

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Land to rear of the Old Post Office Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk

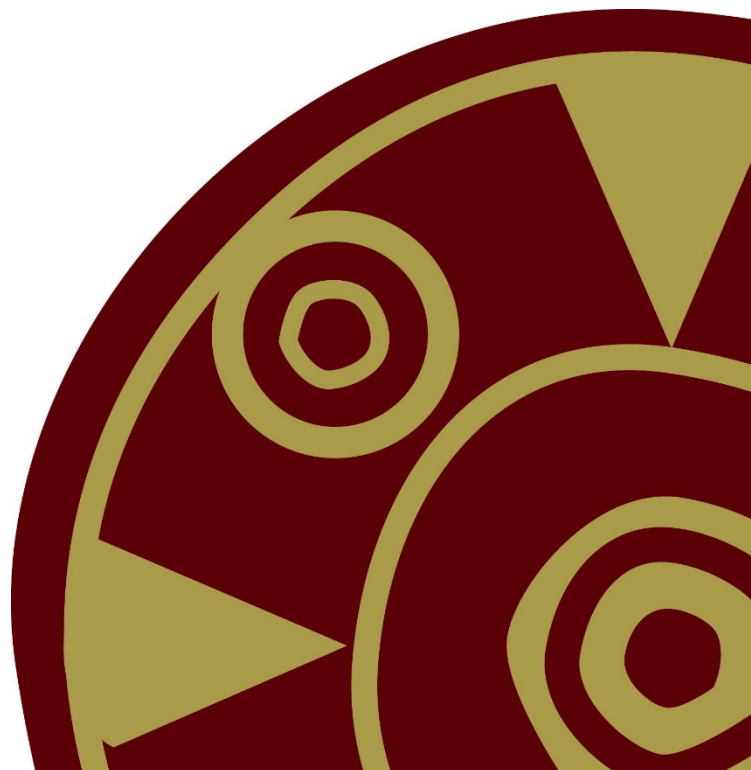
Client:

C. E. Davidson Ltd

Date:

February 2017

FSF 090
Archaeological Monitoring Report
SACIC Report No. 2017/012
Author: M. Sommers
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Land to Rear of Old Post Office Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk

FSF 090

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2017/012

Author: Mark Sommers

Report Date: February 2017

HER Information

Site Code (event no.) FSF 090 (ESF25406)

Site Name: Land to Rear of Old Post Office, Church Street,
Fressingfield, Suffolk

Planning Application Nos: 2526/15

Dates of Fieldwork: 6th - 8th February 2017

Grid Reference: TM 2616 7740

Oasis Reference: suffolka1-271990

Curatorial Officer: James Rolfe

Project Officer: Mark Sommers

Client/Funding Body: C. E. Davidson Ltd.

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

Prepared By: M. Sommers
Date: 9th February 2017

Approved By:
Position:
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, did not lead to the discovery of any significant archaeological deposits or features. Two large depressions, probably former clay extraction pits, that were probably backfilled in the 19th century, were recorded (Mark Sommers, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for C. E. Davidson Ltd.).

1. Introduction

Planning consent (application no. 2526/15) for the construction of a single dwelling on a parcel of land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, was granted but with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological works be in place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first phase of the agreed programme was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation, which was carried out on the 4th October 2016. It revealed two or more substantial intercutting/adjoining pits, infilled with a deposit containing late medieval and post-medieval material. Their original function is uncertain but they appear to have been infilled/used for rubbish disposal. The recovered finds material indicates activity in the area during the 15th -16th century and possibly suggested the presence of a kiln within the settlement, producing similar wares contemporary to known kilns at Metfield and Weybread (Craven 2016).

Given the presence of potentially significant archaeological features on the site a further phase of work was stipulated. This was to comprise the continuous monitoring of groundworks in order to provide a record of any further features or deposits that may be encountered. To define the work required a Brief was written by James Rolfe of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced detailing the methods to be employed to fulfil the Brief; this was subsequently approved by the Curatorial Officer (Appendix 1).

The archaeological monitoring was carried out during February 2017 by Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company (SACIC) who were commissioned and funded by the developer, C. E. Davidson Ltd.

The National Grid Reference (NGR) for the centre of the development area is TM 2616 7740. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

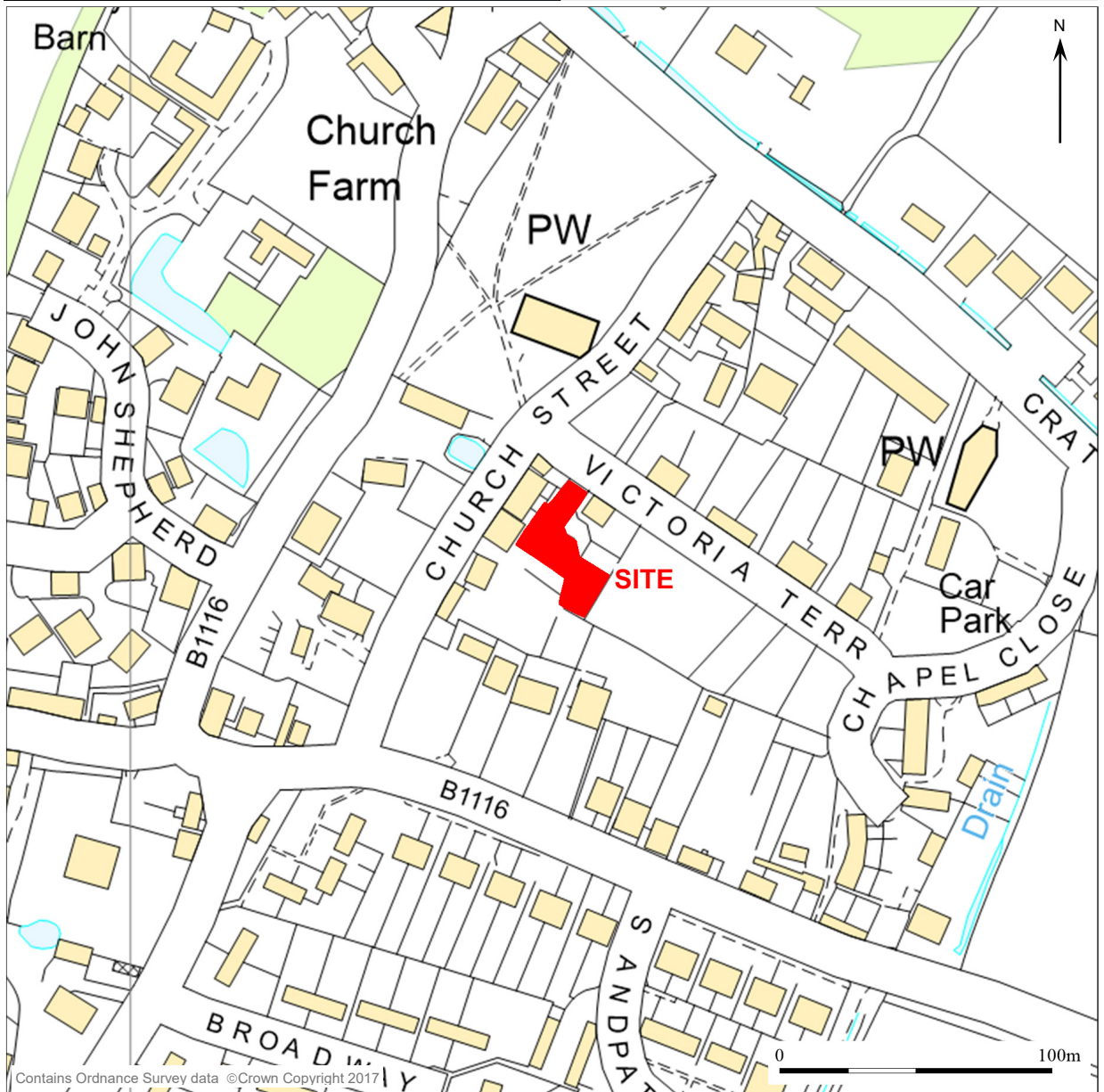
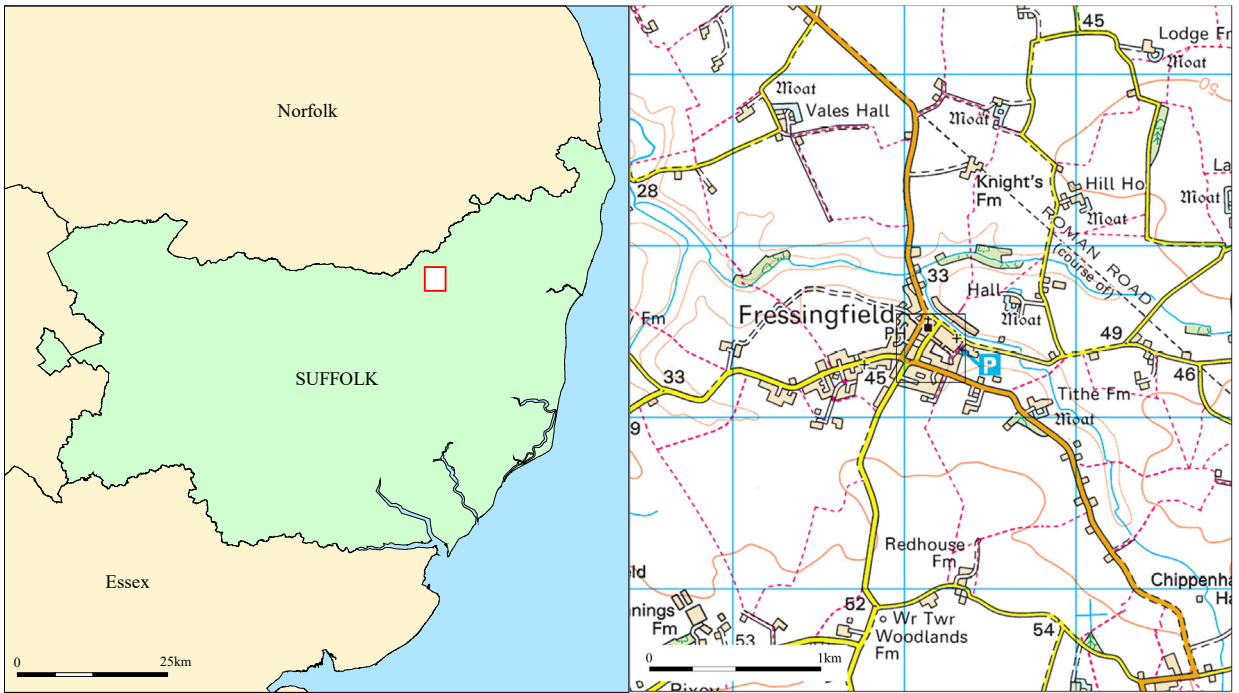


Figure 1. Location map

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of c.42m above Ordnance Datum, towards the top of a natural slope that descends north towards a tributary stream of the River Waveney. The site geology consists of superficial deposits of glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation overlying sedimentary bedrock of Norwich Crag Formation Sand (British Geological Survey website).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The archaeological and historical background to this site has been detailed in the preceding evaluation report (Craven 2016). In summary, a search of the Historic Environment Record indicated that the site was located within the medieval core of Fressingfield with numerous findspots and medieval or early post-medieval structures in the vicinity, including the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul which stands some 65m to the north. Individual findspots of artefacts dating to Iron Age and Saxon periods have also been recorded in the local area.

4. Methodology

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the excavated footing trenches whilst the work was underway, in order to identify and record any significant archaeological features and/or deposits that may be exposed. Scaled plans and sections would have been drawn had any significant remains been exposed, but in the event the prime method of recording was through the use of digital photography with appropriate scales in place.

The resultant spoil was visually examined but no significant artefacts were identified although occasional sherds of clearly 19th century or later pottery was occasionally seen.

It should be noted that the area was wet with a high or perched water table resulting in water pooling in the bases of the footing trenches leading to occasional collapses which rendered their close examination hazardous.

5. Results

The site was visited on the 6th, 7th and 8th February 2017 (plate 1) to monitoring the ongoing excavation of the footing trenches for the proposed structure. See Figure 2 for a plan of the monitored footings.

The footing trenches were excavated to a depth of c. 0.8m. For a greater part of the building footprint these cut deeply into the underlying natural subsoil of yellow/orange clay with occasional sand pockets/lenses (plate 2). This was encountered at depths of between 0.2m and 0.3m, below an overburden of dark rich topsoil (the area having been reduced by c.0.3m since the undertaking of the evaluation which recorded depths of between 0.5m and 0.6m).

Large depressions or pits were noted in two areas of the footing trenches; marked 0007 and 0008 in Figure 2. A large part of the footings for the southeast end of the house were cut through depression 0007, which measured over 6m by 5m. It was filled with a dark grey/black silty deposit (0009) which continued below the base of the footing trench. It was overlain by a thick layer of dark reddish sand and gravel (0010), which in turn was overlain by modern deposits of hardcore and rammed yellow sand and gravel associated with an area of modern hardstanding (plate 3). A layer of crushed chalk/mortar with fragments of soft red brick was occasionally present between layers 0009 and 0010 (plate 4). Other than the occasional fragment soft red brick and tile, the only other artefact recovered was a small piece of 19th century pottery which came from the lower deposit (0009).

The second depression, 0008, was located in the northwest area of the footing trenches. It measured approximately 6m by 7m and corresponded with Pit 0006, identified during the evaluation (plate 5). The lower layer of fill comprised a grey silty clay (0011) which was overlain by a lighter grey clay, denser and with flecks of red brick/tile and chalk (0012), which lay below the topsoil (plate 6).

6. Finds

Only small pieces of soft red brick/tile and occasional pieces of clearly 19th century or later sherds of pottery were identified, none of which were retained for further analysis.

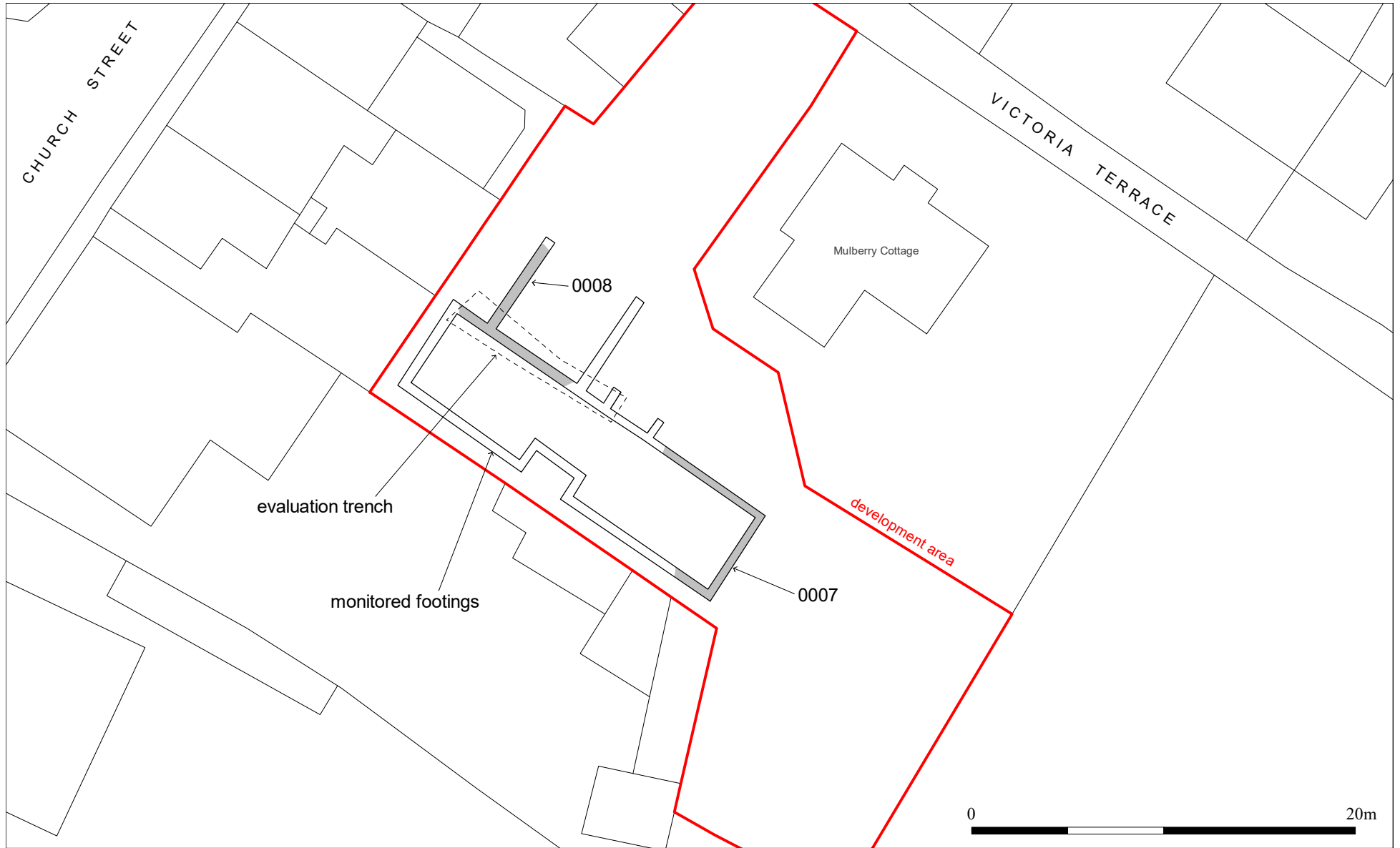


Figure 2. Plan of the monitored footing trenches

7. Discussion

No further significant archaeological evidence was noted during the monitoring of the footing trenches and no indication of a kiln or otherwise was recorded. The two depressions noted are large in size suggesting they are unlikely to have been dug simply for the deposition of waste material. It is possibly they are extraction pits cut to exploit the natural clay although given the levels of the water table they would have presumably filled with water to form ponds, similar to one on the opposite side of Church Street. They were probably backfilled in the 19th century as they do not appear on the early Ordnance Survey maps of the area (see figs. 3 and 4 of the evaluation report).

8. Archive deposition

The site archive will be sent to the County Historical Environment Record, under the HER reference, FSF 090. A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolka1-271990 (see Appendix 2 for a copy of the entry).

Plates

(Scale - 2m in length with 0.5m divisions)



Plate 1. General view of the building footprint, camera facing northwest



Plate 2. General view of footing trench showing typical soil profile, camera facing southwest



Plate 3. View of soil profile within 0007 in eastern corner of footings, camera facing southwest

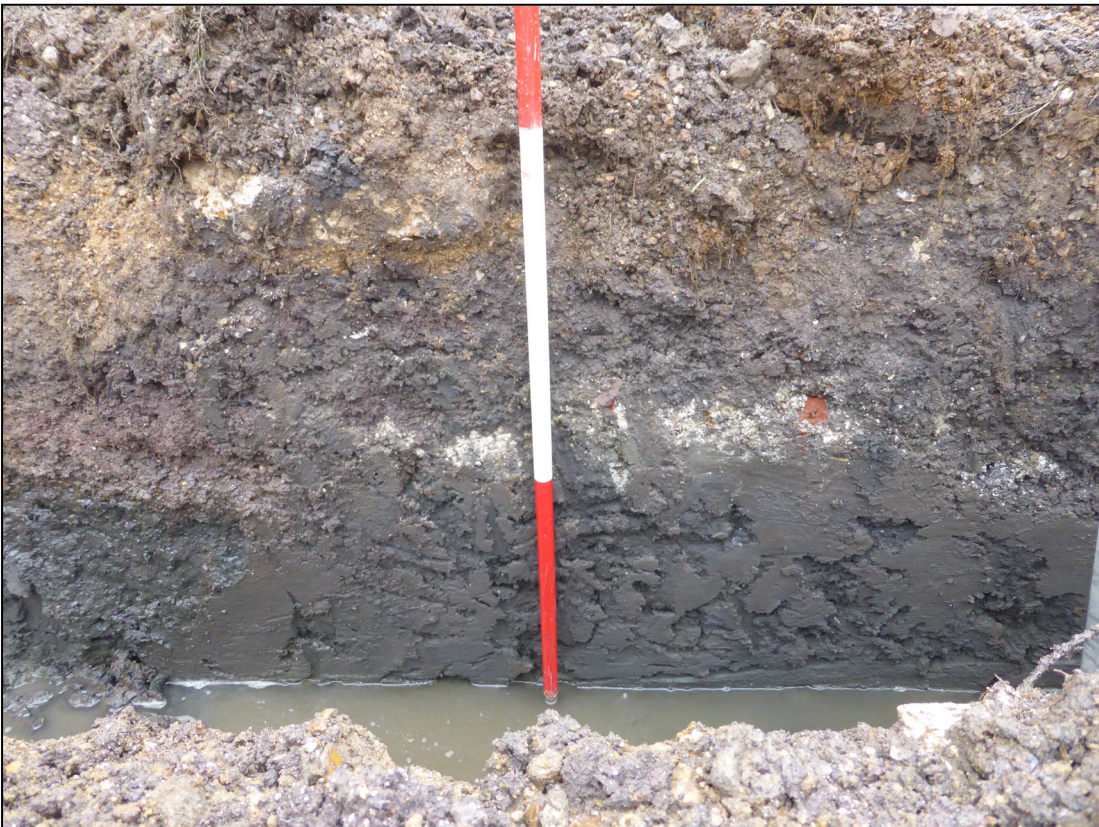


Plate 4. View of soil profile within 0007 close to eastern corner of footings camera facing southeast

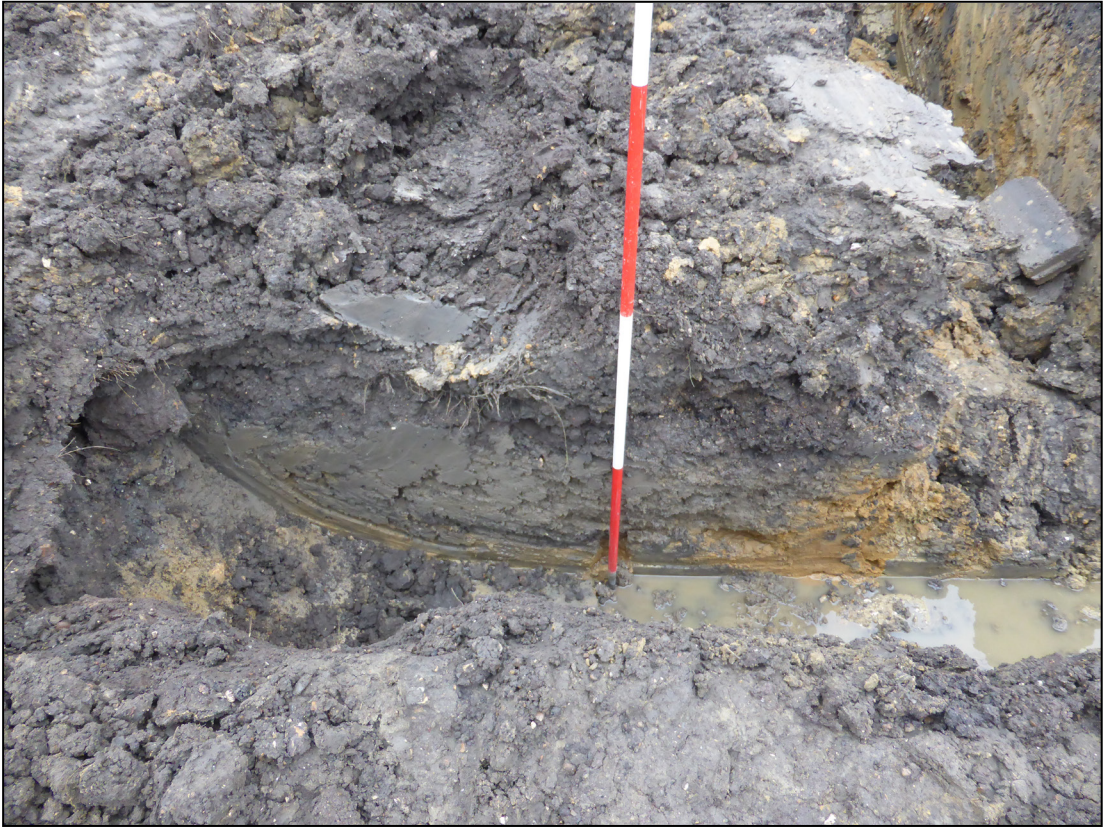


Plate 5. Southeastern edge of 0008, camera facing northeast

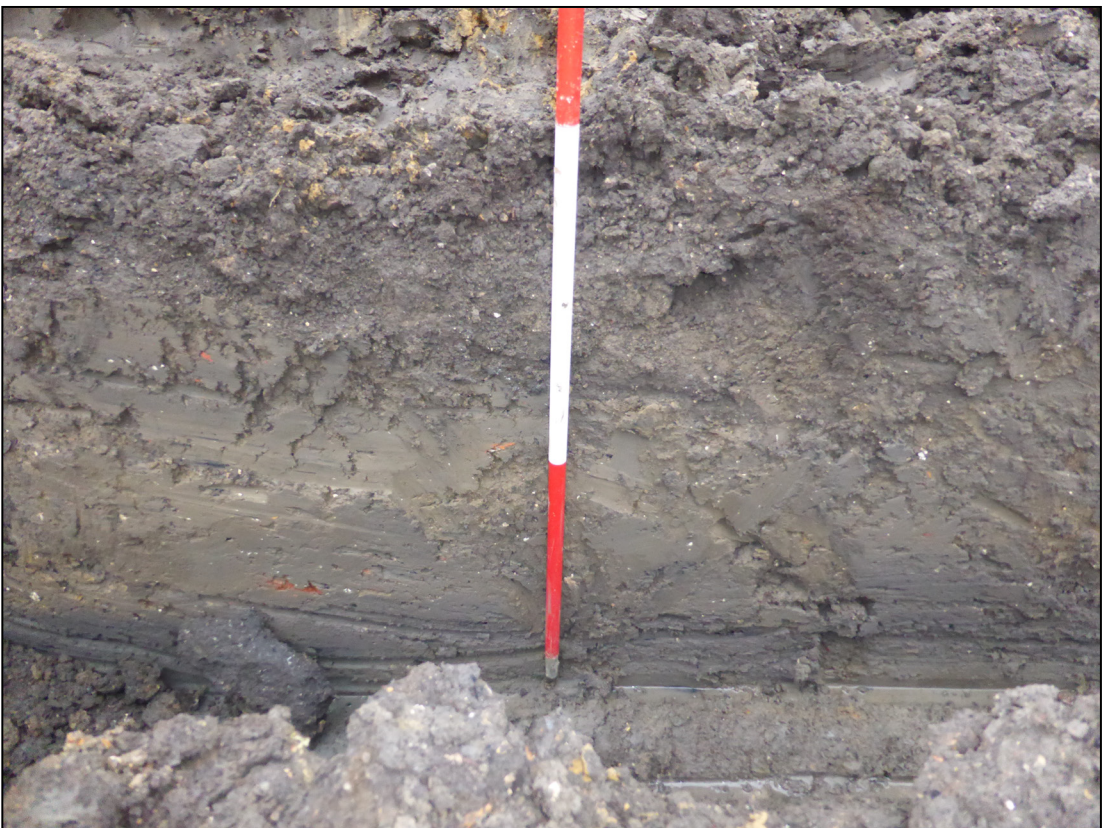


Plate 6. View of soil profile within 0008 as seen in northern footing, camera facing northeast

Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation



Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk

Client:
C E Davidson Ltd

Date:
December 2016

FSF 090
Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment –
Archaeological Monitoring
Author: John Craven
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Project details

Planning Application No:	2526/15
Grid Reference:	TM 26167740
Area:	c.161sqm
Site Code / HER Event No:	FSF 090 / TBC
Oasis Reference:	271990

Project Start date	TBC
Project Duration:	c.2 days

SACIC Job Code:	FSFOPO002
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Contacts

Curatorial Officer:	James Rolfe (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service)	01284 741225
Client/Funding Body:	C E Davidson Ltd (Nathan Davidson)	01379 388077
SACIC Project Manager:	John Craven	01449 900121

1. Introduction

- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has been contracted to monitor groundworks for residential development at Land to the rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk.
- The archaeological monitoring is required by a condition on the approved planning application 2526/15, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and is subject to a Brief produced by James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the planning authority, dated 15/12/2016.
- The condition has been placed as the site lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core.
- A trial trench evaluation of the site by SACIC (Craven 2016) revealed two or more substantial intercutting/adjoining pits, infilled with a deposit containing late medieval and post-medieval material, one reaching a depth of at least 1.65m below groundlevel. The position of the site, to the rear of buildings fronting onto Church Street, suggests that these pits lay in the rear gardens/yards, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. Their original function is uncertain but they appear to have been infilled/used for rubbish disposal.

The finds material indicates activity in the area during the 15th -16th century and possibly suggests the presence of a kiln in the settlement, producing similar wares to contemporary known kilns at Metfield and Weybread.

- Ground works for the development therefore have the potential to damage archaeological deposits. The aim of the monitoring is to record all such deposits which are damaged or removed by the sites development.
- In certain circumstances, e.g. if bonded structures such as a kiln are identified, it may be that the monitoring methodology described in this WSI becomes inappropriate to adequately record the sites archaeological deposits. In such circumstances SCCAS and the client will be consulted with a view to agreeing a revised methodology (i.e. extending footings into a targeted excavation or preservation *in situ*). Such changes may require an updated WSI and revised project costing.

2. Archaeological method statement

2.1. Preparation

- The project will be managed by SACIC Project Officer John Craven in accordance with Management of Research in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

- SACIC will be given 5 days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed.
- A new event number has been requested from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be included on all future project documentation. The existing site code, FSF 090, will continue to be used.
- The existing Historic Environment Record (HER) search carried out for the evaluation will again be used to inform fieldwork and reporting of results. The HER search reference number will be included in the report.

2.2. 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 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. A metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken during groundworks, and prior to the initial site strip.
- 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 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 removed.

2.3. Post-excavation reporting

- 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.

2.4. Archive

- 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.

2.5. Project Staff

Project Manager:	John Craven
Site monitoring:	SACIC Project Officer/Supervisor (TBC)
Finds Manager/Post Roman finds:	Richenda Goffin
Finds quantification/Small finds:	Dr Ruth Beveridge
Roman Pottery/General finds:	Dr Ioannis Smyrnaiois
Prehistoric pottery:	Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East)
Prehistoric flint:	Sarah Bates (freelance)
Faunal remains:	Julie Curl (freelance)
Human remains/Post Roman pottery and CBM:	Sue Anderson (freelance)
Environmental samples:	Anna West

2.6. Bibliography

- Brown, N and Glazebrook, J. (Eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8.
- Campbell, G, Moffett, L and Straker V., 2011, *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)*. Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- Craven, J. A., 2016, *Land to rear of the Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk*. SACIC Report No. 2016/075.
- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.
- Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No 14.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.
- SCCAS, 2014, *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*.

3. Health and safety / Risk assessment

The site will be under the control of the site owner/building contractor and SACIC staff will follow any site requirements such as inductions/PPE that are necessary. All SACIC staff are experienced in working on a variety of archaeological sites and are aware of SACIC H&S policies.

- Site staff will wear protective clothing at all times on site (hard hat, high visibility vest, steel-toe cap boots). The PO will report to the main contractor/developer at the beginning of each site visit. Most staff hold the Quarry H&S certificate and CSCS cards.
- Vehicles will be parked in a safe location.
- No holes or trenches deeper than 1.2m will be entered unless they have been suitably stepped or shored and assessed to be safe after consultation with the site contractor. They will not be entered if no-one else is in the close vicinity.
- Due care and attention will be paid to site and ground conditions. Safe routes etc will be adhered to and edges of excavations avoided unless necessary.
- A fully charged mobile phone will be on site at all times.
- Site staff will be aware of the location of the nearest A&E unit and a vehicle will be on site at all times. It is likely that the relevant PO will be a qualified First Aider.
- For single person working SACIC operates a 'reporting-in' procedure at the end of each day.
- The main contractor will check for overhead and underground services and potential ground contamination.
- SACIC holds full insurance policies for field work (details on request).

Emergency contacts

Local Police		101
Local GP	Fressingfield Medical Centre, New Street, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk, IP21 5PJ	01379 586227
Location of nearest A&E	The Ipswich Hospital, Heath Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5PD	01473 712233

Other Contacts

EMS (Jezz Meredith)		01449 900124
H&S (Stuart Boulter)		01449 900122

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-271990

Project details

Project name	Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield
Short description of the project	Monitoring of the excavation of footings for a new house, following evaluation, revealed two large depressions/ pits. No further evidence for a kiln or any other significant medieval activity, as suggested by the evaluation, was identified. The large depressions are probably clay extraction pits that were filled in the 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 06-02-2017 End: 09-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	FSF 090 - Sitecode ESF25406 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Salvage Record"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK FRESSINGFIELD Land to rear of Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield
Study area	110 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2615 7740 52.347417521327 1.32078648638 52 20 50 N 001 19 14 E Point

Project creators

Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	James Rolfe (SCC)

Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Archive ID	FSF090
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Land to Rear of Old Post Office, Church Street, Fressingfield
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sommers, M.
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