

# Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

## Monitoring Report

Land Adjacent to Clare Police Station, Erbury Place, Clare  
(Planning Application SE/06/1275)

SMR- CLA 048

SCCAS Report No. 2006/134

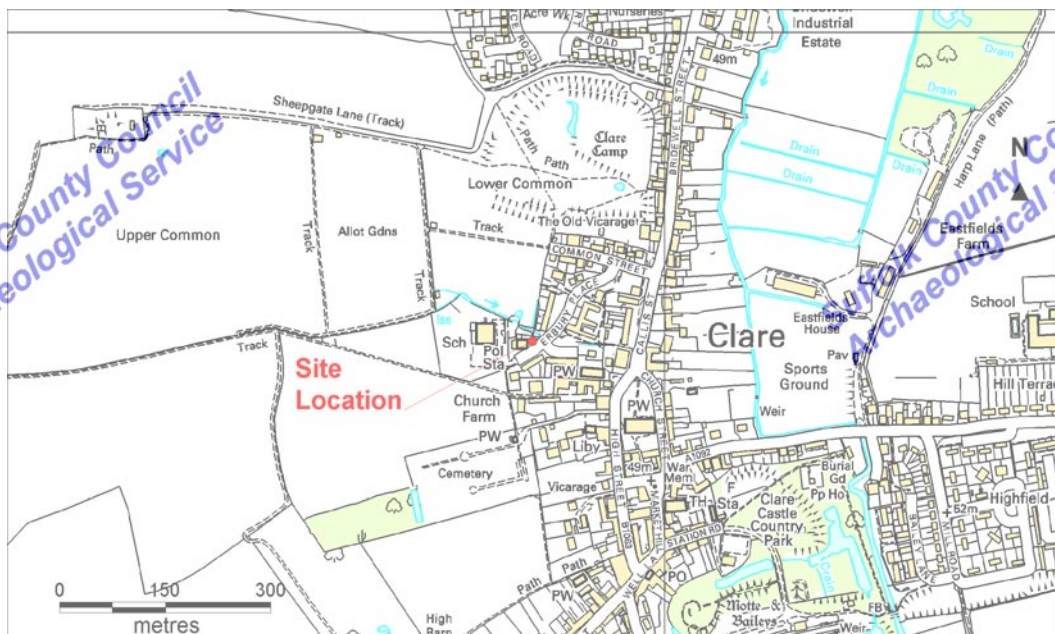
Oasis ID. No. suffolkc1-15905

Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (Report)  
Robert Carr: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)  
John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

### Summary

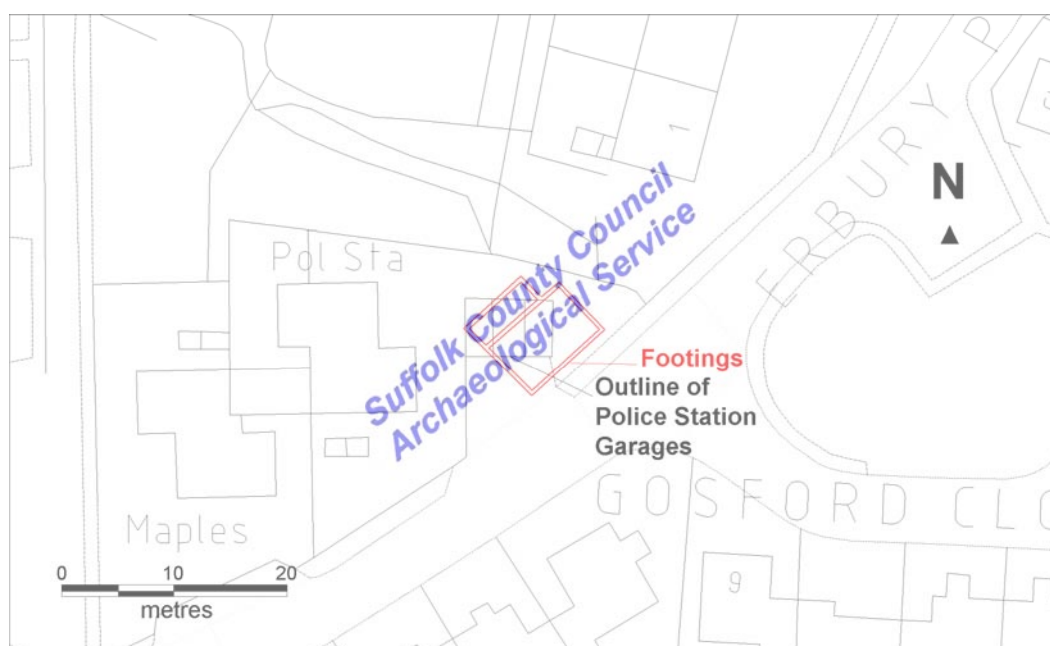
Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to Clare Police Station as a condition of planning application SE/06/1275; the monitoring is funded by Mr. M. N. Taylor. The site is centred on TL 7681 4557, where the construction of small single dwelling is proposed. This entails digging around thirty linear metres of building footings along with slight ground levelling and access provision. A single visit was made to the site on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006. It was possible to examine all of the open trenches, levelled ground and the access area in bright dry conditions. A quantity of the upcast soil was also available for inspection. However, in spite of a thorough examination of all deposits under the full co-operation of the landowner and contractors the monitoring failed to produce any evidence of archaeological features or finds.

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2006)



## Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was produced by Robert Carr (SCCAS Conservation Team) and dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006 (Carr 2006). The main objective of the monitoring was to centre upon the potential for the site to produce evidence of medieval occupation. The proposal location lies within an area of archaeological interest in relation to Norman and medieval Clare, as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The site lies close to the predicted line of a boundary bank and ditch which is associated with the tenements to the west of Callis Street. This feature is still visible to the south and north of the proposal area (Carr 2006). An area immediately to the west of the Police Station was monitored earlier this year when the backfilled deposits of a large pond were identified. The pond appears on earlier Ordnance Survey maps as an elongated feature, running north to south less than 25metres west of the proposal area (Sommers 2006).



## 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 footing trenches were examined after a small amount of hand cleaning was carried out. Details of soils and the depth of the deposits were recorded at a number of locations throughout the length of the footing trenches. A search of the trenched areas, and also a quantity of the upcast soil was made in order to retrieve any available dating material.

## Conclusion

The dimensions of the footing trenches remained consistent throughout at 0.50m. wide and 1.20m. deep (1.50m. below pavement level). They were dug using a 360° tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.40m. wide toothed bucket. The entire ground

surface had been slightly lowered, by around 0.30m. and also levelled prior to the excavation of the trenches. The topsoil would have been around 0.70m. deep (based on existing pavement and lawn levels). The topsoil consisted of mid-brown silty loamy clay with few stones except for occasional medium sized pebbles (10-50mm). The subsoil varied from 0.40-0.50m. in depth and was of pale brown-grey clay with frequent fine chalk lumps. Natural deposits occurred at around 1.20m. below pavement level and consisted of orange clay with very frequent coarse chalk lumps. Medium sized flints (20-75mm.), within the orange clay, became more concentrated as the base of the trench was reached. The only features which were observed within the footing trenches related to a range of three garages which had been demolished. The garages were constructed for use by the Police Station and the outline of these can be seen in the above plan superimposed by the footing trenches. The garage foundations were very substantial and deep, covering much of the present proposal area and appeared at regular intervals throughout the footings. Although the considerable combined modern ground disturbance may have potentially obliterated small archaeological features, it is unlikely that features such as the boundary ditch would not have been visible within the faces of the trenches.

---

Robert Atfield  
Archaeological Service  
Suffolk County Council  
June 2006

## References

Carr, R., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: Land Adjacent to Clare Police Station, Erbury Place, Clare', SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St. Edmunds.

Sommers, M., 2006 "Archaeological Monitoring Report: 'Maples' Erbury Place, Clare, (CLA 046)", SCCAS, Ipswich.