

# Suffolk County Council Suffolk County as Service ArAP ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT Archaeological Services SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/122

Church Farm, Hepworth Suffolk County Council

Archaeological Service **HEP 027** 

J. A. Craven

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#### **HER Information**

Planning Application No: F/2009/0533

Date of Fieldwork: 18th June 2009

Grid Reference: TL 9860 7493

Funding Body: BK Museum Ltd

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: J. A. Craven

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-60826

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit







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#### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of development on land at Church Farm, Hepworth, which lies near the centre of the village and the medieval parish church.

The development, an area of c.220sqm was evaluated by a single trench. This identified the natural subsoil lying at a depth of 0.6m-0.9m under a thick agricultural topsoil with some evidence of minor truncation. A linear boundary, corresponding to the post-medieval field edge shown on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Surveys of 1883 and 1904, was clearly identified running the length of the trench. This was infilled during the 20th century and the field edge moved north by c.5m.

A single find of a Late-Saxon copper alloy finger ring was metal-detected from the spoilheap and is the only evidence of activity on the site pre-dating the post-medieval period. It seems likely that the site was in agricultural use on the periphery of the settlement during the medieval period, despite its proximity to the church.

Due to the small scale of the development proposal, the depth of the natural subsoil and the absence of any significant evidence of activity pre-dating the post-medieval period no further work, as part of the archaeological mitigation strategy for the site, is thought necessary.





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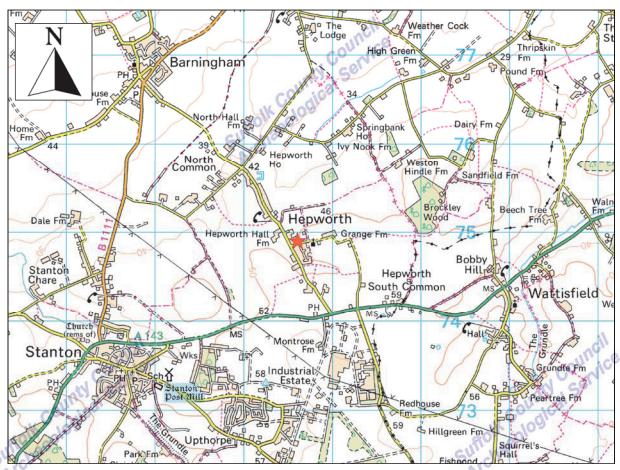
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#### 1. Introduction

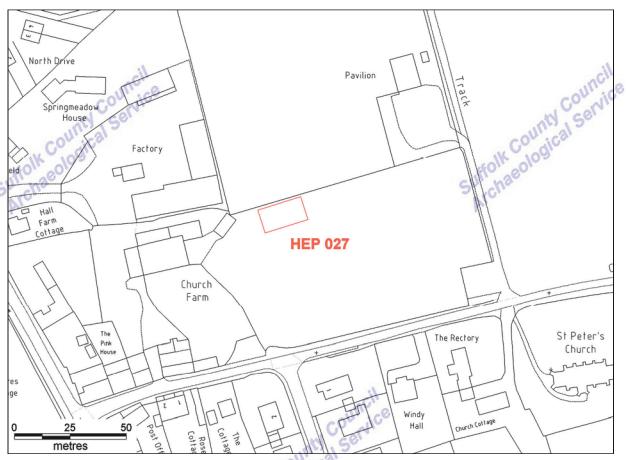
An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of development at Church Farm, Hepworth, Lakenheath. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2009/0533. The work was funded by the developer, BK Museum Ltd.

The site lies near the centre of the village, within the historic settlement core, c.150m to the north-west of the parish church of St Peter and 150m south-east of Hepworth Hall Farm (Fig 1). The planned development, a building measuring 20m by 10.68m lies in the corner of a pasture field, adjacent to the former farm yard (Fig. 2).



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Figure 1. Site location plan



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Figure 2. Site plan

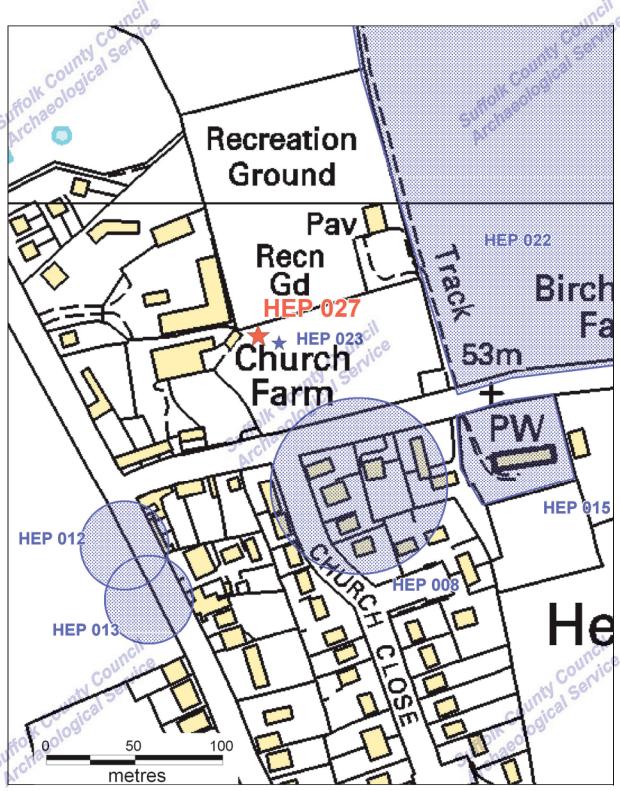
#### 2. Geology and topography

The site lies on a slight west facing slope, at a height of c.49m-50m OD, in an area of fine loam/clayey soils overlying chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

The sites lie in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). The medieval church (HEP 015) lies close to the site and an Anglo-Saxon strap fitting (HEP 023) is spot located in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 3). A Roman 3rd century coin has been recorded to the south of Church Lane (HEP 008) and a multi-period finds scatter (HEP 022), found by a fieldwalking survey, in the field to the east. Medieval pottery scatters (HEP 012 and 013) have been recorded 150m to the

south-west. The site therefore had high potential for multi-period archaeological deposits that could be disturbed by the development.



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Figure 3. Nearby sites recorded on County HER

#### 4. Methodology

The brief for the evaluation required a single 20m long trench to be excavated and this was placed, on an east-west alignment through the centre of the building plot (Fig. 4). The course of the trench was altered at one stage to avoid being situated wholly above a single linear feature.

The trench was excavated by a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the natural subsoil surface. This involved the removal of 0.6m-0.9m of modern topsoil which lay directly above the natural subsoil, a gravelly orange silty clay. Excavated soil was examined for unstratified finds and both spoilheaps and trench were searched by an experienced metal-detectorist.

Archaeological features were then clearly visible and only limited cleaning by hand was required. Two 1m sections of the trench profile were cleaned and recorded. The single observed linear feature was seen to contain modern material and was not excavated although the trench was extended southwards at one point to determine its size.

The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system, with 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds. The trench was planned by hand at a scale of 1:100 and trench profiles at 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the site archive.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-60826) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit).

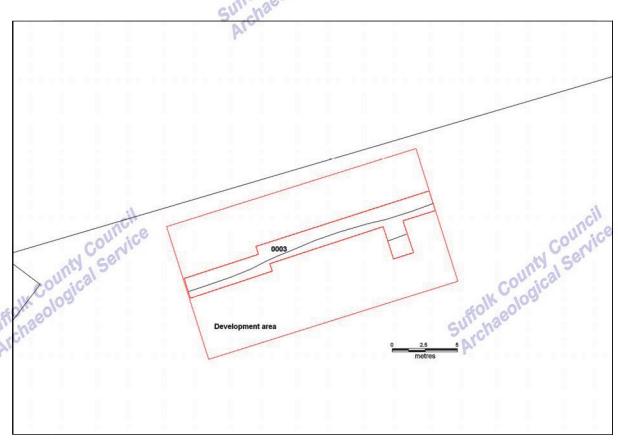
The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. HEP 037.

#### 5. Results

At the eastern end the trench profile consisted of 0.5m of ploughsoil overlying a 0.1m thick layer of mixed plough and subsoil, 0002. This sealed the natural subsoil surface which lay at 49m OD. The subsoil surface gradually sloped down to the western end of the trench where it lay at a depth of 48.7m OD although ground-levels remained constant with the topsoil at the western end thickening to 0.8m, indicating that the slope had been artificially levelled by the dumping of additional topsoil

A linear ditch, 0003, was observed along the entire southern side of the trench, broadly parallel to the adjacent field boundary. The fill of this feature was indistinguishable from the above topsoil and contained frequent dumps of broken 20th century glass. An extension to the trench showed the full 1.5m width of the feature as 1.5m. A test hole in the feature showed that it was at least another 0.3m deep.

The remainder of the trench showed a clean subsoil surface and no other features were identified.



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Figure 4. Trench plan

#### 6. The finds

A single small find was recovered by metal-detecting during the machining of the trench. SF 1001 was found in the spoilheap, c.4m from the western end of the trench. It was a copper alloy plain finger ring, sub-oval in section with terminals tapering to a sharp point, but not overlapping and is of Late Saxon date (Faye Minter, *pers.comm*).

#### 7. Discussion

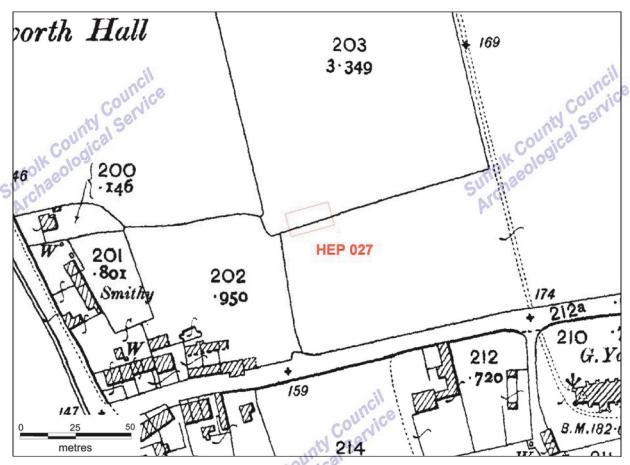
The basal layer of the trench, 0002, indicates that some plough damage has occurred to the subsoil surface. The extent of this is unclear but is likely to only be relatively minor.

The linear ditch, infilled during the 20th century, clearly marks the former post-medieval field boundary which has shifted northwards at some point in the past century by c.5m. The First and Second Edition Ordnance Surveys, of 1883 and 1904 respectively (Fig. 5), show this original boundary on a slightly different alignment, its position exactly corresponding to 0002.

The Late-Saxon copper alloy ring, although unstratified within the topsoil, is further limited evidence of activity during the period in the general area, to go with the metalwork find previously recorded as HEP 023. There was no firm indication however of any activity associated with occupation of the village in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. Although the size of the trench was limited this suggests that the site has been in agricultural use throughout these periods.

#### 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The trench, which has sampled c.16.5% of the total development area, has not identified any significant archaeological deposits that will be affected by future groundworks and so no further work is thought necessary to meet the requirements of the condition placed upon the planning application.



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Figure 5. Site as shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904.

#### 9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\arc\ Archive field proj\HEP 027 Church Farm, Hepworth

#### 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and Alan Smith from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. Specialist identification was provided by Faye Minter (Senior Finds Recording Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme).

#### **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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#### The Archaeological Service

Environment and Transport Service Delivery 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2AR

# Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

# BK MUSEUM, CHURCH FARM, CHURCH LANE, HEPWORTH, SUFFOLK (SE/09/0533)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

- 1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements
- 1.1 Planning permission (SE/09/0533) for the erection of a single building at BK Museum, Church Farm, Church Lane, Hepworth, IP22 2PU (TL 986 749) has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 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).
- 1.3 The area of the proposed residential development measures 20.00m x 10.68m in size, on the north side of Church Lane (see accompanying plan). It is situated on chalky till (deep loam to clay) at *c*. 50.00m AOD.
- This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core and to the north-west of the medieval church (HER no. HEP 015). There is a recorded Anglo-Saxon find spot from this location (HEP 023) that is indicative of further occupation deposits. There is high potential for early occupation deposits to be disturbed by any development at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work is required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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, and until confirmation has been sought by the applicant from the Local Planning Authority. The Specification and the WSI will together provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

#### 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*.
- 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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 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 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.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (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.

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

#### Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 A single trial trench is to be excavated, amounting to 20.00m in length x 1.80m in width across the site of, or immediately adjacent to, the new building.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 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. For guidance:
  - For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
  - For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachael Ballantyne, 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.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

#### 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 SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) 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 report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 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, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 An unbound copy of the evaluation 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.
  - Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

- 5.16 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must 5.18 be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be Suffolk County Service
  Suffolk County Service
  Team
  nt included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 11 June 2009 Reference: / ChurchFarm-Hepworth2009

Tel:

01284 352197

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.

