

**Interim Visitor Centre
Landguard Viewing Area, Felixstowe
FEX 310**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/010

Client: Port of Felixstowe

Author: M. Sommers

January 2013

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Interim Visitor Centre
Landguard Viewing Area, Felixstowe
FEX 310

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Author: M. Sommers

Editor: Dr R. Gardner

Report Date: January 2013

HER Information

Site Code: FEX 310

Site Name: Interim Visitor Centre, Landguard Viewing Area, Felixstowe

Report Number 2013/010

Planning Application No: C/11/2171

Date of Fieldwork: 10th January 2013 to 18th January 2013

Grid Reference: TM 2832 3209

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-141647

Curatorial Officer: Dr J. Tipper

Project Officer: M. Sommers

Client/Funding Body: Port of Felixstowe

Client Reference: n/a

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: M. Sommers
Date: 23rd January 2013

Approved By: Dr R. Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date: 23rd January 2013
Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the creation of an Interim Visitor Centre at the Landguard Viewing Area, Felixstowe, was undertaken during January 2013. During this work a concrete slab and brick wall stubs were recorded at a depth of 1m below the present ground level. The location corresponds with a structure marked on an Ordnance Survey map dated to the late 1950s. The building's purpose is unknown but it lay within part of the militarised area of Landguard Common, amongst a complex of buildings related the Submarine Mining Establishment.

1. Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of an interim visitor centre at the Landguard Viewing Area, Felixstowe (C/11/2171), was granted but with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological works be in place prior to the commencement of the development, as detailed in a Brief produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The site is situated at TM 2832 3209 within the Port of Felixstowe which is situated to the south of the Suffolk town of Felixstowe (see figure 1 for a location plan). It is located close to Landguard Fort, an 18th century defensive structure that guards the entrance to Harwich Harbour. The fort, which is the third on this site, and a large area of land to the north-east is a designated Scheduled Monument.

The main structure of the visitor centre was to be built resting in pads laid onto an existing area of concrete hardstanding that lies immediately below the present tarmac surface. This aspect of the construction would not damage or disturb any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. However, in order to provide services for the new structure a series of trenches would need to be excavated. These could be cut to a depths of up to 1.5m and consequently could encounter buried archaeological evidence. In order to mitigate against the loss of any such evidence this aspect of the groundwork was archaeological monitored.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team who were commissioned and funded by The Port of Felixstowe.

2. Methodology

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the open service trenches during and after their excavation by machine in order to identify any significant archaeological features and/or deposits. The location of any features identified was then plotted and the stratigraphy recorded. The spoil was also examined in an attempt to recover datable finds. Digital photographs were also taken as part of the record.

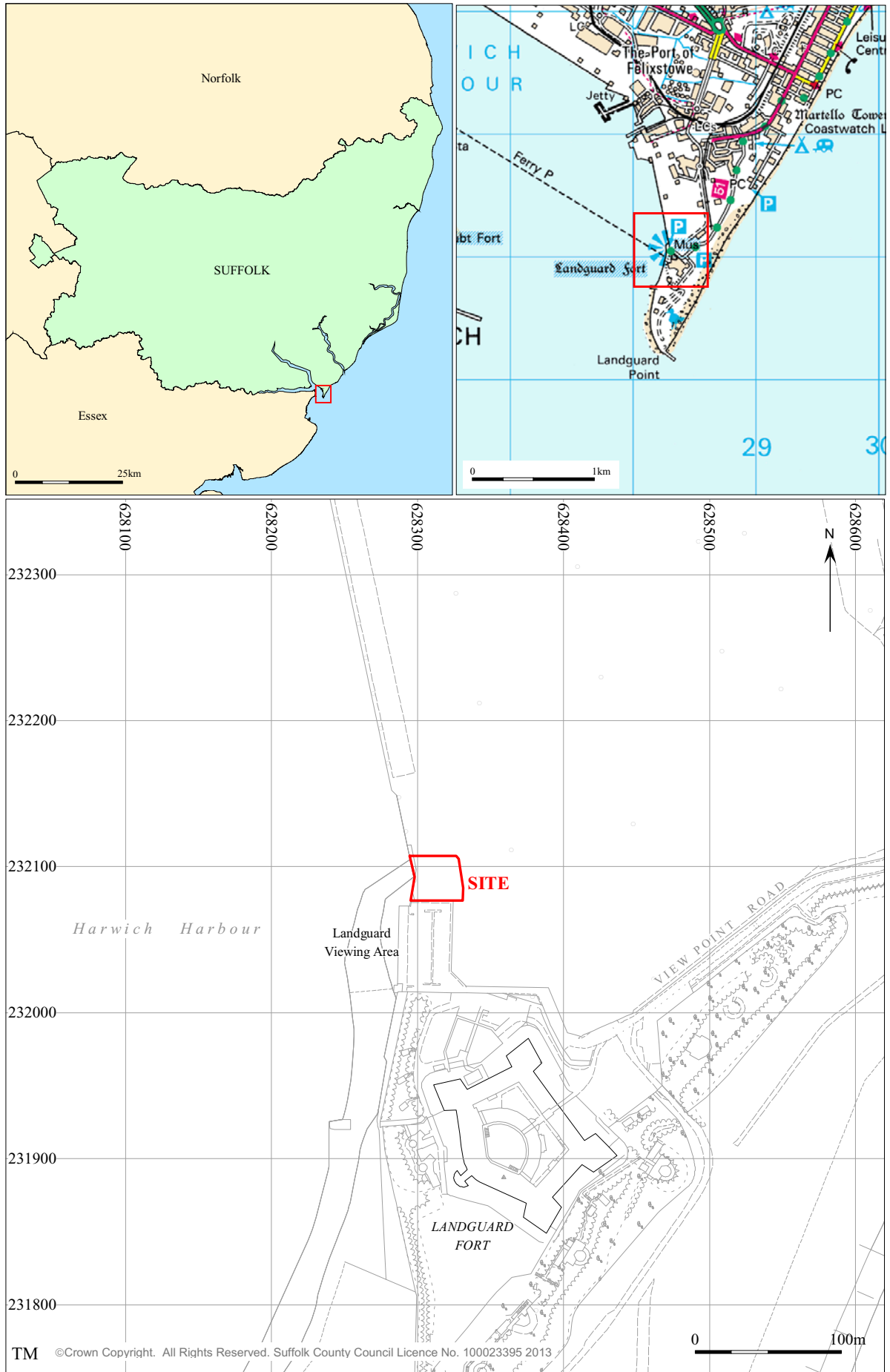


Figure 1. Location map

3. Results

The site was visited on four occasions during the excavation of the service trenches (11th, 14th, 15th and 18th January 2013). A series of trenches were examined (Fig. 2), the majority of which revealed only made ground deposits of sand and shingle to a depth of at least 1m and lying directly below the present ground surface of tarmac and concrete (plate 1).

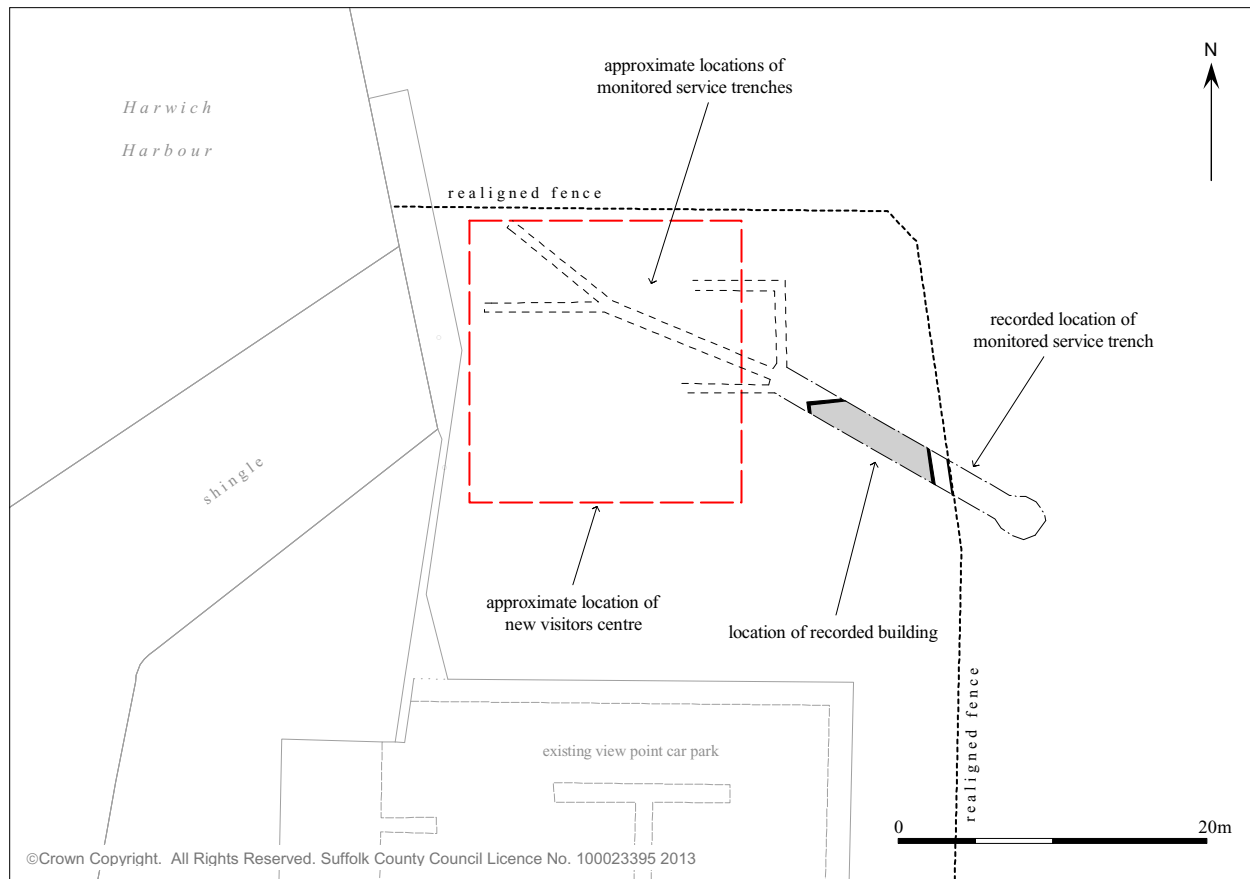


Figure 2. Trench locations

The only archaeological evidence of any significance was noted in a north-east to south-west trench located outside the footprint of the proposed centre. It comprised a large concrete slab bounded by brick walls and was interpreted as the remains of a building (Fig. 3). The concrete slab, which lay a depth of 1m below the present ground level, was 0.13m thick with a smooth upper surface and was interpreted as the building's floor (plate 1). No evidence for any other flooring overlying the concrete was noted.

A brick wall ran along the slab's eastern edge (plate 2). It was 0.22m thick and built of hard pink bricks (22cm x 6.5cm x 10cm) with a hard cement. A layer of slate was visible

on the upper face of the brick wall, level with the floor, to provide a barrier to reduce damp (visible in plate 1). A similar wall was identified further to the north-west where it clearly formed a corner to the building (plate 3). The height of the walls had been reduced to the level of the concrete floor.

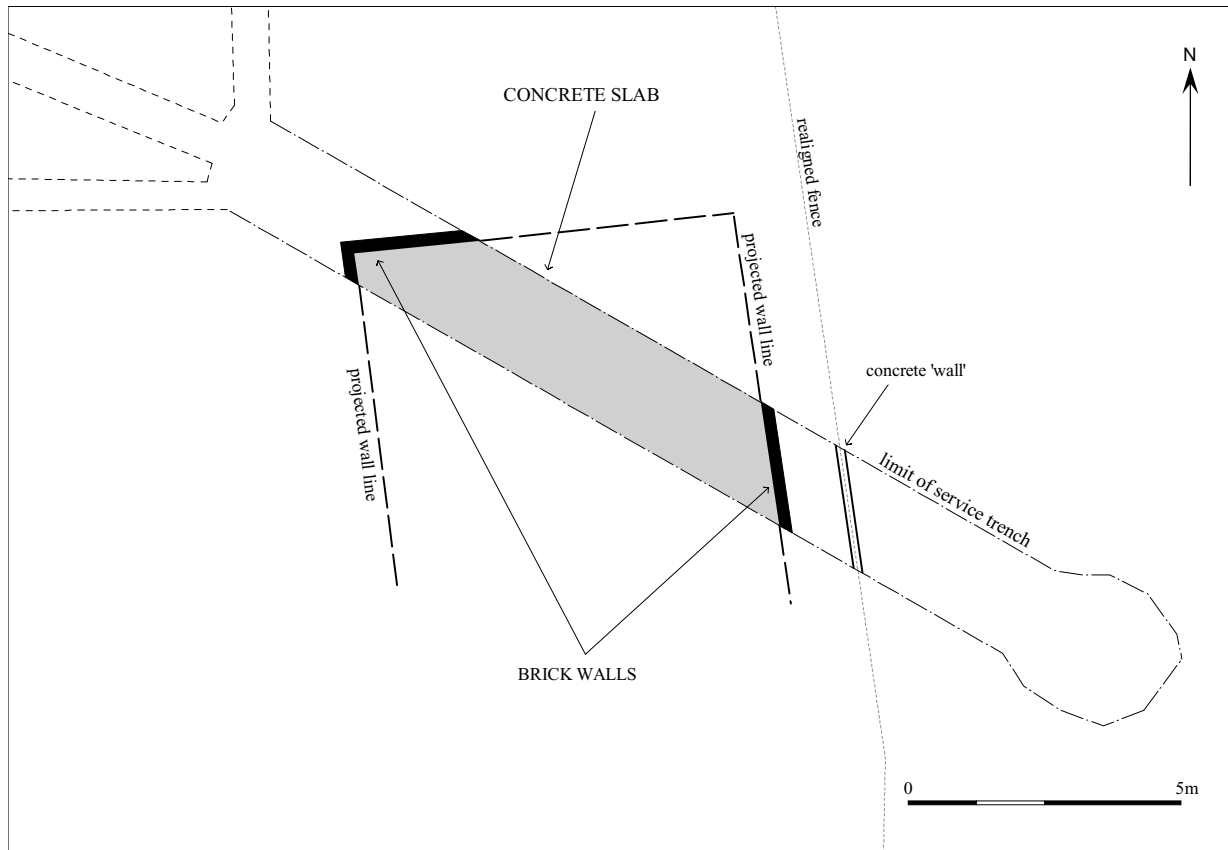


Figure 3. Plan of the building

Situated 1m to the east of the building a narrow strip of concrete ran parallel with the edge of the building at the same level as the concrete floor. This feature appeared to be a wall although only the upper surface was exposed and it was not possible to fully determine its depth.

To get the correct fall on a waste pipe it was necessary to break out a roughly 1.5m wide strip of the concrete floor and parts of the walls. This resulted in the destruction of the remains within the trench but left the rest of the building's remains *in-situ*.

3. Discussion

The building noted in the trench appears to comprise a rectangular structure with a width of 7.4m and an unknown length. It was built of brick with a concrete floor with no evidence of an internal or external finishes, suggesting it is a store or workshop. Its date is unknown but the bricks would suggest a 20th century date, probably post World War 1. Unfortunately, the early Ordnance Survey maps of the area are censored and do not show the fort or any of the adjacent military structures. An Ordnance Survey map of the late 1950s does indicate a structure in the corresponding location (marked as Building 1 in Fig. 4), lying within a complex of structures that were part of the Submarine Mining Establishment (SME). The SME was involved in the provision of a defence across the harbour mouth consisting of tethered explosive mines detonated by remote control.

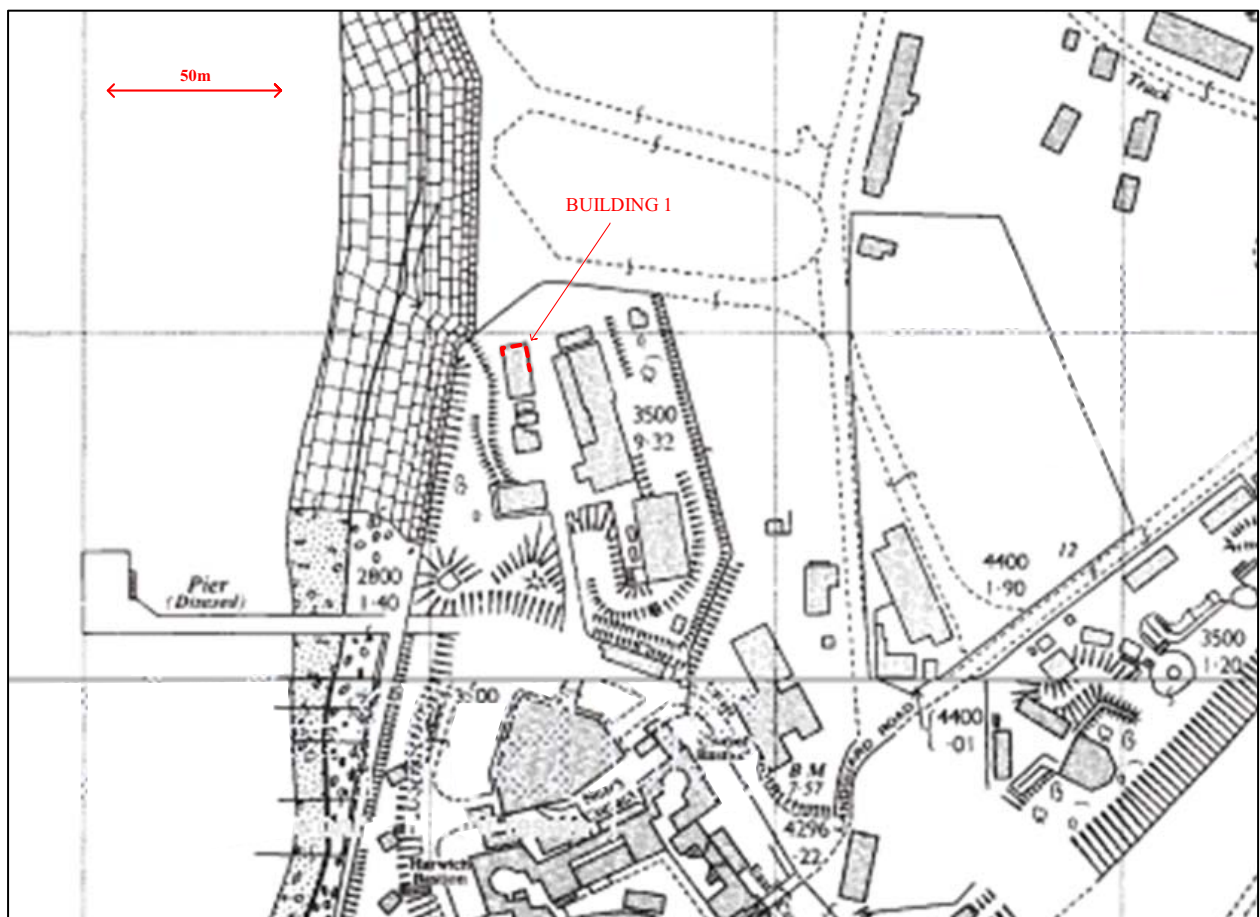


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of the late 1950s (rescaled extract)

A photograph, showing this area prior to its final clearance in advance of the construction the port facilities, partially shows what may be this building (plate 4). It appears as a single storey structure with windows and an apex roof running

longitudinally. There are few obvious clues as to its purpose although documentary research should be able identify its use.

The parallel concrete 'wall' noted in the trench to the east is not marked on the map or visible in the photograph suggesting the interpretation is incorrect. An alternative explanation is that it may be part of a drain or a cable duct.

As the port facilities at Felixstowe expanded beyond the original dock area the entire complex was demolished and the area levelled. The remains were then buried beneath made ground deposits to a depth of 1m. These deposits lie on the floor surface, which would have been the ground level in the vicinity of this building during its use.

The remainder of the monitored services did not cut through this made ground deposit.

4. Conclusions

The walls and concrete slab noted are part of a building as depicted in the 1950s Ordnance Survey map. Its location indicates it was associated with the Submarine Mining Establishment attached to the fort, although its precise purpose is unknown at present.

The building remained standing until the 1970s when it was reduced to the ground level and buried to a depth c. 1m beneath imported sand and shingle, a layer of concrete and a layer of tarmac as part of the development of the Port of Felixstowe.

5. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: FEX 310.

The digital archive will be stored on the SCC secure servers at the location:

R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Felixstowe\FEX310 Monitoring

Digital photographs are held under the references: HSS 7 to HSS 19

A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolkc1-141647

6. Plates



Plate 1. Concrete floor at west end of the building, camera facing north-east (ref. HSS 03)



Plate 2. Eastern wall of the building, camera facing north east (ref. HSS 07)



Plate 3. West end of the building, camera facing south east (ref. HSS 04)



Plate 4. 1972 photograph of the Submarine Mining Establishment, camera facing north. Building identified in trench marked with a red arrow (source unknown)

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

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

PART OF LANGUARD TERMINAL, FELIXSTOWE PORT, AND
PART OF THE EXISTING VIEWING AREA CAR PARK AND LAND
TO THE EAST (NEW CAR PARKING AREA), VIEWPOINT ROAD,
FELIXSTOWE

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Suffolk Coastal District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: C/11/2171
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:

GRID REFERENCE: TM 283 320

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of interim visitor centre

AREA: Small

CURRENT LAND USE: Existing port container terminal land

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Jess Tipper
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741225
E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 21 December 2011

Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development.
- 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, 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 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, 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.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed development is in an area of high archaeological interest, adjacent to the Scheduled Monument (DSF 15074) known as Landguard Fort (Suffolk HER no. FEX 064). Landguard Fort is a substantial defensive position built around 1750 to protect the Harwich Haven – the third of a succession of forts built on Landguard Point from the 16th century. The proposed visitor centre lies over the site of a large late 18th century earthwork battery, associated with the latest fort. The site is also close to part of a Submarine Mining Establishment and an area of barracks, both established in the late 19th century. The proposed works would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

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 has been 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.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including

services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation 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.
- 5.2 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 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 any 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 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, must be provided. 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).

- 6.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 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

Detailed 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 an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute of 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.

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Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 265879

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/