

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

AREA 5, WALDRINGFIELD QUARRY BRETT AGGREGATES MARTLESHAM (SMR ref. MRM 139)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE TOPSOIL STRIP IN
ADVANCE OF AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING QUARRY
(Application Nos. C/04/1364)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/194
(OASIS Ref. suffolke1-33022)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of the initial topsoil strip in advance of an extension to the existing Waldringfield Quarry, Martlesham (NGR; TM 2571 4510), undertaken during October 2007 revealed three undated ditches interpreted as early field boundaries. The monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the SMR reference, MRM 139. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the quarry owners, Brett Aggregates.

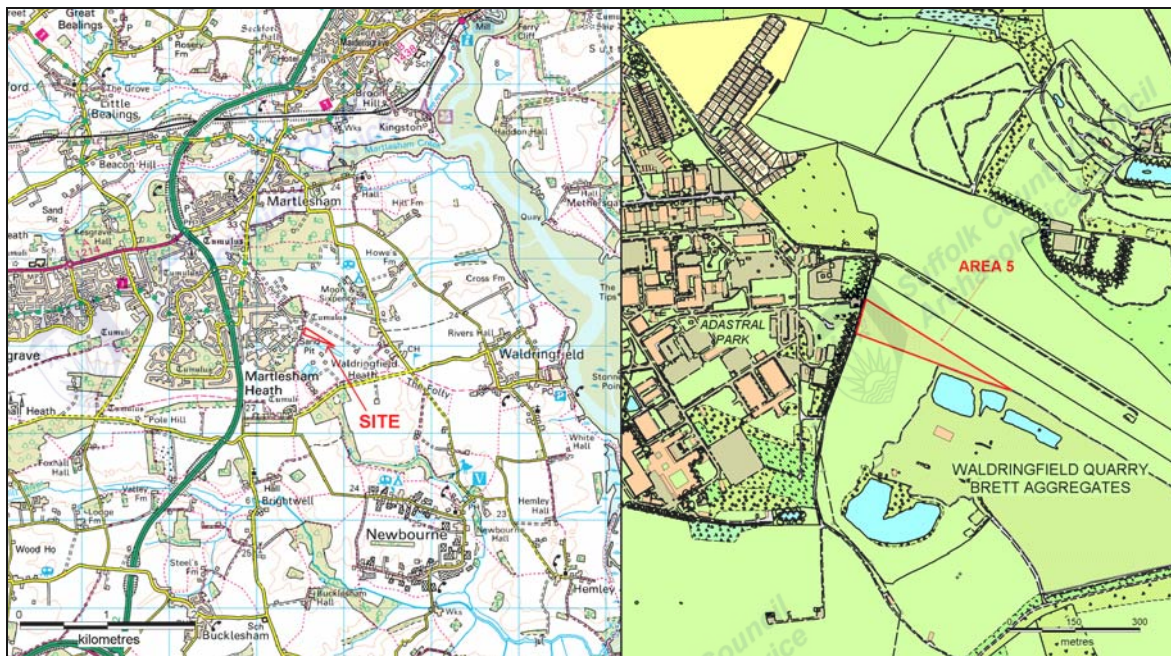


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of the initial topsoil strip in advance of an extension to the existing quarry at Waldringfield Quarry (Brett Aggregates) was undertaken during October 2007. The area of the extension is designated 'Area 5'.

The area of the quarry is former heathland and numerous Bronze Age burial mounds exist or are known to have existed in the locality. No known sites exist within the area of the extension but due to the presence of other archaeological sites in the vicinity an archaeological monitoring condition was placed upon the planning consent (application number C/04/1364) 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 Edward Martin of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 2571 4510 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference MRM 139 and on OASIS, the online database under the reference; suffolk1-33022. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the quarry operators, Brett Aggregates.

Methodology

The site was visited on a number of occasions to examine the freshly stripped area in order to identify any cut features and/or archaeological deposits that may be present and to recover datable artefacts. Any features identified were sampled through the hand excavation of a small section in order to ascertain their depth and assess the nature of the fill as well as to recover datable artefacts. The cross sections through the features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and photographically recorded. Context numbers were issued to each feature cut and fill observed starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site. The locations of features noted were recorded using hand held Global Positioning System equipment.

Results

The site was visited on the 8th, 11th, 15th and 19th October 2007 during which time the topsoil strip was underway. The topsoil was c. 0.3m thick and directly overlay the natural subsoil, which comprised yellow sand with occasional patches of gravel. Numerous plough lines could be seen running across the surface (visible in Plate III). These were predominantly aligned northwest-southeast.

Within the stripped area three linear features were identified. See figure 2 for a location plan; see figure 3 for the recorded sections. Descriptions of each feature are as follows:

- 0002:** Linear feature aligned approximately southwest-northeast. Measures 1.5m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.42m. The fill (0003) comprised dark brown sand. No finds were recovered from the fill (Plate I).
- 0004:** Linear feature aligned approximately southwest-northeast (parallel with ditch 0002). Measures 1m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.21m. The fill (0005) comprised dark reddish-brown sand. No finds were recovered from the fill (Plate II).

0006: A possible linear feature noted running part way across the site on a WSW-ESE alignment. Only possible to trace intermittently over an length of c. 60m. Width at clearest point measured 0.45m. Small sample excavated and found to have virtually no discernible depth. No finds associated with this feature were recovered.

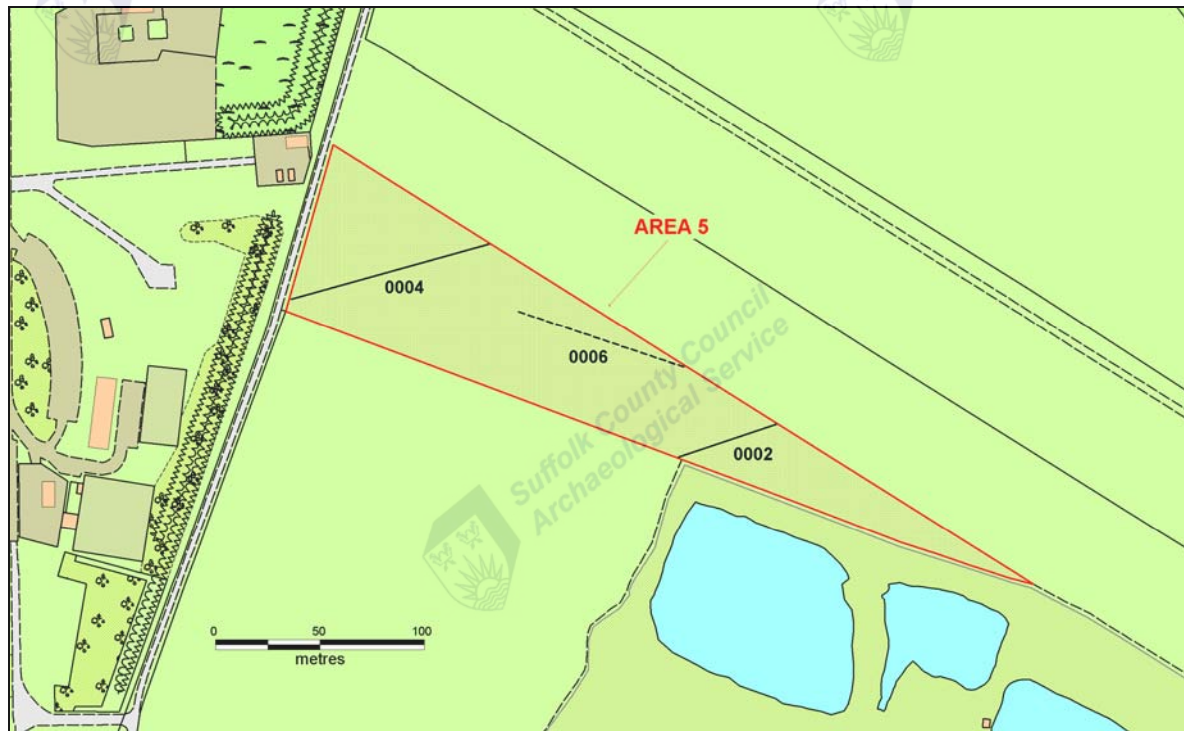


Figure 2: Location of Features

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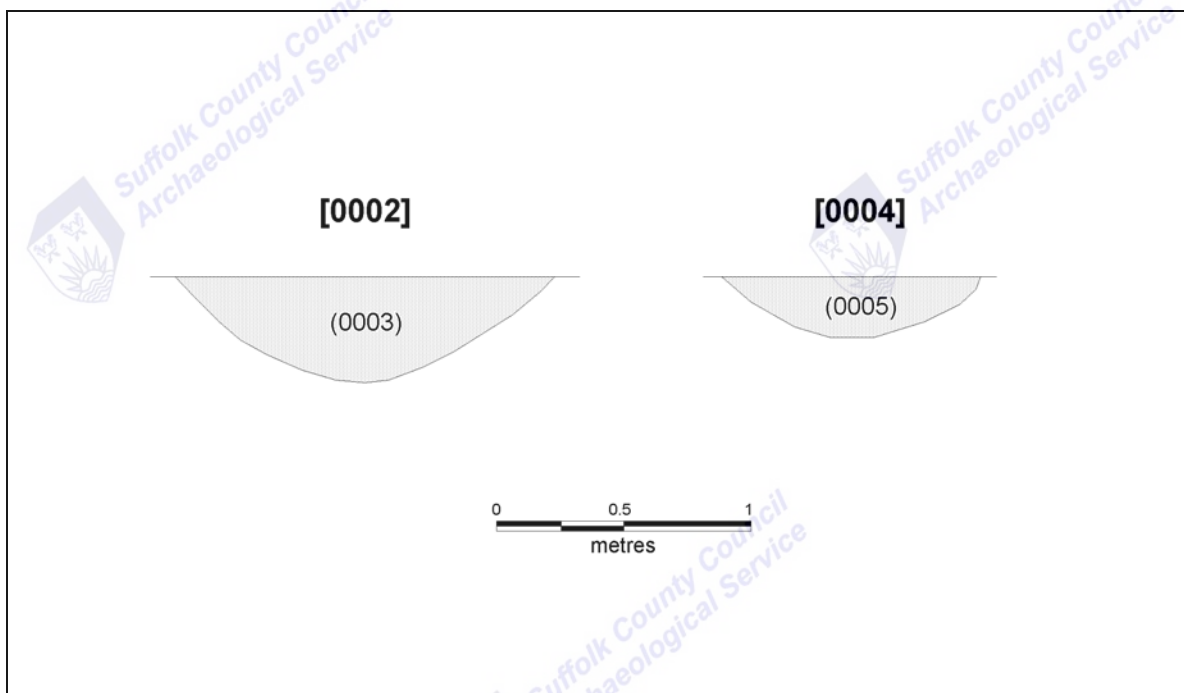


Figure 3: Sections

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference MRM 139.

Conclusion

The two linear features, 0002 and 0004, are undoubtedly ditches. It is unlikely they have been dug for drainage purposes as the ground is free draining and they therefore are to mark field boundaries. The fact they are parallel suggests they are associated and contemporary. The date of their original excavation is unknown. They do not appear on any of the early Ordnance Survey maps of the area (1st, 2nd and 3rd editions consulted) indicating that they predate the late 19th century. The third feature, 0006, is also likely to be a ditch, which has been heavily truncated, probably through natural erosion, leaving only the very base of the cut visible. It is on a differing alignment to 0002 and 0004 and is unlikely to be associated. The fact that it has been nearly completely lost due to erosion suggests it is much earlier.

No other significant deposits or features were noted although the area had been heavily disturbed by ploughing which could have confounded the identification of small discreet features.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

14th September 2007



Plate I: Ditch 0002



Plate II: Ditch 0004



Plate III: Ditch 0004 - view looking northeast

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

AREA 5, WALDRINGFIELD QUARRY MARTLESHAM

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements may impinge upon the working practices of the contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraph 2.3.

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 C/04/1364). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposed extract area lies in the vicinity of the recorded sites of two prehistoric *tumuli* or burial mounds (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record nos. WLD 005 and 007). Although both of these mounds have been flattened, their positions are known and there may be associated burials or settlement evidence in the vicinity. An archaeological evaluation carried out in 1995 (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service report no. 95/53) located only 20th-century features, but small-scale features of an earlier date may still be present. Monitoring of the topsoil stripping operations will give a final check.
- 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.

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 activity in this proposal is the stripping of the topsoil to reveal the subsoil. The stripped areas and the upcast soil are to be observed after or during excavation by the contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation.

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 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.
- 4.5 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: Edward Martin

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

Date: 26 Nov. 2004

Reference: Waldringfield5mon.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.