

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

PARK FARM BARN, THE LEYS, TOSTOCK (SMR reference: TCK 016)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Planning Application Number: 1608/07)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number 2007/181
(OASIS Reference: suffolkc1-31963)

Summary

Tostock: Park Farm Barns, The Leys (TL 9535 6329; TCK 016). An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of a garden room and cart lodge extension.

The monitoring revealed turf/topsoil and recent 'made ground' over natural sand and gravel. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

SMR information

Planning application no:	1608/07
Site code:	TCK 016
Date of fieldwork:	26 September 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9535 6329
Commissioning body:	Copec Construction

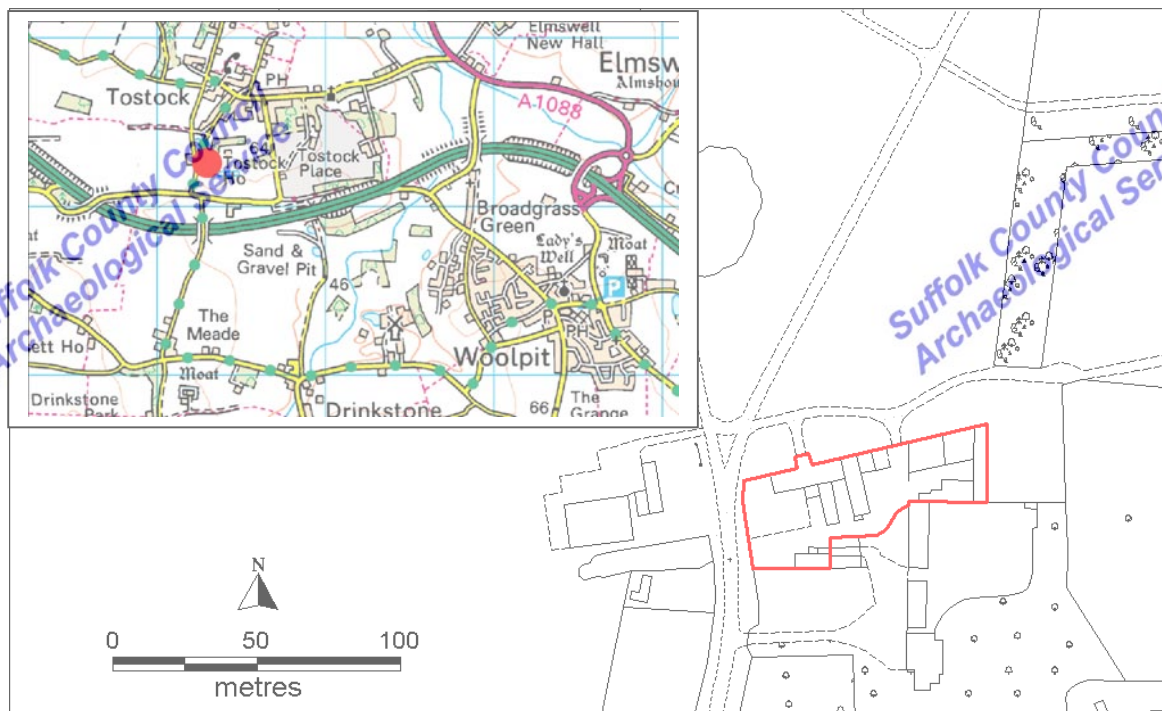


Figure 1. Maps showing the location of Park Farm Barns, The Leys, Tostock

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Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at Park Farm Barns, The Leys, Tostock (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of a garden room and cart lodge extension (application number: 1608/07).

The site is located in an area of archaeological interest close to the reported find spot of an Anglo-Saxon buckle, indicating potential for occupation in that period.

The site is at approximately 63m OD and current land use in the area of the proposed extension is as a garden lawn.

Methodology

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

The writer visited the site on 26 September 2007 at which time all foundation trenches for the proposed extension had been excavated (Fig 2). The trenches were approximately 1.20m deep and 0.60 – 0.70m 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 TCK 016.

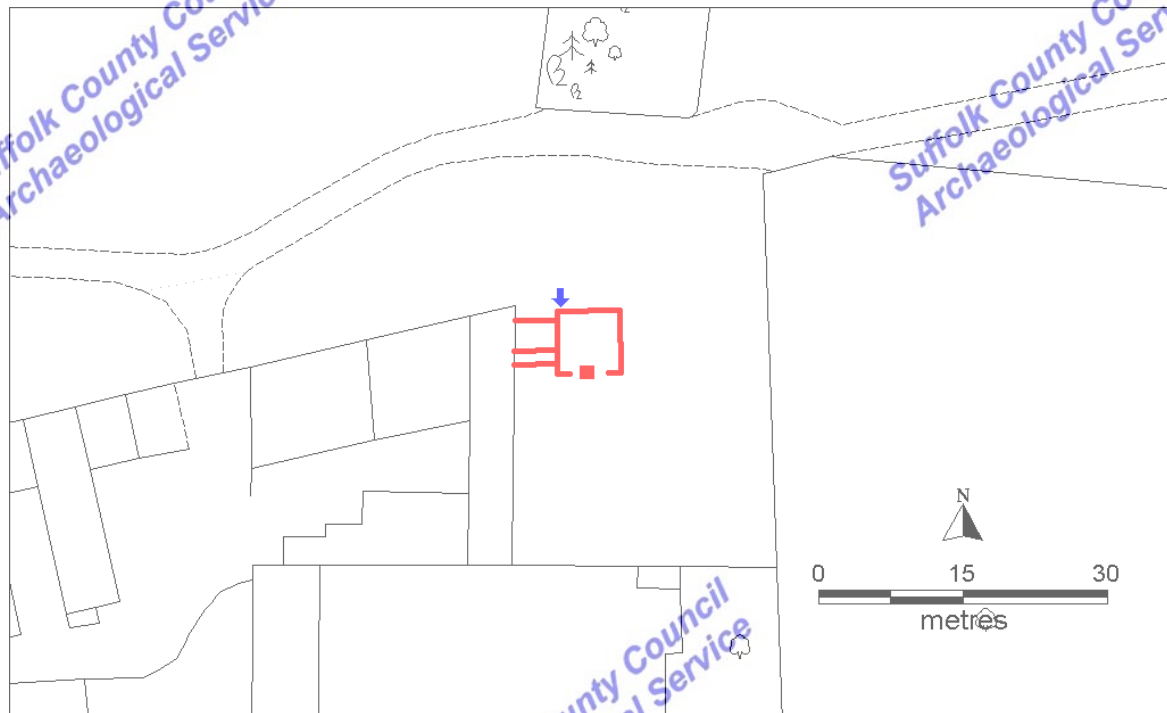


Figure 2. Plan locating the observed trenches (red) and showing the position of the photograph shown in Figure 3 (arrowed)

Results

The natural stratum consists of mixed deposits of soft, yellowish brown sand (with frequent iron staining) and slightly clayey sand and gravel. The surface of the natural stratum varies from 0.35m – 0.55m below ground level.

Above the natural stratum is a layer of friable, mid greyish brown sand containing frequent angular flint fragments and rounded flint pebbles. There are occasional small-medium fragments of brick and ceramic roof tile and a small fragment of 19th-century stoneware pottery. Within this deposit there are localised patches of light grey clay/silt, as can be seen on Figure 3. The layer varies in thickness from 0.20m – 0.40m and is sealed by turf/topsoil up to 0.20m thick.

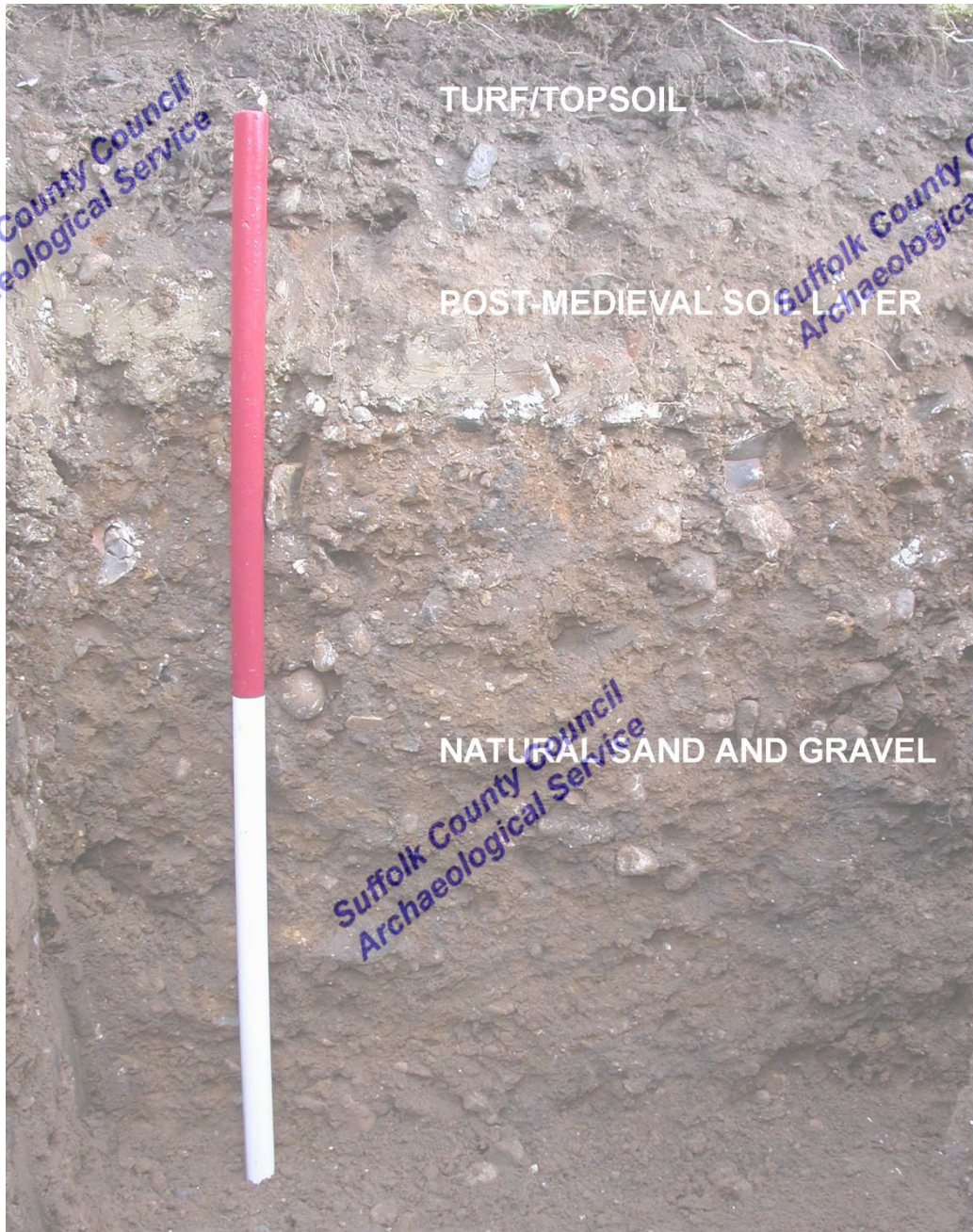


Figure 3. Photo showing a typical section, located on Figure 2 (1m scale)

Conclusion

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

The absence of a natural soil profile above the geological stratum suggests that there has been some truncation of this area of the site. This might have occurred through agricultural activity, but is more likely to have happened during the construction or refurbishment of the adjacent barn.

The overlying soil layer might be an agricultural 'worked soil'. However, the nature of the deposit and the apparent truncation horizon below it tend to suggest that this is a levelling layer of 'made ground'.

Based on this evidence, it is clear that there are no archaeological deposits in the area of the proposed extension to Park Farm Barns. It is unlikely that further groundwork (such as for associated drainage or the proposed driveway and parking area) will have any impact on archaeological remains, 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.

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

27 September 2007

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APPENDIX: Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

PARK FARM BARN, TOSTOCK

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 (1608/07) has been made to build two garage buildings. 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 This proposal lies within an area of archaeological interest close to the reported find spot of an Anglo-Saxon buckle indicating potential for Saxon occupation.
- 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 excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

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 footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **one and a half hours per 5 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: R D Carr

Date: 25 September 2007

Reference: /Park Farm Barns

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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