

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND NORTH OF LANGTON LODGE, VICTORIA HILL, EYE (SMR ref. EYE 070)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH A SMALL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Application No. OL/146/03)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/5

(OASIS Ref. suffolke1-10127)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with the construction of a small residential development on land to the north of Langton Lodge, Victoria Hill, Eye (NGR TM 1440 7472), was undertaken during February 2005. The monitoring followed on from an evaluation in which a small number of undated features were identified. Other than a relatively recently backfilled water-filled depression, no further archaeological features or dating evidence was recovered. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference EYE 070. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Ryden Developments, the site's developers.

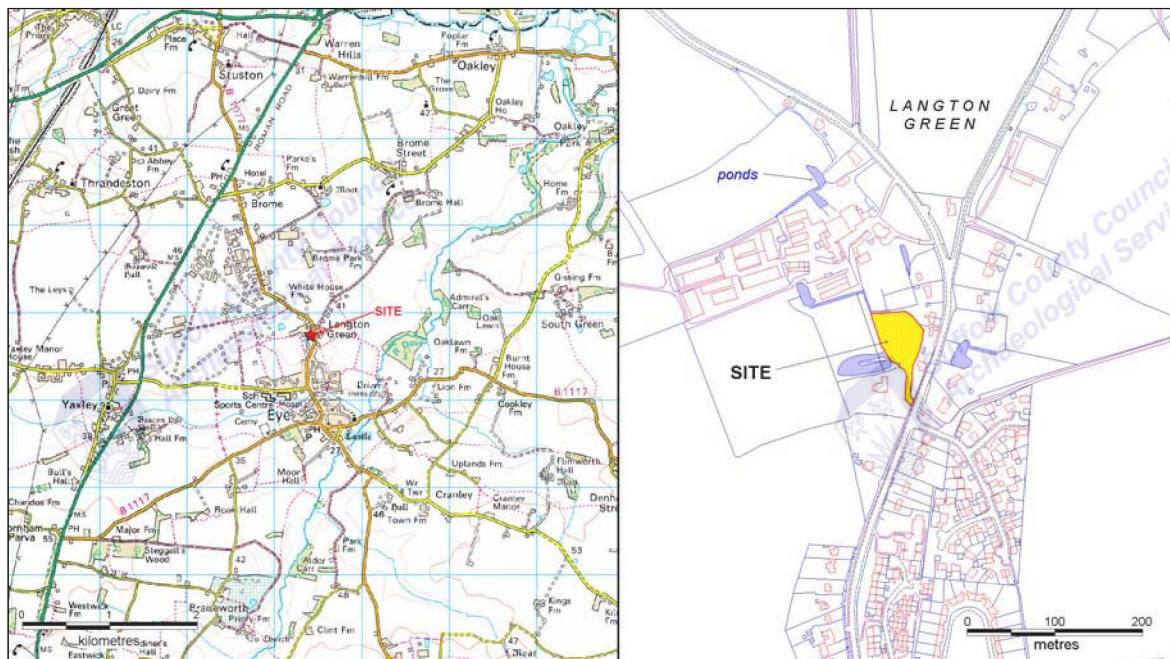


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application for a small residential development on land to the north of Langton Lodge, Victoria Hill, Eye (application no. OL/146/03), was approved but with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work.

The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within an area of ponds and ditches likely to be associated with medieval occupation. A linear pond feature which ran across part of the site had been filled prior to any development work on the site.

An archaeological evaluation formed the initial stage of the programme of works. This was carried out through the excavation of a series of trenches across the site to assess the extent and nature of any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. The evaluation (Gardner 2004) revealed evidence that the recently filled linear pond had continued further to the north. A single possible posthole, two pits and a ditch type feature were identified but no dating evidence was recovered.

In the light of the evaluation results the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team agreed that the area affected by the development could be adequately be recorded under a monitoring condition and for this a Brief and Specification was produced (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1440 7472; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference EYE 070. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Ryden Developments, the site's developers.

Results

Visits were made to the site during the groundwork phase of the development during August and September 2005 to observe the excavate footings for plots 1-5 of the development.

The first visit was made on the 18th August 2005 after the site had been stripped of topsoil prior to the excavation of any footings. Unfortunately a thin spread of patchy topsoil remained and so obscuring any possible features that may have been present. The topsoil was retained on site the surface of which was rapidly examined in order to recover any significant artefacts but none were identified.

The site was then visited a further five times to examine the excavated footings of each house plot.

The footings were excavated by a tracked 360° excavator using a narrow toothed bucket with the resultant spoil being temporarily retained on site. The underlying subsoil consisted of predominantly pale yellow stiff boulder clay with

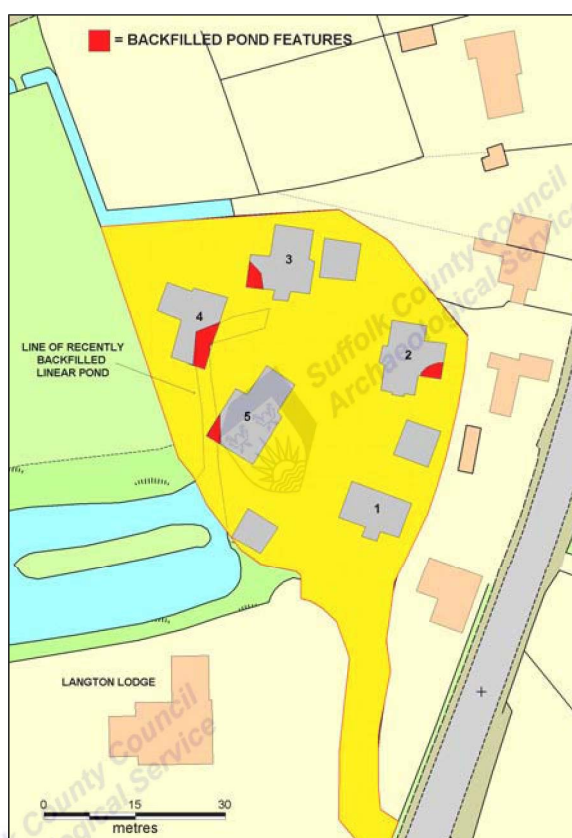


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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occasional patches of a bluer clay and chalk. No archaeological features positively identifying early settlement on the site were noted during any of the monitoring visits although further evidence for the pond system in the area were recorded within the footings for plots 2, 3, 4 and 5. These appeared as large cuts into the natural subsoil that were filled with a primary fill of brown silt overlain by a dark brown to black mud. This in turn was overlain by a thick deposit of dark loamy topsoil containing a moderately high proportion of modern debris (bailer twine, plastic sheeting, etc.). It was impracticable to enter the footing trenches for safety reasons and consequently it was not possible to retrieve finds from these lower layers had any been present.

The surface of any spoil tips on the site were rapidly examined for artefacts during each monitoring visit but none were recovered.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference EYE070 along with the evaluation archive, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-10127.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features appear to have been completely destroyed by this development. The monitoring of the footings gave good opportunities to observe for archaeological interventions into the natural subsoil but other than the pond type features none were identified.

The pond cuts noted within plots 4 and 5 are related to the known linear pond recently filled and marked on current Ordnance Survey maps held in the Ipswich office of the SCCAS. The pond cut within plot 3 is probably a northern continuation of this feature. This could be seen as further evidence for the theory proposed by R. Gardner in the evaluation report (Gardner 2004) that a continuous pond/ditch ran across the site and linked with another pond marked to the north on current OS maps (NGR 1441 7482) and that these are all associated with marking the edge of the former green.

References

- Gardner, R. (2004) *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land North of Langton Lodge, Victoria Hill, Eye*, SCCAS Report No. 2004/86

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

LAND NORTH OF LANGTON LODGE, VICTORIA HILL, EYE

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application OL/146/03). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken which adequately describes the archaeological potential of the area (SCCAS 2004/86). It suggests that a length of ditch on the western side of the site is likely to be the Green edge ditch. There were few finds or features to characterise an occupation area, however, and it remains possible that the eastern site boundary may be on the line of the Green frontage, in which case the development area could be frontage with settlement (a single probable post-hole was recorded).

A proposed development block plan has been supplied by Ryden Developments which this brief is designed to answer.

- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site, and to define the location of the Green edge.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

Excavation for site preparation works for roads and major services and the upcast soil are to be observed **whilst** they **are** excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed **after** they **have been** excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contracted archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow a archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate **of one hour per 100 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate **of one and a half hours per 10 metres** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 10 August 2005

Reference: /Eye-VictoriaHill08

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.