

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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## **5 Wildmere Lane, Holywell Row, Mildenhall MNL 580**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007  
(Planning app. no. F/2006/0630/FUL)

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Field Team  
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## List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr G. Madgewick and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and Andrew Tester from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the production of site plans and sections was carried out Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds and environmental reports by Richenda Goffin.

## Summary

*Mildenhall*, 5 Wildmere Lane, Holywell Row (TL 70597747; MNL 580): Monitoring of footing trenches for two houses identified elements of the preserved natural fen edge topography with one possible natural peat hollow. Four undated features were also identified, and may be further evidence of the widespread prehistoric and Roman activity known in the region. The features were sealed below a sand layer containing post-medieval pottery, which was the only indication of activity relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Holywell Row. (John Craven, S.C.C.A.S. for Mr G. Madgewick).

## HER information

Planning application no.    F/2006/0630/FUL  
Date of fieldwork:            10th & 12th April 2007  
Grid Reference:                TL 70597747  
Funding body:                 Mr G. Madgewick  
Oasis reference.               Suffolkc1-26116

# 1. Introduction

Two visits were made to the site at 5 Wildmere Lane, Holywell Row, on the 10th and 12th April 2007, to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for two new houses. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2006/0630/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Mr G. Madgewick.

Interest in the site was based upon its location within the settlement of Holywell Row (Fig. 1) as it fronted onto the medieval roadway and lay within 50m of a known finds scatter of medieval pottery, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 071.

The site also lies within the dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that lies along the edge of the fens. Iron Age and Roman finds scatters have been found c.250m away in the field to the west, MNL 168, while recent archaeological work in advance of housing development at MNL 579, 400m to the west, has identified evidence of scattered prehistoric activity (Craven 2007a). Evaluations at MNL 591 and MNL 592, 80m to the south-east, have identified elements of the natural topography together with possible evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity (Craven 2007b & c). A Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement has also been partially excavated 1.5km to the west at Beck Row, MNL 502 (Bales 2004).

The development therefore had the potential to disturb multi-period archaeological deposits which would require archaeological recording.

# 2. Methodology

The two sets of footing trenches were both observed when fully excavated and measured c.0.6m wide and c.1m deep. The natural subsoil of yellow sands was normally seen at a depth of 0.9m throughout the trenching, sealed below c.0.6m of modern topsoil and c.0.3m of mixed grey/brown sands. Although the depth and width of the trenching limited the observation, several features were identified, some of which were fully excavated by machine before being recorded in section.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-26116) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. MNL 580.

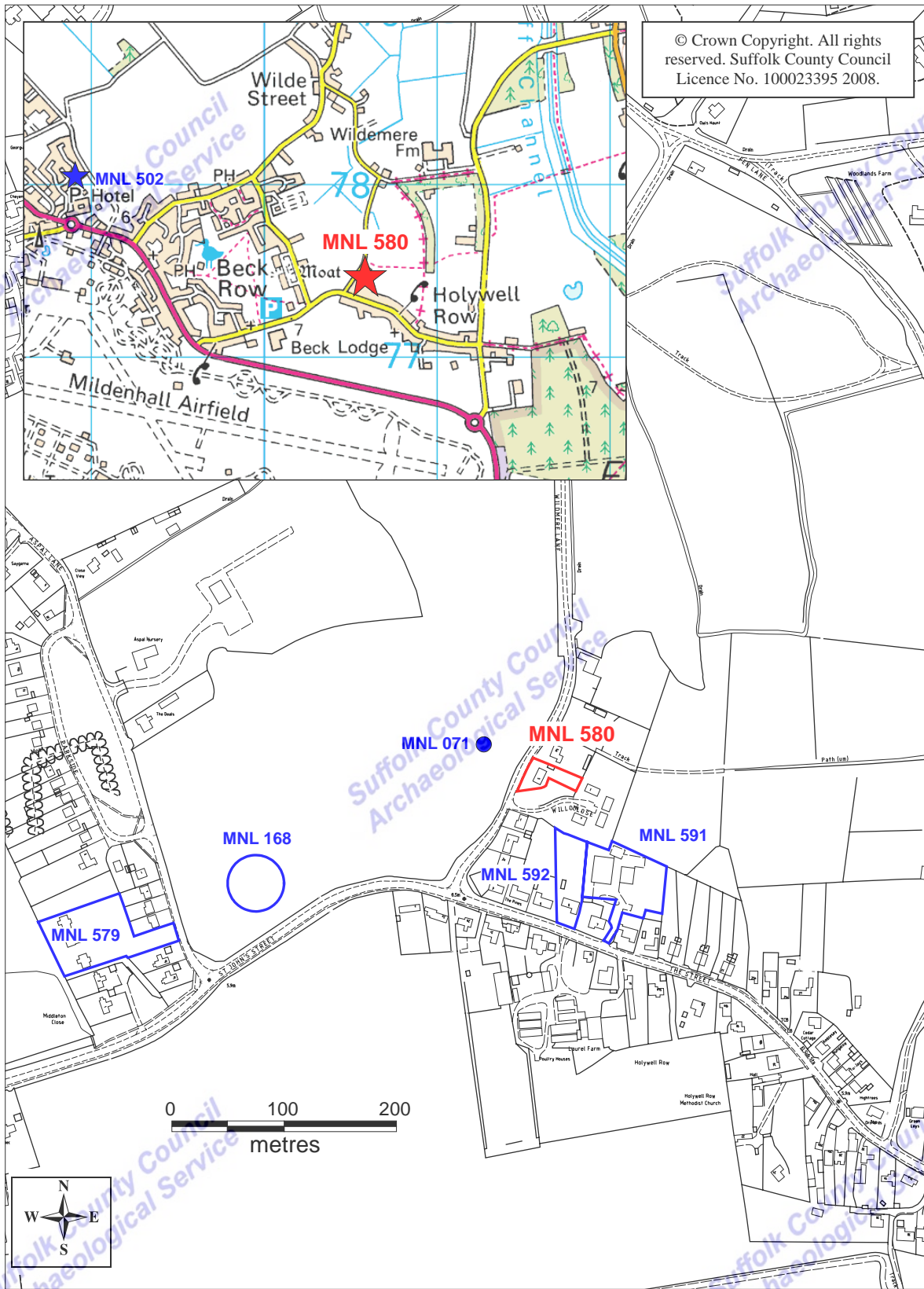


Figure 1. Site location plan

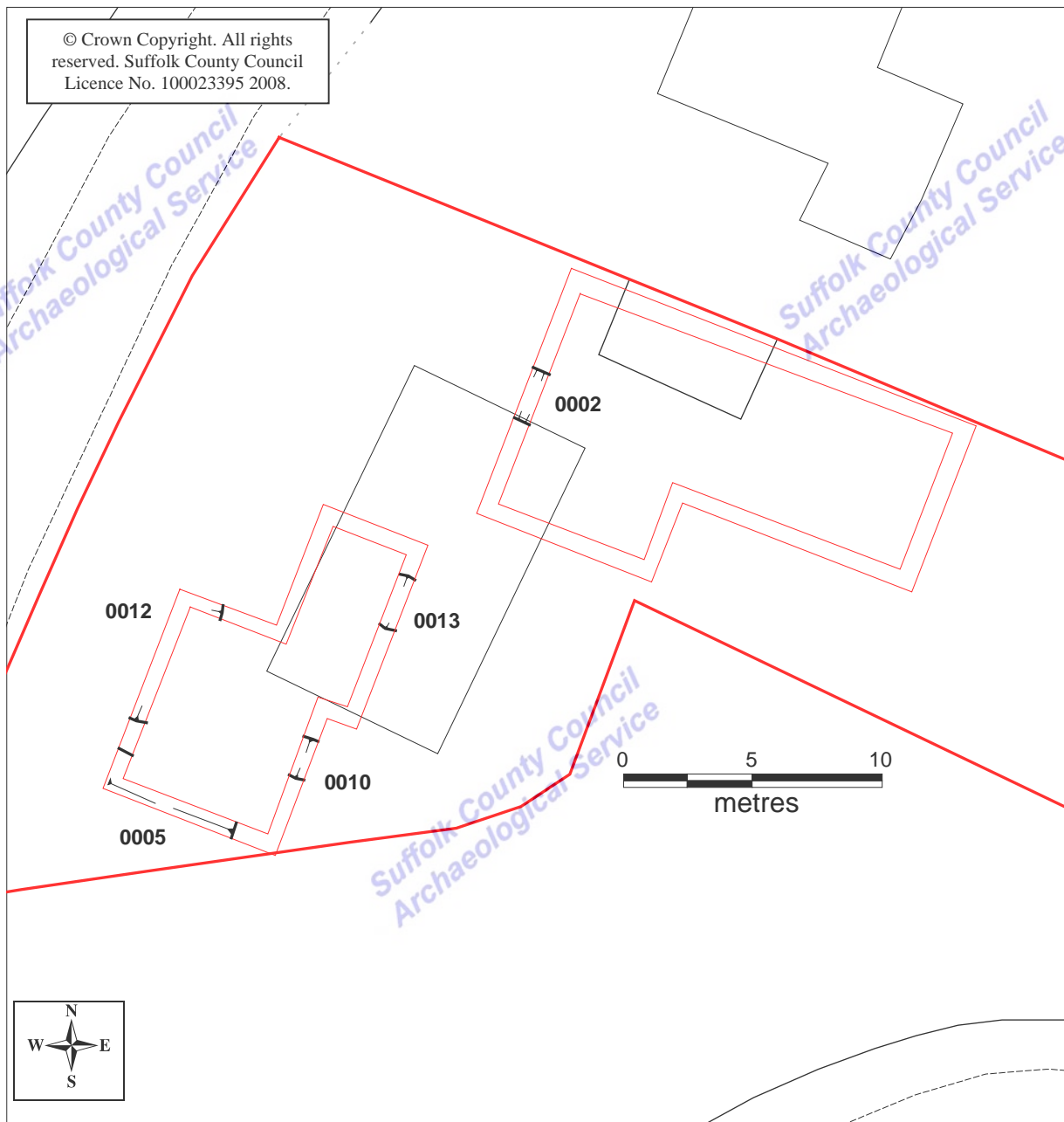


Figure 2. Site plan

### 3. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

0003 was a pit or ditch, measuring c.2.1m wide, visible at a depth of 0.9m under the modern topsoil and a layer, 0002, of mixed sands from which three sherds of 16th-18th century pottery were recovered. Excavated by the machine, it was seen in section to cut 0.6m into the subsoil with steep irregular sides and a flat base. Its fill, 0004, was a dark brown sandy loam.

0005 was a large feature, at least 5m in width, and it was unclear if it was a large pit or ditch or a natural hollow or pond. Visible at a depth of 0.9m it lay below the modern topsoil and a 0.2m thick layer of mid brown silt/sand. Excavated by machine it was seen in section to cut 0.9m into the subsoil and had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The basal fill, 0006, was a 0.3m thick deposit of moist black sand and organic material from which two fragments of animal bone were recovered. Above this was 0007, a layer of mixed, mottled pale yellow/brown sands then

0008, a layer of dark brown sands. The final fill, 0009, was a 0.1m thick lens of blackened dark brown sands.

0010 was a possible pit, c.1.25m wide, sealed under 0.6m of topsoil and 0.3m of mixed grey/brown sands. The feature was not excavated but on the surface had a fill, 0011, of mixed pale/mid grey sands.

0012 was a second possible large pit or hollow that was left unexcavated. A c.5m wide deposit of dark grey/brown silt/sand was seen at a depth of 0.9m, cutting into the natural subsoil.

0013 was an unexcavated possible pit, c.1.5m wide and visible at a depth of 0.8m, with a fill, 0014, of mixed grey/brown silt/sand with some mottling from black organic material.

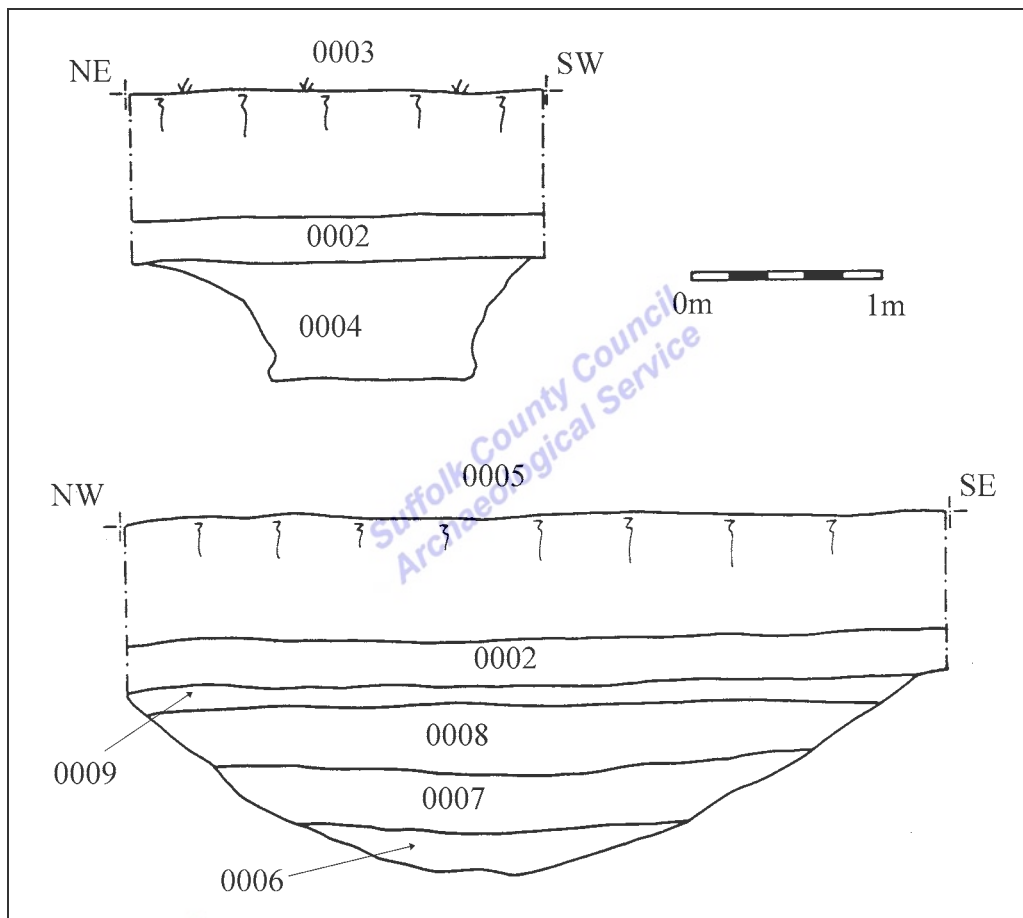


Figure 3. Sections



## 4. The Finds

### 4.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	3	323	1	21	16th-18th C
0006			2	11	Undated
Total	3	323	3	32	

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 4.2. Pottery

Three sherds of pottery were recovered from a sandy deposit lying under the topsoil, representing three different vessels. A single fragment from the base of a Glazed red earthenware vessel may have been used for a specialist purpose. It is particularly thickly potted and could have been used in an industrial context, as a storage vessel. The underside of the base appears to be sooted. A second, more abraded redware base has a grey fabric with an orange external margin, with an inside surface covered with an olive lead glaze. A similar large body sherd from a third vessel is more micaceous but also has a streaky lead glaze. The latter two sherds date to the 15th-16th century, with the Glazed red earthenware base dating to the 16th-18th century.

### 4.3. Animal bone

A single bovine molar was collected from 0002. Two additional pieces from the basal fill 0006 of a large pit or ditch, are extremely fragmentary and undiagnostic.

### 4.4. Discussion of the finds

The small quantity of pottery recovered from the monitoring is post-medieval in date. There is no evidence of any earlier finds, in spite of the proximity of the site to the medieval road and other findspots of medieval date.

## 5. Discussion

The trenches showed that the natural subsoil was generally well preserved, lying at depth below the topsoil and a layer of sand which has probably built up via natural processes such as windblow. This is a typical profile of the natural fen edge topography, which consists of dunes and layers of windblown sand interspersed with natural peat hollows and is similar to that seen at MNL 591 and MNL 592 (Craven 2007b and c). The substantial feature 0005, which showed signs of waterlogging, may be a small example of one of these natural depressions or peat hollows.

The observed features were all undatable but are further evidence of the widespread preservation of archaeological deposits in the region. The features appeared similar to evidence of the multi-

period activity seen at sites such as MNL 502 and it is thought that these features are most likely to be of a prehistoric or Roman date.

Apart from the pottery sherds in the sand layer sealing the undated features there was no evidence of activity relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Holywell Row.

## References

- Bales, E., 2004, *A Roman Maltings at Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 20.
- Craven, J.A., 2007a, *Land adjacent 1 Aspal Lane, Beck Row, Mildenhall, MNL 579*. SCCAS Report No. 2007/30.
- Craven, J.A., 2007b, *Street Farm, The Street, Holywell Row, Mildenhall, MNL 591*. SCCAS Report No. 2007/128.
- Craven, J.A., 2007c, *5 The Street, Holywell Row, Mildenhall, MNL 592*. SCCAS Report No. 2007/127.

John Craven  
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
April 2006

# Appendix 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



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

#### 5 WILDMERE LANE, HOLYWELL ROW

*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 F/2006/0630/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The development has frontage onto the medieval roadway and lies within 20m of a large area of medieval pottery finds on the other side of the road (County Sites and Monuments Record, MNL 071). There is potential for medieval settlement within the development area.

The development will be for two dwellings. The excavation of footings will damage any archaeology which exists. It is understood the two buildings will be constructed in separate phases, and that access is nearly all existing.

- 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 activity in this proposal is likely to be the excavation of building footings..

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist **after** they **have been** 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).

## 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 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 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

Date: 31 January 2007

Reference: /5 Wildmere Lane, Holywell Row

**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.**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE  
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