

**Archaeological Evaluation on
Land Next to Stratford Lodge
Great Wenham Road Stratford St Andrew
Suffolk**

Grid Reference: TM 357 601
Planning Application No: DC/16/3616/FUL
Oasis Ref: 269152
HER No: SSA 021
Event No. ESF 25349
HER Inv No. 9193706

**Commissioned by:
Anglia Design**

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**ARCHAEOSERV
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried by trial trenching; the work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by James Rolfe of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated 15th of June 2016

Two trenches were excavated to the extent of 10m by 1.80m, width, each to cover the footprints of the new dwelling and cart lodge.

No other archaeology was noted throughout the evaluation in either of the two trenches.

1. Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Reference: TM 357 601

1.1 **Geology:** The geology at this location consists of Crag, a Pre-Anglian, fluvial and coastal deposit of the Pleistocene Age from 1.5 million years ago (BGS, 1990).



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Figure 1. Stratford St Andrew and Site location

1.2 Stratford St Andrew is a small village in north-east Suffolk, the village lies mainly to the west of the A12 trunk road where it crosses the River Alde.. The site lies within the historic core of Stratford St Andrew adjacent to the church of St Andrew. The topography at this location is on a ridge above low-lying land to the north, which runs into the River Alde valley.

2. Planning Background

2.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. The Planning Authority were advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

2.2 The planning application, DC/16/3616/FUL, was granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council, for the erection of a new dwelling and cartlodge with the following condition:

2.3 In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, the condition states: *' No development shall take place within the area indicated on Drawings as referred to in Condition 2 until the applicant/developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Reason: *'To ensure the proper recording of archaeological artefacts.'*

2.3 The evaluation will be carried out based upon the recommendation of the local planning authority guidance (*Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan Management Policies DPD July 2013*) following guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).

The relevant local planning policies also include the Suffolk Coastal Plan (2nd Amendment March 2006): AP7.

2.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)

The NPPF recognizes that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- . The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- . The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- . Significance (of the heritage asset) can be lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- . Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset

without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;

- . Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets;

Suffolk Coastal's current Local development Plan was replaced in 2013: *Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan Management Policies DPD July 2013* and is summarized as follows:

- . for development(s) that might affect sites that are known or are likely to contain archaeological remains, the Council will require, where necessary, a professional archaeological assessment as to the likelihood that remains might be encountered and their importance;
- . On the basis of the assessment, a professional field valuation should be conducted in cases where the assessment suggests that important archaeological remains may exist but it is unable to be precise about their nature or extent.

.Preservation of archaeological remains in situ where the assessment and/or field evaluation indicate that the remains are important. Even where lesser remains exist, consideration must be given to the desirability of preserving them in situ.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

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3.1 Archaeological Background

The SCCA/CT brief states that: *'This proposal lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, close to the site of an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, discovered in the adjacent quarry (HER: BAA 008), along with a Bronze Age settlement site.'*

There is a strong possibility that further heritage assets of archaeological importance will be encountered in that part of the application area lying outside that which has been previously quarried, given the proximity to known remains.

Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. '(SCCA/CT Brief, 2016)

4. Results

4.1 Fieldwork

5.11 Two trenches were excavated to cover the house (Tr 1) and cartlodge (Tr 2) footprints (see fig.).

5.12 The Trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections of the trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:10.

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

5.14 A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

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

5.16 The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ClfA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

4.2 The Evaluation Trenches

Trench 1. was located on an east-west alignment to cover the house footprint, no archaeology was noted.

Trench 2 was excavated on a north-south alignment to cover the cartlodge footprint, no archaeology was noted.

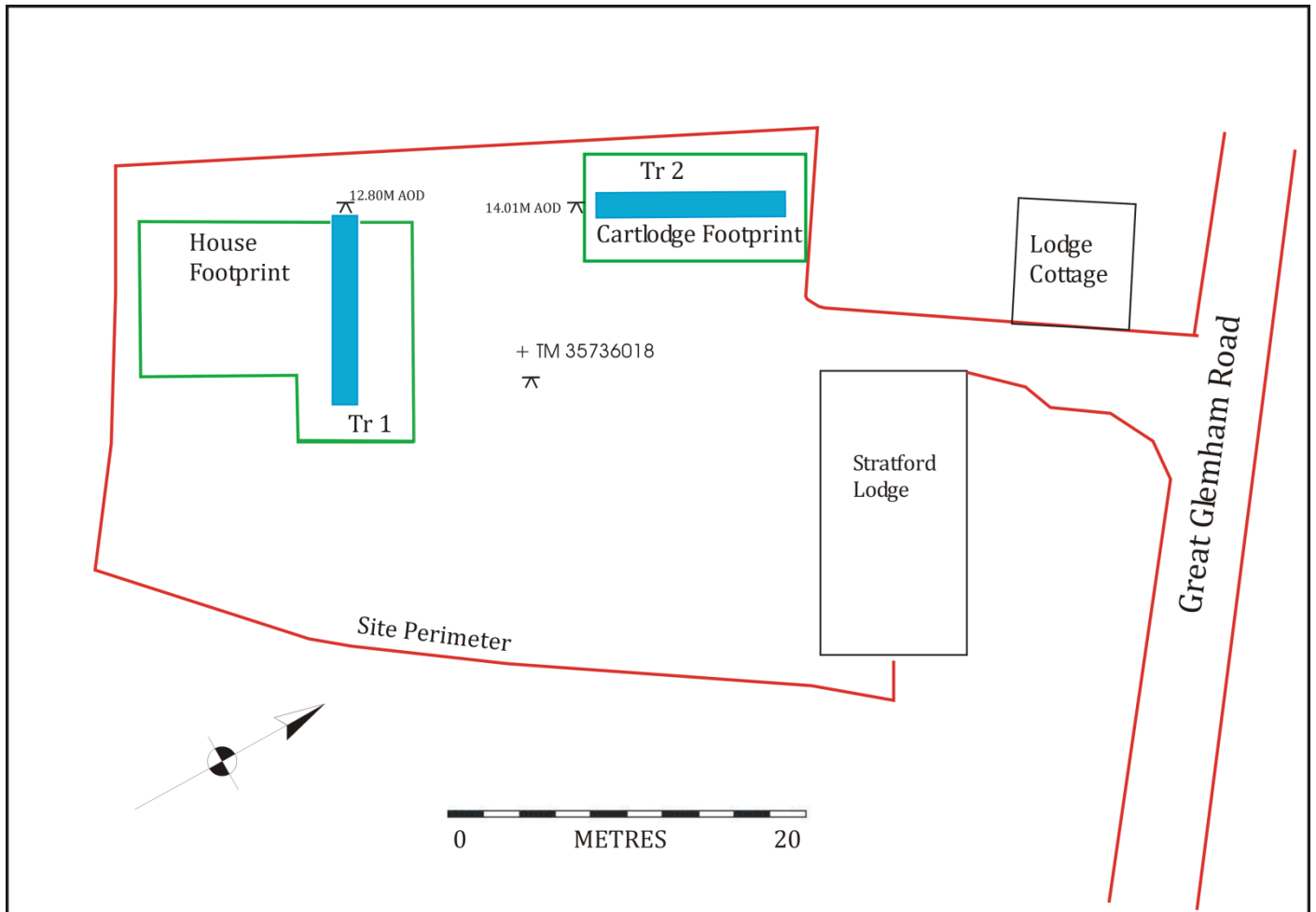


Figure 2. Post-excavation plan of trenches, scale 1:50

5. Interpretation and Discussion

The County Historic Environment Record stated that this site is in close proximity to the medieval church of St Andrew (SSA 005) and a medieval and Roman artefact scatter (SSA 010). No evidence was found for earlier occupation on the site in spite of the close proximity to the church; the scatter mentioned in the HER did not extend into the area of the development. Further research is needed to consolidate the evidence for Stratford St Andrew's past as per the research frameworks in 'Medlycott, 2011'.

6. Conclusion

This evaluation was successful in demonstrating that no archaeology was present within the development area, therefore it is unlikely that any archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development.

7. 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>.

8. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Perry Hunt of Stratford Lodge who funded the project and commissioned this work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work. Rachael Abraham of the SCCA/CT produced the brief for this project.

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Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excitation of site, from the north



Plate 2. Trench 2 post-excavation, from the south



Plate 3. Trench 1, post-excavation , from the east



Plate 4. Trench 1, sample section, from the south



Plate 5. Post-excavation of site, from the south-west



Plate 6. Trench 2 sample section, from the east
