

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND ADJACENT OLD HALL FARM, HIGH ROAD EAST FELIXSTOWE (SMR ref. FEX 275)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Application Nos. C/04/2268)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/226
(OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-20629)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a residential development on land adjacent Old Hall Farm, High Road East, Felixstowe (NGR; TM 3111 3537), was undertaken between June 2005 and March 2006. The site lies within 600m of the site of Walton Old Hall (SMR ref. FEX 037) and is close to the site of a substantial Roman settlement (SMR ref. FEX 093) but no archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised a dark orange silty sand. A length of stone built wall running across the site, which is believed to have been built with material from the now demolished Walton Old Hall and the lost Saxon Shore Fort known as Walton Castle (SMR ref. FEX 030), was photographically recorded. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference FEX 275. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Roseberry Developments.

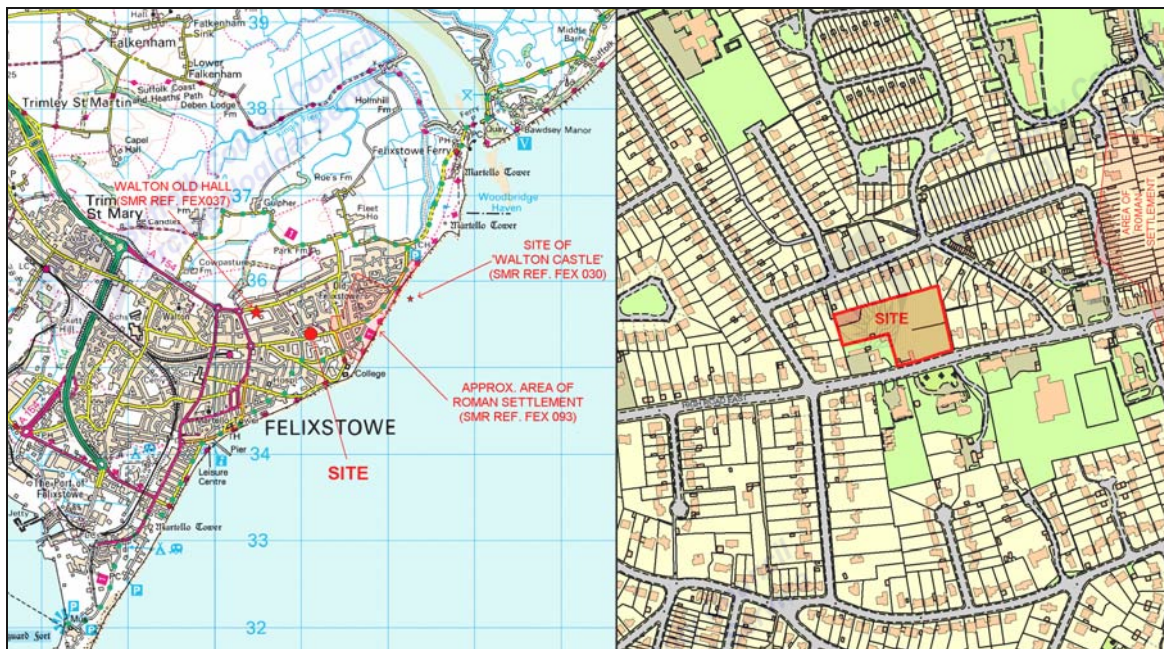


Figure 1: Location Plan

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

Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with a small residential development on land adjacent Old Hall Farm, High Road East, Felixstowe was undertaken between June 2005 and March 2006. The development comprised a series of houses and apartment blocks. Interest in the site is due to its location within 600m of the site of the medieval 'Walton Old Hall' (SMR ref. FEX 037) and close to a substantial Roman settlement (SMR ref. FEX 093). The name of the farm suggests that it may be associated with the old hall.

The new structures were to be built on strip foundations which would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. A series of new roadways which would entail the stripping to depths that could truncate the underlying natural subsoil were also proposed. 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 R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

Prior to the development the site comprised a rectangular grassed field with the farmhouse and associated redbrick and timber outbuildings located in the southwest corner. A standing wall running approximately east–west and constructed of irregular stone blocks of varying types was extant within the eastern half of the site. A c. 3m wide gateway was present approximately 10m from the western end of the wall whilst at its eastern end it stopped c. 3m short of the north-south boundary creating another gateway. It is understood that part of the western end of the wall was to be demolished and the building material recovered and used to construct a new length of wall to block the gateway at the eastern end. The wall itself is believed to be post-medieval in date but contains Roman and medieval building stone the origins of which are likely to be Walton Old Hall and the Roman fort known as Walton Castle. In order to provide a record of the wall as is the Brief and Specification called for a photographic survey of the wall. The area of farmhouse and some of the outbuildings were to be retained by the present owner and were not part of the development area.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3111 3537; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference FEX 275. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Roseberry Developments.

Methodology

Site visits were made to inspect the footings for the proposed structures or any stripped areas of roadway once they had been excavated by the building contractor. These areas were then examined for cut features and archaeological deposits which, if located, were to be sampled through hand excavation in order to assess their shape, depth and to recover datable artefacts. 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 a monitoring visit were quickly

examined for archaeological artefacts. The location of the monitored footings and areas of roadway are illustrated in Figure 2.

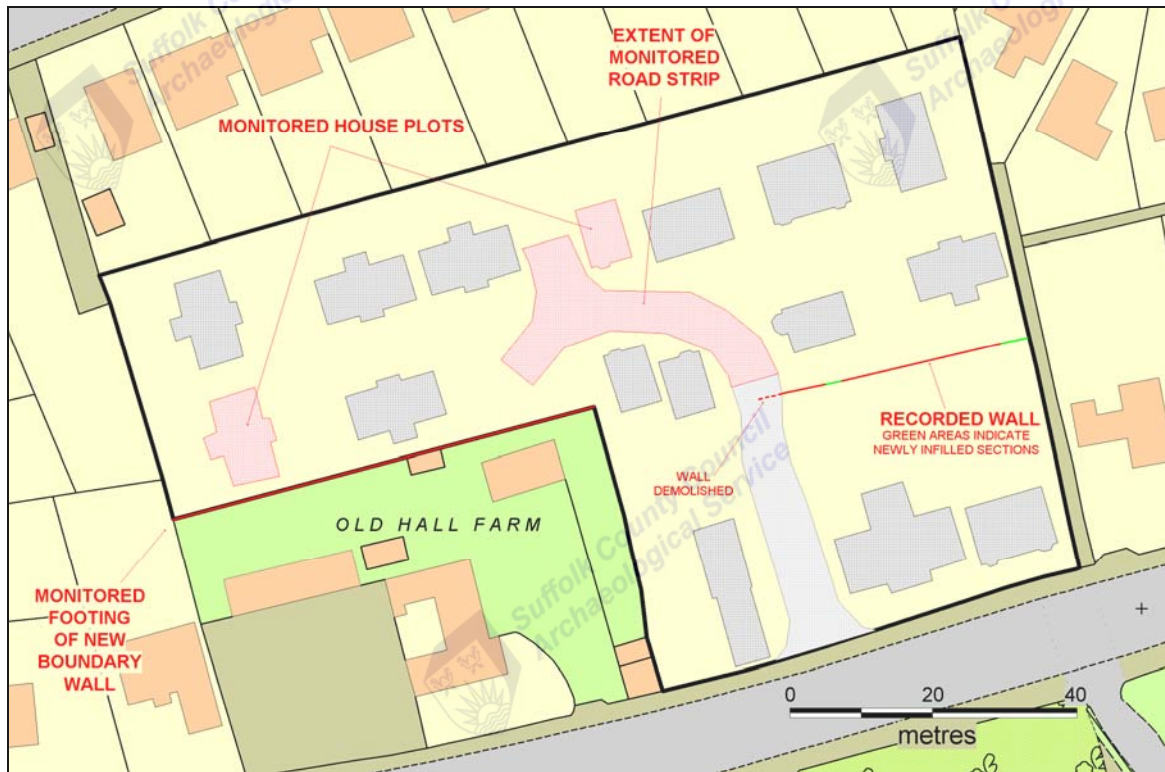


Figure 2: Plan of Development Indicating Areas Monitored

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

Results

Monitoring of Groundwork

The site was first visited on four occasions, namely; 13th June 2005, 17th August 2005, 17th November 2005 and 2nd March 2006 during which the footings for two of the proposed structures, the footing for a new boundary wall to the rear of the existing farmhouse and the a large part of the strip for the new access roads was seen. See figure 2 for a plan of the development indicating the areas monitored.

The natural subsoil comprised a dark orange silty and which occurred at a depth of c. 0.4m. It was overlain by a layer of pale sandy gravel and silt, which was interpreted as a weathered natural subsoil. This was in turn overlain by a rich dark topsoil. Other than occasional field drains constructed from shaped bricks (Plate I) and a large area of deep topsoil within a backfilled pond no archaeological features or deposits were noted.



Plate I: field drain

The spoil was retained on site during the groundwork and this was examined during the monitoring visits but no significant finds were recovered.

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 FEX 275. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-20629.

Photographic Record of Standing Wall

The wall was recorded during the 17th August 2005 visit. A series of photographs each covering a 4m length of the wall were taken of both the north and south sides of the wall using a 4 megapixel digital camera and a monochrome photographic film camera. Ranging poles marked with 0.5m red and white sections were placed at 2m to provide a scale and as a reference to aid the linking of adjacent photographs.

A selection of edited digital photographs is reproduced below. The photographs are held within the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service photographic archive under the references FPU01-FPU22 for the monochrome images and FRR01-FRR22 for the original, unaltered digital image files. Edited versions of the series of digital photographs taken of the southern face of the wall are reproduced below (Plates II-X).



Plates II-X: South Face of Wall

Conclusion

Although not all of the groundwork associated with this development was observed excavations across much of the site were inspected with no positive results, also, no stray artefacts were noted on the spoil tips. Had significant archaeological deposits been present on the site it is highly likely that an indication of this would have been identified.

Consequently it can be safely stated that no significant archaeological deposits or features have been destroyed by this development as no features or deposits were noted in the monitored excavations. Other than in the area of the pond to the northeast of the farmhouse, there was no indication that the natural subsoil had been truncated. The pond is one of a pair of ponds marked on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of c. 1880 and 1900 respectively.

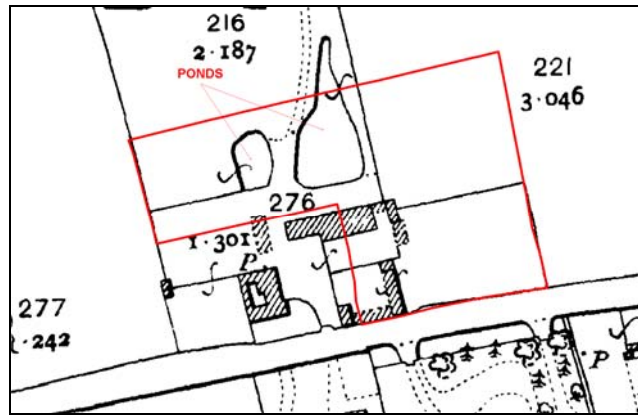


Figure 3: 2nd Edition OS, c.1900
(extract, scale reduced)

All observed excavations were cleanly cut and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.



Plate XI: view of the farmhouse (June 2005), camera facing south

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

OLD HALL FARM, FELIXSTOWE

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 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/04/2268). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area fronts a roadline which is likely to be medieval but may also be on or near the line of a Roman road. There is potential for early settlement. The farm holding is believed to have at least 16th century origins.

Within the area there is a boundary wall which – although not thought to be an early feature – contains medieval and Roman building stone. There will be some impact on this wall by the development.

The impact of development has yet to be precisely determined. This brief is an indicative document which may be modified when the details and methodology of development are clearer.

- 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 site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed 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).

2.4 Provide a record of the boundary wall.

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 topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of one hour per 100 square metres must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a 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 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 Provide a detailed photographic record of both faces of the wall before works begin. Archival stable prints showing a measuring scale are to be produced – each frame must cover less than 4m of wall and be identified on a key elevation and locating ground plan.
- 4.7 Subsequently, any section of the wall to be demolished is to be supervised archaeologically and stone with architectural detail recorded individually. If they are not re-used provision for museum storage must be provided.

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*, 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

Date: 24 June 2005

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.