

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

---

**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/079**

# **Hall Farm, Old Norwich Road, Barham BRH 050**

**Jezz Meredith**  
© May 2010  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

---

**Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport**  
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

## HER Information

---

**Planning Application No:** 1031/03

**Dates of Fieldwork:** 22nd April 2010

**Grid Reference:** TM 1271 5132

**Funding Body:** Orchid Properties (Construction) Limited

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Jezz Meredith

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-76405

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

# Contents

---

## Summary

1. Introduction
2. Location, geology and topography
3. Archaeological background
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

## Disclaimer

## List of Figures

1. Site location
2. Trench locations

## List of Tables

1. Trench details

## Summary

---

*Barham*, Hall Farm, off Old Norwich Road (TM 1271 5132; BRH 050). A trenched evaluation was undertaken on the morning of Thursday, 22nd April 2010 to assess the archaeological potential of this site. No features of archaeological interest were observed below the present topsoil. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered. The site is near to a number of known archaeological sites and findspots but no past activity could be detected within this area. (Jezz Meredith, S.C.C.A.S. Field Team, for Orchid Properties (Construction) Limited; report no. 2010/079)

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## **1. Introduction**

---

The Planning Authority (Mid Suffolk District Council) was advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) that the archaeological potential of the site should be evaluated as a condition of planning consent. The site is at present an open grassed area where seven new dwellings are proposed to be built. The fieldwork was conducted by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team.

## **2. Location, geology and topography**

---

The site is centred at National Grid Reference TM 1271 5132 and encompasses an area of approximately 0.6ha. It is located to the north-west of Barham parish, between the more densely settled parishes of Claydon and Coddanham.

The site is located to the east of the river Gipping on a low sand and gravel terrace, just above the 15m contour. The site is predominantly flat, very gradually sloping to the west.

## **3. Archaeological background**

---

A possible Roman burial was located 100m to the north of the site (BRH 008) and an early Anglo-Saxon brooch was recovered 90m to the south-east (BRH 026).

The raised gravel terraces along the river Gipping were often the site of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and later settlement and other activity in the past.

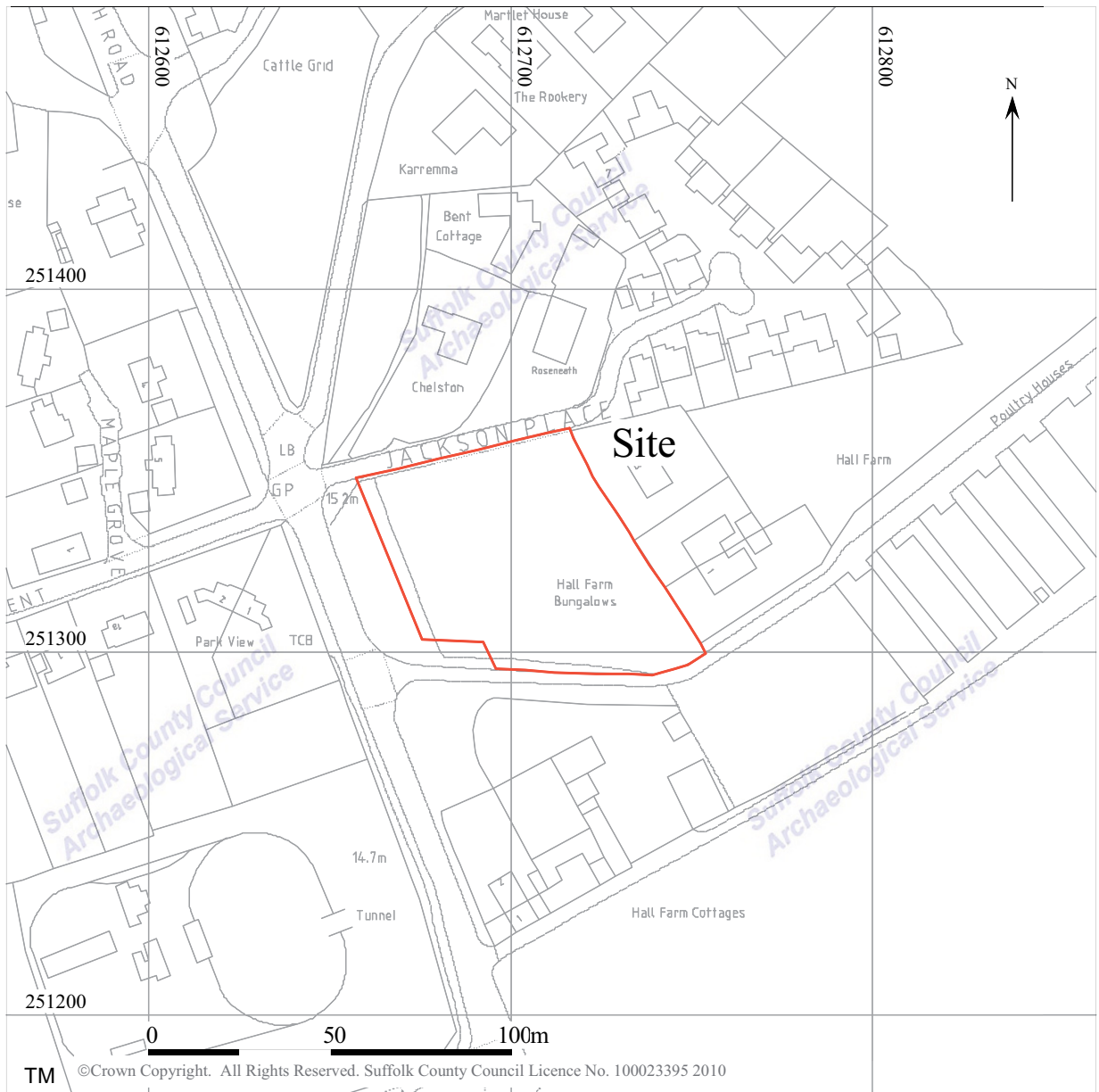
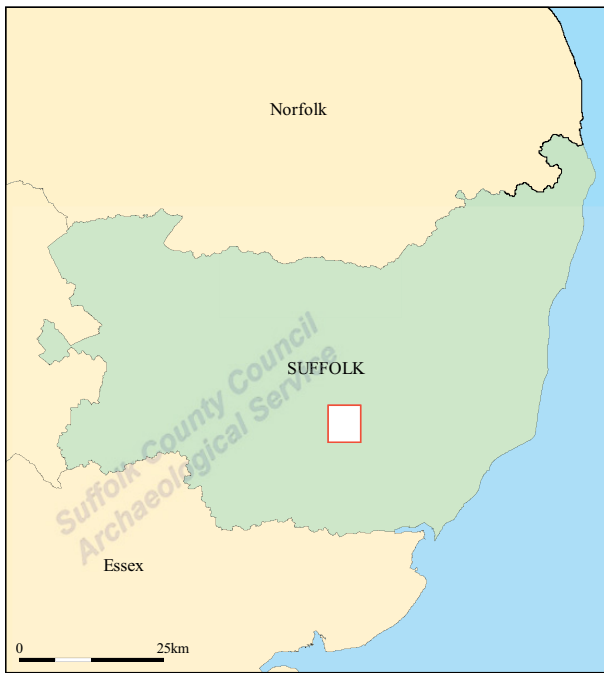


Figure 1. Site location

## 4. Methodology

---

Trenching was undertaken using a 360° mechanical mini-digger equipped with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket (provided by the on-site contractors). Five trenches were positioned across the site to sample deposits within or close to proposed new buildings (Fig. 2). Trenches had to avoid underground services, cabins, piles of spoil and stored materials. In total 145 m of linear trench were dug.

During the evaluation, all machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to or within the trench. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds. The base of the trench was examined for features of archaeological significance.

A digital photographic record was made of trenches in JPG format (at 72dpi resolution). Records were made of the position, length and depth of trenches. Observations were made of the depth of any overlying layers encountered and of the underlying natural geological deposits.

The archive will be located within the Ipswich offices of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The site code BRH 050 will be used to identify all elements of the archive associated with this project.

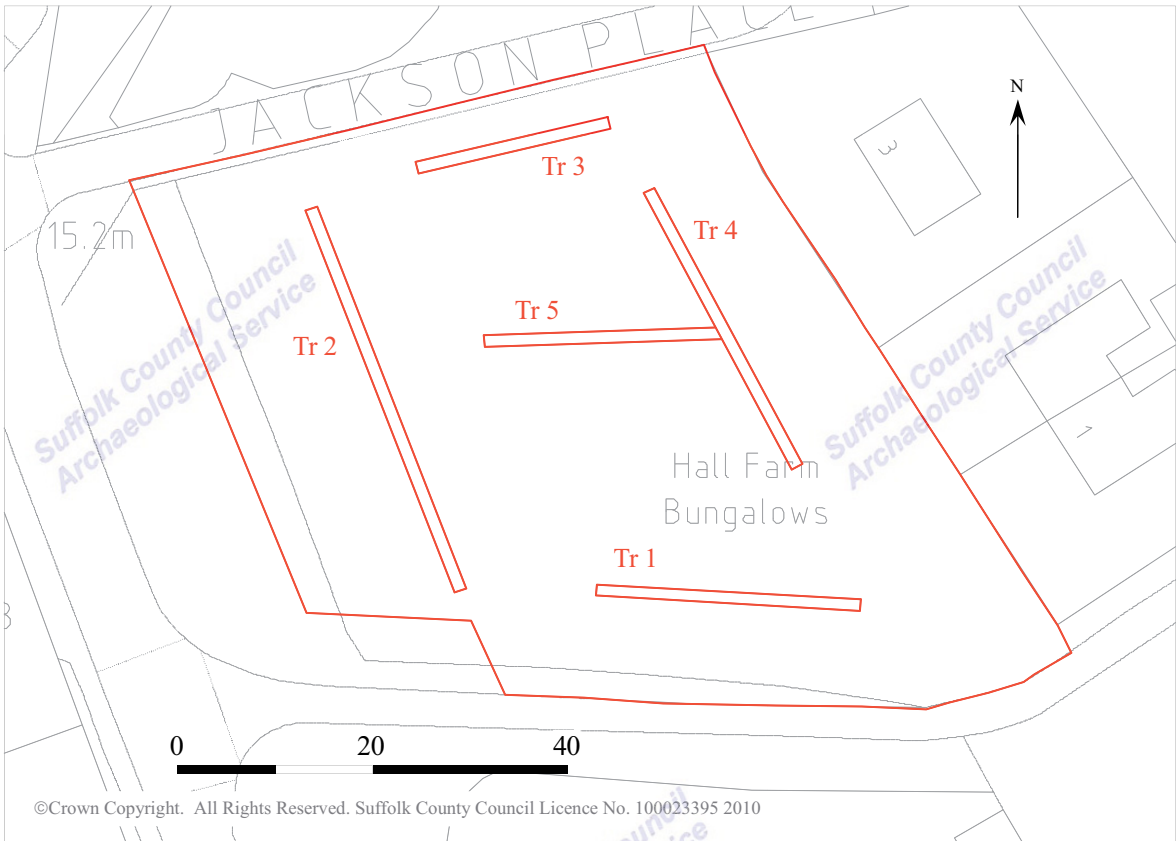


Figure 2. Trench locations



## 5. Results

---

Table 1 below lists details of all 5 trenches. No archaeological features or finds were recognised or recovered. A large modern disturbance (containing plastic pipe fragments) occupied the last 10m at the northern end of Trench 2, otherwise the base of the trenches contained undisturbed natural geological deposits.

Trench no	Orientation	Length	Depth of topsoil	Comments
1	E-W	27m	280mm	
2	NNW-SSE	42m	280mm	Mod disturb, N end
3	ENE-WSW	20m	270mm	
4	NW-SE	32m	330mm	
5	E-W	24m	330mm	

Table 1. Trench details

The topsoil was mid grey brown sandy loam of up to 330mm depth. This was directly over natural deposits of orange brown sands and gravel. The sharp contact between topsoil and natural, the lack of any developed soil profile and the absence of a weathered top to the natural all indicate that the site has experienced a certain amount of truncation.

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

---

No evidence for past activity of archaeological interest was revealed despite the proximity of important find spots in the surrounding area and being close to the river Gipping.

The site appears to have undergone a certain amount of truncation which could have destroyed shallow archaeological deposits and features. No unstratified finds however were recovered from the topsoil.

It is recommended that no further archaeological work be conducted at this site.

### **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.

## Appendix 1. Brief and specification

---

### *Brief and Specification for a Archaeological Trenched Evaluation*

#### **HALL FARM, OFF OLD NORWICH ROAD, BARHAM, SUFFOLK (1031/03)**

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

- 1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of 9 dwellings and garages, roads and ancillary works at Hall Farm, Barham, Suffolk (TM 126 512), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 1031/03).
- 1.2 The proposed new building has a total area of 0.89ha., on the eastern side of the valley of the River Gipping, and located at c. 15 - 18.00m AOD. The underlying glaciofluvial drift geology of the site comprises loam and sandy soils local flinty and in places over gravel.
- 1.3 The development lies within an area of high archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record. A Roman burial is recorded to the north (BRH 008) while an early Anglo-Saxon brooch is recorded immediately to the south of the site (BRH 026). There is high potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation deposits, and possibly burials, to extend into this development area. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area, before any groundworks take place. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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 satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.8 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.9 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.

- 1.10 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 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 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.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

## **3. Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a 5% by area, which is 445m<sup>2</sup> of the development plot. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. 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; this will result in a minimum of 247m of trenching at 1.8m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.2m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the Written Scheme of Investigation and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other

- visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 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 excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 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. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must 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, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.16 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

#### **4. General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

#### **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 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).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County HER.
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.15 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.16 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.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 17 April 2008

Reference: / HallFarm-Barham2008

**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.**