

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Land adjacent to Crofters, Church Green Lane, Wattisfield WSF 057

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO CROFTERS, CHURCH GREEN LANE, WATTISFIELD.

Planning Application No. OL/11/03

NGR: TM 0114 7433

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-13361

Funded by: Burgess Homes Ltd

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/45

### *Summary*

*An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for three new houses on land adjacent to Crofters, Church Green Lane, Wattisfield, did not locate any archaeological evidence.*

### **Introduction**

A series of visits was made to the site from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for three houses. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application OL/11/03. The work was funded by the developer, Burgess Homes Ltd.

Interest in the site was based upon its general location within the village (Fig.1), lying within 120m of the medieval church and graveyard. The County Sites and Monuments Record also records a variety of findspots of Roman and medieval date within the general vicinity, including four Roman kilns, WSF 006, some 250m to the south. There was moderate potential therefore for the development to disturb evidence of multi-period occupation, which would require archaeological monitoring.

### **Methodology and Results**

The brief and specification called for continuous monitoring of the excavation of the footing trenches. However after the results of the continuous monitoring of Plot 1, R.D. Carr approved a more limited program of observation, with the trenches of one remaining plot being observed once fully excavated, as sufficient to record any archaeological deposits on the site.

The trenches were excavated with a 0.8m wide toothed bucket to a depth of c.1m.

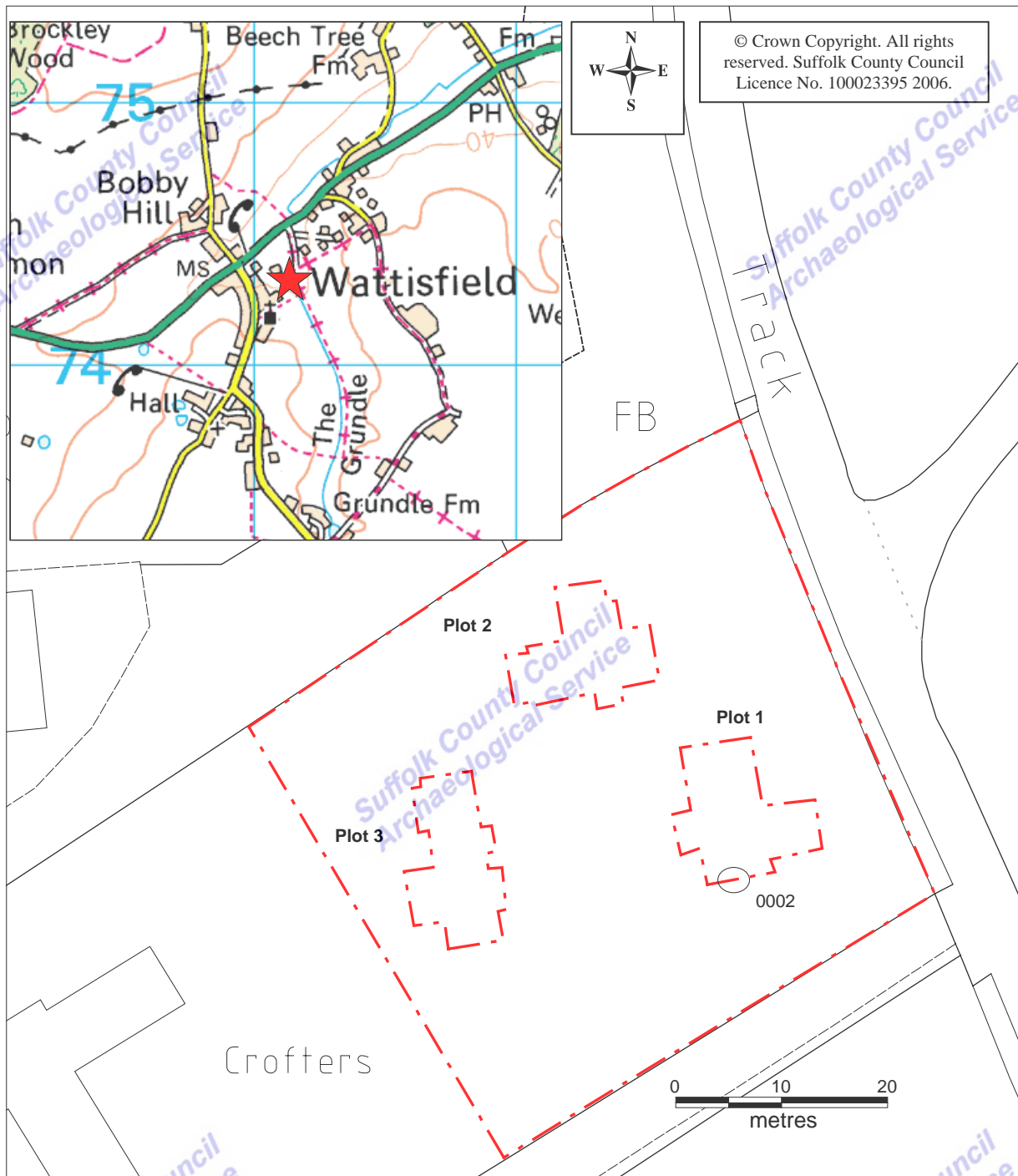


Figure 1. Site location plan

**Plot 1:** The trenches for this plot were excavated under continuous observation by an archaeologist. This showed a 0.2m-0.3m thick topsoil, overlying a layer, 0001, which varied from 0.3m to 0.8m thick, of homogenous mid brown clay/silt loam. This overlaid the natural subsoil of solid chalk mixed with areas of orange/brown sand and gravels which was seen at a depth varying from 0.6m to the east and north and over 1m in the south-west part of the plot. Occasional fragments of post-medieval brick were seen but not collected.

A possible pit or natural hollow, 0002, was observed and partially excavated by hand. It had an irregular shape and measured c.3m wide and cut 0.3m deep into the subsoil. Its fill, 0003, was a mix of chalk and mid brown clay/silt loam.

**Plot 2:** The trenches were inspected once fully excavated. A similar soil profile was seen with a topsoil overlying the homogenous layer, 0001, of mid brown clay/silt loam. The natural orange/brown sand/gravel subsoil was seen at a depth of 0.8m across the majority of the plot with an area of chalk subsoil rising to a depth of 0.5m in the northern part. No archaeological features or material were seen.

**Plot 3:** Not monitored.

## **Discussion**

The thick homogenous layer, 0001, was a former topsoil, which had probably been built up through natural processes such as hillwash from the slope to the east. Its varying thickness was largely due to the undulating nature of the underlying subsoil, which was generally undisturbed. It is unclear whether the single feature identified, 0002, was natural or manmade, and it is undated.

The absence of any significant features, or material in layer 0001, indicates that the site was not occupied during the medieval period, despite its close proximity to the church. There was no significant evidence of any other phase of occupation.

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Assistant Project Officer  
Field Team  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

March 2006

# Appendix 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### ADJACENT 'CROFTERS', WATTISFIELD

*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/11/03). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area is within 120m of the medieval church and churchyard and areas of Roman and medieval finds are known within c. 200m. There is believed to be moderate potential for early occupation of the area.
- 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.
- 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.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping the stripping process 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 whilst they are 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 topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of one hour per 40 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 hour per 5 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: 4 April 2005

Reference: /Wattisfield-Crofters04

**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.**