

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Moat Farm, Swan Green, Cratfield (SMR ref. CRT Misc)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008  
(Application No: C/07/0960/AG)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/126  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-39349)

### Summary

**Cratfield:** Moat Farm, Swan Green (TM 2918 7487; CRT Misc). An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of a grain store building.

The monitoring revealed topsoil over natural boulder clay. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

### SMR information

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Planning application no: | C/07/0960/AG  |
| Site code:               | CRT Misc      |
| Date of fieldwork:       | 12 March 2008 |
| Grid Reference:          | TM 2918 7487  |
| Funding body:            | Landowner     |

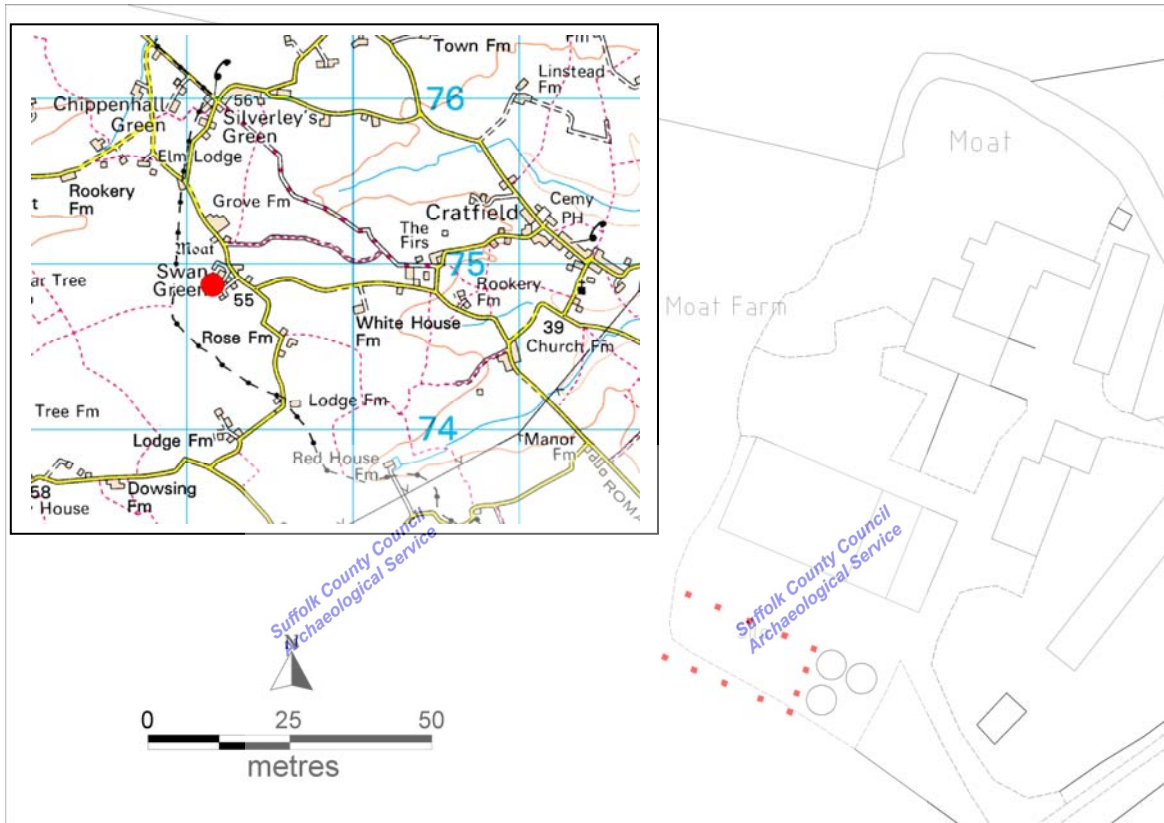


Figure 1. Maps showing the approximate location of the site (inset) and the locations of the monitored stanchion base pits (red)

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## Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at Moat Farm, Swan Green, Cratfield (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of a grain store building (application number: C/07/0960/AG).

Moat Farm is located behind the medieval green ditch (CRT 016 in the County Historic Environment Record) in an area with high potential for medieval occupation. It is also adjacent to a medieval moated enclosure (CRT 001).

Ground disturbance associated with the proposed development (twelve stanchion base pits and ground reduction for the insertion of the floor) had the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that existed on the site.

## Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The writer visited the site on 12 March 2008 to monitor the mechanical excavation (by JCB wheeled excavator) of twelve stanchion base pits (see Fig 1). The pits were square, measuring 1m x 1m x 1m deep. The proposed building has overall dimensions of 24m x 12m, and within this area the ground had been reduced by approximately 0.20m to the formation level for the floor of the building.

The sides and bases of the stanchion base pits were examined for archaeological features and deposits, and the excavated material was examined for artefacts that might be dated archaeologically. All records (written descriptions and a sketch plan) were made in a field notebook and have been reproduced in full in this report.

## Results

Generally, the vertical sections of the stanchion base pits revealed topsoil (up to 0.35m thick) overlying natural boulder clay – a deposit of stiff, light grey sandy clay/silt containing frequent small fragments of chalk and occasional flint nodules. In places there are pockets of yellowish brown slightly clayey sand.

The ground reduction for the floor of the proposed building involved the removal of some topsoil but was not deep enough to expose the natural stratum.

No archaeological deposits or features were observed and no artefacts were recovered. It is concluded therefore that the development has had no impact on the archaeological resource.

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Kieron Heard, SCCAS Field Projects Team

14 March 2008

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

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

**MOAT FARM, SWAN GREEN, CRATFIELD, SUFFOLK IP19 0QQ**

***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 consent (application C/07/0960/AG) has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the erection of a grain store building and repositioning of silo at Moat Farm, Swan Green, Cratfield IP19 0QQ (TM 2918 7487), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This proposal lies behind the medieval green ditch (CRT 016) recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, in an area with high potential for medieval settlement. It is also adjacent to a medieval moated enclosure (CRT 001). 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.
- 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.

**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 occupation remains on the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the pits for the stanchion bases of the grain store (10 posts, each 1.00m square x 1.00m in depth) and topsoil stripping for the insertion of the floor (0.25 – 0.30m in depth), which measures 24.00 x 12.00m in area. 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 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 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 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 SMR 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 Sites and Monuments 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 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: 22 June 2007

Reference: /MoatFarm-Cratfield2007

**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.**