Requirements for a Geophysical Survey (updated September 2020)

An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below. These requirements accompany, and should be used in conjunction with, the project brief.

General Requirements


Additional Requirements for Reporting and Archiving

1.1. The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain a parish code for the work before commencement. These numbers will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.

1.2. The survey methodology should be set out carefully and explained as appropriate. It must include a non-technical summary to make the report intelligible to both specialists and non-specialists.

1.3. The report must include details of how the survey was geolocated, the instrument used for the survey, its configuration and the sampling intervals used.

1.4. The report must list the types of process which have been applied to the geophysical survey data and for each operation state relevant parameters (e.g. the cut-off threshold for despike).

1.5. The report must include images of both unprocessed (without smoothing or filtering) and also processed data, as well as interpretative plans (accompanied by a full key).

1.6. Greyscale plots should use an appropriate data range and a scale must be included on plans.

1.7. Digital, geo-referenced copies of the geophysical survey plans should be supplied with the report for inclusion in the Suffolk HER.

1.8. The results of the geophysical survey should be easily related to present-day landscape features and the National Grid.
1.9. The objective account of the evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

1.10. SCCAS supports the OASIS project, to provide an online index to archaeological reports. 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.