

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Broom Heath Cottage, Broom Heath, Woodbridge WBG 064

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. no. C/05/1917/FUL)
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-28304

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

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

Robert Atfield

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Dominic Withey, and was monitored by Judith Plourviez (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

Planning permission to construct a new house was granted on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out at the site. The site formerly contained Broom Heath Cottage, a much smaller dwelling, set within extensive wooded grounds. The location overlooks the west banks of the River Deben, set to the north of the crest of a spur that forms part of Kyson Hill. Numerous locations which have produced archaeological material lie within a kilometre of the site location, these include Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds. However the land at the Broom Heath Cottage development failed to provide any further additions to the archaeological record. The groundworks only revealed undisturbed natural deposits of gravel and sand formations.

SMR information

Planning application no.	C/05/1917/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	27-03-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 2650 4801
SMR number	WBG 064
Oasis ID number	Suffolke1-28304
Funding body:	Dominic Withey

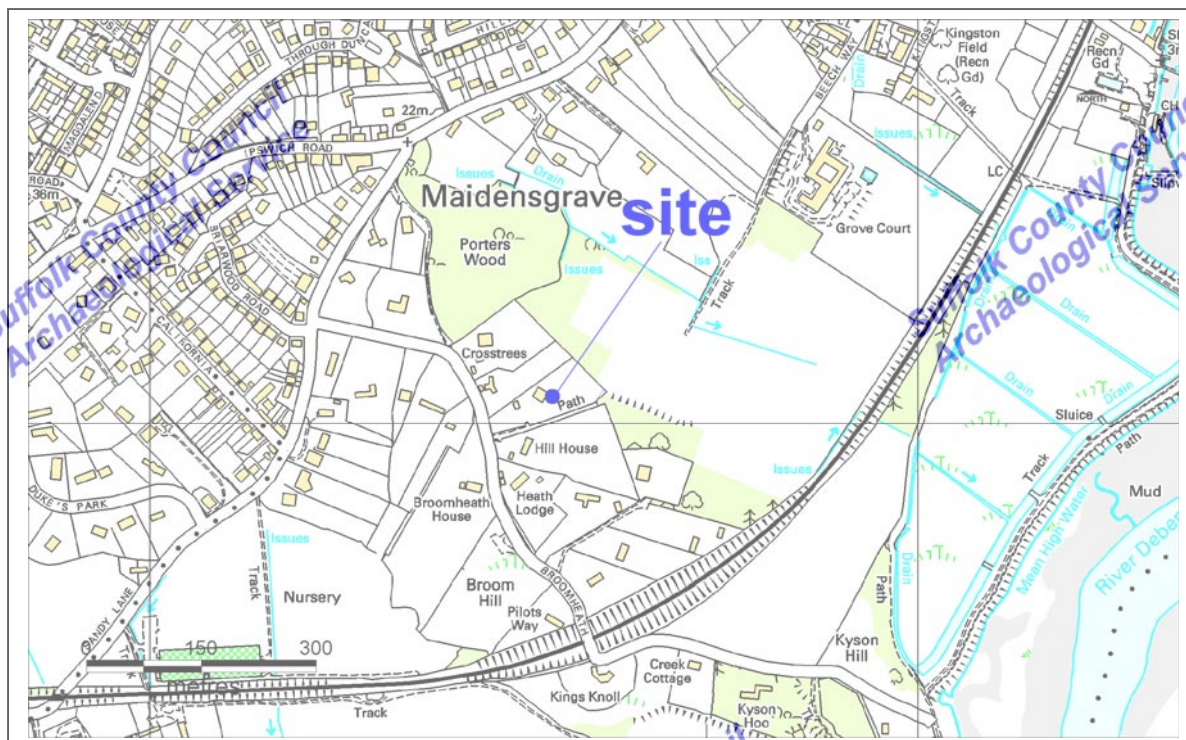


Figure 1. Site location

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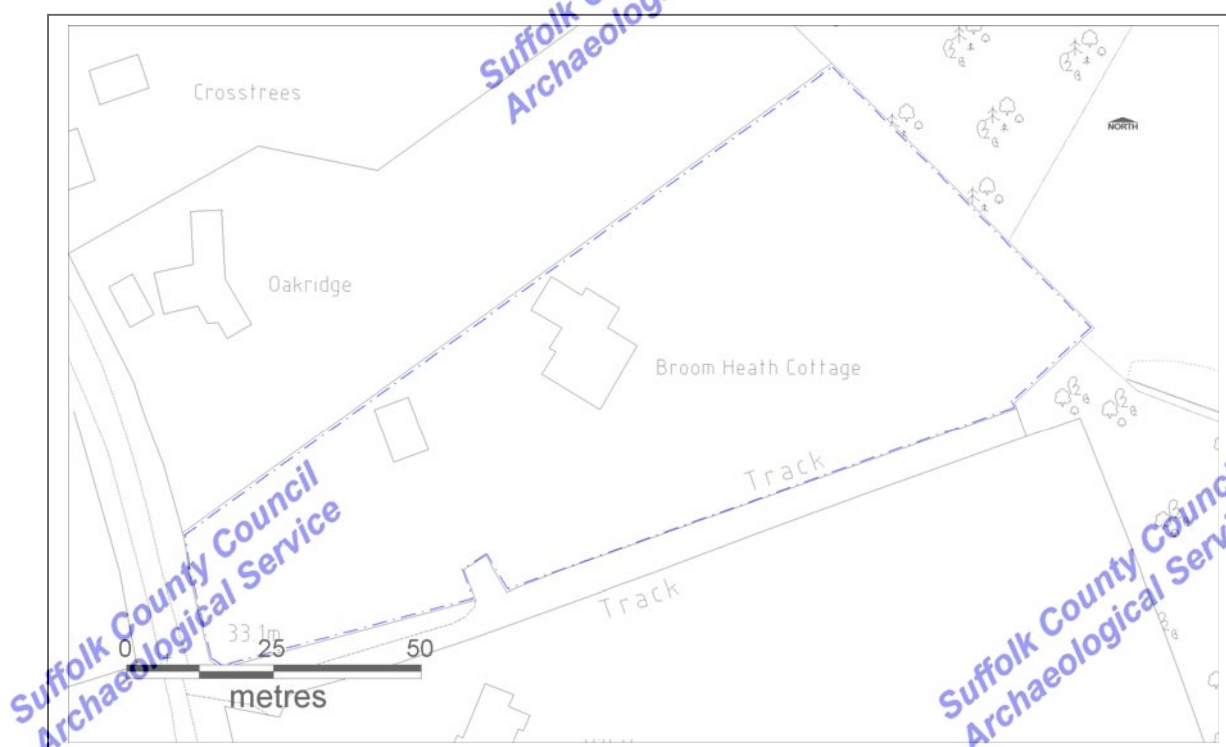


Figure 2. Extent of site area

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Introduction

Planning permission to construct a new house at Broom Heath Cottage, Broom Heath, Woodbridge was granted on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out at the site. The site formerly contained Broom Heath Cottage, a much smaller dwelling, set within extensive wooded grounds. The location overlooks the west banks of the River Deben and is set to the north of the crest of a spur forming part of Kyson Hill. The site is centred on the 30m OD contour, but slopes steeply away towards the river valley, dropping by over 10m within the site area. A number of locations, which have produced archaeological material, lie within a kilometre of the site. These include Iron Age (WBG 015), Roman (WBG 005) and medieval finds. Directly to the east of the development lies the probable location of a substantial Roman settlement (WBG 005) (see Figure 3.). However the land at the Broom Heath Cottage development failed to provide any further additions to the archaeological record. The groundworks only revealed undisturbed natural deposits of gravel and sand formations.

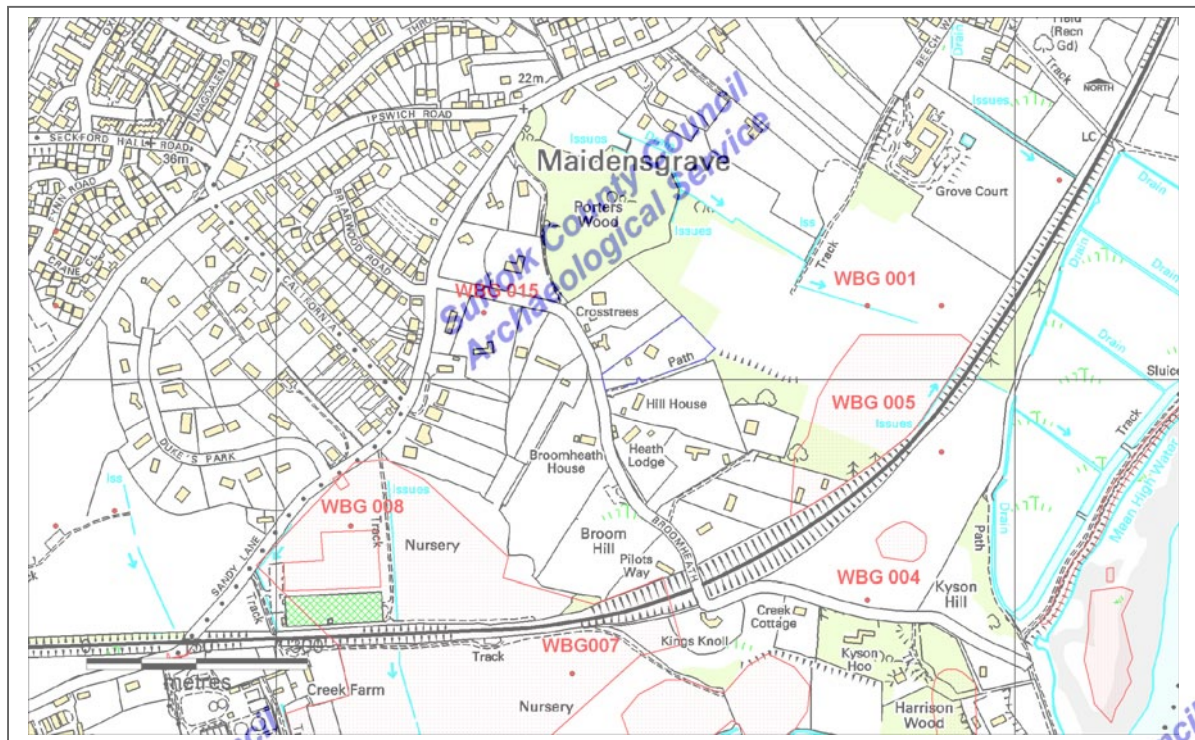


Figure 3. Sites and Monuments Record locations

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Methodology

The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Judith Plouviez (SCCAS Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1.). A single visit was made to the site on the 27th March 2007, when it was possible to examine the entire development area after it had been stripped of topsoil, together with a deep trench, which had been excavated ahead of the

construction of a basement. All ground disturbance including site clearance, levelling and the deep excavation of the basement area were examined and recorded. Details of the ground disturbance and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 6.0mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the upcast spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were ideal in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

Results

The extent of the ground disturbance and clearance were substantial over most of the central area of the site. The footprint of the new house extends over most of the central width of the site; in addition, work on the access and landscape modifications have resulted in extensive areas of ground disturbance. The entire building footprint had been stripped of topsoil and some level changes had already been made. This situation allowed clear views of the underlying natural deposits, which were exposed across the surface of the site, but were also revealed within the trench faces of the basement excavation. The basement had been excavated to a depth of 3.20m within an area which measured 15.0m (north-south) by 9.0m (east-west). The exposed surface areas and trench faces revealed only natural sand and gravel deposits across the site. These deposits were mixed and banded to a depth of around 1.50m; below these layers were deep accumulations of fine grey sand reaching beyond the depth of the excavation. No archaeological features or finds were revealed or retrieved as a result of the monitoring.

Summary and Conclusion

Although the central area of the site showed no sign of any archaeological features or finds the northeastern and southwest areas were left largely undisturbed. It is therefore possible that archaeological deposits may remain within these areas. However, the lack of any occupation evidence is perhaps surprising given the close proximity of the surrounding archaeological sites. The distribution of the known archaeological sites which surround Broom Heath Cottage are generally slightly away from the higher ground and the site may have been relatively exposed before more recent garden trees and shrubs provided dense levels of shelter. The apparent absence of archaeology cannot however be explained on this basis alone.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

BROOM HEATH COTTAGE, BROOM HEATH, WOODBRIDGE

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 C/05/1917/FUL). 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 development is at TM 2650 4801 on the north side of the crest of a spur (Kyson Hill). It lies between two areas of Iron Age to Roman activity, WBG 015 and WBG 005, the latter being a substantial settlement, whereas the potential extent of WBG 015 is undefined. There is a likelihood of further Iron Age/Roman activity along the spur.
- 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 (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

As site preparation works will involve topsoil stripping for part of the new driveway, the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist 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 100 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 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: Judith Plouviez

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

Date: 27 June 2006

Reference: /Broom Heath Cottage

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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