

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/321

Smear Farm, Reydon (construction of a new house) REY 059

HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/08/0460/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 30th July and 13th August 2009

Grid Reference: TM 5023 7849

Funding Body: Mr R. Turvill

Curatorial Officer: E. Martin

Project Officer: M. Sommers

OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-69153

Summary

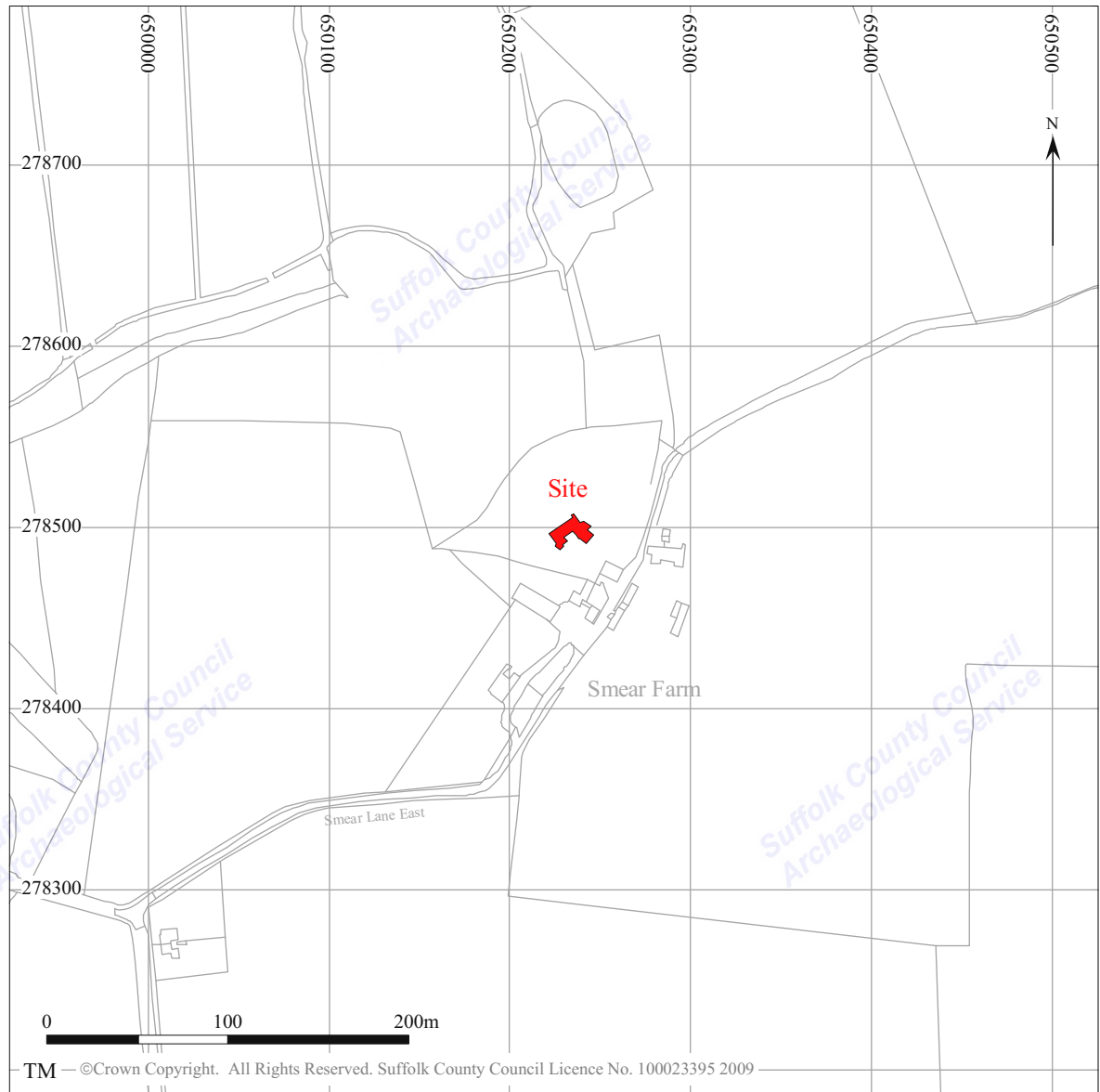
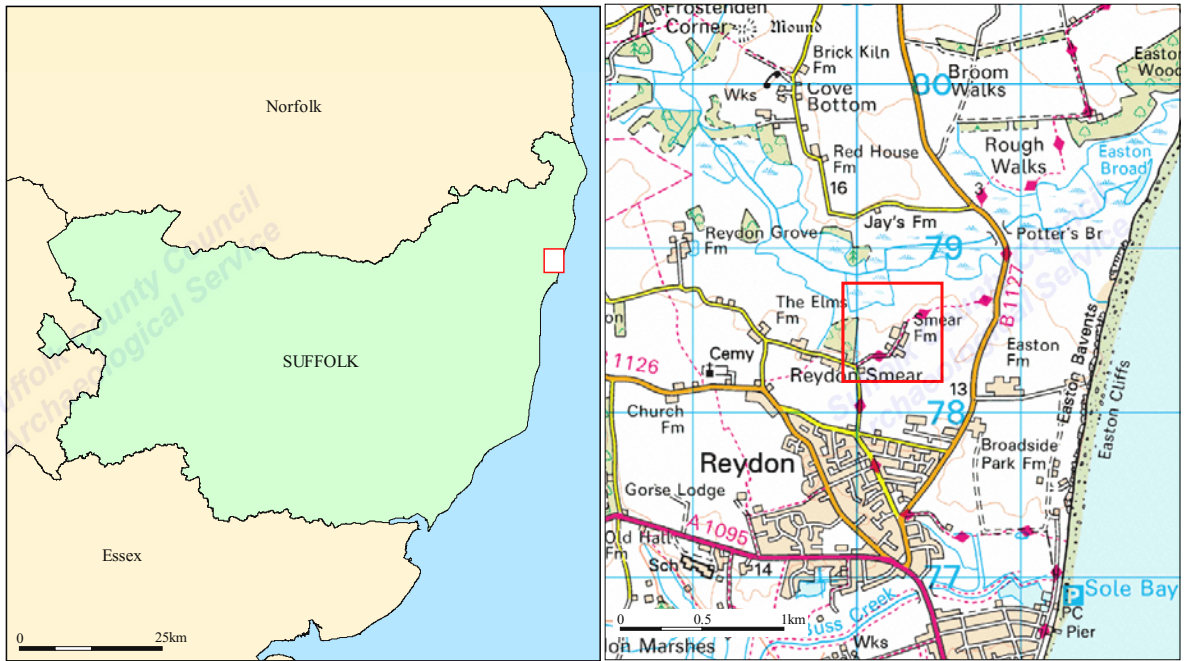
An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Smear Farm, Smear Lane East, Reydon, in advance of the construction of a new house. The footing trenches for the house and a series of trenches excavated for a ground source heating system were inspected. Within these, two parallel ditches were recorded, one of which contained a small number of pottery sherds dated to the L11th-12th century, whilst the other yielded 13th-14th century pottery. The natural subsoil comprised clean yellow sand and gravel at a depth of c. 0.3m below ground level.

1. Introduction and methodology

As a condition of a planning consent, archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a new house on land at Smear Farm, Smear Lane East, Reydon, was stipulated to mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological evidence. To detail the work required a Brief and Specification was produced by E. Martin of the County Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

Interest in the site was due to the location of a Roman industrial site (possibly a tile kiln or a salt works – HER ref. REY 008) 150m to the west, and the presence of cropmarks, indicative of a possible prehistoric burial mound and field system, to the south (HER ref. REY 056). The site is on a high ridge running west to east and overlooks Smear Marsh and Easton Broad to the north and as such it also has a topographical significance. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The monitoring was achieved through the inspection of the open footing trenches and a series of trenches excavated for the installation of a ground source heating system, to record the presence of earlier cut features and deposits. Any resultant spoil was also examined in an attempt to recover datable artefacts. Any features noted were recorded through the construction of measured sketches, the locations were then plotted in relation to the footprint of the new house using 30m tapes. A small number of digital photographs were also taken.



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Figure 1. Site Location Plan

2. Results

The site was visited on the 30th July 2009 during which all footings for the new house were examined. A modern, large, steel framed barn originally stood on the site, which had been recently demolished and the hard-standing removed. This had resulted in a partial truncation of the land surface but did not appear to have significantly truncated the natural subsoil of yellow sand and gravel. A thin layer of topsoil had later been spread over the area.

On the northwest side of the house a feature (0002) could be seen on both sides of the footing trench (Fig. 2). It measured 1.3m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.54m. The fill (0003) consisted of mid brown silty sand (Fig. 3 & Plate I). A small number of pottery sherds were recovered from the sides of the footing trench which have been dated to late 11th – 12th century. This feature was interpreted as a ditch although it could not be seen in any of the other footing trenches. At the point where it was predicted to cross the footing on the southeast side of the house a substantial modern disturbance associated with the demolished barn was present. A similar feature, identified as this ditch, was seen during a later visit crossing a trench excavated for a ground source heating system c. 4m to the north although no finds were recovered from this location.

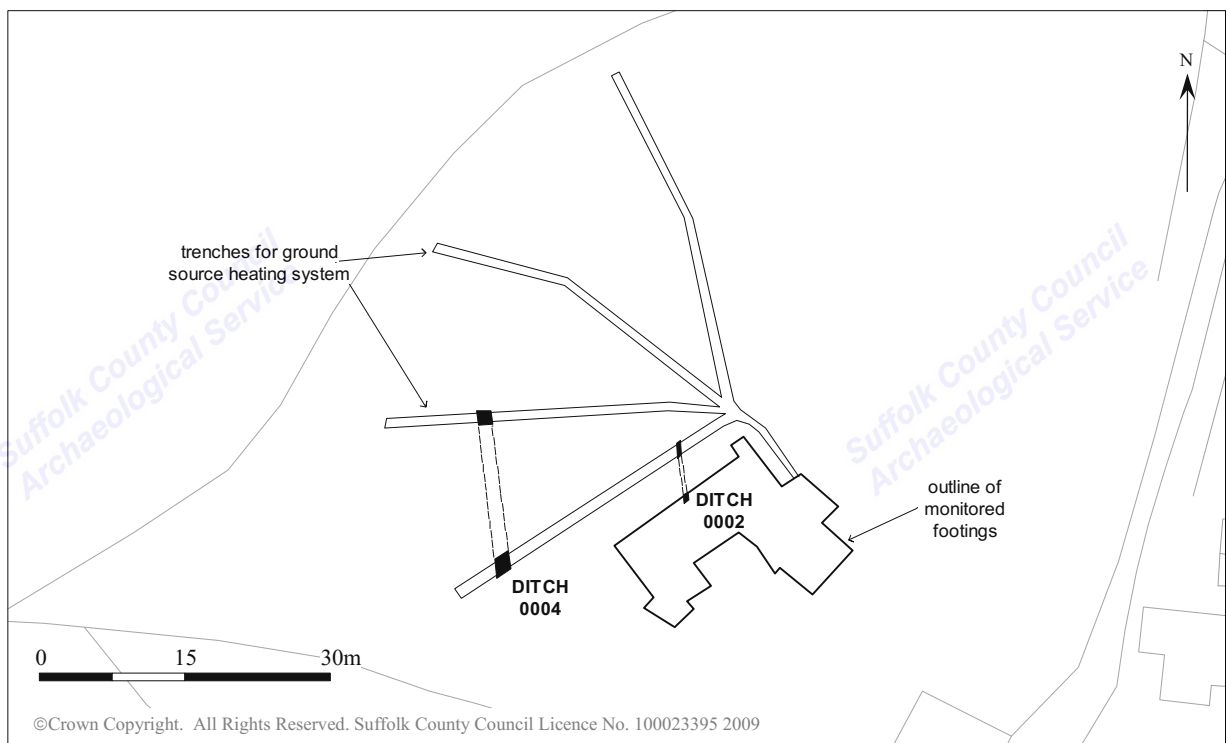


Figure 2. Location of ditches 0002 and 0004

A second visit was made to the site on the 13th August 2009 to inspect a series of trenches excavated for the installation of a ground source heating system. These were cut to a depth of c. 1.1m through 0.25m of topsoil and into the sand and gravel subsoil beneath.

In two of these trenches two similar features, interpreted as parts of the same ditch (0004), were noted. It measured 2.1m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.85m (Fig. 3 & Plate II). The fill comprised an upper layer of mid brown silty sand (0005) which overlay a primary fill of darker brown silty sand with frequent flint (0006). A number of pottery sherds belonging to the upper fill were recovered from the sides of the southern ground source heating trench which have been dated to 13th - 14th century.

Figure 2 shows a plan of the approximate locations of these trenches and ditches 0002 and 0004, as recorded using 30m tapes.

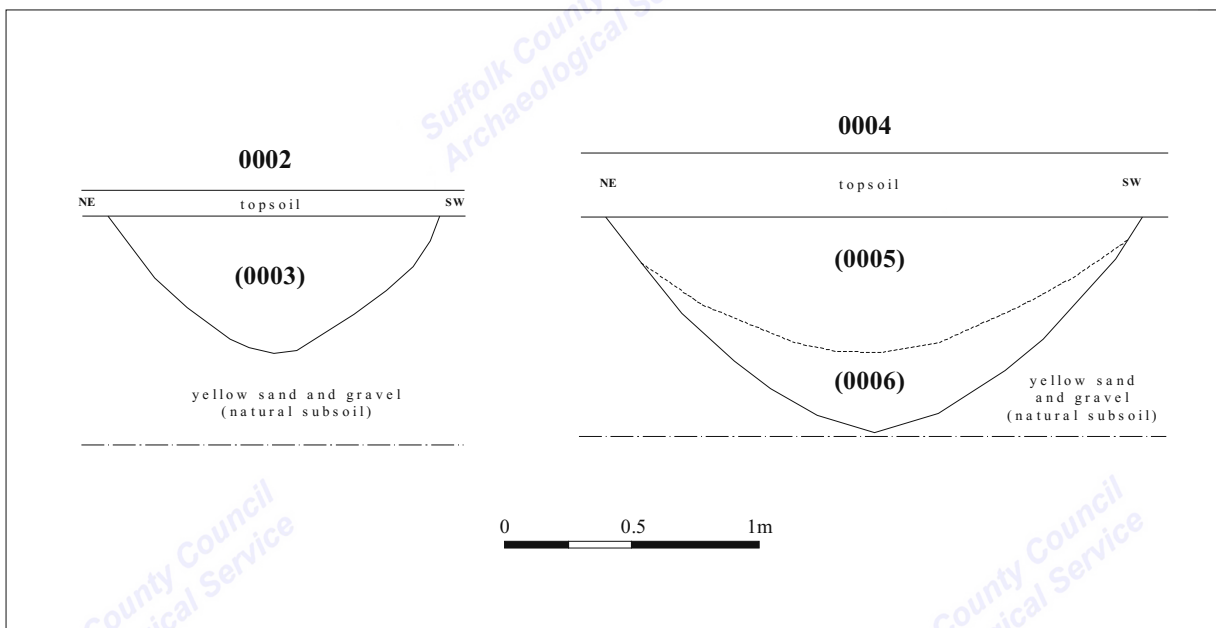


Figure 3. Sections through ditches 0002 and 0004

These two ditches were not noted in any of the other footings or ground source heating trenches although, assuming they continued on the same alignments, they should have crossed at least two of other ground source heating trenches to the north. It was noted that the land sloped down to Smear Marsh to the north, getting increasingly steep, from the line of the southern ground source heating trench.

3. The Finds (by R. Goffin, September 2009)

3.1 Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0003	3	27	L11th-12th C
0005	15	315	13th-14th C
Total	18	342	

3.2 Pottery

A total of 18 fragments of medieval pottery was recovered from the monitoring (342g).

Three fragments of a medieval coarseware jar were found in ditch fill 0003 (Ditch 0002). Two joining sherds of a wheelthrown greyware with an everted rim which has an incipient bead dates from the later part of the 11th century to the end of the 12th century.

Six fragments of a large medieval coarseware bowl were identified in ditch fill 0005 (Ditch 0004), weighing 121g. The vessel is wheelthrown and made in a soft pale brown fabric with light grey core. It has a coarse sandy fabric similar to unglazed Grimston ware but is likely to be a more local fabric. The bowl has a wide rim with a slight recess and dates to the 13th-14th century or slightly later. Three sherds from the base of another greyware vessel were also present, together with fragments of six other medieval coarsewares.

3.3 Discussion

The small assemblage of pottery recovered from the monitoring provides some evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

4. Conclusion

The monitoring of the works at this site revealed two separate ditches both of which yielded pottery dated to the medieval period indicating medieval activity in the vicinity. The presence of domestic wares is indicative of actual occupation and, as it is unlikely that what appears to be household debris would have been transported any distance, it suggests a dwelling in the immediate locality. It should be noted that pottery was only recovered from the southern two sections of these ditches.

The two ditches appeared parallel and are likely to be contemporary. The differing dates attributed (L11th-12th C. for 0002 & 13th-14th C. for 0004) may relate to a reorganisation of marked boundaries or is just the result of the limited number of finds (only three sherds from one vessel in 0002).

It should be noted that although the four instances of archaeological interventions into the subsoil have been interpreted as two ditches the possibility that they represent four separate features cannot be ruled out.

M. Sommers

December 2009

Plates



Plate I. View of ditch 0002 in the southeastern face of the footing, looking E
(1m scale, photo ref. GET 45)



Plate II. View of ditch 0004 in northern ground source heating trench, looking SE
(1m scale, photo ref. GET 48)

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

**SMEAR FARM, RISSEMERE LANE EAST, REYDON IP18 6SR
TM 4023 7844**

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 a new house at Smear Farm has been granted by Waveney District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application DC/08/0460/FUL). The local planning authority has been advised that areas of ground disturbance should be recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposed development lies on the valley side, about 150m east of a Roman site of possible industrial significance (possibly for tile making or salt works) that is recorded as site REY 008 in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. The development site also lies to the north of an area of cropmarks (REY 056) indicative of a ring-ditch, field boundaries, trackways and a possible enclosure. Groundworks for the development are likely to cause ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 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. 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 Paper 14, 2003. 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.

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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 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.

- 1.7 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

- 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 groundworks associated with the construction of the house. Any groundworks, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored after their excavation or 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.
- 2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the historical context, development and significance of the site.

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 for Monitoring of Groundworks

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation 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 palaeo-environmental 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 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.
- 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 HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a 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.
- 5.3 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 Officer 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.
- 5.4 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 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).
- 5.7 A copy of the 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 approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT

- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.10 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 HER. 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.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Date: 22 July 2009

Reference: SpecMon(EM)_SmearFarm_Reydon_09

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.