

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/084

**Land Off Millennium Way and
Grasmere Drive, Lowestoft
LWT 173**

S. Cass

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HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/09/0512/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 28th April 2010
Grid Reference: TM 5317 9499
Funding Body: Wellington Construction
Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Simon Cass
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-76560

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

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land off Millennium Way and Grasmere Drive, Lowestoft on the 28th April 2010. Four trenches were excavated across the site, totalling c.90m in length, spaced evenly to investigate the entire area. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in any of the trenches, and the site appears to have been used as a spoil dumping site from other nearby building works (probably including the retail development immediately west of the site). No further works are anticipated to be required as part of this development.

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1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted by Waveney District Council for the development of land off Millennium Way and Grasmere Drive for new housing, comprising 15 new dwellings with associated road, parking and landscaping. This permission was subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring that an appropriate scheme of archaeological works be undertaken in order to mitigate the effects of the development on any archaeology present on the site.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies close to the northern edge of Lowestoft, with two schools to the north and residential housing on the south and east, and Millennium Way to the west, past an adjacent supermarket, on generally flat land at a height of between 23.45m and 24.8m AOD, although the ground level within the site is visibly raised from land immediately outside the site boundary. The underlying geology is listed as deep loam and Aeolian drift and till, observed in the trenches as dark orange/yellow/grey mottled silty sand with occasional pale brown sandy patches and gravel inclusions.

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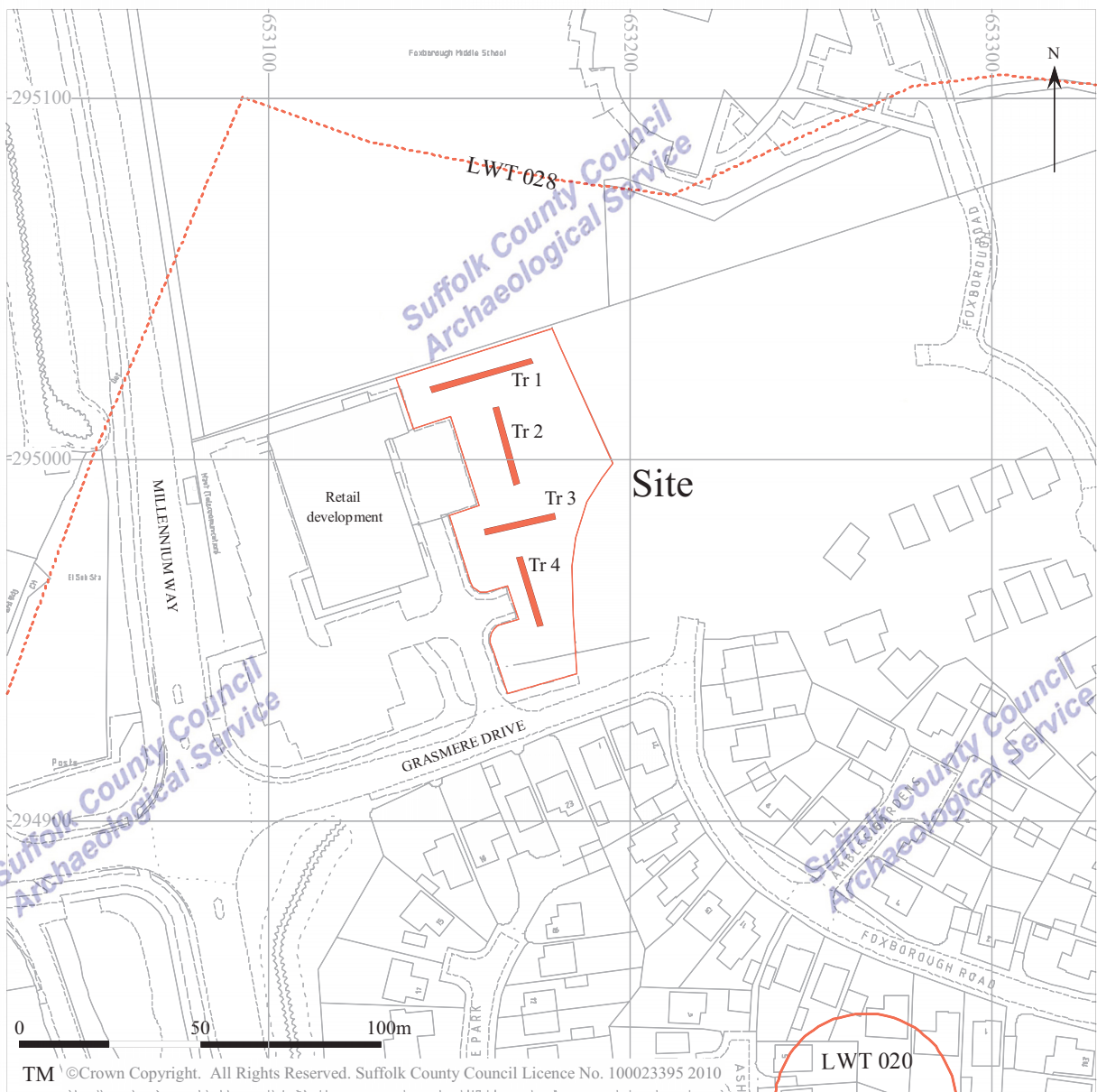
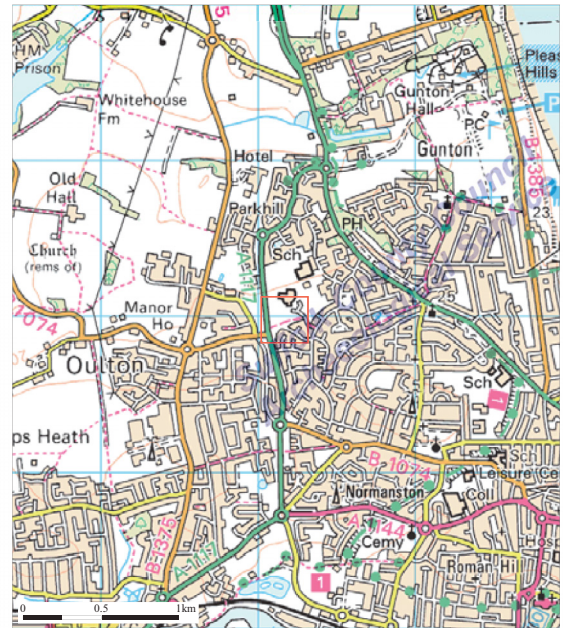


Figure 1. Site Location and trench plan

3. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological potential of the site stems in the main from the close proximity to the site of the medieval boundary ditch and bank of the manor of Akethorpe to the west and north-east (LWT 028) while a ring ditch, believed to indicate the remains of a Bronze Age barrow is recorded approximately 150m to the south (LWT 020).

4. Methodology

The trenches were excavated by a 180⁰ JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were all 1.6m wide and up to 1.15m deep, and were between 20m and 28m in length although there was a small amount of variation due to on site spatial constraints. The overburden was removed stratigraphically until the first undisturbed archaeological horizon or natural deposit was exposed. The natural geology was confirmed by test-pitting where necessary due to its variable nature and all trenches were backfilled prior to the end of the day due to safety considerations.

Due to the negative nature of the trenches, the exposed stratigraphy was recorded as a measured section for each trench, and where significant differences were apparent a section was recorded at either end. All trenches were photographed with a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was 28m long, orientated east-west, and up to 1.1m deep at the eastern end. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.62m of mid brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized fragments and pieces of building rubble and modern detritus (metal and plastic) – believed to be redeposited soil from the adjacent site of a recently constructed supermarket. Below this was 0.46m of dark grey/brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks, believed to be the original topsoil layer. This sealed natural orange/yellow/grey mottled sands with occasional gravels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered within this trench, although the eastern end was significantly truncated by modern disturbance, with large concrete blocks penetrating into the natural geology.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing east (2m and 1m scales)

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was 22m long, orientated north-south, and approximately 1.11m deep. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.62m of mid brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized fragments and pieces of building rubble and modern detritus (metal and plastic) which sealed 0.49m of dark grey/brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks, believed to be the original topsoil layer. This sealed natural orange/yellow/grey mottled sands with occasional gravels. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered within this trench, though three gravel-filled field drains were noted in the northern half of the trench.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing south (2m and 1m scales)

5.3 Trench 3

This trench was 20m long, orientated east-west, and up to 1.15m deep at the eastern end. The stratigraphy encountered at the western end of the trench consisted of 0.14m of pale brown silty sand above 0.1m of mid yellowish brown well-compacted silty clayey sand and gravel. Below this was 0.23m of dark grey/brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks, believed to be the original topsoil layer. This sealed natural orange/yellow/grey mottled sands with occasional gravels and very frequent iron staining. At the western end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.73m of redeposited soil over

0.32m of buried topsoil sealing natural geology. The compacted layer under the redeposited surface soil is suspected to be a hardened path for machines to facilitate the dumping of excess soil on this parcel of land from the adjacent site. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered within this trench.



Plate 3. Trench 3, facing east (2m and 1m scales)

5.4 Trench 4

This trench was 20m long, orientated north-south, and up to 0.9m deep at the northern end. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.32 and 0.54m of pale brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized fragments and pieces of building rubble and modern detritus (metal and plastic). Below this was between 0.26m to 0.31m of dark grey/brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks, believed to be the original topsoil layer. This sealed natural orange/yellow/grey mottled sands with occasional gravels and frequent iron staining. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered within this trench.



Plate 4. Trench 4, facing north (2m and 1m scales)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during this evaluation, and modern finds of plastic, metal and brick were not retained.

7. Discussion

It appears that this site has been the location of recent dumping of disturbed topsoil, most likely from the adjacent development of an Aldi supermarket. The depth of imported soil correlates well to the increase in ground level within the site as opposed to immediately outside to the north, east and south, which suggests that the excess soil is most likely to come from the west – the site of the supermarket. The compacted layer visible in Trench 3 is most likely the remains of the surface created to allow heavy machines to enter this area to dump soil without becoming bogged down and to minimise rutting.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

While it appears that the recent building works in the surrounding area have not had too significant an impact on the site, barring truncation to the eastern end of Trench 1, no sign of archaeological activity was found in any of the trenches. No further archaeological works are anticipated to be necessary for the present development.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich.

T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Lowestoft

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andrew Beverton, Bill Brooks and Simon Cass), all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed and directed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site plans was carried out by Simon Cass and the report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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.

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND OFF MILLENNIUM WAY, GRASMERE DRIVE, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK (DC/09/0512/FUL)

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 residential development on Land off Millennium Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk (TM 531 949), has been granted by Waveney District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application DC/09/0512/FUL). Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The proposed development has a total area of c. 0.32ha and located at c. 20.00m AOD. The underlying glaciofluvial and aeolian drift geology of the site comprises principally deep loam.
- 1.4 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. There is a surviving medieval boundary ditch and bank of the manor of Akethorpe to the west and north-east (HER no. LWT 028). In addition, the remains of a ring ditch, indicative of a Bronze Age barrow, is recorded to the south (LWT 020). There is high potential for occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, a linear trenched evaluation is required of the site.
- 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, 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 specification.**
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation

Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).

- 1.10 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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*.
- 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: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c. 160.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site where significant ground disturbance is proposed). Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c. 90.00m of trenching (maximum) at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI 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).
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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 Dr Helen Chappell, 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.

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 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. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill 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 Historic Environment Record (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 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.

5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.14 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 the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.15 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.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.18 An unbound copy of the evaluation 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 acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 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.
- 5.21 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 Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Date: 23 April 2010

Reference: / MillenniumWay-Lowestoft2010

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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