

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/096

**Bushel Barn, Paltry Farm, Great Barton
PKM 060**

J. A. Craven

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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/1196
Date of Fieldwork: 11/05/2010
Grid Reference: TL 901691
Funding Body: Mr R Jackson
Curatorial Officer: Judith Plouviez
Project Officer: J. A. Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-76616

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 at Bushel Barn, Paltry farm, Great Barton, Suffolk in advance of construction of a new driveway. Trial trenching, together with a topsoil metal-detecting survey of the development footprint, did not identify any archaeological features or deposits relating to the known area of Roman occupation which lies c.200m to the north.

A single silver coin, possibly medieval in origin, which had been reused as a post-medieval love token was recovered from the topsoil.

No further archaeological work is thought necessary.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a driveway at Bushel Barn, Paltry Farm, Great Barton, Suffolk (Fig. 1) to meet a condition on planning application SE/09/1196. A Brief and Specification, produced by Judith Plouviez, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), originally required continuous monitoring of groundworks. At the request of the developer a new Brief was issued for an evaluation of the site so that its archaeological potential could be established prior to development starting (Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, Mr R Jackson.

2. Geology and topography

The site actually lies within the parish of Pakenham, immediately on the eastern side of the parish boundary with Great Barton, at TL 901691. It is situated at a height of c.58m AOD on an area of high ground forming a slight south-east facing slope. The northern arm of the site lay in an open arable ploughed field, the southern arm in the gardens of Bushel Barn.

The site geology is of clay/loam soils overlying chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

The condition requiring archaeological work was placed as the site lies adjacent to an area recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as of high archaeological importance. A Roman villa (PKM 009) is known in the field 300m to the north and associated Roman finds (PKM 012, 019 and 023) and scattered coins recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme have been found extending south from the villa towards the site. An area of Anglo-Saxon settlement (BRG 005) is also known 270m to the north-west and a medieval moated site (PKM 012) 150m to the north-east.

The aim of the evaluation was to establish the full archaeological implications for the sites development and what level of further archaeological work would be required.

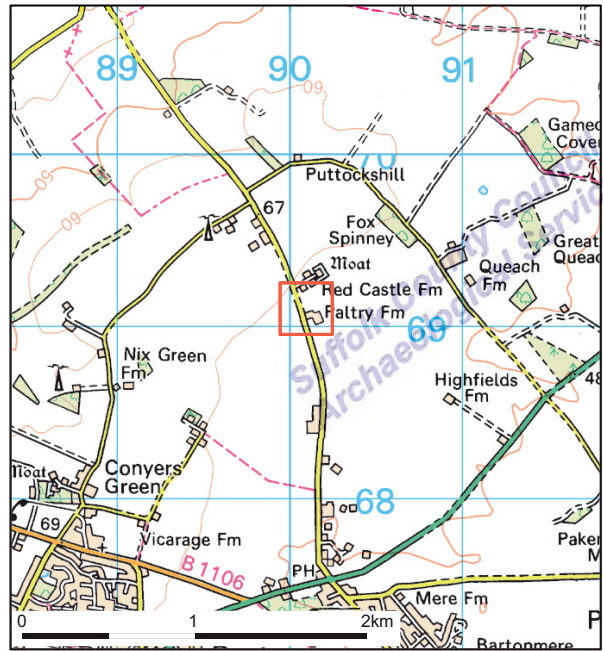


Figure 1. Site location plan

4. Methodology

Two trenches with a total length of 18m (Fig. 2) were placed along the proposed driveway. Measuring c.1.8m wide this amounted to a total area of c.32m² or 6.4% of the c.500sqm development area. The trench was excavated by a mechanical digger, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The depth of the trenches varied from 0.5m to 0.7m and showed a consistent soil profile of 0.25m of topsoil overlying a layer, 0001, of mid orange brown clayey loam with occasional flints. This layer, which varied from 0.25m to 0.45m thick, overlaid the natural yellow/orange clay subsoil. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist during the evaluation, as was the entire development footprint.

The trenches were cleaned and excavated by hand as required but no archaeological deposits were identified. Trench locations were recorded by hand and site levels were recorded using a dumpy level and are relative to a temporary benchmark on Brand Road. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive. No environmental samples were collected.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-76616) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archives are kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. PKM 060.

5. Results

Trench 01, which was aligned east to west, measured 10m long and 1.8m wide. The trench profile showed 0.25m of topsoil overlying layer 0001 which was 0.25m-0.35m thick. The subsoil lay 0.7m below the arbitrary level recorded on the road. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Trench 02, which was aligned north to south, measured 8m long and 1.8m wide. The trench profile showed 0.25m of topsoil overlying layer 0001 which was 0.3m-0.5m thick. The subsoil lay 1.3m below the arbitrary level recorded on the road, indicating that the trench lay further down the slight natural south-east facing slope than Trench 01. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

A single small find, 1001, was recovered during the metal-detector survey.

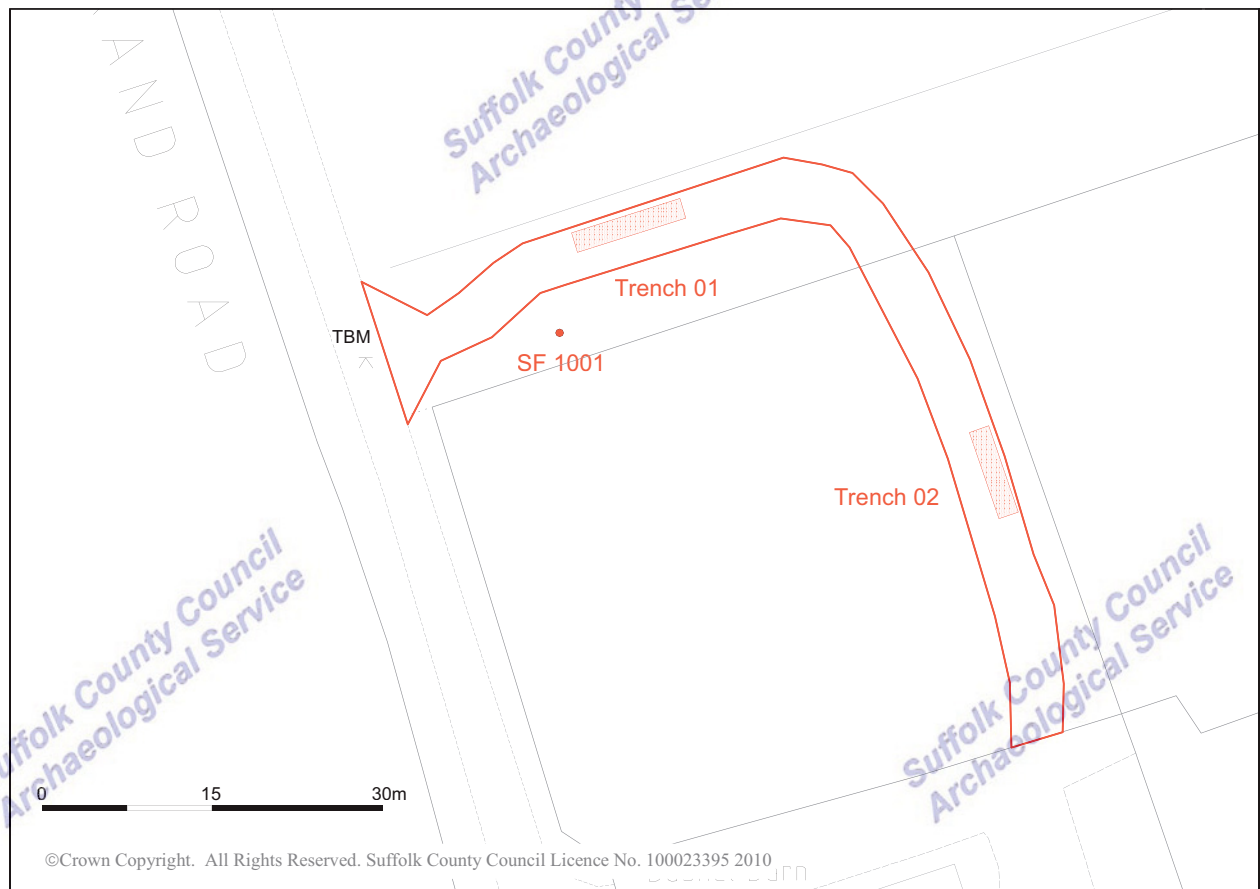


Figure 2. Site plan

6. The Finds

SF1001, recovered from the topsoil c.15m east of the road, was a silver coin, completely worn on both sides. It is the size of a medieval coin, but has been over stamped with the letter B or R at a later date. There is nothing left of the original legend on the coin. It was probably used as a love token during the 17th or 18th century.

7. Discussion

The trenching showed a uniform soil profile, with the presence of layer 0001 indicating that the potential archaeological horizon was well-preserved at depth below modern activities such as ploughing. Apart from a single metal-detector find no archaeological deposits or features were identified either in the trenching or topsoil metal-detector survey.

The possible medieval coin, remade as a love token in the post-medieval period does indicate some activity in the area, probably associated with the moated site at Redcastle Farm to the north, and perhaps suggests that medieval/post-medieval activity may have extended south along the road to include Paltry Farm.

The general absence of small finds in the trenches and topsoil however, combined with the lack of archaeological features, indicates that the site lies beyond the southern edge of the area of Roman settlement known to the north where numerous finds have been recorded by metal-detecting of ploughsoil.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has shown that the site appears to lie beyond the southern edge of the area of known Roman settlement, with no archaeological features or topsoil finds scatter being identified. The evaluation has also shown that any archaeological deposits

would be at a depth of c.0.5m+, under layer 0001. As the proposed formation level for the driveway will be at a depth of c.0.25m, layer 0001 will largely be left *in situ* and will form an adequate buffer protecting potential deposits. Together with the near absence of small finds recovered from metal detecting of the trenches and topsoil surface this means that the development is unlikely to have any impact on archaeological deposits and no further work such as monitoring of groundworks is thought necessary.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Digital archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\archive fieldproj\Pakenham\PKM 060.

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven. Fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and John Sims, with metal-detecting by Alan Smith, all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Andy Brown (Portable Antiquities Officer).

11. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

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.

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

Bushel Barn, Paltry Farm, Brand Road, Gt Barton (parish of Pakenham)

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 to change use and create a new access to Bushel Barn, Paltry Farm, Brand Road, Gt Barton has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/09/1196). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 This application affects an area at TL 901691 on high ground (55 to 60m OD) with a gentle slope down to the south-east. It is adjacent to an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, comprising a Roman villa (HER no PKM 009) and related finds (PKM 019, 023). There is also evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the immediate vicinity (BRG 005, PKM 024) and a medieval moated site (PKM 012). There is high potential for Roman or later occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works may cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.4 **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 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.

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Linear trial trench are to be excavated within the proposed access to a total area of no less than 5% of the entire area of the proposal.
- 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, including a preliminary survey using a metal detector.

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 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.

3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

3.10 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.

3.11 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.

3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

3.14 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 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 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>).
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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.
- 5.15 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.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 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: Judith Plouviez

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Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Date: 4th May 2010

Reference: /ArchSpecEval_BrandRod_JP_May2010.doc

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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