

# Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

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SMR-SSM 027

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Rear of 'Giffords', Lower St. Stratford St Mary

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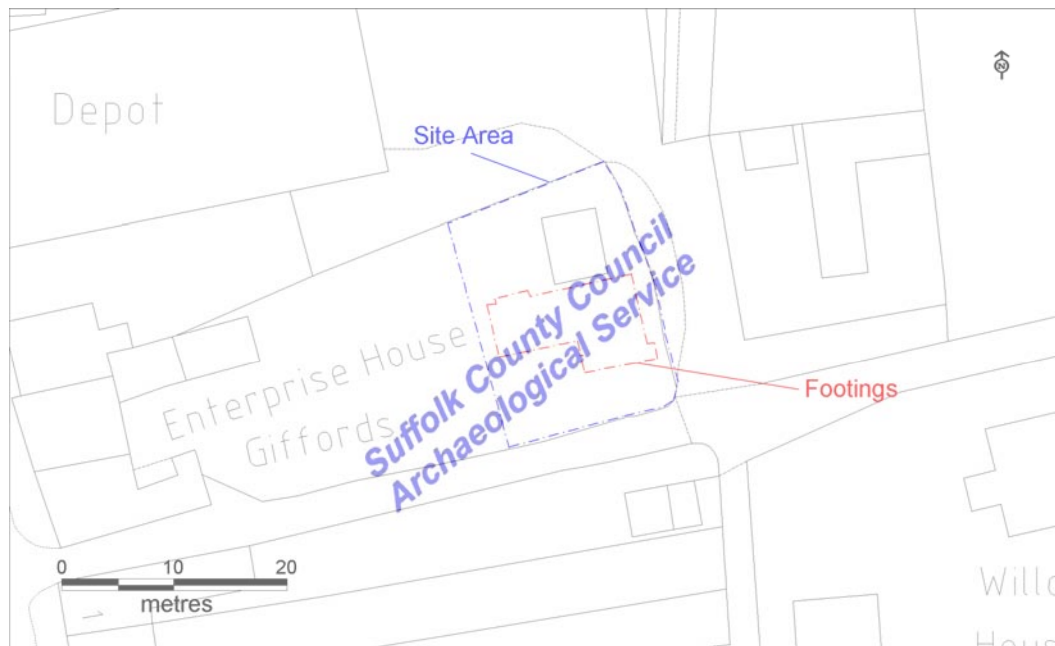
## Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning application (B/05/02040/FUL) at the above address. Funding for the monitoring is to be provided by the developers Mr. And Mrs. G. Pearce. The development would consist of a single house with integral garage. The site area measures approximately 21.0 by 15m. in total and within this area around 70metres of footing trenches were dug (see site plan). The monitoring visit was made on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 when it was possible to examine all of the recently dug open trenches and also a large quantity of the spoil. The development lies at TM 0431 3394 just above 5m. OD on the northeast side of the Stour Valley.



## Introduction

The site location is south of the main medieval village core, although settlement extends along the valley towards the Stour crossing. Stratford is identified with the Roman place name, Ad Ansam, at the crossing of the River Stour, by the Roman road which ran between Colchester and Caister by Norwich. Little archaeological evidence has been found relating to this potentially substantial settlement, however, the development is close to a possible line of the road. “Cinerary urns” are also recorded as found in the vicinity in the late nineteenth century (SSM 007) (Plouviez: 2006).



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## Methodology

The footing trenches revealed a good sample area of the entire site and varied slightly in depth from between 1.10 to 1.30m., relative to the existing ground surface levels. A sketch plan of the trenches was prepared and measurements of soil profiles were taken at seven points across the trench layout. The trench sides and base deposits were all inspected for any indications of archaeological features or significant finds. A substantial quantity of the upcast soil was also closely examined for possible dating evidence.

## Conclusion

The topsoil was generally deep, ranging from 0.50 to 0.80m.. It consisted of dark sandy loam with frequent medium size stones (10-30mm.) and was typical of many garden soils. Extensive root disturbance was evident, most recently from the remains of elder, holly and Leylandii growth prior to the site clearance. The landowner was able to confirm that the site had been used extensively within living memory for the disposal of local domestic rubbish within shallow pits. The contents of the topsoil clearly suggested this from the evidence of large amounts of nineteenth and twentieth century glass, ceramics and metal refuse. The subsoil was consistently made up of yellow to orange sandy gravel with occasional bands of more concentrated sand, none of the trenches revealed the full extent of the depth of this deposit. The subsoil had not been cut by any observable features and is likely to represent an undisturbed natural deposit. In contrast, the topsoil demonstrated extensive recent disturbance across the entire trench area.

The site failed to produce any observable evidence of activity prior to the nineteenth century. The majority of the ceramic and glass material found within the spoil was probably twentieth century in date. Nineteenth century Ordnance survey maps indicate an area of fenced ground, probably consisting of gardens linked to the houses which front Stratford Street to the west (now known as The Street).

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## References

Plouviez, J., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological monitoring of Development at Rear of Giffords, Lower Street, Stratford St Mary'. SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds.

Moore, I.E., Plouviez, J. & West, S., 1988 *The Archaeology of Roman Suffolk*. Suffolk County Council Arch. Unit, Ipswich.