

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE OLD RECTORY, STANNINGFIELD, SNN 019

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS
Planning Application No. SE/06/2890
NGR: TL 877 562

Funded by: Mr & Mrs D Bixer

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/200

Summary

The recording of footing trenches during the construction of a sports pavilion identified a large disturbance of probable 19th century date and a ditch which is thought to be of some antiquity although no datable finds were retrieved.

Introduction

The construction of a pavilion in the grounds of the Old Rectory, Stanningfield (application SE/06/2890) was subject to an archaeological monitoring condition set out in a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). Interest in the site is generated by its location close to the medieval church and next to the tennis court (Fig.1) where earlier medieval material was found during its construction in 2000 (SNN 011). The pavilion was built over the site of a stable block which had been demolished. The site lies at c.88m OD.

Methodology

The site was visited on three occasions. A test hole was seen on the 5th December 2007 and two visits were made during the excavation of footings on the 12th and 13th May 2008. The section was inspected and where necessary hand cleaned for clarity. A plan was made and a section drawn at a scale of 1:20 of a possible ditch. Notes were taken of the remaining trench profiles.

Results

(Fig.2)

There was approximately 0.5m of topsoil in all the trenches. Towards the eastern end of the trenching this overlaid fine silt with coarse gravel which is the natural subsoil. At the western end of the footings the level of the natural subsoil dropped away with a substantial build-up of brown loam with areas of flint and clay 0004. The footings at the eastern end were c.1.2m deep and these dropped to c.2.4m at the western end. Finds from the made ground included clay pipes and peg-tiles which were not recovered. A feature that is interpreted as a ditch (appearing in both sides of the trench) was identified at the eastern end of the southernmost trench 0002. It was filled with brown clay/loam and included tiny fragments of charcoal and fragmentary pieces of burnt clay. No finds were recovered but the general appearance of this feature suggests that it may be medieval in date. When the northernmost trench was examined the interface between the

topsoil and subsoil was distorted by the proximity of a tree lined hedge. It was therefore impossible to determine whether ditch 0002 continued in that direction.

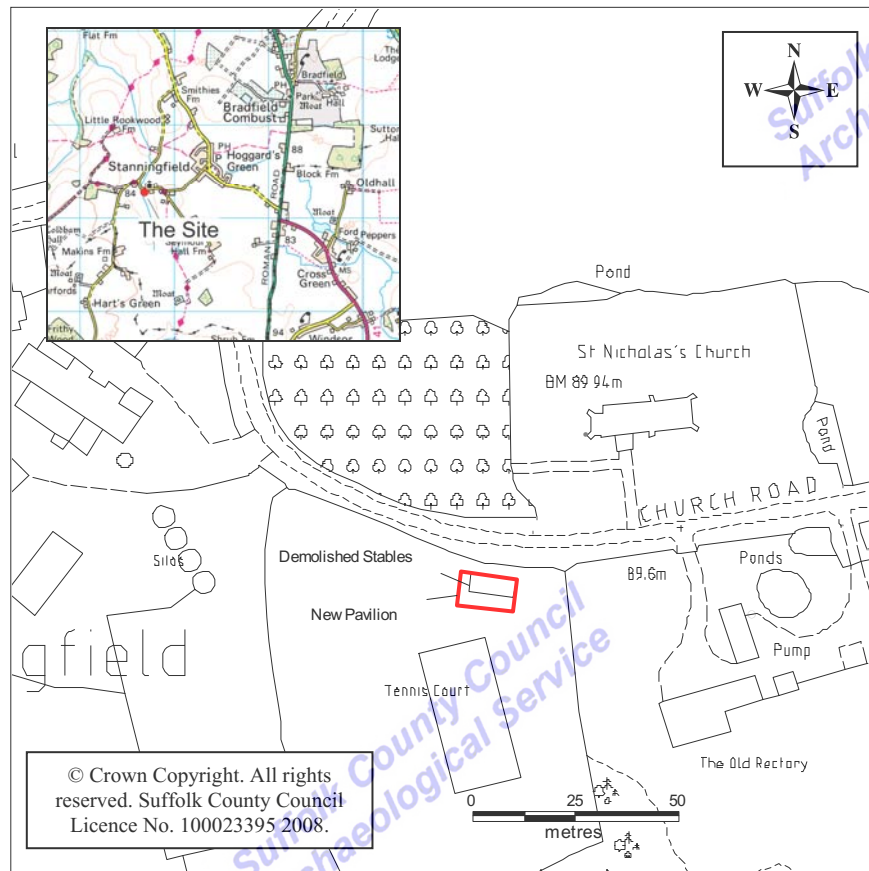


Figure 1. Site location plan

Finds

No finds were recovered from the site.

Discussion and Conclusion

The footing trenches on the west and north sides were very disturbed but a single feature interpreted as a ditch may have been medieval in origin, however this could not be proven. The disturbance at the western end of the footings is probably the result of building debris associated with the old rectory having been used to create a level platform, possibly when the stables were built (the slope of ground beyond the platform is visible in Fig. 3). Given the level of disturbance, the small area of construction exposed and the uncertainty over the single feature no strong conclusions can be drawn about the nature of the archaeological deposits in this area.

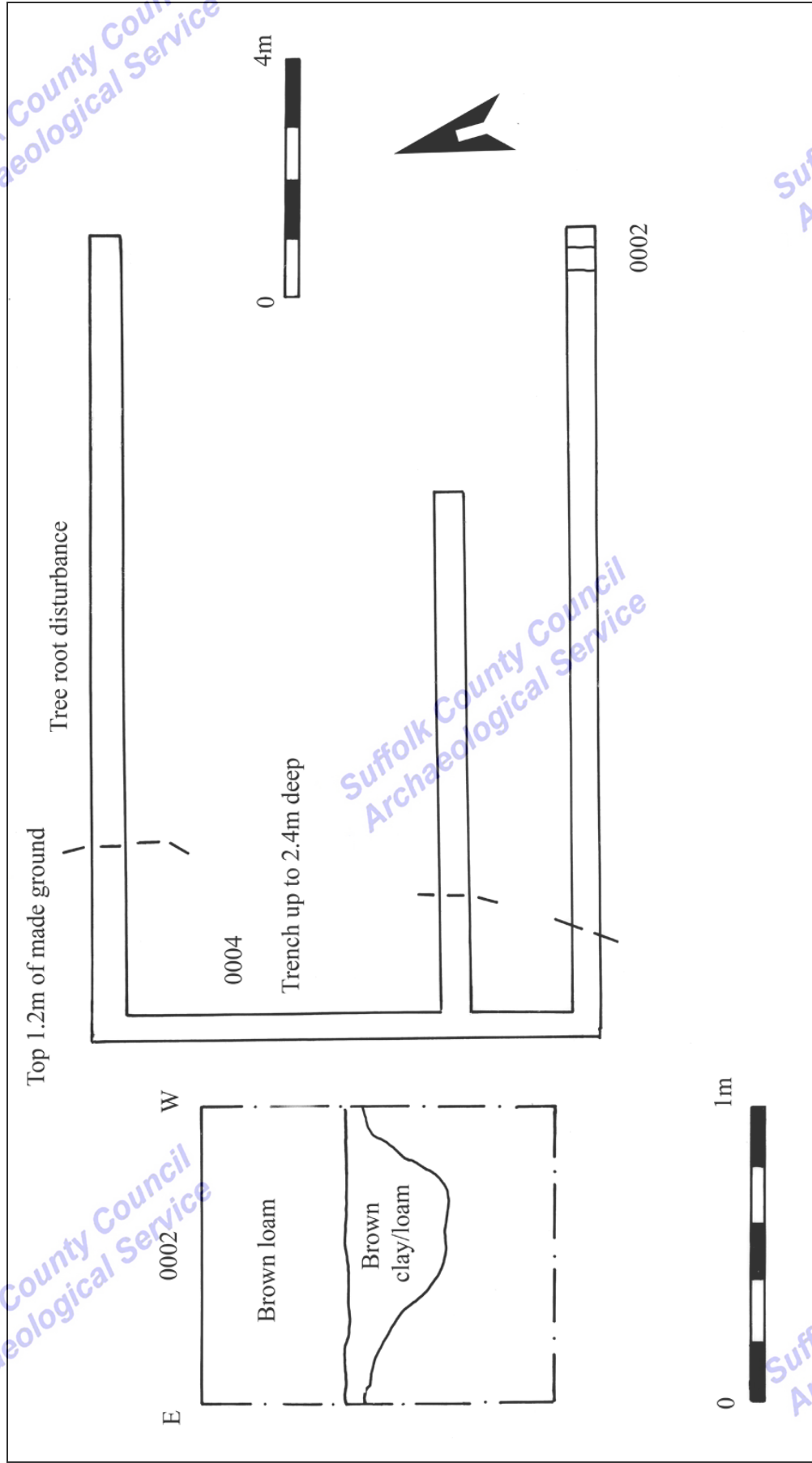


Figure 2. Section of 0002 and plan of conservatory footing

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service



Figure 3. Site looking southwest.

Andrew Tester
Senior Project Officer
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
September 2008

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service