

Topic Paper 2 – Archaeology

This document is one of the supporting topic papers of Suffolk’s supplementary guidance “Section 106 Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions in Suffolk”. It is intended as a guide for landowners, developers and residents and sets out how Suffolk County Council will deal with planning applications where contributions towards archaeology may be sought.

- 1.1 A high density of archaeological remains survives in Suffolk and the preservation of those remains is a material consideration in the granting of planning consent. Developers should, therefore, discuss the potential impact of their proposed development on archaeological remains prior to submission of planning applications and applicants may be required to undertake an appropriate evaluation before their application is determined.
- 1.2 Usually, sites with heritage assets can be developed provided that the remains are adequately recorded prior to development and that recording work can be secured by planning conditions. Where planning conditions are not appropriate, obligations will be used to secure the protection and/or investigation of archaeological remains in advance of development. For example, it may be appropriate to secure an area containing significant remains so that it is protected in perpetuity and incorporated into the design of the scheme. The best way to safeguard an archaeological site is for it to be preserved *in situ* and positively managed. Excavation is very much a second best option as although knowledge can be increased through this process, the site is destroyed. For sites of lesser importance, a planning obligation may require the investigation, recording and excavation of any archaeological features and finds.
- 1.3 There may also be occasions where planning obligations should be used to secure the conservation and storage in perpetuity of archaeological finds recovered and/or the interpretation of the results of archaeological investigation through publication, touring exhibition or display. Therefore contributions to existing museums or other buildings and facilities or to new buildings or facilities to enable museum storage or display might also be appropriate.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of the developer to pay for any and all archaeological work required. This will include any fieldwork, the analysis of findings after fieldwork, conservation of objects where appropriate, report writing and publication, museum archiving, and any educational material required to explain the site or findings to the public. The Archaeological Service can provide a list of archaeological organisations available to carry out work in Suffolk. The scope of any work that needs to be done should be agreed in advance with the Archaeological Service.