

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Land adjacent the Bull Inn, Thorpe Morieux TMX 017

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2003
(Planning app. no. B/01/00828/OUT)

Sue Anderson
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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D.W. Ayre, Acting County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 1LZ.

Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

Introduction
Methodology
Results
Finds and environmental evidence
 Introduction
 Pottery
 Building material
 Miscellaneous
 Animal bone and shell
 Discussion of the finds evidence
Summary and Conclusion

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Plan of the footings and identified features

List of Tables

1. Finds quantification
2. Pottery quantification

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Sue Anderson	Senior Project Officer/Finds Manager
Kelly Powell	Project Assistant

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr. E. Clayton and was monitored by R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division). The site and post-excavation work was carried out by Sue Anderson and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Finds processing was carried out by Sue Anderson, Gemma Adams and Kelly Powell.

Summary

Monitoring of footing trench excavations at land adjacent to the Bull Inn, Thorpe Morieux, produced evidence for a large ditch or pond running close to the present road frontage. Pottery evidence suggested that this had been gradually filled in from the medieval period onwards, and a relatively large quantity of late medieval pottery in both the upper levels of the ditch and a nearby layer may indicate mid to high status occupation on the site in the early post-medieval period.

SMR information

Planning application no.	B/01/00828/OUT
Date of fieldwork:	12.8.03
Grid Reference:	TL 9413 5478
Funding body:	Mr E. Clayton

Introduction

Excavation of footing trenches for a house and garage on land adjacent to the Bull Inn, Thorpe Morieux (TL 9413 5478; Fig. 1) was subject to an archaeological monitoring condition (Planning Application B/01/00828/OUT) and a Brief and Specification for the work was produced by the Planning Officer, R.D. Carr (Appendix 1). The development area was immediately adjacent to a known findspot of medieval pottery (Site TMX 013). This, together with the pattern of roadside ponds in the area, indicates the presence of medieval settlement in the form of enclosures and a hamlet fronting onto the roadway.

Methodology

Two visits were made to the site on 12-13 August 2003. The house foundations had been fully excavated by machine at the time of the first monitoring, and the garage foundations were completed during the second visit. Trenches were dug to a depth of 1.2m (house) and 1m (garage) and were approximately 0.5-0.6m wide. The topsoil was of a uniform depth across the whole area, c.0.4m. The subsoil was a pale buff to orange clay with small chalk pebbles and flints.

The trenches were inspected for the presence of archaeological features cutting subsoil, and these were recorded on a 1:20 plan of the house footprint supplied by the architect. Finds were collected from the sections where possible, and a search was also made of the spoil; that from the house footings had been dumped in the edge of the pond (dry at the time of the visit) at the south-east corner of the site, whilst the garage spoil was left adjacent to the trenches.

Results

Inspection of the house footing trenches revealed the presence of a large feature (0005) running through all of the north-east to south-west aligned trenches (Fig. 2). The feature was approximately 5m wide and was not bottomed within the trench. It ran approximately parallel with the road frontage but was c.6m back from the existing road line. The fill was a fairly homogenous mid-brown clayey loam.

Cursory cleaning of the sections produced sherds of pottery from the lowest visible levels of the fill (0004, 0006) and from higher levels (0002). The latter included a spread of burnt material, particularly fired clay and reddened soil. An adjacent possible feature, 0003, may be related as it also produced a few burnt fragments of stone. The exact edges of 0005 were difficult to ascertain, but it did not appear in the north-west to south-east aligned trenches. At the south-eastern trench, it appeared to have been cut by the central partition trench. At 0002, the base of the feature was seen to slope from approximately 1m down at a shallow angle towards the south-west.

The contexts are listed below:

0001	Unstratified finds from spoil (bone and oyster shell were generally not collected)	15th-16th c.
0002	Layer of burnt material within 0005, central trench.	15th-16th c.
0003	Finds from the floor of the trench and section adjacent to 0002.	Undated
0004	Pot sherd from lowest visible layer of feature 0005 in NW end trench.	12th-13th c.
0005	Component number for large feature running across the whole site.	
0006	Pot from base of south-western trench. ?Part of 0005.	12th-13th c.

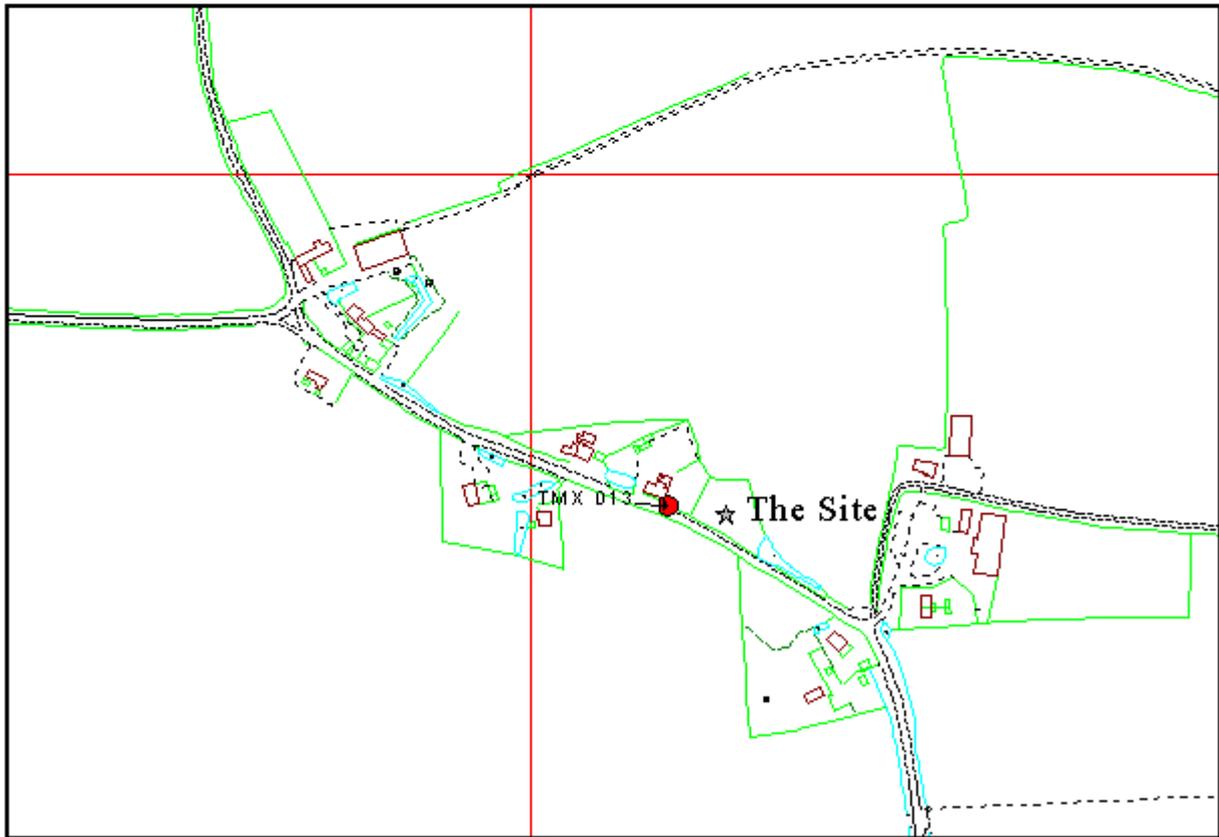
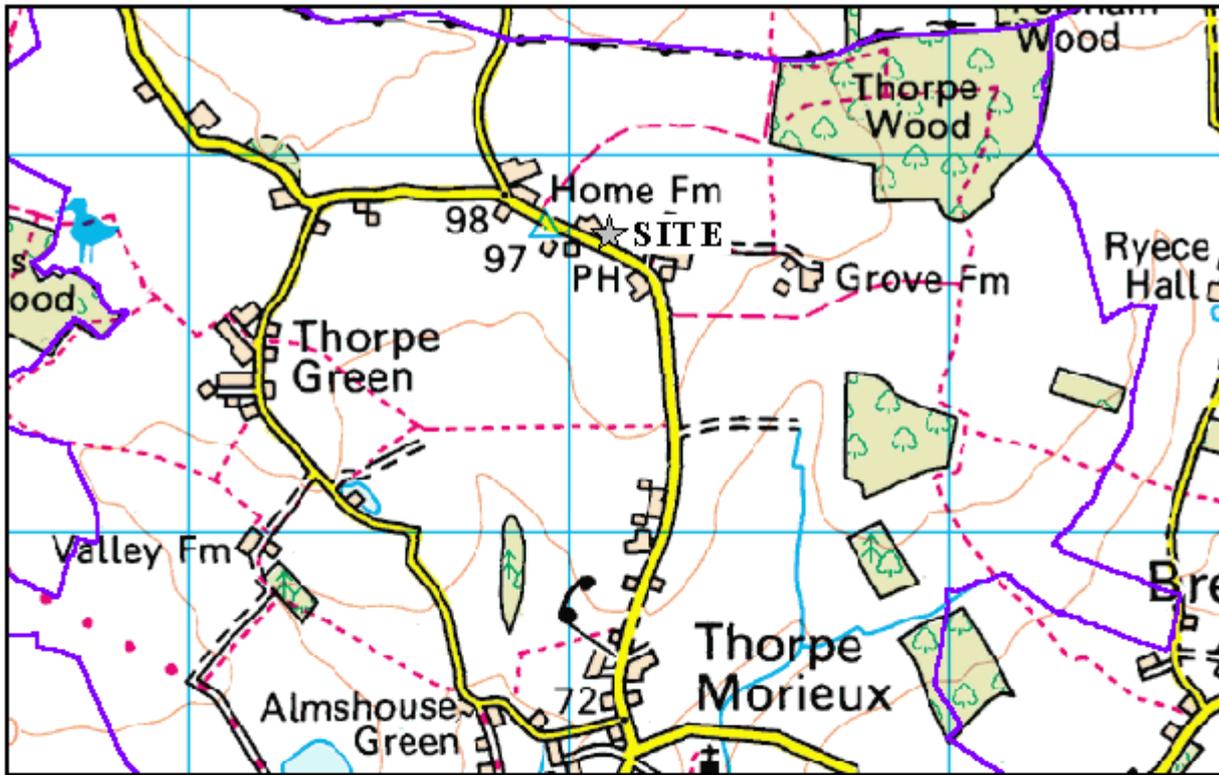


Figure 1. Site location plan



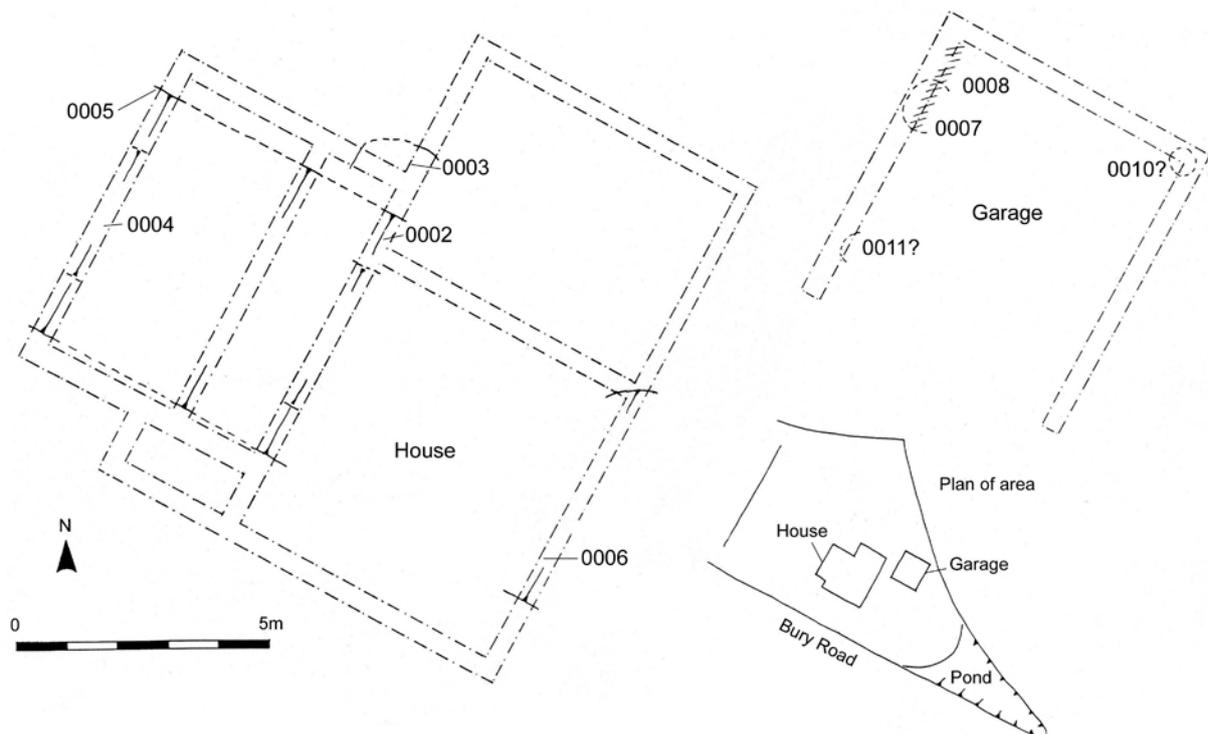


Figure 2. Plan of the footings and identified features

The north end of the garage footings produced a large quantity of finds, particularly late medieval to early post-medieval pottery, most of which was recovered from the adjacent spoil heaps (0009). This appeared to have been derived from a layer of dark brown clay-loam below the topsoil (0008). Below this, a shallow U-shaped pit (0007), approximately 1m in diameter and filled with mid-brown clay loam with occasional charcoal, cut into subsoil and produced two sherds of medieval pottery of 12th-13th century date. Two other possible pits, both small and filled with mid-brown clay-loam (0010 and 0011), produced no finds. The contexts from the garage footings are listed below:

0007	?Pit, shallow U-shaped in section, c.1m diameter, c.0.25m deep. Mid-brown clay-loam fill with charcoal flecks.	12th-13th c.
0008	Dark brown clay-loam layer containing large quantities of red earthenware and other finds. Overlies 0007, below topsoil, c.0.2m thick.	16th-17th c.
0009	Finds collected from spoil adjacent to 0007/0008, but most likely to have come from 0008.	16th-17th c.
0010	Possible pit, mid-brown clay loam fill, shallow. No finds.	Med?
0011	Possible pit, mid-brown clay loam fill, shallow. No finds.	Med?

Finds and environmental evidence

Introduction

Finds were collected from eight contexts, as shown in Table 1. A relatively large quantity of pottery was found. Ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and shell was only collected if it was intrinsically interesting or from identifiable contexts.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Flint		Bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	20	351	1	42	1	6	1	79	5 fired clay (45g), 1 clay pipe (1g), 1 Fe (51g)	Unstrat
0002	4	46	1	54						13-14th c.
0003					1	2			1 burnt stone (36g)	
0004	1	1								12-13th c.
0006	1	16								13th c.
0007	2	14								12-13th c.
0008	2	79								15-16th c.
0009	38	1012	2	192			20	152	2 oyster (23g)	15-16th c.
Total	68	1519	4	288	2	8	21	231		

Table 1. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Sixty-eight sherds of pottery were found. Table 2 shows the quantities of pottery by fabric type. Standard fabric groups for Suffolk post-Roman pottery were used.

Fabric	Code	No.	Wt/g
Early medieval ware shelly	EMWS	1	7
Medieval coarseware	MCW	13	128
Hedingham Fine Ware	HFW1	1	1
Colchester-type ware	COLC	11	278
Late medieval and transitional ware	LMT	37	1021
Raeren stoneware	GSW3	4	79
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	5

Table 2. Pottery quantities by fabric.

Whilst some early to high medieval pottery was present (12th-14th centuries), most of this was abraded and probably redeposited. However, a few sherds were collected from the lowest visible fills of features (e.g. 0004) and suggest some activity of this date on the site. Most pieces were body sherds, but there was a rim of EMWS (0007, 12th-13th c.) and an Essex type medieval coarseware rim of late 13th-14th century date (0009).

The assemblage was dominated by late medieval wares (15th-16th c.), particularly LMT. Sherds of LMT ware from north Suffolk were present, but Essex-type LMT was predominant in this group and included coarse Colchester-type ware as well as finer slip decorated redwares. Identifiable vessels included three jugs with strap handles, a small bowl, a handled bowl and a mug. One small flat base sherd was heavily burnt and may have been from a skillet. Most of these vessels were from 0009. Also of this date were a few sherds of Raeren stoneware, including a frilly base from a mug typical of this ware. One small sherd of GRE, a base fragment with internal brown glaze, may also be of 16th century date.

Building materials

Two fragments of fine to medium sandy peg tile were collected and may be of late medieval date. Two pieces of an abraded Roman tile in a soft fine sandy fabric were found in association with late medieval pottery from 0009.

Five crumbly fragments of fired clay were unstratified, but collected from the spoilheap close to medieval pottery. They were chalk tempered and may have been part of an oven dome or fragments of daub.

One small L-shaped iron hinge was an unstratified find and probably post-medieval.

Two flint flakes were found. These could be debris from flint knapping for building material, although there is a possibility that they could be prehistoric. One showed signs of fire reddening (0003) and was found close to other burnt material, including a piece of fire reddened sandstone.

Miscellaneous

One small fragment of a narrow clay pipe stem, probably 19th century, was an unstratified find.

Animal bone and shell

One fragment of animal bone was collected from the side of the house trench, close to finds of late medieval pottery. It was a cattle metatarsal proximal fragment which had been chopped in half and gnawed by a dog.

Twenty fragments collected from 0009, also in association with late medieval finds, included pieces of goat skull and horncore, and a medium mammal scapula.

Discussion of the finds evidence

Although there may have been some prehistoric activity, represented by the flint flakes (perhaps more likely to be related to medieval or later use), the earliest datable find was a fragment of Roman tile. No other Roman finds are known from the vicinity, the closest site being TMX 007 at Valley Farm, where Roman sherds were found in 1959 (information from Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record). Whilst the tile could suggest Roman activity on site, building material of this date was often re-used in later periods and it could have been brought to the site at a later date.

The finds assemblage suggests that the most intensive occupation of this site occurred during the 15th-16th centuries. However, there is some indication of earlier medieval activity, even if it was only for the deposition of rubbish from nearby dwellings. The amount and variety of late medieval pottery, together with the relatively high quality of the pieces, suggests that they may be derived from a household of middle to high status.

Summary and Conclusion

A large feature was identified running across most of the house footings. This was aligned approximately parallel to the present road frontage and is likely to be an extension of the roadside ditch/pond system which still exists to the west and south of the site (Fig. 1). The feature seems to have been backfilled with household waste over a number of centuries, the earliest pottery recovered from it being of 12th-13th century date, the latest probably 16th century.

A few possible medieval pits were found to the north-east of this boundary ditch, in the garage footings, although only one could be dated. This belonged to the earlier part of the medieval period, 12th-13th century. Above it, a thick layer of early post-medieval rubbish had been deposited. The position of this may be coincidental, or the rubbish may have been used as hardcore to fill a slump caused by the presence of the earlier pit.

In summary, the features and finds indicate that medieval occupation was present in the vicinity. No structures were identified and it is uncertain whether this plot of land was used for housing or simply for rubbish disposal. However, the backfilling of the roadside ditch may suggest that there was a need for easier access, perhaps implying the presence of a dwelling on the site in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Any house had, however, been demolished before the early 19th century as none appears on the enclosure map of the area.

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development — LAND ADJACENT TO THE BULL INN, BURY ROAD, THORPE MORIEUX

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/01/00828/OUT). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area is immediately adjacent to the known findspot of medieval pottery (TMX 013) which demonstrates intensive medieval settlement. The pattern of roadside ponds in the area indicates that there were medieval enclosures forming a hamlet fronting onto the roadway.

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 main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the access road and footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed **after** they **have been** excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

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 the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must 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 a 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 must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments 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 Sites

and Monuments 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 SMR 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: Robert Carr

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

Date: 20 September 2002

Reference: /ThorpeMorieux09

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.