

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/327

**Dell Community Primary School, Dell
Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk**

LWT 168

Kieron Heard
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HER Information

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Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-69898

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

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Summary

LWT 168, Dell Community Primary School, Dell Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft: A trial trench evaluation was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of new car parking and play areas in the northern part of the school grounds. Four trenches (total area 75.6m²) were excavated, representing approximately 7% of the area of the proposed developments.

The evaluation revealed a straightforward vertical sequence of deposits comprising topsoil, subsoil and natural sand. No archaeological features were found and no artefacts recovered.

In light of this negative result a recommendation is made that no further archaeological work is required in relation to the proposed development. This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out at Dell Community Primary School, Dell Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for alterations and extensions to the existing school. Mace Ltd commissioned the evaluation on behalf of RM Property.

2. Location, geology and topography

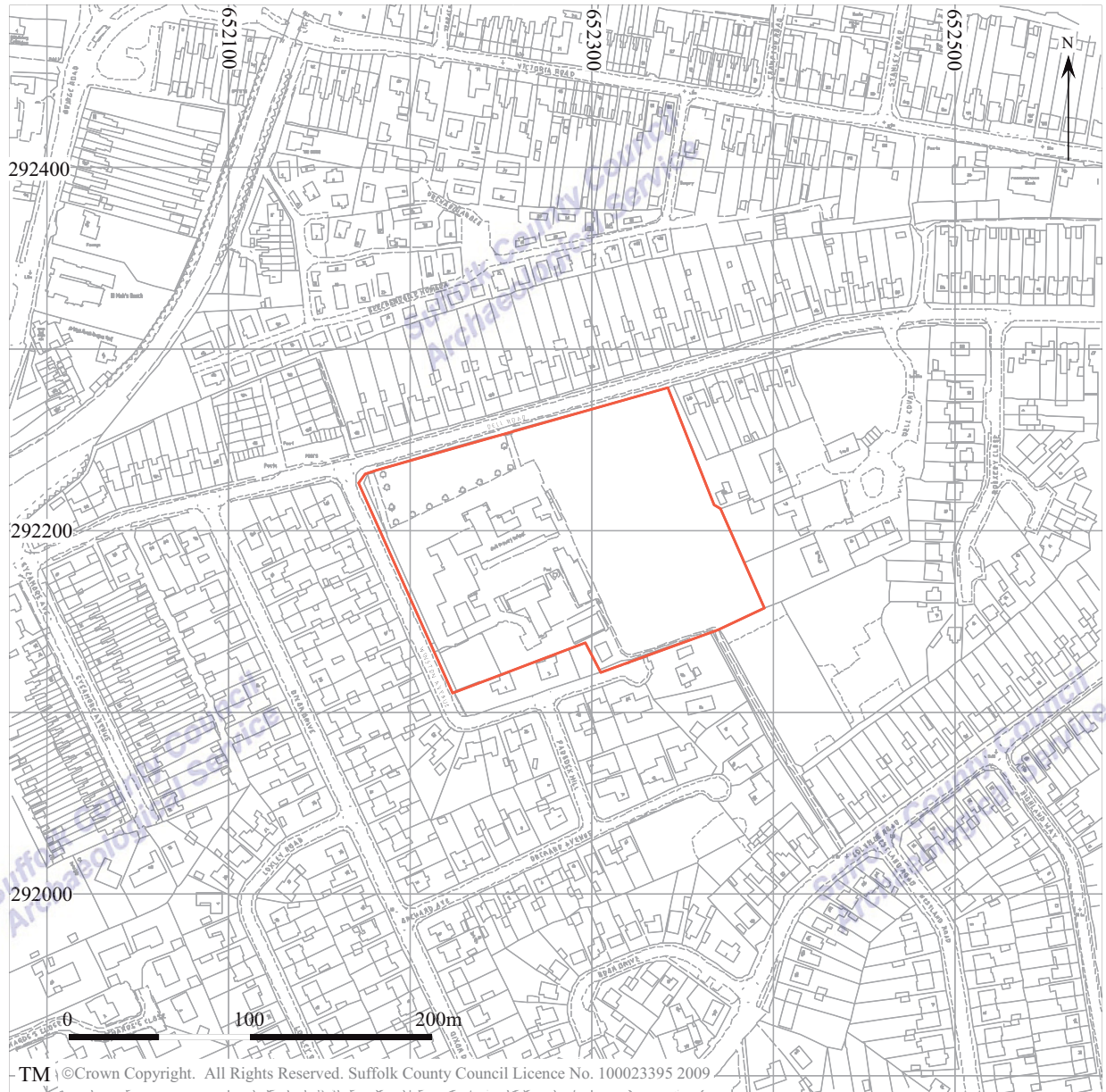
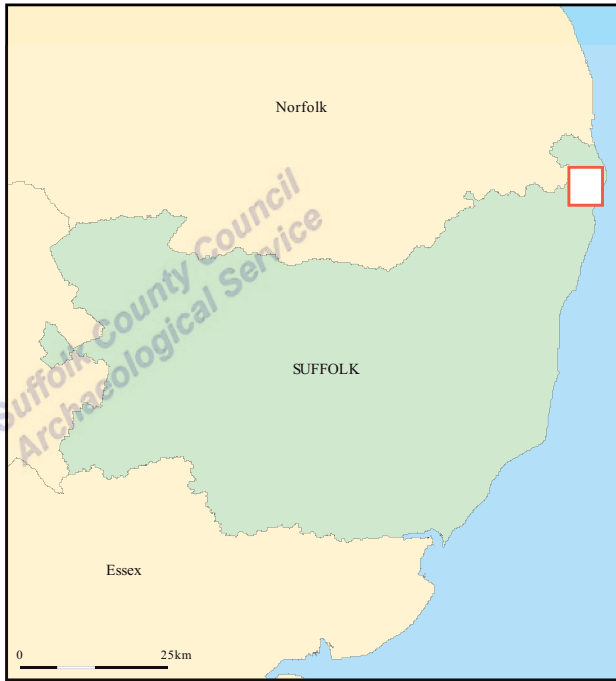
Dell Community Primary School is centred at National Grid Reference TM 52195 92218 and encompasses an area of approximately 24,300m². The site is bounded to the north by Dell Road, to the west and south by Winston Avenue and to the east by housing (Fig. 1).

The published Quaternary geology on the site is glacial sand and gravel over Lowestoft Till (British Geological Survey, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00, Quaternary). Deep, sandy soils of the Newport (3) series overlie the drift deposits.

Ground level slopes from approximately 11.5m OD in the eastern part of the site to approximately 7.5m OD in the western part of the site. The site is located on the southern slope of the Lake Lothing valley.

3. Archaeological background

There has been no previous archaeological fieldwork on the site, and no formal investigations within the general area of the site. The County Historic Environment Record records isolated finds of Neolithic flint tools 350m east of the site (LWT 016) and 500m southeast of the site (LWT 018).



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Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation took place on 21 December 2009 and was conducted generally in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation team (Tipper, 2009; Appendix 1), and a Method Statement and Risk Assessment by Stuart Boulter (Boulter, 2009).

Four evaluation trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a tracked, 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide ditching bucket. The trenches were between 5m and 15m long by 1.80m wide and were all excavated to a depth of approximately 1m. The trenches were located by measured off-sets using hand tapes.

In all trenches mechanical excavation continued to just below the surface of the geological stratum. Representative sections at the ends of each trench were trowelled clean and a digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images. These images have been archived under the reference GDW 78-87.

Soil descriptions and measurements were recorded in a site notebook. All salient details have been reproduced in this report, which forms therefore the primary archive for this investigation.

A non-ferrous metal-detecting survey was carried out on mechanically-excavated soils, with negative results.

Levels presented in this report are derived from a site plan (092023/001) provided by the developer and contained in the site file.

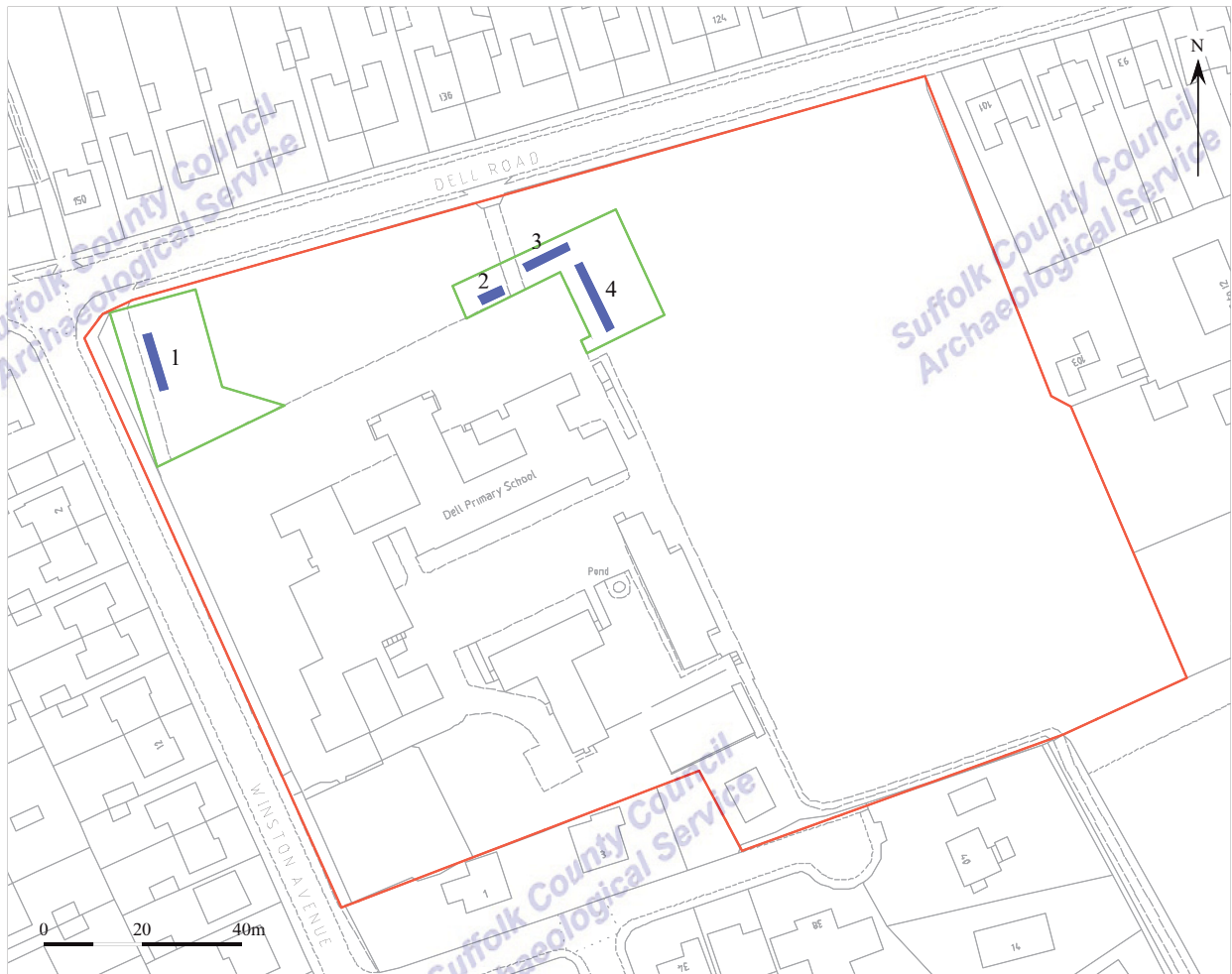


Figure 2. Trench locations (blue), development areas (green) and site boundary (red)

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

All four evaluation trenches revealed a similar vertical sequence of deposits, comprising topsoil, subsoil and natural sand. These soils are described below, and their depths are tabulated in 5.2. Figure 3 shows a typical section through the sequence of deposits.

Topsoil: Soft, mid greyish brown loam containing occasional pebbles, and small to medium fragments of brick, concrete and coal. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4 the topsoil is sealed by a turf layer forming the current ground surface. In Trench 1 the topsoil has been cultivated recently and contains the roots of trees and shrubs.

The topsoil has a fairly sharp interface with the underlying subsoil, although there is some root penetration across this boundary.

Subsoil: Soft, mid brown silty sand containing occasional pebbles and small fragments of brick and chalk in the upper half of the deposit. The subsoil has an indistinct interface with the underlying natural sand.

Natural sand: Soft, light yellowish brown sand containing moderate small to medium fragments of angular flint.

5.2 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Dimensions: 12.0m x 1.80m x 1.0m deep

Ground level: 7.50m AOD

Deposits	Depth below ground level
Topsoil	0.00m
Subsoil	0.60m
Natural sand	0.90m

Trench 2

Dimensions: 5.0m x 1.80m x 0.90m deep

Ground level: 8.60m AOD

Deposits	Depth below ground level
Topsoil	0.00m
Subsoil	0.44m
Natural sand	0.80m

Trench 3

Dimensions: 10.0m x 1.80m x 0.90m deep

Ground level: 8.65m AOD (west); 8.75m AOD (east)

Deposits	Depth below ground level
Topsoil	0.00m
Subsoil	0.50m
Natural sand	0.80m

Trench 4

Dimensions: 15.0m x 1.80m x 1.0m deep

Ground level: 8.95m AOD (north); 9.20m AOD (south)

Deposits	Depth below ground level
Topsoil	0.00m
Subsoil	0.40m
Natural sand	0.76m



Figure 3. West-facing section at the north end of Trench 4, showing a typical sequence of deposits (1m scale)



Figure 4. General view of Trench 4, looking north

6. Discussion

The evaluation has revealed a simple sequence of horizontal deposits in the northern part of the site, but no archaeological features or artefacts.

Examination of early Ordnance Survey maps indicates that c. 1880 the site formed the southern half of a large field. By 1890 the field had been bisected by Dell Road (the northern boundary of the site) and by c. 1920 a school building (the precursor of the existing structure) had been constructed in the western part of the site.

Some of the topsoil, which is unusually thick in the western part of the site, might have been imported when the site was landscaped for use as a playing field. The underlying subsoil is a naturally-occurring soil horizon that has been amended by agricultural activity, as shown by the presence of occasional small fragments of brick and chalk. The natural sand at the base of the observed sequence is assumed to be of glacio-fluvial origin and must overlie Lowestoft Till, although this was not observed.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

There is no archaeological evidence for occupation of the site prior to its development as a school in the early 20th century.

In light of this negative result it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required in relation to the proposed development of the site. This evaluation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database and a summary of the results will be published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS Ipswich

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James Heatley of Mace Ltd and funded by RM Property.

The project was managed by Stuart Boulter. Kieron Heard conducted the fieldwork and produced this report.

10. Bibliography

Boulter, S., 2009, *Combined Method Statement and Risk Assessment: Dell primary School, Dell Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Tipper, J., 2009, *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Dell primary School, Dell Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, NR33 1PL, Suffolk*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of SCCAS Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors will determine the need for further work 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.

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

DELL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DELL ROAD, OULTON BROAD, LOWESTOFT NR33 1PL, SUFFOLK

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 A planning application has been made to Suffolk County Council for various extensions and alterations, including new car parking and play areas, at Dell Primary School, Dell Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR33 1PL (TM 522 921). Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the proposed works.
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 The school lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a valley location and overlooking Lake Lothing. Neolithic find spots are recorded to the east (HER: LWT 016) and south-east (LWT 018) of this school. However, the area has not been the subject of systematic archaeological investigation. There is moderate to high potential for archaeological remains to be defined at this location, given the proximity to known remains. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have the 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 (9-10 The Churchyard, 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 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 groundworks associated with the new refurbishment of the school. All groundworks relating to the current planning permission, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated 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 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 Rachel 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 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 both 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper
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Date: 6 August 2009 Reference: /DellPrimarySchool-Lowestoft2009

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.