

**DAVERS COURT, SHAKER'S LANE,
BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK:**

**CONTINUOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

PCA REPORT NO: R11525

SITE CODE: BSE431

SEPTEMBER 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**Davers Court, Shaker's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7BN:
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

Local Planning Authority: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Central National Grid Reference: TL 862 645

Site Code: BSE 431

Planning Reference: SE/12/1513

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ABSTRACT

This document details the results of continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Davers Court, Shaker's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The monitoring took place during redevelopment of the site and construction of a new care home and 'wellbeing centre', with associated landscaping and parking areas. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed in the foundation trenches, or in a sample trench excavated in the western part of the site. The central parts of the site had been heavily-disturbed by the construction of the former (demolished) care home.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report describes the results of continuous archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Davers Court, Shaker's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (centred on NGR TL 862 645). The monitoring was commissioned by Castleoak during groundworks associated with the construction of a new care home and 'wellbeing centre' (Planning Ref: SE/12/1513).
- 1.2 The site is located on the eastern outskirts of Bury St Edmunds town centre. Its eastern boundary is formed by Shaker's Lane, a medieval route leading off Eastgate Street. Previous archaeological work in the vicinity has found evidence of medieval occupation and rubbish pits along the lane's frontage.
- 1.3 In view of its archaeological potential and the threat posed to any archaeological remains by the proposed groundworks, an archaeological planning condition was applied to the development by the local planning authority, in consultation with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS). This required that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording be carried out during groundworks.
- 1.4 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (Hinman 2013), in response to advice from Dr Abby Antrobus (SCCAS).
- 1.5 The aims of the archaeological investigation were:
- To 'preserve by record' any archaeological remains present within the development area.
 - To seek to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains on the site; and
 - To appraise the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and highlight any research priorities relevant to further investigation of the site (see East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24; 1997, 2000 and 2011, respectively).

2 BACKGROUND

Archaeology and History

- 2.1 Davers Court fronts onto Shaker's Lane, a historic route running into Eastgate Street. Excavations immediately to the north, at East Close, revealed medieval features along this frontage, and those of other dates (Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) No. BSE 206). There is potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, particularly on the eastern side of the development, along the lane frontage.

Topography and Geology

- 2.2 The site is located on 1st terrace gravels of the river Lark, overlying chalk bedrock (British Geological Survey 2013). The superficial geology thins out towards the south-west side of the site. In the central parts of the site, the terrace gravels have been heavily disturbed and redeposited.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of strip foundations in the north and south of the site, associated with the two 'wings' of the new building, as well as the digging of several drainage trenches, soakaways and other landscaping. The strip foundations and other groundworks were up to 2.00m deep.
- 3.2 Specific areas of monitoring comprised:
- Removal of a large tree stump in the south-eastern central area of the site.
 - Excavation of a large soakaway in the central western part of the site.
 - Digging of a drainage pipe trench in the north-west corner of the site.
 - Excavation of strip foundations in the south of the site.
 - Excavation of strip foundations in the north of the site.
- 3.3 Strip foundations in the south-west corner of the site and in the north-east, the latter associated with the new 'wellbeing centre', were excavated and concrete poured before archaeological monitoring began.
- 3.4 A 6m long trial trench was excavated under archaeological supervision towards the south-west side of the site in order to ascertain whether archaeology had been destroyed by the un-monitored strip foundations in this location. No features or finds were present.
- 3.5 Machining was carried out by the client's groundworkers, with the monitoring archaeologist present and able to stop machining when required to enable investigation. Foundation trenches and excavated spoil were scanned for finds visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.6 The locations of foundations and other monitored groundworks were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS smartrover. Sample sections showing the sequence of subsurface deposits were recorded at selected locations and are included in the site archive. Deposits were assigned unique context numbers and recorded on pro-forma recording sheets. High-resolution digital photographs were taken of the site, foundations and sample sections.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 No archaeological features were present in any of the strip foundations or other areas of ground disturbance which were monitored; nor were any finds of pre-modern date observed or recovered.
- 4.2 The natural geology of chalk bedrock (1001) capped by sand and gravel river terrace deposits (1004)=(1005) was sealed across the majority of the site by made ground (1002) associated with the construction of the former (demolished) care home. This made ground comprised mixed mid brown sandy silt and orangey-brown sandy gravel containing fragments of modern brick, tile and concrete. It was up to 1.00m deep in the central parts of the site, directly overlying the natural geology. The composition of this layer indicates that the natural river terrace gravels have been heavily-disturbed and mixed by the past construction activity in this area of the site.
- 4.3 The made ground was shallower towards the south-west corner of the site, averaging only 0.51m and directly overlying the chalk. The river terrace deposits were not present here.
- 4.5 The terrace sands and gravels were particularly thick towards the northern and north-western edges of the site, being over 1.00m deep in the north-west corner. The chalk bedrock was not encountered in this area despite excavation to a depth of more than 2.00m below modern ground level. They were sealed by around 0.80m of overburden, comprising made ground (1002) and topsoil (1003) in the north-west corner of the site and just made ground in the central northern area.
- 4.6 The level of the natural geology varied across the site. Towards the north-west and south-west corners of the site, it was fairly consistently present at just over 40m above Ordnance Datum (40.01-40.17m OD). In the central western area, the level was slightly lower (39.90m OD), indicating either an original syncline in the slope of the site or past truncation impacting on the surface of the geological horizon. The level of the chalk rose to the east, in line with the general slope of the surrounding landscape, and was encountered at 40.82m OD towards the south-eastern part of the site.
- 4.7 A strip of land along the eastern edge of the site forms a pronounced bank/ terrace. This area, extending along the west side of Shaker's Lane, was considered prior to the fieldwork to be the main area of archaeological potential. However, as a number of trees with Preservation Orders (TPOs) are located on the bank, the current development will not impact on this area and no groundworks were carried out here during the monitoring.
- 4.8 It is not certain from the archaeological monitoring whether the absence of archaeological features on the majority of the site is the result of past truncation or whether the area (except for the un-investigated Shaker's Lane frontage) is a genuine archaeological 'blank'. When

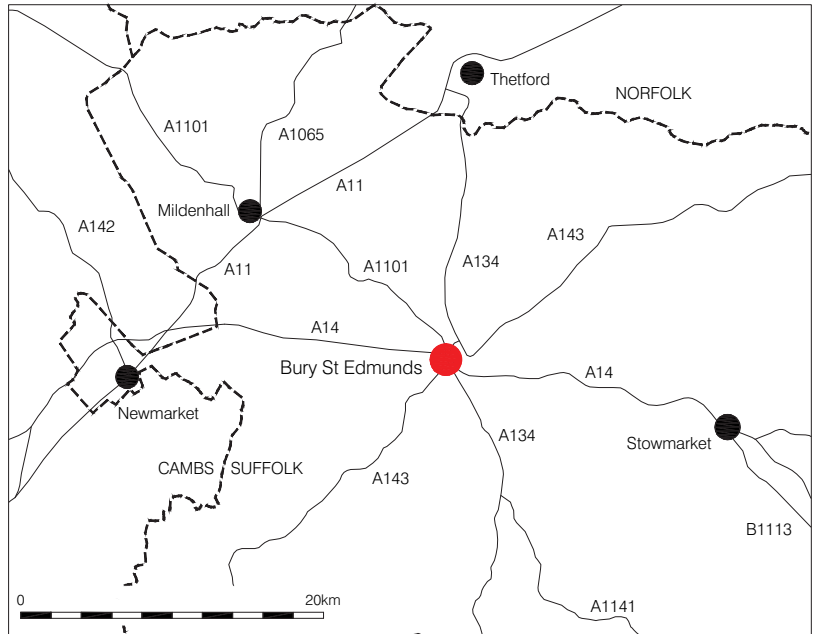
viewed alongside the negative evidence from the neighbouring Eastgate Rise site, to the west, where a single possible Roman field ditch was encountered (in addition to post-medieval/ modern agricultural features), the latter interpretation is plausible.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or finds were present in any of the foundation trenches or other areas of ground disturbance which were monitored.
- 5.2 The central parts of the site have been truncated by the construction of the former (demolished) care home. Deep made ground, partly comprised of disturbed and redeposited river terrace gravels, is present in this area.
- 5.3 There appears to have been less past ground disturbance and truncation along the western edge of the site, in what was previously the gardens of the care home.
- 5.4 The main area of archaeological potential, along the Shaker's Lane frontage (the eastern site boundary), contains a number of protected trees and will therefore not be impacted upon by the development. No groundworks took place in this area during the monitoring. However, the pronounced bank/ terrace in this part of the site suggests that the ground has not been significantly impacted upon by the construction of the former care home.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 The monitoring and recording was carried out by Karl Hanson and managed by Dr Daryl Stump and Mark Hinman. The project was monitored for SCCAS by Dr Abby Antrobus. PCA are grateful to Castleoak for commissioning and funding the project. Karl Hanson is grateful to Chris Dodsworth, Site Manager for Castleoak, for his kind assistance on site.



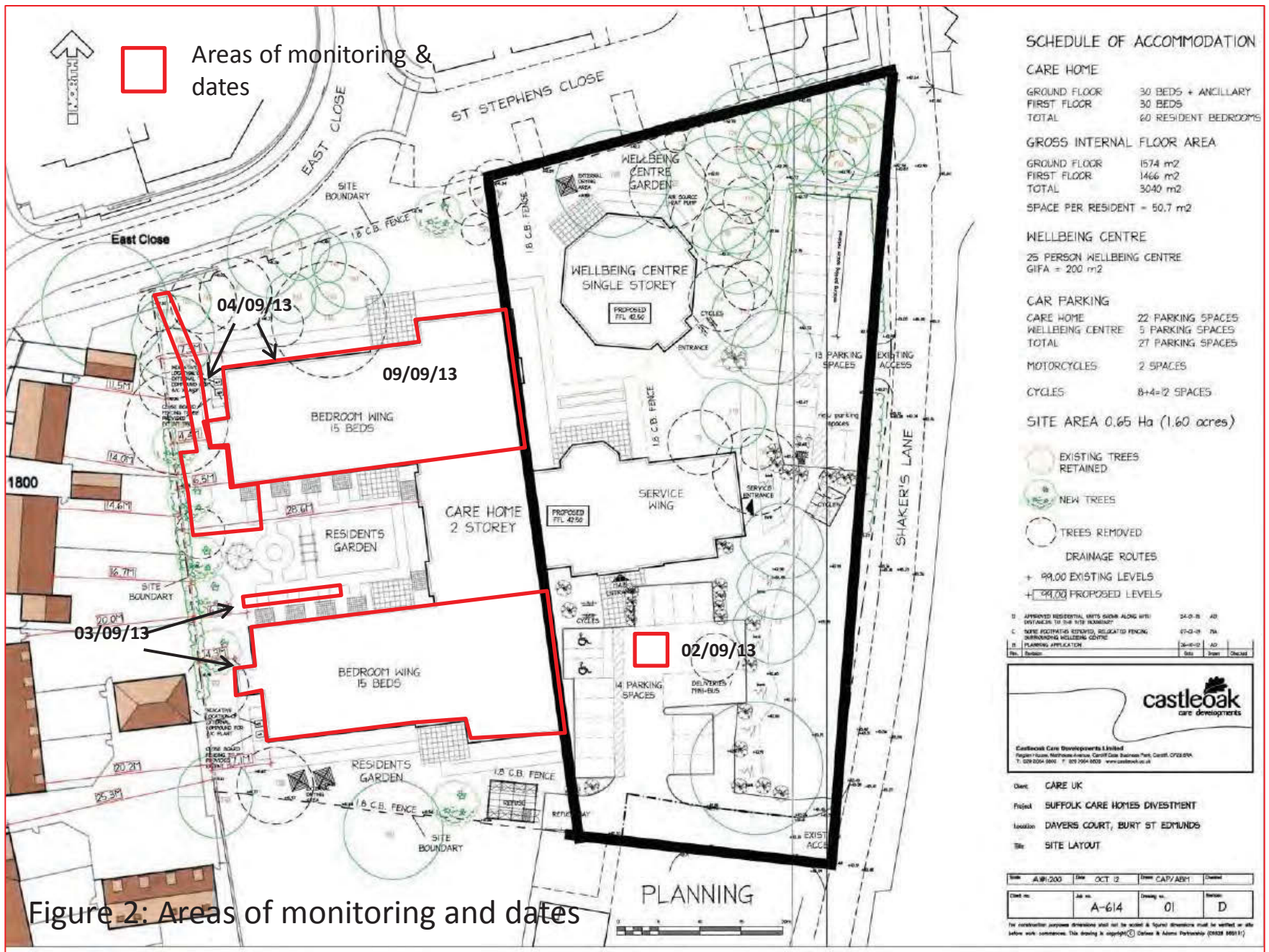


Figure 2: Areas of monitoring and dates

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Cut	Category	Comments
1000	N/A	Layer	Demolition layer
1001	N/A	Natural Geology	Chalk bedrock
1002	N/A	Layer	Made ground
1003	N/A	Layer	Topsoil
1004	N/A	Natural Geology	Mid orangey-brown sand and gravel river terrace deposits
1005	N/A	Natural Geology	Mid orangey-brown sand and gravel river terrace deposits (=(1004))

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1: View of site from south-west corner



Plate 2: view of site from south-east



Plate 3: View of site from south-east



Plate 4: Foundations of 'wellbeing centre', view north

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-159682

Project details

Project name	Davers Court, Bury St Edmunds: Monitoring
Short description of the project	Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Davers Court, Shaker's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk during groundworks associated with the construction of a new care home. No archaeological features or finds were present. The natural river terrace deposits in the central parts of the site had been heavily-disturbed by the construction of the former (demolished) building.
Project dates	Start: 02-09-2013 End: 11-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BSE431 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SE/12/1513 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS Davers Court,

Shakers Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7BN

Postcode IP32 7BN

Study area 0.60 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 862 645 52 0 52 14 48 N 000 43 40 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 39.90m Max: 40.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Abby Antrobas

Project design originator Mark Hinman

Project director/manager Mark Hinman

Project supervisor Karl Hanson

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Castleoak

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive notes No finds.

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council

Digital Archive ID BSE431

Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	GPS survey data, digital photographs of site, groundworks and sample sections
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Archive ID	BSE431
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	Paper archive comprises context register x 1, context sheets x 6, trench/ intervention register x 1, trench sheets x 6, permatrace section sheets x 2. 21 page bound 'grey' report containing two location plans and 4 colour plates

Project bibliography

1

	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Davers Court, Shaker's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7BN: Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
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Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Stapleford
Description	21 page bound A4 report with two location plans and four colour plates

Entered by	Tom Woolhouse (twoolhouse@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	20 September 2013

APPENDIX 4: LOG OF MONITORING VISITS

Date	Areas/ Groundworks Monitored
02/09/13	Removal of large tree stump in central south-eastern area of site. No archaeology. Modern made ground associated with construction of previous care home only.
03/09/13	Supervised machine excavation of a 6m long 'evaluation' trench in the south-west of the site, to test whether archaeology had been destroyed by the un-monitored strip foundations in the south-west corner. No archaeology. Modern made ground up to 0.82m deep overlying terrace sands/ chalk geology. Monitored excavation of strip foundations in south of site. No archaeology.
04/09/13	Monitored excavation of soakaway and 300mm drainage pipe trench in north-west of site. Up to 1.78m deep. No archaeology. Topsoil and modern made ground up to 1.10m deep overlying river terrace deposits/ chalk.
05/09/13	No new groundworks.
06/09/13	No new groundworks.
09/09/13	Monitored excavation of strip foundations up to 2m deep in north of site. No archaeology. Made ground 0.60-1.00m deep overlying river terrace gravels.
10/09/13	No new groundworks.
11/09/13	Site Manager advised that area of archaeological interest along eastern site boundary (Shaker's Lane frontage) is protected by TPOs and would not be affected by development. Site meeting with SCCAS Archaeologist. No further monitoring required.

PCA

PCA SOUTH

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