

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/203

## Church Farm Holiday Park, Aldeburgh ADB 174

S. Cass

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[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** C/08/1483

**Date of Fieldwork:** 31st July 2009

**Grid Reference:** TM 4615 5737

**Funding Body:** Mr M. Pearson

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Simon Cass

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-62818

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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# Contents

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## Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
4. Methodology	2
5. Results	2
5.1 Introduction	2
5.2 Trench 1	3
5.3 Trench 2	3
6. Finds and environmental evidence	4
7. Discussion	4
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	5
9. Archive deposition	5
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	5
11. Bibliography	5
Disclaimer	5

## List of Figures

1. Site location	1
2. Location of trenches	4

## List of Plates

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Trench 1, facing north-east | 3 |
|--------------------------------|---|

## List of Appendices

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Brief and specification | 7 |
|----------------------------|---|

## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Church Farm Caravan Park, Aldeburgh to satisfy a planning condition relating to the erection of a new reception office, store and managers accommodation. The original condition required archaeological monitoring of the footings, although due to an unfortunate breakdown in communication this was not possible. Instead, two trenches were excavated adjacent to the new structure. No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were located within either trench.

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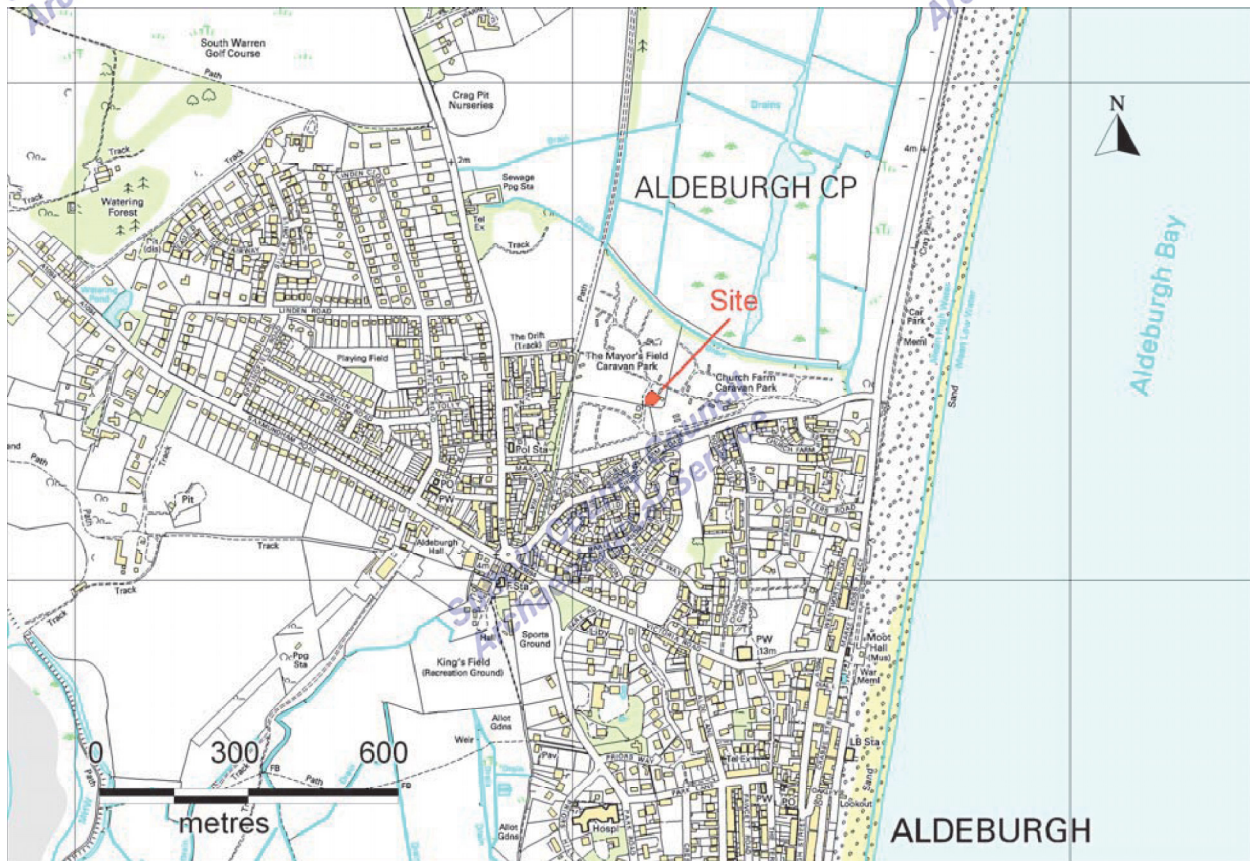
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# 1. Introduction

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An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Church Farm Caravan Park, Aldeburgh on the 31st July 2009, relating to a planning application (C/08/1483) for the construction of a new building on site to serve as a reception office, store and managers accommodation.



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Figure 1. Site location

## 2. Geology and topography

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The site lies at a height of approximately 5m AOD, gradually descending towards the north, on deep sand glaciofluvial drift over Cretaceous sand or Crag, as observed in the trenches.

### **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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A large proportion of the features already identified in the Historic Environment Record close to this site relate to the WWII defensive network around Aldeburgh, mainly anti-landing defences and strongpoints, the closest of which is a small probable pillbox and associated military structures (ADB 108) recorded as having been present some 30m to the north of the site. Relict sea banks (ADB 059) are also noted as passing some 75m to the north east, and are believed to date to the post-medieval period.

There are few known archaeological finds in the immediate vicinity, though some undated cropmarks (ADB 006) are known approximately 530m northwest of the site, near a post-medieval clay extraction site (ADB 102) and a small quantity of finds of medieval date have been recorded to the west on Saxmundham Road (ADB 004).

### **4. Methodology**

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The original intention for this site was for archaeological monitoring to be carried out during the excavation of the footings for the new building. Unfortunately, due to an error in communication, this was not carried out. To remedy this, a small evaluation was proposed, comprising two ten metre trenches, arranged around the new building footprint. The trenches were excavated in a single morning by a 5 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The recording methodology used was set out in an archaeological method statement and risk assessment produced for this project (SCCAS report no. 2009/201).

### **5. Results**

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#### **5.1 Introduction**

The two trenches were arranged around the western and north-western edges of the new building. Due to on-site constraints they were of slightly different dimensions, although a total area of 29.4 m sq was evaluated (approximately 4% of the area under development). Trench 1 was situated between the new building and the site offices on relatively undisturbed ground, while Trench 2 was along the site access road and had had a layer of hardcore added to carry heavy vehicles. It is unknown how much, if any



soil was removed prior to this hardcore being laid, although the road was approximately the same height as the surrounding grassed areas.

## 5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 1.8m wide, 9.0m long and up to 0.55m deep, orientated approximately north-east/south-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of disturbed top/subsoil – a dark brown sandy silt with the remnants of gravel surfacing. Below this was 0.3m of mid reddish brown silty sand with intermittent small natural flints and gravels sealing 0.05m+ of mottled/patchy mid reddish brown and pale/mid yellow brown sands with intermittent small naturally occurring gravels. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed in this trench.

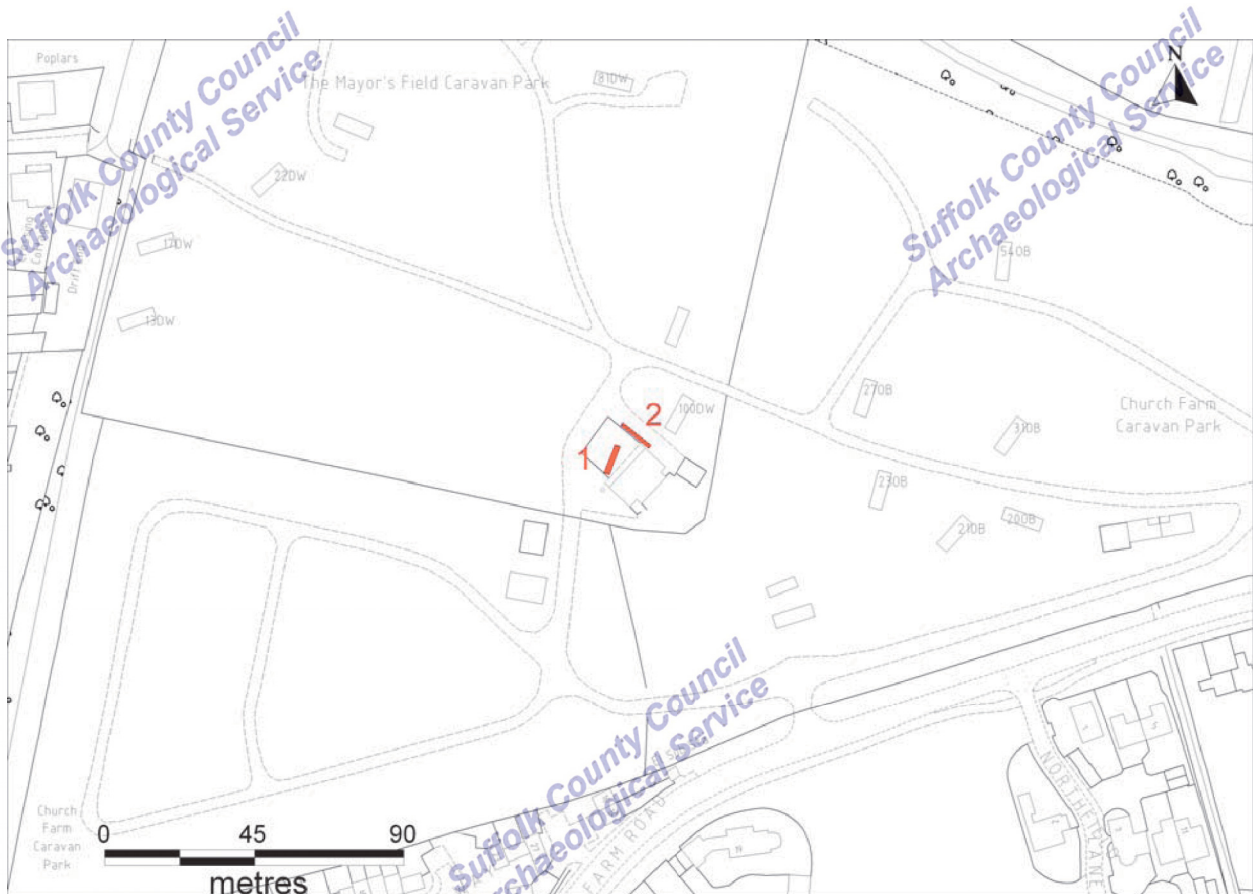


Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east

## 5.3 Trench 2

This trench was 11m long, 1.2m wide and up to 0.6m deep, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.15m of hardcore and sheeting above 0.35m of mid reddish brown silty sand with intermittent small natural flints and gravels, sealing 0.1m+ of mottled/patchy mid reddish brown and

pale/mid yellow brown sands with intermittent small naturally occurring gravels. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed in this trench.



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Figure 2. Trench locations

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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No archaeologically relevant finds were encountered during this evaluation, and no environmental samples were taken.

## 7. Discussion

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Both trenches proved to be archaeologically negative, despite the close proximity to the recorded military remains to the north. While neither trench provided a full undisturbed stratigraphic sequence, it would appear that modern disturbance did not impact largely on the archaeological horizon until the present development.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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In conclusion, the negative result of the trenching corresponds with observations made of the stratigraphy exposed around the perimeter of the new development, in that no archaeological finds or features are present on the site. It is believed that further work is not necessary to be undertaken on this site.

## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Aldeburgh  
Finds and environmental archive: None.

## 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The evaluation and the production of site plans was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by Stuart Boulter, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## 11. Bibliography

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Heard, K., 2009 Archaeological Method Statement and Risk Assessment, SCCAS Report No. 2009/201, Church Farm Caravan Park, Church Farm Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. SCCAS, Ipswich.

### 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

### **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

#### **CHURCH FARM CARAVAN PARK, CHURCH FARM ROAD, ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK (C/08/1483)**

***Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications***

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a new reception office, store and managers accommodation (existing facilities to be demolished) at Church Farm Caravan Park, Church Farm Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BH (TM 461 573), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/08/1483).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application lies in area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the probable area of the medieval, and possibly earlier, port. There is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this valley location, overlooking the Aldeburgh Mere. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 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. The 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.
- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.6 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new reception office, store and managers accommodation and also for the detached store. Any ground works associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.



- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

## **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event 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.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.

- 5.7 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment 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.
- 5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.10 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.11 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 19 March 2009

Reference: /ChurchFarmCaravanPark\_Aldeburgh2009

**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.**

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