

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land Adjacent to Cherry Trees, Cransford (CRN 011)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2008
(Planning app. no. C/01/1000)

Clare Good
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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

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List of Contributors

Clare Good Project Officer Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Mr P. Becher, and was monitored by Bob Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

Project Officer Clare Good from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, carried out the excavation.

Clare Good directed the project which was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Cransford, Land Adjacent to Cherry Trees, Cransford (TM 3169 6484, CRN 011)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of five dwellings at land adjacent Cherry Trees, Cransford in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. The site lies some 70m north east of St Peters Church (CRN 003) and potentially within the medieval core of the village. Two trenches were excavated through Plot 5 only, as the remaining development had been delayed. They were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil but no archaeological evidence was revealed.

(C. Good, for SCCAS and Mr P. Becher.; 2008/231)

HER information

Planning application no.	C/01/1000
Date of fieldwork:	26/09/2006
Grid Reference:	TM 3169 6484
Funding body:	Mr P. Becher
Oasis Reference	Suffolfc1-46077

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned in advance of the construction of five dwellings at land adjacent to Cherry Trees, Cransford. The land was to be evaluated plot by plot, depending on the results of the previous intervention.

The development area is centred on TM 3169 6484 (Fig. 1). The site was formerly occupied by a breaker's yard and warehousing that was not in use at the time of the archaeological site works, but was extant. Plot 5 was evaluated first, in the corner closest to the church (Fig. 3).

The proposed development covers an area of c. 8100 square metres and lies at approximately 52m OD. The site is flat and has an underlying drift geology of heavy clay. It is surrounded by houses to the south, farmland to the north and west, and gardens to the east.

Five new dwellings were to be constructed over the whole site, with associated gardens and garaging. The site lies some 70m north east from the medieval church and churchyard of St Peter (CRN 003) and has high potential to lie within the historic settlement core of the village. Within 200m to the west, a high density of metal work has been recovered whilst metal detecting, from both the Roman and medieval periods, indicating activity in both of these periods (CRN 006, 007, 008 and misc) (Fig. 2).

On the basis of the potential for medieval or Roman evidence, and as the development would include significant ground disturbance, it was deemed necessary to evaluate this plot in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Bob Carr of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Division and the work was carried out by Clare Good of the SCCAS Field Team, commissioned and funded by Mr P. Becher.

This report covers the results from Plot 5 only, closest to the church (Fig.3). Subsequent development has been delayed on the remaining plots and so decisions on the necessary archaeological interventions on these has yet to be made.

2. Methodology

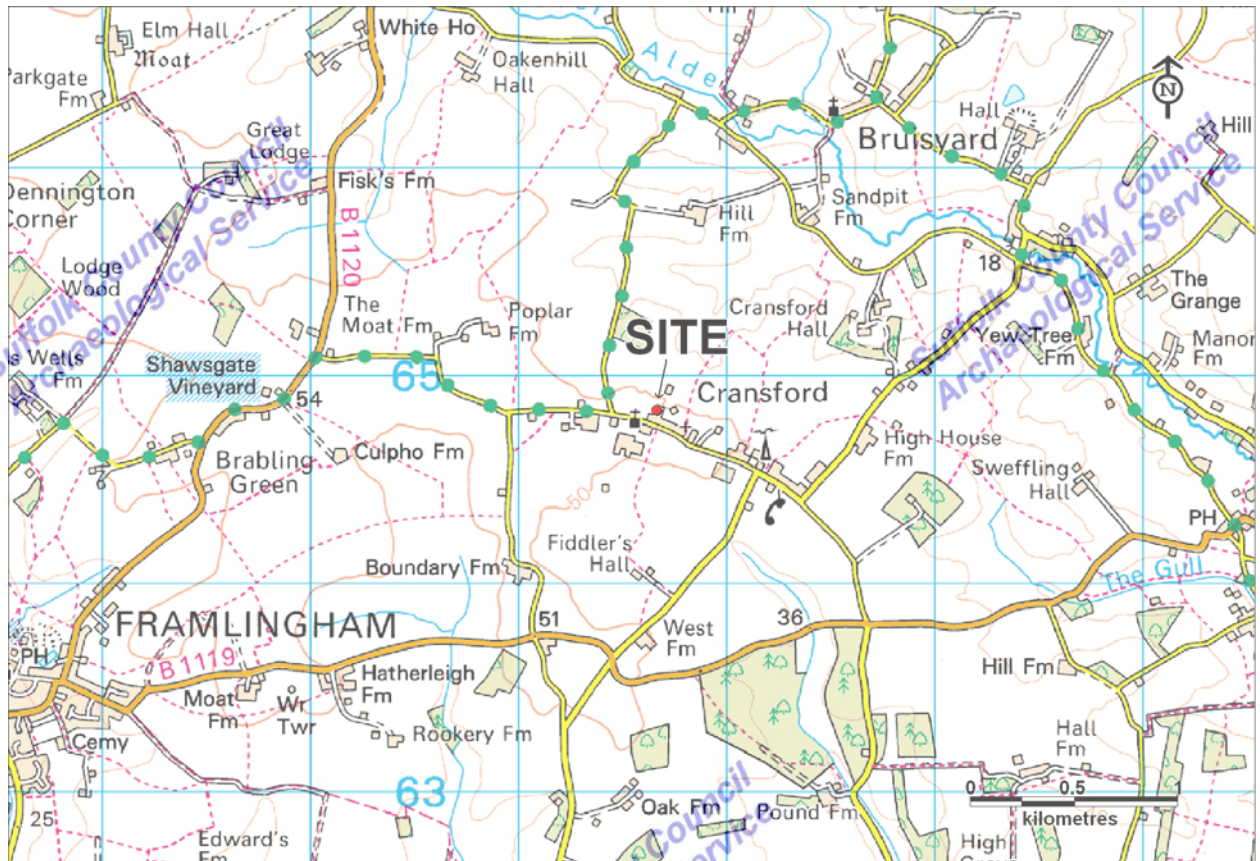
Two trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in September 2006 using a 360 degree machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. They were located within Plot 5 where footings were to be dug, in locations agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). 10m of trench were excavated, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features.

The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code CRN 011. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

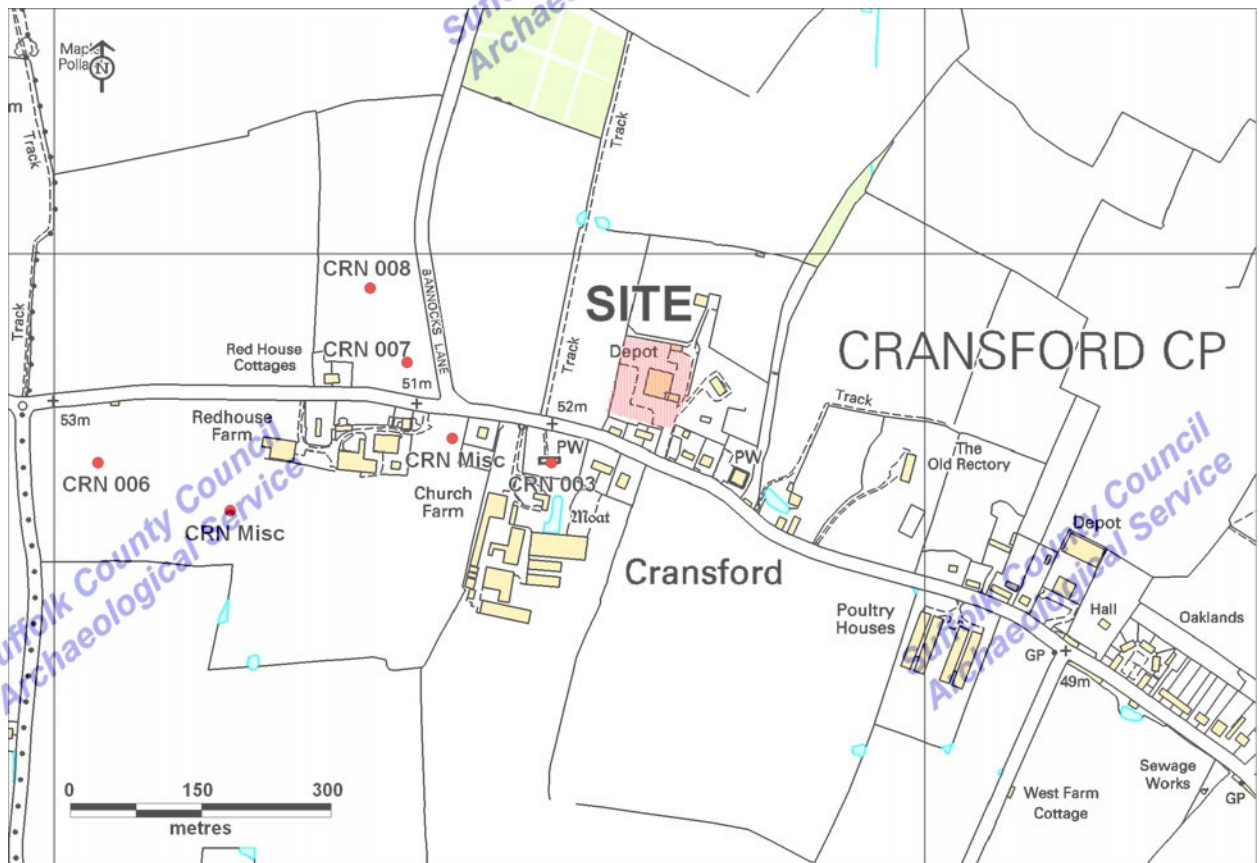
The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined manually using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-46077.



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Figure 1. Site Location



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Figure 2. Location of the site in relation to sites recorded on county HER

3. Results

Topsoil 0001 was similar over the whole site and comprised a mixed dark brown clay loam with rubble and building debris throughout. It was 0.4m deep on average. This topsoil was full of modern rubble and on discussion with the landowner, it was revealed that the remnants of Martlesham Airfield had been dumped here after it was closed and demolished in the 1960's. This dumping layer was extensive and obvious, and affected visibility in both trenches. It extended into the natural subsoil, meaning this was only visible in occasional patches. This natural subsoil comprised a mid grey brown solid chalky clay.



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Figure 3. Location of Trenches 1 and 2

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 8m long. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m through topsoil, onto occasional patches of natural subsoil. The disturbance from the topsoil was visible throughout the trench but within the odd patches of natural subsoil that were seen, no archaeology was revealed.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned roughly WNW-ESE and was 2m long. It was also excavated to a depth of 0.4m through topsoil. The natural subsoil was not revealed in this trench due to the extensive disturbance. Again no archaeological finds or features were revealed.

4. Conclusion

No archaeology was revealed during this evaluation. The extensive disturbance from the rubble of Martlesham Airfield has potentially masked or destroyed any archaeology in this plot. It is not clear how far into the development area this disturbance stretches, although it is worth noting the site is flat, and may have been landscaped over the whole area using this rubble.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that a plot to the rear of the site is also evaluated before development to gauge the extent of the disturbance, and if any archaeology may be present here. The plots immediately adjacent to Plot 5 should be archaeologically monitored, at the very least, to see if any archaeology exists or survives due to the high potential of the site, and to determine the extent of disturbance.

Clare Good, July 2008

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT CHERRY TREES, CRANSFORD

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [C/04/1329] has been made for five dwellings. An appeal has been made against refusal.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 This 0.7ha site lies c.70m from the medieval church and churchyard; it has high potential to lie within the historic settlement core and there is an area of frontage onto the historic routeway,. Within c. 200m to the west, fieldwork has identified a high density of surface metal finds which indicate occupation in both Roman and medieval periods. There is no record of corresponding fieldwork in the area of the site or in adjacent fields.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation 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 with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.

2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) 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.

2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area / entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, including the site access. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.

- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4. General Management**
- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 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 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:

Suffolk County Council
 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Environment and Transport Department
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 23 February 2006

Reference: /Cransford02-1329

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.