

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

WOODLANDS, WOODBRIDGE ROAD, DEBACH (SMR ref. DEB 011)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Application No: C/06/1179/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/110
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-27657)

Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork at Woodlands, Woodbridge Road, Debach (NGR: TM 2441 5434) was carried out on 12 June 2007. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference DEB 011. The fieldwork was conducted by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, and was commissioned and funded by the landowner Mr D Elves.

The fieldwork revealed a geological stratum of chalky clay (presumably glacial till) overlaid by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

Introduction

An archaeological monitoring of groundwork was conducted at Woodlands, Woodbridge Road, Debach (Fig 1) as part of an archaeological condition in relation to planning permission for the construction of a detached outbuilding (application number: C/06/1179/FUL). The planning application refers also to the construction of a two-storey rear extension, a single-storey rear and side extension and a front porch. At the time of the monitoring visit no groundwork associated with the house extensions had taken place.

The site is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. It is to the west of a medieval moated site (DEB 003), to the south-east of a medieval finds scatter (DEB 005) and to the east of the medieval church and churchyard (DEB 001). The proposed groundwork had the potential to cause significant damage to any archaeological deposits or features that existed on the site.

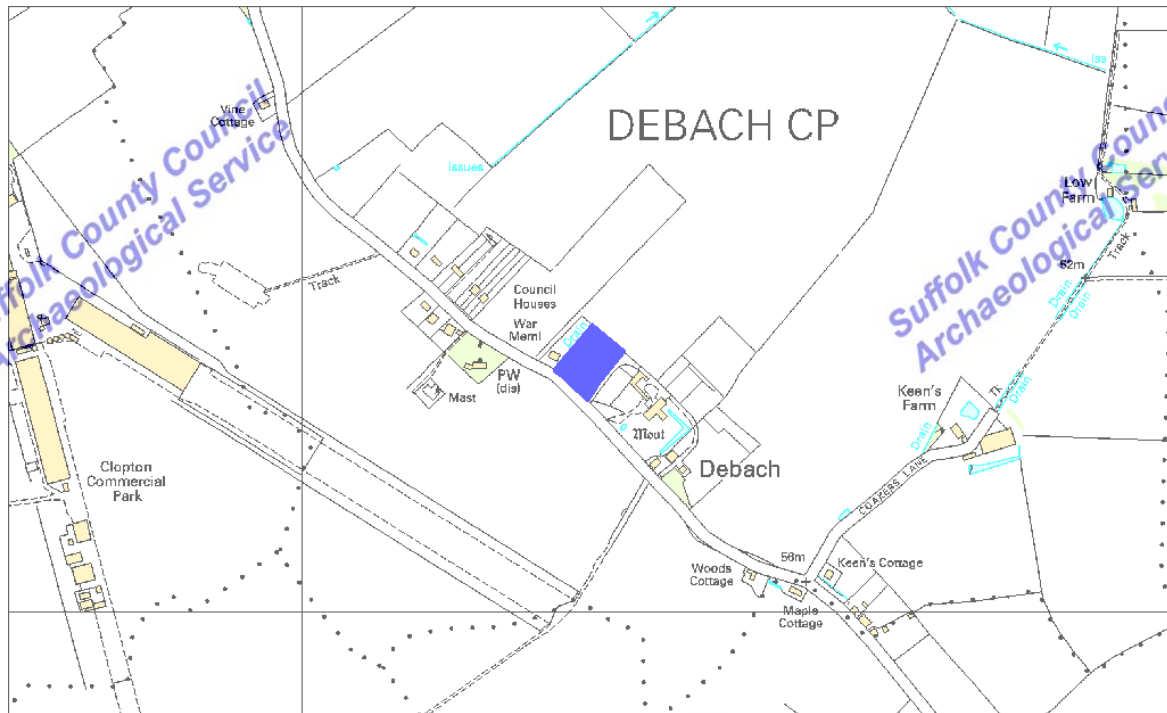


Fig 1: Map showing the location of Woodlands, Debach (coloured blue)

Methodology

The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Dr J Tipper of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The writer visited the site on 12 June 2007. At that time the footprint of the proposed outbuilding had been excavated to a depth of approximately 0.60m, to accommodate the building foundations and a raft of hardcore. The resulting trench measured approximately 18m NE-SW x 6m NW-SE (Fig 2). The sides and base of the trench were examined for archaeological features and deposits and for evidence of the natural stratum. The excavated material was scanned for artefacts that might be dated archaeologically. A representative vertical section on the south east side of the trench was towelled clean, drawn and photographed.

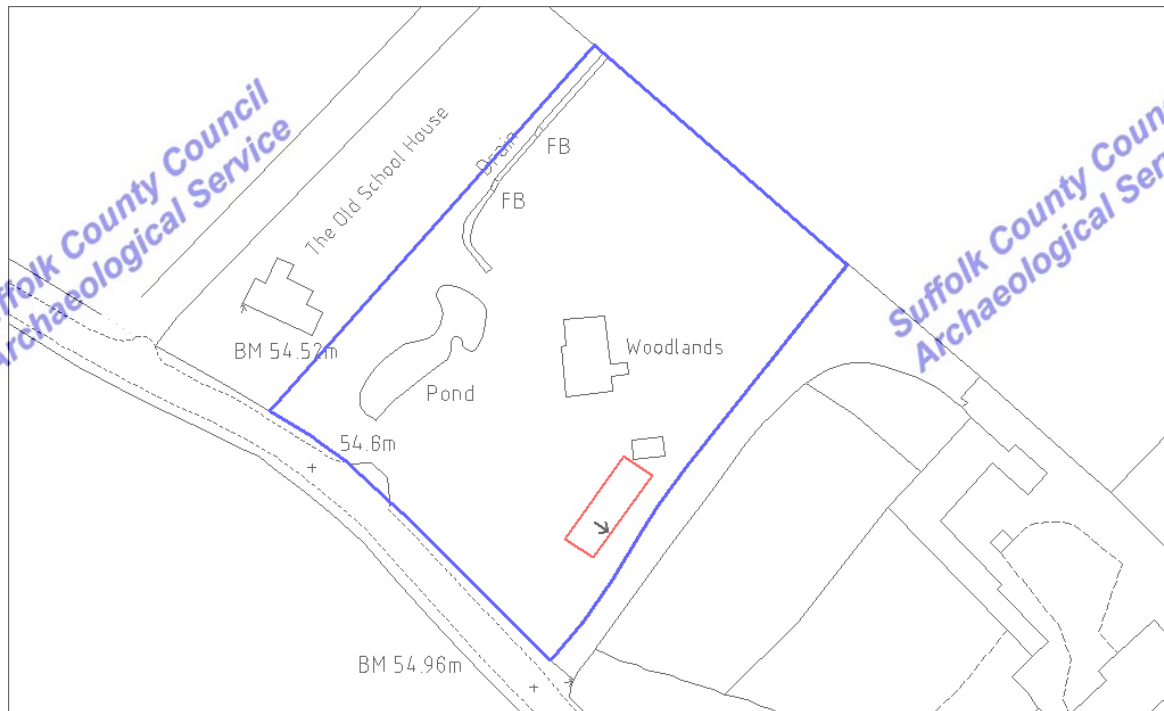


Fig 2: Plan showing the site outline (blue), the site of the proposed outbuilding (red) and the location of the photographed section shown in Figure 3 (arrowed)

Results

A geological deposit of light yellowish brown chalky clay containing moderate small–large flint nodules extended throughout the area of the monitored trench. The quantity of chalk within the deposit varied considerably and in places the clay contained pockets and veins of orange-brown clayey sand, as can be seen on Figure 3. This natural stratum had been excavated to a depth of approximately 0.40m.

A naturally occurring subsoil of mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional pebbles and flecks–small fragments of chalk overlay the chalky clay. The subsoil was up to 0.20m thick. It was sealed by a friable, dark grey topsoil (garden soil), between 0.10 – 0.30m thick. This contained moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of coal, charcoal and chalk. There were also larger fragments of modern brick, tile and ceramic drain pipe, as well as modern metal and plastic objects. The roots of recently removed trees and shrubs occurred throughout the topsoil and had also penetrated the underlying subsoil.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen in the monitored trench and no artefacts were recovered from the excavated material.

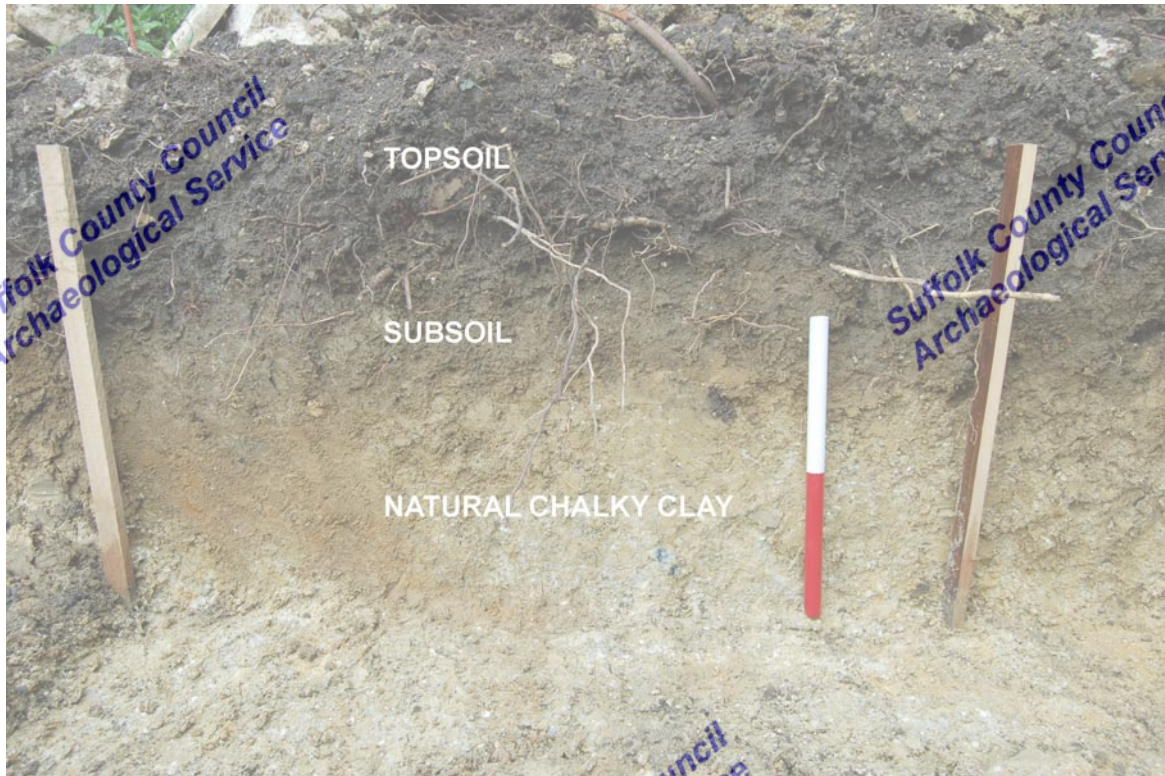


Fig 3: Part of the north west facing section of the monitored trench, showing the typical sequence of deposits. The photographed section is located on Figure 2 (scale 0.50m)

Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring has revealed a geological stratum of chalky clay (presumably glacial till), sealed by a natural soil profile of subsoil and topsoil that has clearly been reworked in recent times.

Based on this evidence, it is considered unlikely that the groundwork associated with the proposed extensions to the house will have any impact on archaeological remains. However, it should be noted that any decision regarding additional monitoring of groundwork on the site remains with the Archaeological Planning Officer.

Appendix: Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

WOODLANDS, WOODBRIDGE ROAD, DEBACH, WOODBRIDGE, IP13 6BY

*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.*

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a two storey rear and single-storey rear and side extensions, front porch and detached garage and workshop at Woodlands, Woodbridge Road, Debach (TM 2441 5434), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/06/1179/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. It is situated to the west of a medieval moated site (DEB 003), to the south-east of a medieval finds scatter (DEB 005), which is indicative of further occupation deposits, and to the east of the medieval church and churchyard (DEB 001). The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

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 medieval occupation of the site.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches and the provision of services for the extensions and the detached outbuilding. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.4 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

- 4.5 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.

- 4.6 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).

4.7 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

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 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.

5.6 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).

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Date: 5 October 2006

Reference: /Woodlands-Debach2006

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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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