

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## WATERMILL HOUSE, MILL LANE, KETTLEBURGH (SMR reference: KBU 016)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED  
WITH A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(Application No: C/06/1853/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/180  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-31948)

### Summary

**Kettleburgh:** Watermill House, Mill Lane (TM 2639 5979; KBU 016). An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of an office/ancillary building.

The monitoring revealed turf and worked soil/made ground over glacial till/outwash gravels. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

### SMR information

Planning application no:	C/06/1853/FUL
Site code:	KBU 016
Date of fieldwork:	25 September 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 2639 5979
Commissioning body:	Hollins (architects)



Figure 1. Maps showing the location of Watermill House, Mill Lane, Kettleburgh

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## Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at Watermill House, Mill Lane, Kettleburgh (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of an office/ancillary building (application number: C/06/1853/FUL).

The site is located in an area of archaeological interest defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record. It is close to a post-medieval mill (KBU 012) on the River Deben and is 50m southwest of a recorded Roman finds scatter. Additionally, the site has the potential for waterlogged deposits and palaeo-environmental remains.

The ground surface slopes down from northeast to southwest towards the River Deben, which is about 40m from the site of the proposed building. Current land use in the area of the proposed building is as a garden lawn

## Methodology

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

The writer visited the site on 25 September 2007 at which time all foundation trenches for the proposed building had been excavated (Fig 2). Generally these were to a depth of 1.20m below ground level, but some trenches at the north end

of the building were deeper (1.60m) due to the presence of relatively soft ground in this area of the site. The trenches were 0.40m – 0.50m wide.

The sides and bases of the foundation trenches were examined for archaeological features and deposits. The excavated material was inspected visually and scanned with a metal detector for artefacts that might be dated archaeologically. Representative vertical sections in each trench were cleaned with a trowel, drawn and photographed.

Observations were recorded in a field notebook and all salient information is contained in this report. Additional site photographs can be found in the SCCAS computer database at Ipswich, referenced by the site code KBU 016.



Figure 2. Plan locating the observed trenches (red) and showing the position of the photograph shown in Figure 3 (arrowed)

## Results

The natural stratum consists of mixed deposits of stiff, mid yellowish brown clay/silt and similarly coloured fine-medium sand. Small to medium sized, angular flint fragments occur frequently throughout these deposits. Also, there are extensive patches of friable, light grey clay/silt mixed with crushed chalk. Generally the natural stratum becomes sandier towards the north end of the building. The surface of the natural stratum varies from 0.60m – 1.40m below ground level, being lower at the north end of the building.

Above the natural stratum is a soil layer of friable, mid brownish grey sandy silt containing moderate pebbles and flint fragments and frequent roots. There are occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery (including white china), brick and tile (some at the interface between the natural stratum and the overlying soil),



coal, mortar, chalk and animal bone. Within this deposit there are concentrations of pebbles and extensive lenses of grey ash with charcoal flecks. The soil varies in thickness from 0.40m – 1.10m, being thickest at the north end of the proposed building. It is sealed by current turf/topsoil, up to 0.30m thick.

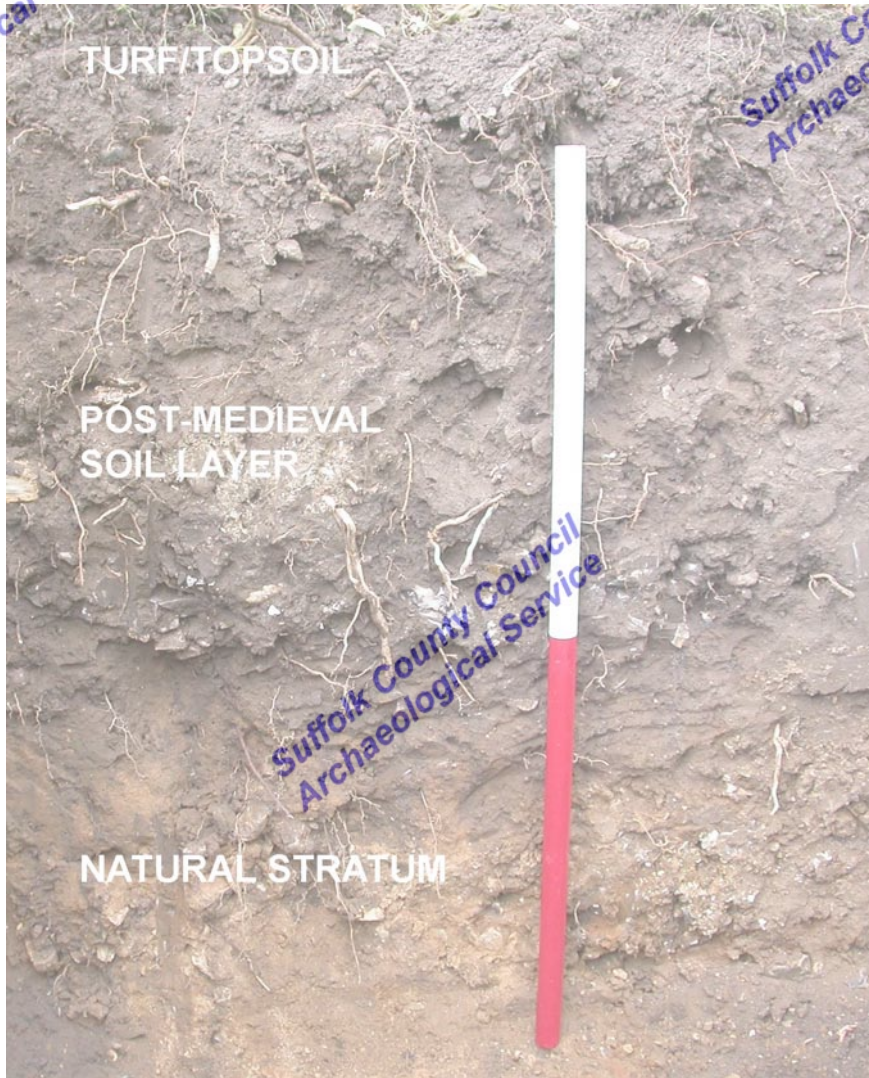


Figure 3. Photo showing a typical section, located on Figure 2

### Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring has revealed a natural stratum overlaid by a soil layer of relatively recent date. No archaeological features or deposits are present within the area of the proposed building.

The natural stratum is interpreted as glacial till (boulder clay), probably mixed with glacial outwash gravel. The absence of a natural soil profile above the till deposit suggests that the site has been truncated, possibly through agricultural activity.

The overlying soil layer containing post-medieval material might be the result of agricultural land use. However, the layer seems unusually thick, particularly at the

north end of the building, and might therefore indicate that the ground level has been raised deliberately, in relatively recent times, as a defence against flooding by the nearby River Deben.

Based on this evidence, it is clear that there are no archaeological deposits in the area of the proposed building and it is unlikely that further groundwork (such as for associated drainage) will have any impact on archaeological deposits, should they exist elsewhere on the site. However, it should be noted that any decision regarding additional archaeological work on the site remains with the Archaeological Planning Officer.

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Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

27 September 2007

# APPENDIX: Brief and Specification

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

WATERMILL HOUSE, MILL LANE, KETTLEBURGH, WOODBRIDGE, IP13 7JS

*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 for the erection of a small outbuilding at Watermill House, Mill Lane, Kettleburgh (TM 2639 5979), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/06/1853/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This proposal lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The site is situated close to the River Deben, near to the post medieval mill (KBU 012). It lies c. 50m south-west of a Roman finds scatter and there is high potential for encountering Roman occupation deposits at this location. There is also potential for waterlogged deposits and palaeoenvironmental remains to be encountered. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. 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 Roman occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the groundworks associated with the construction of the building, which measures 10.5 x 7.0m in area, services and access. 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 three 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

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Date: 5 February 2007

Reference: /WatermillHouseKettleburgh2007

**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.**