

Land Adjacent Meadow Court House, Stanton, SNT 054

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/003

Client: Day Building and Maintenance Ltd

Author: Rob Brooks

January/2013

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Report Date: January/2013

HER Information

Site Code: SNT 054
Site Name: Land Adjacent Meadow Court House
Report Number 2013/003
Planning Application No: SE/10/0551
Date of Fieldwork: 11th January, 2013
Grid Reference: TL 9669 7338
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-140480
Curatorial Officer: Sarah Poppy
Project Officer: Rob Brooks
Client/Funding Body: Day Building and Maintenance Ltd
Client Reference: NA

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: Rob Brooks

Date: 31/01/2013

Approved By: Jo Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 31/01/2013

Signed:

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Summary

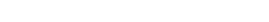
A single trench was excavated on land adjacent to Meadow Court House, in Stanton, Suffolk. This revealed two post-medieval walls and an associated 18th-19th century brick floor, thought to be the remains of buildings recorded on 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. A chalk floor/screed layer was also recorded, which appeared to have truncated the original topsoil. No finds were recovered.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\overline{\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}}$

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of two houses on land to the south-west of Meadow Court House, Stanton, in Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT, see Appendix 1) to inform planning application (SE/10/0551). Day Building and Maintenance Ltd funded the work that was carried out on 11th January, 2013. The site is located within a garden, on the north-west of Meadow Court Road, at grid reference TL 9669 7338.

2. Geology and topography

The topography on site was fairly flat, although the general area slopes up from the 35m contour to the west/north-west of the plot, to the 40m contour to the south-east.

The superficial geology of the area is recorded as clay, silt, sand and gravel, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk (BGS, 2012). On site, the geology presented itself as orange stony sand, with patches of chalk.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as the medieval historic settlement core (SNT 052, Fig. 1), to the south-east of the medieval Church of All Saints (SNT 029), which was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday survey. The remains of the Church of St John are also recorded 500m to the north-west (SNT 006), close to the findspot of a Saxon penny (SNT 043), as well as other Roman, Saxon and medieval finds (SNT 015). A reported Roman mosaic was also destroyed in the 1960s during building works at Catchpole Way, 180m to the north-east (SNT 044). A 15th-17th century house is recorded 270m to the south (SNT 053), whilst a post-medieval mill is located 420m to the east (SNT 007).

The 1884 and 1904 Ordnance Survey maps of the site indicate that several buildings were present within the development area, as well the boundary of another property (Fig. 2).

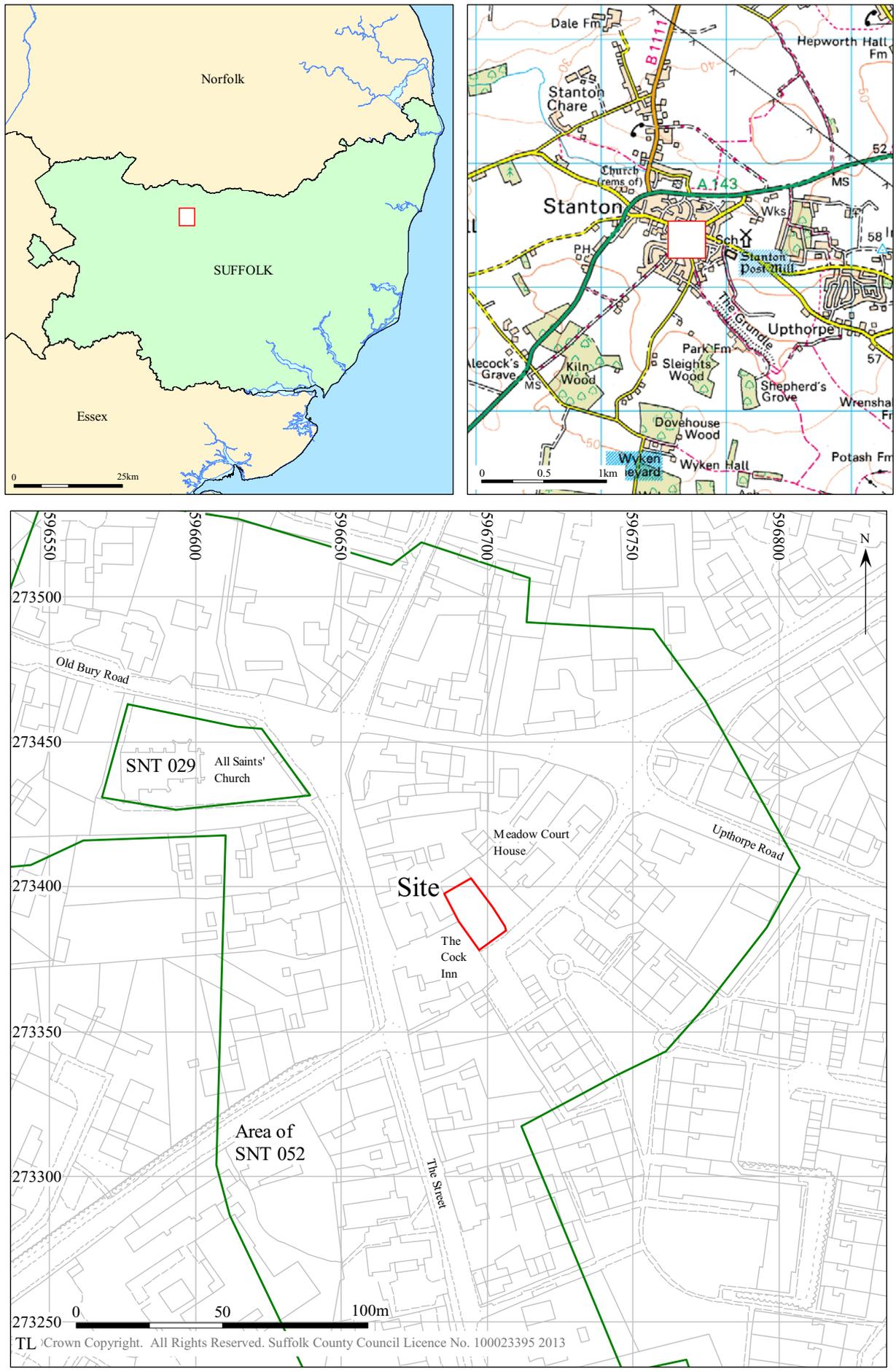


Figure 1. Site location (red) and HER entries (green)

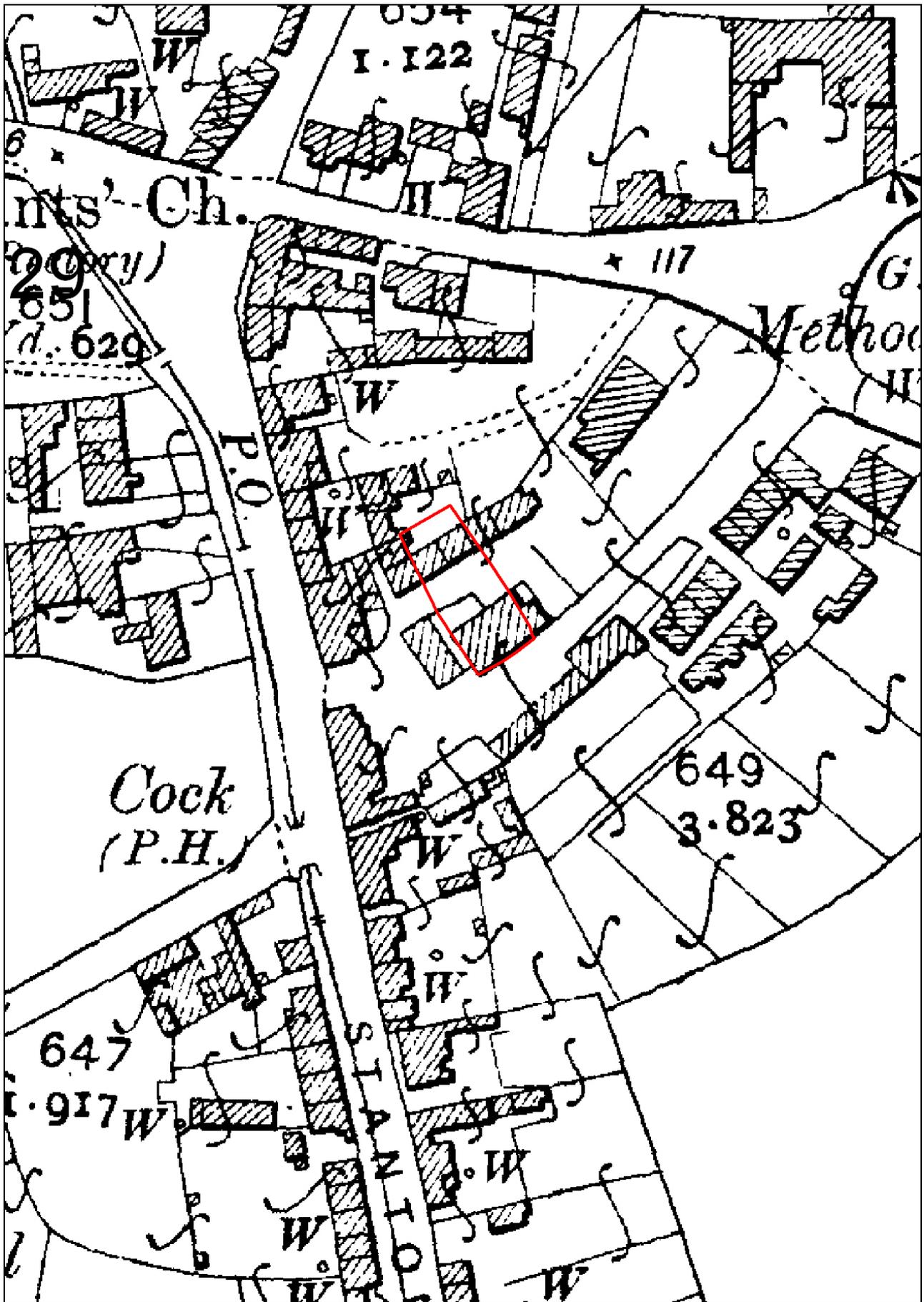


Figure 2. 1904 Ordnance Survey map showing approximate site outline (red)

4. Methodology

The trench was excavated using a machine equipped with a toothless bucket. The excavation was constantly monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Whilst the original WSI specified that a 15m trench would be excavated, extending to the street frontage, this went beyond the property boundary and as such the trench was reduced to 14m. The southern 7m of trenching was abandoned after a concrete pad was uncovered in this area (Fig. 3). However, it was possible to excavate a 7m length within the house footprint, although this was only 1.2m wide due to the positions of brick surface 0001 and wall 0003. It was agreed with Sarah Poppy (SCCAS/CT) that this was sufficient to fulfil the Brief and as such no supplementary trenching was excavated. After the systematic removal of the topsoil, levelling and subsoil deposits, the natural geological levels were exposed. The upcast spoil was monitored for finds. The trench was excavated through the centre of the proposed area of housing, in order to sample the whole area effectively (Fig. 3).

When the excavations were finished, the trench profile was cleaned and then recorded, with soil descriptions and measurements. Colour digital photographs at 4288 x 3216 pixel resolution were taken of the trench. Plans of the site were drawn at 1:50 and located using known OS points. All of the contexts were recorded in plan as extensively as possible at 1:50 and a continuous numbering system was used for descriptions (Appendix 2). Environmental samples were not taken.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code SNT 054. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-140480, Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code SNT 054.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

No cut archaeological features were found within the trench, although the remains of a brick floor surface, as well as two post-medieval walls were recorded (Fig. 3). No finds were recovered. A layer of topsoil, 0.1-0.2m deep was recorded across the site, although in the southern third of the area it was thinner where it overlaid a concrete slab. In places this concrete slab also overlaid a brick surface, 0001, which was seen in the trench section. Underlying the topsoil in the trench was a layer of redeposited and compacted chalk with occasional CBM flecks, which was c.0.45m deep and recorded as 0004. This was interpreted as a levelling layer or a screed and was cut by walls 0002 and 0003, which it then extended beyond into the northern half of the trench. This chalk layer in turn overlaid 0005, a 0.25-0.35m thick subsoil of mottled grey and orange silty-sand that was present above the superficial geology of orange sand and chalk patches.

5.2 Trench results

Surface 0001

Surface 0001 was made up of yellow bricks and was present in some areas underlying the concrete slab recorded in the southern third of the site. The bricks were laid on their side (stretcher up) to form a robust surface. The surface was interpreted on site as belonging to the structures present on the early Ordnance Survey maps. The relationship between the surface and walls 0002 and 0003 was never firmly established, but it was interpreted that they were contemporary.

A complete brick made in a yellowish-buff fine fabric containing sparse red and pink grog was recovered from surface 0001 (2817g). Dimensions: L228mm, W105mm and T (thickness) 63mm. The brick has mortar on the headers and had been laid on its side. The upper stretcher face shows some indications of a white coating in patches, which has become worn. The white-fired brick is likely to have been produced locally and is of a type which was commonly in use for flooring in this region in the 18th and 19th century. Such bricks are sometimes called 'suffolk whites' (Goffin, pers. comm.).



Plate 2. Brick surface 0001, 1m scale



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-west, 1m scale



Plate 3. Core of wall 0002



Plate 4. Core of wall 0003, flanking trench

Walls 0002 and 0003

Wall 0002 ran at a 90° angle to the trench, with its return, 0003 flanking the trench's north-east side. Both appeared to be the surviving foundations of the upstanding walls and were made up of yellowish-cream soft mortar, reused bricks fragments and flint nodules. The walls were recorded immediately underlying the topsoil, cutting through layers 0004 and 0005. Wall 0002 was 0.45m thick x 0.7m deep, whilst the full dimensions of wall 0003 were not visible.

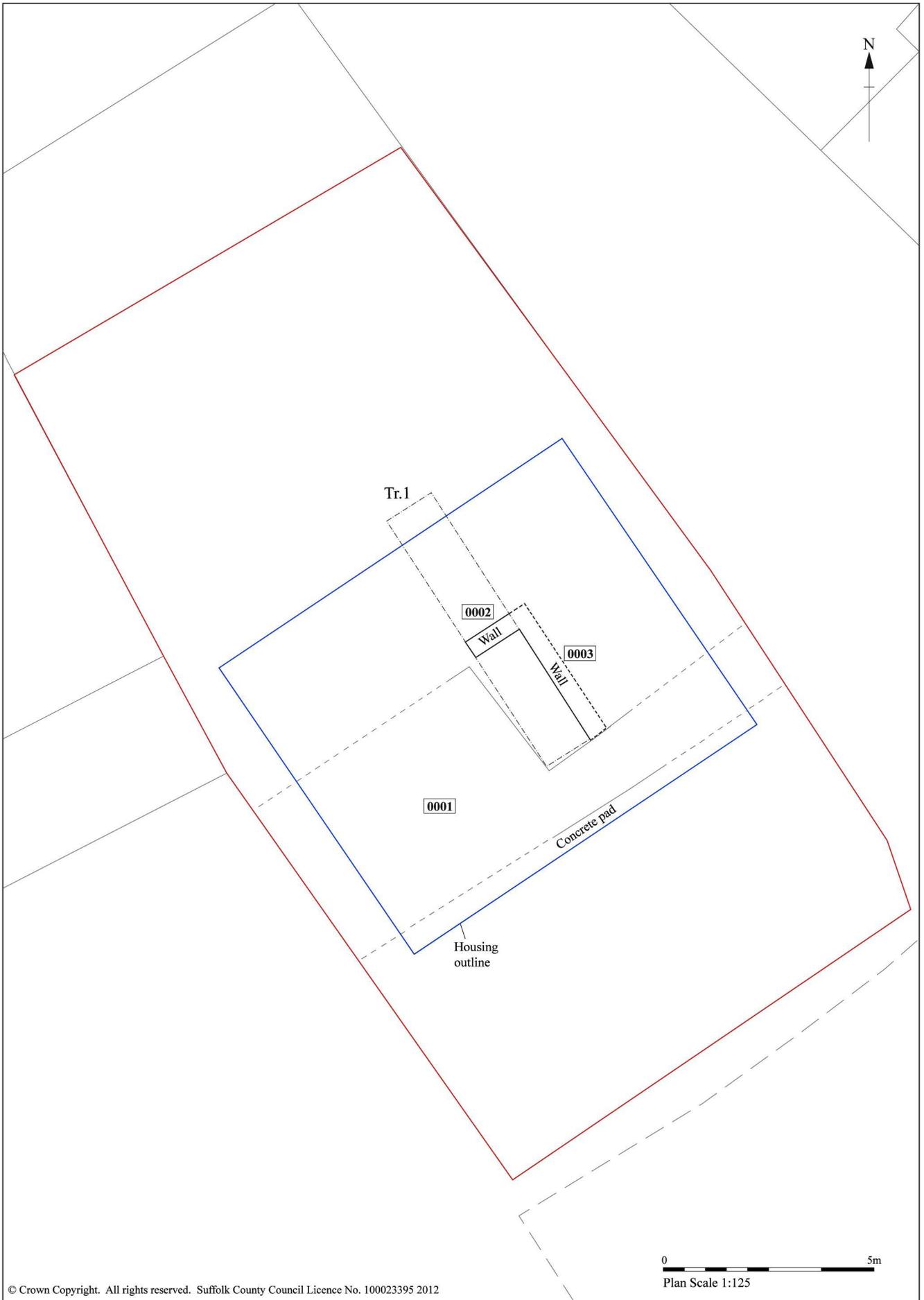


Figure 3. Site plan

6. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

This evaluation has revealed walls and a brick surface that reflect the site's post-medieval occupation as recorded on the early Ordnance Survey maps. Walls 0002 and 0003 appear to be the new north-east corner of one of the buildings shown on the 1884 and 1904 maps. The brick surface almost certainly represents the internal floor for the structures, but the function of these buildings is not clear from either the map or archaeological evidence. The chalk levelling layer is probably associated with the post-medieval buildings that occupied the site (although it was not positively dated).

Judging by the deposits encountered within the trenching, further remains of the walls and brick surface indicating post-medieval buildings will be present within the development area. Further groundworks by the developers may require archaeological monitoring in order to attempt to establish the building's function. However the walls appear to have been truncated to floor level, which would limit any interpretation of the structure. It does not appear that any earlier deposits are present on the site. The need for any further work is ultimately to be determined by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Stanton\SNT 054 Land Adj Meadow Court

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HSA-HSZ\HSQ 17-22

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out and directed by Rob Brooks. Project management was undertaken by Jo Caruth who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians and specialist finds advice was provided by Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Rob Brooks and Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2012, Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

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 MEADOW COURT HOUSE MEADOW COURT STANTON

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/10/0551

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TM 966 733

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of 2 dwellings

AREA: Small

CURRENT LAND USE: Hardstanding / garden

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Sarah Poppy
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741226
E-mail: sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 28/08/2012

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 5) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted 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 1.3), 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 site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). It is situated in the historic settlement core of Stanton, located close to All Saints Church (STN 029) and to the rear of several listed buildings of late medieval/early post medieval date.

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 A single linear trench, measuring 15m in length is to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed development. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trench(es) 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 1.3.

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 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.

Appendix 2. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate	
0001	0001		Floor Layer	Pale whitish-yellow brick floor. Not made up of flooring bricks, instead consisting of unfrogged bricks laid on their sides, stretchers up, to form a surface. Surviving immediately below a concrete slab that approximately 1/3 of the south-east area of the site. Possibly a floor for the original 'barn' that was on the site.										No	No			
0002	0002		Wall Foundation	SW-NE aligned wall foundation consisting of pale yellowish-cream soft mortar, reused brick fragments and flints nodules (two of which measured up to 0.4m x 0.5m). Located under the topsoil, but cutting chalk floor/screed 0004, which existed on both the northern and southern sides of 0002. Foundations wall, possibly for the 'barn' that stood on the site/the building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.	>1.2	0.45	0.7				0004		No	No				
0003	0003		Wall Foundation	SE-NW aligned wall foundation consisting of pale yellowish-cream soft mortar, reused brick fragments and flints nodules (two of which measured up to 0.4m x 0.5m). Located under the topsoil, but cutting chalk floor/screed 0004. Foundations wall, possibly for the 'barn' that stood on the site/the building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.	>3.55	0.45	0.7				0004		No	No				
0004	0004		Floor Layer	Layer of redeposited and compacted chalk, with occasional CBM flecks. Clear horizon with underlying subsoil. Unclear relationship with floor 0001, but cut by walls 0002 and 0003. Chalk floor/screed layer, presumably associated with the structure that was formerly present on the site.			0.45				0005	0002, 0003	No	No				
0005			Subsoil Layer	Mottled grey and orange silty-sand, of a friable compaction, with common small stone inclusions and a clear horizon clarity with the underlying geology. Subsoil layer. Partly discoloured by leaching and partly by root action.			0.35-0					0004	No	No				

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-140480

Project details

Project name	SNT 054 Land Adjacent Meadow Court House Evaluation
Short description of the project	A single trench was excavated on land adjacent to Meadow Court House, in Stanton, Suffolk. This revealed two post-medieval walls and an associated 18th-19th century brick floor, thought to be the remains of buildings recorded on 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. A chalk floor/screed layer was also recorded, which appeared to have truncated the original topsoil. No finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2013 End: 11-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SNT 054 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SNT 054 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2013/003 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SE/10/0551 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY STANTON SNT 054 Land Adjacent Meadow Court House Evaluation
Postcode	IP31 2AQ
Study area	188.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9669 7338 52 0 52 19 21 N 000 53 11 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Sarah Poppy
Project director/manager	Jo Caruth
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Day Building and Maintenance Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Archive ID	SNT 054
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	SNT 054
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	SNT 054
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Other bibliographic details SCCAS Report No. 2013/003

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