report has been lodged with the OASIS on-line database under the reference suffolkc1-39871.



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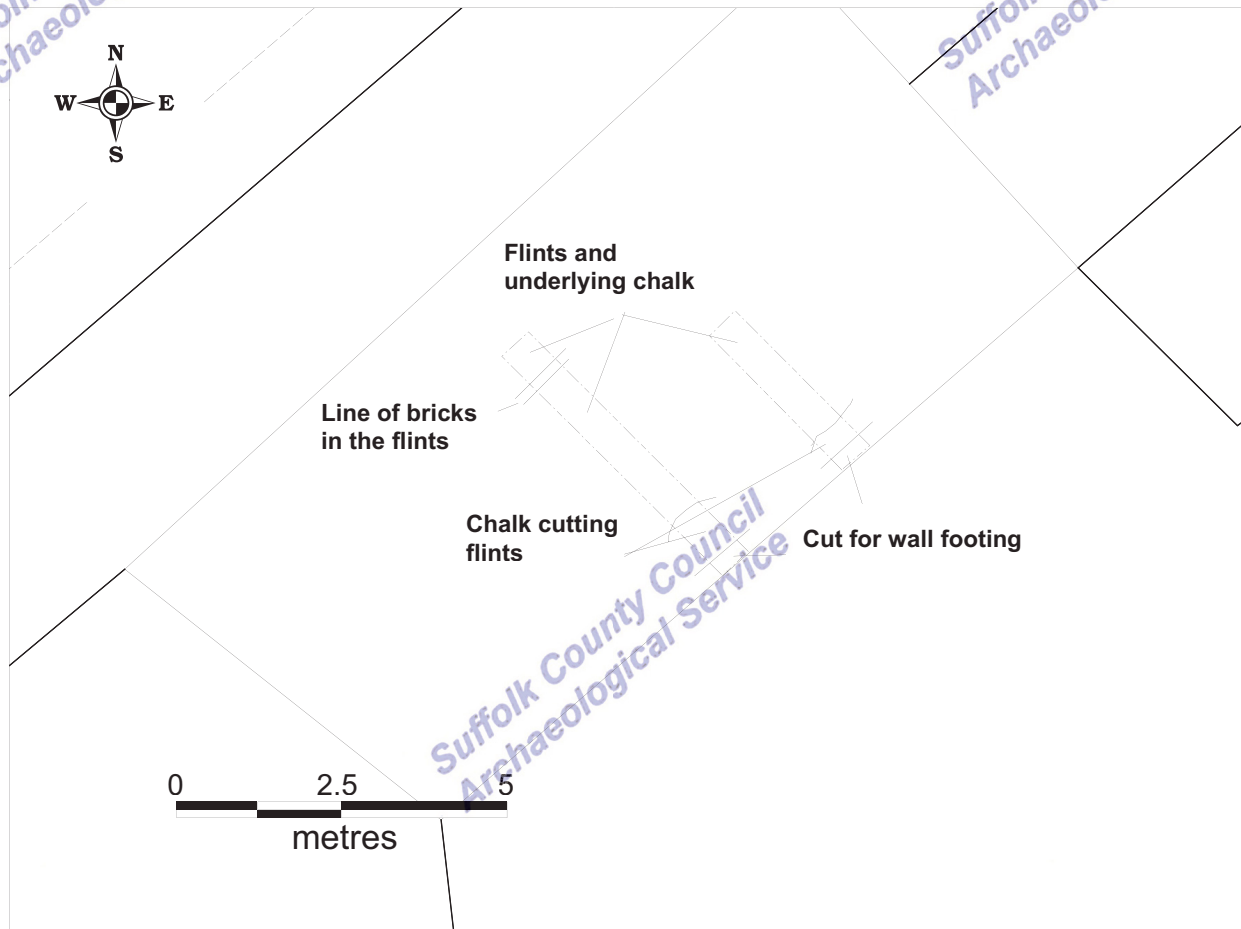
Figure 2. Location of areas visited

Results

The site strip at the north-eastern end of the building was only 0.2m deep and only just penetrated to the base of the topsoil. This was largely covered in hard-core at the time of the visit. The footing trenches for the south-western extensions showed clean orange clay under c.0.2m of topsoil. Where these abutted the 16th century wall, a footing consisting of six courses of bricks sitting on natural clay was seen, but no cut for an associated trench was identified. Some loose 18th century brick rubble was present in the topsoil and upper clay at the south corner of the trenches (Figs. 2 and 4).

Two trenches SE-NW aligned, 0.5m wide were excavated within the building (Fig. 2). These cut through the modern concrete floor revealing a surface, immediately below the modern surface, of large rounded flints, 0002, c.0.13m across, laid in a single regular course, with a line of single bricks, 0003, aligned with and 4m from the long walls of the building (Fig. 3). A sample brick was retrieved. This was a plain handmade floor brick, in a yellow/buff-coloured firing clay with a fine sandy texture and well mixed fabric with small grog inclusions. The brick measures 2" x 3¼" x incomplete length and dates to the 17/18th centuries (D.Gill pers comm). The brick was laid on edge and without mortar. The flint surface was seen up to a point 1.13m from the north-western long wall, at which point it appeared to have been cut away or lost and filled with chalk, 0007 (Fig. 4). The flints were set into a thin layer of yellow sand, 0004, which overlay a layer of

compacted chalk, 0005, 0.1m thick. This sat on yellow brown silt, 0006, over natural orange silt. No finds were recovered from any of these layers. A cut for the footing trench, 0009 for the wall could be seen cutting through the early chalk layer, 0005, and lying under later chalk 0007, although 007 was subsequently cut by a later concrete filled feature, 0008, against the wall (Fig 4).



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Figure 3. Site plan

Summary and Conclusion

The evidence from outside the building was limited, with only the south-western end of the building seen clearly. This did allow a view of the footing of the early wall, but did not identify any structural features associated with it. The trenches inside the building uncovered two former floor surfaces, the earliest of these was a compacted chalk surface cut by the existing walls of the building, and this may represent a floor associated with the earlier building indicated by the 16th century brickwork at the south-western end of the building. The later surface was made up of rounded flint cobbles forming a robust surface punctuated by a row of bricks laid on edge. The bricks appeared to be 17th-18th century and probably indicated the line of an internal structure (partitions or stalls?). This is probably the original cobbled stable floor and contemporary with the construction and initial use of the building as a stable, in the 17th century.

References

Alston, L. 2008 *The Granary, Hill House, Needham Market, Suffolk, Archaeological Record*.
Unpublished

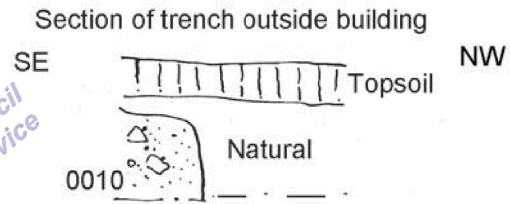
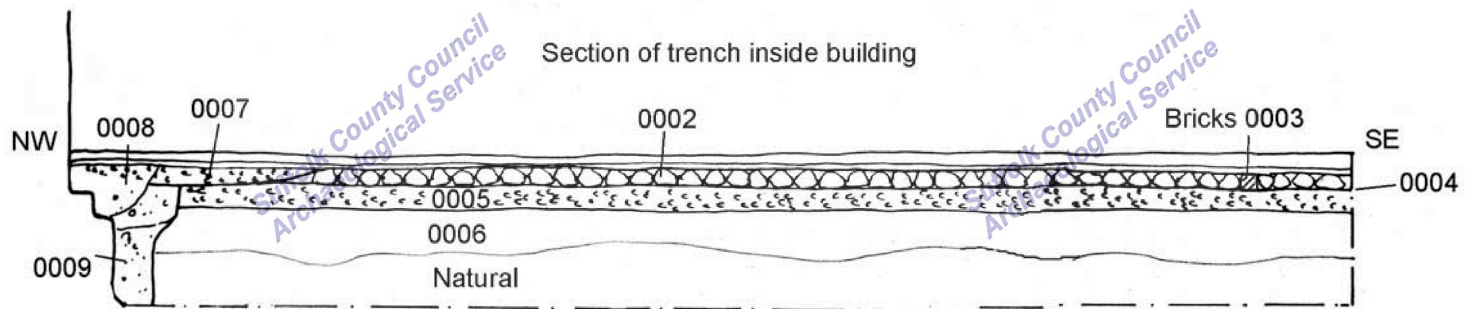


Figure 4. Sections

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of Development

THE GRANARY, HILL HOUSE, HILL HOUSE LANE, NEEDHAM MARKET, IP6 8EA

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 for the conversion of a historic farm building (a redundant stable/granary) to residential accommodation at The Granary, Hill House, Hill House Lane, Needham Market (TM 081 555), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 3017/06). The local planning authority have been advised that the building is important and will need to be recorded before development. In addition, areas of ground disturbance will be recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application concerns the conversion of a redundant farm building. The building is a Grade II Listed Building of special architectural and historic interest, which dates from the mid seventeenth century (Listed Building 436975). A recent policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (*Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*, 2006 – available at www.helm/org.uk) advises that recording of such structures before conversion works is desirable. The building will retain important archaeological information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use. Any groundworks associated with the conversion 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). 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 Recording**

2.1 Historic building and archaeological recording, as specified in Sections 3 and 4, is to be carried out prior to and during conversion.

2.2 The objective will be to compile a high level record and written report of the Listed Building (English Heritage Level 3), both descriptive and analytical (English Heritage 2006, 14), before conversion takes place.

2.3 The excavation of building footing trenches, service trenches and replacement of internal floors, as well as any other works that might disturb below-ground archaeological remains, are to be observed during stripping and after they have been excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

2.4 The academic objective will be to provide a detailed understanding of the nature and development of the building, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building. There is also the potential to produce evidence for medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation of the site.

3. **Specification for Archaeological Recording**

The survey methodology will form part of the Project Design and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

3.1 A detailed drawn plan of the building, indicating the positions of apertures, floor levels, internal fittings and features (measured survey using the English Heritage (2006) conventions).

3.2 Elevation drawings of the building (measured survey using the English Heritage (2006) conventions).

3.3 Detailed drawings of any particularly good features of the building.

3.4 Full photographic coverage of the building. The photographic record will consist of both general views and details, both externally and internally, using both high-resolution digital images and monochrome prints. Detailed photographs will be needed of specific features, fixtures, decoration, marks and similar items; for these a photographic scale will need to be included. The photographic record will be accompanied by a register detailing the location, direction and date of each photograph.

3.5 A detailed descriptive record of the building to compliment the measured drawings and photographic coverage as necessary. The written report should describe the building, concentrating on the timber framework, including scantlings, joints, chamfers, carpentry marks, evidence of reuse, evidence of alterations, blocked doorways or windows, shutters, etc.

3.6 An analytical or interpretative report of the building, with suitable analytical drawings showing any relative phasing and stratigraphic analysis. Structural phasing, as revealed by the fabric, must be related to changes in function and/or status of the building.

3.7 A block plan should be produced of the site, to locate the building in relation to other buildings in the immediate vicinity. The main components of the complex shall be numbered for reference in the report.

3.8 A historical document search (documentary, cartographic and pictorial) to situate the history of the building within the immediate local context.

3.9 The analytical report should include analysis of form and function, and importance, based on comparison with other buildings in the region. They should be positioned within the local and regional tradition of vernacular building, in terms of plan form, materials and construction.

4. **Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks**

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 In the case of footing and main service trenches unimpeded access 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. In the case of the topsoil stripping and levelling unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

4.4 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.

4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.7 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.

4.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

4.9 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 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. 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.
- 5.3 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 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 Sites and Monuments 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.
- 5.6 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

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Tel.: 01284 352197
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Date: 1 August 2007

Reference: /TheGranaryHillHouse-NeedhamMarket2007

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.