

# Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2006/114

SMR: FML 045

Oasis I.D. No. suffolkc1-15016

East Lodge, Castle Street, Framlingham

Planning Application C/03/1439

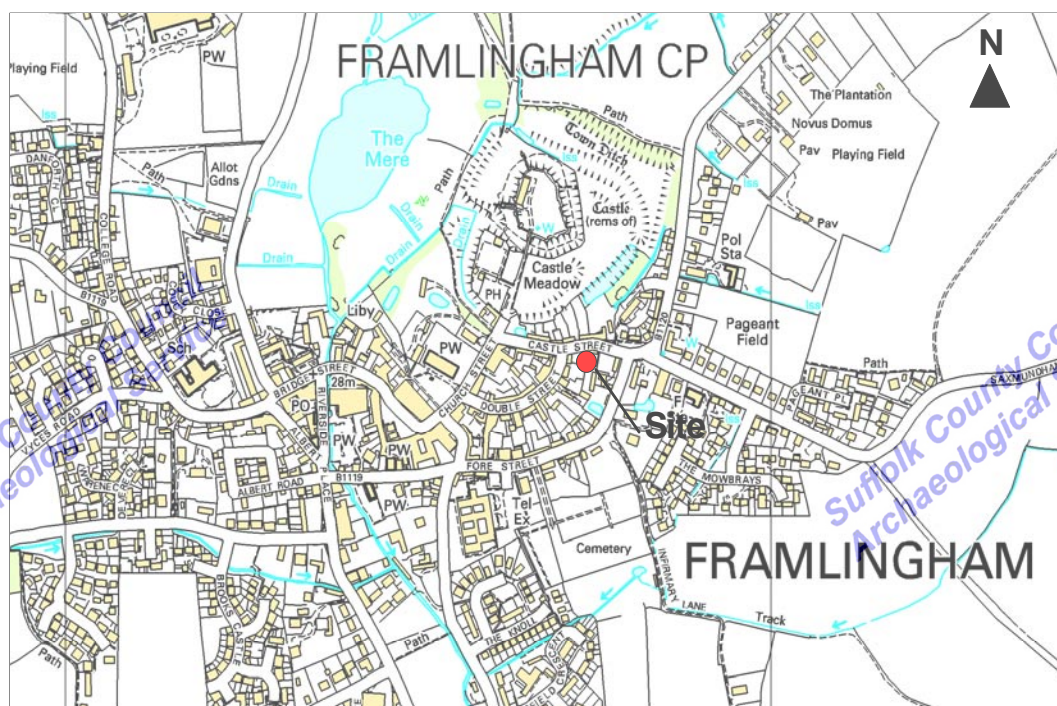
Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Report)

Keith Wade: Senior Conservation Officer (Brief and Specification)

John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

## Summary

Archaeological Monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning application C/03/1439 at the above address. Funding for the monitoring is to be provided by Mr. B. Morron. The proposal consists of a small extension to the rear of the existing listed property which entails digging around 8.0m. of footings. The area which contains the footing trenches measures approximately fifteen square metres and is centred on TM 2874 6352. A single visit was made to the site on the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 when it was possible to examine the full run of open footing trenches and a small quantity of the spoil. The proposal lies within a town which is defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as a location of regional importance (Wade 2006). Unfortunately, no archaeological features or datable finds were observed or retrieved as a result of this monitoring.



## Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was produced and issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team) and is dated 12-01-2006. It is likely that the site formed part of the early occupation area within the medieval settlement, which grew up around the castle as early as the middle of the twelfth century. The castle earthworks lie only seventy metres to the northwest and the site lies well within the line of the town defences which are fifty metres to the east. The lack of any early features or finds from the footing trenches may be due to a combination of effects, including recent disturbance and also how the plot may have related to the surrounding street layout.

## Methodology

The site area was recorded using a sketch plan, which enabled the extent of the ground disturbance, localised soil profiles and any features to be plotted and identified. All faces of the open trenches were examined along with the base surfaces along the full length of the footings. A search of the trenches and also a quantity of the upcast soil was made in order to retrieve any available dating material.

## Conclusion

The trenches were generally around 0.90m. wide with variable depths of between 1.50 to 1.80m.. Virtually no topsoil remained; the upper deposits consisted of very mixed make up layers of rubble, ash, chalk and sand. These deposits may represent the remains of yard surfaces and outbuilding floors. Occasional pottery fragments within these deposits suggest a relatively late date for these features, probably the nineteenth century. The footing trenches ran through an area of heavily disturbed ground, partly due to the fact that they crossed two previously dug footings that probably relate to earlier forms of the present house. Both of the footings consisted of roughly laid large red bricks, bonded with coarse lime mortar. They appeared to run north to south and were located at 0.75m and 3.25m. from the western end of the trench. The first had a depth of around 1.20m. and the second was approximately 0.75m. deep. The subsoil, of heavy mid-grey/brown clay occurred at a depth of around 0.75m. from the present ground surface. The extent of disturbance to the upper ground would almost certainly have removed all traces of any conventionally built medieval structures. Equally, it may be possible that this area of ground simply functioned as a yard or garden area. The site location is well back from the nearby street frontages and therefore may not have contained substantial structures during the medieval period.

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Archaeological Service  
Suffolk County Council  
May 2006

## References

Dymond, D. & Martin, E., 1988 *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk*. Suff. County Council & Suffolk Institute Arch. & History, Ipswich

Wade, K., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: East Lodge, Castle Street, Framlingham'. SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St. Edmunds.

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