

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## 18 Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints FAS 036

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH  
AN EXTENSION AT 18 PIGEON LANE, FORNHAM ALL SAINTS

Planning Application No. SE/07/0403 (revised no. SE/07/1958)

NGR: TL 8404 6744

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-39100

Funded by: Mr and Mrs A. Fairs

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/031

## Summary

*An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at 18 Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints did not locate any archaeological deposits.*

## Introduction

A visit was made to the site on 3rd March, 2008 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the property. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/07/0403 (revised to SE/07/1958). The work was funded by the developers, Mr and Mrs A. Fairs.

Interest in the site was based upon its location close to an area of prehistoric archaeology on the opposite side of Pigeon Lane. This includes a Neolithic cursus (FAS 004) and a cropmark complex (FAS 005), as well as a Bronze Age feature and finds (FAS 022) (Fig. 1).

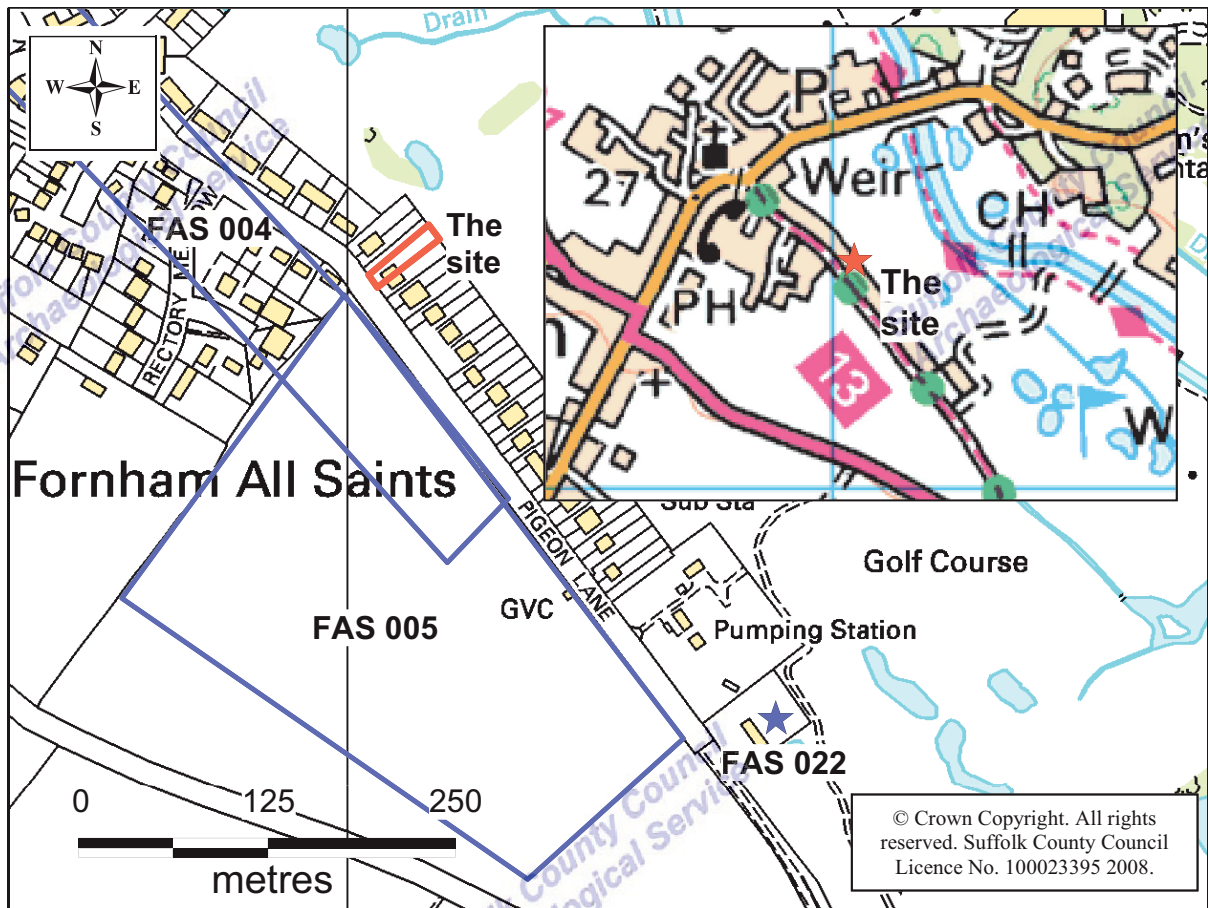


Figure 1. Site location and archaeological listings recorded in the Historic Environment Record

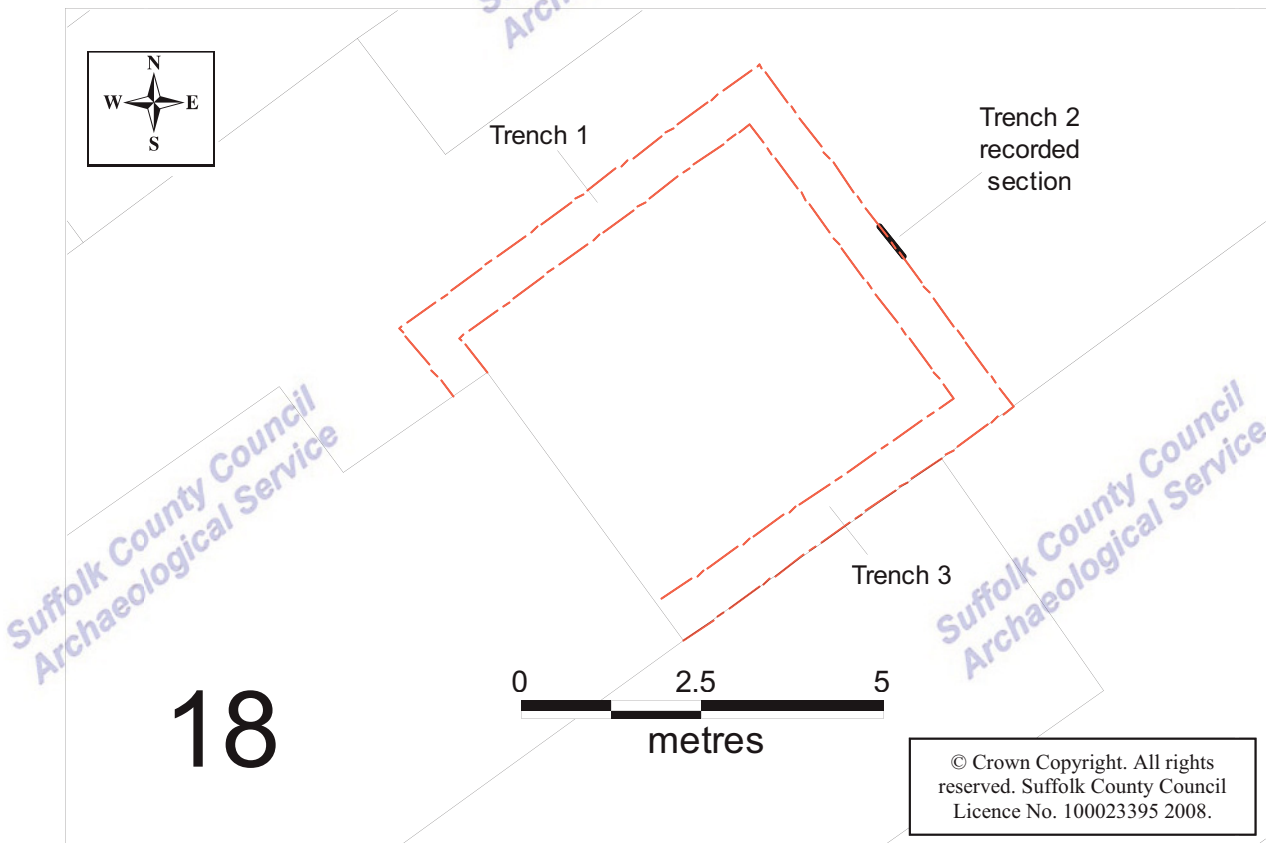


Figure 2. Trench plan

## Methodology and Results

The three trenches were excavated by a machine fitted with a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket, and were finished by hand. The total length of the trenches was 17m and they were approximately 0.8m deep, with this measurement being taken off the current topsoil height of the garden. One soil profile in trench 2 was cleaned by hand for a drawing at a scale of 1:20 and a digital photograph. All site records have been archived using the HER parish code FAS 036.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-39100) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

A uniform soil profile was seen throughout, (Fig. 3), consisting of c.0.28m of modern topsoil with occasional stones, above a c.0.52m thick mid brown silty sand, which became increasingly stony towards the base of the trenches. Beneath this the natural subsoil of yellow, orange and brown patchy sand with a high frequency of stones was reached. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

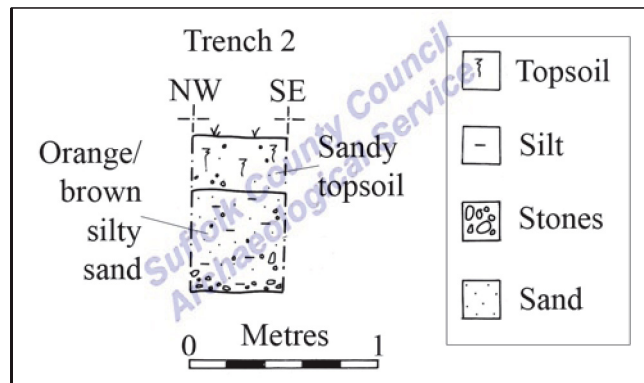


Figure 3. Trench 2 profile

## Discussion

No archaeological deposits were seen within the trenches, which revealed a build-up of naturally developed soils. However the site lies within a known area of prehistoric activity and no wider conclusions may be drawn about the archaeology within the area due to the small size of the trenches.

R. Brooks  
September 2008

# Appendix 1 – Brief and specification

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

18 PIGEON LANE, FORNHAM ALL SAINTS, BURY ST EDMUNDS, IP28 6JP

*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 rear extension at 18 Pigeon Lane, Fornham All Saints, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6JP (TL 8404 6744), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/07/0403). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application covers an area of archaeological importance immediately to the east of an extensive multi-period archaeological landscape and nationally important site, recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (FAS 002) and statutorily protected (Scheduled Monument SF 114). There is high potential for occupation deposits to be disturbed by development at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.

#### 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 occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the footing trenches for the extension, which measure c. 18.60m in total length, and also any associated service trenches. 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 (see 4.3).

### 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 - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his 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 paragraph 2.3 of the 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 both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must 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. 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 minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 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 Sites and Monuments 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 Sites and Monuments Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 5.2 The project manager must consult the SMR 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 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR 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 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.
- 5.6 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 20 April 2007

Reference: /18PigeonLane-FornhamAllSaints2007

**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.**