

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## WHITEHOUSE FARM, WHATFIELD (SMR ref. WHA 003)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE MODERNISATION OF WHITEHOUSE FARM  
(Application Nos. B/06/00324/FHA)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/212  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-20120)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of underpinning trenches excavated at Whitehouse Farm, Whatfield (NGR; TM 0360 4670), was undertaken during August 2006. The site lies within a medieval moated enclosure but no archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised a stiff grey boulder clay and lay directly under the topsoil in the areas examined. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference WHA 003. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the architects, Wincer Kievenaar on the behalf of their clients.*

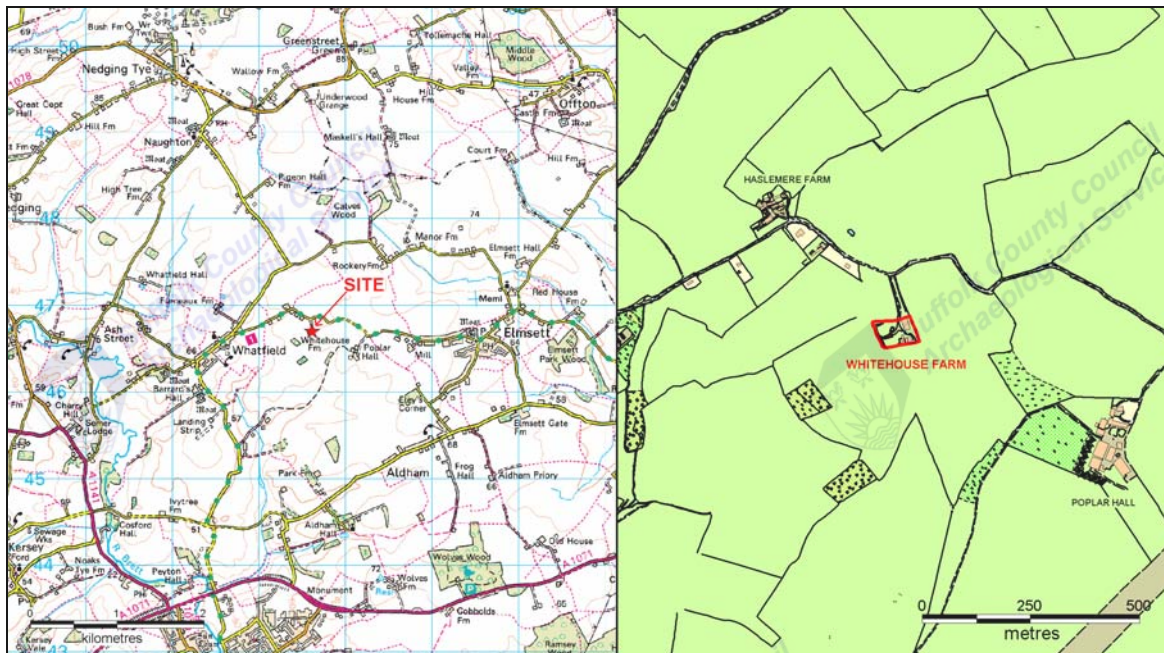


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## **Introduction**

Archaeological monitoring of underpinning trenches excavated in association with the modernisation of Whitehouse Farm, Whatfield, was undertaken during August 2006. Interest in the site is due to it being located within a medieval moated enclosure which is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WHA 003.

The underpinning, which was to be carried out on the southwest corner of the existing structure, 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 work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0360 4670; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference WHA 003. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the architects, Wincer Kievenaar, on the behalf of their client who ultimately funded the work.

## **Methodology**

A site visit was made to inspect the underpinning trenches once they had been excavated. 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.

## **Results**

The site was visited on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006 to inspect trenches excavated for the underpinning; see figure 2 below for a plan of their location. The footing trenches were cut to a depth of c. 0.7m through a thin layer of topsoil and into the natural subsoil, which lay immediately beneath. The interface between the topsoil and the underlying natural subsoil was very abrupt suggesting the surface of the latter may have been truncated. The natural subsoil consisted of a stiff yellow boulder clay.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of the examined footings.

The spoil from the underpinning trenches was stored on site and this was examined during the monitoring visit but no significant finds were present.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the existing reference WHA 003. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-20120.

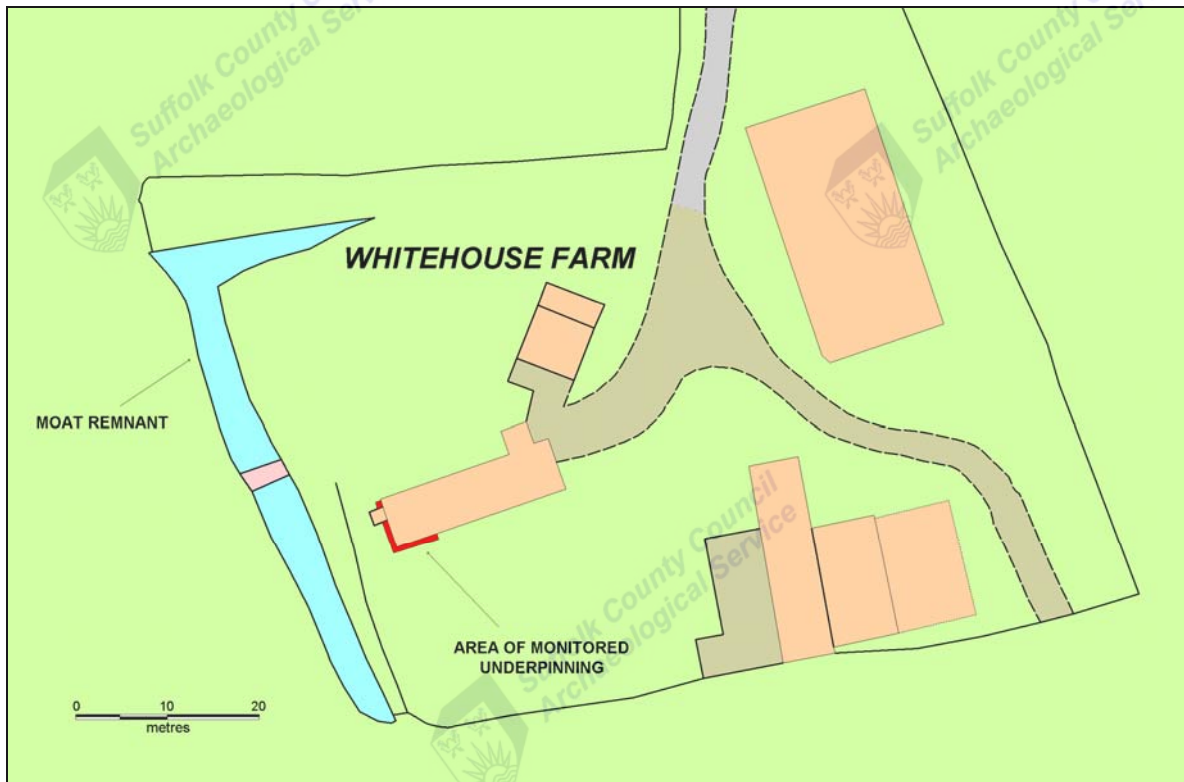


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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## Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed by this development as no significant features or deposits were noted in the monitored excavations. All observed excavations were cleanly cut and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

Mark Sommers  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

7<sup>th</sup> November 2006



Plate I: view of the farmhouse, camera facing northwest

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

## WHITE HOUSE FARM, WHATFIELD

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.*

### 1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (B/06/00324/FHA) has been made to add two extensions to the existing house, there will be associated drains. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal area lies within a medieval moated enclosure recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (WHA 003). There is high potential for archaeological deposits of medieval settlement including buildings, yards and associated occupation.
- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 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 are 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 earlier occupation of the site.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footings and drain trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3). Drain trenches are to be observed after they have been excavated but before pipework is inserted.

### 3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 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 time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

### 4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must 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 a half hours per 5 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 must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 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.

- 4.7 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must 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: R D Carr  
Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Date: 27 June 2006

Reference: /White House Farm

**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.**