

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row Mildenhall, Suffolk

Client:

Mrs Hermione Bird

Date:

February 2017

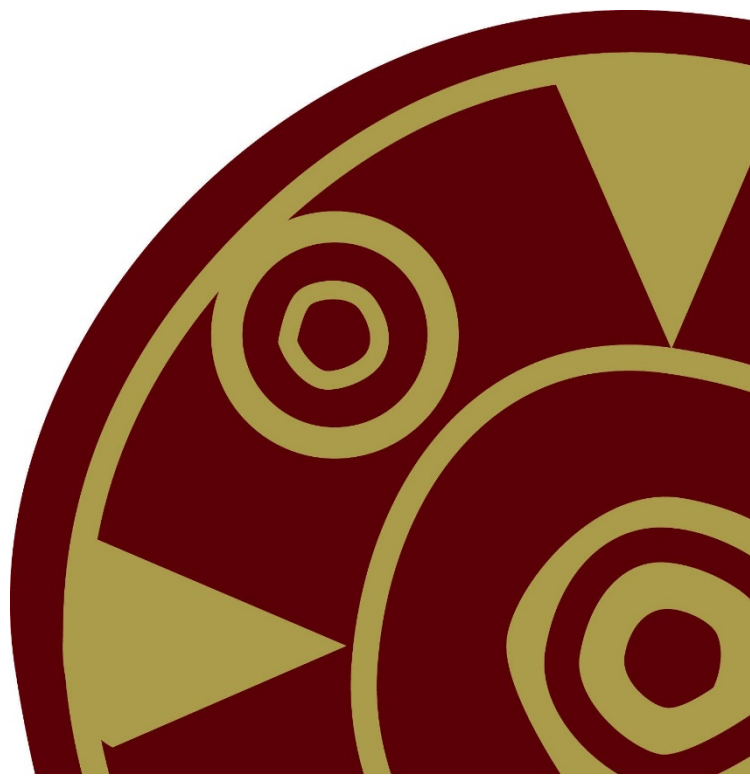
MNL 773 / ESF24183

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2017/018

Author: Timothy Schofield HND BSc MCifA

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New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row,
Mildenhall, Suffolk
MNL 773

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2017/018

Author: Timothy Schofield

Illustrator: Timothy Schofield

Editor: John Craven

Report Date: February 2017

HER Information

Site Code: MNL 773

Site Name: New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row
Mildenhall, Suffolk

Report Number 2017/018

Planning Application No: DC16/0162/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: February 2017

Grid Reference: TL 6719 7533

Oasis Reference: 255508

Event number: ESF24183

Curatorial Officer: Kate Batt

Project Officers: Timothy Schofield

Client/Funding Body: Mrs Hermione Bird

Client Reference: n/a

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Timothy Schofield
Date: February 2017

Approved By: John Craven
Position: Project Manager
Date: 22/02/2017
Signed:

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Summary

Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, during the excavation of a service trench run and a cess pool pit, for a new caravan park within a former open field. The monitoring visit was undertaken on the 22nd February 2017.

The stratigraphic sequence was similar across the site with topsoil (0001) recorded to a minimum thickness of 0.32m and a maximum of 0.35m, overlying the natural superficial geology layer (0002). No archaeological finds or features were present.

1. Introduction

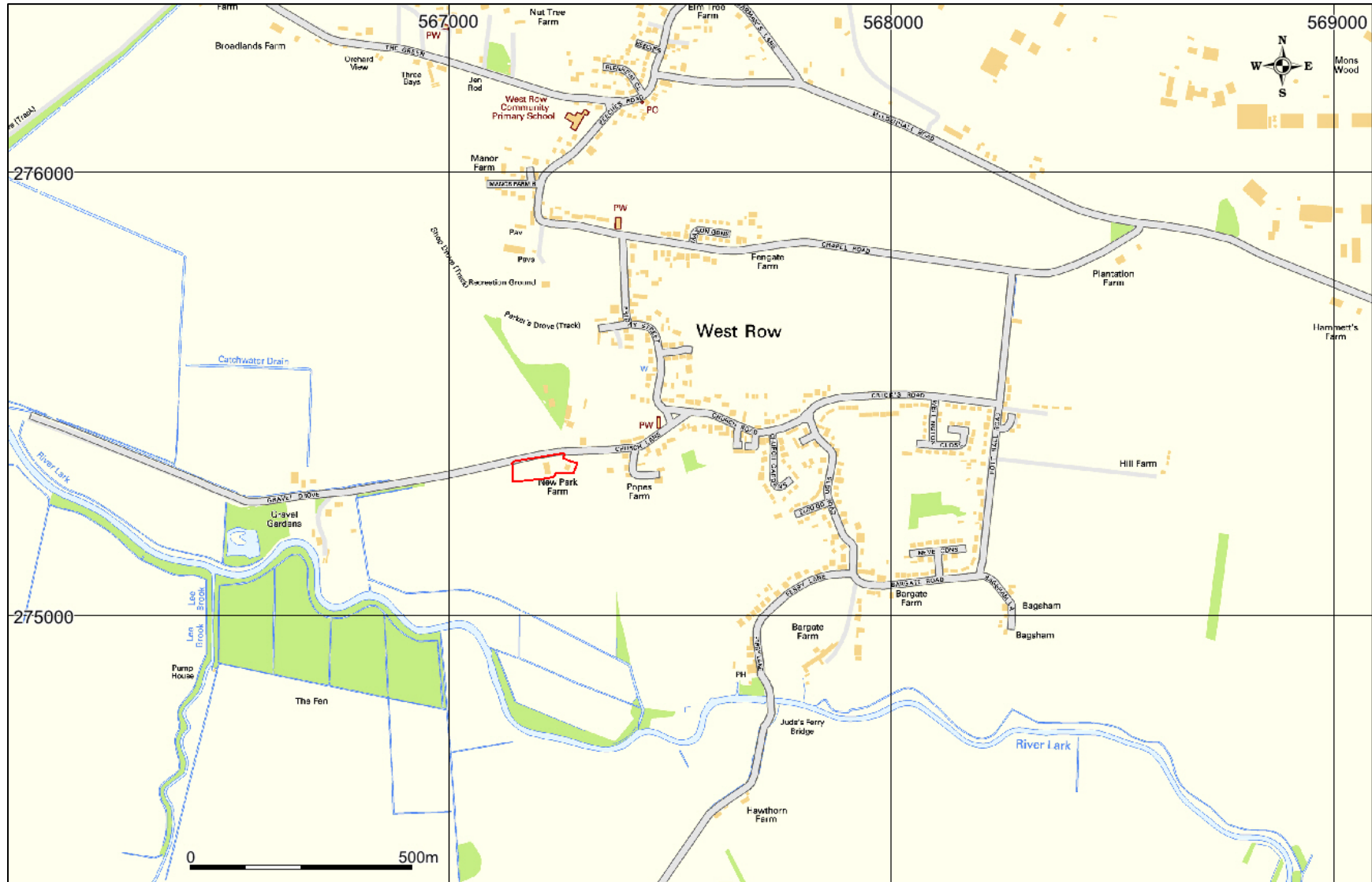
Continuous archaeological monitoring in order to record any heritage assets encountered during the excavation of a service run trench and a cess pool pit was undertaken at New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, by Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC). The project was commissioned by Mrs Hermione Bird.

The project was a requirement of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS CT) the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), as a condition on planning application DC/15/0754, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The scope of the project was originally detailed in an evaluation Brief (dated 09/06/2015), produced by the archaeological adviser to the LPA, Kate Batt of SCCAS/CT. Following an onsite meeting, where the client explained the nature of the proposed groundworks, this requirement was reduced by Kate Batt to an archaeological monitoring, and then described in a SACIC Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2).

The site, which was largely an open field covered in scrub and bramble, lies to the west of the village and is bounded by a barn to the east, and a wooden fence to the north, south and west,. The ground works for the development consisted of a service trench and associated excavations for an ablution block supplying the proposed caravan pitches. The remainder of the works, a minimal amount of levelling and rotovation prior to reseeding, and creation of an access road by laying hardcore onto existing groundlevels, did not require monitoring.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located in an open small field to the west of the 20th century farm house, over a sedimentary bedrock described as Zig Zag Chalk Formation, formed 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period and deposited in warm shallow chalk seas (BGS 2017). No superficial deposits had been recorded by the BGS for this location at the time of report production.



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Figure 1. Site location

3. Archaeology and historical background

As stated in the project Brief the site lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, on the edge of the historic settlement core of West Row and on the fen edge, a position which is typically favourable for early occupation. The site also lies 380m to the north of the River Lark which again is known to be a focus for past settlement activity.

Prehistoric finds scatters are located in the vicinity, a Bronze Age perforated stone adze (MNL 031) was found 150m to the west, a Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead and a polished axe head (MNL 063) were also recorded 300m to the northwest, but due to the negative project results a full Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) search has not been commissioned. Suffolk Archaeology however has previously carried out extensive programs of archaeological fieldwork, typically of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation and funerary sites, throughout Mildenhall and neighbouring parishes such as Lakenheath and Isleham, Cambridgeshire.

New Park Farm is of 20th century date, the site being depicted on late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping as an open northern part of the large field that currently lies to the south (Fig.2).

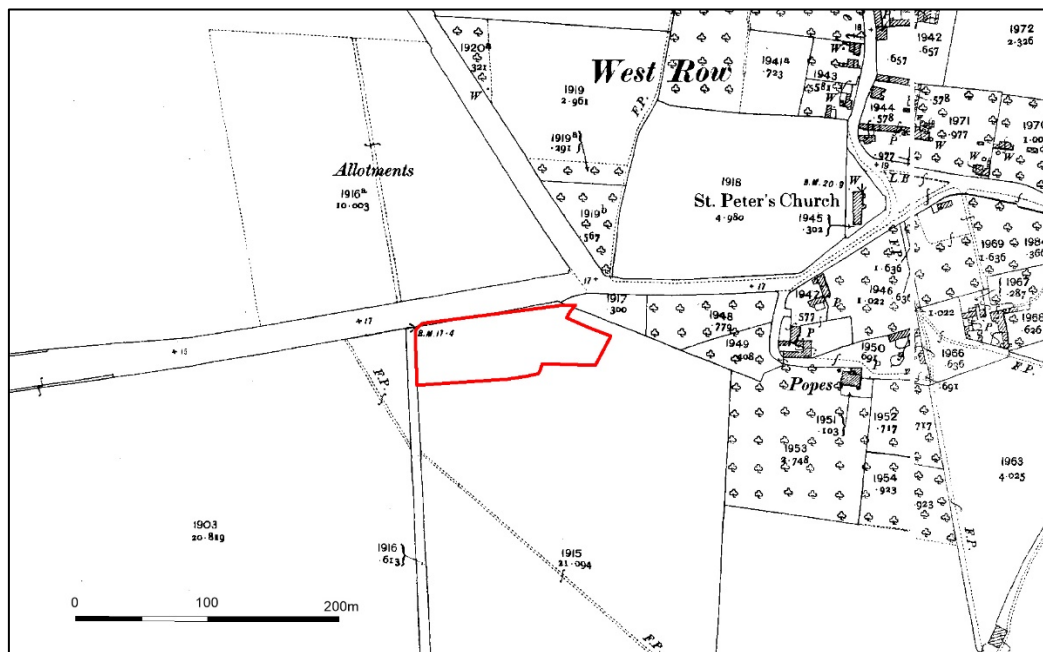


Figure 2. Site as depicted on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882

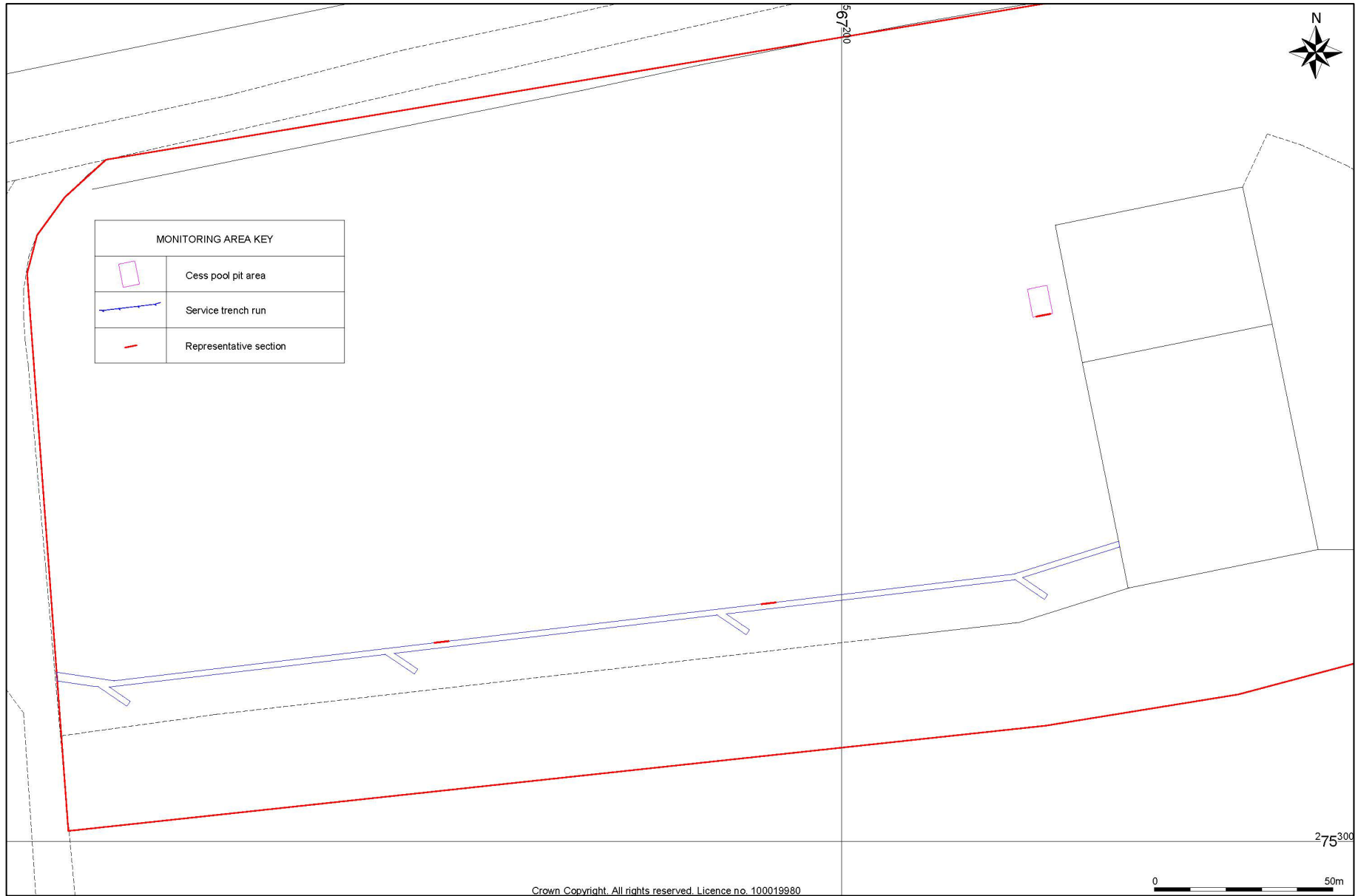


Figure 3. Service trench and cess pool monitoring representative section location

4. Methodology

A 180° back acting JCB 4CX was used to excavate the 75m length of service pipe trench run with a 0.30m bucket, a 1.50m toothless ditching bucket was used on the cess pool pit excavation.

The trenches were inspected for archaeological features and finds, spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected. Sample sections and appropriate digital photographs were taken in both areas to record the deposits encountered.

5. Results and Discussion

A service trench run and a cess pool pit excavation (Fig. 3) were monitored on the 22nd February 2017 on a former open field. Excavations were inspected for archaeological features and finds, spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected. The topsoil had been turned over and modern farm rubbish had been removed from the grass and bramble covered surface, natural superficial deposits were observed to be relatively undisturbed. No finds or features were present in either of the areas monitored.

Three sample sections were recorded during the monitoring (Fig.4). Sections 1, 2 and 3 were broadly similar comprising topsoil overlying natural chalk with pockets of sand superficial geology. Topsoil depths changed very little from 0.32 to 0.35m, the topography of the area was relatively flat.

At the top of the stratigraphic matrix in all sections was topsoil layer 0001, comprising dark yellow brown, loose peaty silt, with occasional angular and rounded flint gravel stones, present to a maximum depth below the surface of 0.35m in sections 1 and 2 and a minimum depth of 0.32m in Section 3. Modern agricultural plastic rubbish and modern CBM (not retained) was present within this layer.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence below the topsoil, was a natural superficial geology (0002) comprising light grey white chalk with friable yellow sand patches that was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. No archaeological features or finds were cut into this layer.

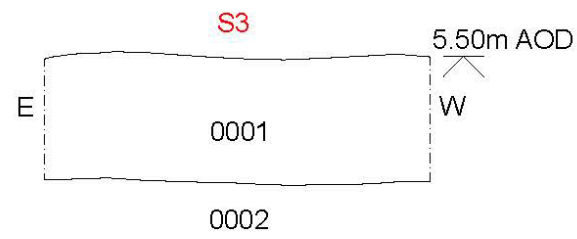
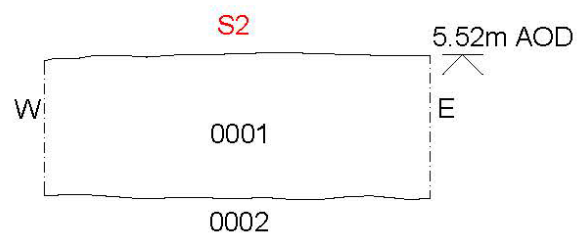
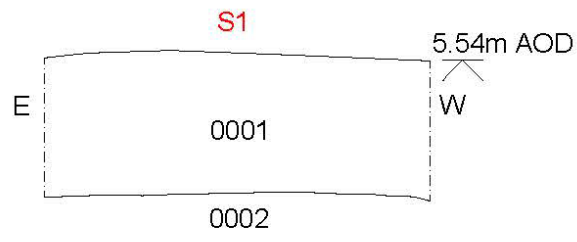


Figure 4. Representative sections



Plate 1. Cess pool trench, looking south.



Plate 2. Section 1, looking south.



Plate 3. Service trench run, looking west



Plate 4. Section 2, looking north



Plate 5. Section 3, looking north

6. Archive deposition

The paper, digital and photographic archive is currently held by SACIC and is to be deposited in the SCCAS Archaeological Store in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

7. Acknowledgements

The project was managed by John Craven who also provided advice during the production of the report. The fieldwork was carried out, and the report produced by Timothy Schofield. The report illustrations were created by Timothy Schofield and the report was edited by John Craven.

8. Bibliography

Websites

British Geological Survey, 2017, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Appendix 1. OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: suffolka1-255508

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | New Park Farm, Church Lane, West Row |
| Short description of the project | Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, during the excavation of a service trench run and a cess pool pit, for a new caravan park within a former open field. The monitoring visit was undertaken on the 22nd February 2017. The stratigraphic sequence was similar across the site with topsoil (0001) recorded to a minimum thickness of 0.32m and a maximum of 0.35m, overlying the natural superficial geology layer (0002). No archaeological finds or features were present. |
| Project dates | Start: 22-02-2017 End: 22-02-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | MNL 773 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH MILDENHALL New Park Farm, Church Lane, West Row |
| Study area | 0.63 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 6719 7533 52.350079753214 0.455000647802 52 21 00 N 000 27 18 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 5m Max: 5m |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation | Suffolk Archaeology CIC |
| Project brief originator | Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist) |
| Project design originator | Kate Batt |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Project director/manager | John Craven |
| Project supervisor | Timothy Schofield |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Landowner |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Mrs Hermione Bird |

Project archives

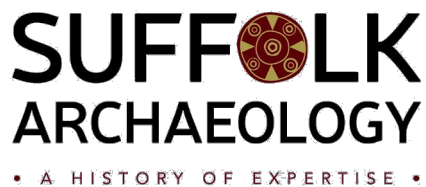
| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Suffolk HER |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Suffolk HER |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | New Park Farm, Gravel Drove, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Schofield, T, P. |
| Other bibliographic details | R2017/018 |
| Date | 2017 |
| Issuer or publisher | Suffolk Archaeology CIC |
| Place of issue or publication | Needham Market |
| Description | A4 bound report with figures |
| URL | www.suffolkarchaeology.co.uk |
| Entered by | Tim Schofield (tim.schofield@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 23 February 2017 |

OASIS:

Appendix 2. Written Scheme of Investigation



New Park Farm, Church Lane, West Row Mildenhall, Suffolk

Client:

Hermione Bird

Date:

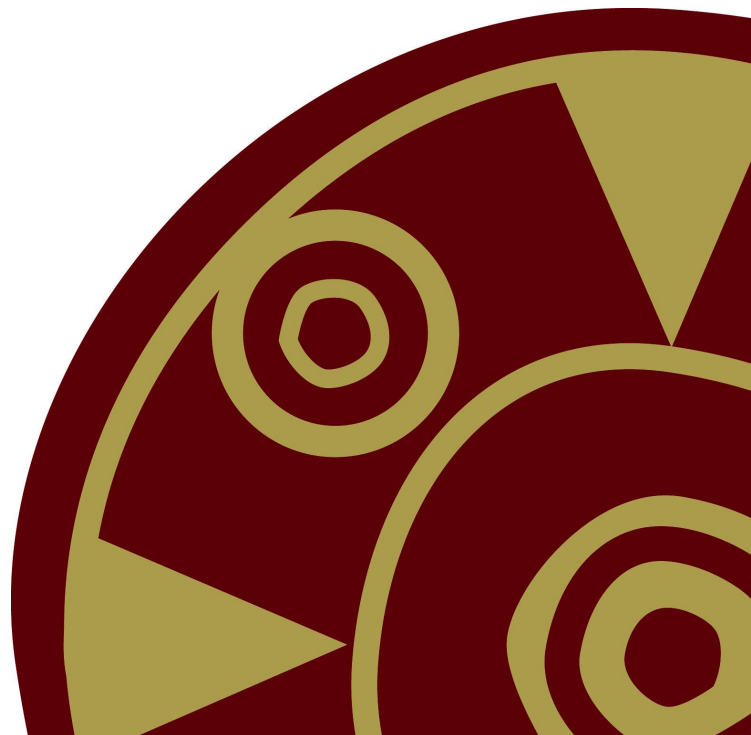
June 2016

MNL 773 / ESF24183

Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment – Archaeological Monitoring

Author: John Craven

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Project details

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Planning Application No: | DC16/0162/FUL |
| Curatorial Officer: | Kate Batt (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service) |
| Grid Reference: | TL 6719 7533 |
| Area: | c.0.6ha |
| Site Code/HER Event No: | MNL 773 / ESF24183 |
| Oasis Reference: | 255508 |
| Project Start date | TBC |
| Project Duration: | c. 1 day |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Client/Funding Body: | Hermione Bird |
| SACIC Project Manager | John Craven |
| SACIC Project Officer: | TBC |
| SACIC Job Code: | MNLNPF001 |

1. Introduction

- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has been contracted to monitor groundworks for the development of a caravan park at New Park Farm, Church Lane, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk
- The archaeological monitoring is required by a condition on the approved planning application DC16/0162/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The original requirement for a trial trench evaluation of the site was detailed in a Brief issued by Kate Batt of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the planning authority, dated 09/06/2015. Following an onsite meeting, where the client explained the nature of the proposed groundworks, this requirement was reduced by Kate Batt to an archaeological monitoring. This Written Scheme is therefore designed to address the standard requirements of an SCCAS Monitoring Brief.
- The ground works for the development are to consist of a service trench and associated excavations for an ablution block supplying the proposed caravan pitches. The bulk of the site, currently an open field covered in scrub and bramble, is to receive a minimal amount of levelling and rotovation prior to reseeding, with an access road to be constructed by laying hardcore onto existing groundlevels.
- The Brief states that the condition has been placed as the site lies *'in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It is situated on the edge of the historic settlement core of West Row and is also located on the fen edge which was a focus for early occupation. Large scatters of prehistoric and Roman material have been found in proximity to the site recorded by PAS and HER (MNL031, 063), which is indicative of occupation and funerary activity.'*

Suffolk Archaeology has also carried out extensive programs of archaeological fieldwork, typically of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation and funerary sites, throughout Mildenhall and neighbouring parishes such as Lakenheath and Isleham, Cambridgeshire.

New Park Farm is of 20th century date, the site being depicted on late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping as an open northern part of the large field that currently lies to the south.

- Groundworks for the development, namely the service trenching and associated excavations, therefore have high potential for encountering, and negatively affecting, archaeological deposits. The aim of the monitoring is to record all such deposits which are damaged or removed by the sites development.

2. Archaeological method statement

- SACIC will be given 2 days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- An event number and site code have been obtained from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be included on all future project documentation.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed.
- A full Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) search will be completed if deemed necessary by SCCAS following completion of fieldwork and initial assessment of results. The HER search reference number will be included in the report.

2.1. Fieldwork

- The Brief requires observation of the ground works for any soil stripping and foundations on site. These ground works will be monitored as they progress or soon afterwards (as appropriate to the scale of development) by an SACIC Project Officer or Supervisor, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quote cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits.
- Fieldwork standards will be guided by '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003) and '*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).
- The exposed surface from the soil strip/trenching will be examined for archaeological features and finds and limited hand cleaning will be undertaken to clarify small areas as necessary and as health and safety considerations allow. Exposed archaeological features will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Cremations will be 100% bagged and taken as samples. If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal SACIC conventions, compatible with the County Historic Environment Record (HER), will be used during the site recording. Site records will be made using a continuous numbering system. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, either by hand or using a RTK GPS. Plans and sections of individual

features, soil layers etc will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A digital photographic record will be made throughout the monitoring works.

- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. All finds will be brought back to the SACIC office at the end of each day for processing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done inhouse, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features where possible and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor (East of England), on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site SCCAS will be informed so that a decision can be reached as to whether the remains should be lifted or left *in situ*/redeposited within the trench. If remains are to be lifted then a Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained. Any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been dealt with.

2.2. Post-excavation stage

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be scanned to form a digital archive. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. Finds will be recorded and archived to minimum standards laid down by relevant groups (e.g. the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery or the Medieval Pottery Research Group). Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.

- Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to Institute for Conservation (ICON) standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011).
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. A draft digital copy will be submitted to SCCAS for approval within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The report will include a statement as to the value and significance of the results in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.
- On approval a digital .pdf, and a printed and bound copy of the report, will be submitted to the County HER. An unbound copy of the report will be included with the project archive. A digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software, will also be supplied.
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied on request.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A copy of the completed project OASIS form will be included as an appendix.
- The finds from the project will be deposited in the SCCAS archaeological store together with the project archive. The project costing includes the fee charged by SCCAS for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- The project archive will be consistent *with Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015). The project archive will also meet the requirements detailed in 'Archaeological Archives in Suffolk' (SCCAS 2014).

- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCCAS storage facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCCAS.

Project Staff

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Project Manager: | John Craven |
| Site monitoring: | SACIC Project Officer or Supervisor |
| Finds Manager/Post Roman finds: | Richenda Goffin |
| Roman Pottery/General finds: | Stephen Benfield (freelance) |
| Prehistoric pottery: | Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East) |
| Prehistoric flint: | Sarah Bates (freelance) |
| Faunal remains: | Julie Curl (freelance) |
| Human remains: | Sue Anderson (freelance) |
| Environmental samples: | Val Fryer (freelance) |

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