

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Framfield House, 83 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge

WBG 069

Planning App. No. C/06/2239/FUL

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-37894

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008



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HER information

Planning application C/06/2239/FUL
County Historic Environment Record WBG 069
Date of fieldwork: 11-10 -2007 and 30-10-2007
Grid Reference: TM 2757 4923
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Oasis reference Suffolkc1-37894

Summary

Planning permission to erect five town houses at Framfield House, 83 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological monitoring during ground-works. The proposal lies at the eastern end of the area defined for medieval Woodbridge. The site had been formerly developed and evidence of substantial concrete foundations were revealed after surface demolition had been completed. The entire site area was found to have been heavily disturbed to depths of around 0.80m, probably during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.

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1.0 Introduction

Framfield House lies at the junction of Thoroughfare and St. John's Street at the eastern end of the area defined for medieval Woodbridge. The entries in the County Historic Environment Record for this area are relatively few and the site provided an opportunity to potentially add to the archaeological record for the area. Roman coins have been found within 500m of the site (WBG 010 and WBG 012) (see Figure 2), but the main interest lies in the potential for medieval remains. The early edition of the Ordnance Survey map indicates that the majority of the site area consisted of a garden, or possibly an orchard during the later nineteenth century (see Figure 3). The site appears to remain undeveloped until well into the twentieth century and continued to form the garden of Framfield House. Eventually, around half of the area was occupied by number 42 St John's Street and the Surgery.

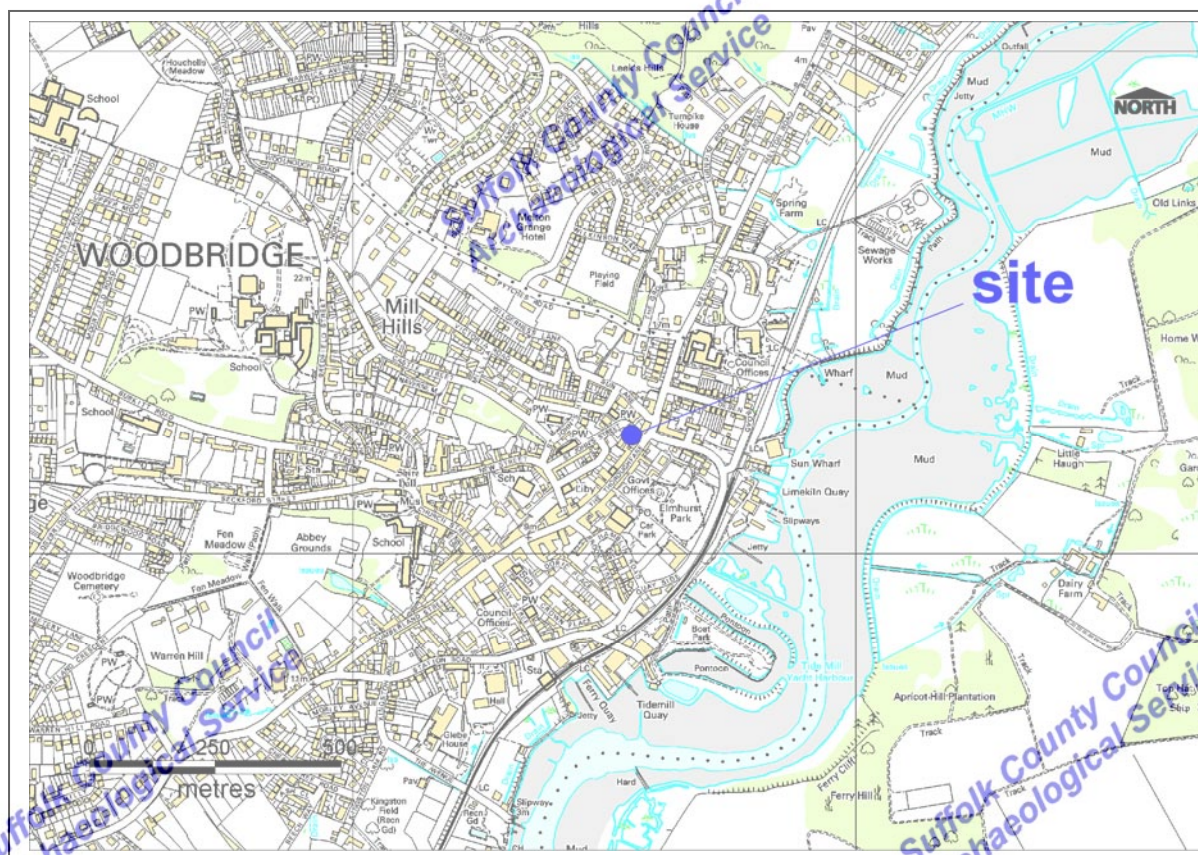


Figure 1. Site location

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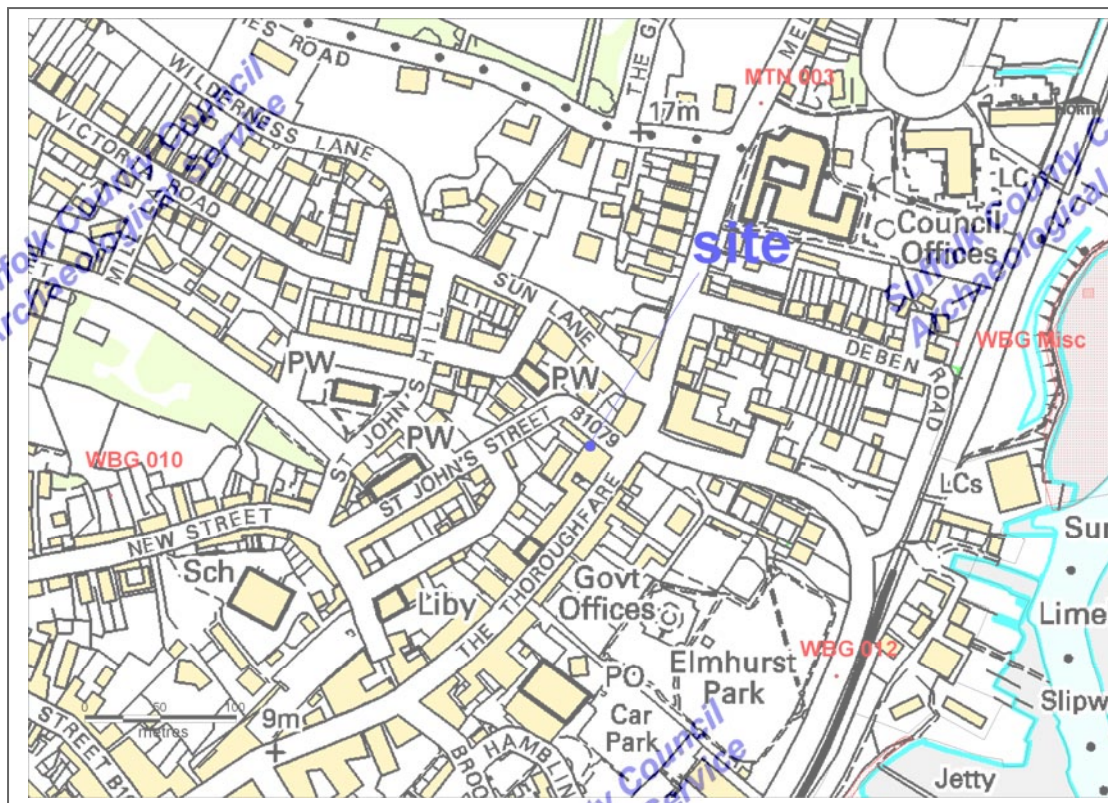


Figure 2. Site within the context of the County Historic Environment Record
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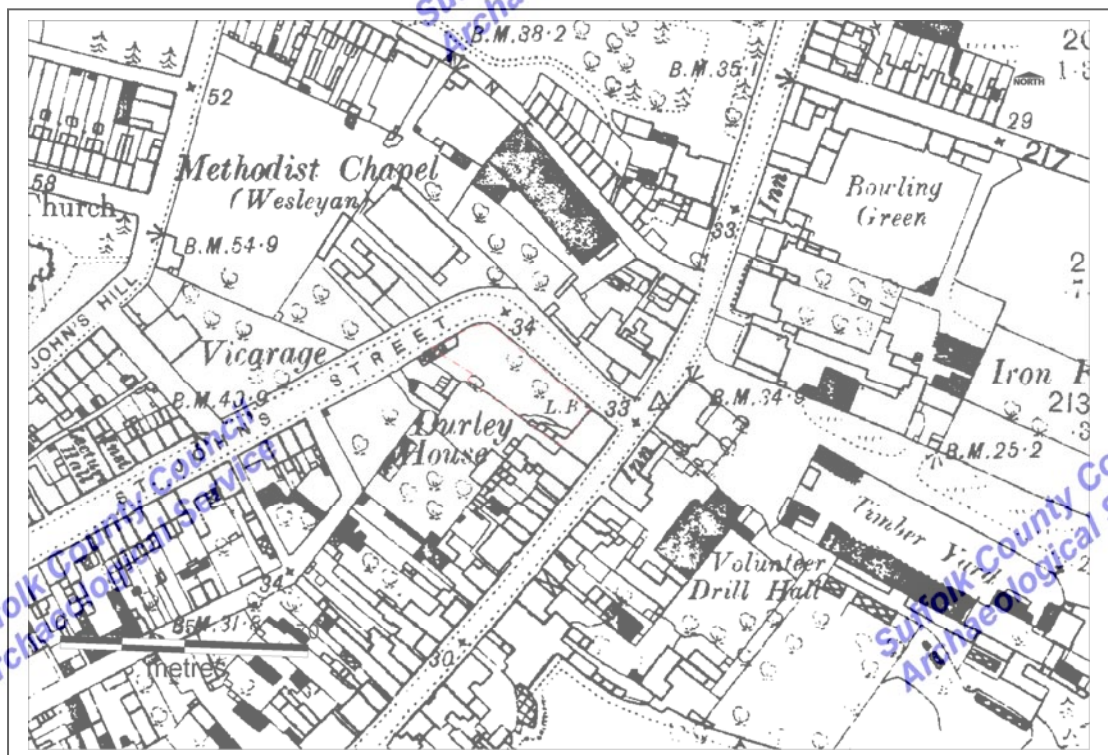


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS

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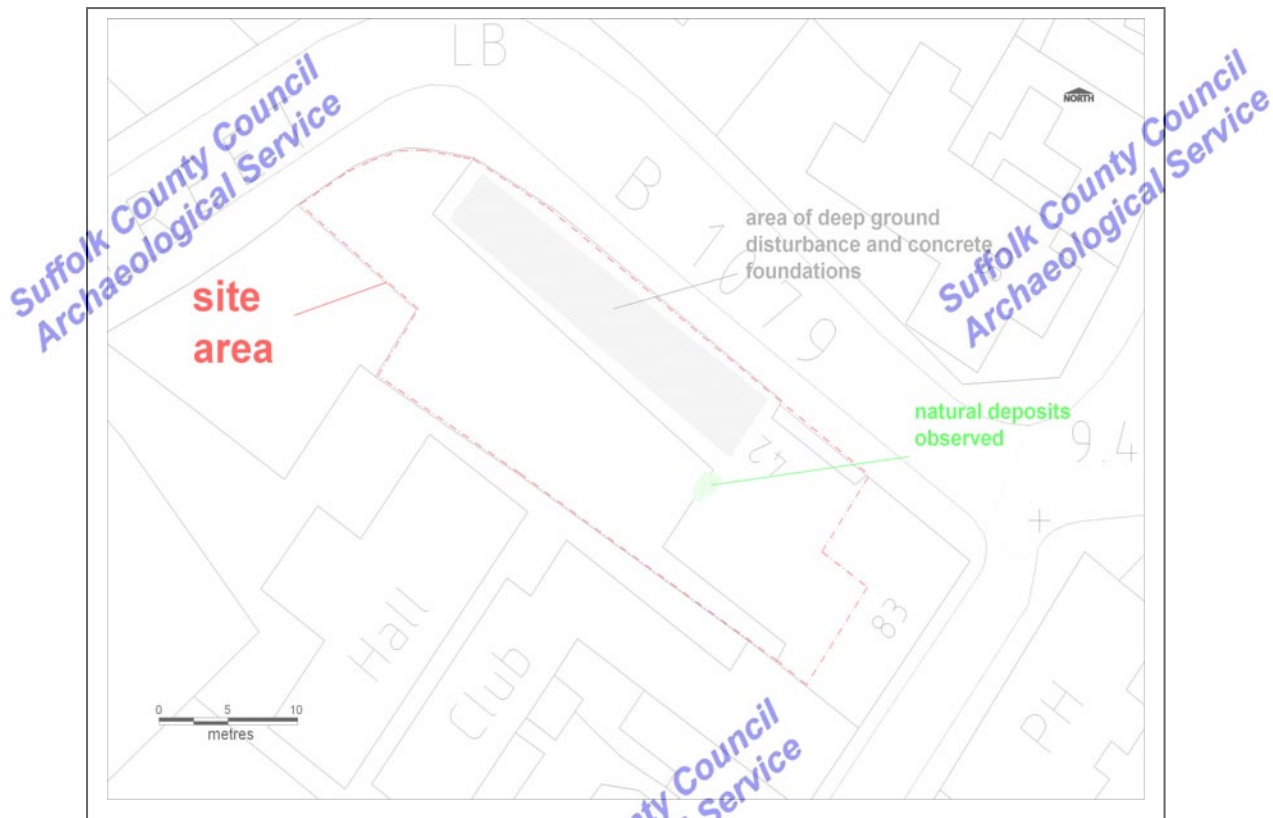


Figure 4. Plan of area of ground disturbance

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2.0 Methodology

Keith Wade (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for the Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 1.). The site was visited on two occasions, when it was possible to examine most of the development area after it had been stripped of previously existing structures, footings and services. An area to the north side of the site, adjacent to the road, contained the most substantial footings and these were removed while an archaeologist was present. All other ground disturbance, clearance and levelling were also examined and recorded. Details of the ground disturbance and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 7.1mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the upcast spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were generally good in terms of visibility and moisture levels. The site was allocated a County Historic Environment Record number of WBG 069.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-37894).

3.0 Results

After the demolition of the previous buildings, the remaining footings and redundant services were grubbed out using a mechanical excavator. At this stage it became clear that twentieth century development had largely removed any earlier deposits to a depth of 0.80m. Some areas towards the south-west edge of the site had remained undeveloped, as yard and garden areas, but were not due to be disturbed within the footprint of the new building. A number of small pits had been hand dug in this area for the purpose of locating services, the sections and spoil were examined and recorded, but no archaeological features or finds were located. The few areas of surviving deposits revealed that the topsoil consisted of mid-pale brown loamy sand of around 0.30m depth. Natural deposits were only glimpsed briefly in the base of a grubbed out concrete foundation near the central area of the site, orange-yellow sand was observed at a depth of around 0.85m. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.

4.0 Conclusions

It is impossible to draw any archaeological conclusions in relation to this site. Deposits which may have held features or finds have been removed or heavily disturbed and therefore the site cannot even be reliably recorded as proving to be devoid of archaeology.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Charterwood Homes Limited and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield and John Newman from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

FRAMFIELD HOUSE, 83 THOROUGHFARE, WOODBRIDGE

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect five town houses at Framfield House, 83 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/06/2239/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies at the eastern end of the area defined for medieval Woodbridge in the County Sites and Monuments Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be 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 the medieval and late medieval /early post medieval occupation of the site.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.

- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

- 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 timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by 'Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

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 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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. 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).

- 5.4 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 16 July 2007
Thoroughfare

Reference: /Framfield House, 83

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.