

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

---

## Land off Henry Street, Debenham DBN 127

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007  
(Planning app. no. 1212/05)  
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-28799

Robert Atfield  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2007

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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

# Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Contributors

Acknowledgements

Summary

SMR information

Introduction

Methodology

Results

Finds and environmental evidence

Summary and Conclusion

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

## List of Figures

1. Location plan
2. Trench location plan
3. Plan of excavated areas

List of Contributors

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

Robert Atfield (Field Team)

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Brooks and Wood Ltd. 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

*A housing development of eleven houses was granted planning permission on the condition that a programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out at a site off Henry Street, Debenham. The proposal area is adjacent to the find spot of medieval pottery (DBN 092) and the site held potential for revealing evidence of the backyard occupation associated with the medieval ribbon settlement along Gracechurch Street. Two visits were made to the site, but the monitoring failed to locate any archaeological features or finds.*

## SMR information

Planning application no.	1212/05
Date of fieldwork:	10-01-07 & 26-01/07
Oasis ID No.:	Suffolkc1-28799
SMR No.	DBN 127
Grid Reference:	TM 1696 6320
Funding body:	Brooks and Wood Ltd.

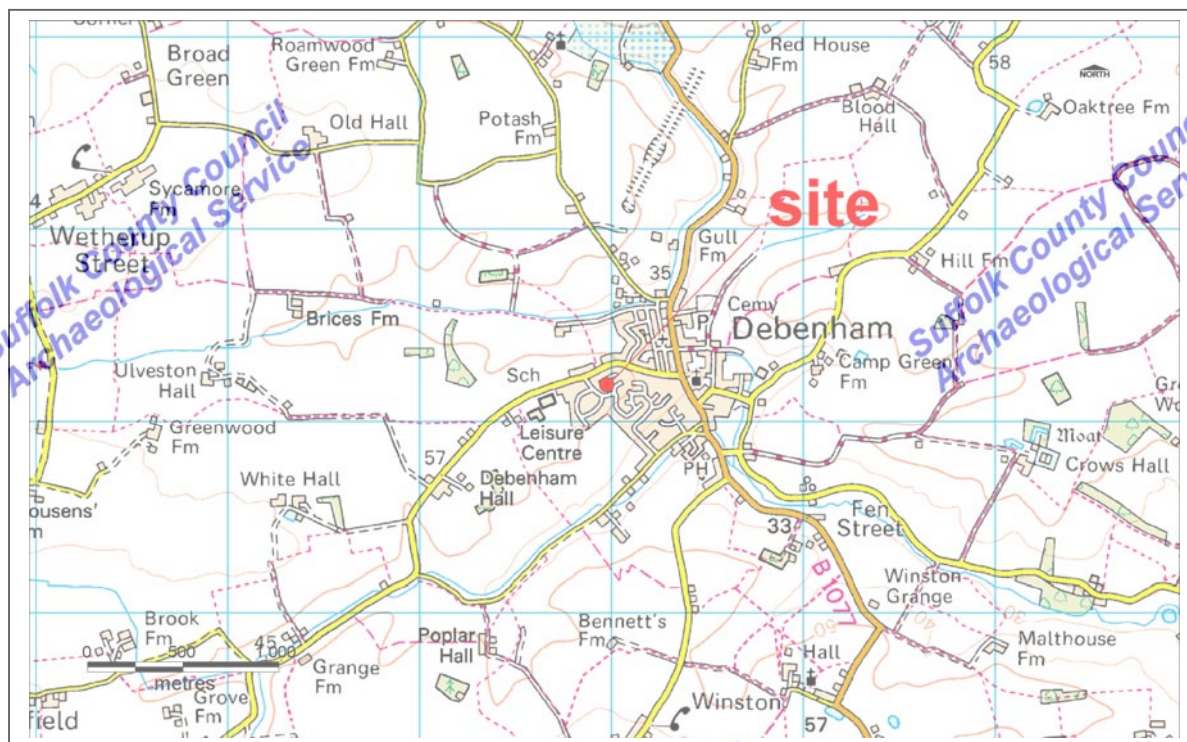


Figure 1. Site location

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

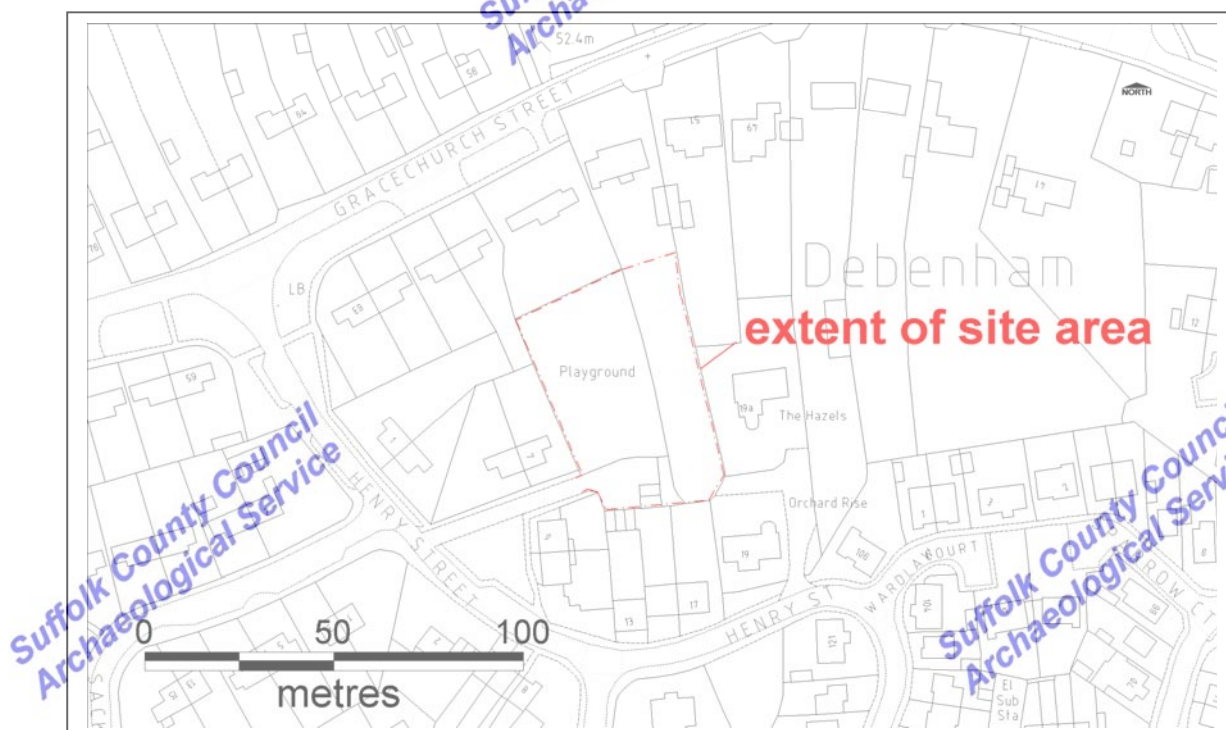


Figure 2. Extent of the site area

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)



## Introduction

A housing development of eleven houses was granted planning permission on the condition that a programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out at a site off Henry Street, Debenham. The proposal area is adjacent to the find spot of medieval pottery (DBN 092) and the site held potential for revealing evidence of the backyard occupation associated with the medieval ribbon settlement along Gracechurch Street. Two visits were made to the site, but the monitoring failed to locate any archaeological features or finds.



Figure 3. Area stripped of topsoil

(© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007)

## Methodology

Through the co-operation of the building contractors it was possible to have the majority of the site stripped of topsoil down to the upper surface of the subsoil. This was the optimum level from which to ascertain the existence and extent of any archaeological evidence across most of the site (see Figure 3.). The details of all ground works were recorded onto a measured sketch plan, which was prepared on site. The extent of the area of ground reduction, features, approximate levels and soil profiles were plotted and described. Digital photographs were also taken of all aspects of the site including the faces of any exposed sections. A thorough search was also made of the upcast and disturbed soil with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological material. Excavation was carried out using a tracked mechanical 360° digger fitted with a 0.50m toothless bucket. Excavation of the site began at the north end, near to the rear of Gracechurch

Street and progressed to the south. Conditions were generally good in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

## Results

The topsoil depth varied from 0.30-0.40m and consisted of mid-brown heavy loamy clay. The deposit contained regular small pebbles and flints and moderate quantities of modern garden debris such as glass, ceramics, ceramic building material and coarse charcoal fragments. A shallow subsoil of mid-pale brown clay covered most of the site, measuring an average of 0.10m deep. Below the subsoil layer was natural pale brown clay. The lower deposits were virtually undisturbed across the entire area of the site, very occasional evidence of root disturbance could be seen, especially around the margins of the site. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring visits.

## Summary and Conclusion

This area of land appears to have long been used for horticultural purposes and perhaps some agriculture during earlier periods, although no indications of plough marks or heavier forms of tilling were seen within the subsoil layer. Use as pasture is also a distinct possibility, given the characteristics of the soil and also the location in relation to the medieval settlement. The site may lie slightly beyond any structural development associated with the medieval occupation of Gracechurch Street, but may have performed an agricultural function during this period. The lack of any archaeological deposits or artefacts is otherwise difficult to explain.

---

## Appendix 1.

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

Land off Henry Street, Debenham

*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 (1212/05) has been made to build 1 dwellings. 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 adjacent to the find spot of medieval pottery DBN092; the area is in a location with high potential for backyard occupation associated with the known medieval ribbon settlement along Gracechurch Street.
- 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.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping 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: RDCarr

Date:18/01/2007

Reference: Debenham Henry 1212.doc

**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.**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443