

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND TO THE EAST OF OLD GLEBE HOUSE WESTERFIELD ROAD, WESTERFIELD (SMR ref. WRF 016)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE DWELLING
(Application No. C/07/0571/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/209
(OASIS Ref. suffolk1-34369)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land to the east of Old Glebe House, Westerfield Road, Westerfield (NGR; TM 1750 4752), was undertaken during August 2007. Landscaping and footings for the new building were examined but no archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised a silty orange clay changing to grey boulder clay at depth. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WRF 016. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the contractors, Rose Builders, on behalf of their client who ultimately funded the work.



Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land to the east of Old Glebe House, Westerfield Road, Westerfield, was undertaken in August 2007. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area the site is located c. 85m south of the medieval parish church of St Mary Magdalene and immediately north of a field in which Roman and medieval finds have been recovered.

The new residence is to be constructed on strip foundations that would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent by Suffolk Coastal District Council to allow for archaeological monitoring of the work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1750 4752 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 32.5m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WRF 016. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-34369. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned contractors, Rose Builders, on behalf of their client who ultimately funded the work.

Methodology

A visit was made to inspect the groundworks once they were underway. Any open excavations present during the site visit were examined for cut features and archaeological deposits. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

The site was visited on 14th August 2007 whilst the excavation of the footings was underway (see figure 2 for location details). It was noted that the area of the new dwelling had been landscaped. The site formerly sloped up gently towards the east but this had been cut into to form a level terrace. At the western extent of the landscaping only the topsoil had been removed but at the eastern extent the resultant section (Plate I) indicated that up to 1m of material had been removed. This comprised 0.35m of topsoil and 0.65m of dark clayey loam containing small fragments of chalk and occasional fragments of brick and tile. This layer overlay an orange silty clay with flint and chalk which was interpreted as the natural subsoil. The exposed vertical face was to be revetted with a brick wall for which a shallow footing had been cut, this was entirely in the orange clay layer.

The natural subsoil had been exposed across the entire site and although it had been slightly disturbed by the on-site dumper it was still relatively smooth and clean, The surface was visually examined for cut features but only a late 19th/20th century rubbish pit was noted. The footings were cut into the surface of the exposed subsoil to a depth of c. 0.95m. At a depth of c. 0.6m the natural orange clay subsoil changed to a grey boulder

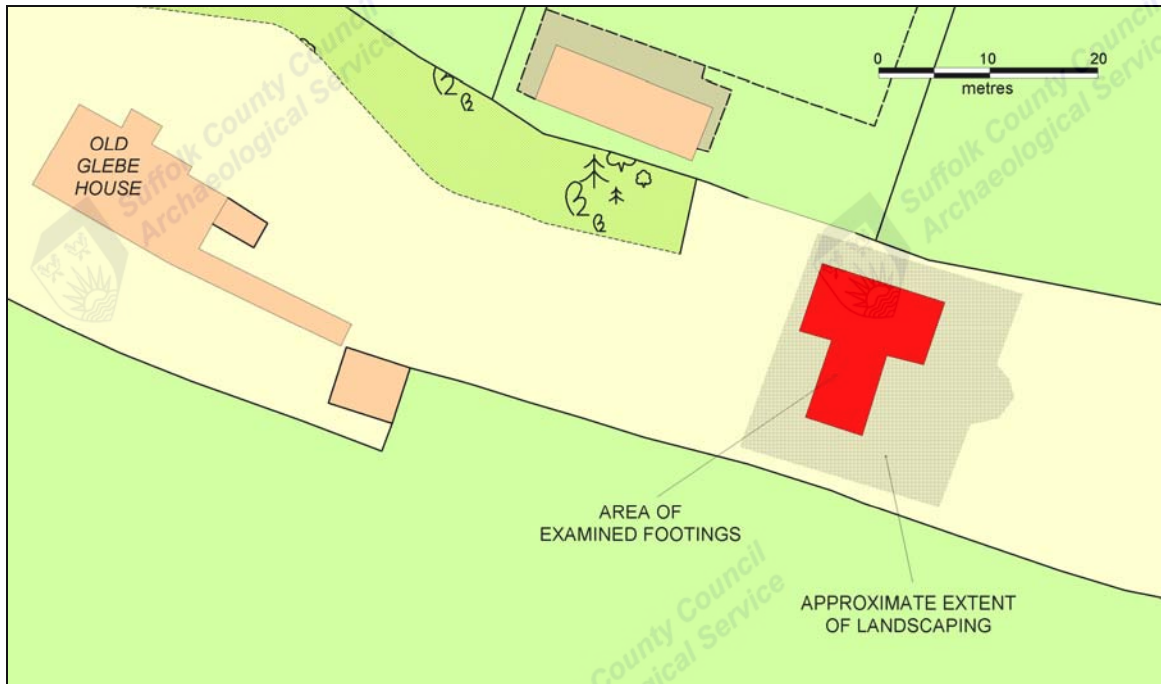


Figure 2: Areas Monitored

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clay with flint and chalk. Approximately three-quarters of the footings had been excavated but no features of any period were identified. The spoil was stock piled on site in heaps and these were examined but no artefacts were recovered.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference WRF 016.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features were noted within the excavated footings and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered. The small pit containing late 19th/20th rubbish is likely to have been dug in order to dispose of household debris in the era before regular doorstep collections.

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20th November 2007



Plate I: Section at Eastern extent of landscaping



Plate II: Excavated Footing

