

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/303

## Thatched Cottage, Main Road, Woolverstone, Suffolk WLV 048

### HER Information

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Planning Application No: B/08/00209/FHA

Date of Fieldwork: 02 December 2009

Grid Reference: TM 1887 3855

Funding Body: Mrs Alexander

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-68849

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

## Summary

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WLV 048, Thatched Cottage, Main Road, Woolverstone: An archaeological monitoring was carried out in advance of the construction of a link-attached annexe. It revealed part of the substantial brick foundation of a demolished building to the southwest of the existing house. The geological stratum is glaciofluvial sand and gravel, overlaid by a *loess* deposit that is typical of the area.

### 1. Introduction and methodology

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Thatched Cottage, Main Road, Woolverstone (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of a link-attached annexe (planning application number B/08/00209/FHA). It was commissioned and funded by the owner, Mrs. Alexander. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by Dr. Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and a copy is appended to this report.

The house is located in an area of archaeological importance, as defined in the county Historic Environment Record. It is close to the medieval church of St Michael (WLV 023) and is within Woolverstone Park (WLV 024), which formed part of the estate of Woolverstone Hall – built in the late 18th century by William Berners.

Thatched Cottage lies immediately north of the Grade II listed Woolverstone Hall walled garden, and was formerly the head gardener's house. The date of construction of the house is not known. There are several records of prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds within 500m of Thatched Cottage, and aerial photographs reveal crop marks of buildings and enclosures in the immediate vicinity that are likely to be of prehistoric or Roman date.

The writer monitored the excavation of the trenches for the strip foundations of the proposed annexe, which were dug by building contractors using a small, mechanical excavator. The trenches measured 0.70m wide by 1.10m deep and had a combined length of approximately 52m (Fig. 2).



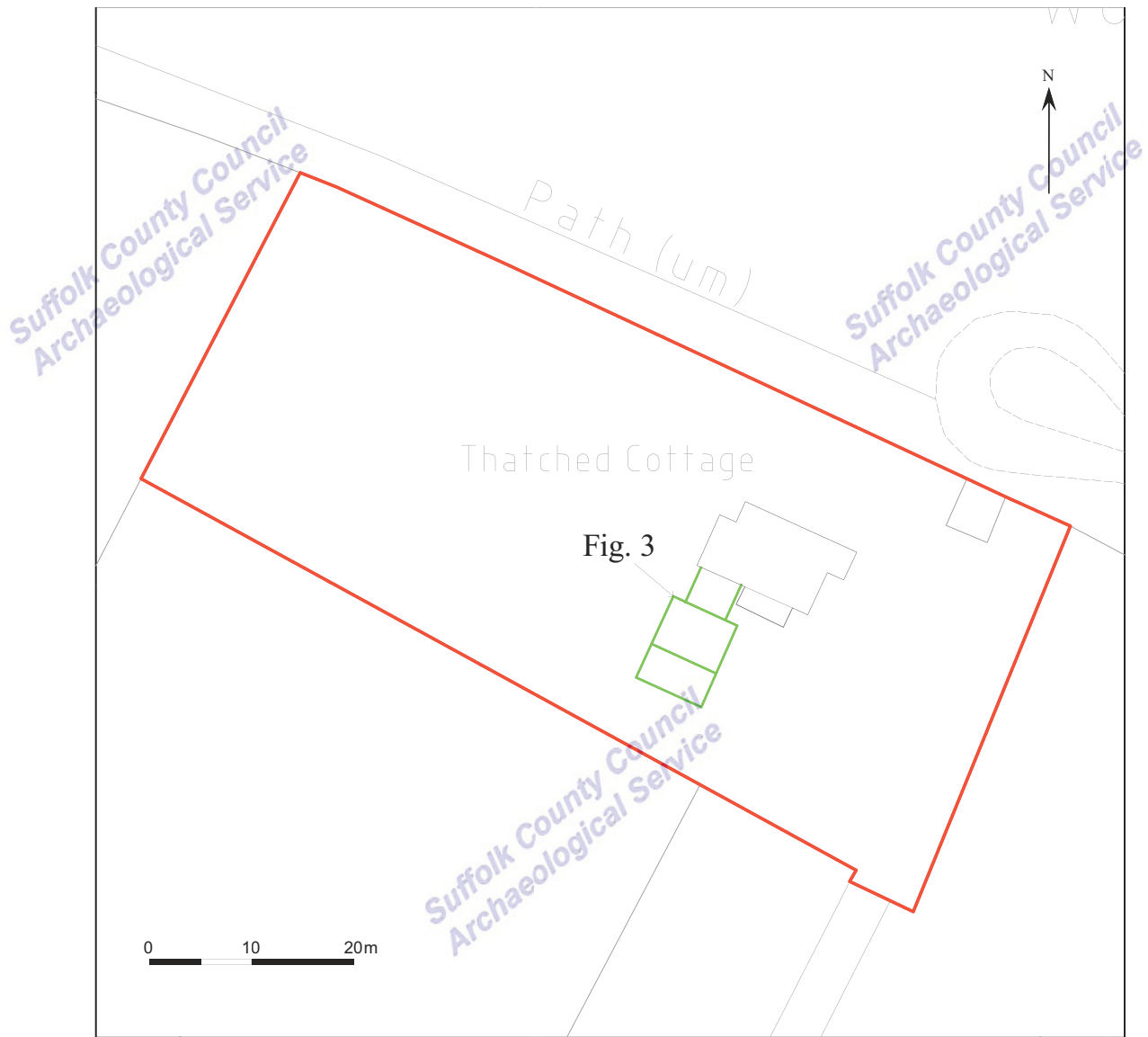


Figure 2. Plan showing the monitored trenches (green) and locating Figure 3

Written records (deposit descriptions and drawings) were made on a single sheet of gridded drawing film and have been reproduced in this report. A digital photographic record was made; this forms part of the SCCAS photographic archive, referenced as GES 35-36. A metal detector was used to scan the excavated soil, with negative results.

## 2. Results

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Generally the monitoring revealed a straightforward vertical sequence of natural and man-made deposits, as shown photographically on Figure 5. The geological stratum is yellowish brown sand and gravel (0009), of glacio-fluvial origin. It is sealed by an aeolian (wind-blown) deposit of soft, light brown sandy silt (0008) up to 0.70m thick; this *loess* soil is typical of the area. The *loess* is overlaid by a) garden soil, b) topsoil and turf (0001) or c) a layer of pebbles and stone chippings forming a driveway.

The face of a brick foundation (0006) was recorded in a vertical section approximately 4m southwest of the corner of the existing house (Fig. 4). The foundation is constructed of red, un-frogged bricks measuring 230mm long x 70mm high, bonded with hard, off-white mortar. The masonry measures > 0.70m long (east–west) by at least 0.55m high (seven courses), and extends beyond the limits of excavation to north and west; it probably represents the southeast corner of a building that formerly stood to the west of Thatched Cottage. The two upper courses are built of whole bricks laid on bed, and are fair-faced. The lower courses are slightly wider and are built of heavily-mortared, broken bricks. The foundation has been truncated to a depth of 0.75m below current ground level.

The foundation seems to have been built free-standing within a much wider construction cut (0007; Fig. 3). The construction backfill is soft, light brown sandy silt (0005) containing occasional medium to large fragments of brick, moderate small to medium fragments of off-white or yellowish mortar and some patches of yellow sand. Small fragments of animal bone and coal are present also, but no datable artefacts.

Foundation 0006 is truncated by demolition cut 0004 (see Figure 4), which is backfilled with deposits of soft, yellowish brown sand (0003) and soft, brown sandy silt with patches of yellow sand and gravel (0002).

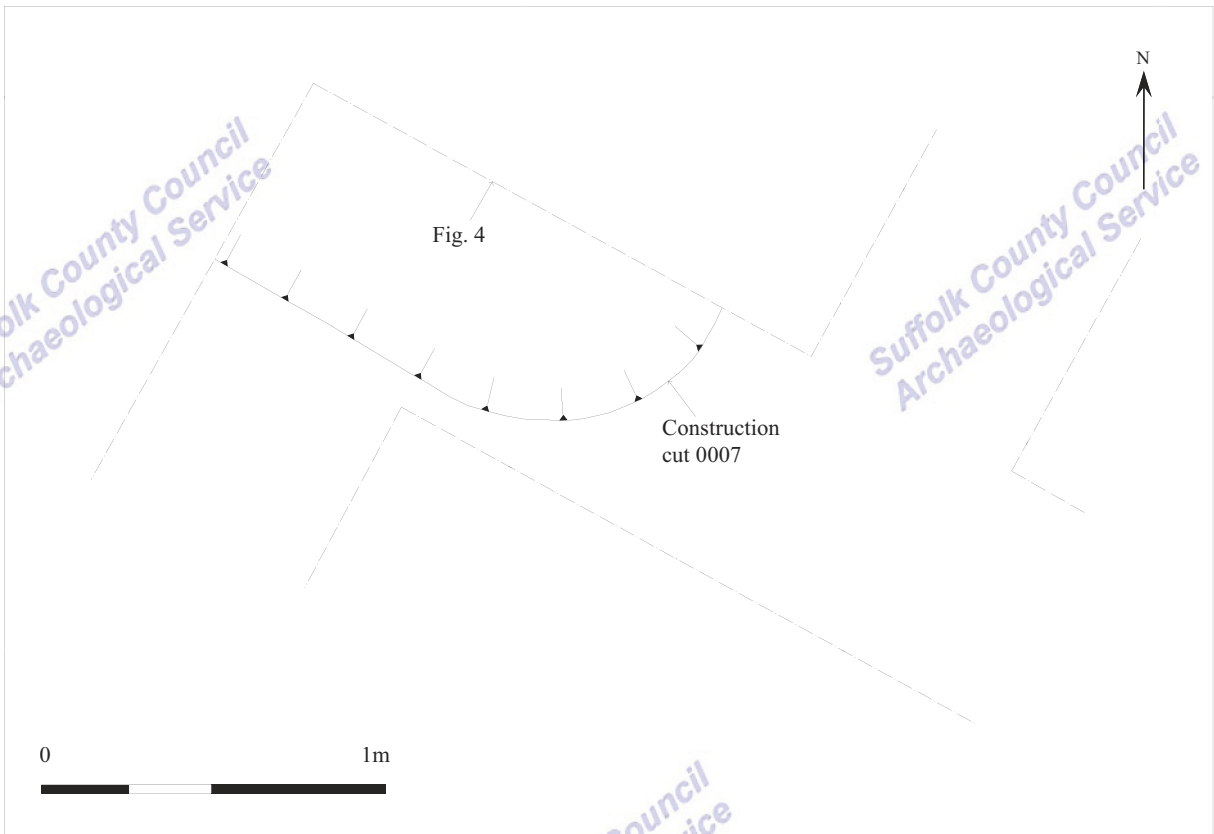


Figure 3. Plan of construction cut 0007 for brick foundation 0006

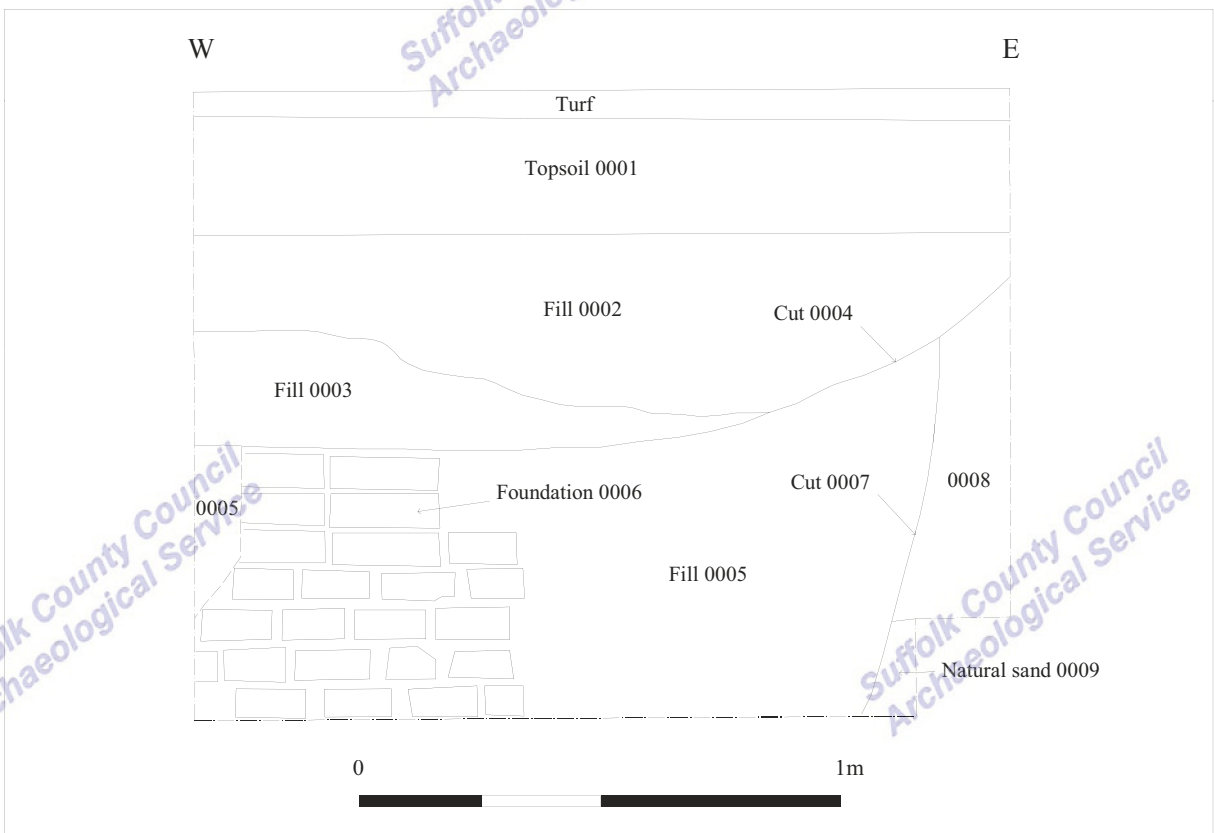


Figure 4. South-facing section showing brick foundation 0006





Figure 5. Typical section through horizontal deposits (1m scale)



Figure 6. Brick foundation 0006, looking north (0.5m scale)

### 3. Conclusion

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The only significant feature on the site is a brick foundation adjacent to the northwest corner of the proposed annexe.

The full dimensions and extent of the foundation are not known, but it seems to be part of a fairly substantial building – this is not the footing for a garden wall or flimsy outbuilding. The bricks are of a type that was used in the 18th- or early 19th century. It is possible that the building was demolished when Thatched Cottage was built, although no evidence has been found to suggest that there was a property on the site prior to the creation of the Woolverstone Hall estate in the late 18th century. More likely, it was a wing of Thatched Cottage that was removed during remodelling of the house in the 19th century. It is noted that on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps Thatched Cottage is shown with much the same ground plan that it has today. Earlier maps are not readily available, but it is likely that Woolverstone Hall estate plans (should they exist) would provide further evidence for the original plan of the house.

In view of these limited results it is anticipated that no further fieldwork will be required on this site in relation to the current development. This document will be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS on-line archaeological database and a summary will appear in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

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Kieron Heard

Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

December 2009



## Appendix: Brief and Specification

### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### THATCHED COTTAGE, MAIN ROAD, WOOLVERSTONE, IPSWICH

***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 link attached annexe at Thatched Cottage, Main Road, Woolverstone, IP9 1AY (TM 1886 3853), has been granted by Babergh District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/08/00209/FHA).
- 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 an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the south of the medieval church (WLV 013). There is high potential for medieval occupation deposits to be disturbed by development at this location. The proposed works will 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 extension, which measures 8.50 x 7.00m in size, and the link, which measures 4.50 x 4.00m, and also all other associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission. Any ground works, 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.
- 5.13.1 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).

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Date: 9 February 2009 Reference: /ThatchedCottage\_Woolverstone2009

**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.**