

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/011

Otley Hall, Otley - extension to a barn OTY 005

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/10/2101

Date of Fieldwork: 11th & 19th January 2011

Grid Reference: TM 2068 5621

Funding Body: Mr I. Beaumont (owner)

Curatorial Officer: Mr E. Martin

Project Officer: Mr M. Sommers

OASIS reference: suffolkc1-94130

Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to an existing barn in the grounds of Otley Hall, Otley, was undertaken in January 2011. The excavation of a foundation trench was continuously monitored and a large cut filled with a homogenous mass of dark silty clay with occasional degraded timbers was noted. Although not conclusive, it is possible that this cut is part of a now filled section of a moat. No finds were recovered.

1. Introduction and methodology

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to an existing barn in the grounds of Otley Hall, Hall Road, Otley, was undertaken on the 11th and 19th January 2011. Otley Hall is situated in the parish of Otley approximately 1km north of the present centre of the village. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

Otley Hall is timber framed house with some colour-washed render and English bond brick walling, massive brick chimney stacks and a plain-tiled roof. Much of the structure is 16th century in date with later alterations and additions. The main structure is an uneven cross-shaped plan built at different stages but evolved from what was probably an H-shaped or courtyard plan. All of the south-west half of the original house has been demolished. Prior to this, the building is likely to have been virtually symmetrical.

A linear pond or moat runs close to the north-east and south-west sides of the main house. This is likely to be just a remnant of what was once a much larger feature that may have formed a complete or near complete circuit around the original hall.

The hall is Grade I listed (No. 286521) and the hall and moat are recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER ref. OTY 005).

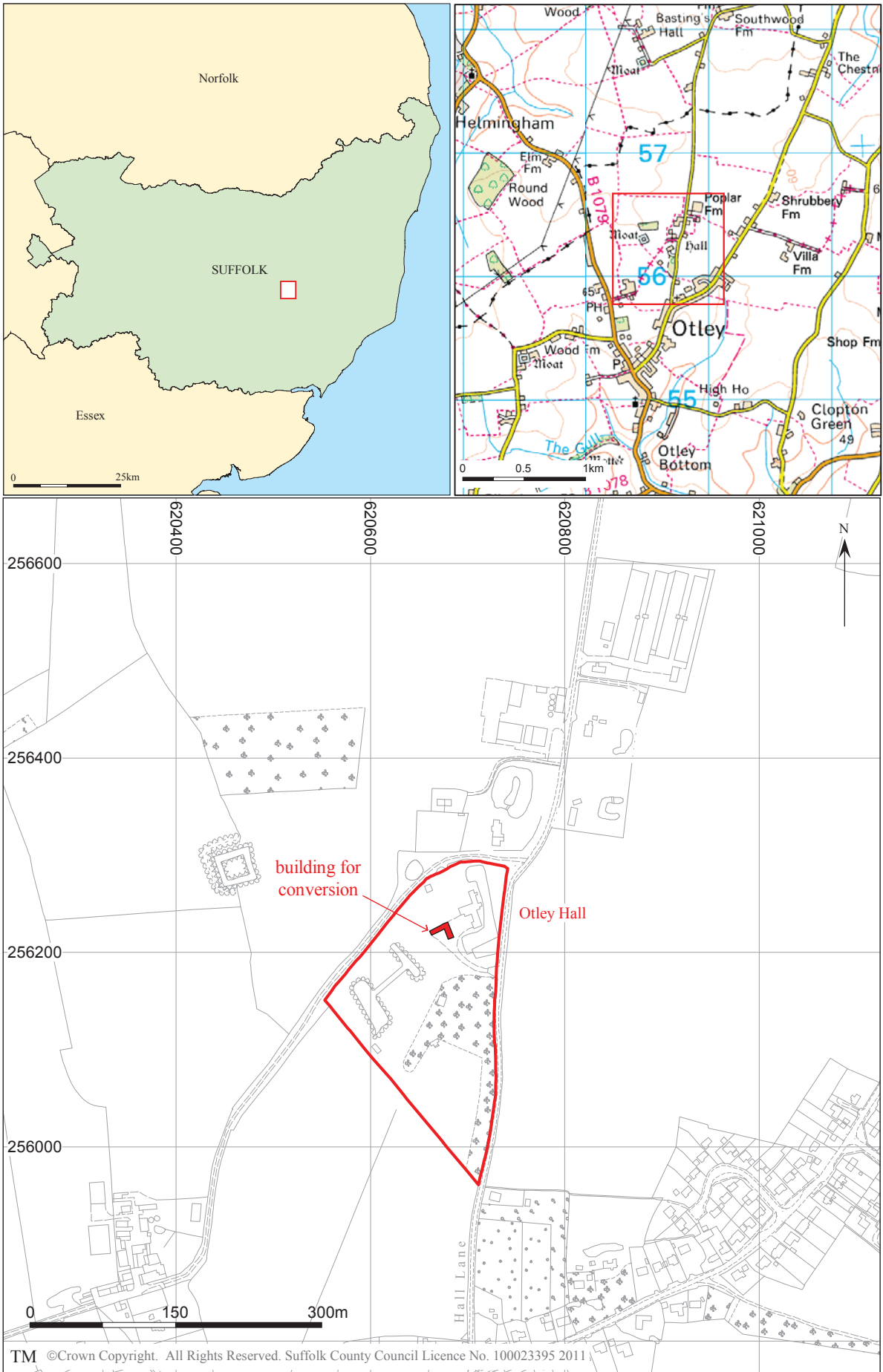


Figure 1. Site location plan

Planning consent has been granted to construct an extension to an existing barn located c. 20m to the west of the main house. It is timber framed on a red-brick plinth with weather-boarded walls and a pan-tile roof. This building has been moved and reconstructed on this site sometime in the early 20th century. This is likely to have occurred when this area was laid to gardens and would have entailed the clearance of a large group of farm buildings, which probably included this barn and the attached former stables, from the area immediately to the north.

Archaeological interest in the site is due to its location close to the moat, hall and the area of the now lost south-west half of the house. Consequently, the site has a good potential for the discovery of late medieval occupation remains.

To mitigate against the potential loss or damage to any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed works a condition was attached to the planning consent calling for archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with construction. To detail the work required, a Brief and Specification was prepared by Edward Martin of the County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The monitoring was achieved by maintaining a presence on site and observing the excavation of the foundations for the new extension in an attempt to identify archaeological features and/or deposits. The resultant spoil was also briefly examined in order to recover datable artefacts. Digital photographs were taken as part of the record.

2. Results

The site was visited on the 11th and 19th January 2011 to monitor the excavation of a footing trench (Plate I). The trench was mechanically excavated using a tracked 'mini-digger' fitted with a narrow toothed bucket. The trench measured 0.5m in width and was generally cut to a depth of 1.4m although a maximum depth of 1.7m was reached in one area.

See Figure 2 for a plan of the foundation trench and the features noted within. See Figure 3 for a representative section of the undisturbed areas of the trench.



Figure 2. the monitored foundation trench

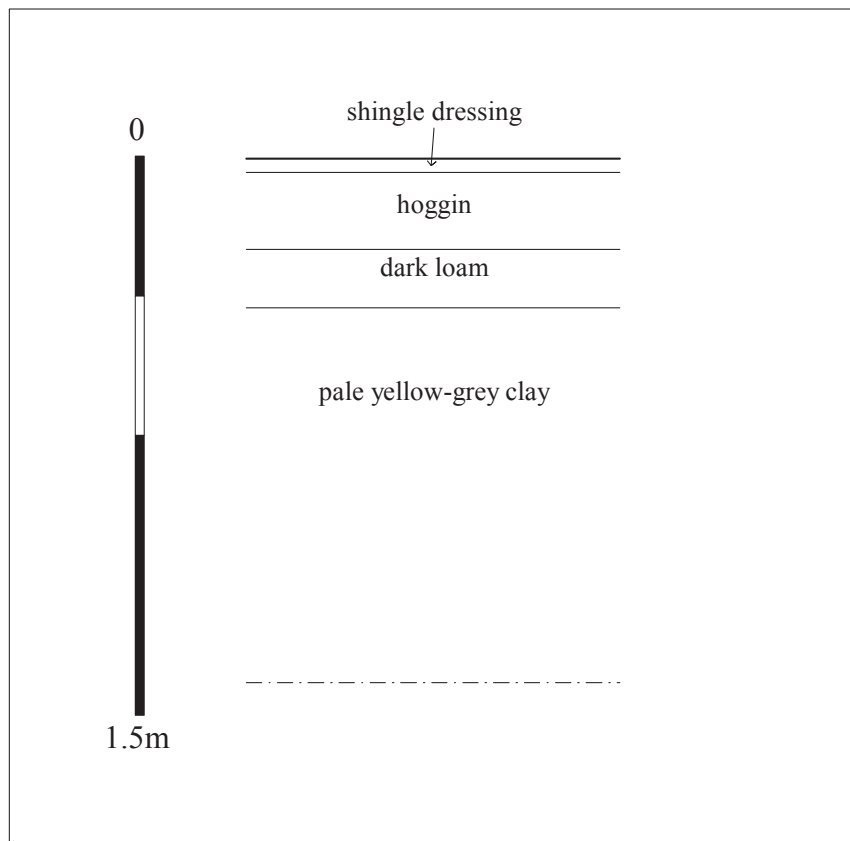


Figure 3. Typical stratigraphy as revealed by the foundation trench

The stratigraphy revealed generally consisted of the shingle dressing that formed the ground surface, a layer of hoggin acting as the sub-base for the surface and a layer of dark loam interpreted as a former topsoil. Beneath these a pale yellow-grey clay with occasional chalk pebbles was noted from a depth of 0.4m down to the base of the trench (Plate II). Towards the southern end of the foundation trench a 0.15m thick layer of broken chalk with brick rubble was present immediately below the layer of hoggin.

Within the trench a large steel tank partially set in concrete and filled with sand and concrete was noted. An access point at the top was set within a square brick lined manhole and two steel pipes ran off towards the north-west. This lay directly on the line of the foundation and was removed intact after the surrounding concrete had been broken and removed. This feature was clearly quite late and was probably a storage tank for oil fuel.

A ceramic drain pipe, c. 6 inches (150mm) in diameter was also noted. It was formed of short sections (c. 18 inches, 450mm) simply butted together. These were also clearly quite late and probably acted as an overflow for the moat or possibly a surface drain in the courtyard adjacent the house.

The only feature of note was a large cut (numbered 0002 in Fig. 2) located in the southern corner of the foundation (Plates III & IV). It measured 1.7m in depth and was filled with a dark grey to black silt in which no obvious layering was visible. Numerous dark flecks were visible which appeared to be plant stems and a number of small pieces of unworked timber were also present. No dateable finds were recovered. The edges of the cut were near vertical towards the top edges although these eased closer to the base, which appeared to be flat and level. Edges were noted on the northern and eastern sides of this feature but it was not possible to ascertain its full extent.

3. Conclusion

The only feature of note was the large cut in the southern corner of the foundation trench. The nature of the fill suggests it has been deliberately filled in one, fairly rapid event but unfortunately no finds were recovered to suggest a date to indicate when this may have occurred. A likely interpretation is that this is a back-filled section of the moat or possibly a separate pond type feature.

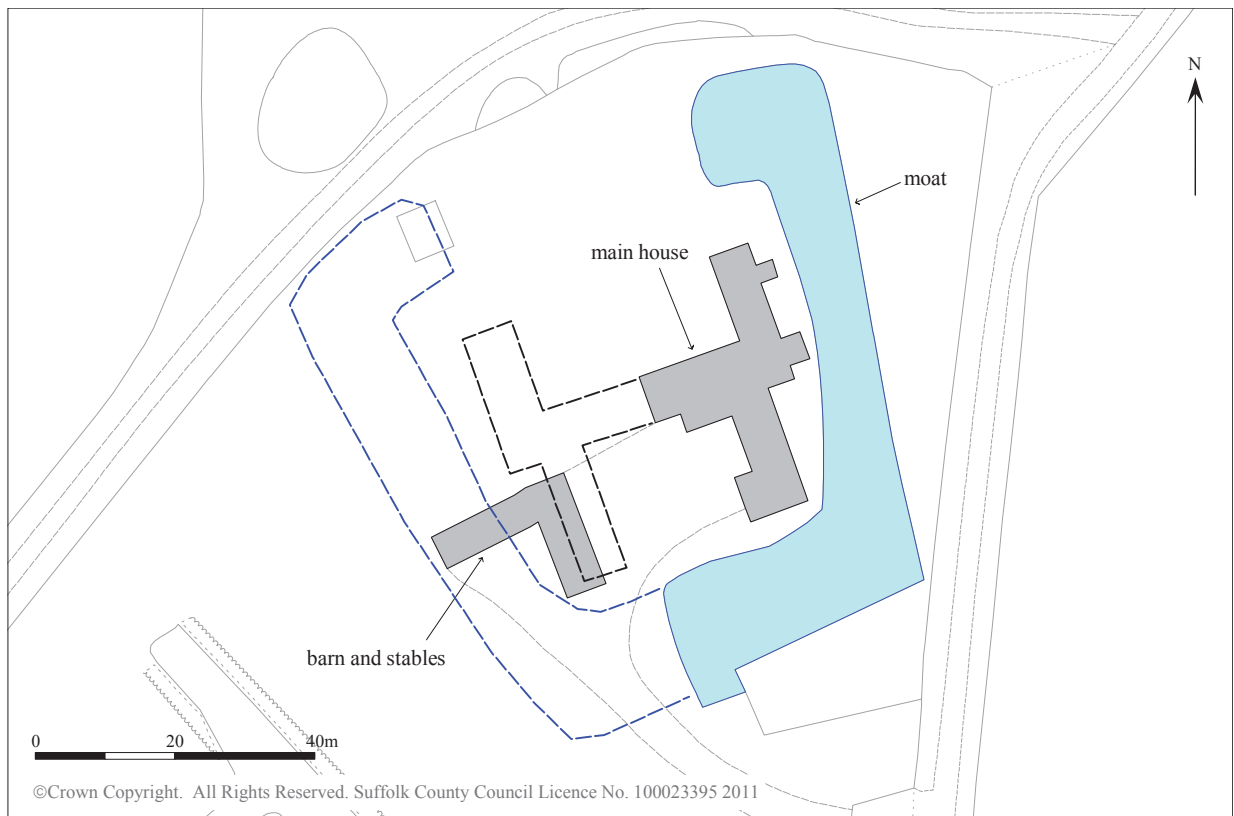


Figure 4. A highly speculative reconstruction of the moat and house (blue and black dashed lines) based on the limited findings of the monitoring

If this feature is part of a moat it would suggest that it continued slightly further to the south-west before turning to run towards the north-west. This interpretation would allow space for the now lost south-west half of the house. Figure 4 shows a possible layout although this based on findings that are very limited and open to further conjecture.

M. Sommers
January 2011

4. Plates (scales are divided into 0.5m sections)



Plate I. general view of the area of the new extension (camera facing north)



Plate II. Typical stratigraphy revealed in the foundation trench



Plate III. Cut 0002 in southern corner of trench (camera facing south-east)



Plate IV. Cut 0002 in southern corner of trench (camera facing north-east)

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

EXTENSION TO BARN, OTLEY HALL, HALL LANE, OTLEY TM 206 562 (Planning Application C/10/2101)

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission is being sought for the conversion of a barn adjacent to Otley Hall (planning application C/10/2101). The barn was moved and reconstructed on its present site sometime in the 20th century, most probably when the original farm buildings (further to the north) were cleared away and the garden on their site was laid out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by this development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The barn lies in close proximity to the semi-moated site of Otley Hall (site OTY 005 in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record; the Hall is also a Grade 1 Listed Building – LB no. 286521). Any groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to archaeological deposits relating to the Hall.
- 1.3 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and the Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).*
- 1.4 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – **that is the completion of the monitoring, the assessment of the findings and the final reporting** – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.6 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

- 1.7 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, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 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.
- 1.8 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the erection of the new buildings and any associated services and landscaping. The groundworks, and the upcast soil from them, are to be monitored during and after their excavation by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the historical context, development and significance of the site.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.

- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental 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 the 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.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

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 HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 Officer 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.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>)

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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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) and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).

- 5.6 A copy of the 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 approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT

- 5.7 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.8 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Reference: SpecMon(EM)_OtleyHallBarn_Otley_2101_10

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 therefore be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.