

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Land Adjacent to West Stow and Wordwell Club, West Stow WSW 065

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Planning Application No. SE/02/3160/P

NGR: TL 8149 7078

Oasis Ref. suffolkc1-10515

Funded by: Mr. J. Stasiak

SCCAS Report 2008/195

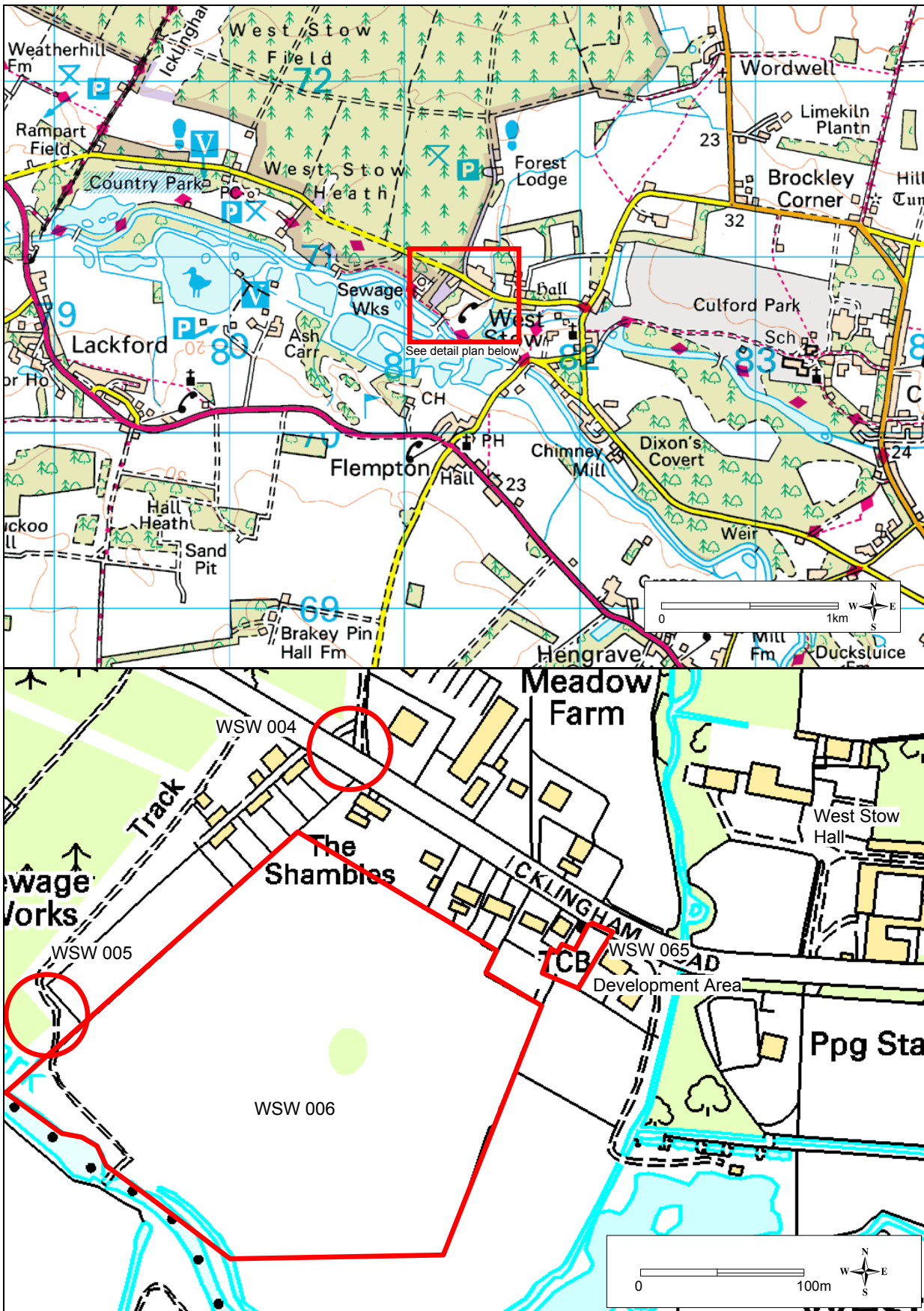
Summary

An archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches for a single new dwelling adjacent to the West Stow and Wordwell Club, West Stow. The site was located to the north-east of known area of Iron Age, Saxon and medieval occupation (WSW 006). The monitoring identified a deep overburden, up to 1m deep, and four heavily truncated archaeological features. Finds were recovered from only one feature, ditch 0008, which contained a sherd of medieval coarseware. The site appeared to have been heavily disturbed by modern landscaping.

Introduction

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out during excavation of footing trenches for a single dwelling development on land adjacent to the West Stow and Wordwell Club, West Stow (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was specified by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) (Appendix 1) and was funded by the developer, Mr C. Stasiak.

The site was located at TL 8149 7078 and had a high potential for archaeology as it was 200m north-east of a known area of archaeological activity as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record under code WSW 006 (Fig. 1). Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery scatters were recorded on the site WSW 006, along with reports of possible Anglo-Saxon Sunken Feature Buildings (SFBs), all to the south of the current development site. Further prehistoric and Saxon findspots were recorded to the west, WSW 005, and to the north-west, WSW 004 (Fig. 1).



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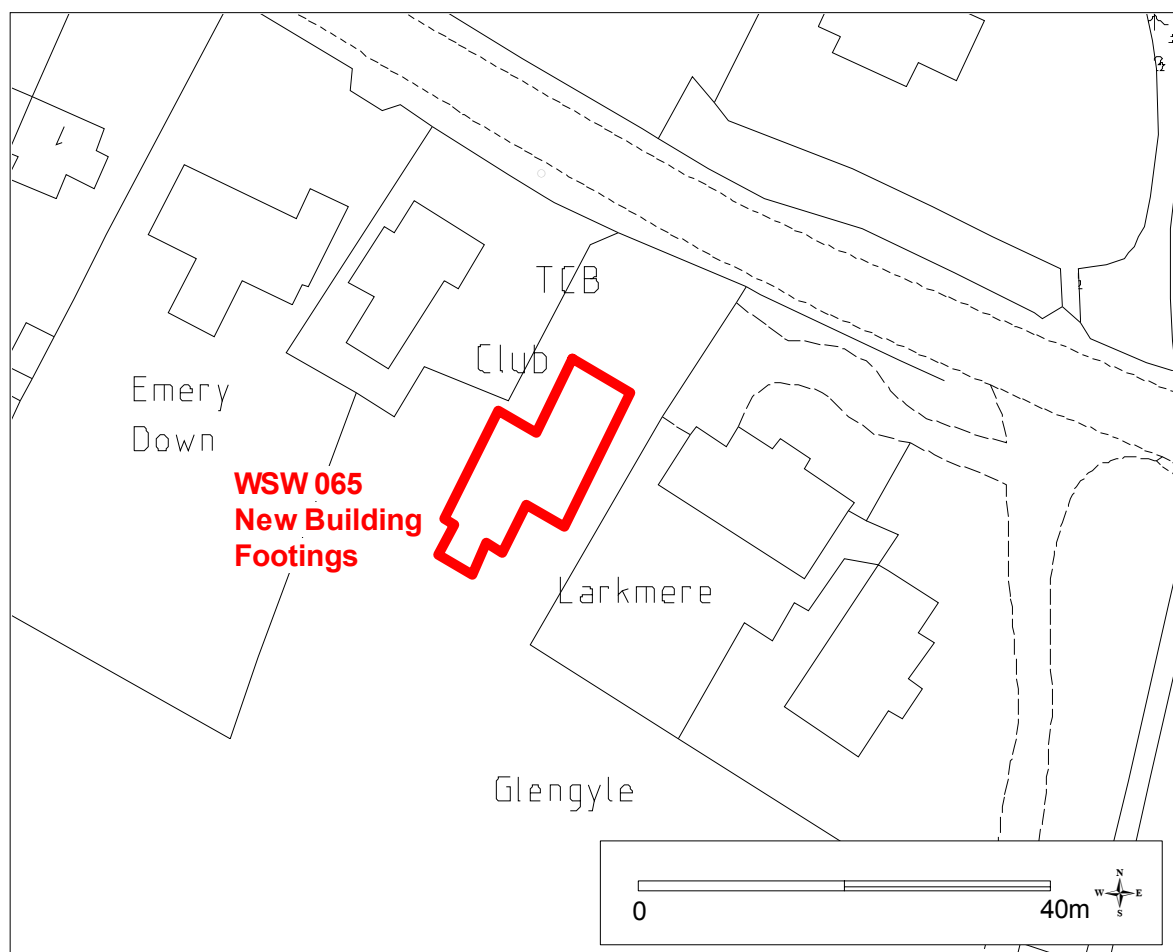
Figure 1. Site location

Methodology

The footing trenches were excavated in sections using a JCB fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket to a depth of approximately 1m across the entire building footprint. The trench sections were inspected by an experienced archaeologist after excavation had been completed ahead of the pouring of concrete.

Each archaeological deposit was given a unique four digit context number starting at 0001. A full written record was made for each context which was also recorded in plan at 1:50, in section at 1:20 and photographed using a colour digital camera.

The site archive and finds are stored at the County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds under code WSW 065.



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Figure 2. Footing trench plan

Results

The monitoring of the footing trenches identified a deep overburden across the site. It consisted of a dark grey brown silty sand topsoil (0006) and similar subsoil (0007) below it, although with less of an organic content. At the northern limit of the site the overburden was 1.06m deep, Profile 0010, and 0.76m deep at the southern limit, Profile 0015 (Figs. 3 and 4). The archaeological deposits were identified immediately below the overburden and the features were

cut into the orange sand and gravel natural. All features were heavily truncated and with the character of the overburden, it suggested heavy modern landscaping of the site.

The cut of a heavily truncated possible pit (0002) was identified in the eastern footing trench (Fig. 3). It had gently sloping sides, but due to heavy truncation little was visible in section, and a flat base (Fig. 4). It extended across the width of footing trench and measured 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep. The fill was a dark brown silty sand (0003) with no finds.

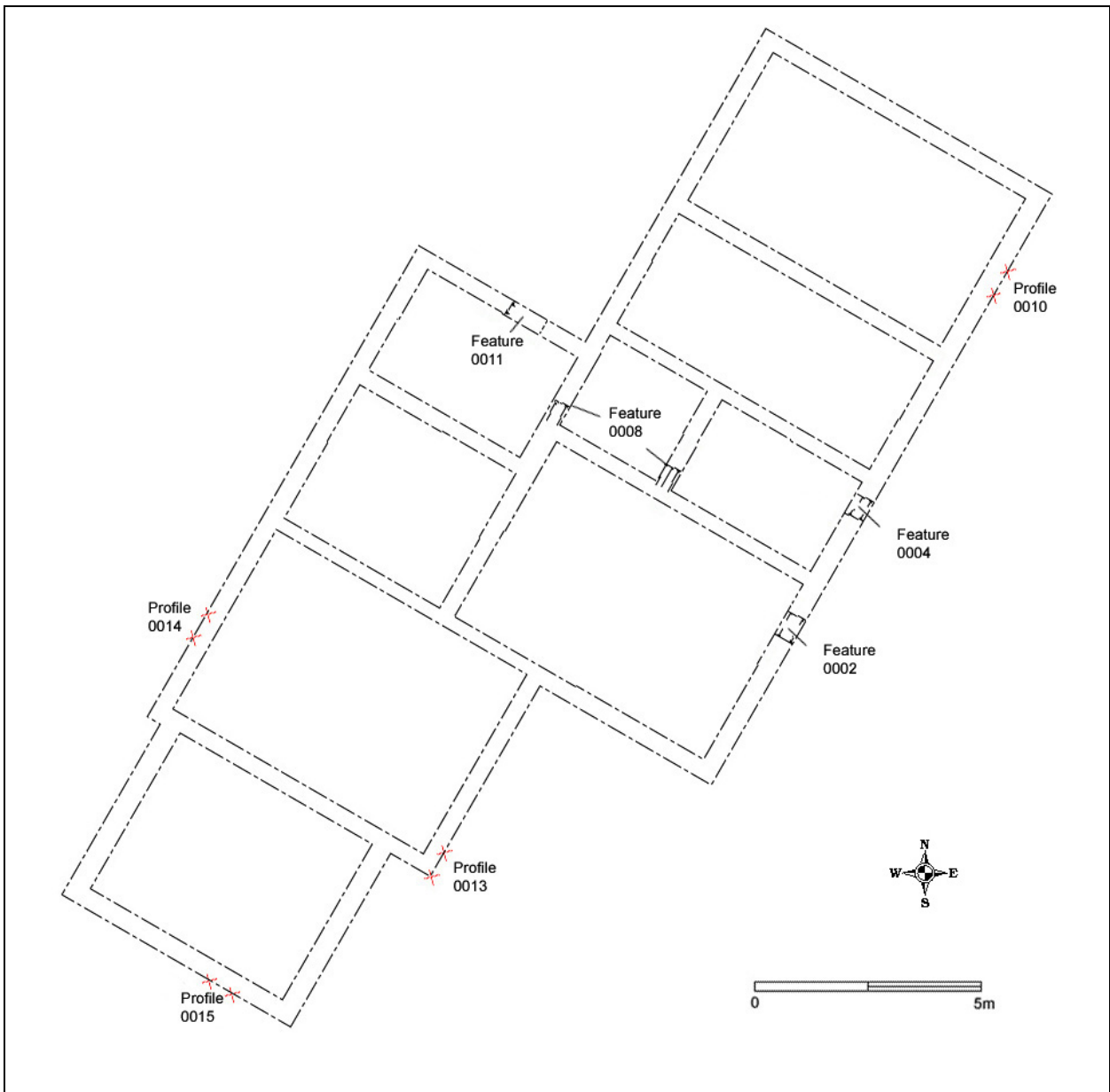


Figure 3. Feature plan

The cut of a possible pit, 0004, or possibly a continuation of ditch 0008 was identified in the eastern footing trench (Fig. 3). It was heavily truncated and it was difficult to identify its exact alignment making it unclear if it was a continuation of ditch 0008. It extended across the width of footing trench and measured 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. It was fairly steep-sided but the base was not identified (Fig. 4). It was filled by a dark grey brown silty sand (0005) with no finds.

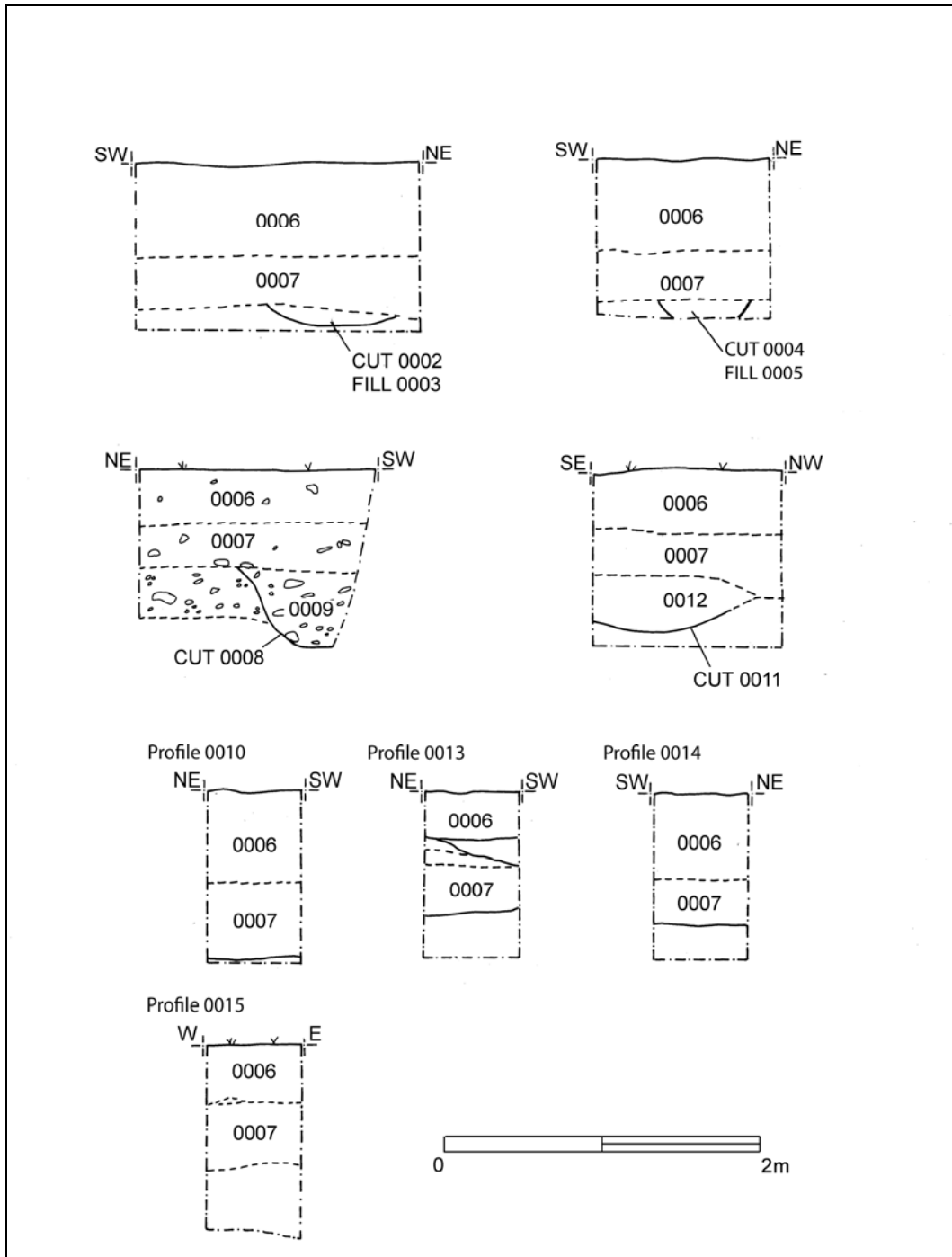


Figure 4. Sections

Feature 0008 was the cut of possible east to west aligned ditch. It was partly visible in the centre of the footing trenches but its full width was not exposed (Fig. 3). It was fairly steep-sided with a slightly concave base, which measured 0.74m wide and 0.48m deep (Fig. 4). It was filled by a dark brown/black silty sand (0009), which contained a single sherd of medieval coarseware, four fragments of animal bone and a burnt flint.

Cut 0011 was identified near the western limit of the footings trenches and was a possible feature (Fig. 3). It was heavily truncated but appeared to have gently sloping sides with a concave base though there was no clear break of slope (Fig. 4). It extended the width of the footing trench. It was filled by a dark grey brown silty sand (0012).

The Finds by Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Animal bone		Burnt flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001	2	41					16th-18th C
0009	1	4	4	193	1	24	L12th-14th C
Total	3	45	4	193	1	24	

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

Three fragments of pottery were recovered from the monitoring (0.045kg). A sherd of abraded medieval coarseware and a fragment of a Glazed red earthenware bowl were unstratified finds. A single sherd of medieval coarseware was the only pottery present in the ditchfill 0009.

Animal bone

Four fragments of a sheep femur were present in ditchfill 0009.

Burnt Flint

A fragment of burnt flint which may date to the prehistoric period was found in the ditchfill.

Discussion

In spite of the high potential for the recovery of prehistoric and Saxon artefacts, only a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery was found, and a fragment of burnt flint which may be prehistoric. The archaeological features below the topsoil and subsoil had been considerably truncated and the only stratified artefacts were found in the ditch 0008.

Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring produced only limited positive evidence for activity on the site with only a few heavily truncated features identified within the area of excavated footing trenches. Only one of these features contained any dateable artefacts, ditch 0008, with a single sherd of medieval coarseware.

However, the monitoring identified heavy disturbance across the site truncating the archaeological deposits below. The nature of the overburden was indicative of modern landscaping.

A continuation of the multi-period occupation area to the south, WSW 006, was not in evidence within the development area.

Anna West and John Duffy
June 2008

Appendix 1 - Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

ADJACENT WEST STOW CLUB

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (SE/02/3160/P) has been made to build a new dwelling on open land adjoining the West Stow Club. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposed development area lies adjacent to, and shares a boundary with, a site recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (WSW 006). This site has produced Saxon and medieval finds scatters and has high potential to be the location of Middle Saxon settlement. The development area has similarly high potential. The scope of development is extensive with new paved access and a large footprint dwelling, ground disturbance relating to this is likely to extend down to any archaeological deposit which exists on the site.
- 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.

Appendix 1 - Brief and Specification

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. particular importance is placed upon any evidence for Mid and Late Saxon settlement.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground preparation for access and parking areas and the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological 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 contract 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 archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

Appendix 1 - Brief and Specification

- 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 paved areas and floor areas unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 25 sq metres must be allowed to the exposed soil for archaeological recording before further works take place. 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.

Appendix 1 - Brief and Specification

- 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.

Specification by: Robert Carr

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

Date: 25 February 2003

Reference: /WestStowClub2003

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.