

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Land Adjacent to Drivers Farm, Finningham (Plot 1) FNN 015

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. Nos. 1472/03 & 758/06)
Oasis I.D: suffolkc1-26640

Robert Atfield
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 1LZ.

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List of Contributors

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

Robert Atfield Project Officer
Robert Carr Archaeological Conservation Officer
John Newman Project Manager

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by RCM Property Holdings and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division). The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land adjacent to Drivers Farm, Finningham (Plot 1) as a condition of planning applications 1472/03 & 758/06. The site lies around 30m. to the north of Drivers Farmhouse, which is, a Grade II listed timber-framed building, dating to the mid-sixteenth century. Monitoring of land directly to the east (Plot 2) indicated the existence of some probably early buried ditch and pond features though no occupation deposit was located (SCCAS Report No. 2006/52). The site is likely to occupy an area which lies within the medieval historic core of the village. A single visit was made to the site of Plot 1 on the 14th of February 2007 to examine and record the footing trenches and stripped area ahead of the construction of a new dwelling. No archaeological features or finds were located during this monitoring.

SMR information

Planning application Nos.	1472/03 & 758/06
Date of fieldwork:	14/2/07
Grid Reference:	TM 0674 6960
Oasis ID No.	Suffolkc1-26640
SMR No.	FNN 015
Funding body:	RCM Property Holdings

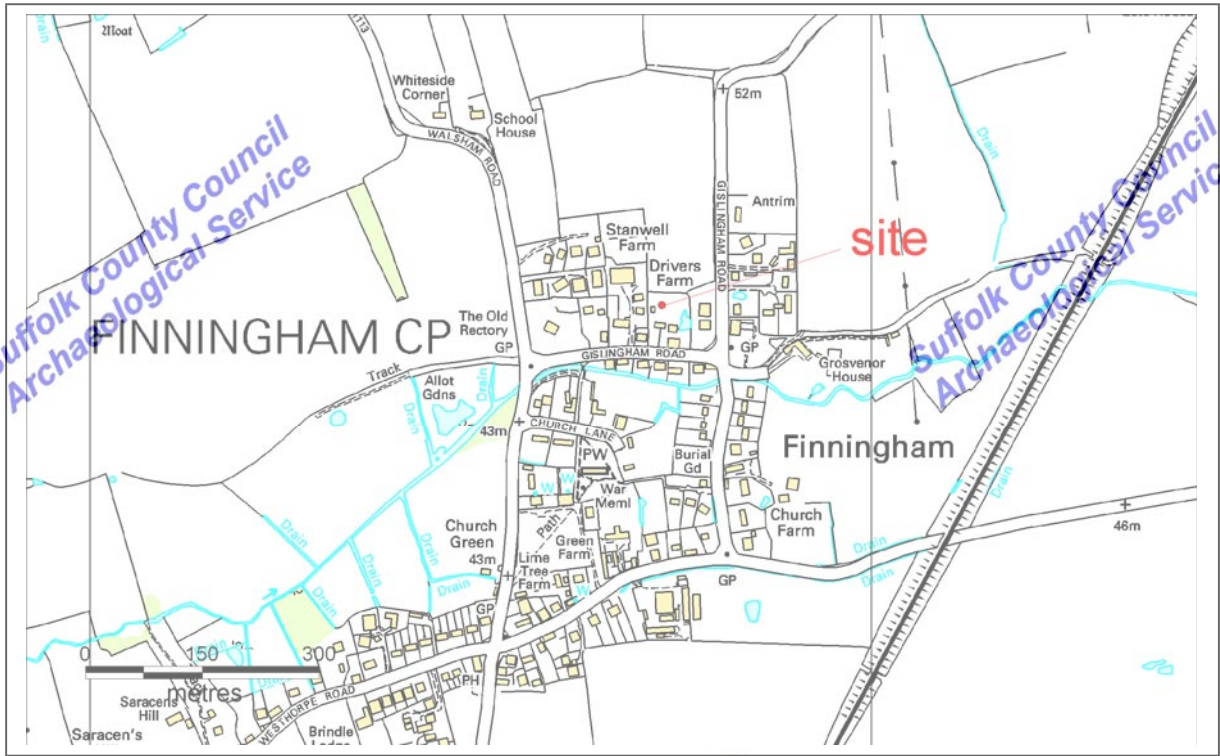


Figure 1. Site location

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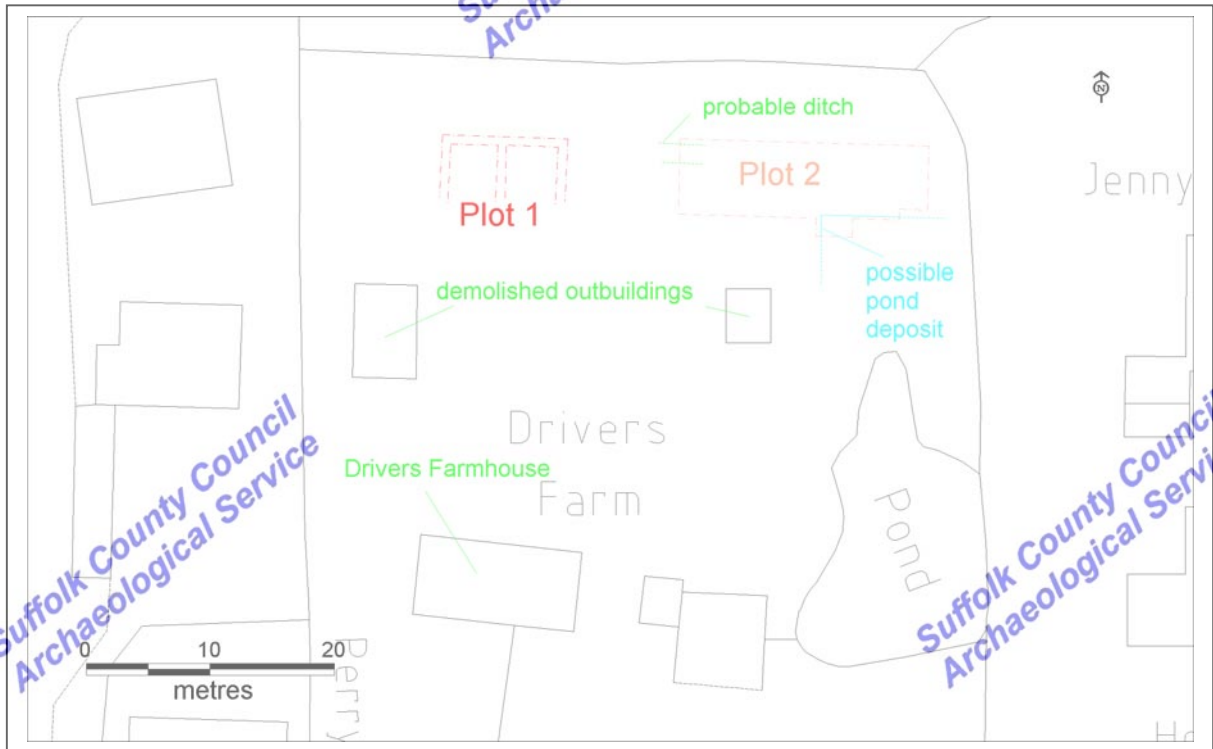


Figure 2. Plot, trench and feature locations

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Introduction

The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Robert Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. (see Appendix 1). Drivers Farm lies less than 150m. from the church and churchyard, on a gentle south facing slope just above the 45m. O.D. contour. The mid-sixteenth century farmhouse and immediate boundaries conform to the rather orderly layout and orientation of the settlement structure. The probable features which were located during the monitoring visits to Plot 2 during 2006, also appeared to be similarly orientated along the lines of the general settlement structure. The predominant structure of the settlement is likely to originate from the medieval period, and Drivers Farm is thought to have developed from a similar date. However, the east to west orientated feature, thought to be a ditch, which was located within the footing trenches of Plot 2 did not appear to continue into the Plot 1 area (see Figure 2).

Methodology

A sketch plan was prepared on site to enable the location of the footing trenches to be accurately recorded and any features or finds revealed to be plotted. Soil profiles were also recorded and these were also related to specific locations within the footing trenches. An examination was also made of the upcast soil from the excavation of the footings and ground reduction across the site in order to retrieve any available archaeological finds material. The footings were excavated using a mechanical back-acting wheeled digger fitted with a 0.30m toothed bucket. The ground conditions were very waterlogged as a result of a long period of rainfall and the trench sides were frequently collapsing. This resulted in limited visibility in some areas of the footing trenches, as shoring was required as soon as possible after excavation. The topsoil had been removed across the entire area of the footing trenches.

Results

The footing trenches measured around 1.60m in depth and 0.60m in width. Two distinct layers of very heavy clay were recorded; the uppermost consisted of a pale brown chalky clay subsoil which contained few stones, other than the occasional medium sized flint (30-80mm). Below this was an even heavier grey-brown natural clay, which contained bands and mottled areas of colour variations. No archaeological features or finds were observed within the footing trenches of the Plot 1 area. The conditions on site were particularly poor during the monitoring visit and it is possible that poorly defined features may have been overlooked. However, the features which were recorded in the Plot 2 area had been well defined within the subsoil and undisturbed natural deposits, it is therefore unlikely that these features would have remained unseen within the Plot 1 trenches if present. It therefore appears likely that these features terminate before the Plot 1 area is reached.

Summary and Conclusion

The lack of archaeological features or finds from this monitoring was slightly unexpected and the only possible interpretations must obviously relate to negative evidence. It is not possible to safely draw any conclusions in relation to the results, as poor conditions and a relatively limited area of excavation prevent any general interpretations to be made. However, it does appear to be reasonably likely that the ditch which was observed to be running approximately west from the site of Plot 2 into the Plot 1 area either terminates or diverts rather abruptly within the space between the two sets of trenches. If this is the case, it suggests that perhaps an additional north-south boundary existed across the site.

References

Atfield, R., 2006 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: Land Adjacent to Drivers Farm, Finningham (Plot 2) (FNN 014)' SCCAS Report No. 2006/52, SCCAS, Ipswich, Oasis Id.: suffolkc1-13942.

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Appendix 1.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

ADJACENT DRIVERS FARM, FINNINGHAM

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 Under planning consent 1472/03 a detailed application (758/06) has been made to build a dwelling on plot 1. 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 is in the probable medieval historic core, adjacent to Drivers Farm, a Grade II Listed Building of mid 16th century date (and probably earlier); it is within 150m of the medieval church and churchyard. Monitoring of the adjacent development on Plot 2 (SCCAS Report 2006/52) indicated the existence of some probably early buried ditch and pond features though no occupation deposit was located.
- 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 footing or ground-beam trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed 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 topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 20 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 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. 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: 19 January 2007

Reference: /Adjacent Drivers 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.