

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/079

Wood Farm, Gipping, Stowmarket GPP 009

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HER Information

Planning Application No: 1256/07 (Mid Suffolk District Council)

Date of Fieldwork: April 2011

Grid Reference: Centred at TM 0815 6228

Funding Body: David Porch

Curatorial Officer: Edward Martin

Project Officer: Andrew Tester

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

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Brief and Specification

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings during the construction of an outbuilding at Wood Farm, Gipping. A small pit containing burnt stone, pottery and a fragment of a kiln bar, located within a trench, is thought to be evidence of a kiln on or close to the site dating from the 12th to 14th centuries.

1. Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footing trenches for the re-erection of an outbuilding at Wood farm Gipping. The clay lump building, which dates from the later 19th century and was the subject of an historic building survey by Leigh Alston (SCCAS HBR Report February 2011), was moved and restored. The work was carried out to fulfil a Brief and Specification by Edward Martin of the SCCAS Conservation Team. Interest in the site is based on the Grade II listed farmhouse that also occupies the site that dates from the 16th century and the possible moat that may indicate earlier occupation. Cartographic and documentary work on the site was included within the earlier building recording.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at c. 55m OD and the area forms part of the claylands of central Suffolk in an area of dispersed settlement. The site stands on the top of a gentle slope that overlooks a valley to the west with Gipping Great Wood beyond.

3. Methodology

The site was visited on 2nd March 2011 during the excavation of the footings. These were excavated in a single operation and were continually monitored following the discovery of archaeological remains. The footings were excavated to a depth of c.0.7m-1m in depth to the natural clay and were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a section at a scale of 1:20. All finds were recovered from the site with the exception of modern artefacts that were located on the edge of the pond. Pit 0002 was excavated by hand within the trench and a digital photographic record was made of the site.

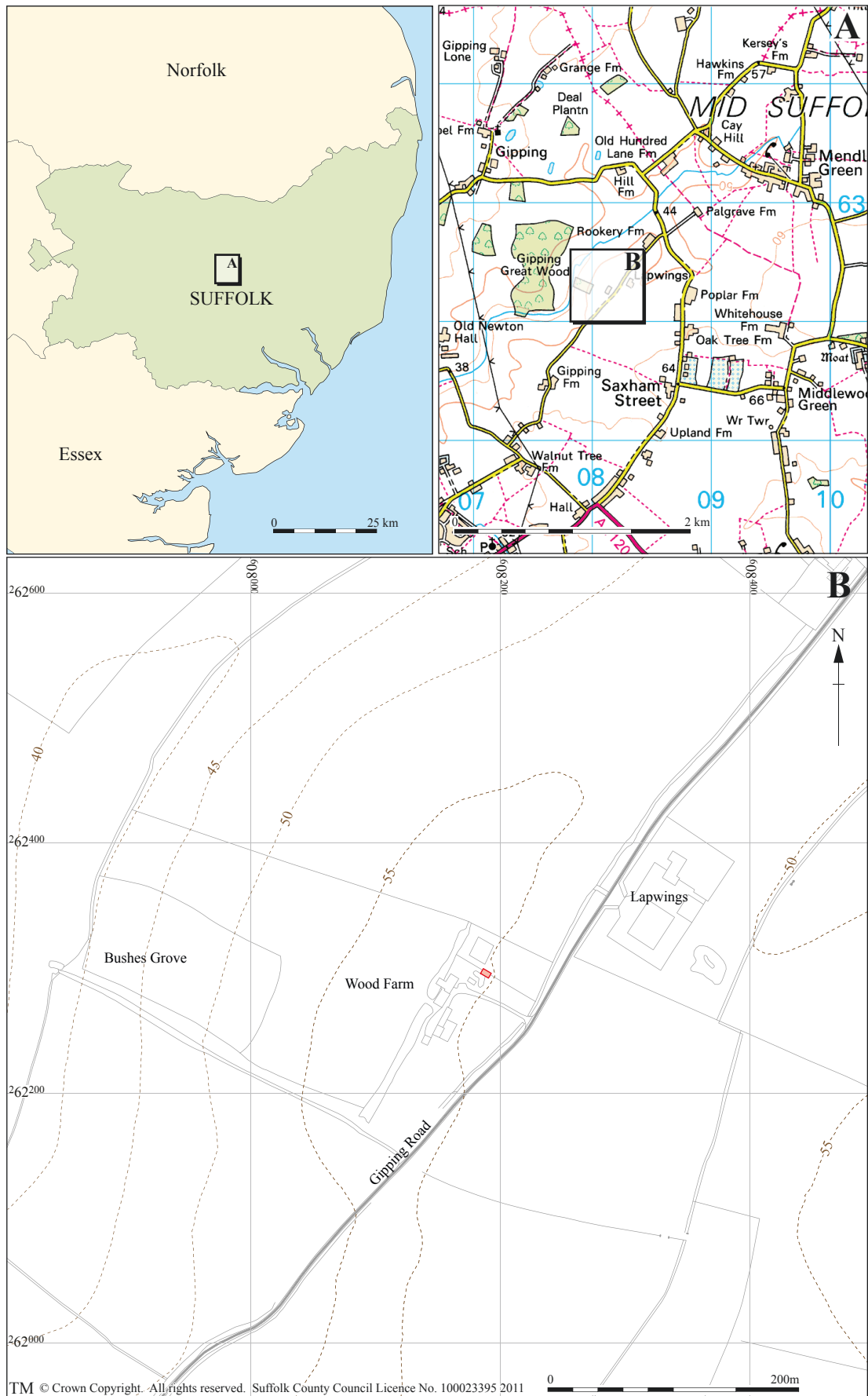


Figure 1. Site location showing monitoring (red)

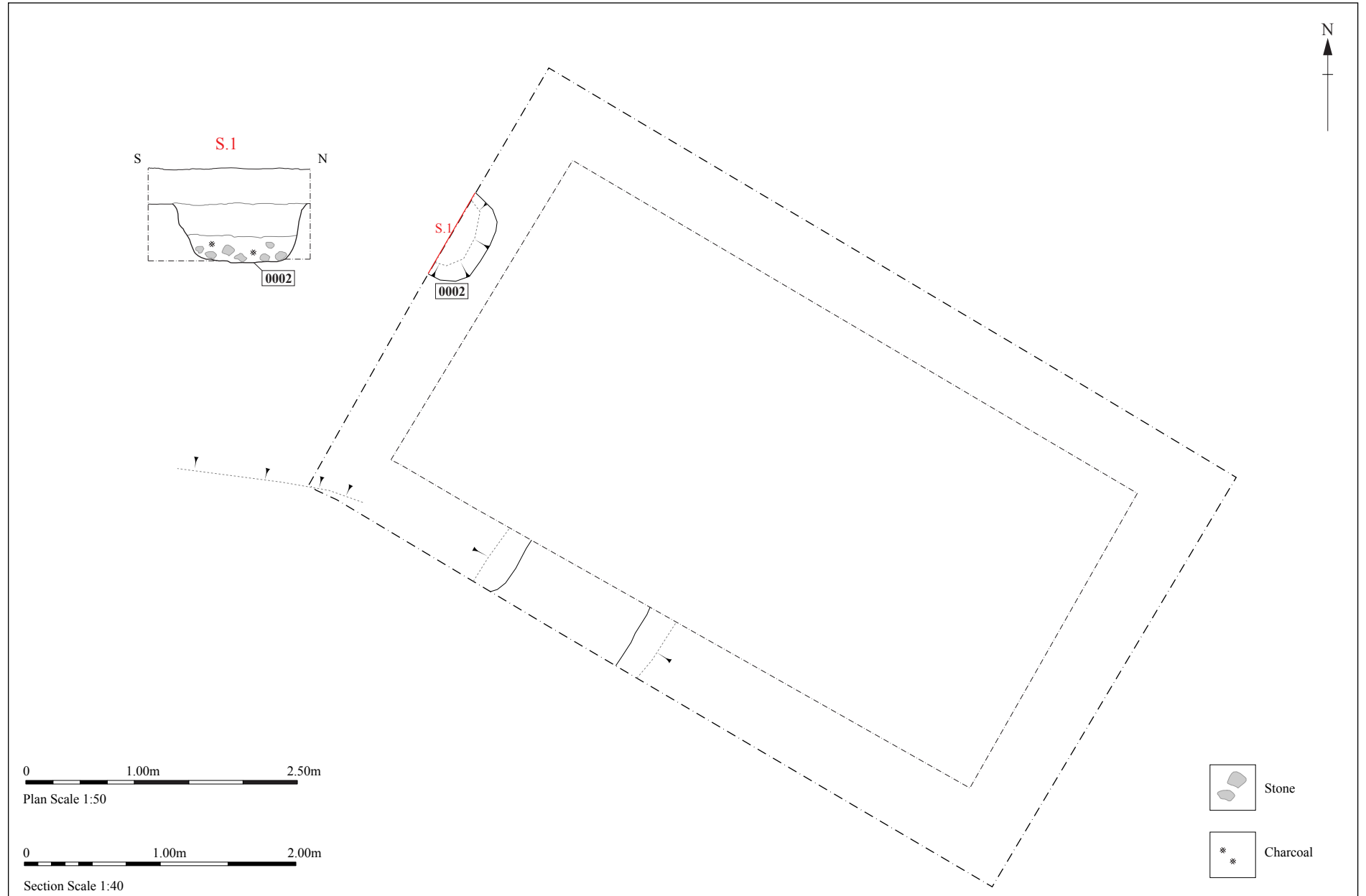


Figure 2. Trench plan and section

4. Results

Fig.2

The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a toothed bucket c.0.45m wide. These revealed a slightly greater depth of topsoil on the western side which indicated the edge of a recently backfilled pond. Modern rubbish was recovered from the south western area of the trench. A single pit was exposed in the westernmost trench, 0002, which was cleaned and excavated by hand.

Pit 0002

This feature was c. 0.85m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides. Although it extended beyond the trench it appeared to be narrowing beneath the baulk and is likely to have been circular in plan. It contained two distinct fills: the lower fill comprised yellow and red clay (burnt) with rounded stones with concentrations of charcoal. Pottery and a possible kiln bar were also found. The clay was mixed and did not form a cohesive shape. The rounded stones in the base of the pit were quite compact, however. The upper fill of the pit was distinct from the lower fill consisting of mid brown silt with no inclusions.

5. The finds

Introduction

A total of fifteen finds with a combined weight of 567g was recovered from a single context during the archaeological monitoring at Wood Farm. A breakdown of find types can be seen in Table 1, and a full contextual breakdown forms part of the site archive.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Burnt flint/stone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	8	97	1	44	4	273	2	153	Medieval (early?)
Total	8	97	1	44	4	273	2	153	

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

In total eight sherds of pottery with a weight of 97g was noted in the possible kiln fill 0002. The pottery as a whole is only slightly abraded. There are several joining sherds, but none with more diagnostic features such as rims. Most of the sherds appear to have

belonged to a large vessel, although it is not clear if they are hand-made or wheel finished/thrown.

Five of the sherds (76g) have been oxidised on their outer surfaces as well as over their breaks, indicating that they had been heat affected (post-firing). These also displayed a thick black core. Three sherds (21g) are reduced with a brown surface.

The fabrics have been classed as a general medieval coarseware (MCW). Essentially the fabric is hard and sandy, containing dense ill-sorted quartz with occasional rare large flint and sparse to rare organic voids. These voids are more obvious (and prevalent) on the inner surface of the oxidised sherds.

The sherds are dated from the late 12th to 14th century, but could possibly be slightly earlier than this.

The heat affected condition of the sherds, alongside the presence of potential fire-bar fragments (see below), indicate that the pottery is likely to represent the products of a small, simple kiln.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of post-medieval roof tile was recorded in context 0002. It has a medium sandy fabric containing common black iron ore (msfe).

Fired clay

All of the four fired clay fragments (273g) belong to the same piece of a possible fire-bar. They only display slight abrasion and form part of a partially rounded fragment (a portion is missing), which has a length of 77mm and a width of 53mm and is broken at both ends.

The fabric is hard and sandy (cs) with a variably oxidised surface and a reduced core. It contains ill-sorted coarse sand with sparse large pebbles and flint (occasional red iron ore/iron rich clay pellets can also be observed). Where intact the surfaces are irregularly smooth.

Burnt flint/stone

A single burnt flint (37g) and a burnt sandstone fragment (273g) were noted in context 0002.

6. General discussion

The finds evidence suggests that context 0002 contained remains from a pottery kiln. A kiln site of similar date was excavated in Norfolk (Rogerson et al. 1984) and although the archaeology was unclear the amount of burning waste associated with the kiln was far greater than that suggested by pit 0002. Despite the concentration of stones and charcoal at the base, the clay and other materials were mixed and it is possible that this was a miscellaneous pit, which became partially filled with the debris from a more elaborate structure that lay beyond the excavated trench.

This is an interesting find although it is difficult to gauge its significance given the comparatively small area of trench that was exposed. The only medieval entries on the HER are well away from the site; these include a moat, around a kilometre to the south at Gipping Farm (SUP 014), a coin to the north-east of the farm (MDS 134) and a small scatter of pottery to the east (MDS 073). While the scale of production remains unknown it is an important new find and suggests some form of local pottery production.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\Allsite/Gipping /GPP 009

8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring and report writing were all carried out by Andrew Tester and Andy Fawcett with comments from Edward Martin. Crane Begg and Ellie Hillam completed the graphics. All of the staff are from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

9. Bibliography

Alston. L., 2011. 'Outbuilding at Wood farm, Gipping, GPP 009'. Historic Building Record (unpublished report)

Rogerson. A., and Ashley. J., A medieval pottery production site at Blackborough End, Middleton. Norfolk Archaeology 1985 Vol. XXXIX, Part II.



Plate 1. Feature 0002 facing west



Plate 2. Southern trench facing west

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

The Archaeological Service
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Monitoring

WOOD FARM, BACK LANE, GIPPING TM 0815 6228 (planning consent 1256/07)

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the demolition of a clay-lump building at Wood Farm has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon the prior implementation of a programme of archaeological work to allow proper investigation and recording of the site (consent 1256/07, condition 2). The building lies within the curtilage of a Wood Farmhouse, which is a Grade II Listed Building (LB no. 280529) of mid 16th century date. The building is shown on the Ordnance survey 1st-edition map of 1886. Linear ponds to the rear of the property may be indicative of the former presence of a medieval moat here.
- 1.2 A policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (*Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*, 2006 – available at www.helm.org.uk) advises that the recording of such structures before conversion works is desirable..
- 1.3 The local planning authority has been advised that the building should be recorded before conversion. In addition, areas of ground disturbance will need to be recorded by archaeological monitoring. (Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development).
- 1.4 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The 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.

Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006; this defines the different levels of recording recommended by English Heritage, see: www.helm.org.uk/server/show/category.19612) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered in *Measured and Drawn: Techniques and Practice for the Metric Survey of Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006).

The WSI should also be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3*, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment');

Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/> - sub ALGOA East).

The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

- 1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. **Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the building recording, the monitoring and the production and deposition of an acceptable report – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.**
- 1.6 Before commencing work the recording contractor should carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.8 It is the recording contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

2. **Brief for Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks**

- 2.1 Historic building recording, as specified in Sections 3 is to be carried out prior to conversion.
- 2.2 The objective will be to compile a descriptive record of the building at English Heritage **Level 2** (see above 1.4) before conversion of the buildings takes place.
- 2.3 Any works that might disturb below-ground archaeological remains, including underpinning, excavation of service trenches and any other ground reduction, are to be observed during stripping and after they have been excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.4 The academic objective will be to provide a detailed understanding of the nature of the buildings, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building group.

3. **Specification for Historic Building Recording and Analysis**

The survey methodology will form part of the WSI and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

- 3.1. English Heritage **Level 2** recording must be carried on the building and its setting. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. Any distinctive features must be both described and photographed.
- 3.2 A block plan must be produced of the site, to locate the building within the group. The main components of the complex shall be numbered for reference in the report.
- 3.3 A historical document search (documentary, cartographic and pictorial) must be undertaken to situate the history of the building complex within the immediate local context. This must include a map study to illustrate the development of the buildings complex – typically using the tithe assessment of the 1840s and Ordnance Survey mapping of the 1880s and early 1900s (all available in the Suffolk Record Office). Note must also be taken of the oral history of the complex, particularly relating to the historic use of the buildings.
- 3.4 The record will present conclusions regarding the location, form, date, development and use of the building.

4. **Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 In the case of footing and main service trenches unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begins. In the case of the topsoil stripping and levelling, or other ground reduction (including replacement of internal floors) unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begins.
- 4.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.6 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of high resolution digital images.
- 4.7 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.8 Archaeological contexts should be assessed for sampling for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for the sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County HER.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records is to be prepared consistent with the principles contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006), particularly section 7. This should be deposited with the County HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The recording contractor should consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 The recording contractor should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage).
- 5.4 The report should include a brief history of the buildings complex, relating it to the map study and should include illustrations of the maps at a sufficient scale and quality for the buildings to be identifiable. The report should include a description of the building fabric(s), their structural use and any particular features. It should also present the available evidence for the dating and use of the structure(s). The photographs should be listed with a description of the viewpoint and included on a CD to accompany the report.
- 5.5 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, should be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report should be presented to SCCAS/CT and a single copy to the Conservation Officer of Mid Suffolk District Council.
- 5.6 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> should be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form should be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 27 January 2011

Reference: SpecHBR&Mon(EM)_WoodFm_Gipping_1256_07

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

As 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.