

Drift Cottage, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk

Planning application: 1338/08 (Plot 2)

HER Ref: CRM 061

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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(January 2010)

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3

Site details for HER

Name: Drift Cottage, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary

Client: Mr & Mrs K Peter

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1338/08 (Plot 2)

Development: Residential dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 7 December 2009

HER Ref: CRM 061

OASIS ref: johnnewm1_72073

Grid ref: TM 0950 5666

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Evaluation methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion & recommendations

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Trench location with features recorded

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Brief & Specification

Summary: Creeting St Mary, Drift Cottage (CRM 061, TM 0950 5666) evaluation trenching revealed one pit of 18th century date and re-use of dressed stone from the Post medieval rectory that burnt down in c1863. No earlier features or finds were recovered from what had formerly been glebe land (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs K Peter).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs K Peter commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on plot 2 at Drift Cottage as required under condition 5 for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 1338/08. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a residential dwelling on plot 2 on what was the site of Drift Cottage, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary and its garden; plot 1 was not examined at this time.

1.2 Creeting St Mary parish lies to the north east of Needham Market in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. The Drift Cottage site is located some 130m east of the parish church in a landscape characterised by small concentrations of settlement close to churches and general dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around areas of common grazing (see Fig. 1). The site is just above the 40m OD contour with land dropping off gently towards the south and the River Gipping and fronting onto All Saints Road, which forms the main road through the parish, to the west and The Drift to the north. At the time of the evaluation Drift Cottage stood empty and the site was largely overgrown with occasional piles of domestic debris.

1.3 Archaeological interest in the site was generated by its proximity to the parish church and potential medieval road frontage onto All Saints Road. The site is also close to a possible moat site (CRM 011) some 80m to the north which also fronts onto All Saints Road and now lies in the area of the village school. Finally examination of Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 indicates that The Drift immediately to the north of the site was formerly a route of some importance and therefore could also have the potential for medieval road frontage type activity along its line.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 Plot 2 at the Drift Cottage site was trenched to a previously agreed plan with a T shaped trench sampling all parts of the proposed house footprint (see Fig. 2). The brief and specification called for a 5% sample of the site with at least 44m of trench at a width of 1.8m across plots 1 and 2. As indicated above this evaluation covered plot 2 alone and 21.2m of trench at a width of 2m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying natural till surface using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket. The exposed till surface

was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned and the only exposed cut feature was hand sampled. The upcast spoil from the trench was examined visually and by an experienced metal detector user for any finds. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation. All recording within the trench was done at 1:50 in plan and 1:20 in section; the trench was then recorded in relation to existing mapped details. A full photographic record in digital and monochrome film was taken of the trenching works (Drift Cottage itself was also recorded photographically by N Macbeth for the parish records; this was formerly the dwelling of the head of the village school).

3. Results

3.1 The 21.2m of trench revealed a uniform depth of 300mm across the site. Below this topmost layer the mid-brown clay subsoil varied in depth between a minimum of 150mm at the north-western end of the trenching closest to All Saints Road and 350mm at its south-eastern point close to the boundary between plots 1 and 2. The topsoil contained numerous fragments of 19th and 20th century domestic debris while the subsoil was largely clean with just a few small fragments of Post medieval ceramic building material. The only metal detector finds were small iron nails and other fragments of indeterminate age and a modern coin. These unstratified finds were allocated the OP number 0001 but were not retained.

3.2 Examination of the opened trench revealed two features which were allocated OP numbers; these are (see also Fig. 2):

0002: a pit towards the eastern end of the longer length of opened trench which ran under the trench edge on its southern side. This pit was at least 2m in width and, where sectioned, was 500mm deep. The fill was a pale brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Finds were sparse within the excavated fill and comprised one body sherd of brown glazed red earthenware pottery of 17/18th century date (wt 60g), one small clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment of 17th /E18th century date (wt 5g) and four peg tile fragments (wt 70g). The finds indicate a 17 or 18th century date for this feature.

0003: mid way along the longer arm of the T shaped trench layout the foundation for a moderately substantial wall was revealed and in fact was partially visible on the ground surface to the north and south. This wall can be identified as one that is shown on the 2nd edition OS map of 1903 (surveyed in 1883) that ran from the south-eastern corner of Drift Cottage in a north-easterly direction towards a green house that existed

at that time adjacent to The Drift. The wall foundation was made up of a mixture of rough flints and re-used blocks of dressed limestone (see Appendix I- selected images).

4. Conclusion

4.1 The evaluation of plot 2 sampled the required 5% with just over 20m of trench excavated under conditions of good visibility across the proposed house footprint. The only features revealed were a pit, 0002, of 17th/18th century date and a wall foundation, 0003, that cartographic sources confirm relates to the later 19th century use of the site. From an earlier examination of the parish tithe map of 1839 it has been determined that Drift Cottage and its garden lay within the grounds of the rectory and formed part of the glebe land. The rectory as depicted on the tithe map burnt down in c1863 as the existing one to the south-west, now called Creeting House, was erected in that year. Therefore it can be concluded that the pit, 0002, dates to the period of the earlier Post medieval rectory when the area of plot 2 lay in an undeveloped part of the rectory grounds. The wall foundation, 0003, however relates to the later Post medieval rectory and it seems probable that the re-used dressed stone came from the rectory that burnt down in c1863.

4.2 The lack of any pre-19th century finds from the top and subsoil may appear surprising given the location of this site on what would have been a medieval road frontage and close to the main focus of earlier activity in the parish near the parish church of St Marys (with the site of All Saints church adjacent to St Marys until c1800). However the fact that this site was formerly glebe land may help explain this lack of even stray finds as evidence from various developments in Suffolk has shown that such former church land close to village centres is often 'clean' indicating a medieval use removed from run of the mill rural activities. The most likely explanation perhaps being that these smaller plots of glebe land were reserved by the church for grazing and orchard rather than being used for cultivation where manuring evidence might be deposited.

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations be carried out on plot 2 at the Drift Cottage site.

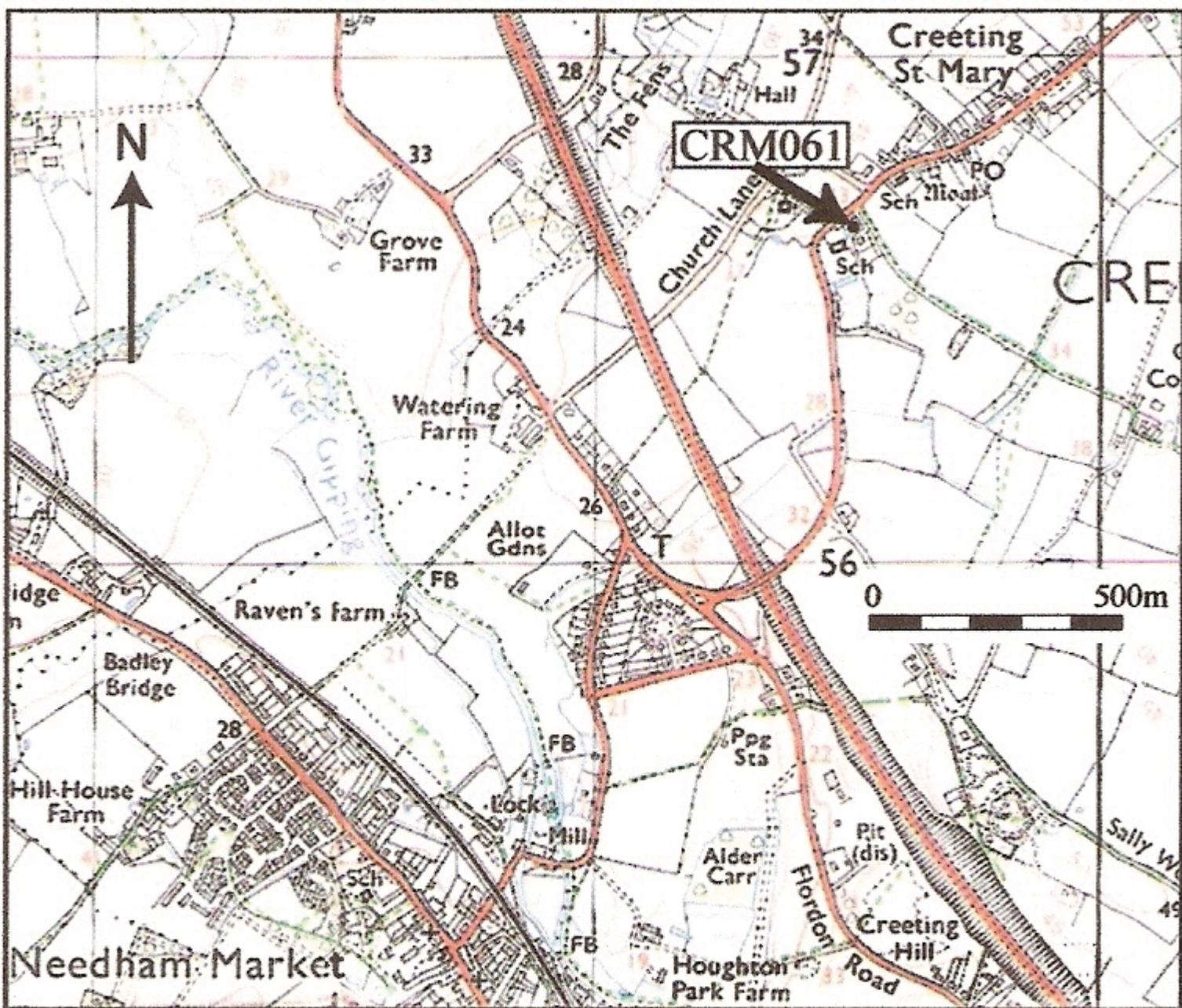


Fig1: Site location - Drift Cottage, Creting St Mary
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 1982
 All rights reserved. Licence number: WL1005096)

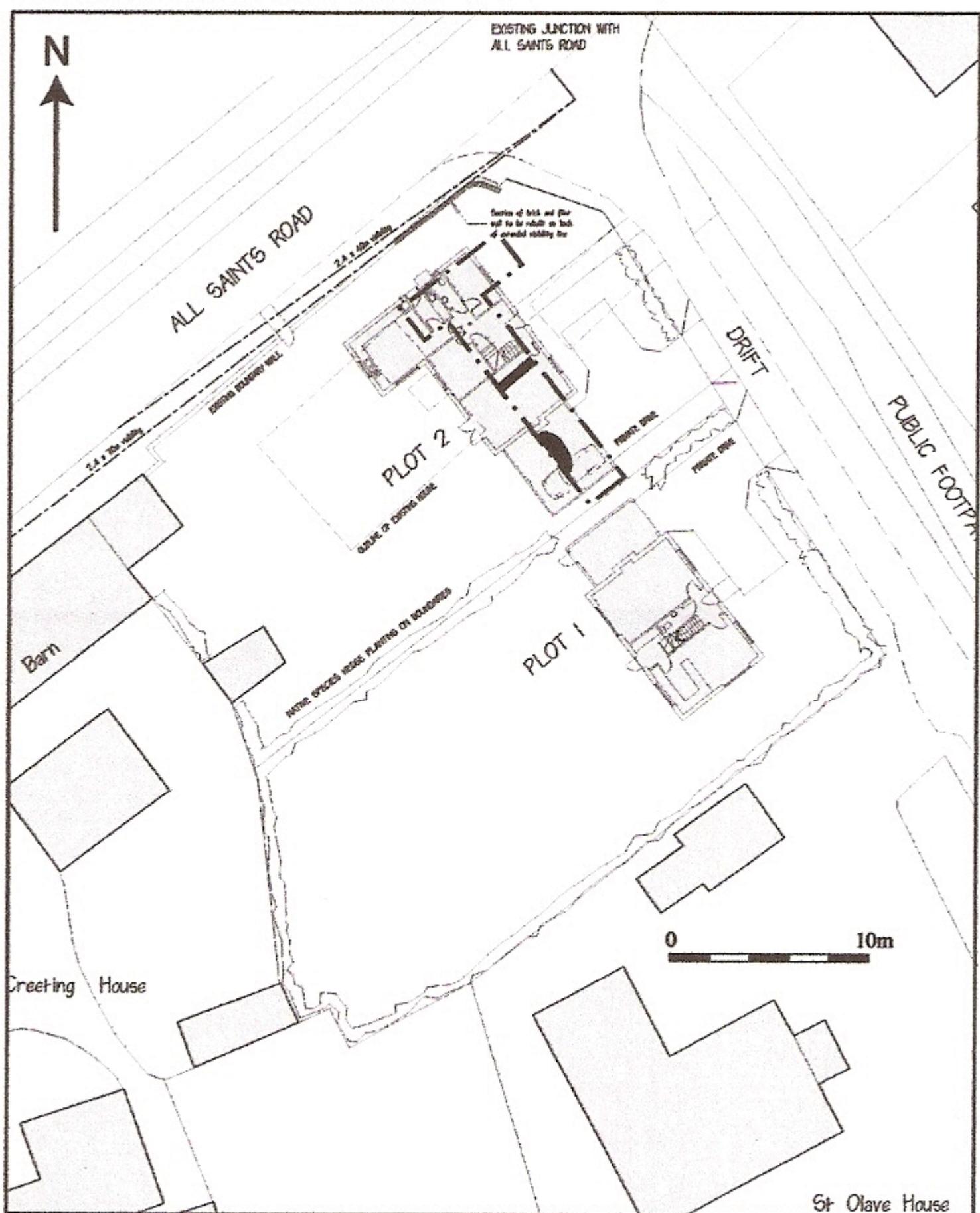


Fig2: Trench location (plot 2)

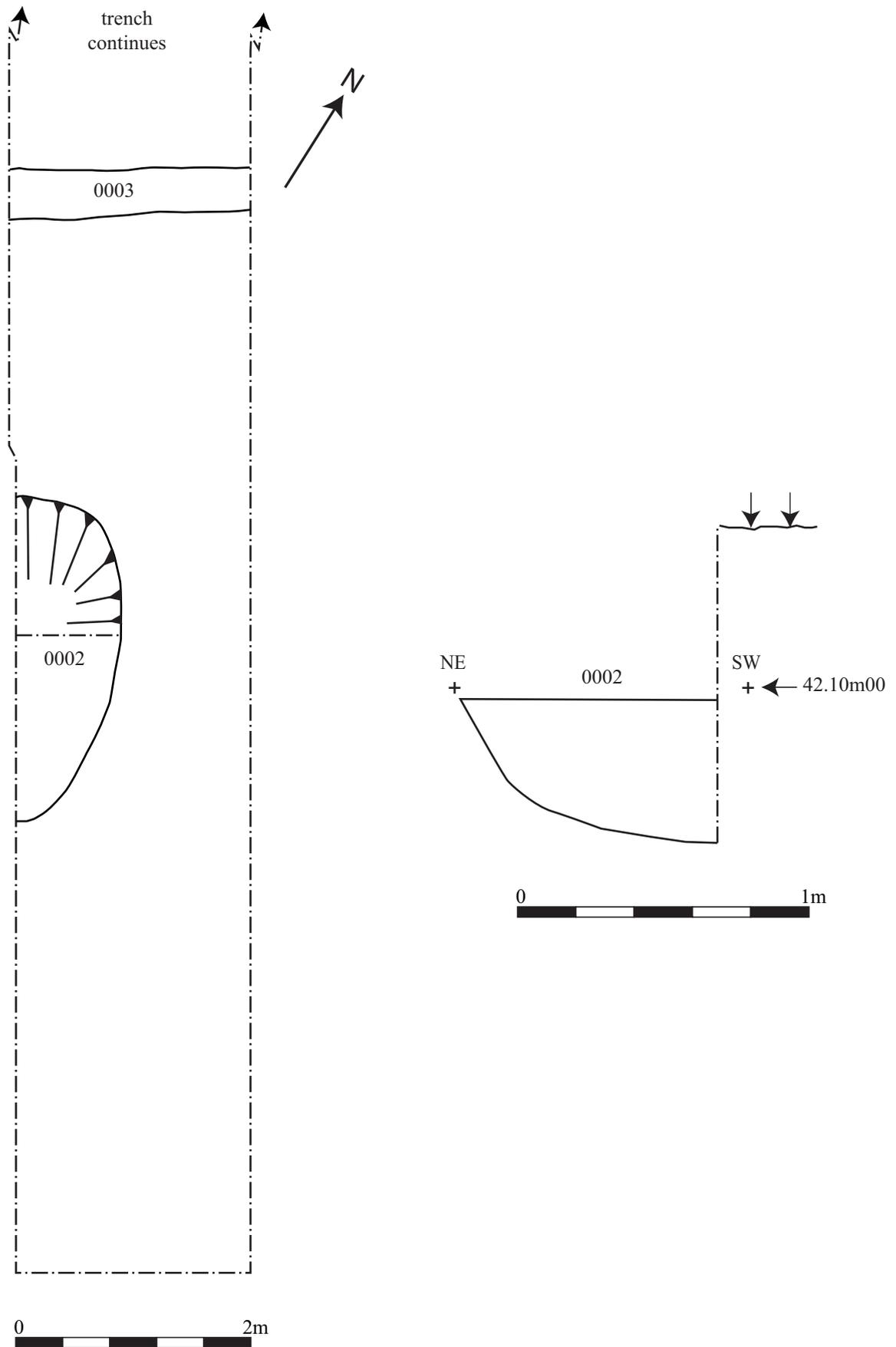


Fig3: Southern end of main trench - archaeological features.



Image 1: General view from north



Image 2: General view from south



Image 3: Section of pit 0002 from north



Image 4: Trench section showing 0003 (east side of trench)

Appendix I

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

DRIFT COTTAGE, ALL SAINTS ROAD, CREETING ST MARY, SUFFOLK (1338/08)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission (1338/08) for the erection of two dwellings (existing dwelling to be demolished) at Drift Cottage, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk (TM 095 566) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The area of the proposed residential development measures c. 0.16 ha. in size, on the east side of All Saints Road (see accompanying plan). It is situated on chalky till (deep clay) at c. 40 - 45.00m AOD.
- 1.4 The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core and to the east of the medieval church (HER no. CRM 018). There is high potential for medieval settlement deposits at this location, which will be disturbed by this development.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work is required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, informing both development methodologies and mitigation measures. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any archaeological finds of significance will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional brief.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation 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 with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the

Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

- 1.10 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) 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.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c. 80.00m², before the demolition of the existing dwelling. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 44.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.7 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, 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.

3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 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 the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. 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, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.17 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 HER. 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.
- 5.18 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.
- 5.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. 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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Tel: 01284 352197

Date: 20 April 2009

Reference: / DriftCottage-CreetingStMary2009

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.