

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/176

**Beaumont Baptist Chapel, Chapel
Street, Woodbridge
WBG misc**

S. Cass

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HER Information

Planning Application No: C/07/1485/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 11th June 2009

Grid Reference: TM 2708 4923

Funding Body: Mr M. Crisp & Mr D. Withey

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Simon Cass

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-61370

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 on land at Beaumont Chapel, Chapel Street, Woodbridge prior to the erection of new housing and the conversion of the former chapel to a dwelling. A single trench was excavated across the location of the proposed new building, and only modern features were encountered. The stratigraphy seen was suggestive of significant terracing towards the rear of this area.

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1. Introduction

Planning permission (C/07/1485/FUL) was granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the conversion of the existing chapel to one dwelling, and the construction of a new dwelling adjacent to the chapel. This permission was subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. In this instance, an archaeological evaluation was to be carried out in order to assess the potential of the site, and inform as to whether there was the potential for further archaeological works to be carried out prior to the commencement of initial groundworks.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located within a residential area, just to the north of the old abbey grounds towards the centre of the current town. The site is situated on the slope of a hill, between 15 and 10m AOD, falling down to the north-east.



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Figure 1. Site location

3. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological potential for the site stems, in the main, from its location within the medieval core of Woodbridge, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It is also believed possible that the line of Chapel Street may follow part of the line of a late Saxon defended burgh. Beaumont Chapel exists prior to the first edition Ordnance Survey map, although there appears to be a wall passing through the area of the evaluation trench, rather than the previous building.

A search of the HER database lists the following records within 500m of the site:

WBG 002 – The Abbey Grammar School. A 16th century Manor House on part of the priory site, possibly incorporating part of the cloister wall.

WBG 006 – Red Maltings, Kingston Road and The Moorings, Cumberland Street. Three undated skeletons, two orientated North-South, one East-West.

WBG 009 – Shire Hall. Post-medieval listed building.

WBG 010 – 60 New Street. Findspot of a Roman coin of Constantinian (341-346 AD).

WBG 013 – Iron Age (Iceni) coin of “boar-horse” type findspot.

WBG 020 – Trickers Mill, Theatre Street. Fine five-storey tower mill, built in 1818.

WBG 021 – Church of St Mary. A church is recorded at Woodbridge in the Domesday survey.

WBG 022 – Junior House, Woodbridge School. Male skeleton and spearhead found, “believed to be Anglo-Saxon”.

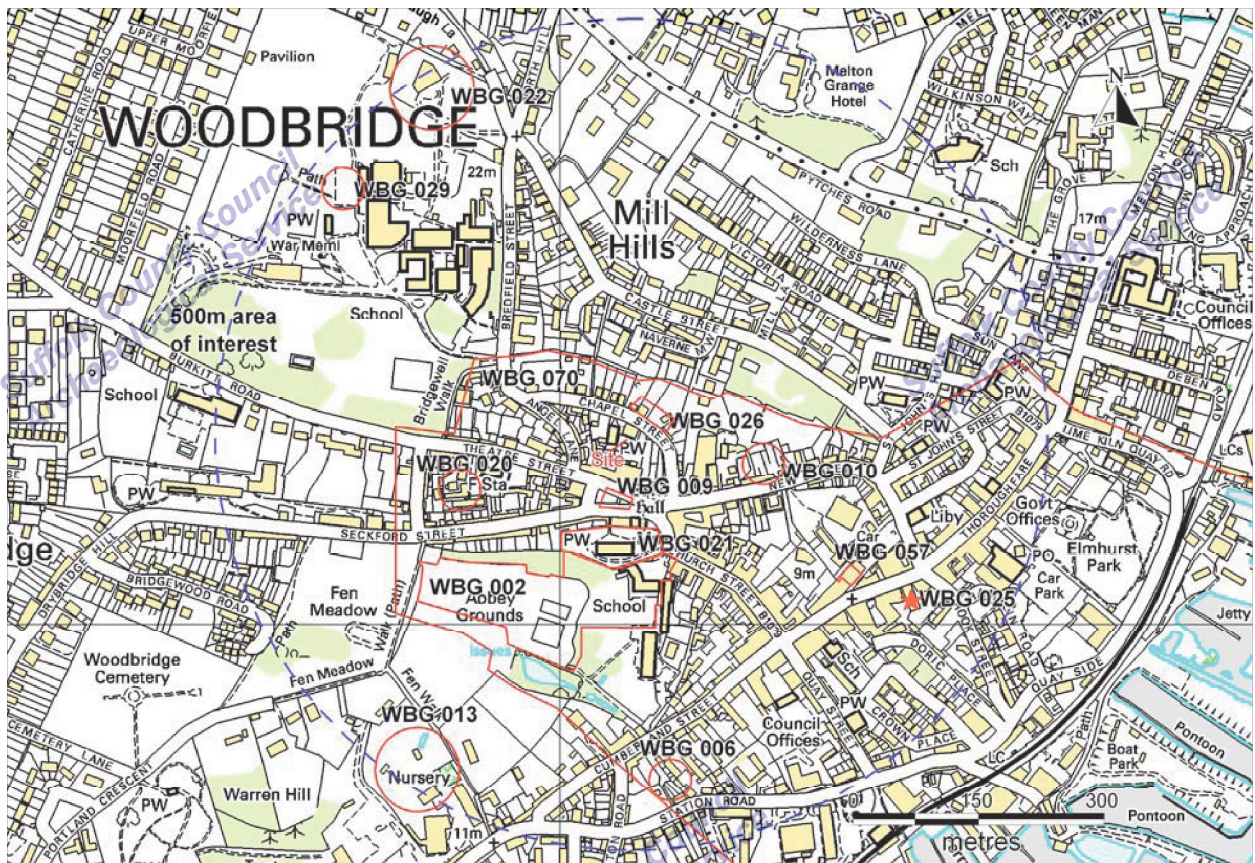
WBG 025 – Medieval pottery found during monitoring of groundworks.

WBG 026 – 22-24 Chapel Street. Post-medieval pottery found during monitoring of groundworks.

WBG 029 – Woodbridge School. Roman clay floor and finds identified during monitoring.

WBG 057 – 11 Thoroughfare. Five late post-medieval pits and a well seen during monitoring of groundworks.

WBG 070 – Medieval town of Woodbridge.



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Figure 2. Sites listed on the County HER

4. Methodology

A single trench was excavated utilising a 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ‘ditching’ bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The trench was excavated to the top of undisturbed natural geology and/or the first archaeological horizon and hand-cleaned where necessary in order to clarify any observable stratigraphy. Sections and plans were recorded at an appropriate level of detail. The findings were of such low magnitude that a site drawing has been created simply using Mapinfo.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Trench 1 was located in order to examine the differing truncations at the eastern edge of the site and towards the middle, where the previous building had been situated. It was believed that this would allow examination of any likely terracing and disturbance

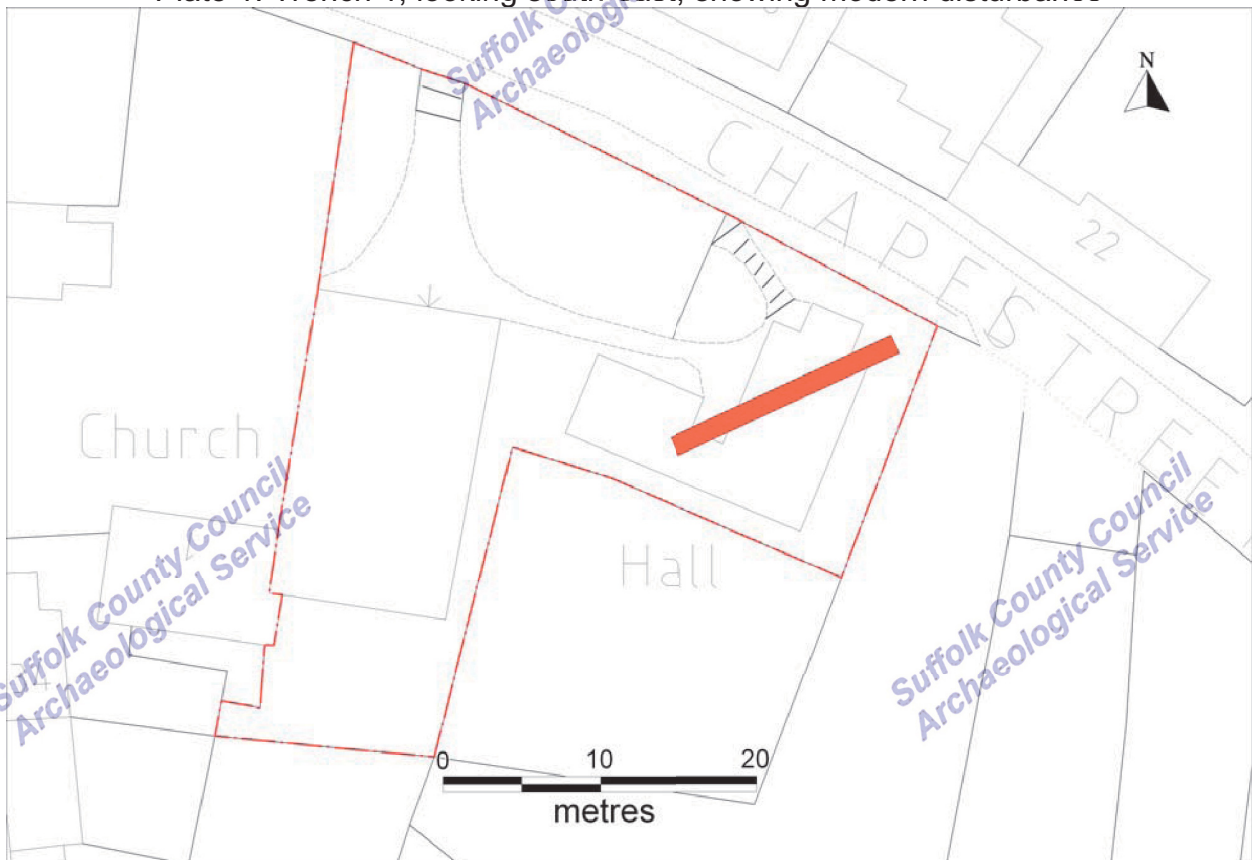
due to the previous structure as well as a chance to examine the area near the street and any possible defensive remains.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 15.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 1.0m deep (at the north-eastern end). The stratigraphy observed was distinctly different at the north-eastern end than at the rest of the trench, due to the previous structure on the site and associated disturbance. The area to the east of the previous building had been extensively terraced in comparison the rest of the site, for uncertain purpose, though likely to provide an easy parking surface. The stratigraphy encountered at this end consisted of 0.2m of demolition rubble and associated detritus above 0.8m of mid brown silty sand subsoil with very occasional small-medium gravels and stones. Below this pale yellow sands were observed although not excavated into. At approximately half way along the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of disturbed topsoil deposit (mid/dark brown sandy silts with frequent modern inclusions) above 0.6m of mid brown silty sand subsoil. Below this subsoil was 0.2m of pale yellow natural sand. Several deep modern truncations were noted within this area, consisting of apparent building waste/refuse dumps and surviving foundations. Towards the south-western end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of disturbed topsoil above 0.25m of pale yellow natural sand. A modern linear feature was observed, orientated parallel with the rear retaining wall of the property, containing brick fragments similar to those observed in the middle of the trench. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south-east, showing modern disturbance



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Figure 3. Trench location

6. Finds and environmental evidence

The only finds present were of unambiguously modern origin, either in the significantly disturbed topsoil deposits or within the modern cut features towards the middle of the site. After a brief examination, they were discarded on site.

7. Discussion

The lack of any archaeological deposits on site is unsurprising, given the significant amount of terracing that has occurred. The rear of the site is over 2m lower than the hillside in the property adjacent to the east, and the lack of any subsoil deposits means that it is hard to assess how deep into the natural geology (and therefore past the archaeological horizon) the terracing cut. The deep modern truncations suggest that it is unlikely that largely undisturbed features and deposits would exist, even if they have survived the terracing and landscaping across most of the site. The subsoil deposit noted at the front of the site suggests that there may well be undisturbed deposits further to the northeast under the path and road surface.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The results of this evaluation suggest that there is little or no further archaeological potential on this site. Almost total truncation of the archaeological horizon has occurred at some time in the modern period, likely to be consistent with the construction of the church, associated structures and retaining wall on the southern edge of the site. The lack of any existing undisturbed topsoil means it is not possible to identify with certainty how deep this truncation has been, but it is quite likely to have been significant given the slope on the surrounding properties. No further archaeological works are recommended for this site.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Woodbridge

Finds and environmental archive: None

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed and directed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site illustrations was carried out by Simon Cass, and the report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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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Appendix 1 Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

BEAUMONT BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL STREET, WOODBRIDGE

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 Planning consent has been granted for the conversion of the existing chapel to one dwelling and erection of a new dwelling at the Beaumont Baptist Church, Chapel Street, Woodbridge (C07/1485/FUL).
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.7) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is 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 development lies within the area of the medieval town of Woodbridge as defined in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve extensive ground disturbance. The curving line of Chapel Street may also mark the line of the northern circuit of the defences of a late Saxon burgh.
- 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 A: Desk-Based Assessment**

3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.

3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.

3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

4.1 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. North to south 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. At minimum, one trench should be through the footprint of the new dwelling and one through the driveway access to the Beaumont chapel.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 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).
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. **General Management**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 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.

6. **Report Requirements**

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 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
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 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 HER 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the county HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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

Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 20th May, 2009

Reference :Beaumont Baptist Church eval

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.