

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SMEAR FARM, REYDON (SMR ref. REY 059)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE INSTALLATION OF SERVICES
IN ADVANCE OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT SMEAR FARM
(Application Nos. DC/07/0173/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/216
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-34997)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of c. 350m of trench excavated along Smear Lane East for the installation of services for a proposed residential development at Smear Farm, Reydon (NGR; TM 5023 7843), was undertaken during August 2007. No archaeological features were noted within the trench and no significant artefacts were recovered from the spoil. The natural subsoil comprised yellow sand and gravel and lay at a depths ranging from 0.3m to 0.5m. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference REY 059. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the and funded by the contractors, Caplin Building Services, on behalf of their client.



Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of the installation of services to a proposed development at Smear Farm, Reydon, was undertaken in August 2007. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area interest in the site is due to its location on an area of high ground overlooking the coastal marshes around Southwold and is similar topographical location to a Roman site located about 150m to the east.

The first stage of the redevelopment of Smear Farm is the installation of new services to the site, which requires a trench to be excavated from the start of Smear Lane East to the farm, a distance of c. 350m. This is likely to involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. An archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent for the whole development, including the installation of services, 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 Dr J. Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the farm is TM 5023 7843 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 12m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference REY 059. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-34997. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the contractors, Caplin Building Services, on behalf of their client.

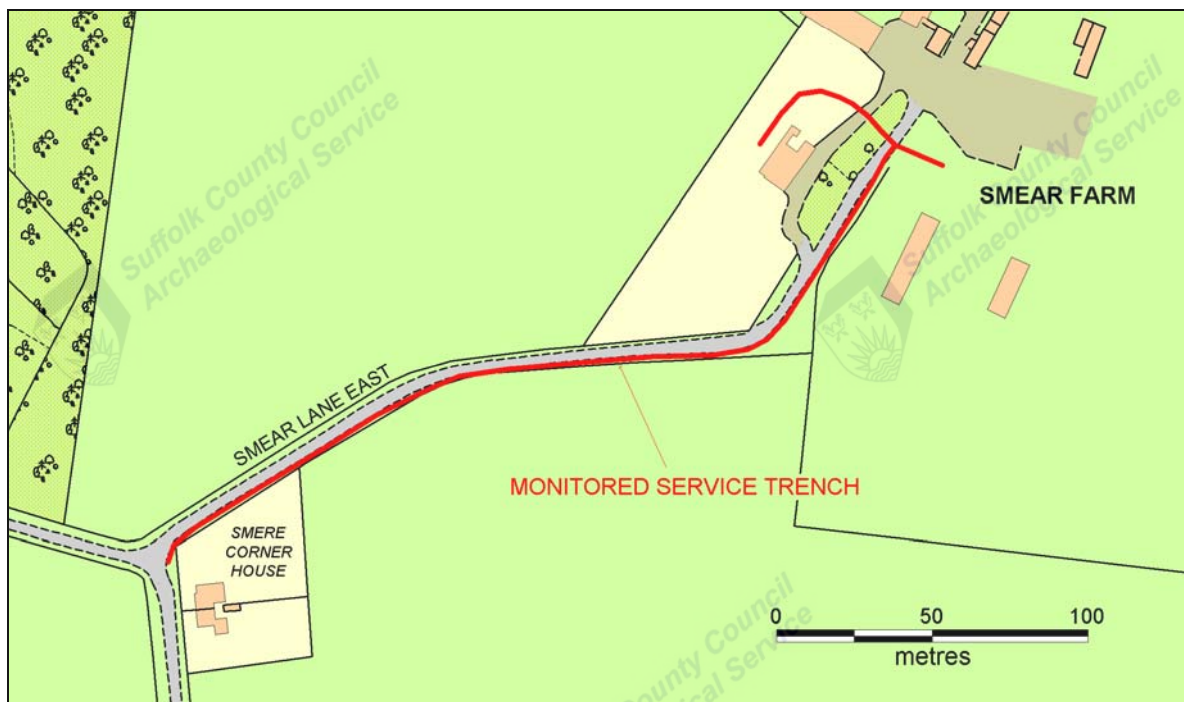


Figure 2: Monitored Service Trench

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Methodology

A visit was made to inspect the excavated service trench once it was near completion. The trench examined for cut features and archaeological deposits. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. The surfaces of any spoil tips which were present alongside the trench, were examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

The site was visited on 20th August 2007. The service trench had been excavated from the start of Smear Lane East, adjacent to Smere Corner House, to the farm whereupon it branched into two. The trench was approximately 1m deep and had been cut within the verge along the south side of the lane (see figure 2). A total of 360m of trench was inspected

The exposed soil profile revealed that the trench had cut through a layer of topsoil which ranged from c. 0.3m to 0.5m in thickness and immediately overlay a yellow and gravel subsoil. The spoil from the trench was placed immediately alongside for its entire length. The trench was examined for cut features and archaeological deposits but none were noted. The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was uneven and blurred and the natural subsoil had not been obviously truncated. The spoil was walked over but only 20th century debris was evident.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference REY 059.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features were noted within the excavated service trench. It must be noted that it is the farm and farmyard itself that is situated on the edge of the high ground overlooking the marshes and consequently is more likely to be a site of earlier activity. Further monitoring will be undertaken once the main development gets underway.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

SMEAR FARM, RISSEMERE LANE EAST, REYDON

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 alterations and extension to farmhouse/dairy, conversion and extension of derelict cottages, renovation of stores/stable and workshop, construction of 1no. house and renovated goat house, construction of a site maintenance store and office at Smear Farm, Rissemere Lane East, Reydon, IP18 6SR (TM 5028 7849), has been granted by Waveney District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application DC/07/0173/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposed development lies on the valley side, about 150m east of a similarly located Roman site of uncertain type. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the 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 (SCCAS/CT) 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 settlement remains on the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the footing and service trenches associated with the construction, extension and renovation of various buildings within the site complex, and also groundworks associated with new access and landscaping. These, and the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and 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 SCCAS/CT - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT 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 archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted 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 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

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 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

4.8 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 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.3 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.

5.4 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).

- 5.5 An unbound copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.6 Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the county SMR as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Sites and Monuments Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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).

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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.