

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/186

Playdale, Thorington Hall, Pinewood, Ipswich PIN 002

S. Cass
© October 2010
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

HER Information

Planning Application No: Unknown

Date of Fieldwork: 28th September 2010

Grid Reference: TM 1387 4167

Funding Body: Taylor Wimpey Homes

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Simon Cass

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-83447

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

Contents

	Page
Summary	
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	3
5.1 Trench 1	3
6. Discussion	4
7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	4
8. Archive deposition	5
9. List of contributors and acknowledgements	5
Disclaimer	
List of Figures	
1. Site location	2
List of Plates	
1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2 x 1m scales)	4
List of Appendices	
1. Brief and specification	7

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Thorington Hall, Pinewood, Ipswich in advance of the construction of several items of recreational equipment on the edge of the Thorington Hall residential development. A single trench was excavated, through the area to be most affected by the footings for the play equipment, and no artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed.

1. Introduction

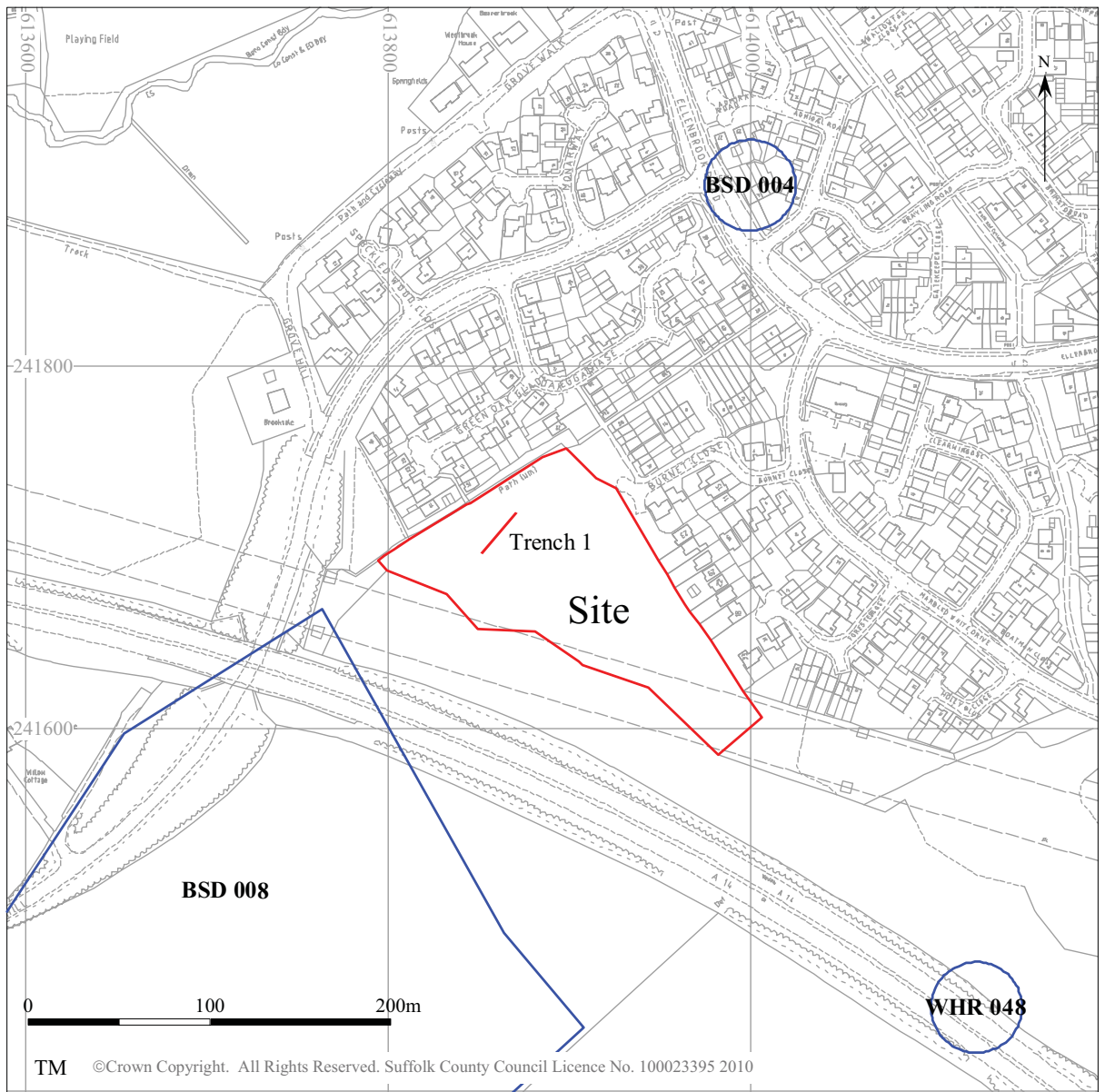
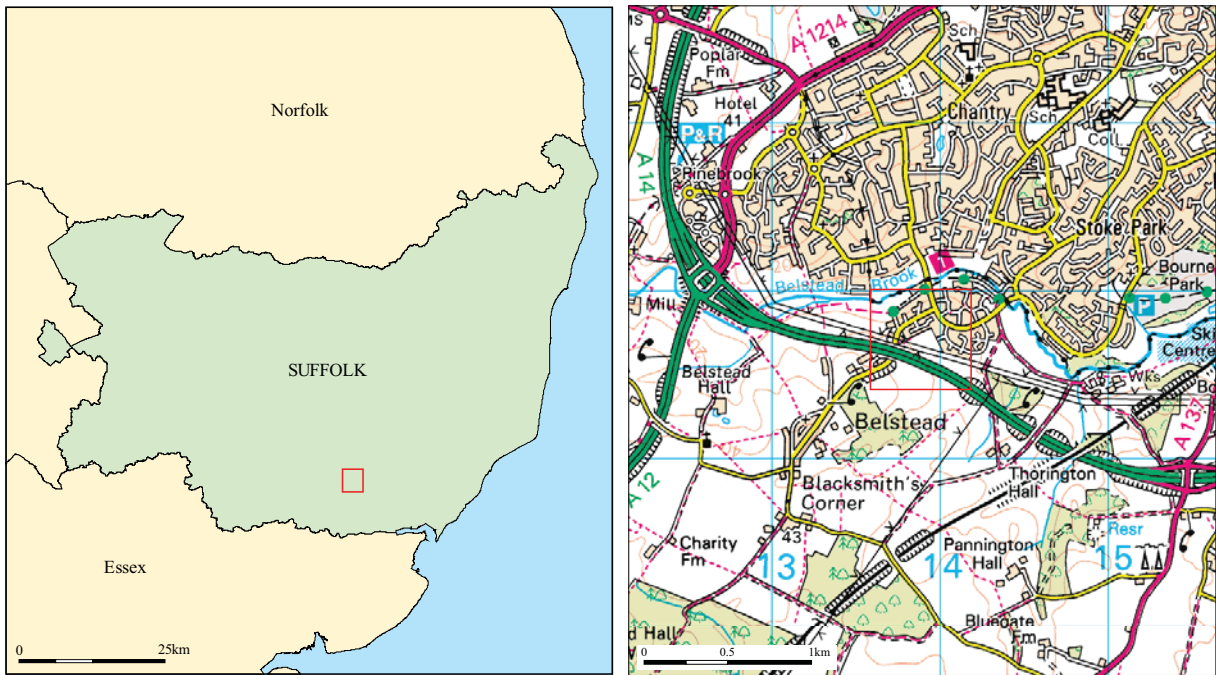
An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the creation of a new recreational area to the south of the Thorington Hall residential area, between Belstead and Stoke Park, as required in an existing planning permission relating to the initial construction of the residential estate some 15-20 years ago.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies immediately north of the A14, between it and the Belstead Brook, and south of the residential development of Thorington Hall (Fig.1). The land slopes down towards the river to the north, between 20 and 15m AOD and the underlying geology is listed as deep loam glaciofluvial drift deposits.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within a topographical location favourable for historic and prehistoric activity overlooking Belstead Brook to the north. Stray finds of Roman date are known between 5-600m west and south of the site, while closer to the site a possible ring ditch cropmark has been noted some 320m to the south-east (WHR 048). An area of undated linear cropmarks, possibly representing trackways and field systems is recorded immediately south and southwest of the site (BSD 008). In addition, a medieval bronze seal matrix of the Greyfriars of Ipswich was located some 235m north-east of the site (BSD 004).



TM ©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2010

Figure 1. Site location

4. Methodology

A 3-tonne tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket, was used to open the trench, under constant archaeological supervision. The soil overburden was removed in shallow spits (of up to c. 0.05m thick) and the spoil was monitored for any stray finds. The trench was hand-cleaned where appropriate, with potential features hand-excavated and investigated to assess their nature.

A measured written record of the exposed stratigraphy was taken, and photographic record made using a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.3m wide and up to 0.7m deep, orientated approximately north-east/south-west (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy encountered at the south-western end consisted of c. 0.35m of dark/mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil above 0.25m of mid reddish brown sandy silt subsoil. This overlay a mottled yellow/brown silty sand natural deposit. A test pit to 1.0m depth confirmed this interpretation. As the trench descended towards the north-east, it became shallower, with only approximately 0.3m of topsoil above 0.15m-0.2m of subsoil above natural silty sands. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed in the trench. Several probable tree/root boles were noted along with other features of likely animal origin, and four were excavated in order to confirm this interpretation.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2 x 1m scales)

6. Discussion

The absence of any artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance suggest that there is unlikely to be any great concentration of features in this area. It is still possible however, that the linear features identified south of the A14 may continue into this area, but as a more diffuse zone of activity and the evaluation simply missed them. The depth of stratigraphy encountered does suggest that the majority of the play equipment foundations, at c.0.5m below ground level, will not impact on any features that may be present.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further archaeological works are anticipated to be necessary as part of this installation. The negative nature of the evaluation trench, coupled with the depth of

stratigraphy encountered suggest that the small foundation pits required for most of the development will not have a significant adverse affect on any deposits present.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Pinewood

Finds and environmental archive: None.

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Michael Parker 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.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

PLAY AREA, THORINGTON HALL, PINWOOD, 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 A new play area, with associated paths, is to be constructed on land at Thorington Park, Pinewood, Ipswich (TM 137 416). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that the play area is located in an area of high archaeological interest. The installation of the play equipment will cause considerable ground disturbance in localised areas that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 An agreed programme of archaeological work will be required place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.4 The site is located to the south side of the Belstead Brook at c.15–20.00m OD, with the ground sloping gently downwards S to N towards the floodplain. The soil is deep sand derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift.
- 1.5 This application is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, close to an archaeological cropmark complex (HER no. BSD 008). There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be encountered at this location, given the proximity to known archaeological remains and also given the favourable topographic location above the Belstead Brook.
- 1.6 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the area relating to the installation of the new play area.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 for 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 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 A single linear trial trench, 30.00m long x 1.50m wide, is to be excavated to assess the area of the proposed play area.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m 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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 24 September 2010

Reference: /PlayAreaThorningtonHallPinewood2010

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.