

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF

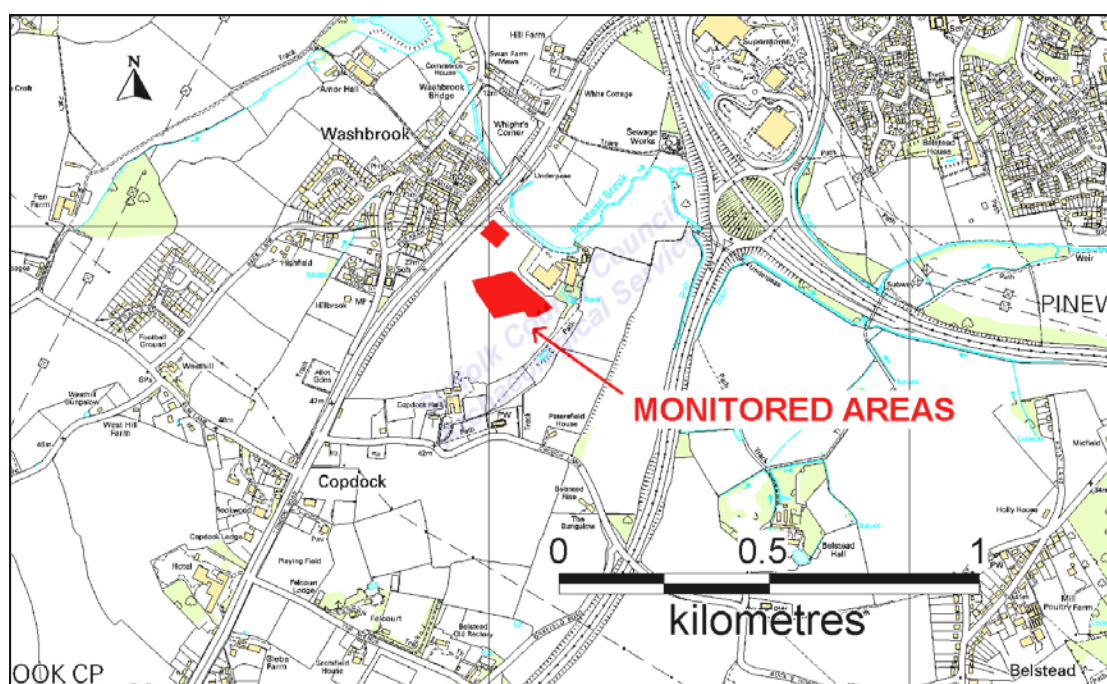
**Copdock Mill, London Road,  
Copdock  
(COP 012)**

**OASIS ID: suffolk c1 – 36464**

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF: B/05/00194/FUL**

**N.G. REF: TM 1204 4182**

**Funded by: H.G. Gladwell and Sons Ltd**



**Figure 1. Location of areas monitored**

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Jezz Meredith  
Field Team

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS)

© January 2008

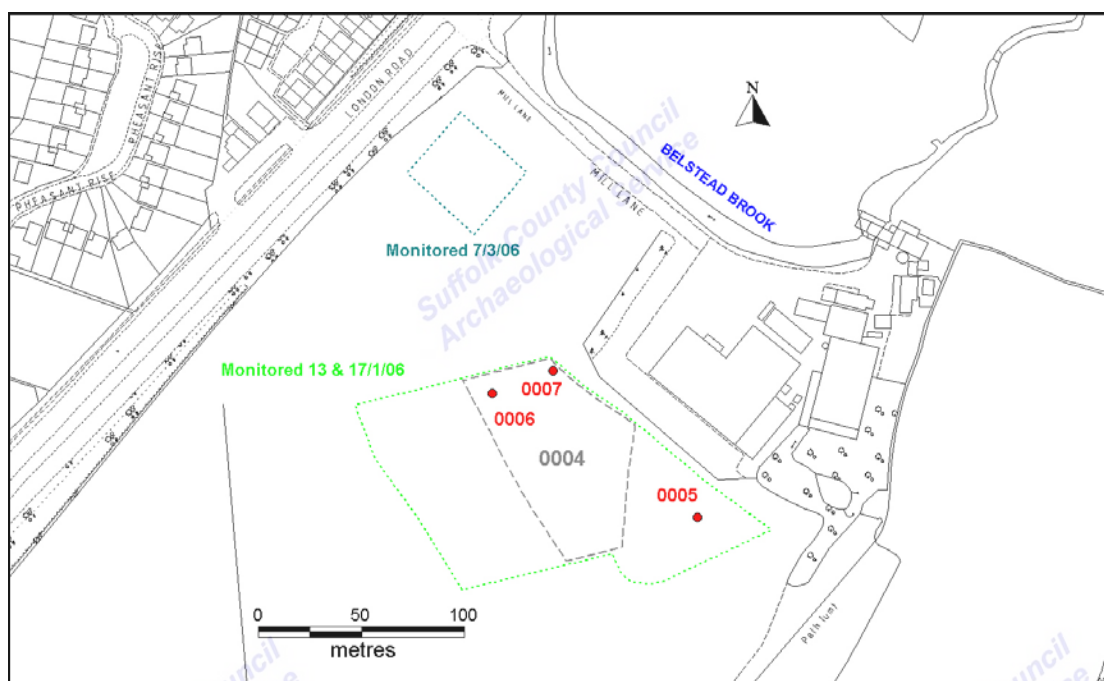
Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

## Introduction

Planning permission was granted for a new shop, storage and extension to Copdock Mill on the condition that a programme of archaeological monitoring visits be made during significant groundworks on the site.

An initial site meeting was conducted on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Monitoring visits were made on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. The first two visits were to observe the topsoil strip of the adjacent hillside, where spoil was to be stored, and the last visit was to view the cut terrace where the new shop was to be located (see Figure 2).

The archaeological potential of this site is its proximity to the Belstead brook where ancient settlement could be situated. The hillside strip was within 500m of Copdock church to the south (see Figure 1), so that outlying medieval activity might be encountered.



**Figure 2. Detail of monitoring areas and location of finds and deposits**

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

## Results

The majority of the hillside strip was monitored during the two visits, although heaps of spoil obscured some of the area and the exposed surfaces were highly disturbed by plant tracks.

Approximately 500mm of soil had been stripped, including c.300mm of topsoil (deposit 0002) and c.200mm of subsoil (0003). This revealed a ridge of natural sand and gravel to the east; the flint flake and blade core 0005 was

found at this location (see Finds report below and Figure 2 for location). Sandy clay natural was exposed to the west.

Between the exposed natural geological deposits of sand with gravel to the east and sandy clay to the west was a deposit of silty hillwash (0004) filling a slightly deeper fold or trough in the hillside. Finds of a prehistoric flint scraper (0006) and post-medieval tile (0005) were found within this deposit (see Finds report below and Figure 2 for location).

Monitoring of the area for the new buildings revealed a high level of disturbance and previous truncation and no archaeological deposits or finds were recognised.

## Finds

by Richenda Goffin

### Introduction

Finds were collected from three contexts from the monitoring, as shown in the table below.

OP	CBM		Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0005			2	105	Topsoil (prehistoric)
0006	2	266			Topsoil (pmed)
0007			1	14	Topsoil (prehistoric)
Total	2	266	3	119	

### Ceramic building material

Two fragments of ceramic building material were collected from 0006. One of these is a piece of post-medieval roof tile made in a red-fired hard sandy fabric (msm). In addition a fragment of probable floor tile made from a coarser fabric with grog, and sparse flint was identified. The only measurable dimension is the height (36mm), which is too thin for a post-medieval brick, but a suitable size for a post-medieval unglazed floor tile. The fabric and dimensions are similar to tiles made in FT21, which have been found in 17th century contexts in Norwich (Drury 166).

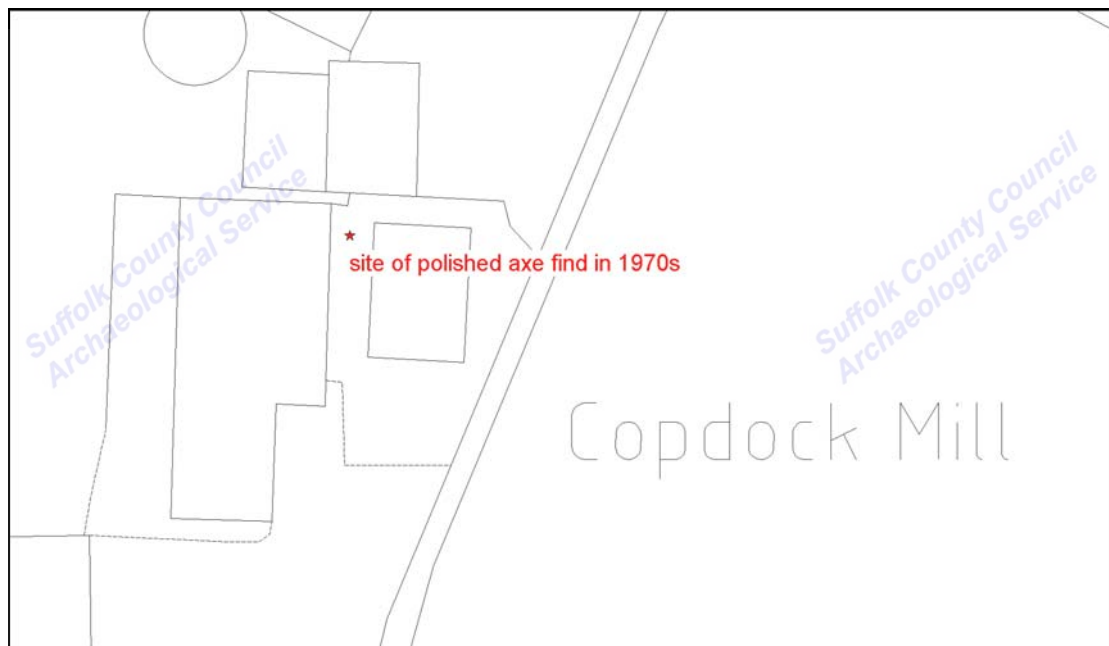
### Flint (*Identifications by Colin Pendleton*)

Three fragments of flint were recovered (0.119kg). A small flake and blade core with opposing platforms was present in topsoil deposit 0005. It is unpatinated with a considerable amount of cortex, and is probably Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. A snapped flake was also found in this context. It is also unpatinated and has a striking platform and one edge formed of cortex. It dates to the Later Prehistoric period.

A natural flint flake, which had been retouched to form a crude oval scraper was found in topsoil deposit 0007. It is prehistoric but cannot be closely dated.

### Discussion

All the finds were recovered from surface scrapes from the topsoil, mostly from the hillwash area.



**Figure 3. Position of previously found Neolithic axe**

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

## Conclusions

No evidence for early river-edge settlement could be detected within the monitoring areas. Chance finds recovered from below the topsoil and within a large area of hillwash are likely to have been casual losses in the past and could have originated from higher up the hillslope.

While visiting Copdock Mill Mr Gladwell showed me the location of where a polished flint axehead, of likely Neolithic date, was recovered at about 1m depth during the 1970s. This location is shown in Figure 3. Dr Colin Pendleton (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record officer) has been given this information.

## References

Drury, P. J., 1993, The ceramic building materials in Margeson, S., Norwich Households: the medieval and post-medieval finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-1978, EAA Report No 58.