

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

The Barn, Spring Farm, Hessett HTT 018

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. 1240/4

NGR: TL 9349 6107

OASIS Ref. Suffolke1-26661

Funded by: Dan Balmer

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/024

Summary

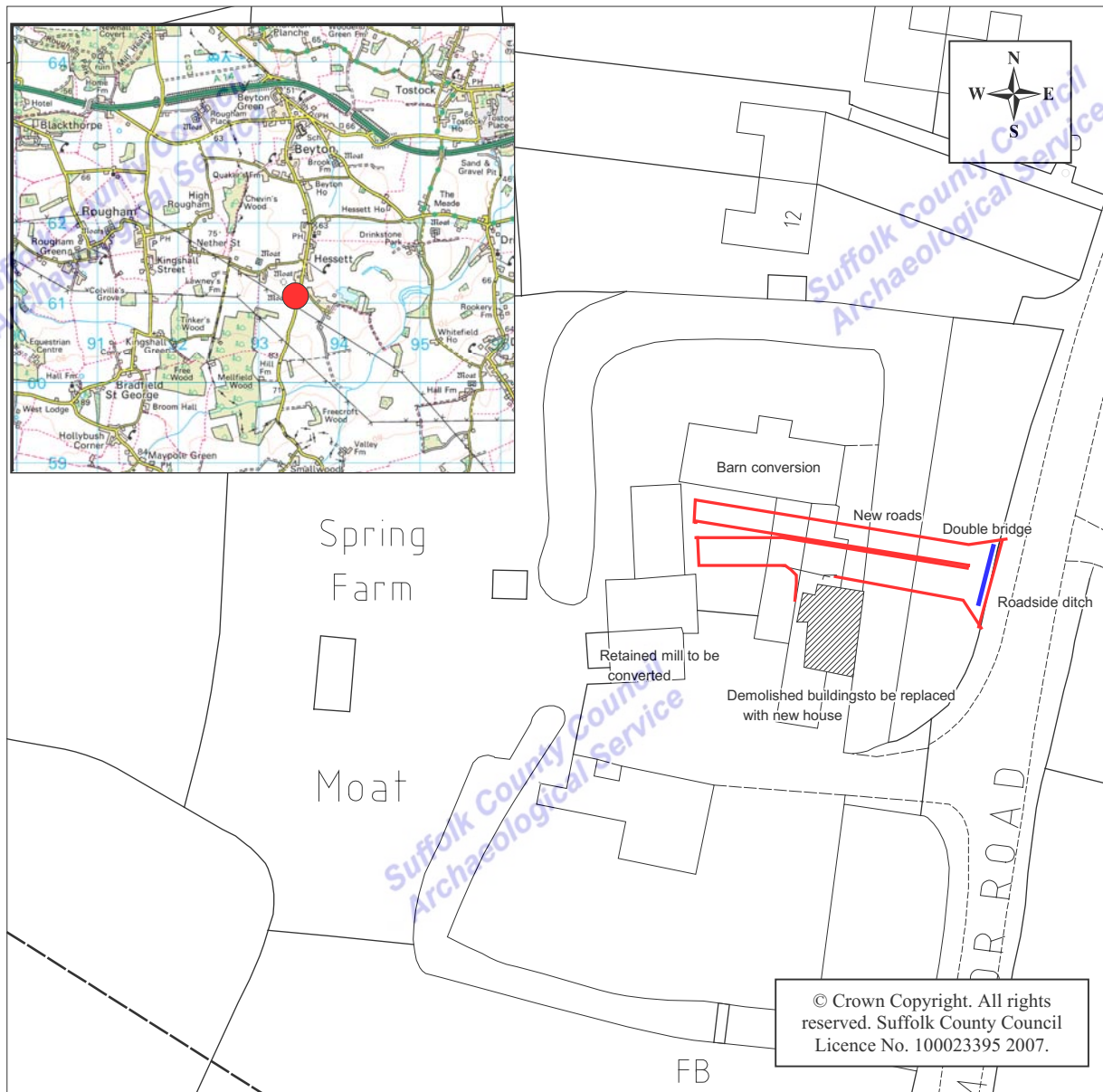
A monitoring at Spring Farm, Hessett uncovered the flint foundations of a post medieval building within the moated enclosure. Evidence from the moat showed that it had been cleaned where the new access bridge was being built. A ditch alongside Manor Road, which had infilled naturally, was undated.

Introduction

Developments within a moated enclosure were the subject of archaeological monitoring. The work was a requirement on Planning Application 1240/2004. It was carried out to a Brief and Specification by Robert Carr of the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Appendix 1). The work was funded by Dan Balmer. Interest in the site is generated by its medieval origin and the potential for associated features. Of particular interest is the construction of a new access over the moat and the soil strip for the access track. The site is located at c.70m OD.

Methodology

Two visits were made to the site to examine the excavation of the foundations for the northernmost of the bridges and part of the soil strip along the route of the main access. Limited hand excavation took place to examine and record the corner of a flint walled building. The crossing of the moat was also examined and the soil strip leading to Manor Road. Very little spoil was removed during the excavation of the new road but a footing was exposed at the eastern end and flint and mortar footings exposed. These were cleaned and a plan made (Fig. 2-3). Limited excavation on the site of the moat crossing was seen, notably on the eastern side where it was accessed from Manor Road. No finds were recovered. An Oasis form ID 1-26661 has been completed.



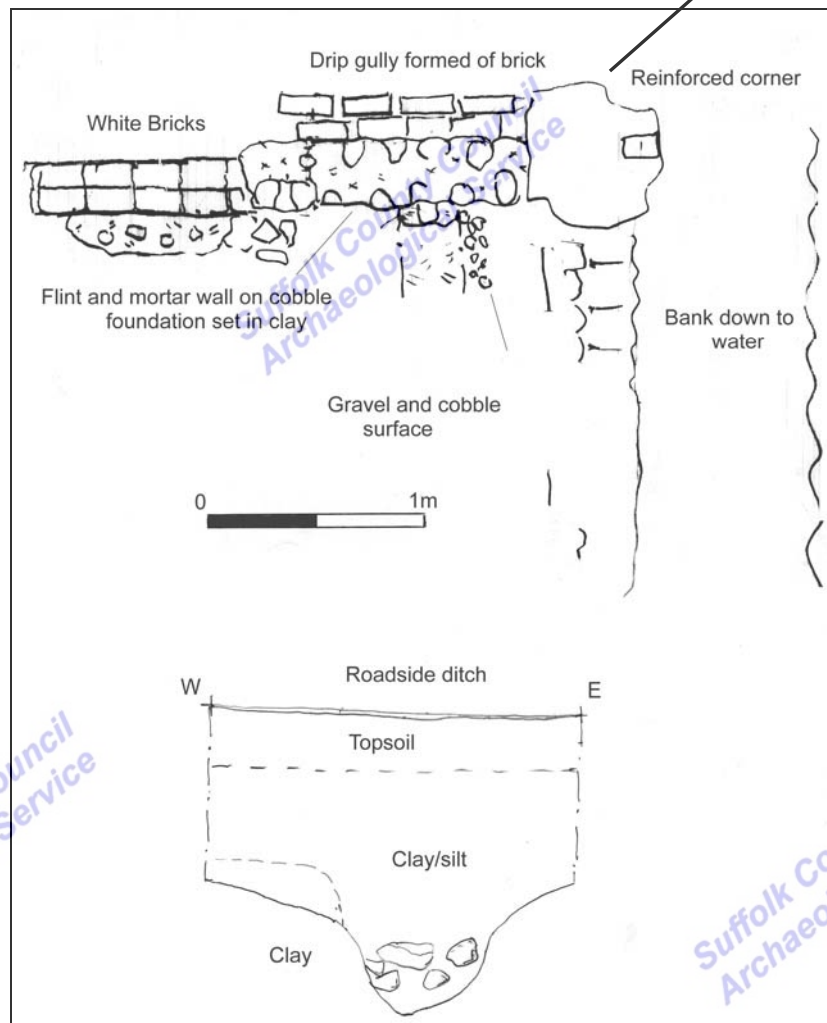
Results

Figure 1 indicates in outline the building proposals; highlighted are the access track to the converted barn and both the old mill and the new building (shaded) to the south. Building foundations were exposed in the soil strip (Fig 2-3) and consisted of large flints (c.0.12m Diam.) in white mortar, above a single course of flints resting on natural clay. Repairs to this basic structure included white bricks and cement. A drip gully composed of two lines of bricks ran along the outside of the building.

Excavations across the moat revealed only recent mud and natural clay. The soil strip to the east of the moat exposed a roadside ditch (Fig. 1 and 3). It was infilled with fine silt but contained a concentration of large flints in the base. No finds were recovered.

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Figure 2 (right). The standing barn highlighted on the 1880 Ordnance map. Also shown is the corner of a, now demolished, building from which the probable footings have been illustrated (Fig. 3 below). This drawing includes the infilled roadside ditch which can be located in Figure 1.



Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Figure 3.

Discussion

The monitoring revealed that in the area of the access the moat had been maintained with no evidence of the long-term accumulation of deposits. As there was no evidence of any earlier cuts it is reasonable to assume that the moat follows an original course. The evidence of the building footing is consistent with the plan of 1880 suggesting a standing building with flint walls. The size of the flints and the pale mortar mix support the view that this was a post-medieval construction. The cobbling that was found resting on natural clay against the internal face may be an original surface; this would be consistent with a barn or stable block rather than a dwelling. The roadside ditch was undated. It obviously had some antiquity because it appeared to have infilled naturally through silting.

Andrew Tester
Senior Project Officer
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

April 2007

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

THE BARN, SPRING FARM, HESSETT

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 A planning application (1240/4) has been made to convert an existing barn and add two bridges across the medieval moat ditch. 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 application area includes a part of the medieval moated enclosure identified on the County Sites and Monuments Record (HTT 003). The moat island has the potential to contain early medieval occupation, the moat ditches are likely to be medieval in origin. The works to construct bridge abutments will be likely to disrupt the original ditch profiles and may cut into moat island occupation deposits. The roadway across the moat island may cut into medieval deposits.
- 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 and subsequent ground disturbance (e.g. works for the bridge abutments and associated road within the moat island).

Any 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 bridge works and roadway site preparation, 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.

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.

4.6 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.
- 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: 24 February 2005

Reference: /Hessett-Barn02

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.