Farm Buildings at Bruisyard Hall Farm, Bruisyard, Suffolk

Planning application: C/10/0061

HER Ref: BUD 006

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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(November 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Farm Buildings at Bruisyard Hall Farm, Hall Road, Bruisyard, Suffolk, IP17 2EJ

Client: Dennington Hall Farms Ltd

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/10/0061 (renewing C/06/2354)

Development: Conversion of & extension to redundant farm buildings for holiday accommodation & as a functions venue.

Date of fieldwork: 2, 10 & 14 February & 24 May, 2011

HER Ref: BUD 006

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-113450

Grid ref: TM 334 661

Contents

Summary: Bruisyard, Bruisyard Hall Farm, Hall Road (BUD 006, TM 334 661) monitoring of footing trenches excavated during the conversion of a late 16th-19th century farm building group revealed evidence for original floor and yard surfaces within the complex while trenches for an extension exposed evidence for a phase of probable levelling up of part of the site before the original construction work started (John Newman Archaeological Services for Dennington Hall Farms Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects on behalf of their client, Dennington Hall Farm Ltd, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application C/10/0061 which renewed application C/06/2354. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr E Martin of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the conversion of, and extension to, of redundant farm buildings for holiday accommodation and use as a functions venue. This monitoring formed the second, and final, part of the programme of works with the initial part being a historic building record carried out in 2009 before any other works started on site (Alston, 2009).

1.2 Bruisyard parish is located some 6km north-west of Saxmundham in east Suffolk close to the upper reaches of the River Alde. Local soils are largely dominated by the drift deposits formed of the clay with flints Till characteristic of areas to the west of the A 12. Bruisyard Hall lies 800m east of the parish church and just to the north of Bruisyard Street and close to the 25m OD contour. Hall Farm is to the south east of Bruisyard Hall with the building group forming the subject of this conversion being 120m south of the hall on the eastern side of a small watercourse (see Fig. 1). Bruisyard Hall is a substantial later 16th century brick mansion, listed grade II*, which is on the site of Bruisyard Abbey; a medieval nunnery of the Order of St Clare, which is also a Scheduled Monument (SM no. 21317; see also Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. BUD 001).'

1.3 The relevant historic building record noted above identified the western barn in the complex to be converted as being a 'rare and historically important 16th century timber-framed stable range that flanked the entrance to the contemporary hall' (Alston, 2009). The southern barn is of early 19th century date with the adjoining cattle yard and shelter-shed having been added in the mid 19th century. Ground works for this conversion which included insertion of walls within the complex in addition to an extension on its western side and service trenches therefore had the potential to reveal archaeological deposits of 16th century, or earlier, date.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Four visits of varying length were made to monitor the excavation of foundation and service trenches and inspect the upcast spoil. The trenches were mechanically excavated with site visibility varying between good outside the existing structures and moderate for the shorter lengths within the building complex. Ample opportunity was available to trowel clean the trench sides within the buildings as the depth reached remained within safe limits; however the external extension footings could not be entered due to their greater depth and potential instability. Spoil was stockpiled on site facilitating its inspection for upcast finds. The trenches examined were plotted in relation to the existing structures and a number of digital images were taken on each visit to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The monitoring results can best be described under the various areas that were examined (see Figs. 2 & 3).

3.2 The foul water processing system for the building complex utilises a large tank which was already in place some 90m to the south-west of the site close to Hall Farm when the relevant connecting pipe trench was examined (see Fig. 2). However nearly all of this pipe trench, which was 900mm deep and 600mm wide running parallel to and along the eastern side of the watercourse, was monitored. The observed soil profile proved to consist of 400/500mm of topsoil over a similar depth of mid brown sandy subsoil with the 900mm deep trench remaining within this subsoil deposit. Apart from occasional items of modern date the only find seen in the upcast spoil was a small fragment of dressed limestone which could have come from the nearby nunnery site.

3.3 In the north-eastern part of the building complex a 600mm wide footing along the southern, formerly open, side of what had been a mid 19th century cattle shelter (no 4 on Alston, 2009, Fig. 7) was examined (No 1 on Fig. 3). This trench was 900mm deep and the exposed profile was made up of 200mm of concrete over 100mm of a hoggin type sand and stone mix over 150mm of large and small cobble stone and small brick/tile fragments (see Appendix I- Image 2) which in turn lay over some 300mm of pale brown sand above a clean orange sand which forms the naturally occurring drift deposit to the site. It seems likely that the lower, flint cobble and brick/tile deposit was the 19th century cattle yard and shelter surface with the upper concrete surface being the 20th century yard surface above. The only finds in the upcast spoil were brick or tile fragments of later 19th/20th century date.

3.4 In the north-western part of the building complex a 650mm wide footing towards the northern end of the late 16th century stable range, later converted to a barn in the early 19th century (no 1b on Alston, 2009, Fig. 7), was also examined (No 2 on Fig. 3). This trench was 700mm deep and the exposed profile was made up of 100mm of concrete over 200mm of a hoggin type sand and stone mix which lay over a 100mm thick grey clay layer with small chalk fragments (see Appendix I- Image 3) which in turn lay over a mid brown silty sand which also formed the base of the trench. Again an earlier surface appears to have been exposed in this trench with the 100mm grey clay layer noted above probably representing a floor within what had been a stable and possibly of late 16th century date when the original structure was erected. The lower part of the trench did not reach the naturally occurring orange sand seen a few metres to the east at point No 1 but appeared to remain within a subsoil deposit which did not produce any finds.

3.5 On the western side of the farm building complex some 34m of 600mm wide footing trench were excavated for the proposed extension and examined as work progressed during two extended site visits. At the southern part of the extension footprint (No 3 on Fig. 3) the exposed deposit profile in the 1500mm deep trench was made up of 200mm of topsoil above a 500mm thick layer made up of a dark brown silty sand containing small brick and tile fragments and flint cobbles above a pale to mid brown silty sandy subsoil which contained only occasional small flints (see Appendix I- Image 4). The base of the trench remained within the lower subsoil and it appears likely that this represents a hill wash type deposit that built up close to the nearby stream in the valley base prior to the construction of the stables in the later 16th century with the upper, more mixed layer being material brought in to level up the site.

3.6 At the northern end of the proposed extension (No 4 on Fig. 3) footing trenches were 1700mm deep and with a similar exposed profile to that described in the section above with the subsoil in this area being at least 900mm thick below the 200mm of topsoil and 600mm upper mixed material. The foundation for north-eastern corner of the stables structure was exposed in the footing trenches (see Appendix I- Image 5) and this was 600mm deep within what is interpreted as a levelling up layer presumably deposited to give a flat base for the stables and raise it above the potential flood level from the stream some 15m to the west. Apart from small brick and tile fragments within the upper, mixed layer revealed in the extension footing trenches, which are likely to be of earlier 16th or late medieval date as this deposit must pre-date the stables, no finds were seen in the upcast spoil apart from a few 19th/20th century brick fragments in the topsoil.

3.7 To the north-east of the farm buildings being converted the pit for the sewage treatment plant (No 5 on Fig. 3) proved to be within a fairly recently filled in pond so only required cursory monitoring.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While the amount of ground disturbance was to a large extent limited as this development primarily concerned the conversion of existing structures some evidence was recorded for a preserved floor surface in the late 16th century stables and a yard surface in the area of the 19th century cattle shed. Damage to these surfaces was minimal during the conversion works.

4.2 The only area of extensive ground disturbance was immediately to the west of the farm buildings with the erection of an extension. These footing trenches revealed evidence that the western part of the site closest to the nearby stream had been levelled up to create a flat area suitable for the original construction of the stables above the potential flood area in the valley base. Below this levelling up material the lower, subsoil deposit was a clean, hill wash, type material with no evidence of pre 16th century activity from the area around the farm buildings.

4.2 In conclusion the site monitoring has recorded some valuable information relating to the development of this farm building complex within the constraints of what were largely minimal levels of ground disturbance.

(The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the relevant HER number- BUD 006).

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to the site agent, Peter Dearsley of Cadman Ltd, and all his site staff and sub-contractors, for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring).

References:

Alston, L 2009 The Farm Buildings, Hall Farm, Bruisyard Hall, Suffolk- Historic Building Record (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service, HER No. BUD 006, OASIS Suffolk1-66773)

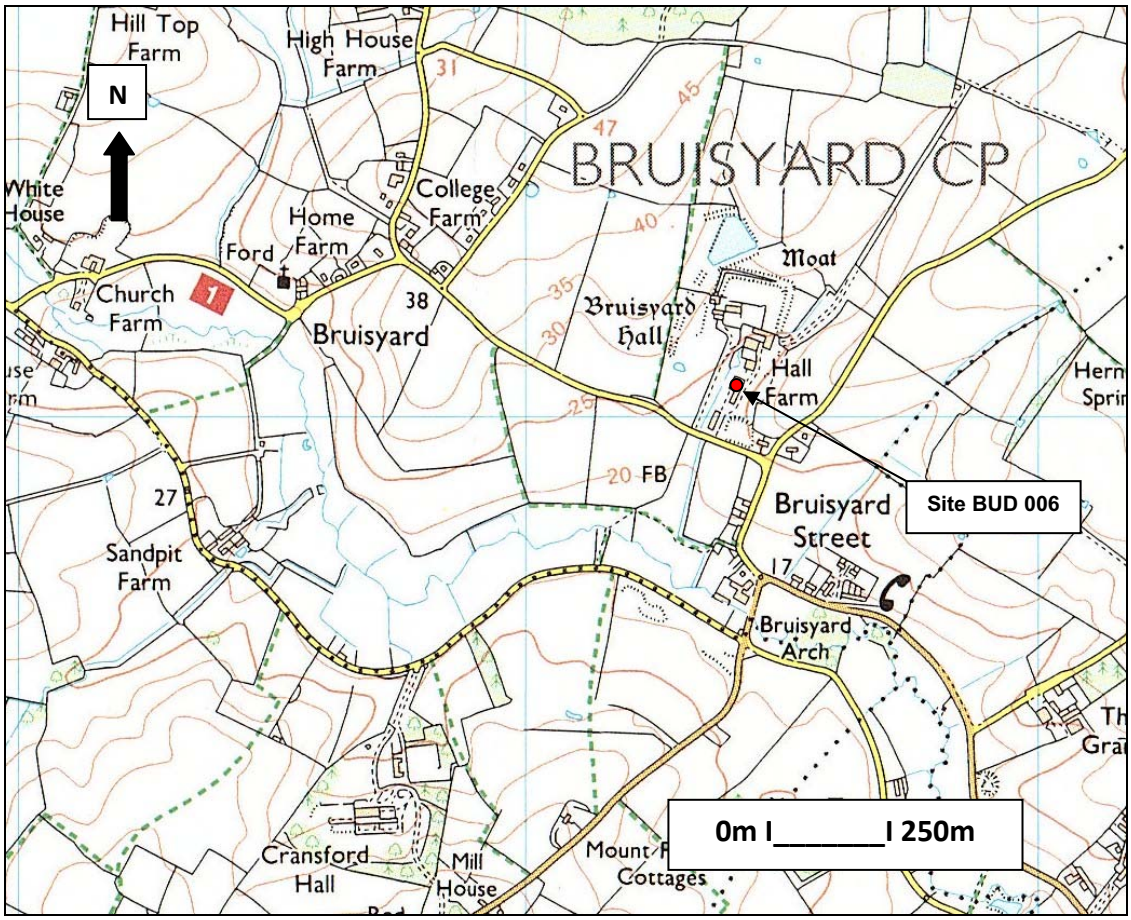

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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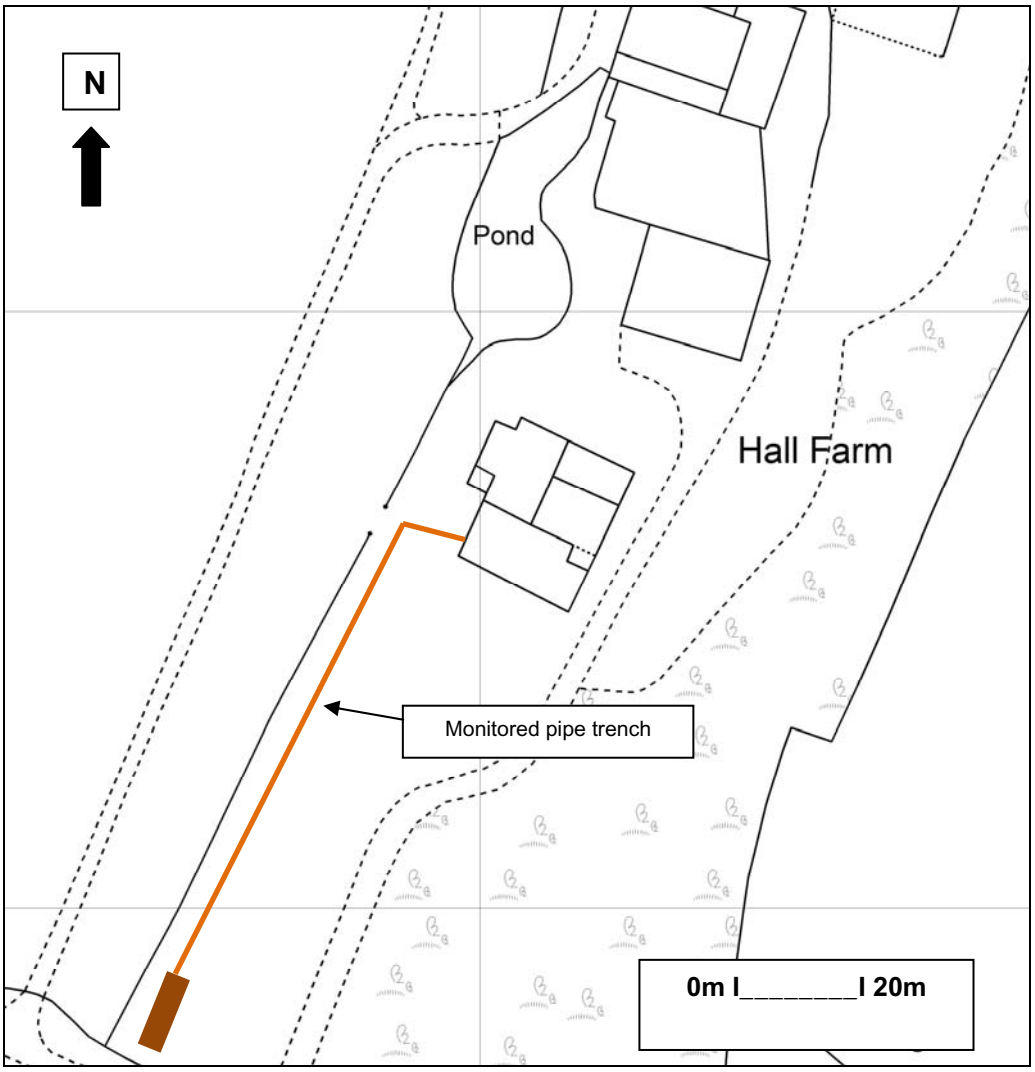

Fig. 2: Monitored service trench

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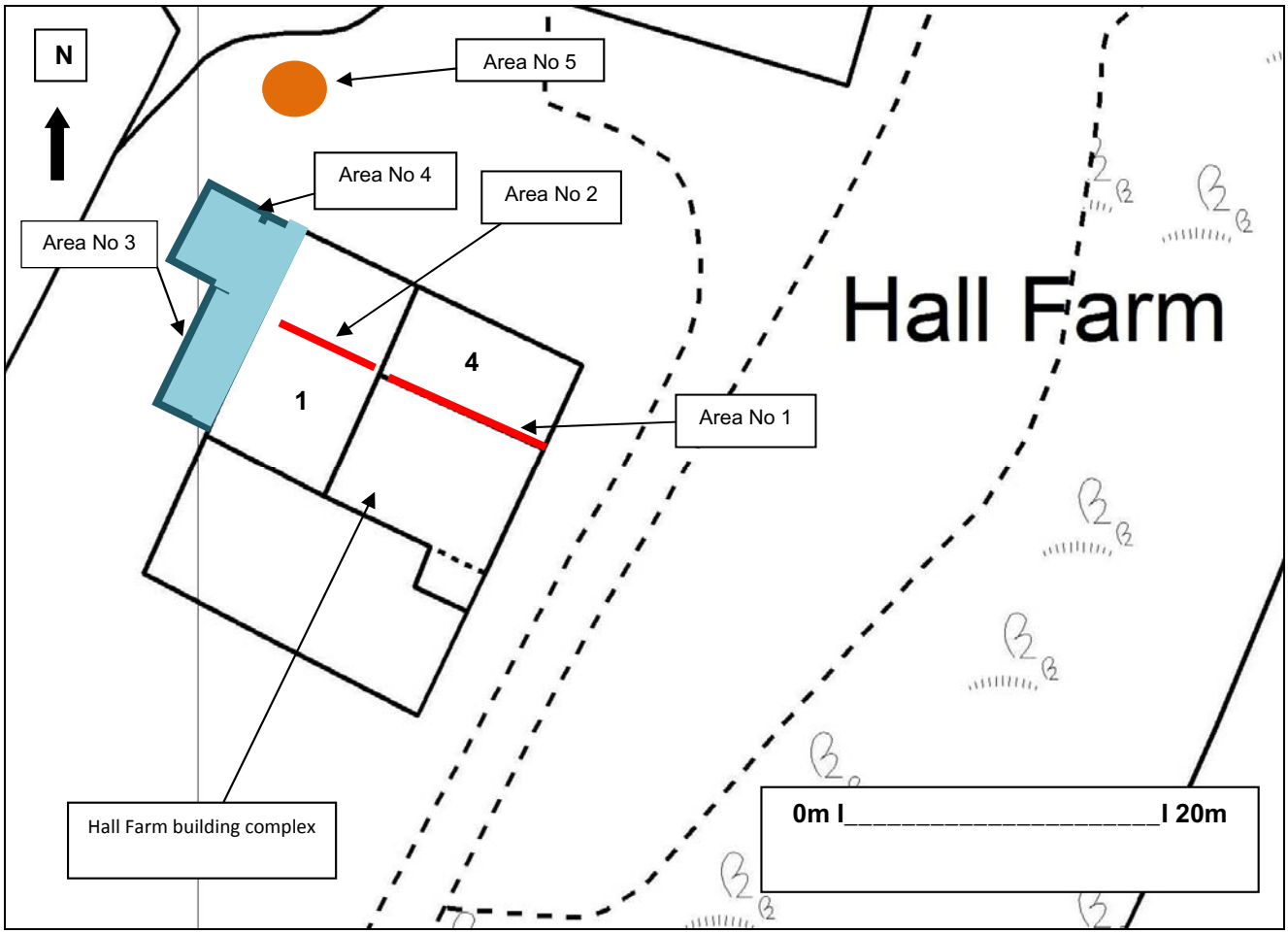

Fig. 3: Monitored foundation trenches (extension footprint in blue with footings dark blue, former stables- 1, cattle shed- 4 after Alston, 2009)

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Appendix I- Images

Image 1- site from south with Bruisyard Hall to left and farm complex to right

Image 2- area 1, former cattle shelter, concrete surface over hoggin & cobbled surface

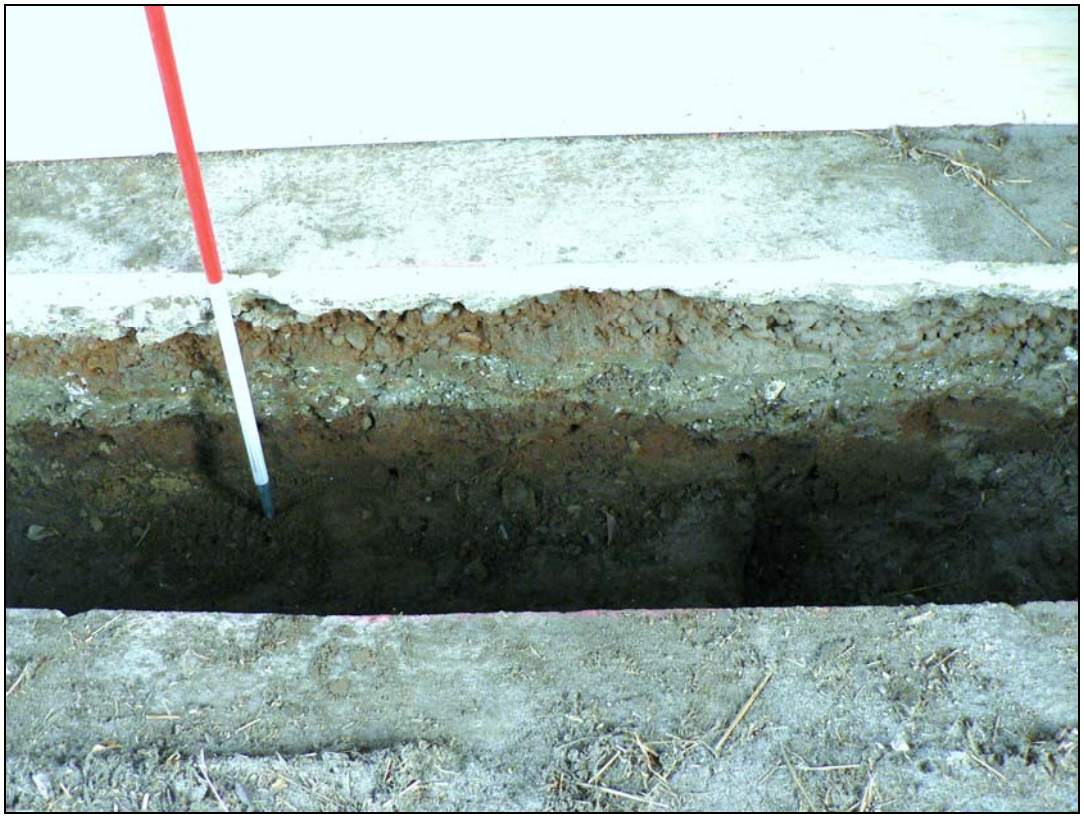

Image 3- clay floor below concrete surface (taken under indoor lighting)

Image 4- area 4, SW corner of extension footings to farm complex

Image 5- NW corner of L16C stables exposed by extension footings

Suffolk County Council

Economy, Skills and Environment

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

FARM BUILDINGS AT HALL FARM, HALL ROAD, BRUISYARD
(planning consent C/10/0061)

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.

1. Background

1.1 Planning permission for the conversion of redundant farm buildings at Hall Farm has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (consent C/10/0061 (renewing consent C/06/2354), condition 19). The local planning authority was advised that the buildings were important and needed to be recorded before development. In addition, areas of ground disturbance needed to be recorded by archaeological monitoring. The consent area lies close to the site of Bruisyard Abbey, a medieval nunnery of the Order of St Clare, which is a Scheduled Monument (SM no. 21317; see also Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. BUD 001).

1.2 A Brief and Specification for Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Monitoring was issued by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) dated 11 June 2009. Subsequently an historic building report was produced by Leigh Alston, dated October 2009. The original brief and specification has now expired and this brief is to cover the remaining aspect, which is the monitoring of groundworks.

1.3 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the SCCAS/CT at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the 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 the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at http://www.eaareports.org.uk/, sub ALGOA East).

1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the monitoring,

the assessment of the findings and the final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

1.1 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liase with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.5 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

1.6 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 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.

1.7 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the erection of the new buildings and any associated services and landscaping. The groundworks, and the upcast soil from them, are to be monitored during and after their excavation by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the historical context, development and significance of the site.

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 SCCAS/CT.

3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks

4. Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 In the case of footing and main service trenches unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begins. In the case of the topsoil stripping and levelling, or other ground reduction (including replacement of internal floors) unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begins.

4.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.

4.6 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of high resolution digital images.

4.7 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.8 Archaeological contexts should be assessed for sampling for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for the sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the 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.

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

4.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County HER.

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 HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a 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.

5.3 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 HER Officer 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 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 proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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) and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at http://www.eaareports.org.uk/, sub ALGOA East).

5.6 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT

5.7 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.

5.8 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 can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.9 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.

5.10 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: Edward Martin

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Date: 20 December 2010 Reference: SpecMon(EM)_HallFm_Bruisyard_0061_10

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.

The work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must therefore be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.