

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/012

**Moat House, Woodbridge Road, Debach - replacement of
rear extension
DEB 003**

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/10/0310

Date of Fieldwork: 17th & 19th November 2010

Grid Reference: TM 2448 5428

Funding Body: Mr and Mrs J. Williams

Curatorial Officer: Dr J. Tipper

Project Officer: Mr M. Sommers

Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the replacement of a rear extension to Moat House, Woodbridge Road, Debach, was undertaken during November 2010. The excavation of a series of foundation trenches was monitored which revealed a large area of fill in one trench. This lay on the line of a linear pond or moat and would suggest that it originally continued for at least a further 3m from its existing north-west terminus. No other archaeological features or deposits were revealed but there was evidence that the surface of the natural subsoil, which consisted of blue-grey clay, had been previously truncated.

1. Introduction and methodology

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the replacement of a series of rear extensions to Moat House, Woodbridge Road, Debach, was undertaken on the 17th and 19th November 2010. All of the late rear extensions were to be removed and replaced with new-build, although some of the existing footings (i.e. those around the swimming pool) were to be reused.

Moat House is a large red-brick house with a white brick façade that was formerly the parish rectory. It fronts onto Woodbridge Road and stands in grounds of approximately 3 acres. Figure 1 shows a location plan.

Archaeological interest in the site is primarily due to the presence of a possible moat in the rear garden (marked blue in Fig. 1) which is recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER), ref. DEB 003. The site of the medieval All Saints Church (HER ref. DEB 001; the present building dates from 1854) is situated 200m to the north-west and scatters of medieval pottery have been found fronting onto the main road on a site opposite the church (HER ref. DEB 005) and at two other nearby sites, one c. 100m to the south-east of the main house (HER ref. DEB 006) and the other a further 150m south-east (DEB 008). The locations of these scatters of pottery suggest a linear medieval settlement along Woodbridge Road which is situated on either side of Moat House. Consequently the site has a good potential for the discovery of medieval occupation remains.

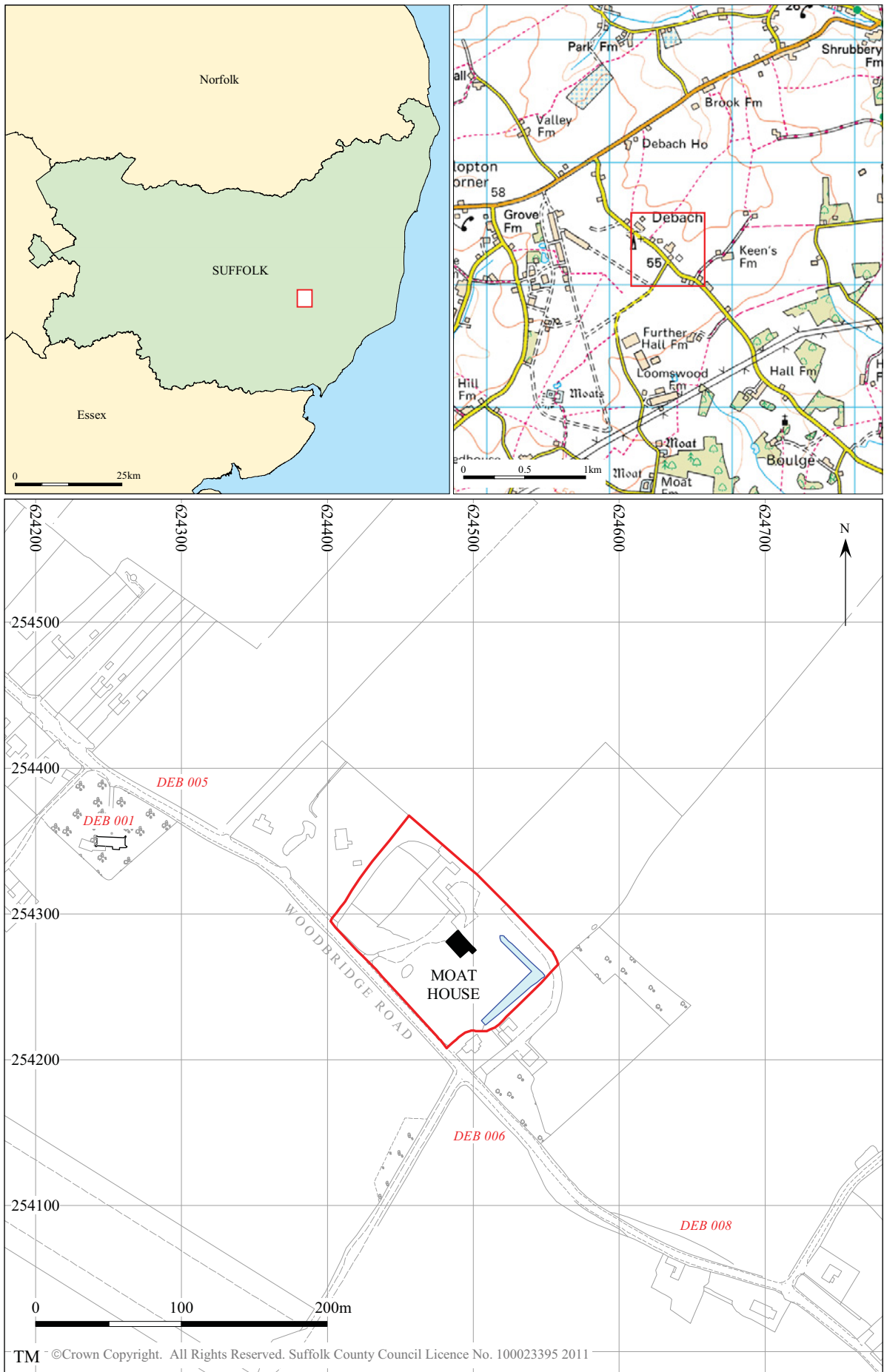


Figure 1. Site location plan

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 continuous archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with construction. To detail the work required, a Brief and Specification was prepared by Dr Jess Tipper of the County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the foundation trenches as they were excavated, in an attempt to identify archaeological features and/or deposits. The resultant spoil was also briefly examined in order to recover datable artefacts. A number of digital photographs were taken as part of the record.

2. Results

The site was visited on two occasions (17th & 19th November 2010) to inspect the groundwork then underway (Plate I). See Figure 2 for a plan of the monitored excavations.

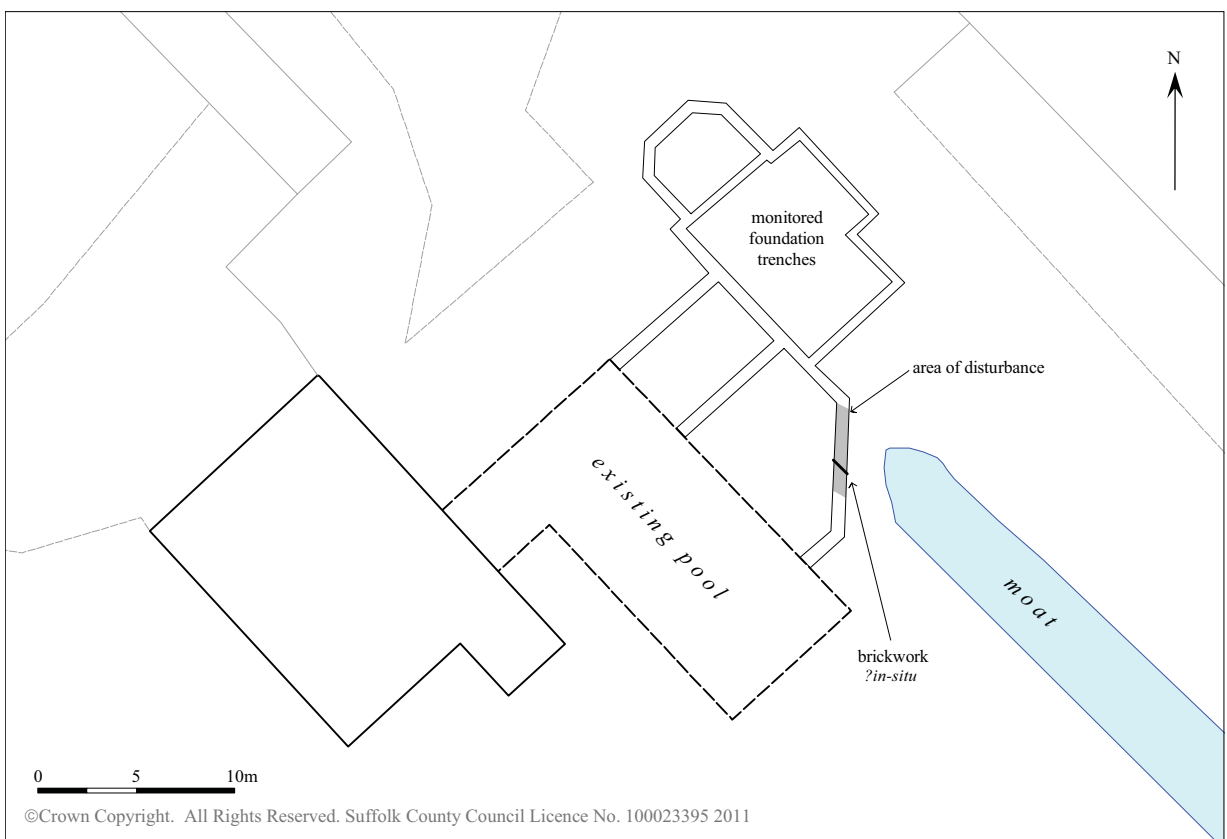


Figure 2. Site plan

The stratigraphy as revealed in the foundation trenches consisted of 0.3m of yellow sand and pebbles (hoggin) which formed the sub-base of a group of previous structures and surfaces. This in turn overlay a 0.1m thick layer of dark sandy silt with inclusions of brick, tile and other late debris which lay directly on a blue-grey clay with chalk flecks that was interpreted as the natural subsoil (Plate II).

In a foundation trench on the eastern edge of the new extension a large intervention into the natural subsoil was noted. It continued to a depth of 1.5m and was present within a c. 4m length of trench (Plate III). The fill consisted of dark loamy topsoil with some red-brick and concrete rubble. This feature was not noted in any of the other foundation trenches. Within the area of the disturbance, at the base of the foundation trench, a section of what may have been *in-situ* brickwork that possibly formed a right-angled corner, was noted (Plate IV). It was of red-brick and its location roughly coincided with the projected south-west edge of the moat.

The spoil from the excavations were located nearby and these were examined with the hope of recovering finds, but no artefacts, other than 19th century or later debris, were noted in either the monitored excavations or on the spoil tips.

3. Conclusion

Despite the previous finds of medieval pottery indicating a probable linear medieval settlement along Woodbridge Road, no medieval or earlier archaeological remains were noted in any of the examined excavations. This does not entirely preclude medieval occupation in the area of Moat House as the site of the extension was located some distance back from the road frontage where medieval structures are more likely to have been present. Additionally, there was evidence that the area had been previously truncated by an unknown degree, which could have removed any shallow archaeological features that may have been present.

The large and relatively recently backfilled cut that was noted in an area just beyond the present north-west end of the moat suggests that this arm was originally slightly longer but as it was not seen in any other trench the moat was clearly not continuous. The possible section of brickwork noted in the base of the foundation trench may be

related to a brick revetment to the moat edge and the suggestion of a corner matches with the location of a very square end to the moat as marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880 (Fig. 3).

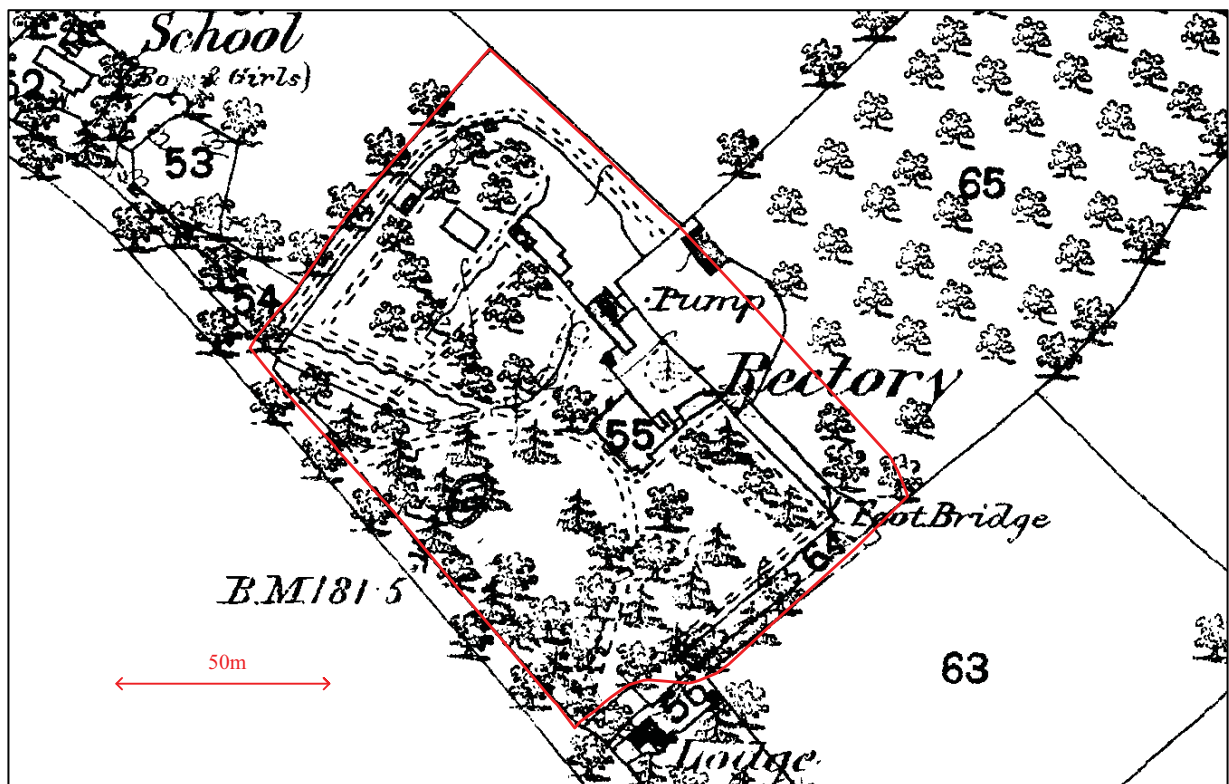


Figure 3. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1880 (rescaled extract)

The monitoring has indicated that the moat did not continue much further to the north-west. It is possible that the moat is in fact a post-medieval garden landscape feature rather than a medieval feature, although medieval moats are not always continuous. It should be noted that the moat feature appears on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area but it is not until modern maps that it is marked as a moat.

M. Sommers
January 2011

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



Plate I. general view of the area of the development (camera facing south)



Plate II. typical stratigraphy as seen in the foundation trenches



Plate III. The area of disturbance as noted in the eastern foundation trench (camera facing north)



Plate IV. Section of possibly *in-situ* brickwork (north-east to the top of the picture)

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

THE MOAT HOUSE, WOODBRIDGE ROAD, DEBACH, SUFFOLK (C/10/0310)

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 to erect a rear replacement extension (following demolition of existing) at The Moat House, Woodbridge Road, Debach (TM 245 542), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/10/0310). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 This application is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the internal area of (and extending outside) a medieval moated enclosure (HER: DEB 003). There is a strong possibility that medieval occupation deposits will be encountered at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks.
- 1.4 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 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 Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>*).
- 1.5 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 fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.6 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 (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 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 new extension and also any groundworks associated with the demolition and removal of the existing extension. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

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

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring 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 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.
- 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event 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*.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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>).

- 5.8 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).
- 5.9 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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 Historic Environment Record. 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. 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

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Date: 29 April 2010

Reference: /TheMoatHouse-Debach2010

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.