

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/209

Land Behind 82, Hardwick Lane, Bury St. Edmunds BSE 352

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HER Information

Planning Application No: Pre-planning
Date of Fieldwork: 2nd November 2010
Grid Reference: TL 853 629
Funding Body: Graham Bruyneel
Curatorial Officer: Dr. Abby Antrobus
Project Officer: Mo Muldowney
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1_84879

Contents

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	3
6. Discussion and conclusion	4
7. Archive deposition	5
8. Contributors and acknowledgements	5
9. Bibliography	5
Disclaimer	

List of Figures

1. Site location, with the development area (red) and trenches (black)	2
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List of Tables

1. Summary of HER entries	1
2. Trench data	3

List of Plates

1. Trench 1, facing north	4
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List of Appendices

1. Brief and Specification
2. Context summary

Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out on land behind 82, Hardwick Lane. No features and no finds were recovered.

1. Introduction

An evaluation was carried out on land behind 82, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds ahead of the proposed residential development of the current site (Planning application number: pre-planning). The work was carried out on 2nd November 2010 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

The development area is located on the south side of Bury St Edmunds, opposite West Suffolk Hospital and lies in the north half of the parcel of land previously attached to 82, Hardwick Lane (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

The development area is located on the north-facing valley side of the River Linnet at a height of 43m to 46m OD, and is situated on clay-rich soils, which in turn overlie chalky till.

At the time of the evaluation, the land was unused, having formerly been the rear of a long garden, with very little planting. Any trees which had existed on the site were felled, leaving only stumps. All boundaries were fenced, except the north, which consisted of panels of HERAS fencing. The land was generally even, but sloped downwards from south to north.

3. Archaeological and historical background

There are five entries listed in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) in close proximity to the development area, which are summarised in Table 1.

HER Code	Description	Period
BSE 192	Pest House, built 1665	PMed
BSE 051	Inhumation	Und
BSE 007	Three male inhumations	Sax
BSE 028	Inhumation	Sax
BSE 274	Former flax factory	PMed

Table 1. Summary of HER entries

Key: Sax = Saxon; P-Med = post-medieval

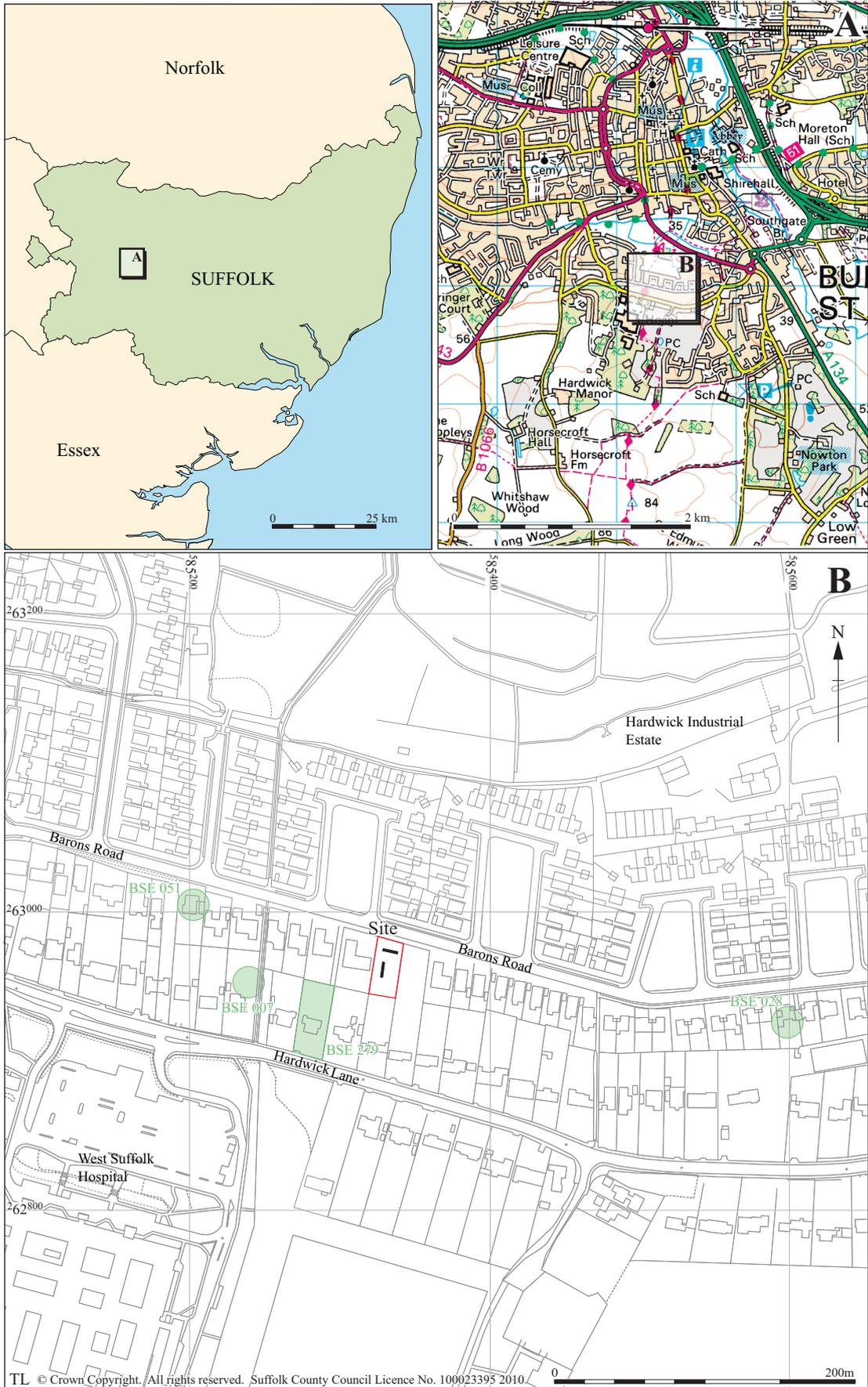


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red) and trenches (black), with selected HER entries (green)

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that two linear trenches, each 10m long by 1.80m wide should be mechanically excavated to assess the area of the proposed new building, garage, driveway and soakaways. 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. No plans were drawn and sketch sections of the soil horizons in each trench were produced. A plan of the trench locations, recording their OD height was produced using a RT Leica GPS. A photographic record was kept on a high resolution digital camera (314 dpi).

Metal-detecting was carried out, but no finds were recovered. No environmental samples were taken. No bulk 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 flinty sand (0002) was mid brownish orange in colour and encountered at a minimum depth of 0.21m below the ground surface, but varied in height above sea level due to the slope of the development area.

Topsoil 0001 overlay the sandy natural and was mid greyish brown silt with a maximum recorded depth of 0.26m. On average the topsoil was 0.24m deep.

Trench number	Alignment	Length	Total depth	Height top (m OD)		Height base (m OD)	
1	N-S	10.00m	0.32m	N end: 45.73	S end: 44.84	N end: 45.32	S end: 44.46
2	E-W	10.00m	0.25m	44.33		43.94	

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, despite a high potential for their survival, as indicated by a search of the HER. In particular, the site had a high potential for the identification of Anglo-Saxon inhumations, which have previously been identified less than 100m to the east (BSE 007) and c.250m to the west (BSE 028). An additional undated burial was identified c.130m to the east (BSE 051).

An absence of archaeological remains is not unprecedented in this area; a recent evaluation at 86, Hardwick Lane (BSE 279) also displayed a complete absence of archaeological deposits (Craven 2006). It is clear that whilst the extent of the Anglo-

Saxon burial activity in this area is still yet to be fully defined, there is (to date) no evidence for the domestic occupation of this area.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. T:\Arc\ALL_site\BSE\BSE
352 82 Hardwick Lane

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Mo Muldowney and Duncan Stirk 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

Craven, J. A., 2006 *86, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds* SCCAS Report no. 2006/65 Unpublished client report

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

82 HARDWICK LANE, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

(ref: Pre Hardwick Lane 2010)

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 is to be sought from St Edmundsbury District Council for the construction of a house and garage on Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds (TM 853 629). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place, before development begins, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets before they are damaged or destroyed. This is in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3). The applicant, prior to submission of the application, has requested a specification for evaluation so that informed decisions can be made.
- 1.3 The site is located at c 44m OD, overlooking the River Linnet, on northwards sloping land which leads down to its flood plain. The soil comprises loamy soils over clayey soils, in turn over chalky till.
- 1.4 The proposed construction of a house and associated infrastructures affects an area of high archaeological potential. Anglo-Saxon inhumations have been recorded less than 100m to the east (County Historic Environment Record BSE 007) and c.250m to the west (BSE 028). A further undated burial was recorded c130m to the east. These burials are situated overlooking the floodplain of the river Linnet. The proposed development site, as well as being between the recorded sites, is also on the same contour, at approximately 45m OD. There is high potential for important archaeological deposits to exist on this site, which could be destroyed or damaged by any groundworks associated with development.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
 - An evaluation consisting of two ten metre long linear trenches is required of the area relating to the new building, garage, driveways and soakaways.
- 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 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 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.

An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Two trenches, 10m long x 1.80m wide, are to be excavated to assess the area of the proposed new building, garage, driveway and soakaways.
- 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 deposits are 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 Abby Antrobus

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Date: 22 September 2010

Reference: Bury St Edmunds/2010_Pre Hardwick Lane

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.