

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/144

Roy Humphrey Site, Eye Airfield
EYE 096

S. Cass
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HER Information

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Date of Fieldwork: 19th – 20th July 2010
Grid Reference: TM 1290 7522
Funding Body: Roy Humphrey
Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Simon Cass
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-80428

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 Roy Humphrey Group, Eye Airfield, in advance of the construction of a new warehouse and drainage lagoons to the south of the existing compound area (TM 1290 7522). Five trenches were excavated, with a total length of 400m, across the area of the new development. No archaeologically relevant artefacts or deposits were noted and no further works are recommended to be necessary.

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1. Introduction

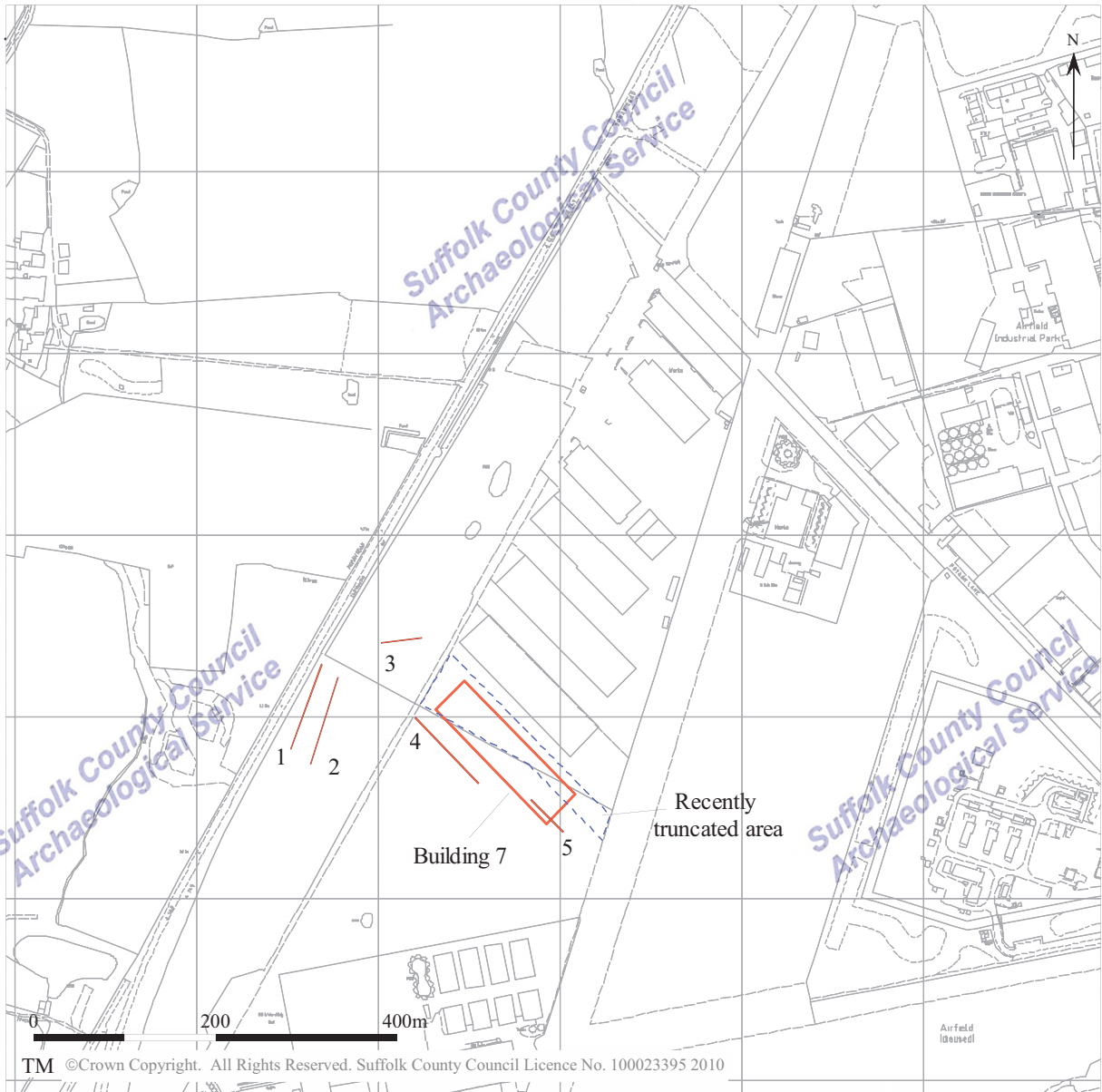
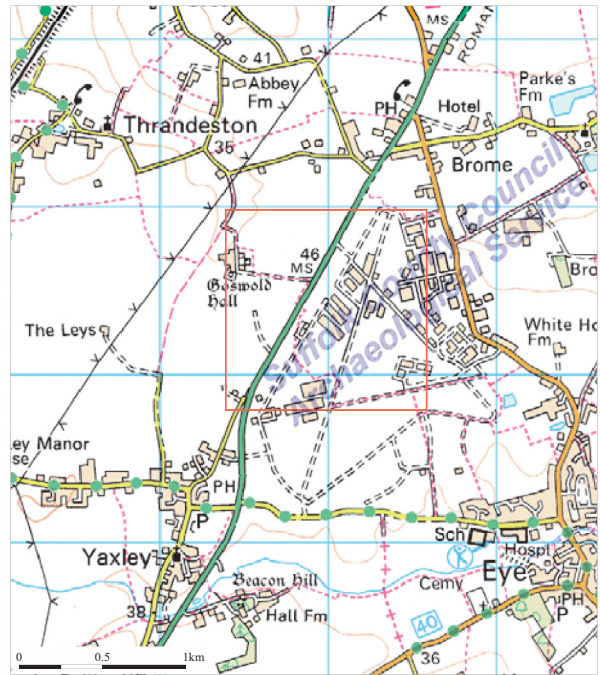
Planning permission was granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the erection of a new industrial building, landscape bunding and balancing ponds on land at Roy Humphrey Group (formerly Eye Airfield), Ipswich Road, Eye. A condition was placed on this development relating to archaeology requiring an acceptable scheme of investigation and mitigation to be carried out prior to the commencement of any development.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of approximately 45m AOD, on deep loam to clay above chalky till deposits. Although the site itself is generally flat, this may well have been at least partially resultant from the creation of Eye Airfield during WW2.

3. Archaeological and historical background

This site lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies adjacent to the route of a known Roman road (believed to follow the course of the modern A140) and further Roman settlement sites are known 400m west and 600m south-east. In addition, a number of smaller medieval sites are known to exist between 100-400m to the west of this development, including the remains of the medieval Goswold Hall. Due to this there was believed to be a high possibility of encountering Roman or medieval deposits within this site.



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Figure 1. Site Location

4. Methodology

Five trenches were excavated by a 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were intended to be 1.8m wide and either 100m or 50m long. These trenches were laid out according to an approved location plan, intended to investigate the area around the planned new building and the lagoon towards the A140.

A record was made of the stratigraphy encountered in each trench, and where archaeological features were encountered they were hand-cleaned and a selection of them was excavated in order to characterise the site without causing undue disturbance. All features were planned and a full written, drawn and photographic (with a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera) record made of those which were excavated. The unexcavated features were all planned, though no further record has been made at this time.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

After consultation with the developer, 400m of trenching was removed from the evaluation scheme as there would be no disturbance along much of the site adjacent to the A140. This left 3 trenches around the new building and the lagoon area, and 2 of the original 6 trenches adjacent to the A140 closest to the area of development.

5.2 Trench 1

This trench was 100m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.9m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of redeposited yellow/grey clay with chalk and flint inclusions, interpreted as up-cast from previous development on the site, above 0.5m of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very frequent large flints and modern debris/CBM, interpreted as a buried topsoil. This sealed up to 0.2m of yellow/grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions, interpreted as the natural geology which was confirmed with test-pitting at either end of the trench. Modern field drains and tyre-ruts were observed towards the southern end of this trench, orientated approximately east-west.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing southwest (2x 1m scales)

5.3 Trench 2

This trench was 100m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.8m deep, orientated approximately northeast-southwest. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of redeposited yellow/grey clay with chalk and flint inclusions, interpreted as up-cast from previous development on the site, above 0.4m of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very frequent large flints and modern debris/CBM, interpreted as a buried topsoil. This sealed up to 0.1m of yellow/grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions, interpreted as the natural geology and this was confirmed with test-pitting at either end of the trench. Modern field drains and tyre-ruts were observed approximately half way along this trench, orientated approximately east-west.

5.4 Trench 3

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.9m deep, orientated approximately east-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.8m of moderately compacted greyish brown silty sand containing very large quantities of modern debris and evidence of burning and chemical contaminants which are all likely to be related to its previous

use as a pallet yard. This sealed up to 0.1m of very stiff yellow/grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions, interpreted as the natural geology.

5.5 Trench 4

This trench was 100m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of loose mid brown silty sand with frequent flints, stones and chalk nodules. This sealed up to 0.1m of very stiff yellow/grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions, interpreted as the natural geology.

5.6 Trench 5

This trench was 50m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.6m deep, orientated approximately northwest-southeast. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.5m of loose mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent flint and chalk inclusions. This sealed up to 0.1m of very stiff yellow/grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions, interpreted as the natural geology. A modern linear feature was observed approximately half way down the trench, containing CBM fragments, is likely to relate to the field system around Yaxley Plantation present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation. Some modern brick and concrete fragments were observed in Trench 1, 2 and 5 but these were not retained, while the modern finds from Trench 3 were judged to be too contaminated for retrieval.

7. Discussion

The absence of archaeological deposits on this site suggests that little activity has occurred within the areas evaluated. While a large area had been previously stripped and gravelled over (almost certainly truncating the natural horizon in this area) near the proposed building footprint, it seems probable that this has not disturbed any relevant deposits. The modern drainage and rutting observed could relate to either field

improvement or the site's use as a wartime airfield, as drainage would have been an issue for either usage.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

It appears that, despite the negative nature of this evaluation, there is still good potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits in the area of the former airfield. The sparse evidence of modern activity suggests that the creation and maintenance of the airfield was not as destructive as might have been the case. No further work is recommended as a part of this planning application, although further works on the site may attract additional archaeological conditions dependant on their location, size and nature.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Eye

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Anna West 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 and 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.

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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND OF IPSWICH ROAD, EYE (FORMERLY EYE AIRFIELD), FOR THE SITING OF AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, LANDSCAPE BUND AND BALANCING PONDS

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 consent has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the development of an industrial building, a landscape bund and balancing ponds on land off Ipswich Road, Eye, Suffolk, with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. This condition requires an acceptable programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. The planning application reference is 3506/08, at NGR TM 129 751, (See Map Attached for area detail).
- 1.2 The proposed development area measures c. 6.65 ha, and is situated on the east side of the A140 on part of the former Eye Airfield. The soils are predominantly deep clayey soils of the Beccles series over drift geology of chalky derived till. The site is c. 45.00m AOD.
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies alongside the site of a known Roman road, which is thought to follow the course of the modern A140. There are Roman settlement sites to 400 m to the west and 600 m to the south east, and a number of smaller medieval (c. 13th Century) settlement sites within 100 – 400 m to the west. These include the remains of the moated site of Goswold Hall. The site was prior to being used as an Airfield in the 2nd World War, very much part of Suffolk's medieval landscape, and there is a high potential for encountering Roman and Medieval deposits at this site, as well as possible earlier material.
- 1.4 Aspects of 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, and as the first part of a staged scheme of archaeological evaluation work, a linear trenched evaluation is required of the area, before any groundwork takes place.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 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 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 approximately 3325 m². 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 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 1847 m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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. 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 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 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 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 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: William Fletcher

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Tel: 01284 352199
Email: william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Date: 10th February 2009
Reference: / Building7_IpswichRoad_Eye2009

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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