

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/037

King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Newmarket NKT 034

R. Brooks
© March 2011
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Economy, Skills and Environment
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

HER Information

Planning Application No: F/2008/0738/Full

Date of Fieldwork: 01/12/2010, 20/12/2010, 05-07/01/2011 & 24/01/2011

Grid Reference: TL 6416 6326

Funding Body: The Johns Practice (architect working on behalf of client)

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-94235

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

Contents

Summary	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	3
6. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork	4
7. Archive deposition	7
8. Contributors and acknowledgements	7
9. Bibliography	7

Disclaimer

List of Figures

1. Location of site, showing development area and Historic Environment Record entries mentioned in the text	2
2. Trench plan and section	5

List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification	
----------------------------	--

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land immediately adjoining the west side of the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Newmarket, Suffolk. This revealed a well, which may have been medieval, or post-medieval, a post-medieval brick structure, and an undated chalk surface. No finds were recovered except for some possible post-medieval CBM from the well.

The site was significantly disturbed, particularly in the footprint of the recently demolished western side of the hall.

1. Introduction

Footing trenches were excavated at the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket to the south-west and north-west of the existing building. This involved the excavation of fourteen footing trenches and one service trench. An archaeological monitoring was required in order to record any archaeological features and recover any finds that could otherwise be uncovered or destroyed by the machining. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The Johns Practice Architects (acting on behalf of Newmarket Town Council), funded the work that was carried out on the 01/12/2010, 20/12/2010, 05-07/01/2011 and 24/01/2011.

2. Geology and topography

The site was located at grid reference TL 6416 6326 (Fig. 1) and at c.28m above the ordnance datum. The bedrock is made up of Holywell nodular chalk and new pit chalk (BGS, 2011). On the site, a superficial geological deposit of mid brownish-orange silty-sand was often found overlying the chalk.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The development area falls within the medieval core of the town and particularly close to the Church of St Mary listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER) as NKT 022 and NKT 002, respectively (Fig. 1). A study of historical sources shows that on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map the site had a stable yard, including several small buildings, whilst by 1902 two smithies adjoined the site immediately to the west. By 1926 the stable had been demolished and the Memorial Hall built (Unknown author, 2010). The footing trenches therefore had potential to uncover and destroy archaeological deposits and as such a programme of monitoring was required.

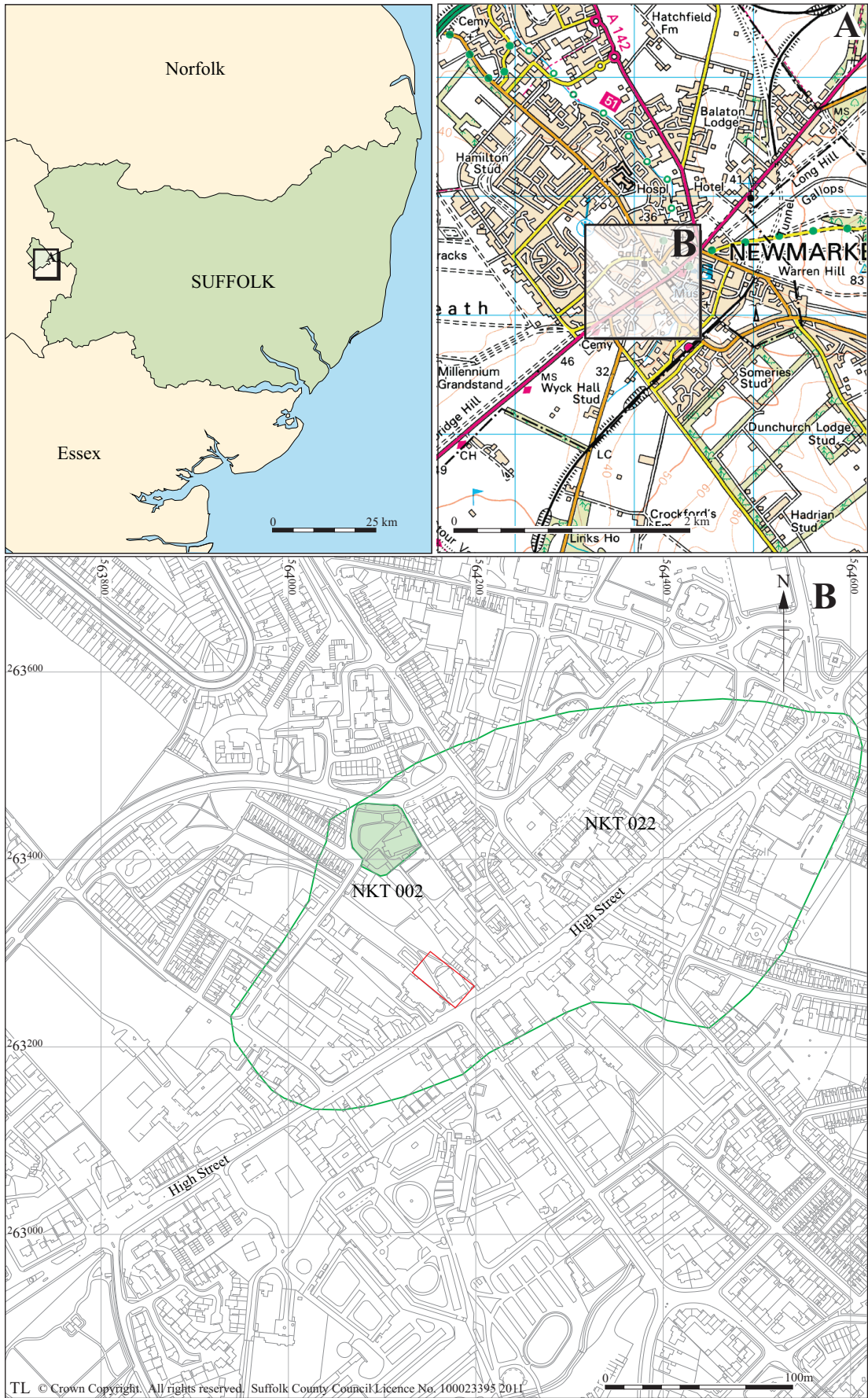


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red) and Historic Environment Record entries mentioned in the text (green)

4. Methodology

The footing trenches measured up to 0.6m wide by up to 1.5m deep, whilst the soak-away trench was up to 2.5m wide and 1.5m deep. The total area encompassed by the groundworks covered 572sqm (Fig. 2). Groundworks were monitored, the upcast soil was sorted for finds and various measurements were made of the soil profiles. High resolution colour digital photographs were taken at 300 x 300 dpi of the trenches and the site in general. The site was planned from known OS points and depths were recorded from the existing ground level. Archaeological contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system starting at 0001.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The trenches were often heavily disturbed to depths of up to 0.9m, particularly within the area closest to the Hall (in the original footprint of the building). There were no features in the soak-away trench.

5.2 Chalk surface

A surface of compacted chalk was recorded in several of the northern foundation trenches as 0002 (Fig. 2). Where it appeared to be least truncated, the chalk was up to 0.3m thick and found 0.25m below the ground surface. It contained small CBM fragments in places, although these were too fragmentary to be sampled. In many places the surface had been entirely truncated by modern trenches.

5.3 Wells

In an area where two trenches met, a well was recorded as context 0001. The lower construction of this feature consisted entirely of flint and orangish-creamy mortar. However, the upper 0.5m also contained some CBM fragments, which were sampled where possible. In total 'five fragments of late brick weighing 314g, made in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions were recovered. No full dimensions were recorded, but one fragment had a height of at least 60mm which suggests a possible date of the late 17th - 18th century' (Goffin, pers. comm.). The presence of the CBM may have been as the result of later intrusions into the structure, or may possibly represent a

phase of construction or repair of the well. It is less likely that it is from the primary phase of the construction because it was not present in the lower part of the well. The walls of the feature were up to and possibly thicker than 0.45m. The well had been infilled with rubble, possibly during the initial construction of the hall, and therefore only a maximum depth of 1.7m below ground level could be recorded. In plan the well was a slightly oval shape, but somewhat irregular.

A depression in the ground level near the trenching indicated the presence of another possible well. A metal pipe running directly towards it from the nearest area of trenching indicated that if it was not a well, it may have been a subsiding soak-away.

5.4 Structure

In the southern-most trench two walls were recorded as 0003. One of these ran NW-SE and appeared to join with the second, which ran NE-SW. These were constructed mainly of post-medieval red brick, although the lowest course was generally made up of pale yellow bricks, which also seemed to form the floor, which stepped down in the structure. Under this the chalk subsoil was revealed. This indicated a building to the south of the foundation trenches and partially running into the footprint of the hall to the east. The walls were c.0.3m thick.

6. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed no clear evidence of the medieval town of Newmarket. Whilst the chalk surface and well were possibly medieval, (the latter possibly having been dug in this period and used into a later time), this cannot be claimed with any certainty. However, the presence of the structure probably indicates post-medieval buildings associated with the well. These may represent the 19th century stables known to have been on the site or evidence of an earlier post-medieval occupation.

The findings from these works do not rule out the possibility of medieval (or earlier) occupation of this site. However, the level of post-medieval activity on the site, particularly during the 20th century, had truncated significant areas of the exposed trenching.

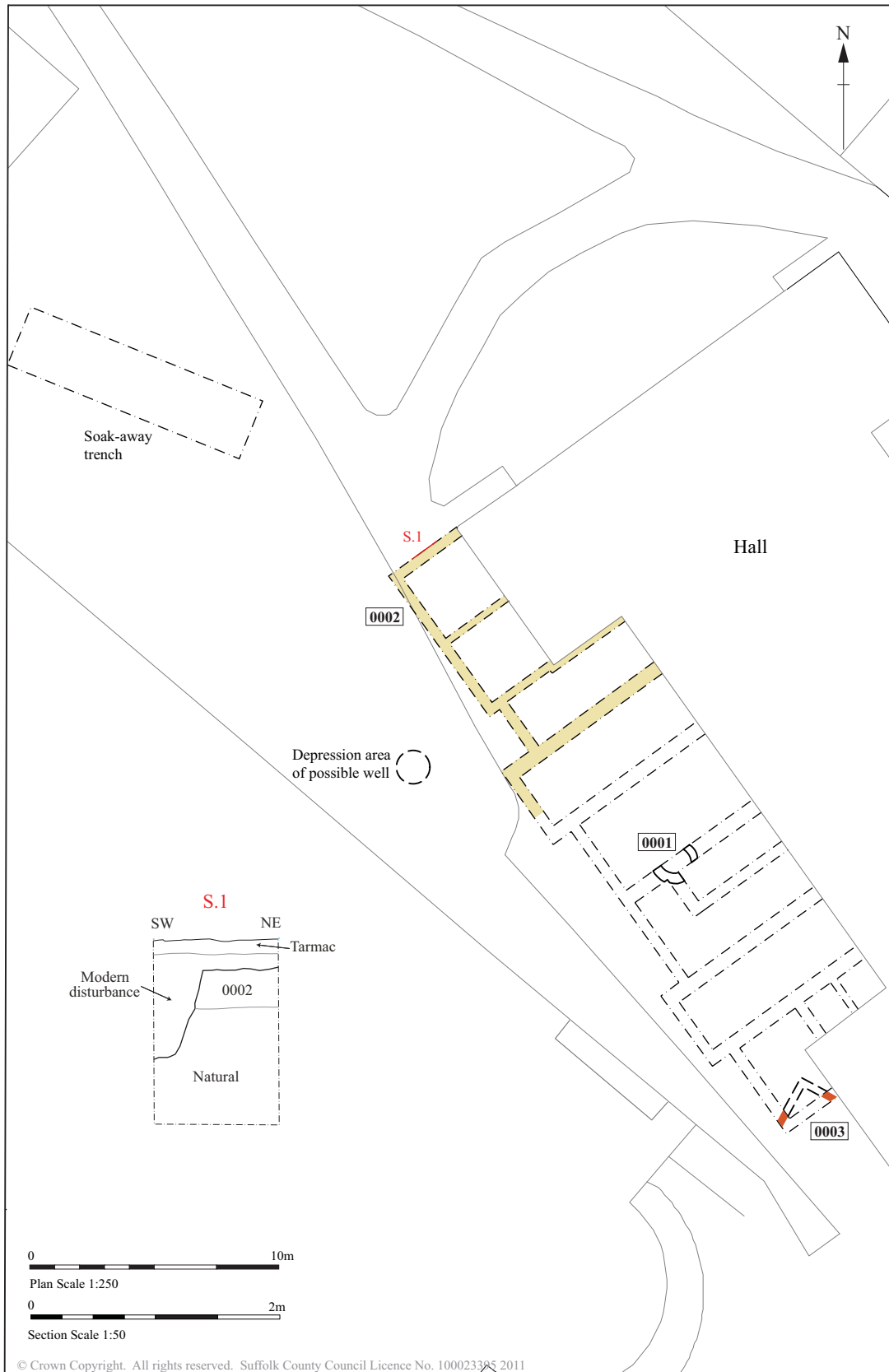


Figure 2. Trench plan and section

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds and T:arc\ARCHIVE FIELD PROJ\Newmarket\NKT 034 King Edward VII Memorial Hall

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Andrew Tester and Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Rob Brooks and managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The production of site plans and sections was carried out by Gemma Adams. Specialist finds advice was provided by Richenda Goffin. The report was checked by Andrew Tester and Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2011 Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Goffin, R., 2011, personal communication.

Unknown author, 2010, *King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket*, Report No. 10/05, Mike Rowell Associates Limited, Stowmarket

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

/Spec Monurban

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

The King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (F/2008/0738/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 the area of medieval Newmarket, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 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 medieval occupation.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast 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 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.
- 4.8 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: 19th January 2010

Reference: /KingEdwardMemHall

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.