

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Lot 3 Red House Farm, Bridge Road, Levington

LVT 063

Planning App. C/06/1900/FUL Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-29726

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007



Robert Atfield
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2007

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

SMR information

Planning application no. C/06/1900/FUL

SMR No. LVT 063

Date of fieldwork: 05-03-2007

Grid Reference: TM 2404 3948

Funding body: Mrs. S. McGuire

Oasis reference Suffolkc1-29726

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Plot 3, Red House Farm, Bridge Road, Levington as a condition of planning consent. The development entails the construction of a stable block in the corner of a field currently in use as a paddock. The application lies in an area of archaeological interest as defined by the County Sites and Monuments Record. Aerial photographs have demonstrated that area contains extensive crop-marks, and is also close to the location of a Bronze Age hoard (LVT 016). The developers decided to use a very light form of building foundation that only required minimal ground disturbance; consequently, no archaeological features were exposed or damaged. The small amounts of upcast spoil and exposed surface produced no archaeological finds.

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1.0 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Plot 3, Red House Farm, Bridge Road, Levington as a condition of planning consent. The development consists of the construction of a stable block, in the corner of a field currently in use as a paddock. The application lies in an area of archaeological interest as defined by The County Sites and Monuments Record. The area contains crop-marks, revealed as a result of aerial photography, which indicate an extensive rectilinear field system and associated trackways to the north and immediately east of the site (SNH 005 and SNH 001)(see Figure 2.). The field system probably dates to the late prehistoric or Roman period, although medieval landscape features also exist nearby. A Bronze Age founders hoard (LVT 016), was discovered 150m. to the north-west of the site and a possible Neolithic mortuary enclosure or barrow (LVT 014) lies to the south. The developers decided to use a very light form of building foundation, that only required minimal ground disturbance; consequently, no archaeological features were exposed or damaged. However, given the considerable archaeological potential of the location a close examination was made of all of the disturbed deposits.

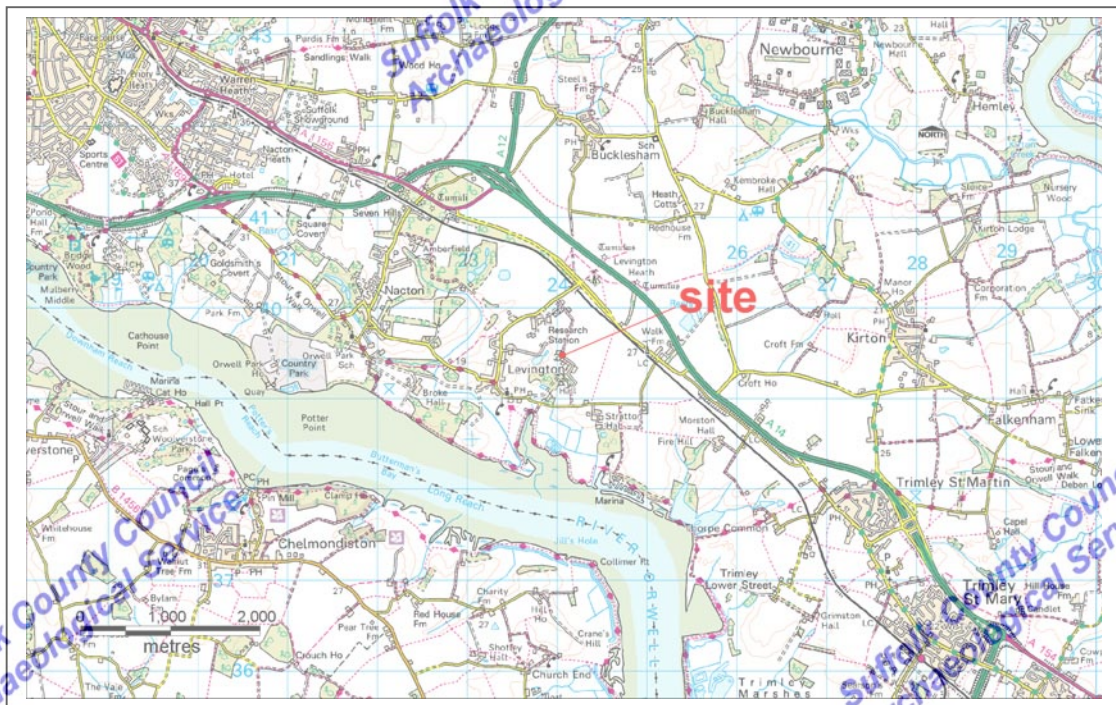


Figure 1. Site location

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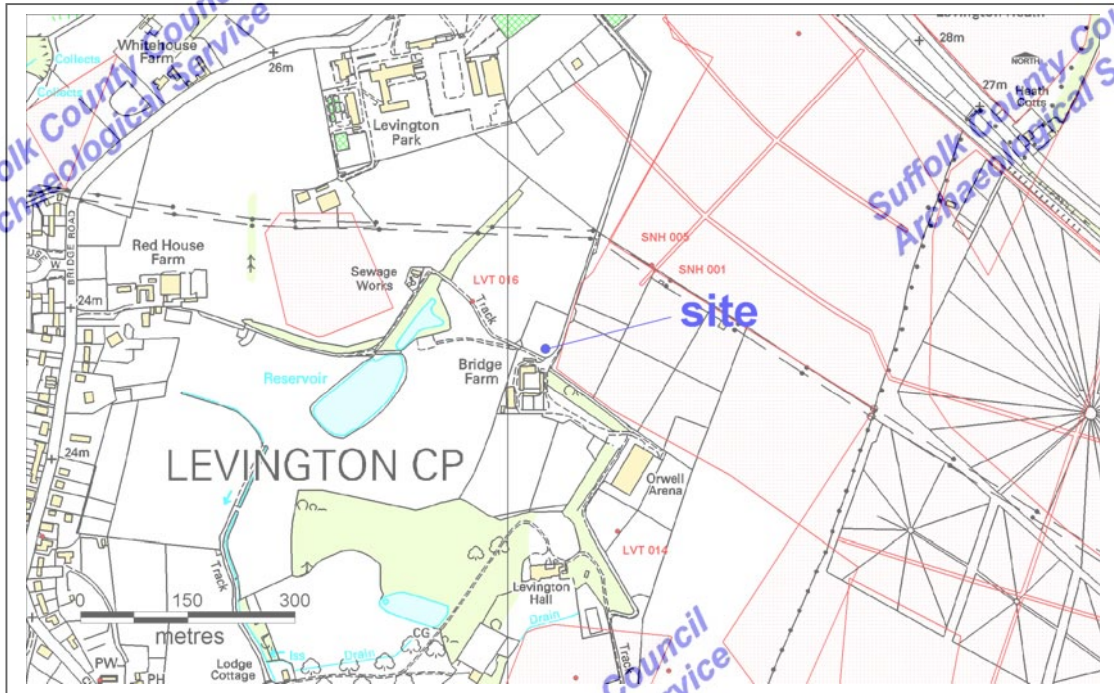


Figure 2. Site in the context of The Sites and Monuments Record
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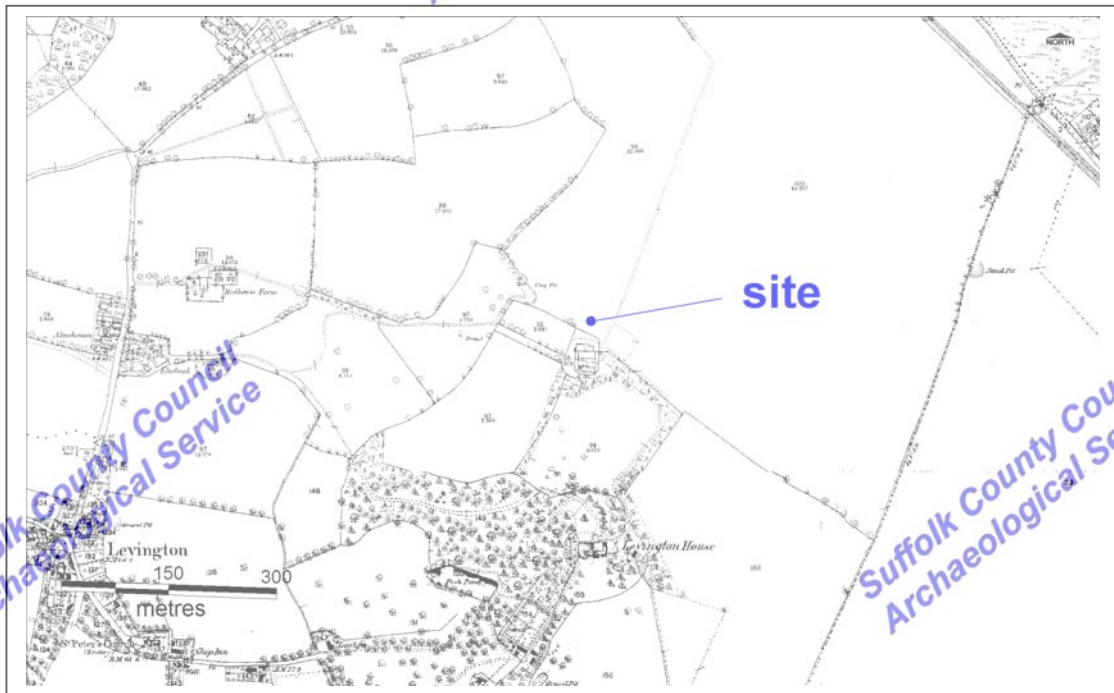


Figure 3. c.1880 First Edition of The Ordnance Survey Map
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2.0 Methodology

The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1.). Monitoring was carried out at the site during a single visit on the 5th of March 2007. All areas of ground disturbance were examined and recorded. Details of the ground disturbance, features 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 all surfaces and general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the removed spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were ideal in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

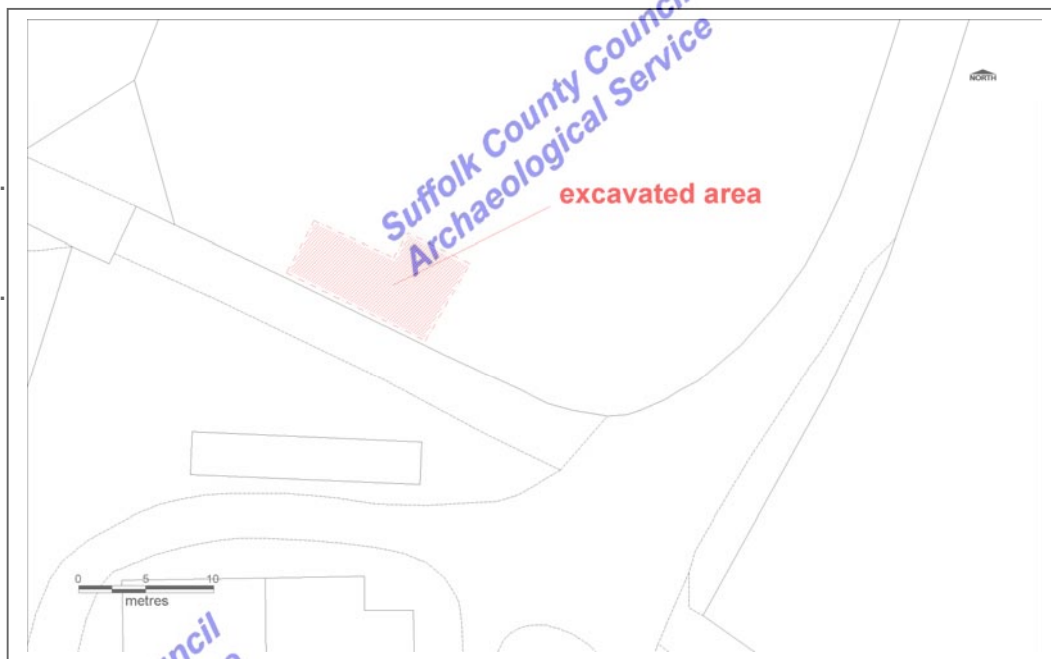


Figure 4. Plan of excavated area

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3.0 Results

An area of ground measuring around 11.00m (NW-SE) by 9.50m (NE-SW) (c.75m²) was excavated to a depth of 0.15m. Disturbance was entirely confined to the topsoil deposits, which consisted of mid-brown mixed silty

sand and gravel. The area had previously been used to store stable manure and consequently the soil had darkened as a result. The site sloped away steadily towards the north-west in the same direction as an adjacent existing trackway, with a fall of around 0.50m (1:20) along the length of the excavated area. This gradient was not altered as a result of the ground-works. No archaeological features or finds were revealed, as a result of the minimal extent of the ground reduction.

4.0 Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The level of ground disturbance was very slight and it is therefore unsurprising that no archaeological evidence was revealed. However, it is not possible to discount this location in terms of archaeological potential as only a very limited view was offered as a result of this monitoring.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mrs. S. McGuire and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

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.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

LOT 3, RED HOUSE FARM, BRIDGE ROAD, LEVINGTON

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 A planning application (C/06/1900/FUL) has been made to Suffolk Coastal District Council for erection of a stable block on land at Lot 3, Red House Farm, Bridge Road, Levington (TM 2404 3948). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, within an area of cropmarks (LVT 012) and close to the location of Bronze Age hoard (LVT 016). There is high potential for encountering occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would 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 prehistoric occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the groundworks associated with the construction of the concrete base for the stable block. 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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

Tel. : 01284 352197

E-mail:

jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 14 November 2006
Levington2006

Reference: /RedHouseFarm-

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.