

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MONITORING REPORT

LAND ADJACENT CHURCH COTTAGE CAPEL ST MARY (HER Ref. CSM 029)

M. Sommers
© December 2008

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team
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SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/066

OASIS ref. suffolkc1-52290

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HER INFORMATION

Planning Application No.:
Grid Reference:
Funded by:
OASIS ref.:

B/07/00764
TM 0849 3823
Mr and Mrs Hearne
suffolkc1-52290

Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during September 2007 to investigate the potential for buried archaeology on a plot of land, situated immediately to the west of Church Cottage, The Street, Capel St Mary (NGR ref. TM 0849 3823), which had been earmarked for a small residential development. Three hand dug test pit were excavated within the proposed building's footprint. Each revealed a thick layer of topsoil overlying a deposit of dirty yellow sand with very small stones which continued for at least a further 0.5m. This was interpreted as the backfill of a former quarry, being the unwanted material after cleaning and processing of the excavated gravels. No archaeological features were noted in any of the test pits although a small number of Roman and medieval pottery sherds were recovered.

Following the evaluation some of the groundwork associated with the new construction was archaeologically monitored but only the same deposits identified in the test pits were seen. No undisturbed natural subsoil was revealed.

The evaluation and subsequent monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team who were commissioned and funded by the landowner, Mr and Mrs Hearne. This archaeological work is recorded on the County HER under the reference CSM 029.

1. Introduction

Planning consent for a single dwelling and garage (application no. B/07/00764) has been approved but with an attached archaeological condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological works be implemented prior to the commencement of construction work on the site.

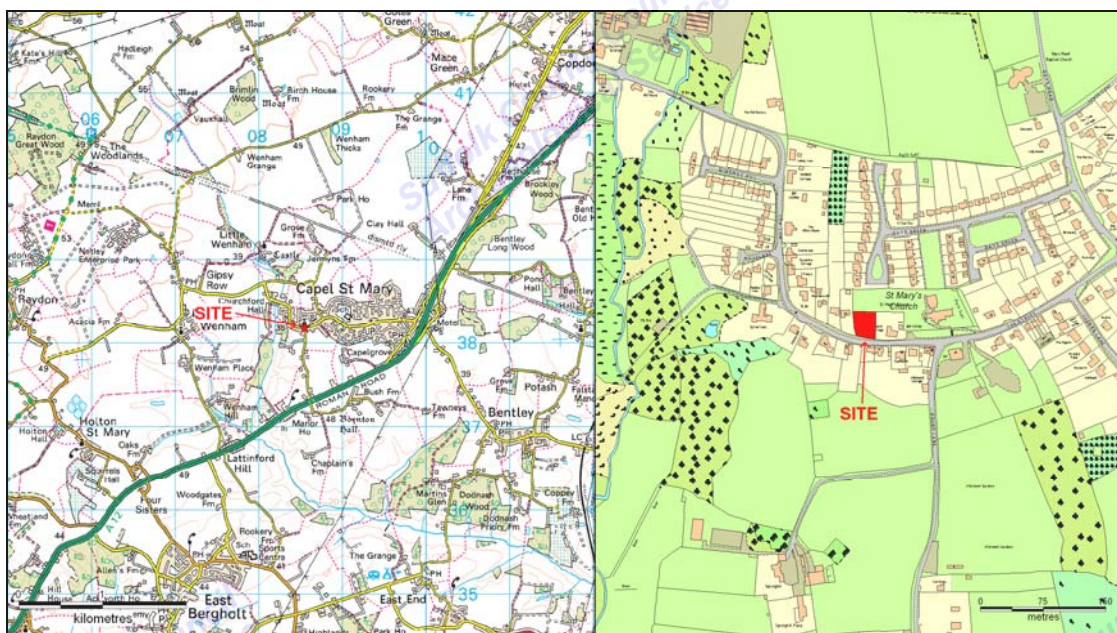


Figure 1: Location Plan

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The site is located on land to the west of Church Cottage, The Street, Capel St Mary. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the development site is TM 0849 3823 (see Figure 1). The site slopes down from north to south with slope getting particularly steep towards the road. The highest portion of the site lies at c. 40m OD whilst adjacent the road the level has fallen to c. 35m OD.

Archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within the medieval and earlier settlement core, as testified by its proximity to the medieval St Mary's Church (HER ref. CSM 013), and the possibility of Roman remains due to the location of a known area of Roman burials some 200m to the northwest (HER ref. CSM 002).

To detail the work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix II). Based on the results of the evaluation it was agreed with the Conservation Team that in the light of the site's low archaeological potential monitoring of the groundwork associated with the new construction would be a satisfactory form of mitigation against any potential loss of evidence.

The evaluation and monitoring was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service who were commissioned and funded by the site's owners, Mr and Mrs Hearne. The archive of the work is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Historic Environment Record reference, CSM 029 and a summary of this project has been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-52290.

2. Methodology

Evaluation

Trial pits were excavated in accordance with a plan approved by the County Conservation Team. Each was to be hand-dug as there was only limited access to the site. Standard shovels were used and excavation commenced until the undisturbed subsoil was exposed. Any artefacts recovered during the excavation of the test pits were to be retained pending analysis.

Any features revealed were to be hand excavated and recorded through scale plans and sections but in the event no significant features were identified. Scale drawings recording the soil profiles as revealed by the test pits were drawn. They were also photographically recorded using a 4 megapixel digital camera with 2m ranging rods divided into 0.5m sections. Context numbers were to be issued as required commencing at 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site.

Levels were recorded and compared to the known spot height on the roadway some 85m west of the site, recorded on Ordnance Survey maps as being 35.1m OD (it was not possible to use the Bench Mark on the church due to ongoing works at the church).

Following archaeological investigation the test pit locations were recorded using 30m tapes and plotted on a scale plan of the site. Upon completion of the fieldwork the test pits were backfilled.

Monitoring

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken through making site visits and observing any groundwork then underway. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. The surfaces of all spoil tips present were examined for archaeological artefacts.

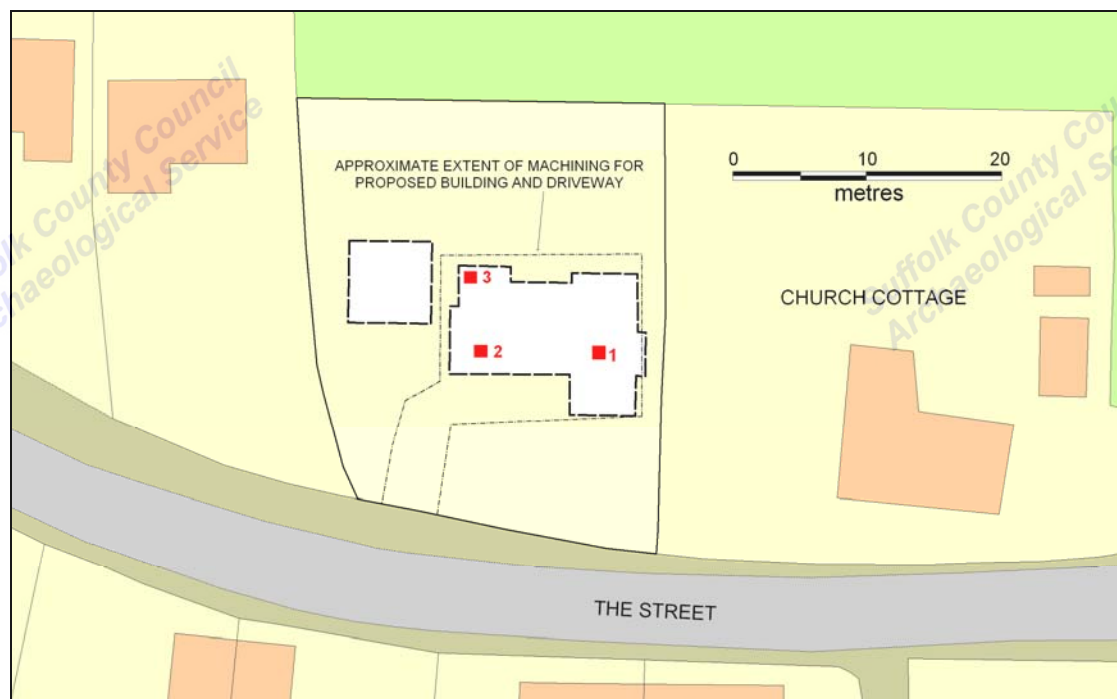


Figure 2: Evaluation and Monitoring Results

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3. Results

Evaluation

Three test pits were excavated within the footprint of the main building. Each was approximately 1m square; see figure 2 above for a plan of their location. Only two context numbers were allocated, 0001 for unstratified finds from the topsoil and 0002 for the deposit immediately beneath the topsoil. The results for each test pit are as follows:

Test Pit 1: 1.35m deep. Top 0.4m comprised rich garden topsoil (context 0001). This overlay a dense, dark brown silty sand, slightly lighter at towards base (context 0002). Deposit of dirty yellow sand with numerous small fragments of flint and tiny pebbles present at base. Height at of ground level = 38.7m OD.

Test Pit 2: 1.1m deep. Top 0.45m comprised rich garden topsoil (context 0001). This overlay a dense, dark brown silty sand (context 0002). A deposit of dirty yellow sand with numerous small fragments of flint and tiny pebbles present at base. Top of base deposit had a pronounced slope down from west to east. Height at of ground level = 38.1m OD.

Test Pit 3: 0.75m deep. Top 0.4m comprised rich garden topsoil (context 0001) which overlay a dense, dark brown silty sand (context 0002). Deposit of dirty yellow sand with numerous small fragments of flint and tiny pebbles present at base. Test shaft excavated into basal deposit which continued unchanged for at least 0.5m without any obvious layering. Height at of ground level = 37.95m OD.



Plate I: Test Pit 1



Plate II: Test Pit 2



Plate III: Test Pit 3

Monitoring

The site was visited on the 15th November 2007 when work was underway to create a driveway into the plot. This was achieved by cutting a gentle slope into the existing steep slope. The cut into the ground surface was *c.* 0.8m at its deepest point but was still in the upper layers identified in the test pits. Natural subsoil was not seen and no features or deposits were identified.

The site was visited again on the 21st November 2007. A level terrace had been cut into the sloping site to create a level area for the construction of the house. Again, this only disturbed the upper layers as noted in the test pits and no natural subsoil was seen and no features or significant deposits were identified.

4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin, December 2008.

Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		CBM		Flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	14	119			1	18		Roman, med/p-med, unstrat
0002	8	81	3	61			3 frags clay pipe @ 10g	Post-medieval
Total	22	199	3	61				

Pottery (Roman pottery identifications by Cathy Tester)

Twenty-two fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (199g). The assemblage was fully quantified and catalogued (Appendix I). Small quantities of unstratified Roman pottery were identified (10 sherds @ 89g). Two jar rims were present and the rim of a flanged dish dating to the Late 3rd to 4th century. The remainder of the Roman pottery consists of body sherds of sandy and greywares.

Fragments of medieval pottery were also present in the ceramic assemblage (3 unstratified sherds @ 22g and 5 from 0002 @ 61g). The majority of these sherds are made in coarseware fabrics, but a single fragment of a glazed and slipped jug was found in 0002, dating from the mid twelfth to fourteenth century. Three additional post-medieval sherds from this context date to the 16th-18th century.

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of ceramic roof tile were collected from topsoil deposit 0002. All the fragments are from late/post-medieval red-fired peg tiles made in medium sandy fabrics with sparse coarse flint inclusions.

Ceramic tobacco pipe

Three fragments of post-medieval clay pipe stem were recovered from deposit 0002.

Flint (identification by Colin Pendleton)

A single unpatinated long flint flake with hinge fracture was collected as an unstratified find. It has slight edge retouch or use wear, and can only be dated to the later prehistoric period.

Discussion

Small quantities of finds were recovered from topsoil deposits in the testpits. The presence of several fragments of Roman pottery, only a few sherds of which are abraded, is significant, as the site is not far from known Roman burials and possible settlement. The dating of one of these sherds to the later part of the Roman period may contribute to the overall evidence for the duration and dating of the Roman activity in the vicinity. The medieval sherds reflect the location of the site in the heart of the medieval settlement.

5. Discussion

The results of the evaluation and subsequent monitoring indicate that this site would appear to have been previously quarried for gravel and the workings have then been backfilled with unwanted material left over from sorting the gravel and stone from the natural subsoil and possibly other material imported from the locality. There is no evidence for when this may have occurred, no artefacts were recovered from any of the lower layers or the quarry waste to suggest a date and no pits are marked on early Ordnance Survey maps. It is probably a post-medieval activity and is likely to be related to local construction work and possibly the surfacing the adjacent roadway.

The site is not far from known Roman sites that are undoubtedly the origin of the Roman material recovered from the upper layers which has probably been transported to this location in the material used to backfill the quarry. The presence of medieval sherds is not to be unexpected given the site's location close to the centre of a medieval settlement as testified by the presence of the nearby church.

M. Sommers
Suffolk County Council, Field Projects Team

4th December 2008

APPENDIX I

CSM 029 - POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sherd No.	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date	Context date
0001	ROM	BSE	JAR		1	26		Rim		U/S, contains Roman
0001	ROM	GX	DISH		1	13	A	Form 6.17	Late 3 rd /4 th century	
0001	ROM	GX	JAR		1	17	A			
0001	ROM	BS	BODY		1	9				
0001	ROM	GX	BASE		4	17		Base, possible dish		
0001	ROM	GX	BODY		2	7				
0001	MED	MCW	BODY		2	11	A			
0001	PMED	LPME	BODY		1	8				
0001	MED	MCW	BASE		1	11		Sagging base, grey core		
0002	PMED	IGBW	CUP/MUG		1	2				U/S 16 th -18 th
0002	PMED	IGBW	IGBW		1	8				
0002	PMED	GRE	BODY		1	9				
0002	MED	UPG	BODY	SLIP	1	11		Vertical slipped lines, spl glaze		
0002	MED	HOLL	BODY		1	2				
0002	MED	MCW?	BODY		2	10		Partially oxidised with red ?grog inclusions		
0002	MED	LMT?	BASE	THB	1	38		Sagging base, poss cistern	14 th -15 th century	

APPENDIX II

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

CHURCH COTTAGE, THE STREET, CAPEL ST MARY

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

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application [B/07/00764] has been made to build a new dwelling and garage on part of the garden of Church Cottage.
- 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 The proposal area lies adjacent to the medieval church and churchyard, with frontage onto the historic roadway. There is high potential for the site to be within the medieval and earlier settlement core and to contain early settlement evidence. In addition, there is a known area of Roman burials within 200m (Suffolk County Council Sites and Monuments Record No CSM 002), there is moderate potential for further burials or associated Roman occupation in this general area.
- 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.
- 2.7 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](#) and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. 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 J Heathcote, 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.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 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: R D Carr

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

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 3 August 2007

Reference: /Church Cottage, The Street

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.