

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

GREAT GREEN FARMHOUSE, GREAT GREEN, COCKFIELD COK 056

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. B/06/00253/FUL)

*Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service*

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Summary

An evaluation on the edge of the medieval green at Great Green Farmhouse, Great Green, Cockfield was completed in advance of the construction of two dwellings. A pond that had been part infilled, in antiquity, with early post-medieval brick and tile rubble was sampled and produced a cylindrical, glazed red earthenware jar, dated 16th-18th century. Evidence suggested that the pond was man-made and the edge was consolidated with timber posts. The pond was part of a group of linear ponds that formed an intermittent wet boundary around the green. Evidence of out-buildings which were shown on the 1880 OS map and a undated field boundary ditch were also found.

SMR information

Planning application no.	B/06/00253/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	30th May 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9180 5582
Funding body:	G. Seaman & Son Ltd
OASIS REF	suffolk c1 27482

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Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried within the grounds of Great Green Farmhouse, Great Green, Cockfield. The evaluation was a condition of the consent on planning application B/06/00253/FUL to construct two dwellings with garages and the laying of a driveway. The work was completed in accordance with the Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) set by R.D.Carr of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team and was undertaken by members of SCCAS Field Team on 30th May 2007. The work was funded by the developer G Seamon and Son Ltd.

The site lies at TL 9180 5582 (Fig. 1) on the south east edge of the medieval 'Great Green', just behind the line of the green edge ditch. The site has the potential for medieval buildings and lies on the same line as a 16th century building on the adjacent property (Great Green House, listed building no 276422). There is a large pond in the garden and the linear arm of the pond lies on the line of the green edge and is possibly a survivor of the green edge ditch. The sample area was formerly a farmyard but is now an established garden and laid to lawn. The site lies on the 90m contour and the surface geology is clay.

The aim of the evaluation was determine whether the pond was part of the green edge ditch and if any evidence of medieval occupation existed that would be affected by the proposed development.

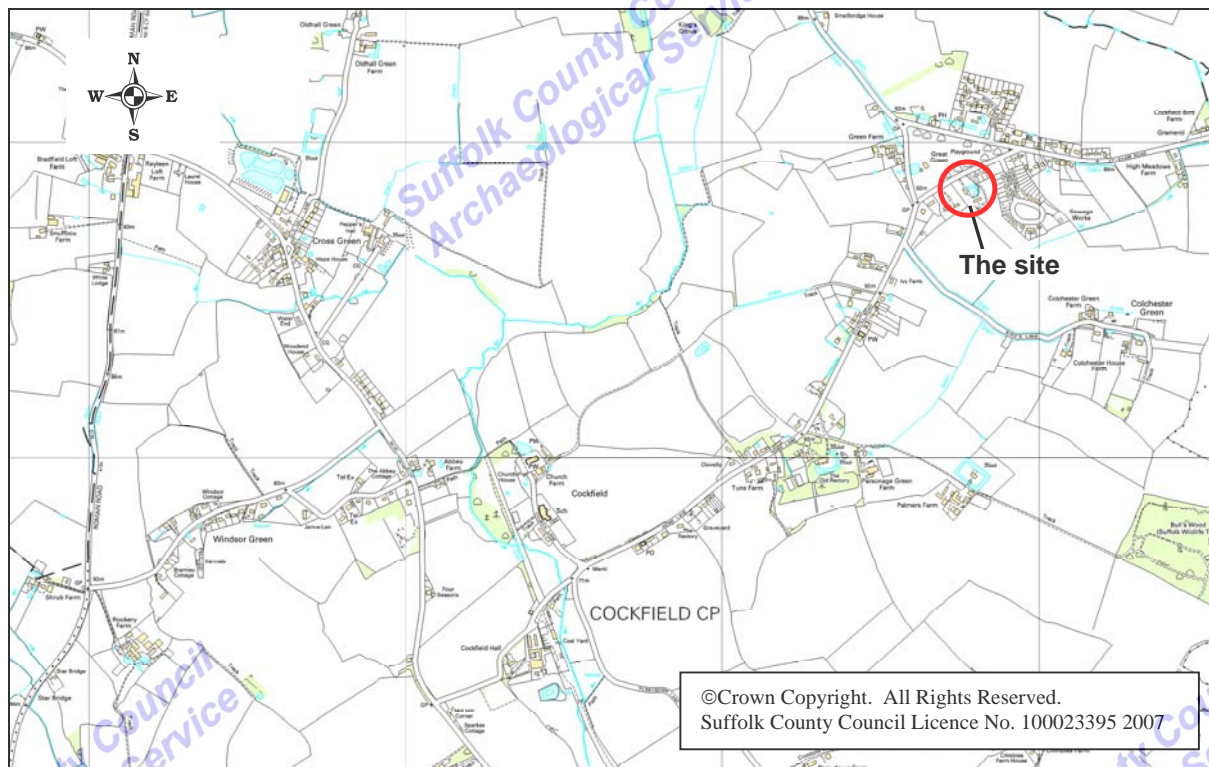


Figure 1 Site location plan

Methodology

Four linear trenches were excavated by a back-acting wheeled digger fitted with a 1.8m toothless bucket and under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. 100sq metres were excavated, 6.25% of the application area and followed a trench plan designed to sample the proposed house plots and the line of the proposed driveway where it crossed the line of the green edge.

The machine removed the topsoil to expose the surface of the subsoil. All possible archaeological features were sampled by hand excavation to at least the minimum requirements of the specification (Appendix 1). Plans and

sections were recorded at 1:20 and the positions of the trenches and features were plotted against the national grid using a Total Station Theodolite. Digital and film photographs were routinely taken and levels were related to a spot height (91.1m) on the road.

All pre-modern finds were retained for analysis and the site data has been input onto an MS Access database. The finds and site records have been archived in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds and with the County Sites and Monuments Record under the parish code COK 056. A copy of the report has also been lodged with the OASIS on-line database (ref suffolkc1 27482).

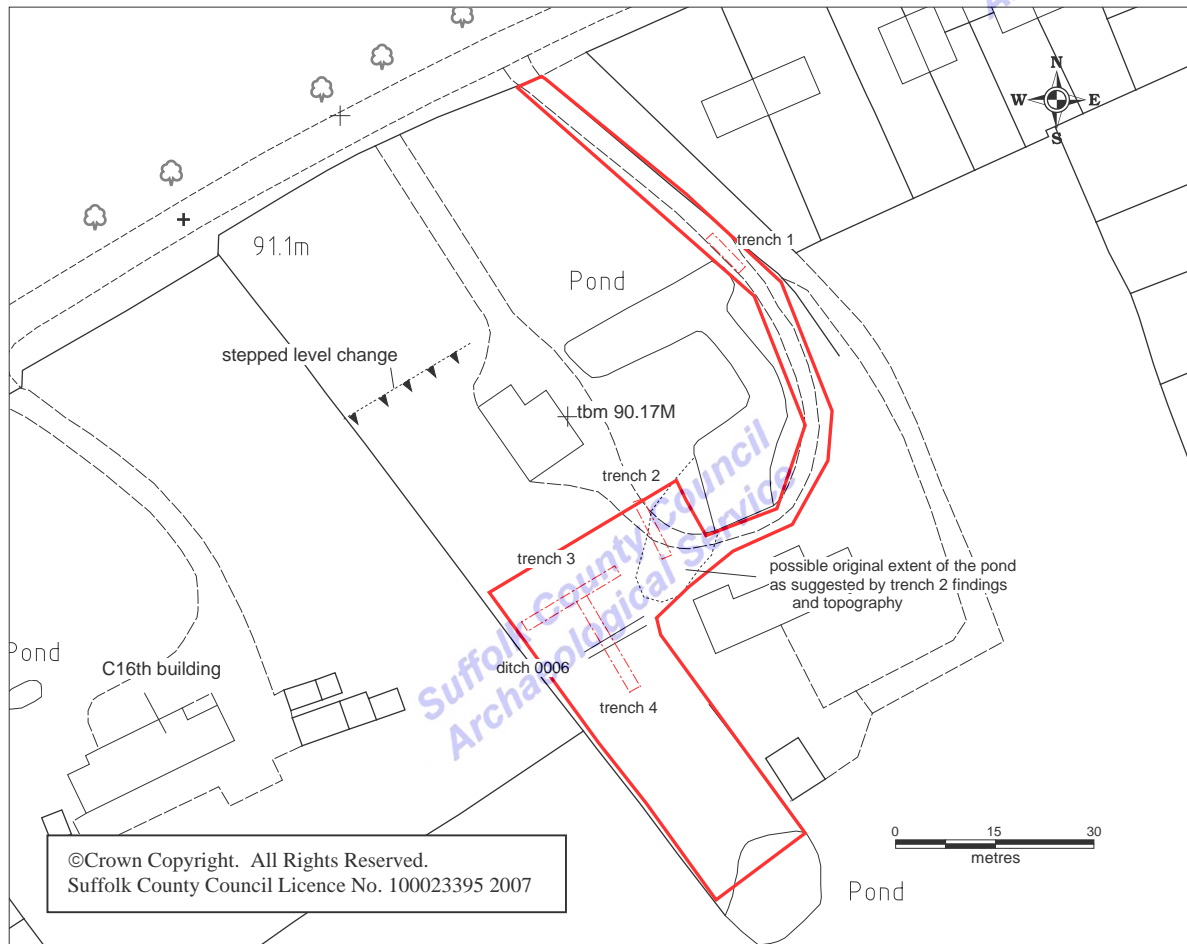


Figure 2. The site and trench plan

Results

Four trenches were excavated across the site; the positions of these are shown on the plan in Figure 2 and they are described below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was 7.5m long and sampled the proposed driveway across the end of the pond in the hope of determining if the pond was a remnant of the green edge ditch. The trenching followed the line of a previous metallised drive/track that had become overgrown. The make-up of the track was 600mm deep comprising imported gravel/sand and large flint cobbles topped with cinders, and there were two distinct surfaces suggesting that the track had been re-laid. This material was laid directly onto the geological clay indicating the topsoil had been removed prior to the laying of the track, possibly truncating the clay surface. There was no cut for the green edge ditch indicating that it did not continue into this area.

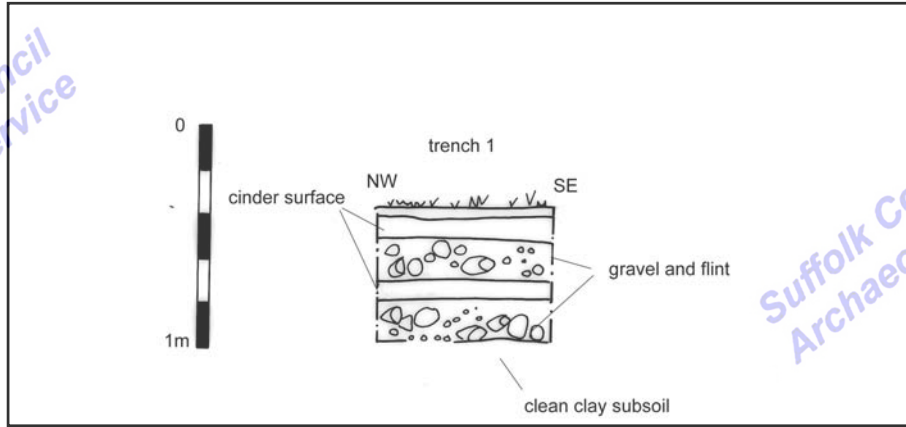


Figure 3. Trench 1: Section

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 4)

Trench 2 was 8m long and excavated across the west end of the larger pool that extends from the putative green edge pond. The trench cut through pond silts and deliberate infilling layers showing that the pond was once more extensive and man-made. A steep-sided cut of the edge of the pond was recorded at the north end of the trench and the edge was reinforced with small diameter roundwood piles possibly part of a revetment (Fig. 4). The bottom of the pond was 1.1m below the present ground surface and at the base was a layer grey clay and chalk. This was different to the natural clay seen elsewhere of the site and may have been some form of puddled lining. Within the silts, at the base of the section, was a dump horizon of building rubble made up of bricks roof tiles and flint large cobbles, 0005. Amongst this material was a low level of domestic rubbish, including pottery and animal bone. The bricks and tile were all hand-made and the dimension of the bricks suggested an early post- medieval date. The pottery was from a single vessel; a cylindrical, glazed red earthenware jar, dated 16th-18th C and no material post-dating this period was recovered from this deposit. The building rubble was sealed beneath a layer of redeposited clay and overlying this an organic peaty layer and further deposits of pond silt suggesting that the pond was still in existence after the deposition of the rubble.

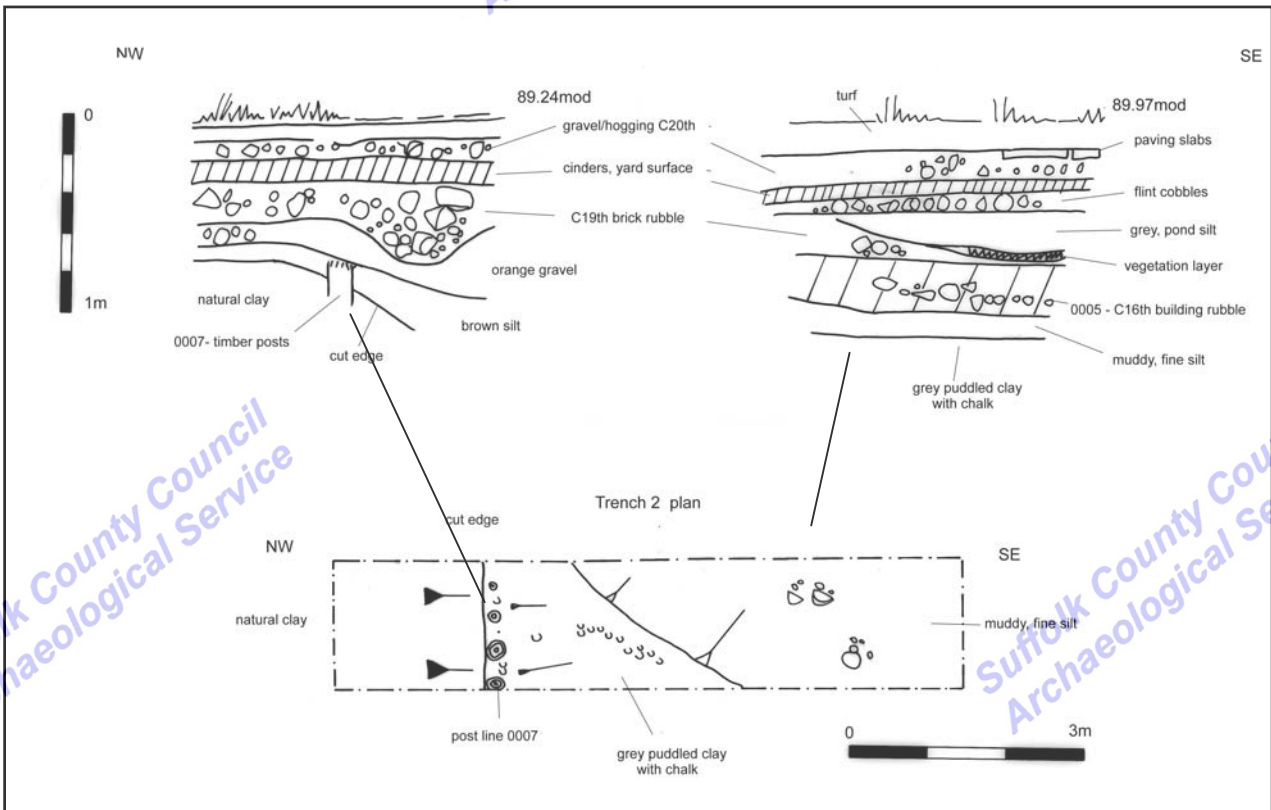


Figure 4. Trench 2: Plan and sections

The upper layers of the section show that, once the pond was finally infilled, the ground level had been consolidated with brick rubble and layers similar to those making up the track in Trench 1 to form a yard surface over this area. The bricks with the upper rubble layers indicated that these layers were laid down no earlier than the late 19th century.

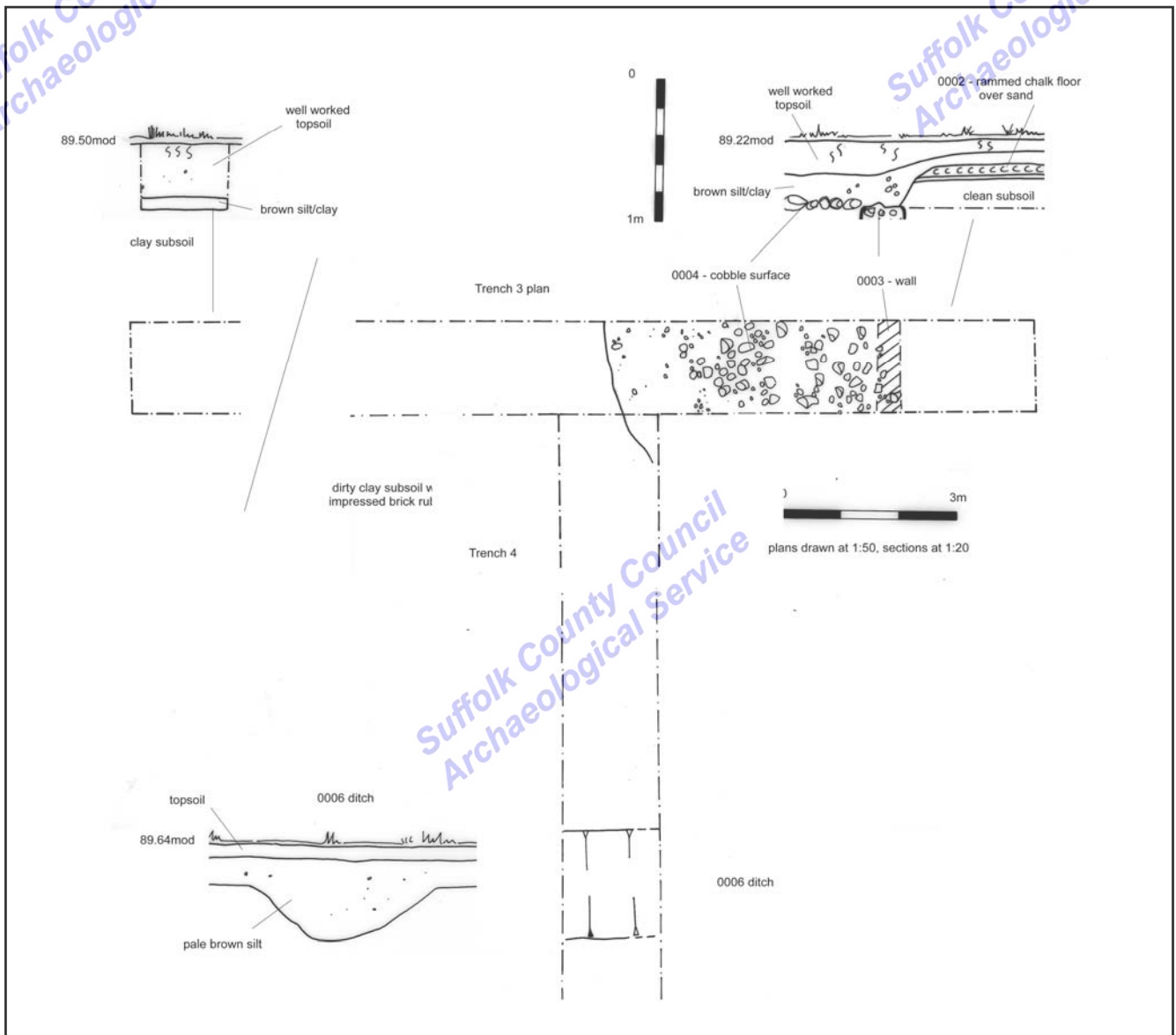


Figure 5. Trench 3 and 4: Plan and sections

Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 5)

Trench 3 was 16m long and ran northeast–southwest across the footprint of one of the proposed house plots. A narrow wall, 0003, crossed the trench northeast end of the trench and this separated an internal floor surface and an external yard. The wall was constructed of flint bonded with a lime mortar and was probably part of an out-building. The floor surface was made of rammed chalk 0002 and on the opposite side of the wall the yard surface, 0004, was laid with large rounded flint cobbles but included 19th century bricks within its make up. The fragment wall was below the surface of the subsoil and was therefore probably part of the footings. Above the wall a cut could be seen in the section where the wall had been grubbed out. The level of the cobbles was lower than the floor inside the building, indicating that the outside ground level had been reduced before the cobbles were laid; presumably to combat damp. Beyond the cobbles over the south-west half of the trench the surface of the clay subsoil was muddy and had occasional brick and tile pressed into it.. The depth of topsoil was greater at this end of the trench

and contained modern debris throughout its depth suggesting that the soil profile had been extensively re-worked.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 5)

Trench 4 ran at right angles from the mid point of Trench 3 and was 17.5m long. The ground level rose towards the south-east end of the trench and the covering topsoil became progressively shallower at this end. A shallow ditch running east –west crossed at mid trench. The ditch was 1.3m wide and 0.7m deep, it was filled with a single layer of clay silt, similar to the pale silt at the base of the soil profile, and was likely to have filled by natural silting. A section was excavated through the ditch but failed to produce any finds.

Discussion and Conclusion

There were no features on the site that could be positively attributed to the medieval period. The earliest datable deposit was the rubble from the demolition from a post medieval building which had been used to part fill the pond.

The current Great Green Farmhouse has a date stone inscribed 1885 but the first edition OS map produced in the 1880's shows a different building; what must be the last incarnation of the previous building just prior to demolition (Fig. 6). The map shows a much larger building on the site of the present farmhouse but orientated at 90° to it. The earlier building is 'front on' to the green and aligned with the neighbouring 16th century building, suggesting a former row of houses set back equidistant from the green. It is likely that the rubble from within the pond and sampled in Trench 2 was from the earlier farmhouse and associated buildings and indicates that at least part of it was built during the early post medieval period, and the pottery that it was occupied during 16th–18th century. The rubble may have been deposited just prior to 1885 when the old house was replaced but the complete absence of post 18th century material within the deposit suggest that it was dumped before this in some earlier phase of work. The early map also shows a small building on the edge of the pond, this coincides with the position of the timber piles suggesting that the two are related.

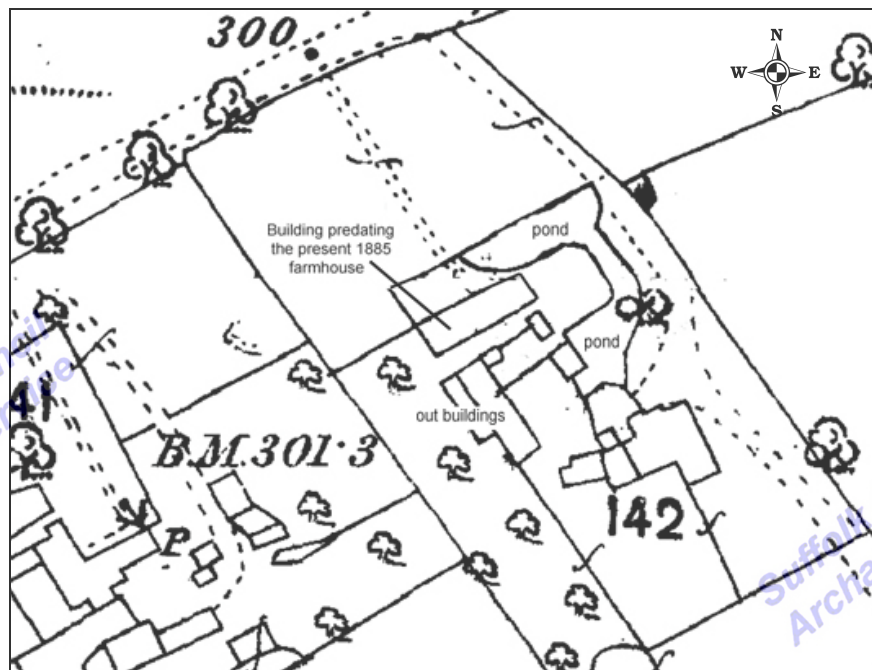


Figure 6. Great Green Farm, 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1880

The first edition OS map also shows the position of yards and outbuildings to the south-east of the current farmhouse and it was these that were part excavated in Trench 3. The low lying and disturbed subsoil within this trench may also be associated with the site of these buildings. The ditch seen in Trench 4 is on the line of a NE-SW field boundary on the adjacent property and was probably a continuation of it.

The green is surrounded by an alignment of linear ponds equidistant and parallel to the current green edge. These are thought to define the medieval edge of the green and are believed to represent surviving lengths of a ditch bounding the green which is particularly noticeable along the north side. It is even more apparent on the 1st edition OS which shows ponds on the south west side that have since been infilled. The earlier OS map also shows that between the ponds the line of the green edge is preserved in the field boundaries and records a pattern of long narrow fields radiating from the green which is a typical medieval land pattern. The evaluation however demonstrates that the north eastern end of the linear pond in Great Green Farmhouse has always been as it is presently mapped. The termination of the pond coincided with a plot boundary and seem likely that the green boundary was not a continuous ditch but had breaks in its circuit to create accesses between the properties bordering the green and the green itself. There is a pronounced step in the topography of the gardens in front of the house and this is situated close to the line of the green edge. This may indicate that the south-western extent of the pond has been filled in, but this was outside the evaluation area. The shape of the ponds as shown on the map and the profile of the revetted cut of the pond in Trench 2 indicate that the ponds are man-made. The underlying geology is heavy clay and the ponds as well as defining the edge of the green would have been necessary for its drainage.

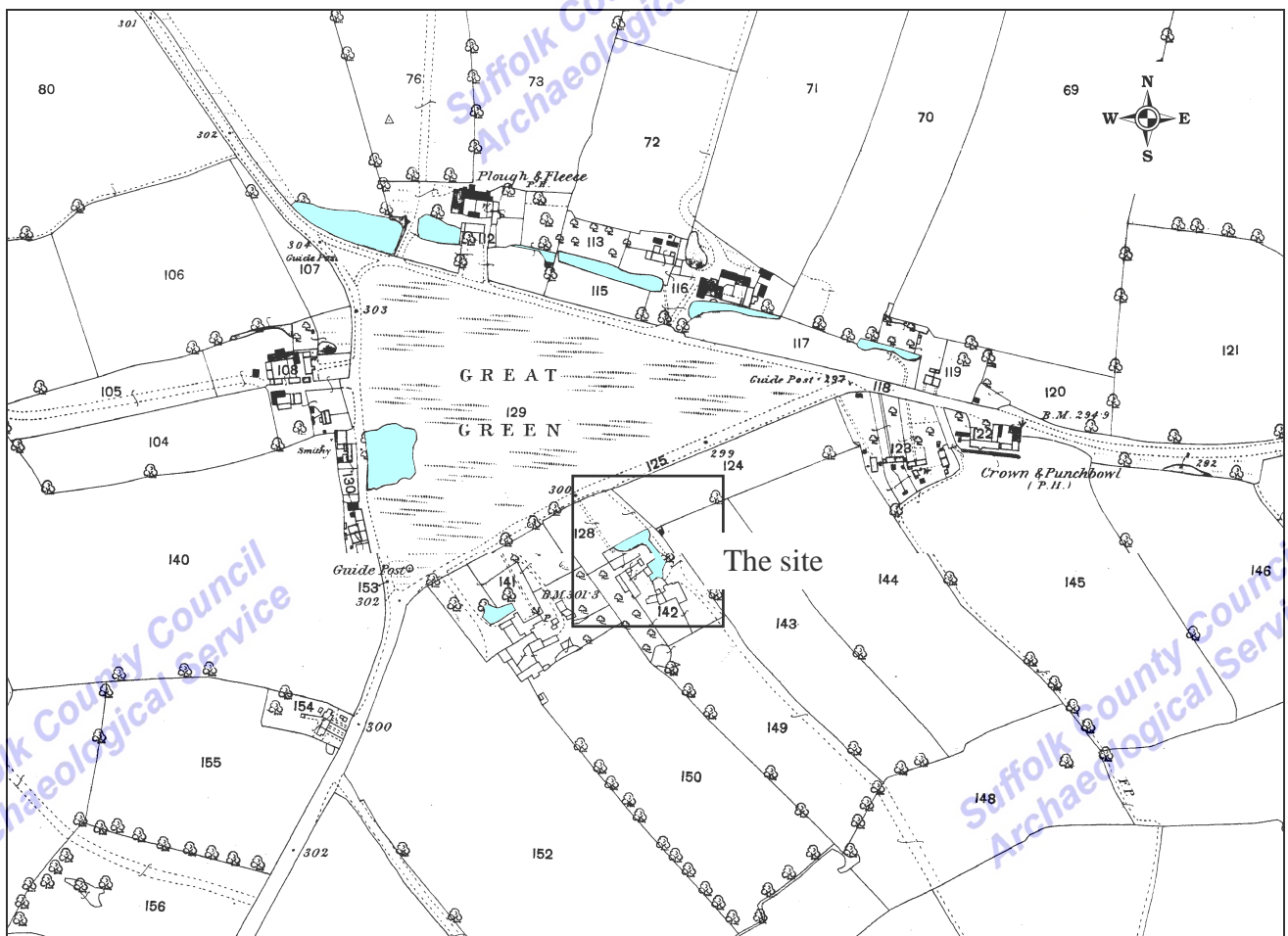


Figure 5. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map showing ponds defining the green edge (1880)

The evaluation has shown that whilst there is potential in the archaeology to better understand the early post-medieval and possibly medieval occupation of the site, the proposed development does not impact on this. The trenches already excavated have adequately sampled the footprint of the proposed buildings. A plan of the services however has not been supplied, and dependant on their location, these may require archaeological monitoring.

David Gill
June 2007

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

GREAT GREEN FARMHOUSE, COCKFIELD

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent [B/06/00253/FUL] has been granted for development of two dwellings with garages and access.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition (no.3) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area is required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs..**
- 1.3 The development area lies behind the medieval green ditch in an area with high potential for medieval settlement (e.g. the 16th century building c.50m to the west, LBS 276422 Great Green House).
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) 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.

2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.

3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. 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 and Wiltshire 1994) is available.

- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 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).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. *“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005* provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

- 5.11 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.
- 6.12 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: Robert Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 26 March 2007

Reference: /Great Green Farmhouse

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.