

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## 127 Undley Hall, Lakenheath LKH 311

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF AN EXTENSION TO 127 UNDLEY HALL, LAKENHEATH

Planning Application No.: F/2007/0603/FUL  
NGR: TL 6964 8147  
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-38239

Funded by: R.J.King on behalf of Mr and Mrs S.Malton

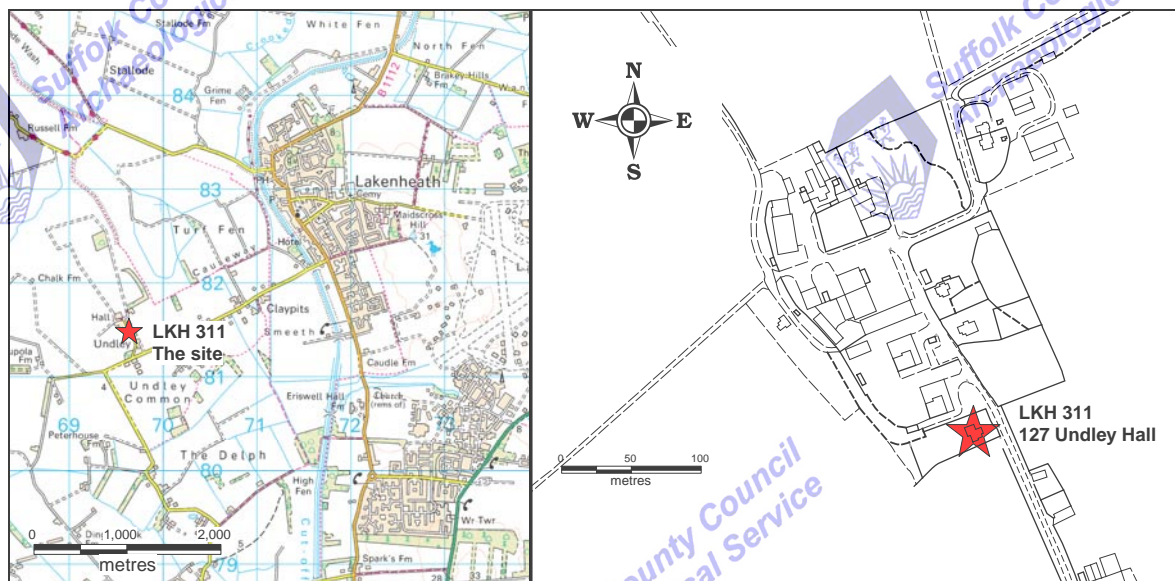
SCCAS Report no. 2008/012

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring at 127 Undley Hall identified two possible archaeological features, an undated shallow pit and a larger topsoil filled pit. The natural chalk appeared to have been truncated by a deep worked topsoil which was interpreted as a former ploughsoil.

## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at 127 Undley Hall, Lakenheath during the excavation of footing trenches for an extension. The monitoring was required as a condition on planning application F/2007/0603/FUL and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr J. Tipper, SCC Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1). The site lies at grid ref: TL 6964 8147 (Fig. 1) within an area of known medieval settlement and within a general area where undated cropmarks have been observed on aerial photographs. Recent archaeological monitoring (LKH 307) during the construction of new farm buildings at Undley Hall, c.250m to the north of the site has identified prehistoric and medieval features.



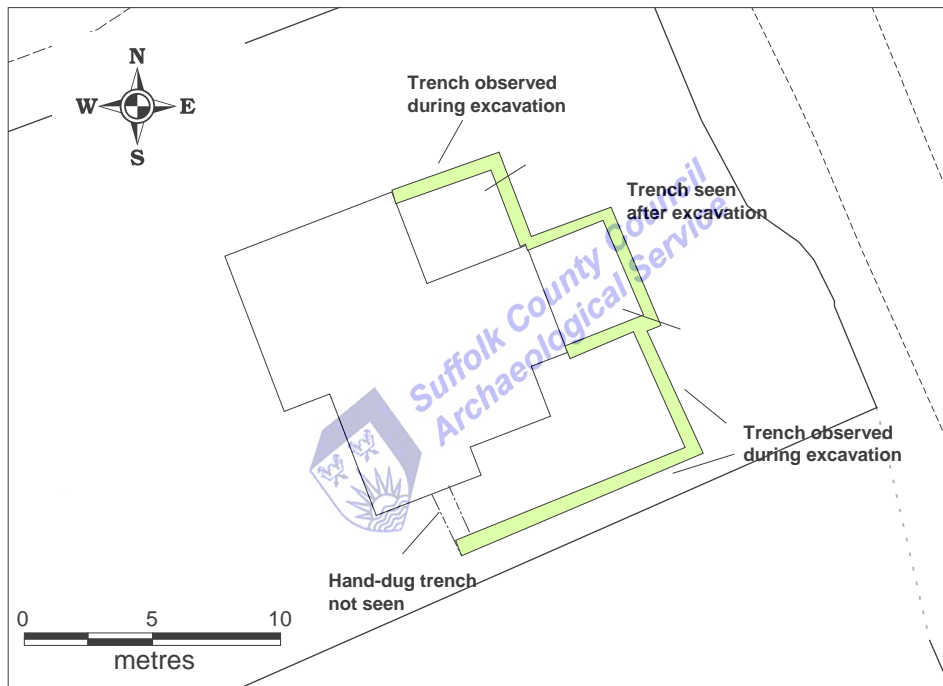
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Figure 1. Site location

## Methodology

Initially the excavation of the trenches was observed as they were excavated, but due to the absence of archaeological finds or distinct features in the first 15m of trench, and the speed of the excavation, the observing archaeologist left the site and returned later in the day to see the central area excavated and the final northern-most 5m excavated (Fig.2).

The fieldwork was carried out by Jo Caruth, SCC Archaeological Service, Field Team on 7th January 2008.

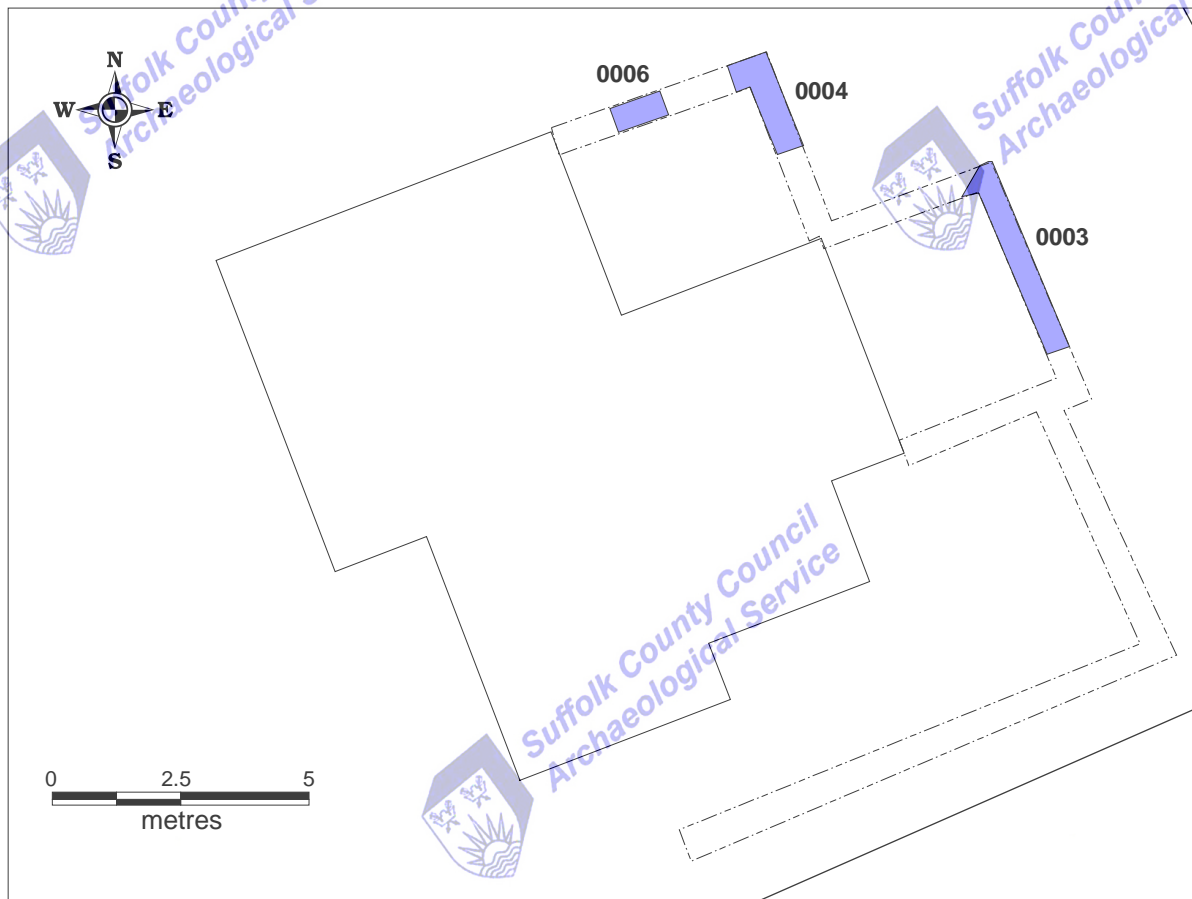


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Figure 2. Location of monitored trenches

## Results

A deposit of modern brick and tile rubble, 0005, was cut into the topsoil at the northern end of the site. This filled and overlay, extending c. 1m beyond, a pit, 0004 (Fig. 3). 0005 appeared to be 20th century and may have related to construction, alteration of, or maintenance to, the existing house. The whole site was covered with a layer of well-worked clean topsoil, 0002, a minimum of 0.5m deep into which 0005 was cut. To the north-west of 0004 (Fig. 3) was the only clear archaeological feature. This was a shallow, flat-based probable pit, 0006, 1m wide by 0.2m deep, lying under topsoil 0002, and with a fill of grey-brown sand, 0007. (Fig. 4). There were no finds from which to date this, but the fill clearly pre-dated the topsoil, 0002. At the centre of the footing trenches the topsoil deepened to 0.95m within what appeared to be a broad slope sided cut 3.6m wide (Fig. 4). It was not clear what this represented, but no distinction was visible between its fill and topsoil. There were no finds from the topsoil within this feature. The surface geology was chalk and a clear interface between this and the topsoil was observed.



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Figure 3. Location of features

Context no.	Feature	Description
0001		Unstratified finds from site (there were none).
0002		Topsoil. Clean, loose, worked brown loam. Occasional modern brick flecks, not kept.
0003	0003	Possible pit indicated by deepening of topsoil 0002. Sloped sides, flat base, 0.95m deep from ground level. Only fill is 0002.
0004	0004	Pit with steep sides and flat base, filled with same 20th century deposits (brick and tile rubble in brown loam) as in layer above, 0005.
0005		Layer of 20th century brick and tile rubble covering the north end of the site.
0006	0006	Probable pit 1m wide and 20cm deep with sloped side and flat base, underlying topsoil. Filled with grey-brown loam 0.2m deep. No finds.
0007	0006	Grey-brown loam 0.2m deep, even with occasional small stones. No finds

Table 1. Context list

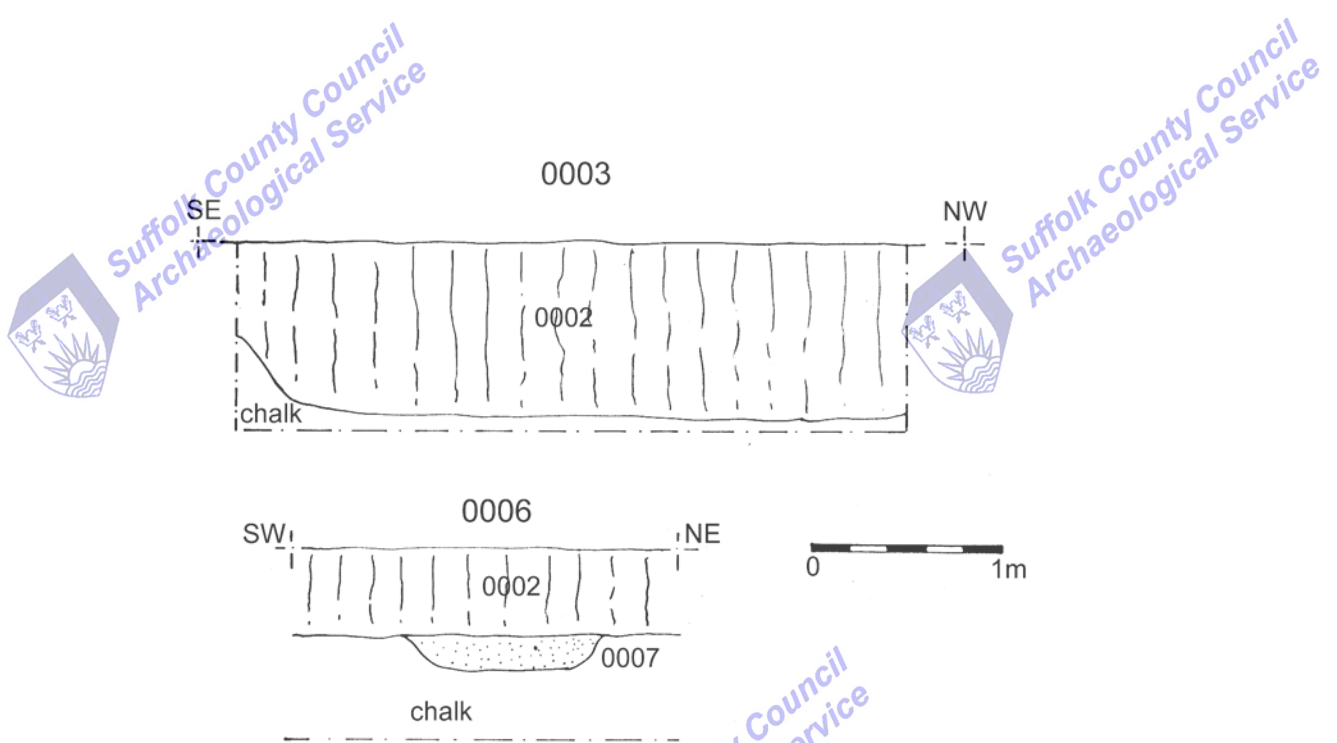


Figure 4. Feature sections

### Discussion and conclusion

The presence of a relatively clean, well-worked topsoil, with a clear interface with the natural chalk suggesting truncation of the chalk surface, indicates that this may be a former ploughsoil and that this site was a part of the adjacent field before the construction of the standing building. Three features were identified during this work of which two were possibly archaeological. Pit 0006 had a fill distinct from the overlying topsoil, giving a clear indication that this predates the end of the agricultural activity, but no other dating evidence was recovered. Possible pit 0003 was apparently filled with topsoil/ploughsoil, 0002, which may indicate that this was formed as a result of agricultural activity. Pit 0004 and deposit 0005 probably post-date the agricultural phase and may relate to the construction of the standing building in the 20th century.

Jo Caruth  
February 2008

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

*Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

127 UNDLEY HALL, LAKENHEATH, 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 to erect a two storey front and side extension at 127 Undley Hall, Lakenheath, Suffolk, IP27 9BY (TL 6964 8147), has been granted by Forest Heath Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application F/2007/0603/FUL). 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, within an area of known medieval settlement. The site is also situated within an extensive cropmark complex that has been defined by aerial photography (LKH 165 and 196). There is high potential for occupation deposits to be disturbed by development. 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 medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation remains on the site.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of trenches for the wall footings for the new extension (c. 30.00m in total) and any associated services trenches and also any ground reduction for the insertion of the new floor. 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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Date: 6 December 2007

Reference: /127UndleyHall-Lakenheath2007

**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.**