

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## LAND TO THE REAR OF THE FORMER SPREAD EAGLE PUBLIC HOUSE CROSS STREET, SUDBURY (SMR ref. SUY 076)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE HOUSE AND GARAGE  
(Application Nos. B/04/1064/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/207  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-18887)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single house and garage on land to the rear of the former Spread Eagle PH, Cross Street, Sudbury (NGR; TL 8679 4116), was undertaken during September and October 2006. The majority of footings for both structures were observed but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised yellow sand and gravel. The site is close to the edge of the flood plain and had been substantially built up through the importation of clean topsoil which had buried the natural subsoil to a depth of c 2.3m at the western end of the site. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference SUY 076. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by King Architects on the behalf of their client.*

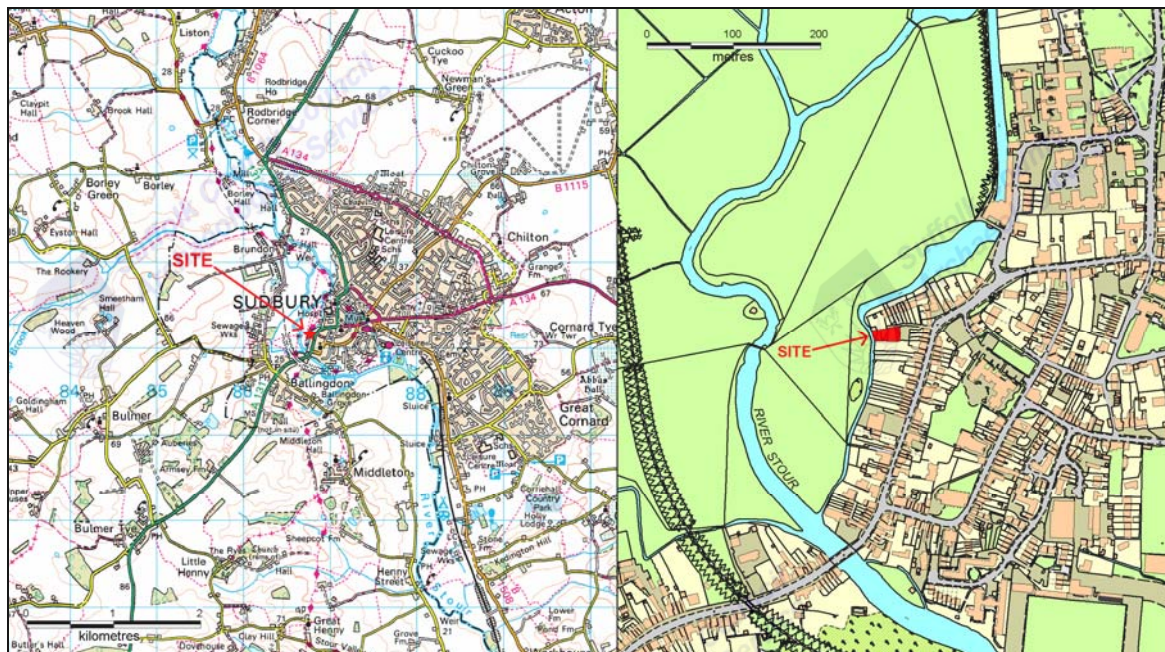


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## **Introduction**

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a house and garage on land to the rear of the former Spread Eagle Public House, Cross Street, Sudbury (application no. B/04/1064/FUL), was undertaken during September and October 2006. The development comprised a house and separate garage to be constructed on a small plot to the rear of a terrace of houses running along the west side of Cross Street. Interest in the site is due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance as defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan. It is in an area believed to be within the Saxon and medieval settlement areas and consequently had a high potential for encountering Saxon and medieval deposits.

The structures were to be built on strip foundations that would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits revealed by the groundworks associated with this development. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr K. Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TL 8679 4116; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference SUY 076. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by King Architects on the behalf of their client.

## **Methodology**

Site visits were made to inspect the footings once they had been excavated by the building contractors. The revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified being noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visit were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts. Any archaeological features or deposits identified were to be recorded in section and their location recorded on plan. Attempts would also be made to recover datable artefacts from their fills

## **Results**

The site itself was relatively level, although with a slight slope down to the west, but was noticeably lower than the plot of land immediately to the east. Beyond the western end of the site was a small stream beyond which lay open meadows reaching to the River Stour some 110m away. The stream and meadows were significantly lower than the site itself and a brick retaining wall, which also formed the eastern bank of the stream, was present on the western boundary of the site. Figure 2 below illustrates the site and the location of the house and garage footings.

The site was visited on the 27<sup>th</sup> September and the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 to inspect the footings of the house. Due to the great depths of overburden encountered the footings for this structure were excavated and filled with concrete in three sections in an attempt to avoid

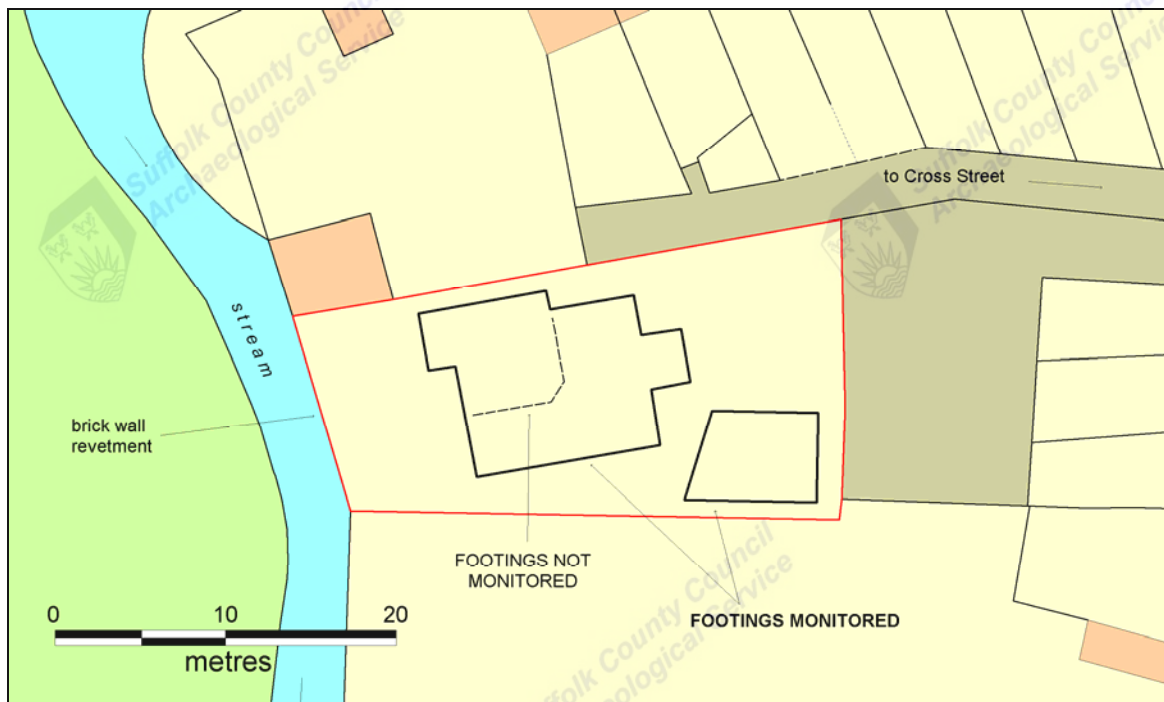


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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large-scale collapses of the trenches. All exterior wall footings were monitored although a visit was not made to inspect a short length of footing for an internal wall of the house.

At the western end of the house plot the footings were cut to a depth of c. 2.3m at which point a yellow sand and gravel natural subsoil was encountered. No features cutting the natural subsoil were visible although it was not possible to enter the footing trenches and examine closely due to the extreme depth and unstable nature of the overburden. An added complication was caused by the ingress of water. The overburden appeared to consist entirely of a brown soil, which had the appearance of garden topsoil. No layering was apparent and no obvious artefacts were visible in the sides of the trenches. It was not possible to closely examine the interface between the natural subsoil and the overburden to assess if any truncation of the natural surface had occurred.

As the footing trenches continued towards the east the natural subsoil appeared to steadily rise until, at the eastern end of the house, it was at a depth of c. 1.8m. At this depth the base was clear of water but again it was not safe to enter the trench and closely examine the base for features or the interface between the subsoil and overburden. From the surface no obvious archaeological features could be seen.

A further visit was made on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to inspect the footings excavated for a garage to be built in the southeast corner of the site. Within these the same overburden as seen in the house footings was present. At the west end of the garage the natural subsoil was at a depth of 1.8m but over the short length of the garage this had rapidly risen to 1.3m. No archaeological features or deposits were noted within the footings although again it was not possible to enter the footing trenches.

In summary; no archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of the examined footings.

A spoil tip was present on the site. This was briefly examined for artefacts but only a single sherd of medieval coarseware was found to be present. This was recovered from the spoil that originated from the footing trenches excavated for the garage.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference SUY 076. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-18887.

## **Conclusion**

Evidence seen during the monitoring of the footing trenches indicates that the area has been raised through the importation and deposition of a large quantity of soil and that it would originally have been within the flood plain of the River Stour. The relatively rapid rise of the natural subsoil noted at the eastern end of the site suggests that it lay close to the edge of the high ground that is serviced by Cross Street. No evidence was recovered to suggest a date when this area was built up although the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1884 indicates that the area has been raised by that date.

Prior to the raising of the ground levels the area would have been liable to regular flooding and as such it is unlikely to be the site of any early permanent structures or occupation. It is possible that seasonal activities could have been sited in such a location but no archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of the monitored footing trenches.

All observed excavations were cleanly cut but were of great depth and at the western end suffered from the immediate ingress of water. This could have obscured any features that may have been present although the very low level of finds recovered from the resultant spoil suggest that it is unlikely that any significant features or deposits have been disturbed by this development.

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### REAR OF SPREAD EAGLE PUBLIC HOUSE CROSS STREET, SUDBURY

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a single dwelling to the rear of the former Spread Eagle Public House, Cross Street, Sudbury, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/04/1064). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 Ground investigation indicates terrace gravels at 1.1m below present ground surface.
- 1.4 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

#### 2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for multi-period occupation of the site, characteristic of terrace gravel locations.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

#### 3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

#### 4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

#### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly

distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. 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).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 19 September 2006

Reference: /Rear Spread Eagle PH

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**