

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

FORMER JACKSON SITE, NORWICH ROAD, BARHAM (SMR ref. BRH 046)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Application Nos. 282/04)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/170

(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-30945)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with a residential housing development at the former Jackson's Site, Norwich Road, Barham (NGR; TM 1273 5140), was undertaken between May 2005 and May 2007. A substantial excavation for a sewer connection and the footings for a group of fourteen houses were inspected for archaeological features or deposits but none were identified and no artefacts were recovered. The monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BRH 046. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the sites developers, Orchid Properties.

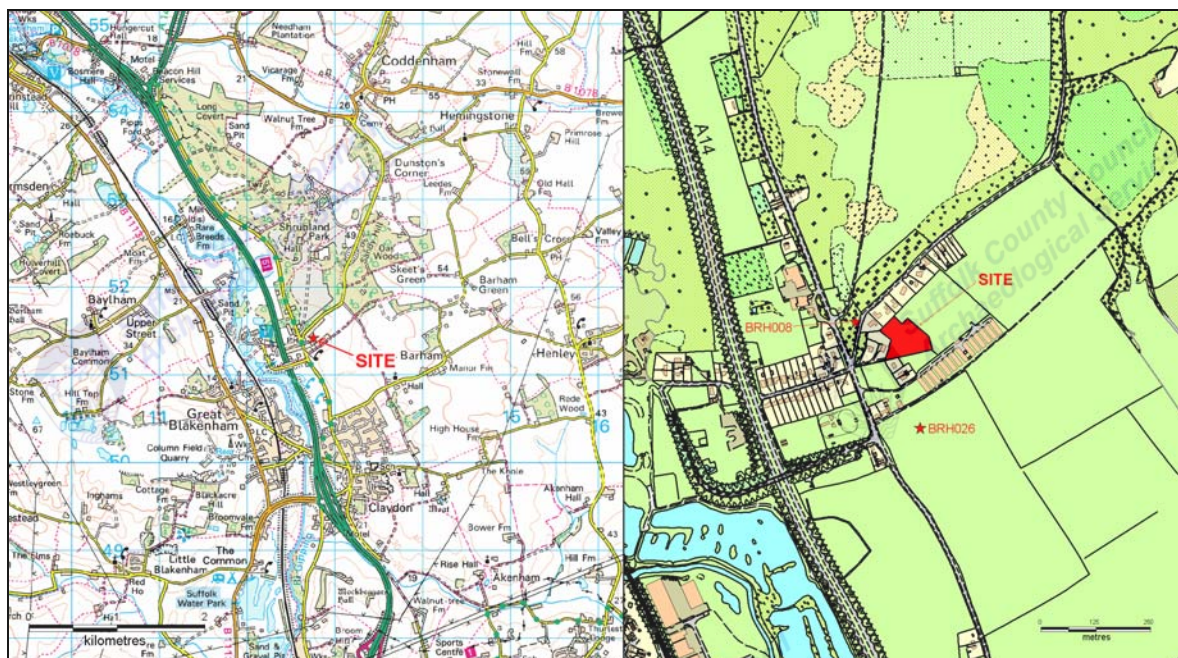


Figure 1: Location Plan (including SMR data)

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with a residential house development on the former Jackson's (truck and forklift) site, Norwich Road, Barham, was undertaken between May 2005 and May 2007. Interest in the site is due to previous finds in the vicinity recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record, the locations of which are indicated in figure 1. These comprise of small group of Roman pottery sherds found in association with fragments of human bone which may be indicative of a burial ground (BRH 008) and a number of Saxon and medieval artefacts which were recovered by metal detectorists (BRH 026). In the light of these previous finds it was considered that there was a potential for further finds within the area earmarked for development.

The proposed development would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Jude Plouviez of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1273 5140 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BRH 046 and on OASIS, the online database under the reference; suffolkc1-30945. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the sites developers, Orchid Properties.

Methodology

A number of visits were made to observe the groundworks when underway in order to identify any cut features and/or archaeological deposits that may be present and to recover datable artefacts. This entailed the inspection of the footings excavated for each house plot prior to filling with concrete. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified was noted. A number of digital photographs were also taken.

Results

Between the April 2005 and May 2007 the site was visited on twelve separate occasions. During these visits a total of ten sets of excavated footing trenches for plots 1 to 10 were observed as well as a length of sewer trench excavated through the central roadway of the site. See figure 2 for their locations.

All house footings were inspected after they had been mechanically excavated by the onsite contractors. The results for each plot were similar with the natural subsoil, which comprised yellow to orange sand and gravel, being encountered immediately beneath a light sandy topsoil. No significant archaeological features were noted in any of the inspected footings although a number of modern pit cuts containing 20th century debris were present. For plots 1, 2 and 3 and in a separate area around plot 8 modern debris lay directly on the surface of the natural subsoil indicating that it may have been previously truncated. This was not evident within the other inspected footings.

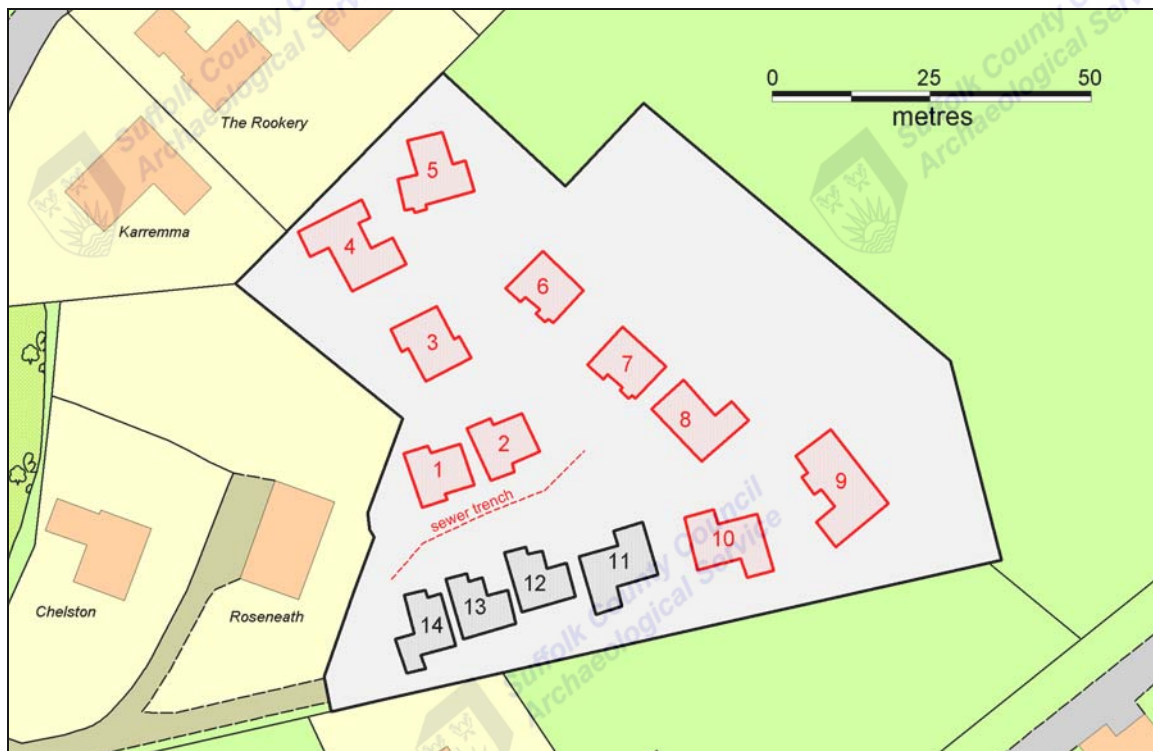


Figure 2: Areas Monitored

(red = monitored, black = not monitored)

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A substantial trench some *c.* 1.5m in width and *c.* 2m in depth was opened up through the centre of the site in order to install a new sewer but this work did not reveal any significant archaeological features or deposits.

During each visit any spoil tips on site were walked over and examined for early artefacts but only late debris associated with the site's former use as a truck and forklift maintenance centre was noted.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BRH 046.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted within the monitored excavations and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered suggesting this area has not been subject to any significant activity of any period until its use by Jacksons in the 20th century. A very large proportion of the area was examined and if any significant remains had existed within the development area they would have undoubtedly been recognised. Although the natural subsoil in some areas had suffered an unknown degree of truncation it is unlikely to have entirely destroyed all earlier evidence had it existed.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

FORMER JACKSON SITE, NORWICH ROAD, BARHAM

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 282/04). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The application area, of about 0.2ha, lies at TM 127 514, on the east side of the Gipping valley between 15 and 20m OD. In c.1950 Roman pottery sherds and fragments of human bone, suggesting a possible Roman inhumation, were discovered about 60m west of the development area. There are also Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds from c.150m to the south. There is thus potential for Roman or later activity in the vicinity, particularly a possibility of burials.
- 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. The first stage of works is likely to involve the re-routing of a major sewer trench across the site.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed after / whilst they have been / are 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.

4.6 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.

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. 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: 14 February 2005

Reference: /Barham-Jacksonsite02

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.