

**Continuous Archaeological Recording on Land at
The Vicarage
Church road Thurston Suffolk**

Grid reference: TL 929 652
Planning Application No: 0070/14
Oasis No. 183789

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November 2014

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Summary

Continuous Archaeological Recording was carried out from the 9th of July – 11th of September 2014, on land at The Vicarage Church Road Thurston.

A single feature was discovered within the footings for the house extension, which was interpreted as a quarry pit that had been back-filled in one event. No other archaeological features or finds were discovered.

The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Richard Hoggett of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated August 2014.

1. Introduction and Planning Background

An application was been made by the client, Mr Jeffery Addison for the construction of a new extension and separate garage for the Vicarage at Church Road Thurston Suffolk (TL 929 652).

The application (0070/14) was subject to a condition of archaeological work to be carried out as part of the planning process with Mid Suffolk District Council.

The Planning Authority has been advised by English Heritage that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. The *Local Plan Policy B22*, while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary. This is also the requirement of the Deposit Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Policy 7, June 1998). As a result of the application, and to comply with English Heritage' request and planning policy, archaeological monitoring was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Suffolk Records Office Ipswich and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record office was consulted. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Suffolk HER and English Heritage; an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/Project Oasis.

2 Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 929 652

The site is located within the grounds of The Vicarage, situated in Church Road Thurston and adjacent to the parish church of St Peters. The site is amid agricultural, arable farm land on a gentle slope rising towards the north. The site is somewhat isolated from the nucleus of the village, being c. 250 m north east from its centre.



Figure 1. Site Location

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Cartographic Evidence

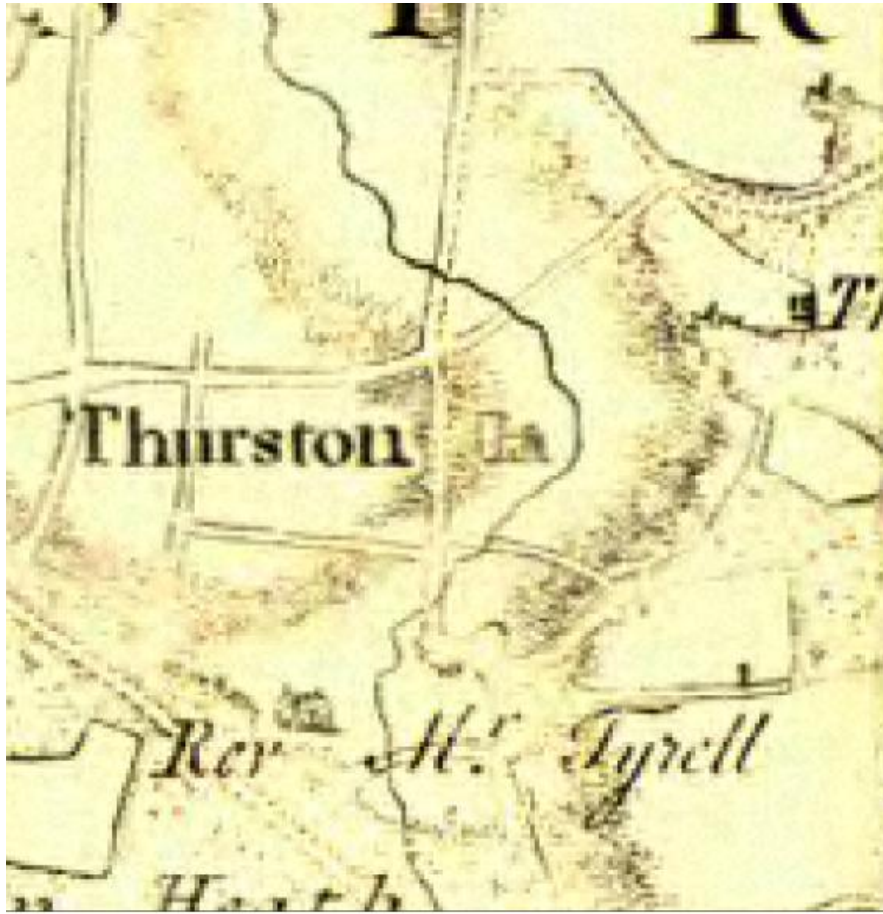


Figure 3. Hodkinson's map (1783) of Thurston showing church at centre

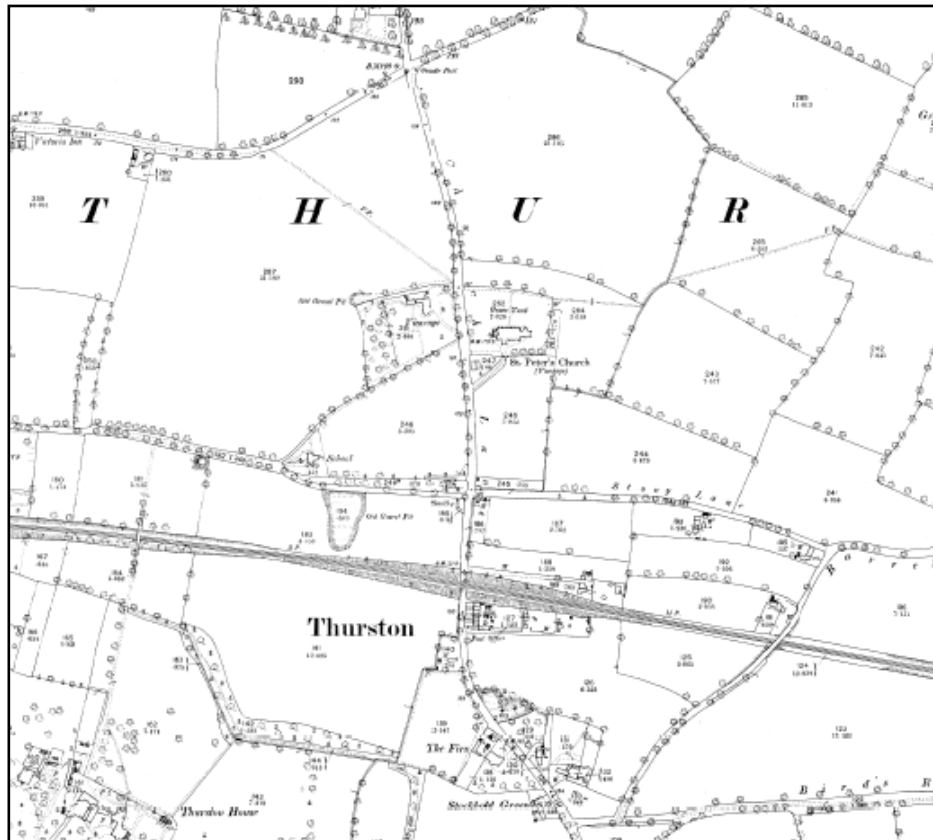


Figure 5. 1st edition O.S. map of Thurston with site at centre

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

In 1845 Thurston was listed in Whites's directory as 'being a scattered village and parish, pleasantly situated 5 miles north-east of Bury St Edmunds, has 599 inhabitants, and about 2400 of fertile land' (White, 1845). The Domesday book lists Thurston as having '14 free men. Of these, St Edmunds had the patronage, with every customary due, over 4 whole free men and over 4 half free men who belong in the lands of Norton. But Earl Ralph held them, when he forfeited them, half carucate of land. Under them, 3 smallholders. Meadow, 1 acre, always 2 ploughs. Value always 6s 8d. (Morris, J., 1986).

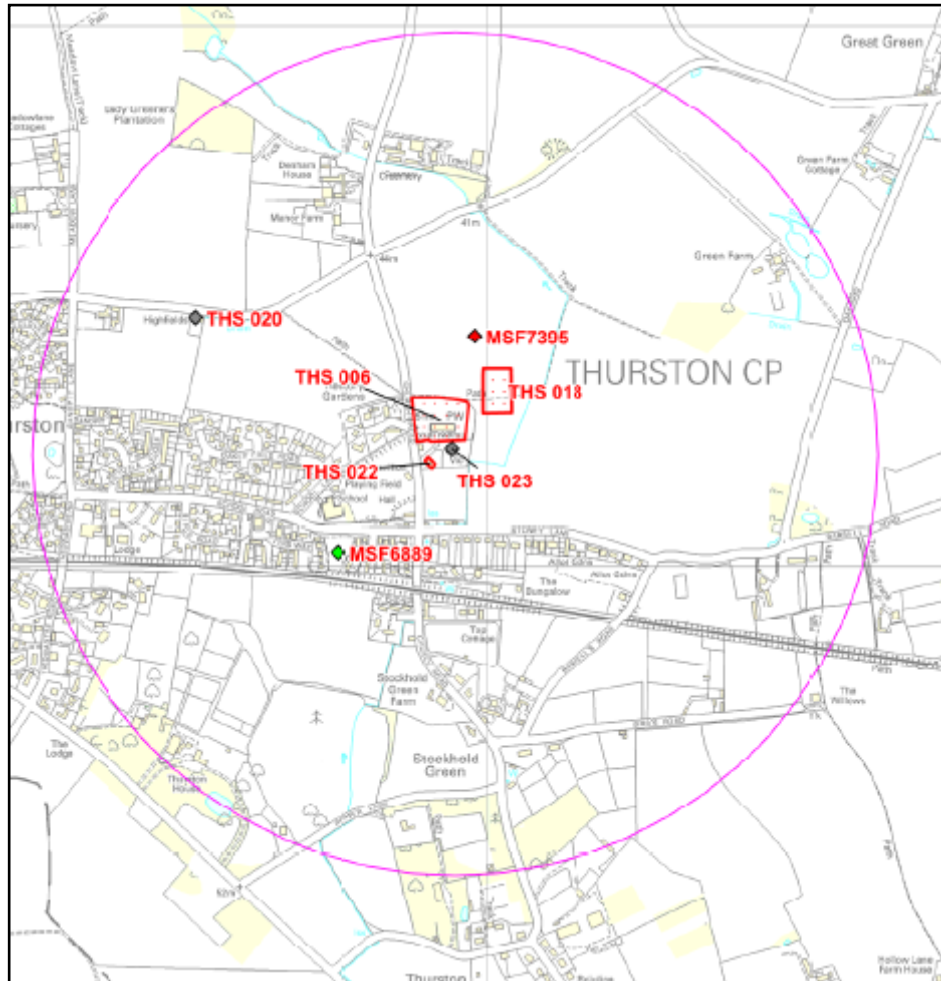
The church of St Peters, largely restored in the 19th century, is probably 14th century. It is situated away from the village core; Thurston being a scattered settlement, lying in the main to the south of the more densely populated part of the village.

3.3 Recent Archaeological work

Monitoring of footings trenches (THS 022) immediately south of the current development revealed no archaeology (Unpublished document: Gill D. 1997. Archaeological Monitoring Report, Land Adjacent to Thurston Vicarage, Church Road, Thurston.)

3.4 Monuments Records

Previous finds made within a 500m radius of the current development include a prehistoric scatter of lithic implements including a scraper, probably Bronze Age (THS 018); part of an elephant femur was discovered 200m to the east of the current development (THS Misc); on a field to the north of the church, Basil Brown has marked a site and noted “remains struck by plough 1955” (THS Misc).



*Figure 6. Monuments and sites map
(Suffolk Historic Environment Records Office)*

4. Results

4.1 Recording of all groundwork's commenced on the 9th of July 2014 and was completed on the 11th of September 2014.

4.2 A plan of the trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50

4.3 Sections were recorded of the two main trenches (TR 1 and 2).

4.4 A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

4.5 All artefactual evidence was retained for dating and analysis.

4.6 A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

4.7 Site plans were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

4.8 Levels were recorded at Ordnance Datum.

4.9 All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

Trench 1

4.10 Trench 1, for the garage was excavated down to c. 1m depth and revealed no archaeology. The deposit model consisted of a top soil (1000) recorded at a depth of 0.28m, which overlay the glacio-fluvial natural (1005) of a chalky, sandy gravel.

Trench 2

4.11 Trench 2, for the extension to The Vicarage was excavated to a maximum 1.18m; the deposit model consisted of a top soil (1000) to a depth of 0.18m, which overlay sandy gravel similar to that in TR1.

4.12 A large feature [1003]. c. 3m in width by 0.95m depth was recorded (SS. 2) in TR 2, in the north-west section of the trench; the fill consisting of a mid-brown sandy fill with very common stones and flint (1002). This feature's extent to the east was projected (fig. 2), the limit of the feature to the south was noted and it extended westward to an unknown extent (fig 2). No other archaeology was noted within this trench.

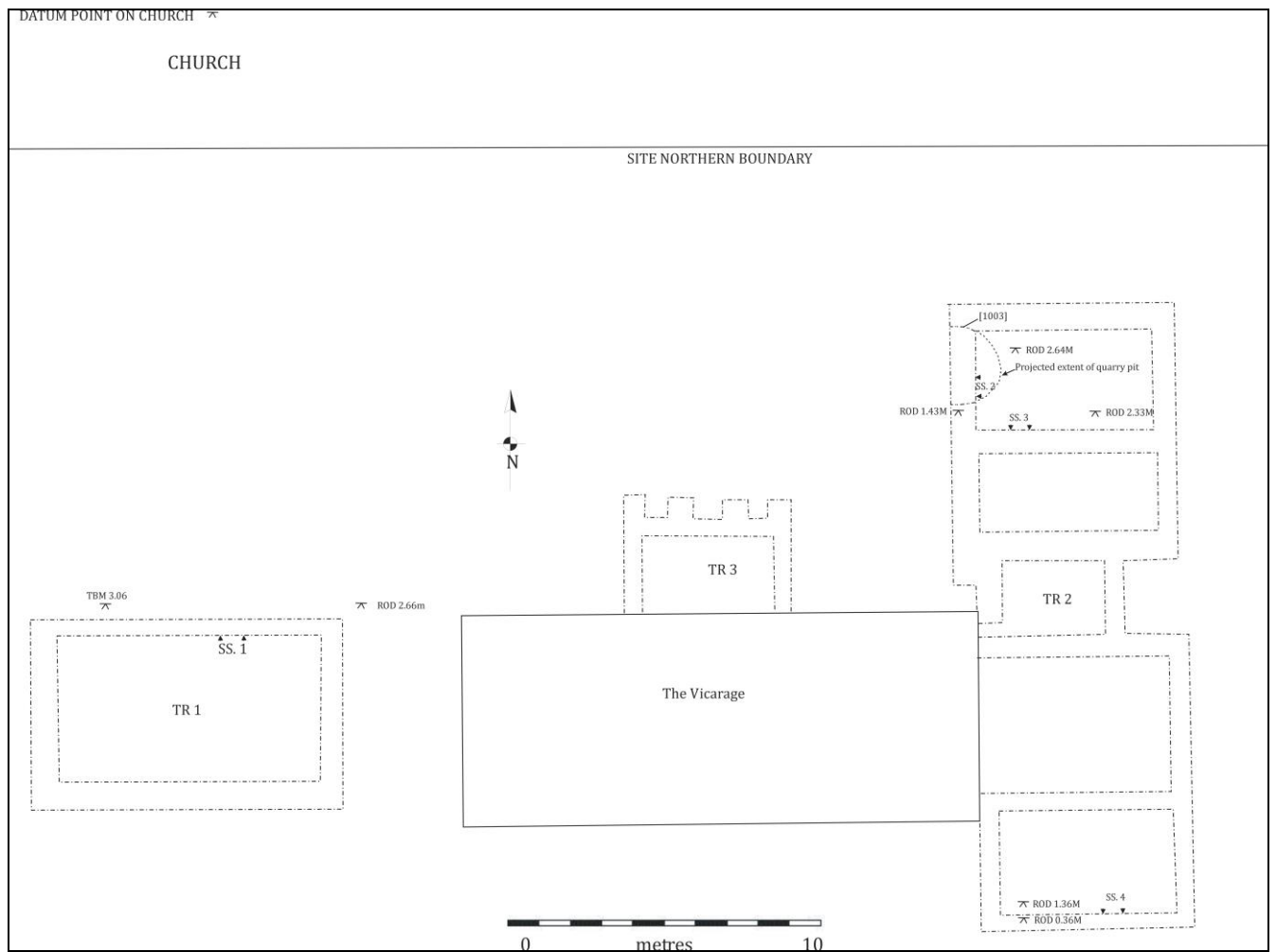


Figure 7. Plan of excavation

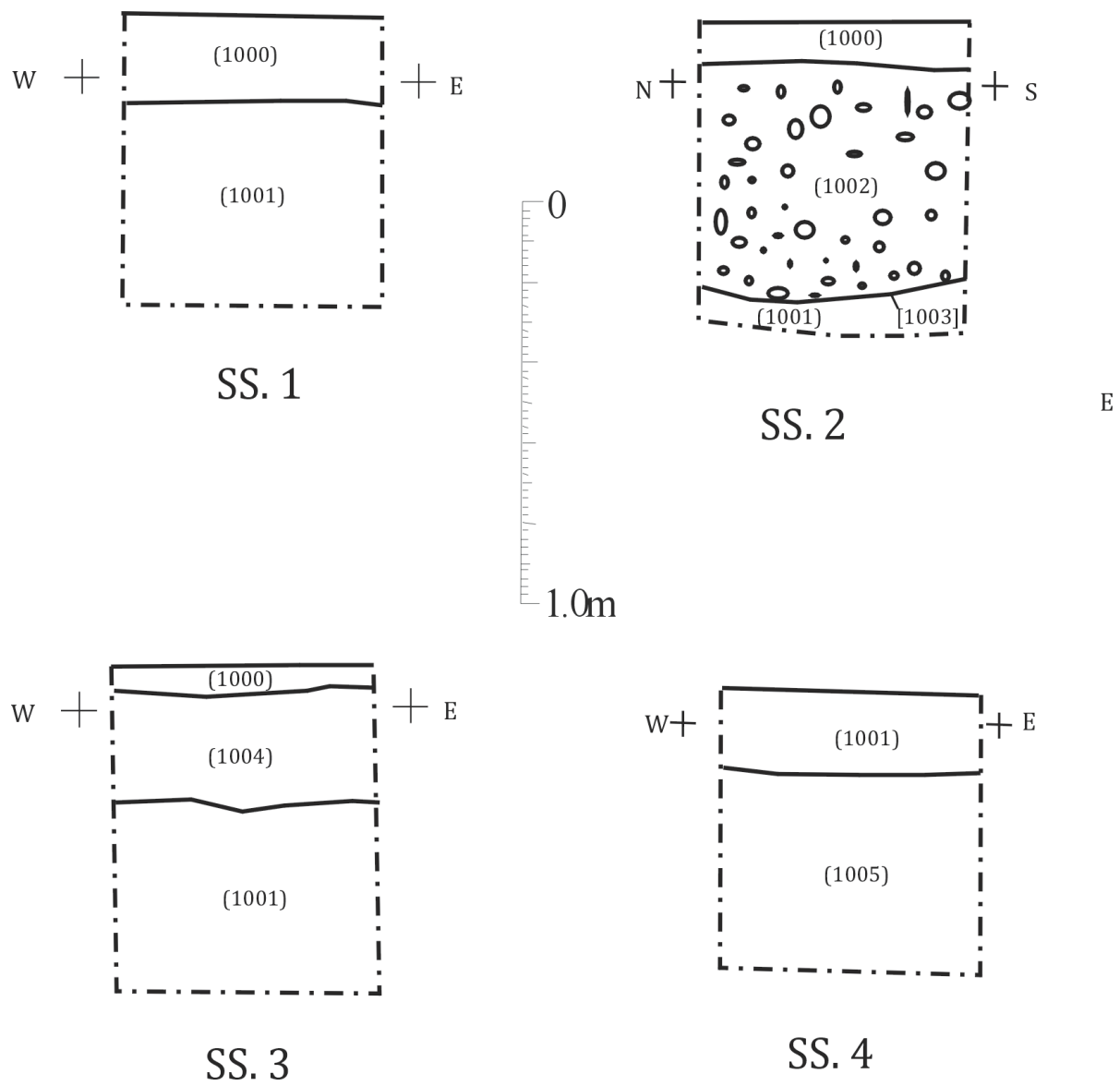


Figure 8. Sample sections at 1:20

5. Interpretation

The only feature encountered during the monitoring was a large feature [1003] with a single fill (1002). The deposit appeared to be quite homogenous, in that there were no indications of a sequence, simply one event interpreted as a back-fill material after extraction of the sandy gravels that the pit was excavated into. This feature is thought to be a quarry pit and may be related to the building of the church, which is c. 40m to the north. No finds could be seen within this fill, it therefore remains undated, but could be medieval if it was related to the church construction.

6. Discussion

In view of the location of this site and the potential it held for finding archaeological remains, no archaeology other than the quarry pit mentioned was encountered.

7. Conclusion

This monitoring exercise has proven that no archaeology will be compromised by the development. It is considered that no further archaeological work would reveal any further evidence for past occupation here, but this decision rests with the curatorial authority (SCC/ACT).

8. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

The finds archive is held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Jeffery Addison, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological recording was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) Alfa (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Bibliography

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Morris, J) (ed.) 1986, Domesday Book (Suffolk) Philimore

**White, W., 1844, History and Directory of Suffolk, Clark Doble & Brendon Ltd
Plymouth Devon**

ONLINE REFERENCES

PastScapes <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excitation view of garage site



Plate 2. Pre-excitation view of extension site



Plate 3. Sample section 1 within garage footings trench



Plate 4. Post-excavation of garage footings



Plate 5. Footings trench for porch



Plate 6. Sample section 2 showing quarry pit [1003]



Plate 7. Sample section 3 within extension footings trench



Plate 8. Post-excavation of part footings trench for extension (SS. 4)

Generic Specification for Archaeological Monitoring Suffolk

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Non-technical summary

This is a written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring in advance of the new development. It has been written in response to an archaeological brief written by the Suffolk County Council - Conservation Team.

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief will be sought in standards for '*Field Archaeology in the East of England*,' (East Anglian Occasional papers 14, Gurney, D., 2003). In addition, this brief has been compiled respecting the following standards: 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.)

1. Planning background

1.1 Planning permission has been granted, subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The planning application is subject to a condition of archaeological works and forms part of the planning application process of the District Council Core Strategy and Development Control Policies.

1.3 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed. Conditions include: *‘No development shall take place until an archaeological written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions: The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording; the programme for post investigation assessment; Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording ; Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation; Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation; Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the written scheme of investigation. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological written scheme of investigation approved under conditions as stated and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured. In this instance the programme of archaeological work will comprise the monitoring of groundworks for the development under archaeological supervision and control. Reason for condition: - To ensure the potential archaeological interest of the site is investigated in accordance with the Mid Suffolk Local Plans: Cor 5 - CS5 Mid Suffolk’s Environment, to allow proper investigation and recording of the site, which is potentially of archaeological and historical significance’.*

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

2.2 A risk assessment will be carried out in consultation with the developer to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

2.3 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be carried out: 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. The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological find of significance, will be based upon result of the archaeological monitoring and will be subject to an additional specification.

2.4 The archaeological monitoring will 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. Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits. Also, to establish the potential of the survival of environmental evidence. Sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and orders of costs. This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (*MAP* 2). Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive and report with an assessment of any potential archaeological or environmental evidence. Any further excavation required as mitigation will be the responsibility of SCCAS to advise. Each stage will be subject of a brief and updated project design; this document covers only the monitoring stage. The developer or DPAS will give SCCAS/CT a minimum 5 working days notice of the commencement of any archaeological work, to enable the work to be monitored by the SCCAS/CT.

3. Aims and objectives of the project

3.1 To provide as much information as possible about the site, being within the vicinity on known archaeological finds and features, which, if encountered will be interpreted to address relevant research questions laid down within the ***Regional Research frameworks***. (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.) and Medlycott, M., 2011.

3.2 To provide as much information about the archaeological resources within the proposed development site.

3.3 To comply with the SCCAS/CT' request for an archaeological monitoring as part of the planning process.

3.4 To obtain information about the archaeological resources within the development site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.

3.5 To identify and establish the approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area together with its likely extent localized depth and quality of preservation.

3.6 To evaluate the likely impact of land uses in the past and the possible presence of colluvial/alluvial deposits.

3.7 Assess the condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

3.8 To preserve by recording, any evidence of the potential for survival of any environmental deposits of the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 The archaeological recoding will consist of monitoring the foundation footings for the new build and any groundworks that might disturb concealed archaeological deposits.

4.2 All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist.

4.3 For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min) will be excavated across their width. or as is practicable within the foundation trenches.

4.4 For discrete features such as pits, 50% of their fill will be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested) or as is practicable within the foundation trenches.

4.5 Sufficient excavation will be made to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. All archaeological features exposed will be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 or 1:20 on a plan.

4.6 Any stratigraphic sequences encountered will be recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Any structures, for example, hearths, kilns and other significant finds will be excavated and recorded in plan and by single context recording where required.

In the event that no stratigraphic sequences are encountered, sections and features seen in plan will be hand cleaned and will be drawn to either 1:10 or 1:20 scale depending on the size, and details of any features and deposits will be fully recorded.

4.7 All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context.

4.8 All levels will relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.9 All contexts will be recorded using numbered context sheets containing descriptions and sketches of the deposits and finds that might be encountered.

4.10 Best practise will be employed to allow for the sampling of archaeological deposits. All archaeological contexts will, where possible, be sampled for the potential of the site, taking, at a minimum, 20 litre bulk samples (using sealable containers designed for the purpose) or 100% of smaller features. These containers, before leaving site, will be clearly marked by the site team showing from which context they were taken. Environmental samples will be sent to the relevant specialist for flotation and analysis resulting in the specialists report for inclusion into the final report. Where waterlogged 'organic' features are encountered, advice will be sought from a geoarchaeologist or environmental specialist, and if necessary, will be invited to the site to consider all options available. This should include the extraction of monolith samples, whether by the site team or the specialist.

4.11 If rich or unusual features are encountered, further advice will be sought from the RSA before any attempt to remove them is made.

4.12 Should it be deemed necessary, the guide to sampling Archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. & Wiltshire., P.E.J., 1994). A guide to Sampling Archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) will be consulted. Copy held for viewing by SCC. Advice will also be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional adviser for Archaeological science (East of England), should the need arise.

4.13 Metal detector searches of the site will be undertaken at all stages of the excavation.

4.14 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with by the SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

4.15 The data recording methods and conventions used will be consistent with, and approved by, the SCCAS/CT.

4.16 Proper respect will be accorded any disturbed human remains encountered. Possible human remains will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Any remains observed will be related to the relevant authorities. Should human remains be encountered on the site, it is the intention of this project, being monitoring only, to advise of the existence of articulated and non-articulated remains. The client and the SCCAS/CT will be advised and work to exhume will not take place at this stage of the archaeological work

4.17 All work will be undertaken to Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (Molas) standards.

4.18 The person days allocated to this project are based on an estimated time-scale operating under normal conditions, allowing for clement weather for the duration of the project

4.19 All work will be carried out respecting statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation throughout the evaluation.

4.20 A photographic record will be compiled, comprising an overview of the site prior to work starting, as well as after completion of the work using black and white photographs, colour transparencies and high resolution digital images, and will be included with any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

4.21 Finds will be conserved where required.

4.22 All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive.

4.23 An accession number will be obtained from the Suffolk HER for allocation to the archive

Special Considerations and Research Questions

4.24 Research aims will be tailored for each individual project and will be communicated to the archaeological planning officer along with a copy of this written scheme of investigation.

4.25 The research agenda will reflect the aims of: Medlycott, M (ed.) (2011) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

5. Health, Safety and Environment

5.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities will be carried out during the lifetime of the project.

5.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation as mentioned above.

5.3 Every care will be taken to minimise the environmental impact.

6. Ownership of Finds, Storage and Curation of Archive

All artefactual material recovered will be held in long term storage at the St Edmundsbury Museum and Archaeology Service and or the Suffolk Archaeological Service store and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to them to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all such artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to the Treasure Act (1996), separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.

7. Monitoring arrangements

7.1 Curatorial responsibility lies with SCCAS/CT. They are to be notified of each stage of work. They will be notified in advance of the date of works on the site (minimum of five days).

7.2 Access is required to the site at all reasonable times to allow for monitoring by SCCAS/CT or their agents and ARCHAEOSERV.

7.3 Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Dennis Payne.

8. Archive preparation and deposition

The archive will be presented to the SCCAS/CT to the standards as laid out in their brief.

9. Reporting procedures

9.1 The report will be completed within three months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities. A summary report will be produced with the final report. A draft of the report will be submitted to the project officer/manager at SCCAS/CT for approval.

9.2 The report will reflect the aims of the WSI by giving an objective account of the archaeological evidence, clearly distinguished from its interpretation. A discussion and interpretation of the archaeological evidence including environmental and palaeoenvironmental recovered from palaeosoils and cut features and its conclusions will include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3&8, 1997 and 2000), and Medlycott, M., 2011.

9.3 Reports on specific areas, for example, ceramic or bone evidence will be included within the report to allow for a fully informed interpretation of any archaeology encountered. Sufficient detail will be placed upon the specialists findings to permit a detailed assessment of the finds, including tabulation of data by context, including non-technical summaries.

9.4 One copy will be sent to the client.

9.5 Two copies will be sent to SCCAS/CT

9.6 One copy will be sent to the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science, English Heritage, Brooklands House, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 8BU

9.7 In addition a summary report will be submitted into the OASIS project.

10. Publication and dissemination

The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the specification written by the officer in charge at SCCAS/CT

11. Other factors (including contingency)

11.1 Contingency will be made for operational delays including weather.

11.2 Contingency will be expected of the client for significant archaeology discovered as a result of the monitoring such as preserved wood, identified as a potential find for this site.

11.3 Contingency will be expected of the client for any specialist report that the relevant authority deems appropriate that cannot satisfactorily be produced by Dennis Payne or his agents.

11.4 Contingency will be expected of the client in the event that human remains are discovered in the course of the trench excavations.

12. Resources

12.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) AIfA, with extensive experience managing projects on a consultancy basis and with a number of contracting units.

12.2 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the foundation excavations.

13. Insurance statement

ARCHAEOSERV (D P Archaeological Services) is protected with a public indemnity of £1,000,000 from Towergate Insurance

14. Copyright

Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

15. Ownership

15.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the brief be donated with the archive.

15.2 All material deemed Treasure Trove will be subject to the investigations of the Coroner.

Bibliography

British Geological Society 1991 *East Anglia, Quaternary*

British Geological Society 1985 *East Anglia, Solid Geology*

**1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*.
London: HMSO**

Medlycott, M (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Appendix 1: Consultant specialists

Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by DPAS and where required, specialist analysis and advice from:-

Albarella, Umberto	Animal Bones
Barnett, Dr. Sarah	Luminescence Dating
Bishop, Barry	Lithics
Sue Anderson	Anglo Saxon Pottery
Boreham, Steve	Pollen and soils (Geoarchaeo specialist)
Brown, Nigel	Bronze Age Pottery
Cowgill, Jane	Slag /metal working residues
Crummy, Nina	Roman Metalwork
Doig, T	Drainpipes, underground structures, social history
July Curl	Human bones
Richenda Goffin	Medieval ceramics
SCCAS	Environmental
French, Dr. C.A.I	Soil micromorphology
Guest, Pete	Coins
Holly, Duncan	Medieval artefacts including glass
Murphy, Peter	Environmental advice
Precious, B	Roman Ceramics
Seeley, Paul	Iron Age pottery
Spoerry, Paul	Medieval ceramics
Richard Darrah	Waterlogged wood