

SUFFOLK
ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

**Land Rear of Bear House, Bear Street
(now 'Wildwood', Gravel Hill)**
Nayland, Suffolk

Client:

Mr and Mrs Birch

Date:

September 2018

HER ref. NYW 060
Archaeological Monitoring Report
SACIC Report No. 2018/086
Author: M. Sommers
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(now 'Wildwood', Gravel Hill)
Nayland, Suffolk

HER ref. NYW 060

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2018/086

Author: Mark Sommers

Report Date: September 2018

HER Information

Site Code NYW 060

Site Name: Land Rear of Bear House, Bear Street, Nayland, Suffolk

Planning Application Nos: DC/17/04048/FUL

Dates of Fieldwork: 24th September 2018

Grid Reference: TL 9732 3445

OASIS Reference: suffolka1-305788

Curatorial Officer: n/a

Project Officer: Mark Sommers

Client/Funding Body: Mr and Mrs Birch

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

Prepared By: Mark Sommers
Date:

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner
Position: Director
Date:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling and garage block on land to the rear of Bear House, Bear Street, Nayland (to be known as 'Wildwood', Gravel Hill, Nayland) was undertaken on the 24th September 2018. The initial soil strip of the entire footprint of the main house, the garage block and associated driveway was continuously monitored. The natural subsoil was exposed over the entire area but no significant archaeological features, deposits or pre-modern artefacts were identified. (Mark Sommers, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for Mr and Mrs Birch).

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a single dwelling with associated garage block and driveway on an area of land to the rear of Bear House, Bear Street, Nayland, Suffolk (application number DC/17/04048/FUL). The new house is to be known as 'Wildwood', Gravel Hill, Nayland. A condition was attached to the planning consent calling for an agreed programme of work to be in place prior to any development, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The programme of work, as specified in a Brief produced by Dr Hannah Cutler of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), dated 20th December 2017, was the undertaking of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The monitoring was to primarily consist of the continuous monitoring of the excavation of the footings, service trenches and landscaping. Based on the brief a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company (SACIC) was approved by Dr Cutler, the curatorial officer for this project (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TL 9732 3445. Figure 1 comprises a location plan of the site.

The archaeological monitoring was carried out on the 24th September 2018 by SACIC who were commissioned by the applicants, Mr and Mrs Birch.

2. Geology and topography

The bedrock geology of the site consists of clay, silt and sands of the London Clay Formation. This is overlain by a superficial geology of clay, silt, sand and gravel (information from the 1:50,000 scale geological map, accessed via British Geological Survey website on the 25th September 2018).

The local topography comprises the gently sloping valley sides of the Stour Valley. The site itself, being situated on the south facing slope of the valley, slopes down from north to south, with the River Stour running in a channel approximately 150m to the south.

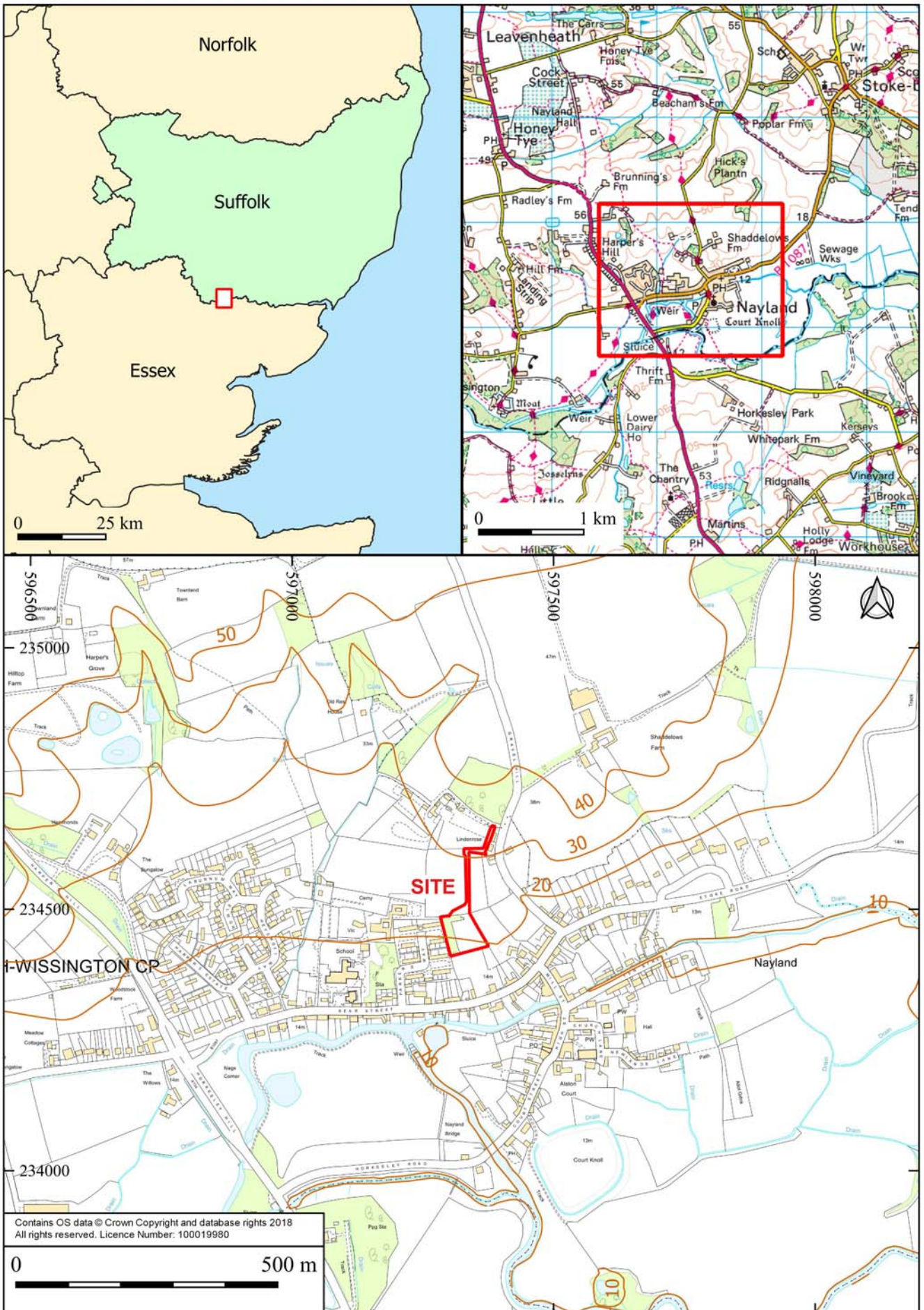


Figure 1. Location map

3. Archaeology and historical background

This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. It is located just to the north of the Historic Medieval Core of Nayland Village, (NYW 036) and is c.100m east of the findspot of two Bronze Age Bucket Urn Cremations (NYW 015) and the site of an evaluation conducted in 1988 that found medieval material including pottery (NYW 031). There is therefore a high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within the site, and the groundwork associated with the development has the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may exist.

4. Methodology

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the entire footprints of the house and garage, areas of the associated driveway, and a contractors access route between the house and garage, after they had been mechanically stripped of topsoil down to the surface of the underlying natural subsoil. This work was undertaken using a toothless bucket fitted to a large (25 tonne) tracked excavator. This work was continuously observed in order to identify any archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Had any features or significant deposits been exposed they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts, but in the event this was not necessary.

Given the complete absence of any heritage assets visible it was agreed with the curatorial officer that further monitoring at this site would not be required.

A number of digital photographs of the stripped surfaces and of the mechanical stripping when underway were taken using a 12 megapixel camera.

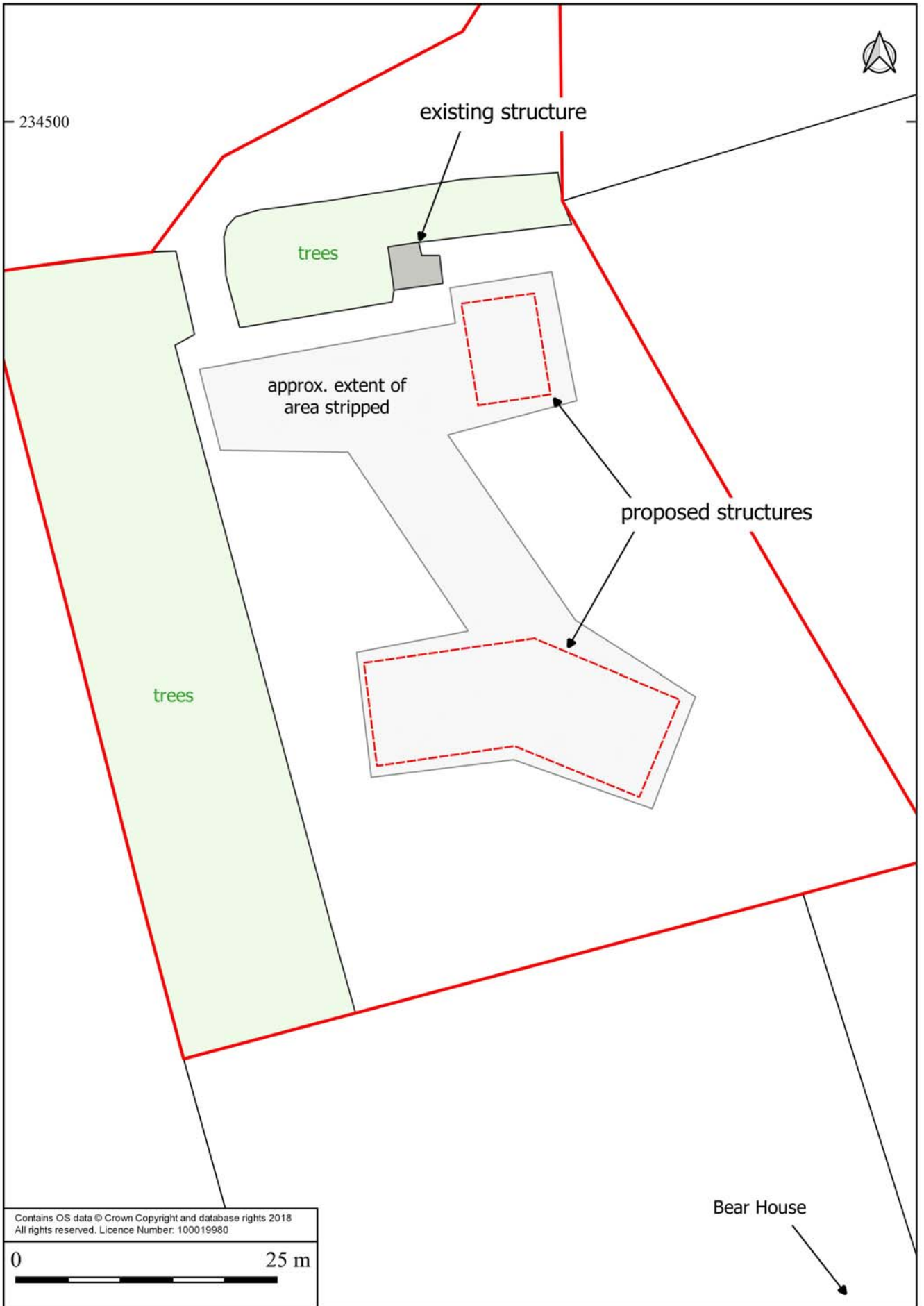


Figure 2. Site plan showing areas stripped

5. Results

The monitoring was undertaken on the 24th September 2018. A c.960m² area was mechanically stripped of topsoil using a 25 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The topsoil was 0.15m to 0.20m thick and directly overlay a natural subsoil of pale yellow silty sand with occasional patches of gravel. The stripped area comprised the footprints of the house and garage, an area of driveway in front of the garage, and a contractors access route between the two (plates 1 and 2).

An existing small stable/shed, of probable Edwardian date, stood at the northern edge of the site and in the area immediately to the south and southeast of this a thin spread of rubble, comprising brick and tile fragments, and chalk, was encountered (plate 3). Associated with this layer were very occasional, broken fragments of 20th century bottle glass and small pieces of coke/coal. This material was interpreted as a deposit of rubble to create an area of hardstanding adjacent the small stable. Other than this spread, no other features or deposits were encountered.

Limited landscaping along the southern edge of the plot was planned. The aim was raise the levels slightly and this was to be achieved through the spreading of a portion of the topsoil removed from the stripped areas. It would not entail any stripping of the existing topsoil in this area.

6. Discussion

The area monitored comprised the entire area likely to be disturbed by the proposed development.

The only feature noted was the spread of rubble adjacent to the small stable, which is probably related to the creation of an area of hardstanding or possibly just to firm up ground disturbed by the repeated passage of horses. The otherwise complete absence of features or deposits across the stripped area indicates that no heritage assets have been threatened by this development.

There was no evidence to suggest the area had been previously ploughed and there was nothing to suggest any previous truncation of the natural surface.

7. Archive deposition

The site archive will be sent to the County Historical Environment Record, under the HER reference, NYW 060. A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolka1-305788.

8. Plates



Plate 1. House footprint after stripping (camera facing NW)



Plate 2. Contractors access between buildings (camera facing N)



Plate 3. Area of garage and drive (camera facing W)

Appendix 1. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-305788	
Project details	
Project name	NYW 060 Bear House Monitoring, Nayland-with-Wissington
Short description of the project	monitoring of groundwork in advance of the construction of a house and garage did not identify any significant archaeological features or deposits and no artefacts were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-09-2018 End: 25-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NYW 060 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/17/04048/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON NYW 060 Bear House Monitoring
Postcode	CO6 4LA
Study area	960 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9732 3445 51.972922081756 0.87310692124 51 58 22 N 000 52 23 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Hannah Cutler
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID	NYW060
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID	NYW060
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Land Rear of Bear House, Bear Street, Nayland
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sommers, M.
Other bibliographic details	SACIC Report No. 2018/086
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	SACIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	printed sheets of A4 paper with card covers and a wire comb binding.
Entered by	MS (mark.sommers@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	25 September 2018

Appendix 2. Written Scheme of Investigation



NYW 060, Land Rear of Bear House, Bear Street, Nayland, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring

Client:
Howard Birch

Date:
January 2018

Rob Brooks, MCifA
© SACIC

Project details

Planning Application No:	DC/17/04048/FUL
Curatorial Officer:	Dr Hannah Cutler
Grid Reference:	TL 973 344
Area:	Single dwelling and associated services
HER Site Code:	NYW 060
Oasis Reference:	suffolka1-305788
Project Start date :	TBC
Project Duration:	Up to 3 days as required by construction works

Client/Funding Body:	Howard Birch
SACIC Project Manager:	Dr Rhodri Gardner
SACIC Project Officer:	TBC

1. Introduction

- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has been contracted to monitor groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling at Bear House, Bear Lane, Nayland, in Suffolk.
- The archaeological monitoring is required as a condition on planning permission DC/17/04048/FUL as detailed in a Brief by Dr Hannah Cutler of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), dated 20/12/2017.
- The proposed groundworks are to include the continuous monitoring of foundations, services and landscaping that will damage or remove any archaeological deposits. Such groundworks have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits that may exist at those depths.
- The aim of the monitoring is to record all such deposits which are to be damaged or removed by the proposed works, or to identify important or unexpected features.



Figure 1. Site Location (red)

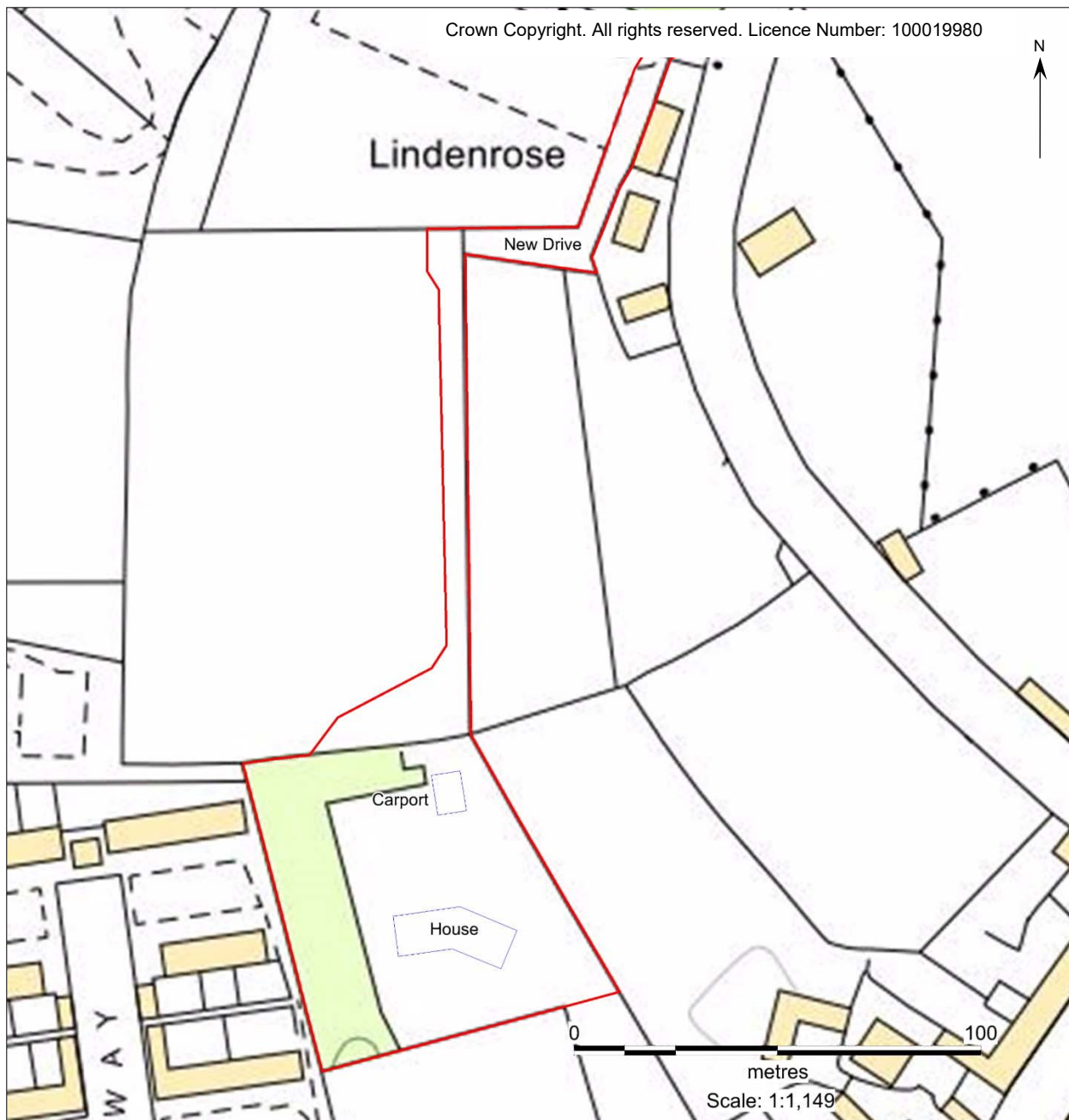


Figure 2. Site plan

2. Archaeological method statement

- An OASIS online record has been initiated (reference suffolka1-305788). A site code will be acquired from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) and will be included on all future project documentation.

2.1. Fieldwork

- 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 groundworks will be continuously observed by a SACIC Project Officer, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quoted cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits. Should significant structural remains, human remains or other significant archaeological remains be encountered, groundworks will be stopped and SCCAS consulted. If required an updated WSI and quotation will be provided to allow for the full excavation and recording of such deposits although design scheme changes may be sought to ensure preservation *in situ*.
- All trenches excavated will be examined for archaeological features and finds and 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. Where appropriate a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal SACIC conventions, compatible with the Suffolk 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 in-house, 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 palaeoenvironmental 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, and their removal from site is unavoidable, 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.

2.2. Post-excavation work

- 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 located 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 (now Historic England) 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 Historic England for approval within 3 months of completion of fieldwork unless otherwise agreed. 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).
- 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.

- Any finds from the project will be deposited in the Suffolk County Council stores together with the project archive. The project costing includes the fee charged by SCC for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCC 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 for deposition in the SCC Archive according to their latest guidelines (2015).
- 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 SCC archive facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCC.

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.

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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.

3. Health and Safety and 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.

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