

Castle Hill, Recreation Ground, Haverhill HVH 062

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2007/245

Client: SCCAS

Author: J. A. Craven

December 2007

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Castle Hill, Recreation Ground, Haverhill

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Report Date: December 2007

HER Information

Site Code: HVH 062

Site Name: Castle Hill Recreation Ground, Haverhill

Report Number 2007/245

Planning Application No: SE/07/0158

Date of Fieldwork: 23/04/2007

Grid Reference: TL 6582 4578

Oasis Reference: 26375

Curatorial Officer: R. D. Carr

Project Officer: John Craven

Funding Body: SCCAS

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Summary

Monitoring of groundworks at Castle Hill Recreation ground, Haverhill identified demolition material, possible robbed out wall footings, brick foundations and traces of an internal floor and external yards, all relating to the former Castle Farm. The recovered brick and tile debris indicated a 17th/18th century date for the farmhouse construction.

There was no evidence for Haverhill Castle, a potential fortified medieval manor house which is believed to have once stood upon the site medieval although this may be due to the heavy park landscaping. It is also possible however that this building may survive elsewhere within the original moated enclosure.

1. Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 23rd April 2007 to monitor groundworks for an extension to an existing pond at the Castle Hill Recreation Ground, Haverhill (Fig. 1). 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 SE/07/0158. The work was commissioned by the developer, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and funded by SCCAS.

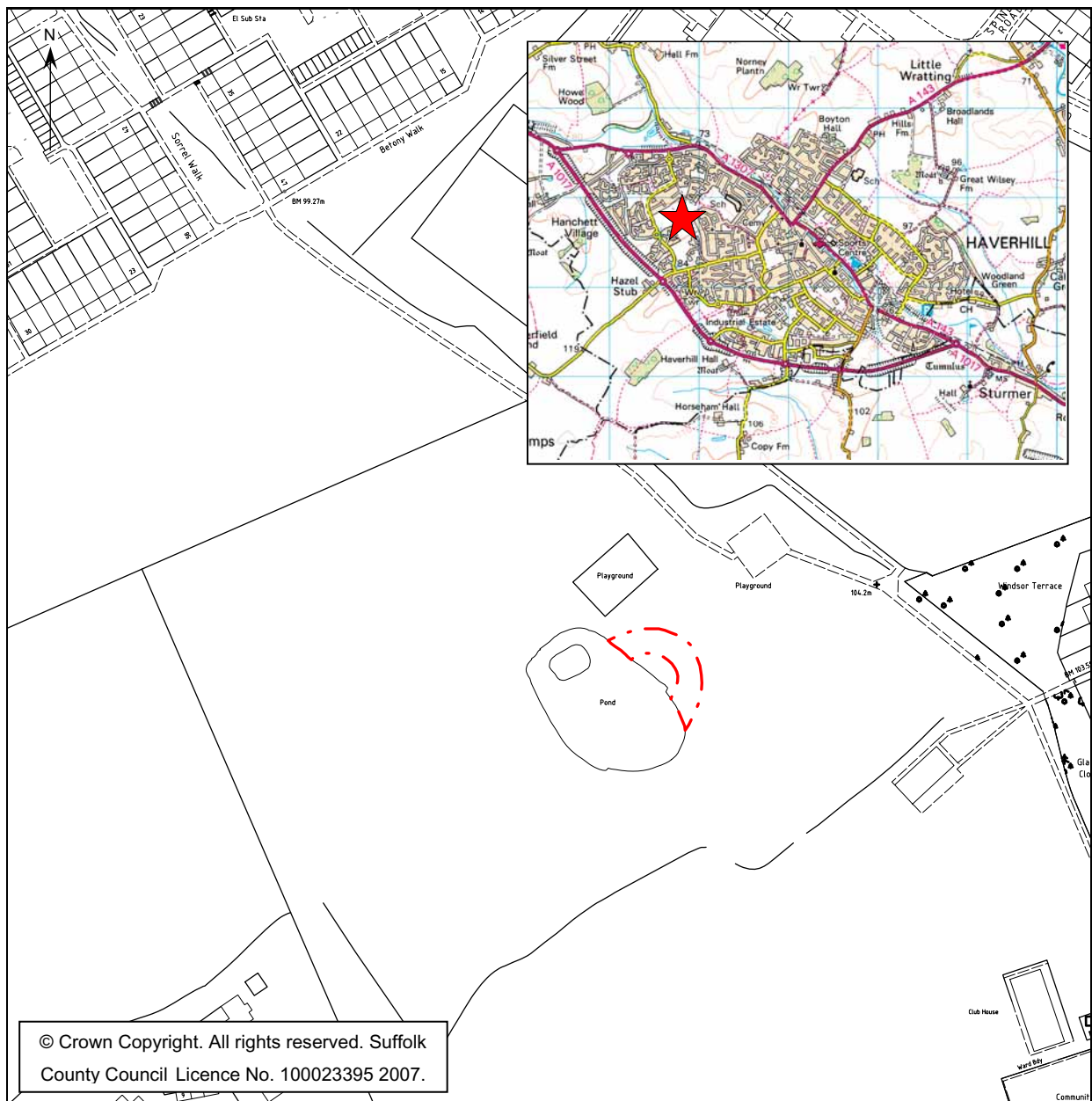


Figure 1. Location map

2. Archaeology and historical background

Interest in the site was based upon its location within the area of a probable moated enclosure. The site has formerly been known as Haverhill Castle, although this is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, HVH 004, as probably referring to a fortified medieval manor-house. In the late 19th/early 20th century the site was occupied by Castle Farm which the 1st (1886) and 2nd Edition (1904) Ordnance Survey maps (Figs. 2 and 3) show as a rectangular enclosure with remnants of a moat system and earthworks standing amidst open fields outside of the town. The central buildings of the farm lie immediately adjacent to a circular pond.

The site now lies within the Castle Hill Recreation Ground where the 19th century pond has been enlarged and lies within open grass parkland, which has seen considerable modern landscaping. The new extension to the pond was to be excavated through the site of the 19th century Castle Farm building and therefore had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits from the post-medieval period or the earlier medieval settlement.

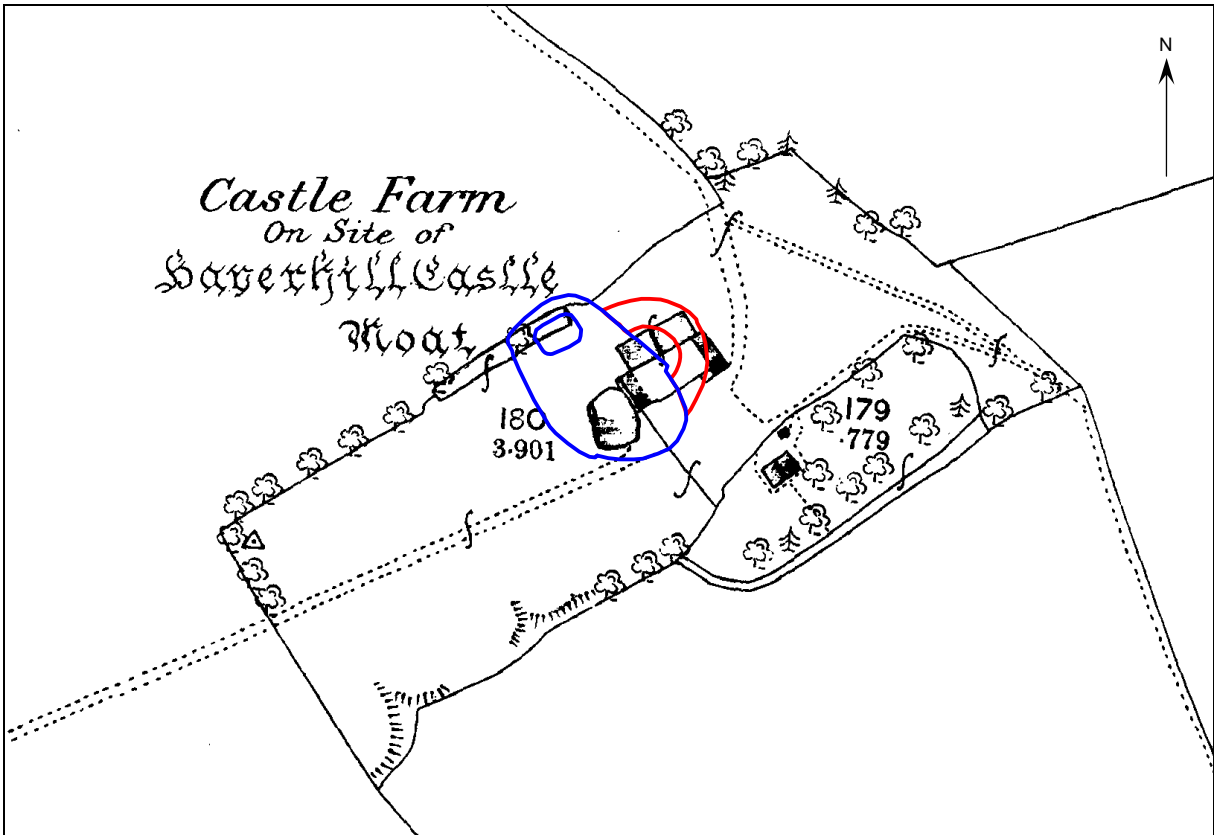


Figure 2. Site on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey

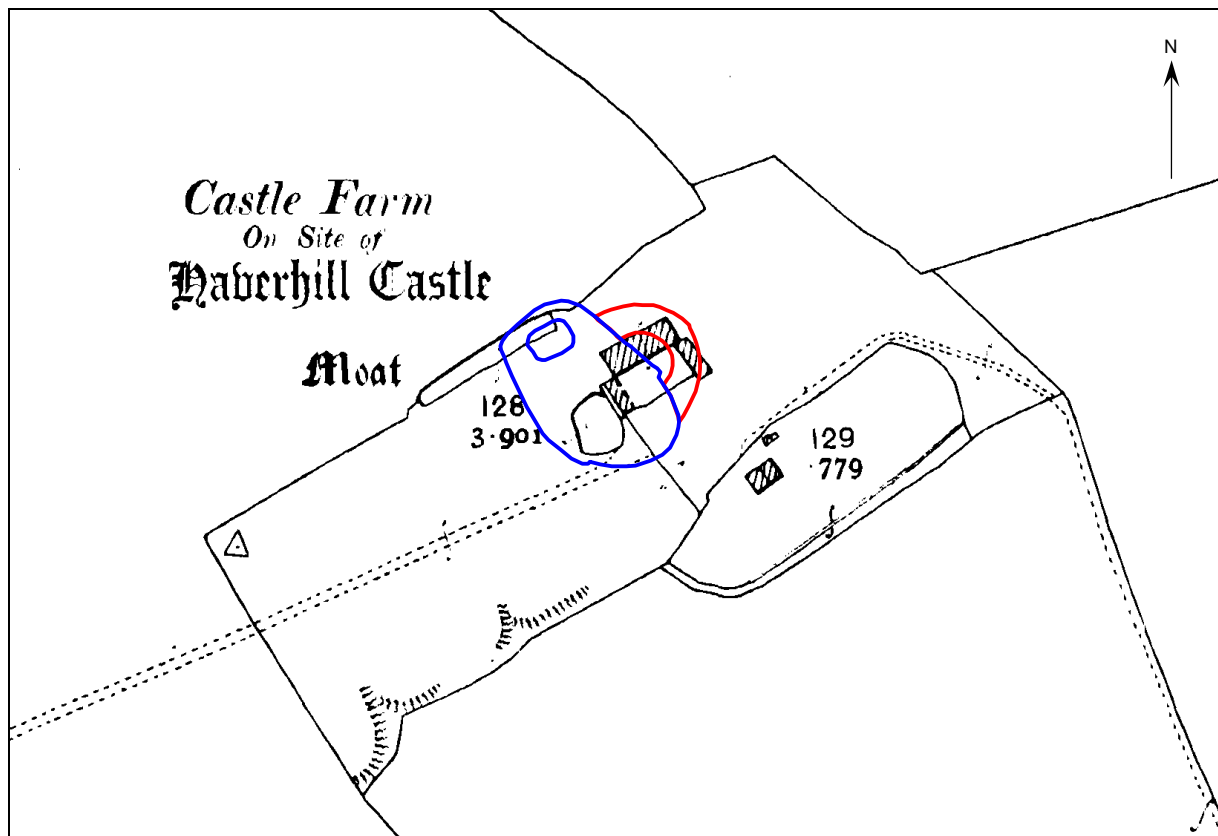


Figure 2. Site on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey

3. Methodology

The initial site strip of the area of the pond was carried out by a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket. The topsoil and modern deposits, c.0.25m-0.3m thick, were removed until the natural clay subsoil surface or archaeological deposits were cleanly exposed.

Archaeological features were then excavated, planned and recorded by hand. Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Sites and Monuments code HVH 062. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto a database.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-26375) 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. HVH 062.

4. Results

As the edges of the site were to slope inwards, a c.1m wide strip around the edge of the site was not fully stripped of topsoil. The natural clay subsoil was exposed across the majority of the rest of the site and several archaeological deposits were clearly visible (Fig. 4). A range of unstratified finds were recovered from across the stripped area, 0001.

In the southern part of the site a spread of flint cobbles and miscellaneous debris, 0002, was uncovered, set into the top of the natural clay subsoil. Forming a 0.1m-0.2m thick layer, sealed by 0.2m of modern topsoil the cobbles, each measuring c. 0.05-0.15m diameter, were quite densely packed, and clearly appeared to be a former yard surface.

To the north of this spread, seen on the eastern edge of the site were two sections of brick walling, meeting at 90° but apparently of separate construction, 0003. At least three courses of brick were seen, set into the natural clay subsoil. Surrounding 0003 was a spread of very fine chalk, 0009, less than 0.01m thick, lying above the natural subsoil and under the modern topsoil.

Immediately to the north of 0003 and 0009 was 0005, a 0.5m wide ditch or slot aligned south-east to north-west. A single section was excavated which showed it to have vertical sides with a flat base and was 0.45m deep. Its fill, 0006, was a mix of clay, mortar and small pieces of building debris.

A similar second ditch, 0007, was seen to the north on a parallel alignment. In section it was shown to be 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with vertical sides with a flat base. Its fill, 0008, was also a mix of clay, mortar and small pieces of building debris.

A loose scatter of flint cobbles and broken roof tiles, 0004, was identified on the northern edge of the site overlying the natural subsoil.

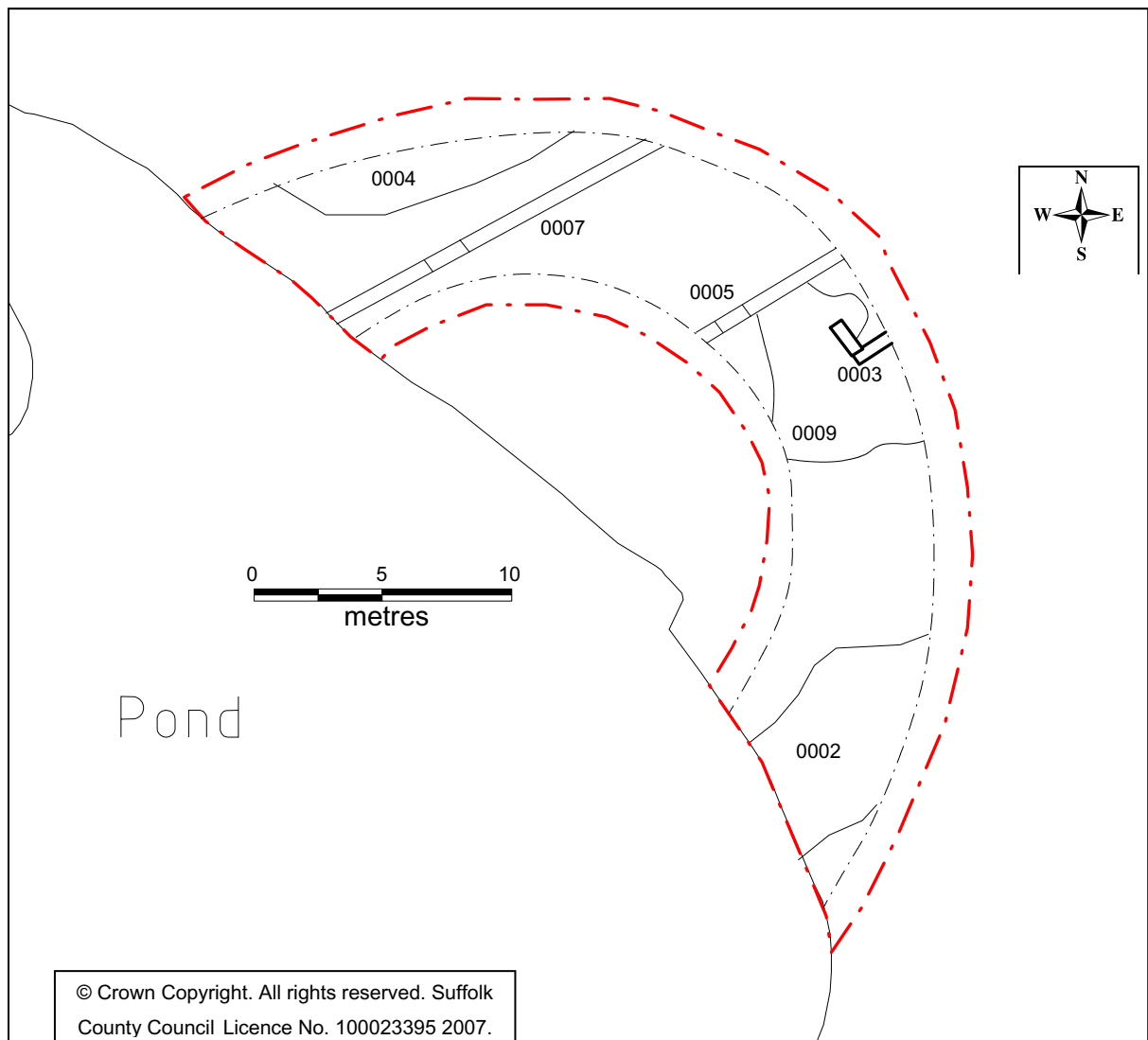


Figure 4. Site plan

5. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

Finds were collected from two contexts.

Context 0001 contained seven fragments (856g) of white fired pan tile. The fabrics are medium sandy with ferrous or grog and calcitic inclusions (Wsfe/gc). They are dated from the 18th-19th century. Also present is a single Glazed red earthenware base (GRE), dated from the 16th to 18th century.

Context 0003 contained three late brick fragments (2229g). All are fully oxidised and in medium sandy fabrics, one of which contains ferrous inclusions (Ms/msfe). Two of the brick fragments are abraded and display some mortar over the breaks indicating their reuse. These brick fragments appear dimensionally to be dated to the first half of the post-medieval period. The third is a larger unfrogged brick that displays little abrasion, it is similar to Drury's LB3 type and is dated from the 17th to 18th century?+.

6. Discussion

The landscaping of the park in recent years has clearly had a large effect upon the preservation of archaeological deposits in the area. Ground levels have probably been altered and the natural subsoil was visible at a relatively shallow depth of 0.2m-0.3m below groundlevel. The expansion of the pond has clearly removed all traces of at least half of the former Castle Farm footprint.

The features and deposits identified during the monitoring however appear to closely correspond to the projected position of the eastern half of the farm buildings. The flint cobble surfaces 0002 and 0004 lie outside of the farmhouse, to south and north respectively, and are presumed to be the surviving remnants of exterior yards. The two parallel ditches or slots, 0005 and 0007, although not obviously structural may represent robbed out footings for the north wing of the farmhouse. 0003 appears to lie at the eastern end of the farm buildings and could possibly be the base of an internal wall with 0009 as the surviving trace of an internal floor surface.

The recovered brick and tile debris indicated a 17th/18th century date for the farmhouse construction, perhaps being later reroofed.

Although there was no evidence for any medieval occupation or structure on the site, this may be due to the park landscaping having removed any such. It is also quite possible however that remnants of the potential fortified manor house may survive elsewhere within the original moated enclosure.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Haverhill\HVH 062 Castle Hill Rec

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQD\HQD 80-81

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by John Craven. Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams and the specialists finds report was produced by Andy Fawcett.

The report was produced by John Craven.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

CASTLE HILL RECREATION GROUND, HAVERHILL

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 SE/07/0158). 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 application is to increase the size of a pond within the area of a probable moated enclosure. The existing pond is an extension of a pond, shown on early 20th century mapping. The available evidence is that the area affected is within the moat island and that there is potential for medieval settlement. However, the general area shows signs of heavy landscaping (c.1970?) and may be truncated.
- 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 the moat and any other early occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal will be the machine excavation of the pond.

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

The exposed subsoil surface will be examined and recorded before subsoil excavation takes place.

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, unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of [one hour per 25 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.
- 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: 9 March 2007

Reference: /Castle Hill Recreation Ground

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.

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