

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

‘MAPLES’, ERBURY PLACE, CLARE (SMR ref. CLA 046)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION TO ‘MAPLES’
(Application Nos. SE/05/02012)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/019
(OASIS Ref. Suffolke1-13529)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of ‘Maples’, Erbury Place, Clare (NGR; TL 7678 4557), was undertaken during February 2006. Excavation of the footing trenches indicated that much of the rear garden lies over a back-filled pond of which a small remnant lies to the northeast. Artefacts noted in the fill indicate the pond was filled in the later half of the 20th century. The natural subsoil comprised a pale brown silty clay which lay under between 0.3m to 0.7m of garden soil. Away from the area of the back-filled pond the surface of the natural subsoil did not appear to be truncated. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference CLA 046. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owners, Mr and Mrs Holland.

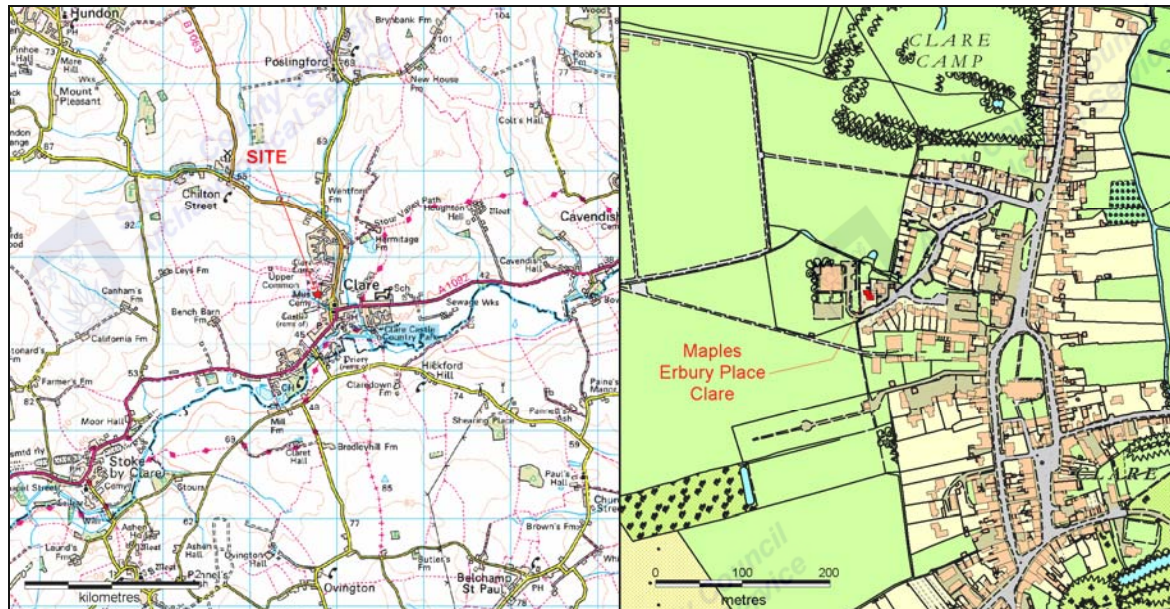


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with construction of an extension to 'Maples', Erbury Place, Clare, was undertaken during February 2006. Interest in the site is due to its location close to the predicted line of the rear boundary bank and ditch to the tenements lying to the west of Callis Street. It also lies within the area of archaeological interest for Norman and medieval Clare as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

The proposed extension is to be constructed to the rear of the existing house. The proposed new build extends *c.* 13m from the rear of the house and is up to *c.* 5.5m wide. The extension is to be built on strip foundations, which will involve limited ground disturbance but with the potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TL 7678 4557; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference CLA 046. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owners, Mr and Mrs Holland.

Methodology

The footings for the extension were visually examined for archaeological deposits or cut features after they had been mechanically excavated by the building contractors. The revealed soil profile was recorded with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts and a small number of digital photographs of the work were taken. The location of the footings relative to the existing house and any details noted are illustrated in Figure 2.

Results

The site was visited on two occasions, 14th and 16th February 2006, to inspect the groundworks then underway. During these two visits all footings for the extension were seen (Plate I).

The trenches were cut *c.* 1m deep for most of the extension area except at its northern end where the footings were *c.* 1.4m deep. This greater depth is due to the rear area of the garden being a raised plateau *c.* 0.4m higher than the area immediately adjacent the house. In profile, as revealed by the footing trenches, it could be seen that this difference in height is due to a greater thickness of topsoil it being *c.* 0.7m thick towards the rear of the garden as opposed to *c.* 0.3m thick adjacent the house. In the north-south footing for the eastern wall of the extension the revealed soil profile indicated that immediately beneath the topsoil a deposit of clean pale brown silty clay, which was interpreted as the natural subsoil, was present. In the remainder of the footing trenches a large cut, aligned roughly north-south, was evident. Only the eastern edge of the cut, running down at an angle of

approximately 45°, was visible within the footings. The cut was flat bottomed and filled with a deposit of dark loamy soil, which was encountered immediately beneath the topsoil. Within this fill a large amount of post-medieval debris such as timber posts and planks, numerous coils of barbed wire, various pieces of iron work, occasional fragments of brick

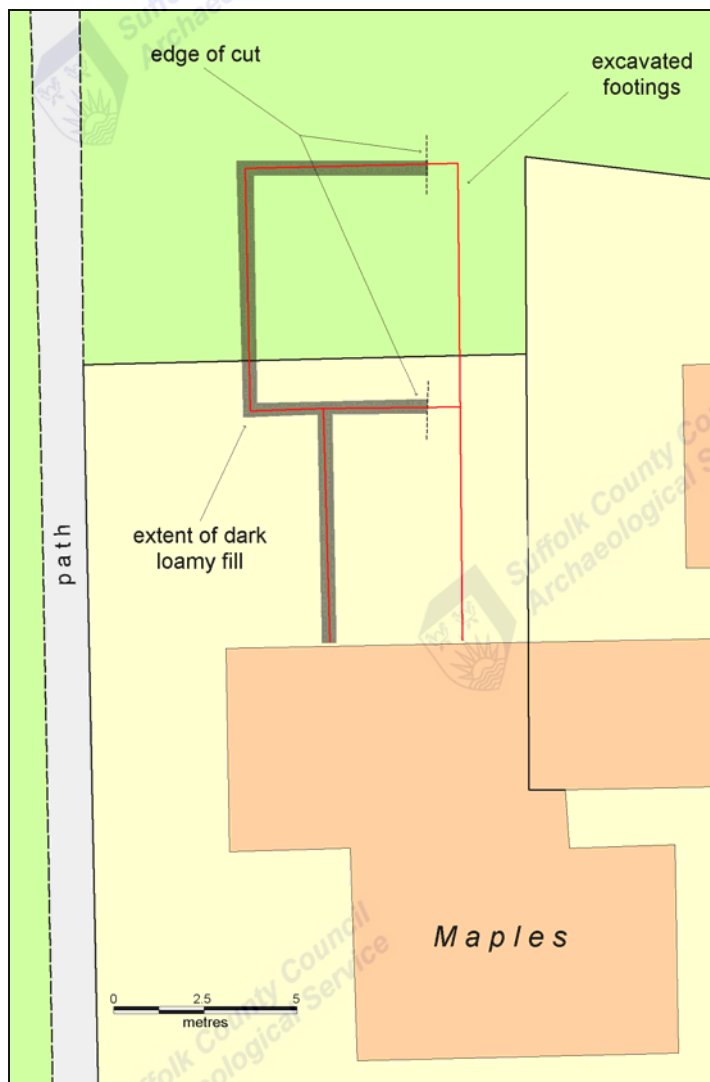


Figure 2: Location of Excavated Footings

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and a number of leather straps and buckles, which appeared to be part of a horse harness, were noted. Beneath this deposit, which extended to the base of the footing trench, the pale brown silty clay was present.

The majority of the spoil was still on site and this was quickly examined but only post-medieval debris was recovered. No artefacts were retained although some of the harness fragments were photographed (Plate II).

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the SMR reference CLA 046, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-13529.

Conclusion

The large cut noted in the footings is undoubtedly a backfilled pond which, judging by the nature of the material within, was filled sometime in the second half of the 20th century. What is believed to be a pond is marked on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map of the area surveyed in the 1890s (figure 3) and a remnant still survives as a small pond to the northeast of 'Maples'. The pond, unaltered in shape, is also marked on the 3rd Edition OS map which was surveyed during the 1920s and indicates the pond was still open at that time. Although other maps, earlier and later, exist these were not readily available during the compiling of this report.

No other archaeological deposits or features were noted but only a small proportion of the footings examined were not affected by the pond. The observed footings were cleanly cut

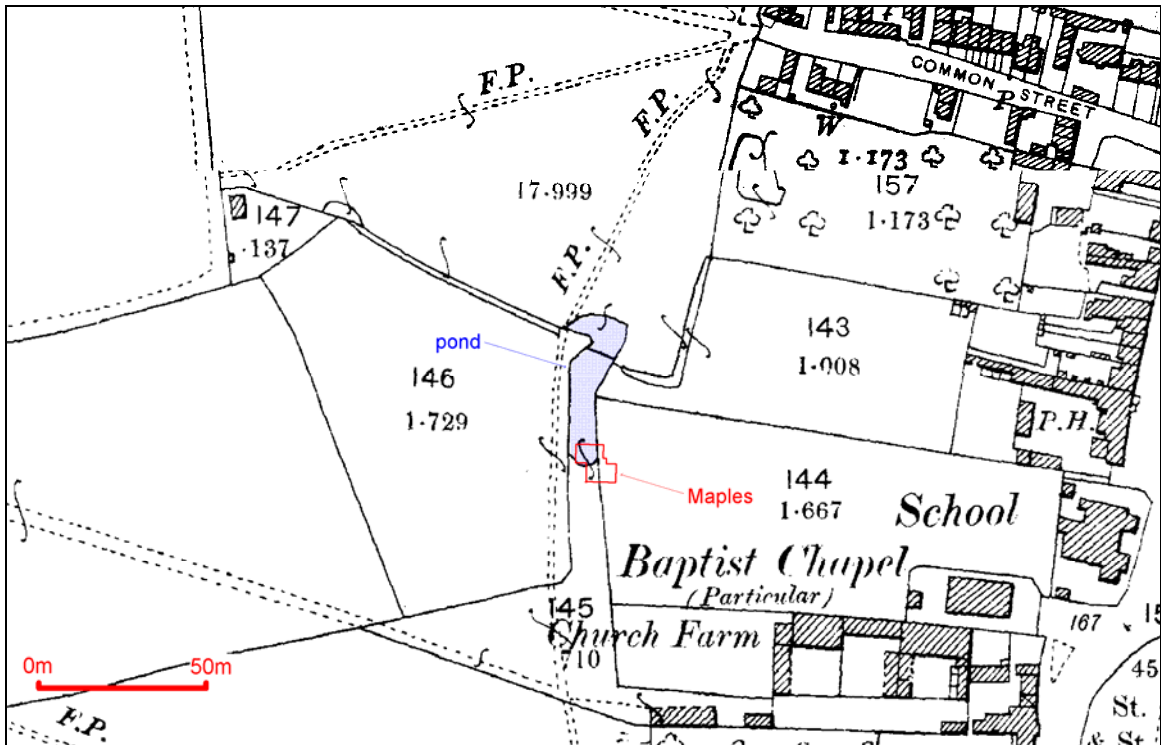


Figure 3: extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 sheet for Clare, surveyed during the 1890s. The site of 'Maples' has been outlined in red and the pond highlighted in blue.

and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified. Outside of the pond area there was no evidence of the natural subsoil having been truncated and the complete absence of any early finds suggests that it is unlikely to have been the site of any significant occupation earlier than the post-medieval period.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

14th March 2006



Plate I: works underway, 16/2/06



Plate II: selection of leather straps with buckles and iron artefact recovered from pond fill (16/2/06)

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

MAPLES, ERBURY PLACE, CLARE

1. Background

1.1 Planning permission to extend Maples, Erbury Place, Clare, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/05/02012). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest for Norman and medieval Clare in the County Sites and Monuments Record and will involve significant ground disturbance. The site lies close to the predicted line of the rear boundary bank and ditch to the tenements lying to the west of Callis Street (still visible further south and north).

1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be 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 the medieval occupation of the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.

3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

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 County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity should 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 footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and 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 should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should 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: Keith Wade
 Suffolk County Council
 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Environment and Transport Department
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 10 November 2005

Reference: /Clare-Maples11

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.