

Land adjacent to Chapel Cottage,  
Wickhambrook  
WKB 041

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2011/208**

**Client: Row Build Ltd**

Author: Simon Cass

December 2011



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Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: December 2011

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/208  
**Site Name:** Land adjacent to Chapel Cottage, Wickhambrook  
**Planning Application No:** SE/11/0679  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
**Grid Reference:** TL 7460 5571  
**Client/Funding Body:** Row Build Ltd  
**Client Reference:** -  
**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-113644  
**Site Code:** WKB 041

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

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Cass  
Date: 19/12/11

Approved By: Jo Caruth  
Position: Acting Contracts Manager  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Three archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated on land adjacent to Chapel Cottage, Wickhambrook in December 2011 prior to the construction of four new dwellings under planning application SE/11/0679. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were noted and no further works are recommended as necessary for the fulfilment of Condition 12 of the planning application (relating to archaeology).



## **1. Introduction**

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Planning permission (SE/11/0679) was granted by St Edmundsbury District Council for the development of vacant land adjacent to Chapel Cottage, Wickhambrook. This permission contained a condition relating to archaeology requiring that a program of acceptable archaeological works be undertaken in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, and if archaeological deposits or features were found, provide suitable information for a mitigation strategy to be implemented to record or preserve any remains likely to be affected by the development.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies within a slight defile on the edge of a hill slope to the west of a tributary of the River Glem, on the north-eastern edge of the village of Wickhambrook, by the junction of Cemetery Road and Duddery Road and at a height of 95-97m OD, sloping up to the north-east and north with the current road forming the south-western boundary of the site.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to the site of medieval structural remains (HER no. WBK 010). In addition, undated ring ditch crop marks are visible on the far side of the river valley to the east, suggesting the possibility of prehistoric occupation in the general area.

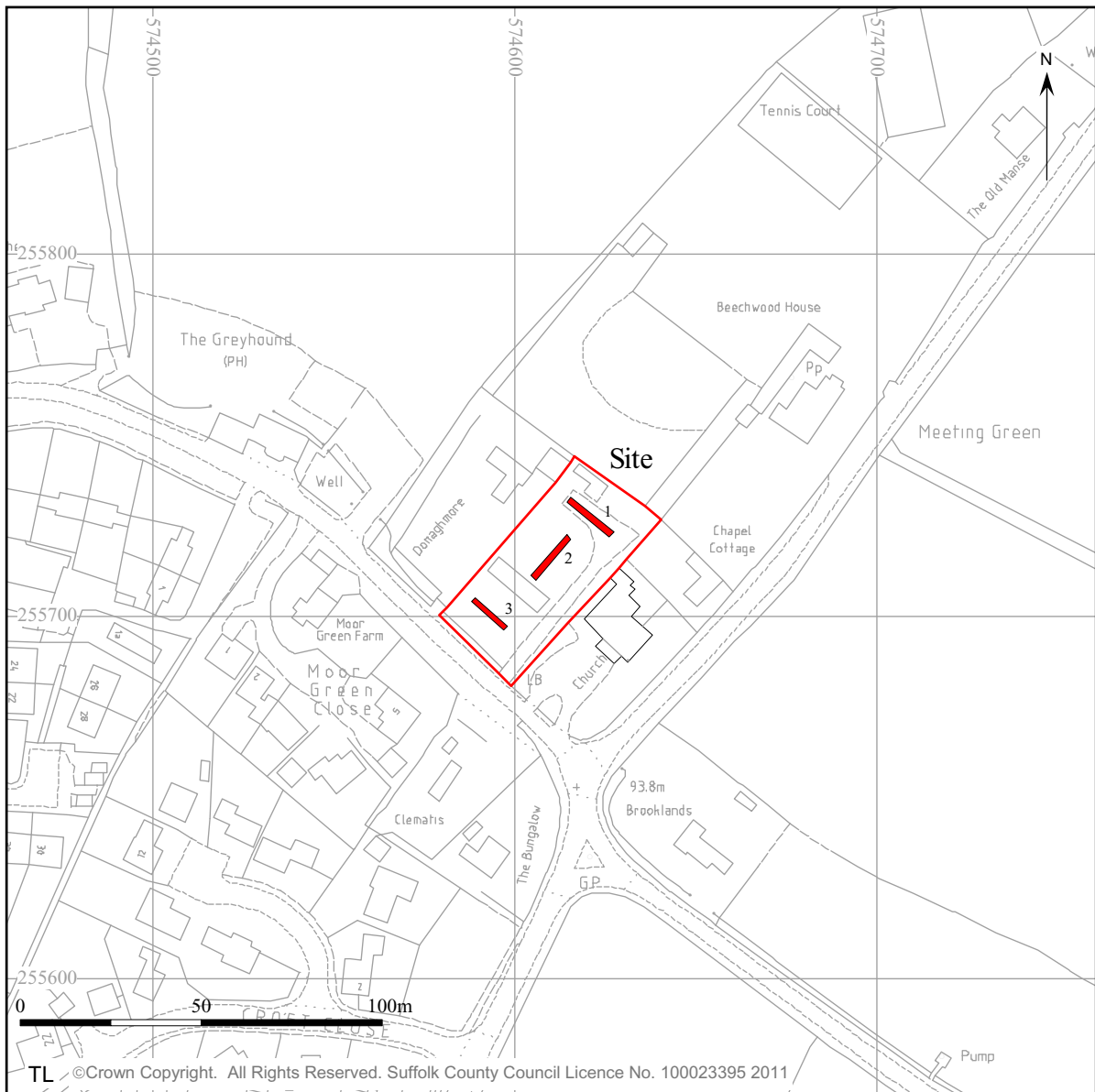
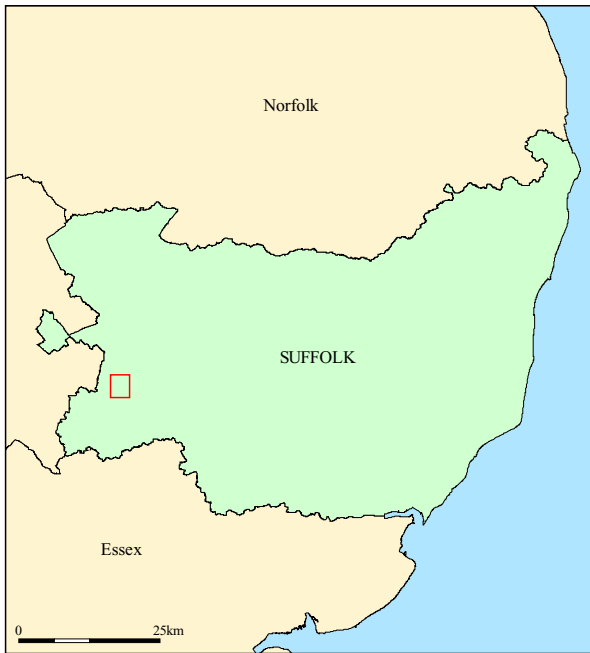


Figure 1. Location map

## 4. Methodology

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The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 830sq m) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to three trenches, 1.8m wide with a total length of 45m. The trenches were sited in a standard array pattern to cover the site, including a trench parallel to the road in order to investigate any potential frontage development. In total, 38m of trench was opened up, as due to deep deposits being identified in one trench, it was shortened due to safety considerations.

The trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered. Test-pits were excavated in all three trenches to confirm the nature of the deposits encountered where necessary.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20 where necessary. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera (6.2 megapixels).

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using hand-tapes, tied in to standing building elements adjacent to the site and present on Ordnance Survey maps.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds under HER No. WKB 041.

## 5. Results

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### Trench 1

This trench was 13.2m long, 1.6m wide and approximately 0.3-0.4m deep, orientated northwest-southeast towards the north-eastern end of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.13m of heavily disturbed mid-dark greyish brown clay-silt topsoil above a mid-brown silty clay subsoil with occasional chalk flecks up to 0.2m thick. This sealed mid/pale brown natural chalky till, visible towards the south-eastern end of the trench. The edge of a natural watercourse was visible in the north-western end of the trench, which was filled with a dull brown slightly silty clay with slight marbling visible. A test-pit excavated at the end of the trench located the base of this feature at 0.9m below surface level. A single modern feature was observed on the north-eastern edge of the trench, containing modern ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. This was not recorded further and the artefacts were discarded on site.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing south-east (2 x 1m scales)

### Trench 2

This trench was 14.9m long, 1.6m wide and approximately 0.5m deep, orientated northeast-southwest towards the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.28m of topsoil above 0.22m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil. The majority of this trench appears to be within the watercourse noted in Trench 1, and a test-pit at

the southern end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.85m below surface level. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed.



Plate 2. Trench 2, facing south-west (2 x 1m scales)

### Trench 3

This trench was 10m long, 1.6m wide and approximately 0.5m deep, orientated northwest-southeast towards the south-western end of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of topsoil over a layer of redeposited subsoil 0.41m thick containing occasional CBM fragments and pieces. This sealed a buried topsoil layer, 0.26m thick, of mid/dark brown silty clay, with occasional CBM fragments present. Below this was a mid greyish brown subsoil layer, containing a defunct ceramic field drain at a depth of 1.1m below the surface. No natural geological layers were observed in this trench. Due to the depth of the trench and the poor surface ground conditions the central portion was stepped up after 3m, to the level of the buried topsoil at 0.5m below the surface and a test-pit excavated at 9-10m along the trench. This confirmed that the already observed stratigraphy continued and a decision was made to terminate the trench early since no archaeologically relevant deposits were likely to be reached in the final 5m.



Plate 3. Trench 3 showing buried soils, facing southwest (1m scale)

## **6. Finds and environmental evidence**

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No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation. Two modern fragments from a feature within Trench 1 were not retained.

## **7. Discussion**

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The absence of any archaeologically relevant deposits or artefacts suggests that whatever the medieval foundation to the south of the site was, it does not relate to any activity on this site. The silted up watercourse would seem to be an old route off the hill into the top of the slight defile that the site is within; it is likely that there are many such natural features in the vicinity caused by water-runoff creating new routes to the nearby streams (one is still running between the road and the south-western edge of the site).

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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In the light of the encountered absence of archaeological activity on the site, no further works are recommended to be necessary for the fulfilment of the planning condition relating to archaeology for this development. This report will stand in the County HER as an appropriate record of the works carried out, with the site records stored in a publicly accessible archive for any future examination.



## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\  
Wickhambrook/WKB 041 Evaluation

Finds and environmental archive: None.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Beverton and Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

**Appendix 1. Brief and specification**

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Economy, Skills and Environment  
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 1RX

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

### **LAND ADJACENT TO CHAPEL COTTAGE, MEETING GREEN, WICKHAMBROOK, SUFFOLK CB8 8XS**

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	SE/11/0679
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TL 745 556
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Erection of 4 dwellings
<b>AREA:</b>	0.165 ha.
<b>CURRENT LAND USE:</b>	Vacant with derelict glasshouse; the site had limited use as a small holding until 1990.
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	2 November 2011

### **Summary**

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 12) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 This application is located in an area of high archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to the site of medieval structural remains (HER no. WBK 010).

### **Planning Background**

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
  - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
  - 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.83.00m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.46.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
  - 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

## **Standards and Guidance**

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **Notes**

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.



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