

# BARTON GRANGE, WORLINGWORTH

## WGW 024

### Archaeological Monitoring Report

Planning Application No: 360/04

Date of Fieldwork: 16/09/05 – 27/10/05

Grid reference: TM 2077 6975

Funding Body: Mr N Cook and Mr M Hicks

### Introduction

A Planning Application (360/04) has been granted for refurbishment and redevelopment at Barton Grange, Worlingworth. The planning permission concerns the refurbishment and underpinning of an extant barn, including reduction of the floor level and the construction of an extension linking this barn to the main house. The area of the site affected by these works is c. 300m<sup>2</sup>, but the proportion actually disturbed by the underpinning operations and the excavation of strip foundations for the extension is rather smaller. The site lies on level ground at c. 56m AOD in a quite remote location, equidistant from the centres of the villages of Redlingfield (c. 2.5km to the north-west) and Worlingworth (c. 2.5km to the south-east).

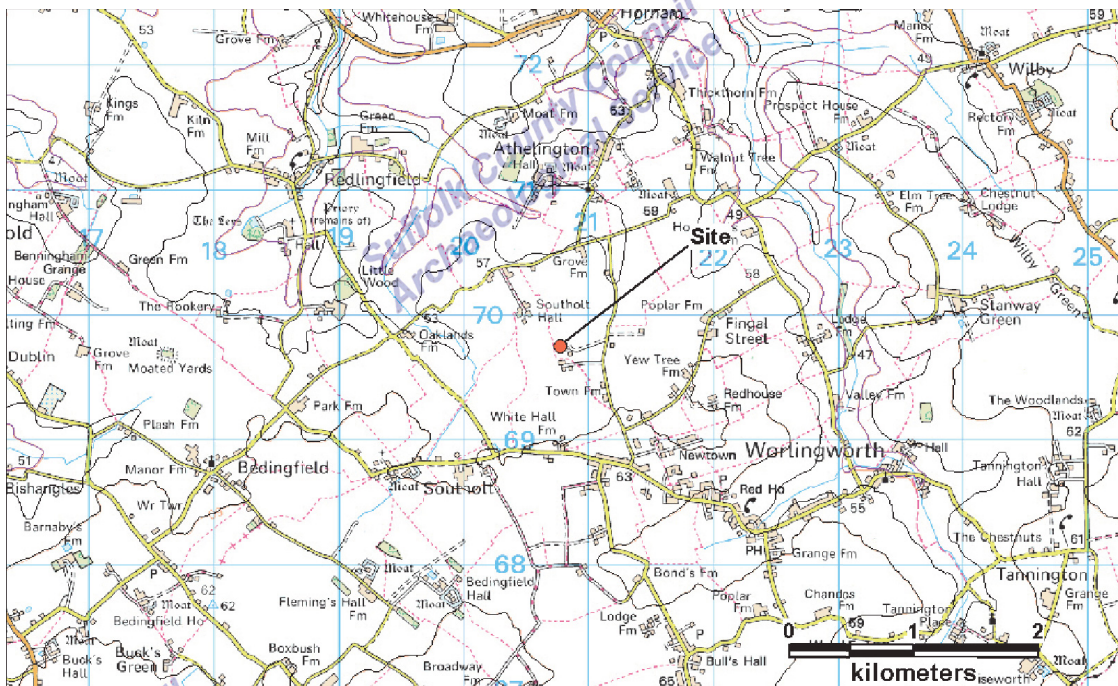


Figure 1. Site location

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The site stands within a medieval moated enclosure (WGW 019) and as such there is a high potential for the preservation of medieval settlement evidence. The planning permission was therefore conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being carried out. Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team produced a Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 2) and the SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by Ian McKechnie of Gorniak and McKechnie (Architects and Designers) on behalf of their clients, Mr N Cook and Mr M Hicks.

## Methodology

A single visit was made to observe the reduction of floor level inside the barn on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. The stripping was carried out using a small tracked 360<sup>o</sup> excavator (minidigger) fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, making conditions ideal for the observation of archaeological features. Ground reduction was not particularly aggressive, with no removal of deposits in excess of 0.3m depth.

A second visit was made on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September in order to observe a section of the barn's foundation exposed during underpinning operations.

A third series of visits were made on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October to examine the open strip foundation trenches (see Figure 2 for trench locations). These were again excavated with a small tracked 360<sup>o</sup> excavator (minidigger), this time fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. This necessitated brief hand cleaning of the base of the trench and the faces of the upstanding sections in some areas in order to clarify the nature of the deposits.

The site was allocated the SMR number WGW 024 and all recorded deposits were allocated unique OP (observable phenomena) numbers and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. This context information is shown in Appendix 1. Context records were entered onto an Access97 database, and inked copies of the drawings were prepared on archive quality drafting film. Plan and section drawings were recorded at 1:50 and 1:20 scale where appropriate. A digital photographic record was also kept throughout.

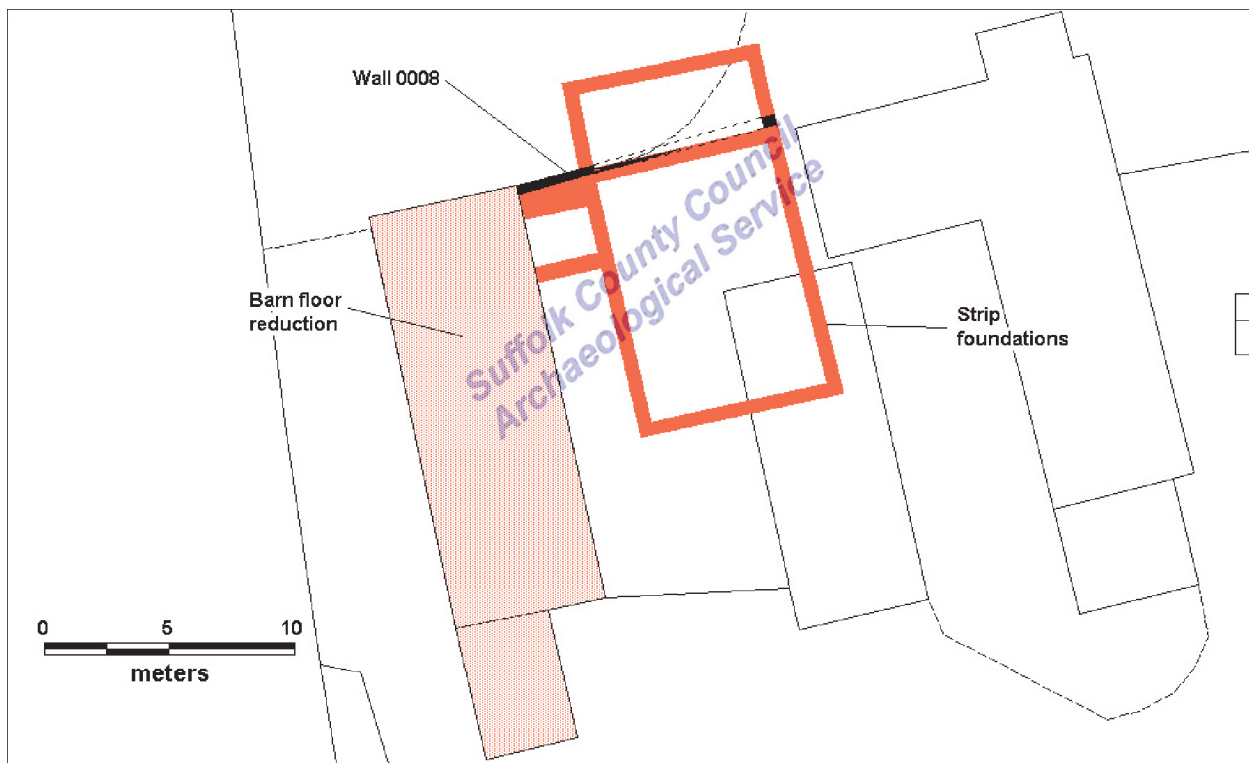


Figure 2. Location of strip foundations

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## Results

### Barn floor reduction

The material removed was recorded as a single context, 0002, interpreted as a surface. This comprised loose dark grey sandy clayey silt which contained very mixed modern (19<sup>th</sup> century and later) inclusions of CBM, chalk, cement/concrete and metal fragments. In some places, where the ground reduction was deep enough, this deposit was seen to overly natural deposits (0003), firm mid greyish yellowish brown clay with rare small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles. No archaeological finds or features were recorded within the area of the barn. Some root disturbance was evident, indicating the presence of vegetation prior to the barn's construction.

An area of the barn foundations facing the extant house were exposed during underpinning operations and recorded as 0004. This comprised unfrosted red bricks (114mm broad, 64mm thick and 240mm long). At ground level it was



0.35m wide, with the lowest course being 3 stretchers broad. The narrower courses above this comprised alternating courses of paired stretchers and single headers. It extended to a depth of 0.5m below the existing ground level. Again, no other archaeological finds or features were observed during the monitoring of the underpinning.

### Strip foundations

The most significant observation made during the monitoring of the strip foundations was the presence of wall 0008 (see figures 2 and 3). Two distinct builds were recorded. The latest of these (0006) survived to a depth of 0.4m bgl and was of a mixed fabric, including some reused bricks laid as headers in a rough 'herringbone' pattern. The remainder of the fabric comprised rough hewn/natural flint rubble. The bricks (all unfrosted) ranged from thin (44mm thick) relatively early examples to larger (55mm thick) ones of likely 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The original build (0007) was 0.75m deep and comprised large (up to 100mm diameter) flint cobbles laid in rudimentary courses and bonded with a soft yellowish white sandy mortar. Although not fully excavated a context number was also allocated to a construction cut (0009). It is difficult to assign a date to the original build of 0008, but a medieval date is not inconceivable.



Figure 3. Wall 0008

The rest of the area of the strip foundations displayed a broadly common stratigraphy (see Figure 4). The topsoil (0005) in the area was very heavy with a significant clay component. This was described as very soft dark slightly brownish grey silty clay with occasional CBM fragments and 'modern' rubbish inclusions. It was up to c. 0.5m thick. In most places this directly overlay natural deposits, recorded in the area of the strip foundations as 0010. This was described as firm bluish grey clay with occasional chalk flecks/small nodules, rare small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles.

The topsoil was heavily disturbed in places, with a number of features that can be described as small consolidation dumps/backfilled pits, all presumably intended to deal with 'soft spots' in the poor waterlogged topsoil. All were very modern and have not been individually described.

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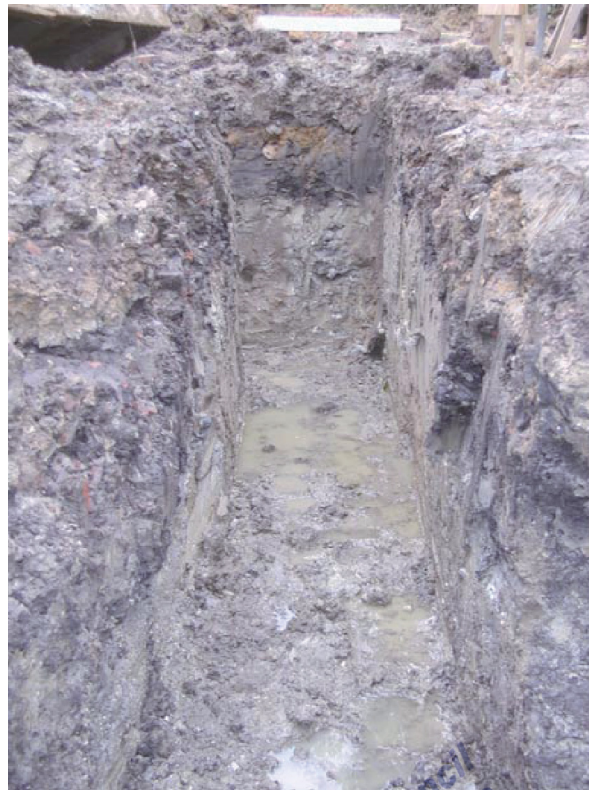


Figure 4. General shot of stratigraphic sequence in area of strip foundations

## Conclusions

The most significant finding was the substantial flint rubble wall footing (0008). At over 11m long it represents a significant structure. It lies within the area enclosed by the remnants of the pond/moat. It was definitely extant at the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map in the 1880s, although it is clearer on the Second Edition map of 1904 (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1904), with trench locations overlaid



It would seem to be part of a range of substantial outbuildings. However, given its relatively limited exposure and ambiguous dating it is difficult to speculate on the date of their original construction.

No earlier archaeological features were recorded within the area of the barn during the reduction in floor levels, indicating that no earlier structures had occupied the same footprint.

Report No. **2005/149**

Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, September 2005

OASIS I.D. No. suffolkc1-11076

## APPENDIX 1 Context List

| Context | Feature | Type      | Identifier       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Dimensions (m)   | Under | Over | Cuts | Cut by |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|------|--------|
| 0002    |         | Deposit   | Surface          | Poor 'surface' - barn interior. Loose mixed sandy clayey silt with large variety of modern/19th century inclusions.                                                                                                         | 11.8 x 6 x <0.3  | +     | 0003 |      |        |
| 0003    |         | Deposit   | Natural          | Natural drift deposits - as encountered 'inside' the stripped barn. Firm mid greyish bluish brown clay with small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles.                                                       | 11.8+ x 6+ x -   | 0002  | NFE  |      |        |
| 0004    |         | Structure | Footing          | Section of barn footings exposed during underpinning. See main text for description.                                                                                                                                        | - x - x 0.5m bgl | N/A   | N/A  |      |        |
| 0005    |         | Deposit   | Topsoil          | Very poor clayey topsoil - as observed in area of strip foundations. Very soft dark slightly brownish grey silty clay with occasional CBM fragments and frequent modern 'rubbish'. Very wet.                                | - x - x <0.4     | +     | 0008 |      | 0009   |
| 0006    | 0008    | Structure | Footing          | Rebuild/repair of 0008. Mixed fabric. Some bricks (various - see main text for description), some flint cobbles. Hard whitish grey lime mortar.                                                                             | 11.5+ x - x 0.4  | +     | 0007 |      |        |
| 0007    | 0008    | Structure | Footing          | Original build of 0008. Large flint cobbles (natural and rough hewn) laid in rudimentary courses and bonded with a soft yellowish white sandy mortar.                                                                       | 11.5+ x - x 0.75 | 0006  | 0009 |      |        |
| 0008    | 0008    | Structure | Footing          | Substantial wall footing on slightly differing alignment to extant house. Aligned broadly east-west. Nature of structure unknown. Could be of medieval date.                                                                | 11.5+ x - x 1.15 | +     | 0009 |      |        |
| 0009    | 0008    | Cut       | Construction cut | Partially revealed construction cut for wall 0008. Shape in plan unclear but most likely straight parallel-sided linear. Vertical sides and (probable) flat base.                                                           | 11.5+ x - x 1.15 | 0008  | 0005 | 0005 |        |
| 0010    |         | Deposit   | Natural          | Natural drift deposits - as recorded in the 'wet' area of the strip foundations. Firm bluish grey gleyed clay with occasional chalk flecks/small nodules and rare small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles. | 0.4m bgl+        | 0005  | NFE  |      |        |

## APPENDIX 2 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

### BARTON GRANGE, WORLINGWORTH

*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 360/04). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site is within a moated medieval enclosure which is included in the County Sites and Monuments Record (WGW 019). There is high potential for medieval settlement evidence including domestic buildings, ancillary structures, yards and occupation debris.

The development includes new construction, floor lowering below an existing barn and underpinning of that barn.

- 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 medieval occupation of the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be site preparation works which involve ground lowering on the site of the new building, floor lowering within the existing barn and the excavation of building footings or underpinning.

Site preparation works involving ground lowering 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 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.

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 soil lowering, unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of one hour per 15 square metres must be allowed for archaeological recording.

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: 14 September 2005

Reference: Worlingworth-BartonGrange09

**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.**