

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/27

**70 Chediston Street, Halesworth
HWT 032**

HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/09/0258/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 13th October 2009
Grid Reference: TM 3830 7743
Funding Body: Mr M. Fagg
Curatorial Officer: Mr K. Wade
Project Officer: R. Gardner and S. Boulter
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-93454

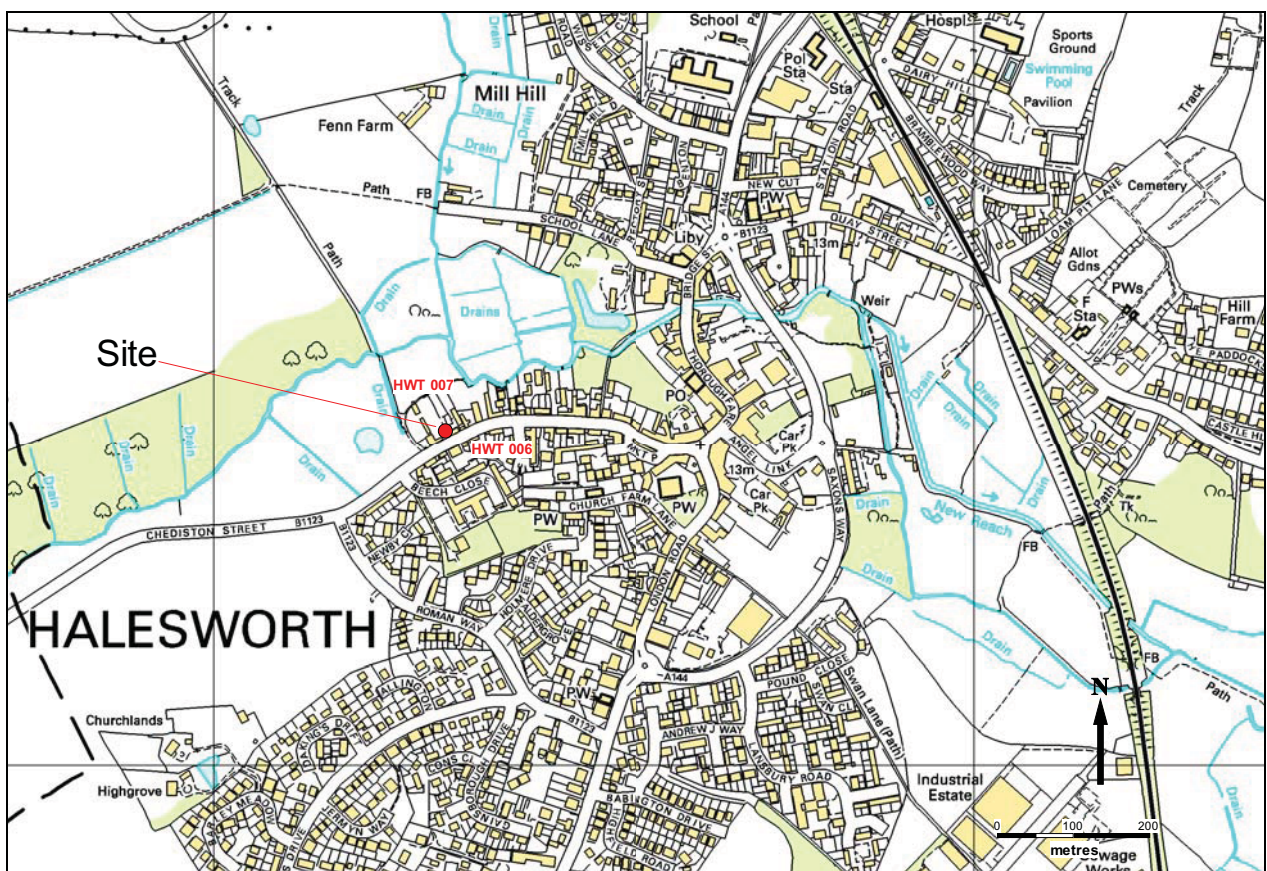
Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Summary

Archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at 70 Chediston Street, Halesworth was undertaken during a site visit on 13th October 2009. At this time, some of the footings, those at the front and rear of the site, had already been excavated and filled with concrete. One undated pit was recorded underneath a flint and mortar wall stub/footing, the latter and another brick footing appeared to coincide with the location of buildings present on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Maps.

1. Introduction and methodology

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling at 70 Chediston Street, Halesworth (TM 3830 7743) (Fig. 1) was undertaken by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team on 13th October 2009. The programme of archaeological monitoring was a requirement of a planning condition attached to application 09/0258 and was detailed in a Brief and



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Figure 1 Site location

Specification document prepared by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Appendix I).

The site lies at just above the 10m contour line overlooking the floodplain of a small stream some 100m to the north. The underlying subsoil is glacially derived sands.

The perceived archaeological potential of the site was based mainly on its juxtaposition to known archaeology recorded on the county HER (Historic Environment Record), a clay tobacco pipe kiln (HWT 006) and a flint tranchet axe of Mesolithic date (HWT 007) (Fig. 1).

The site visit was made when footing trenches on the east and west sides of the site were partially open, those to the front and rear already having been fully concreted (Fig. 2). The open trenches and upcast spoil were inspected for the presence of archaeological features and finds.

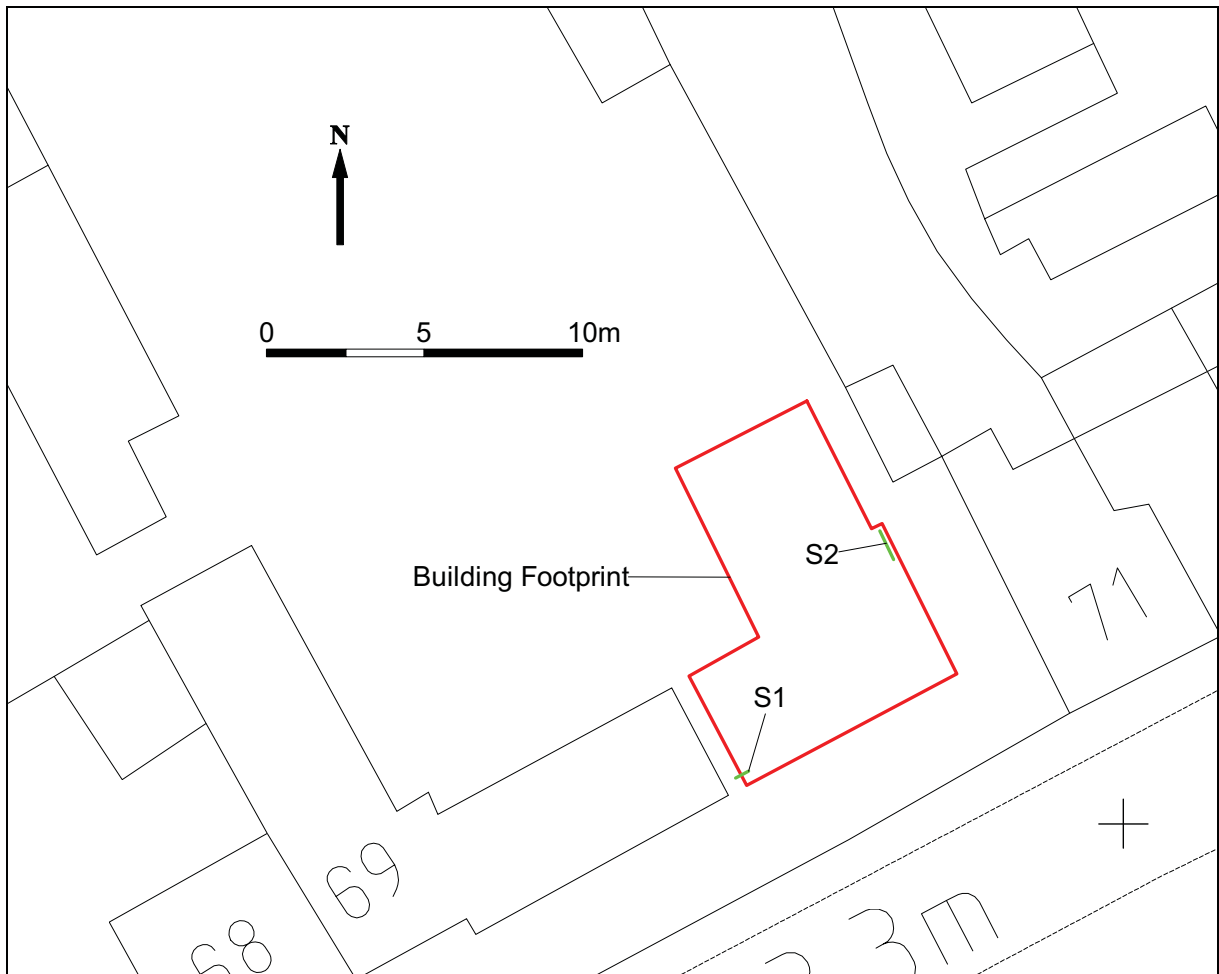
Identified contexts were allocated 'OP' (Observed Phenomena) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code HWT 032 (Table 1). Context information was recorded on Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service 'pro-forma' recording sheets.

A digital photographic record was made which has been added to the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Photographic Archive held in Bury St. Edmunds.

Section drawings were executed in pencil on plastic drafting film at a scale of 1:20.

2. Results

Figure 2 shows the footprint of the new building and the positions of the drawn sections. The maximum depth of observed footing trench was 0.95m, although they had already been partially filled to that level. All were cut into the naturally occurring subsoil (0002) comprising fine grained pale coloured sand with occasional small to medium sized pebbles.



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Fig. 2. Location of footings and drawn sections

Three features were recorded: a stub of flint and mortar wall or footing (0005), an undated pit (0003) and a disturbed brick footing (0006). A list of the allocated context numbers is presented in Table 1 below.

OP No.	Context	Description
0001	0001	Unstratified finds
0002	0002	Natural sand subsoil: fine grained pale brown sand with occasional small to medium rounded to sub-rounded flint pebbles
0003	0003	Large partially revealed pit stratigraphically below wall/footing 0005. At least 0.7m deep and 1.3m wide. Undated
0004	0003	Soft mid brown clayey sand with rare flint pebble inclusions
0005	0005	Layered flint and mortar wall or footing
0006	0006	Disturbed brick footing over thin base of concrete

Table 1 HWT 032 Context list

Section 1 (S1) was recorded towards the southern end of the western side of the new building (Fig. 2). At this juncture, the profile comprised a thin layer of turf and topsoil over a layer of rubble (0006), interpreted as a disrupted brick footing, itself bedded on a thin layer of concrete, over natural sand subsoil (0002) (Fig. 3 and Plate 1). At the time of recording, some concrete had already been poured into the trench, but not above the level of the top of the naturally occurring subsoil.

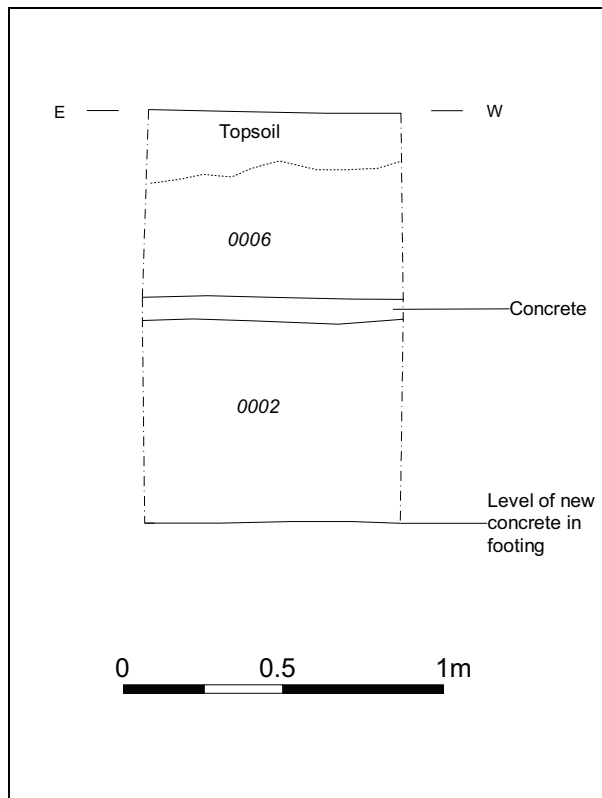


Fig. 3 Section 1 (S1)



Plate 1 Section 1 (S1)

Section 2 (S2) was recorded approximately halfway down the eastern side of the new building (Fig. 2). While some concrete had already been poured, obscuring the base of the section, enough was visible to give a clear indication of what had been present (Fig. 4 and Plate 2).

The observed features included a stub of well-coursed flint and lime mortar wall base, or possibly footing (0005), visible under a thin layer of turf. The base of the wall/footing was approximately 0.5m below the existing ground level.

A second feature, a pit (0003), was seen below wall stub 0005. The pit measured in excess of 0.7 metres deep, its base obscured by already poured concrete, with a width of 1.3m in the exposed section. The fill of the pit comprised a sterile,

homogenous fine grained pale brown sand with occasional small to medium rounded to sub-rounded flint pebbles (0004).

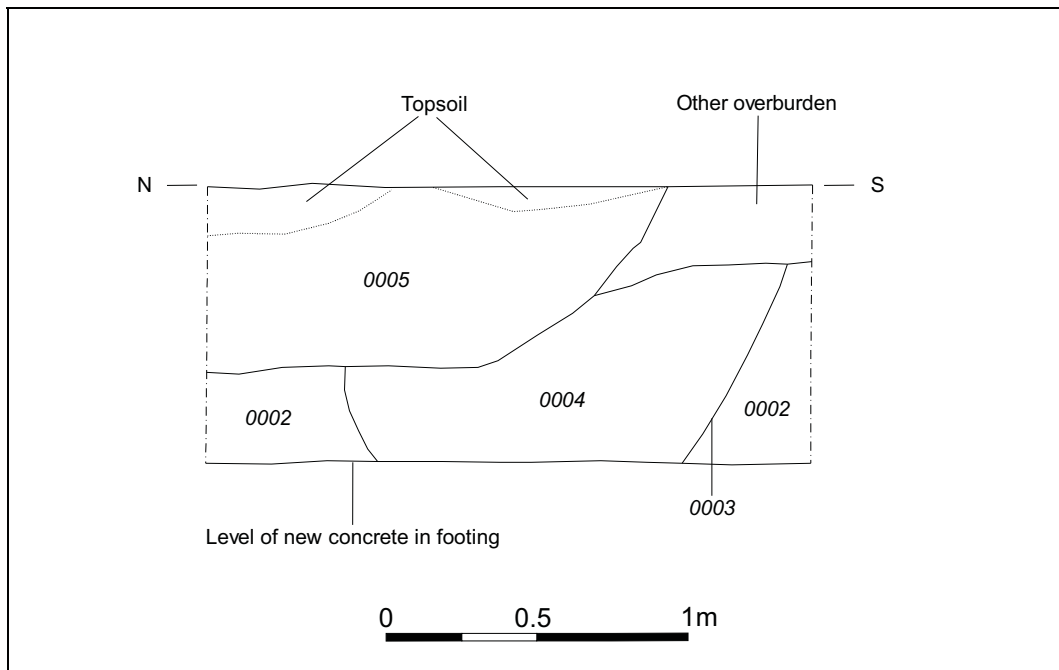


Fig. 4 Section 2 (S2)



Plate 2 Section 2 (S2)

3. Conclusion

While the footing trenches had already been filled or partially filled by the time of the site visit, there was enough of the trenches available to indicate that there were no significant pre-modern archaeology within the confines of the proposed building.



Fig. 5 Extract from OS 1st Edition (c.1880)

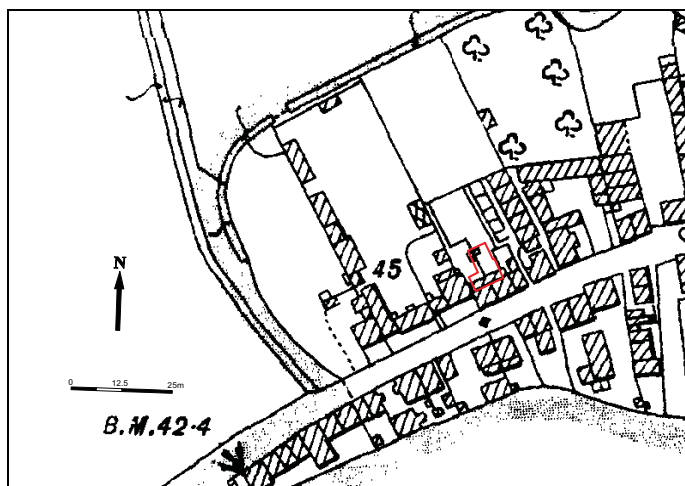


Fig. 6 Extract from OS 2nd Edition (c.1890)

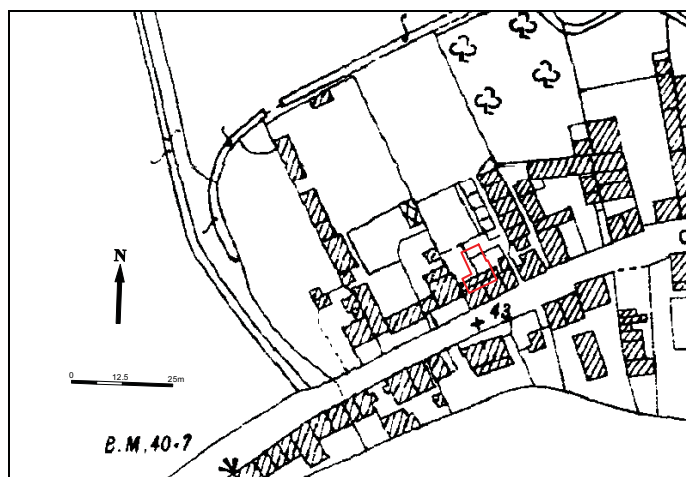


Fig. 7 Extract from OS 3rd Edition (c.1920)

Examination of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey maps (Figs. 5 – 7; the approximate location of the new house plot is marked in red) shows that at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century the development site was occupied by a series of buildings and enclosed yards.

While many of these buildings clearly survive until the present day, those on the development plot were demolished during the 20th century.

The features recorded in the monitored footing trenches almost certainly relate to these earlier buildings and correlate well with the an east-west orientated wall (that recorded as Section 1) and a north to south orientated wall (that recorded as Section 2) shown on the three maps.

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

70 CHEDISTON STREET, HALESWORTH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to construct a single dwelling at 70 Chediston Street, Halesworth, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/09/0258/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within 100 metres of a known archaeological site (a clay tobacco pipe kiln of late 19th century date).
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the 19th century clay tobacco pipe industry.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.

4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

4.7 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. 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.

4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. **Report Requirements**

5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 17 June 2009

Reference: /70 Chediston Street

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.