

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## NORTH PELL'S, THE GREEN, SAXTEAD (HER ref. SXT 008)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE INSTALLATION  
OF PIPES FOR A GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP SYSTEM  
(Application Nos. C/07/1569)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/037  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-36853)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of c. 130m of trench excavated for the installation of a ground source heat pump system at North Pell's, The Green, Saxtead (NGR; TM 2604 6437), was undertaken during January 2008. No archaeological features were noted within the trenches and no significant artefacts were recovered from the spoil. The natural subsoil comprised yellow-blue/grey clay and lay immediately beneath a thin topsoil. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference SXT 008. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr M. Hoare.*

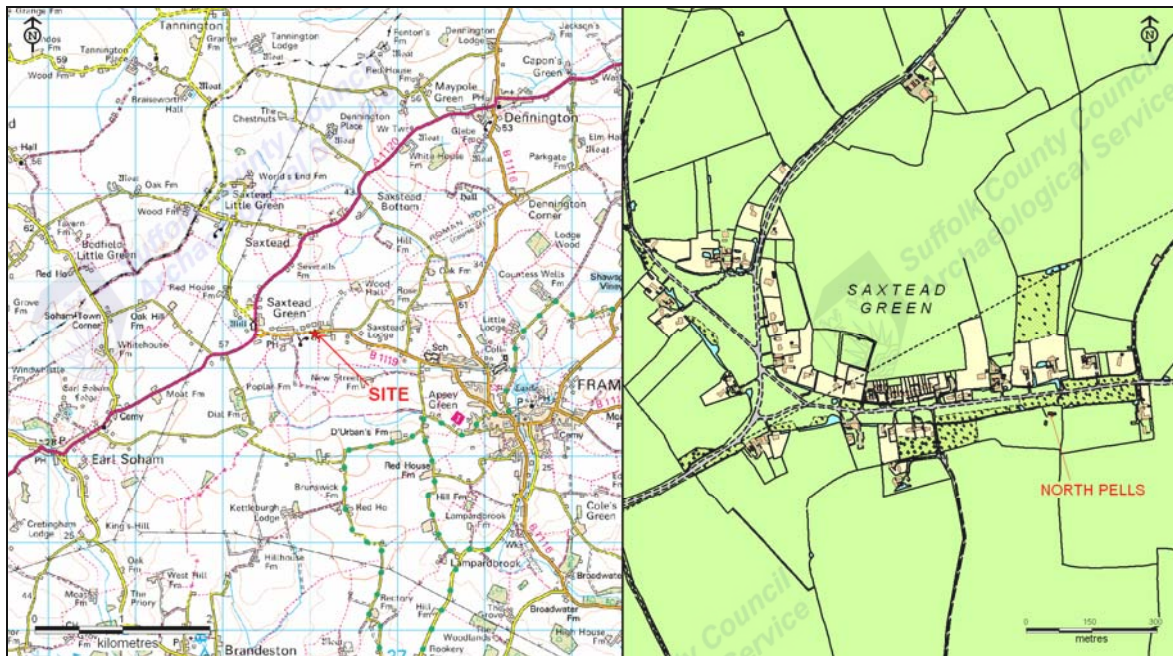


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of trenches excavated for the installation of pipes for a ground source heat pump system at North Pells, The Green, Saxtead, was undertaken in January 2008. The installation entailed the excavation of c. 130m of trench comprising three separate trenches, c. 40m in length, and a link to the main house. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area interest in the site is due to its location on the edge of the medieval green (recorded on the Historic Environment Record, ref. SXT 007). Medieval occupation would have been focussed around the edge of the green and consequently it is possible that evidence for early occupation could be encountered in the area proposed for the ground source heat pump pipes.

Excavation of the pipe trenches was 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 to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundwork 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 site is TM 2604 6437 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 55m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference SXT 008. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-36853. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr M. Hoare.

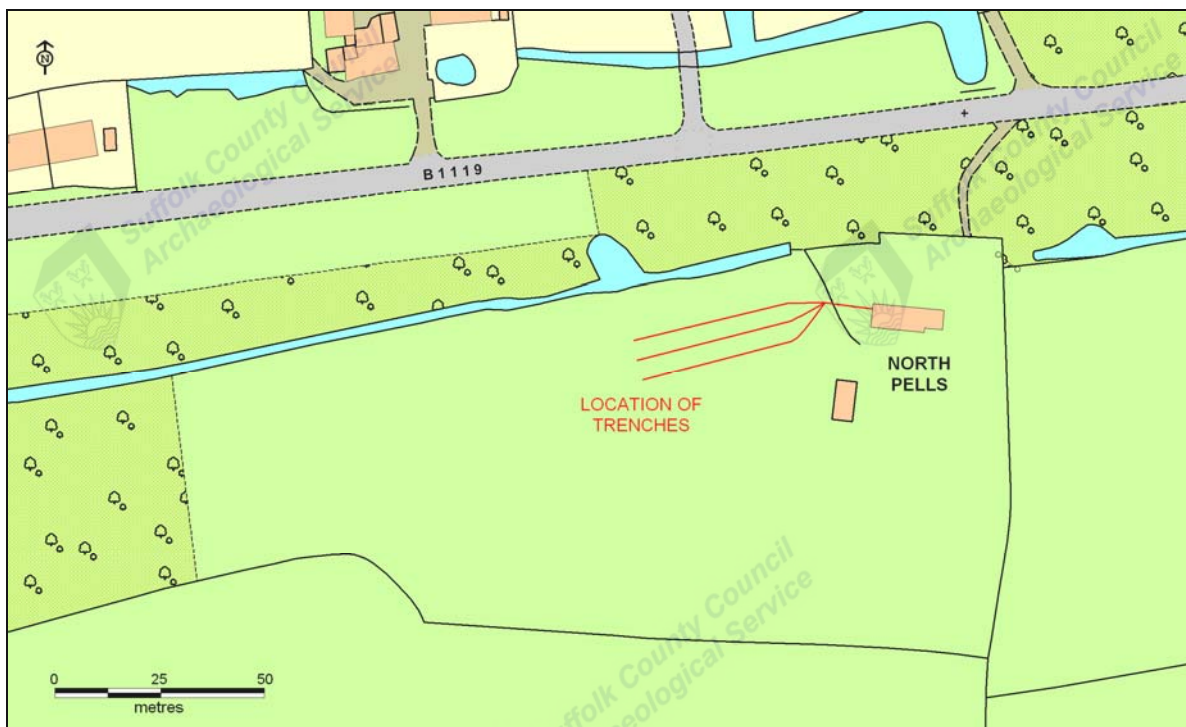


Figure 2: Trench Location

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## **Methodology**

Site visits were made to inspect the excavated trenches after they had been excavated and prior to their being backfilled. Each trench was 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 were examined for archaeological artefacts.

## **Results**

Due to the great depth of each trench (*c.* 2m) and the extensive problems encountered with ground and surface water flooding it was not possible for all the trenches to be opened and examined in one visit. Consequently the site was visited on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The trench commenced from the western end of the main house (see figure 2) and continued westwards until branching into three separate trenches each approximately 40m in length. The total length of trench excavated was *c.* 130m.

The exposed soil profile revealed that the trenches were cut through a layer of topsoil approximately 0.2m in thickness which immediately overlay a natural subsoil of yellow-blue/grey clay. Each 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 was not obviously truncated. The spoil from the trenches was stockpiled on the far side of the garden area and this was walked over but no significant artefacts of any period were noted.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference SXT 008.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits or features were noted within any of the inspected trenches. The trenches were cleanly cut and had any features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been recognised. The complete lack of any evidence in the form of archaeological features or artefacts suggests that no earlier structures stood in the area of the trenches. No evidence of the area having deep ploughed was noted and it must be assumed that it has long been open pasture.





Work Underway, view looking NE (24<sup>th</sup> January 2008)

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

#### NORTH PELLIS, THE GREEN, SAXTEAD, SUFFOLK

***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 the installation of pipes for a ground source heat pump and associated works at North Pellis, The Green, Saxtead, Suffolk, IP13 9QB (TM 2604 6434), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/1569). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record), on the southern edge of the medieval green (SXT 007). There is a strong possibility that medieval occupation deposits will be encountered in this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.7 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.8 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **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 prehistoric and later occupation remains on the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of two linear trenches for the installation of the pipes, measuring 50.00m long x 0.30m wide x 2.00m deep and a further shorter service trench linking these to the dwelling. 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.

## **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.

3.2 The developer or his contracted 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 this 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 SCCAS/CT 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 scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data

to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.

- 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 Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record 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 Historic Environment Record 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 Historic Environment Record 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 assessment 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 assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record 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 Historic Environment 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 County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Reference: /NorthPells-Saxtead2007

**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.**