

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/180

Land Opposite Walsham Sports Club, Summer Road, Walsham le Willows WLW 100

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HER Information

Planning Application No: 1398/10
Date of Fieldwork: 22nd September 2010
Grid Reference: TL 000 717
Funding Body: Dr. Tim Lodge for Walsham Sports Club
Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mo Muldowney
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1_83206

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out on land opposite Walsham Sports Club, Walsham le Willows. No features and no finds were recovered.

1. Introduction

An evaluation was carried out on land opposite Walsham Sports Club, Summer Road, Walsham le Willows ahead of the proposed development of the current site (Planning application number: 1398/10) into a multi-use games area (MUGA). The work was carried out on 22nd September 2010 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

Walsham le Willows is situated in mid Suffolk and lies roughly 18km north-east from Bury St Edmunds and 18km north from Stowmarket. The development area is located at the north edge of Walsham le Willows, less than 0.5km from the convergence of Summer Road itself, Ixworth Road, The Street and The Causeway and opposite Walsham Sports Club (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

The development area overlies deep loam to clay of the Beccles series, derived from the underlying chalky till at approximately 58m OD but in this particular area it was clay only.

At the time of the evaluation, the land was formerly arable, but currently fallow, bounded on the south side only by hedging. There were no physical boundaries to the north and east and a ditch formed the west boundary next to Summer Road. The land was generally flat.

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are a small number of entries in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) within 0.5km of the development area, which are listed in Table 1 below. East Anglian Archaeology 85 (West and McLaughlin 1998), is a study of the parish of Walsham le Willows and contains extensive research into the history of the village, but records only that a very small collection of Roman pottery (1-2 sherds) had been recovered from the field immediately to the north of the subject site.

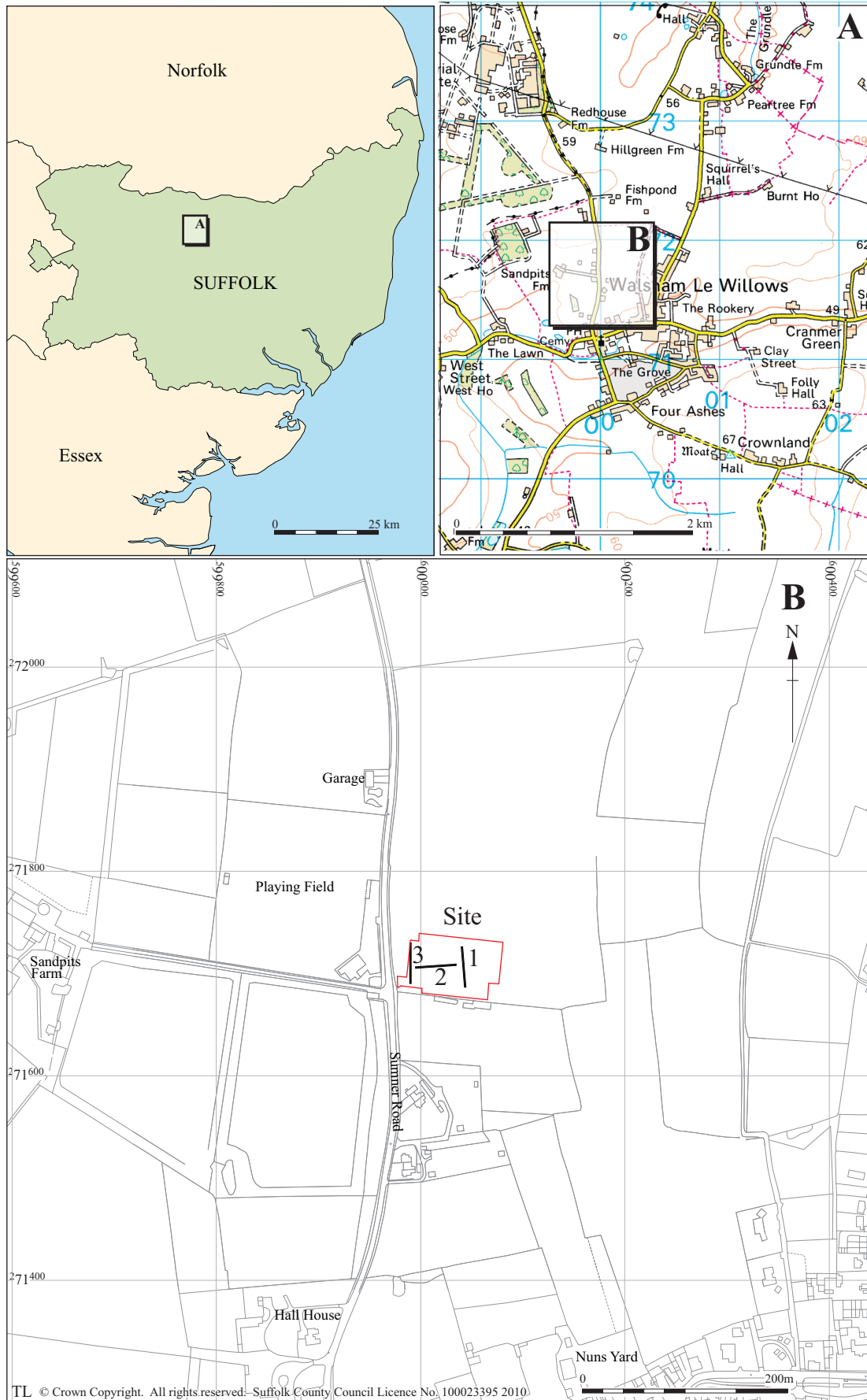


Figure 1. Site location showing development area (red) and trenches (black)

HER Code	Description	Location	Date
SNT 048	Site of former USAF WWII airbase	W	Mod
WLW 003	16thC iron arrowhead	S	Med
WLW 061	Pottery scatter	SW	Rom
WLW 062	Pottery scatter	SW	Rom
WLW 063	Pottery scatter	SW	Rom
WLW 064	Pottery scatter	SW	Rom
WLW 074	Pottery scatter	SE	Med
WLW 082	Two post mills	E	P-Med
WLW 087	Site of Elizabethan ?theatre	S	Med
WLW 091	Metalwork scatters	NW	Rom; Sax

Table 1. Summary of HER entries

Rom = Roman; Sax = Saxon; Med = medieval; P-Med = post-medieval; Mod = modern

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (0.44ha) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to three trenches, each 1.8m wide and 40m long, with a total length of 120m. The trenches were excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was kept on a high resolution digital camera (314 dpi).

The location of each trench and levels were established using a Leica GPS. No environmental samples were taken and no metal-detecting was carried out. No finds were recovered.

A digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

5. Results

No archaeological features, natural features or modern intrusions were identified and other than the underlying natural clay geology, only one deposit (topsoil) was identified. Trench data are presented in Table 2, below.

The natural clay (0002) was light yellowish brown in colour and encountered at a minimum depth of 0.26m below the ground surface.

Topsoil 0001 overlay the clay natural and was dark yellowish brown clay with a maximum recorded depth of 0.37m. On average the topsoil was 0.32m deep.

Trench number	Alignment	Length (m)	Total depth (m)	Height top (m OD)	Height base (m OD)
1	N-S	40.00	0.29	58.30	57.65
2	E-W	40.00	0.35	58.21	57.94
3	N-S	40.00	0.37	58.10	57.65

Table 2. Trench data



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north

6. Discussion and conclusion

The evaluation has shown that no archaeological remains are located in this area, and reflects the results of a fieldwalking survey, which recovered a negligible quantity of Roman pottery sherds. It would appear that the development area is located too far from the core of the village to contain any medieval remains and was also not an area used in the Roman period, although a possible site has been identified (again via fieldwalking) to the south-west in a field called 'Dovehousewong' (West and McLaughlin 1998).

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. T:\Arc\ALL_site\Walsham Le willows\WLW 100 Land Opp Sports Club

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Mo Muldowney and Mike Feider from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mo Muldowney and managed by John Craven.

Illustrations and graphics were produced by Ellie Hillen. Richenda Goffin edited the report.

9. Bibliography

West, S., and 1998 Towards a Landscape History of Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk
McLaughlan, A., *East Anglian Archaeology* 85

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.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND OPPOSITE WALSHAM SPORTS CLUB, SUMMER ROAD, WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS, SUFFOLK

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 has been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council for the construction of a new sports development at Land opposite Walsham Sports Club, Summer Road, Walsham-le-Willows (TL 999 716). **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 in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.

1.3 The site (3.00 ha. in area) is located to the east of Summer Road at c.58.00m OD. The soils are deep loam to clay of the Beccles Series, derived from the underlying chalky till.

1.4 Aspects of the proposal will cause significant ground disturbance and will affect a considerable area. There has not been systematic archaeological investigative work on the site and hitherto unknown important archaeological deposits may exist. Because of the scale of the development, there is high potential for any remains to be damaged or destroyed by any groundworks associated with the proposed development.

1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:

A linear trenched evaluation is required of those areas where significant groundworks are proposed, which is an area in the SW part of the site measuring c.0.44ha in size: MUGA pitch, tennis court, access and car parking.

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 standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both

completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Mid Suffolk District Council 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 220.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the area to be evaluated (see para. 1.5). Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 122.00m of trenching 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 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. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

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 a 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>) with ADS or another appropriate archive depository.

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 An unbound hardcopy 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.

5.17 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, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval (see para. 5.16). This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper
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Date: 18 August 2010 Reference: / SportsClub_Walsham-le_Willows2010

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.