

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## PLUM TREE FARM, BARKING (SMR refs. BRK 111)

REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CART LODGE  
(Application Nos. 1338/06)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/036  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-23192)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork at Plum Tree Farm, Barking (NGR; TM 0735 5418), was undertaken during January 2007. Footings for a replacement structure were observed but only a backfilled ditch containing late 20<sup>th</sup> debris and an undated spread of chalk were noted. The natural subsoil comprised clean grey boulder clay. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BRK111. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Ms Fell-Clark.*

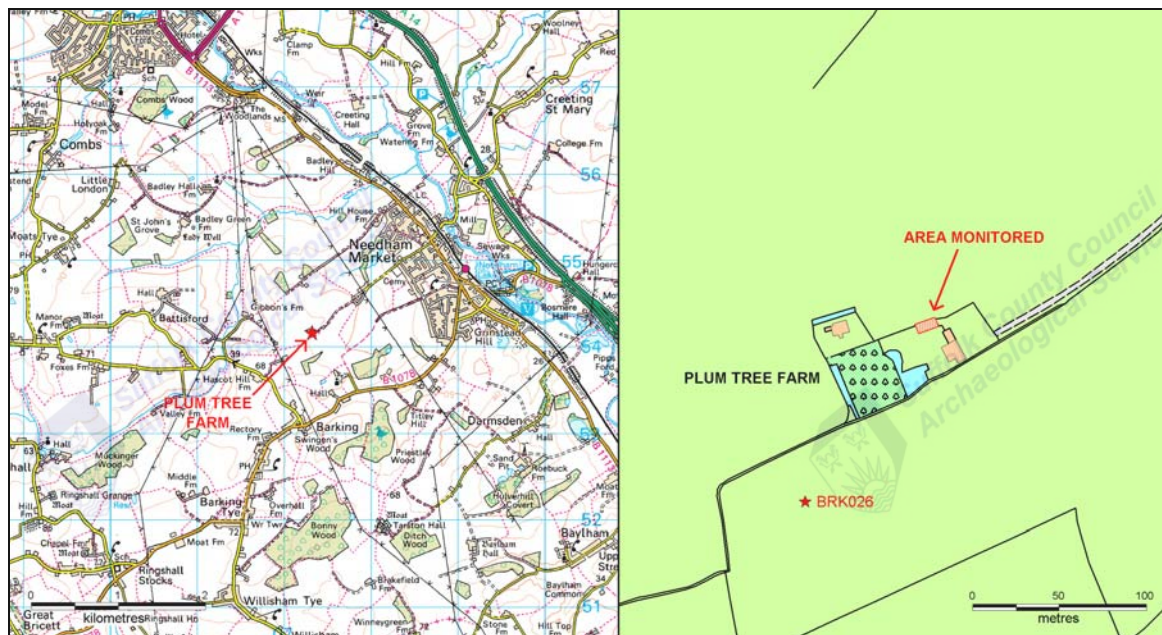


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a cart lodge at Plum Tree Farm, Barking, was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007. Interest in the site is due to it being located within the curtilage of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Building. It

is also close to a reported scatter of medieval occupation material, which is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BRK 026.

The proposed structure was to be built on the site of a substantial but derelict shed, the remains of which were cleared to enable construction. The proposed cart lodge was to be built on strip foundations and 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 (application no. 1338/06) 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 Dr J. Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0735 5418 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BRK 111. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Ms Fell-Clark.

## Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the footing trenches once they had been excavated by the onsite contractors. They were 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 noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts. The location of the monitored excavation is illustrated in Figure 1, details noted during the visit are illustrated in Figure 2 below.

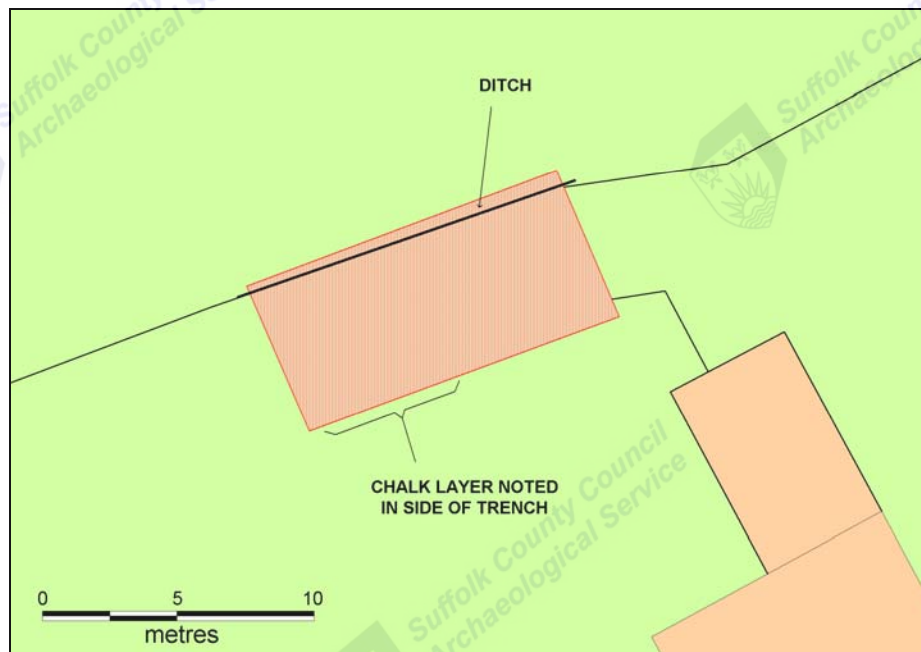


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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## Results

The site was visited on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 to inspect the excavated footing trenches. The natural subsoil comprised grey boulder clay. No topsoil was present and numerous fragments of concrete and roof tile were scattered across the site, presumably the result of the demolition and clearance of the derelict shed.

Running roughly coincidentally with the northern wall of the proposed structure a linear feature interpreted as a ditch was present. The fill comprised dark topsoil throughout which were fragments of brick, tile and slag from modern iron working similar to the material used to surface the adjacent hardstanding and trackway. A member of the construction team said that a ditch had been filled in recent years during a previous phase of work at the site.

With the southern footing a *c.* 0.15m thick spread of chalk running for *c.* 4m could be seen in the southern face of the trench at a depth of approximately 0.1m (see Plate I). This was not visible in the northern face.

The spoil was stored on site in a single heap and this was examined for artefacts. A large amount of modern building debris and general rubbish was present, presumably from the demolished shed, but no significant artefacts were identified.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BRK 111. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-23192.



Plate I: view of chalk spread in southern footing trench, camera facing SW

## Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed or damaged by this development as no significant features or deposits were noted in the monitored excavations. The recorded linear feature is coincidental with a boundary marked on the modern Ordnance Survey map and is undoubtedly a modern feature. The chalk spread is likely to be from a deliberately created surface associated with the shed structure, probably the floor surface for a lean-to that was formerly situated alongside.

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

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Mark Sommers  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

30<sup>th</sup> January 2007



Plate II: General view, camera facing east. Area of the new build is in the immediate foreground

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### PLUMTREE FARM, BARKING

***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.***

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a cart lodge garage and stone/studio building, following the demolition of derelict outbuildings on land at Plum Tree Farm, Barking (TM 0732 5416), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 1338/06). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological recording and monitoring.
- 1.2 The application concerns the demolition of derelict outbuildings and replacement with new buildings, within the curtilage of a Grade II Listed Building of special architectural and historic interest, that dates from the seventeenth century (Listed Building 406129).
- 1.3 A recent policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings, 2006 - available on [www.helm/org.uk](http://www.helm/org.uk)) states that recording of such structures is desirable.
- 1.4 In addition, the application lies to the north-east of a finds scatter of medieval occupation material, indicative of further occupation deposits, recorded by in the County Sites and Monuments Record (BRK 026). There is high potential for encountering medieval and early post-medieval settlement deposits at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). 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 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

## 2. **Brief for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring**

- 2.1 To compile an English Heritage (2006) Level 2 descriptive record combined with a photographic survey of the structures before the demolition takes place.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval and early post-medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.4 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the demolition of the existing outbuildings and groundworks associated with the construction of the garage store/studio. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

## 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 Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the buildings. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. A plan, and other drawings as deemed necessary, should be made based on either an architect's drawing or the Ordnance Survey. The record will present conclusions regarding their location, form, date, development and use.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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. 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 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 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

## 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.
- 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 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.
- 5.6 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Reference: /PlumtreeFarm-Barking2006

**This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.**