

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

POPPY'S FARM, WEYBREAD WYB 063

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning App. No. 509/04)
OASIS ID No. 41006

Linzi Everett
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Lucy Robinson, Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX
Tel. (01473) 264384



List of Contributors

Linzi Everett

Project Officer Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

Summary

Conditional planning consent for the conversion of a barn at Poppy's Farm, Weybread, required archaeological monitoring of the associated ground works. One large pit or linear feature was identified in the excavated footings and one sherd of medieval coarseware pottery was recovered from the floor of the barn.

HER information

Planning application no. 509/04

Date of fieldwork: July-August 2007

Grid Reference: TM 2523 7999

Funding body: Mr. K. White

OASIS ID: 41006

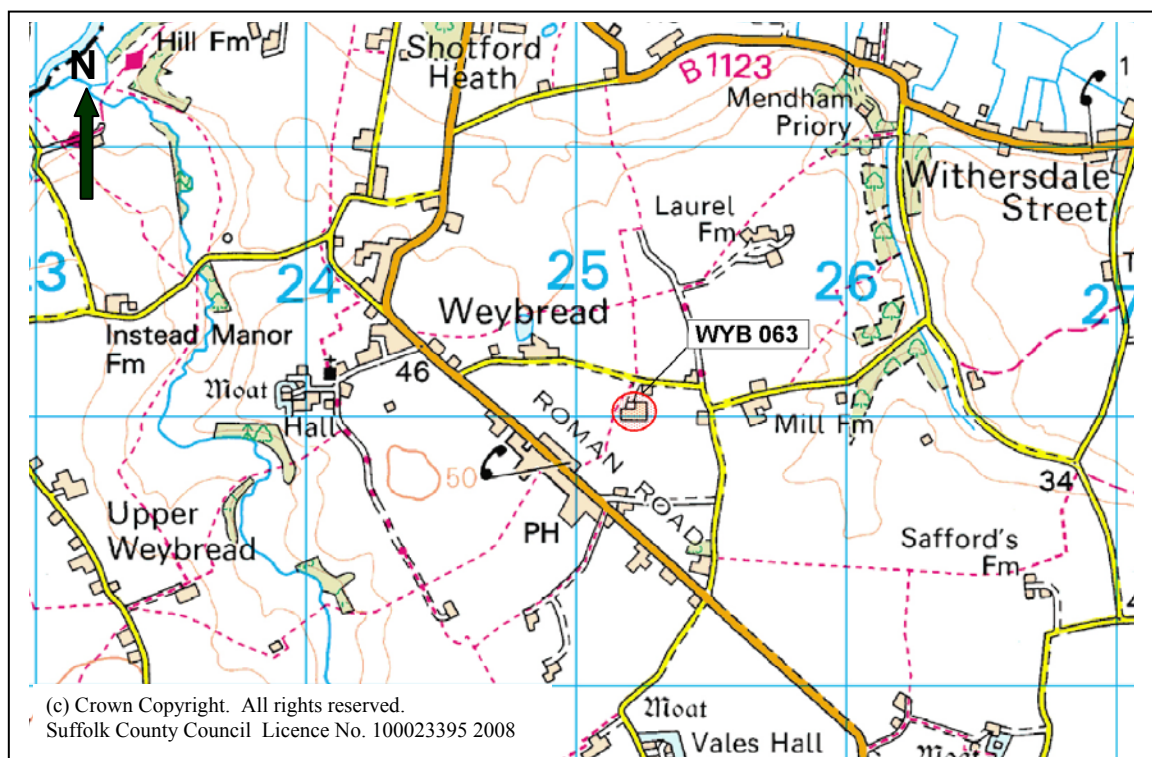


Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the conversion of a barn at Poppy's Farm, Weybread, required a programme of archaeological monitoring of the associated groundworks. The site is centred on TM 2523 7999, at a height of approximately 46m OD where the underlying drift geology comprises chalky boulder clay.

The development lies 300m north east of a Roman road and within the site of a medieval moat (WYB 019), with 14th century pottery found on the associated moat platform. As such, there is believed to be potential for evidence of medieval and earlier occupation to survive here.

Methodology

Vists were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various ground works. The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code WYB 063. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Bob Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place during July and August 2007 and was funded by Mr. K White.

The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

Results

A visit was made on 24th July 2007 in order to inspect footings and service trenches excavated around the northern end of the barn. These had been open for a few days and were weathered and holding water. The exposed sections showed 500mm of mixed topsoil/hardcore overburden overlying the natural subsoil, a pale brownish yellow clay sand. Modern disturbance was present in the north west corner where former stables had been demolished and a 350mm deep feature was visible cutting the subsoil below the north wall of the barn. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand within which no material culture was visible. It was not possible to determine the form or function of this feature.

Inside the barn, the 150mm thick concrete slab and 100mm thick sub base had been removed to reveal a greyish brown sandy clay. No features could be seen cutting the exposed surface, however, one small sherd of medieval coarseware pottery was recovered.

A second visit took place on 30th August 2007 when the floor level had been reduced by a further 200mm. Prior to this visit, sand blasting of the barns roof timbers had left the stripped floor masked by a fine layer of sand. Various areas were hand cleaned back to the stripped surface to look for incised features and characterise the deposit revealed. In all cases, this comprised a pale yellowish brown sandy clay mixed with a mid brown sandy clay flecked with charcoal and red brick fragments. No features were identified in any of the cleaned areas.

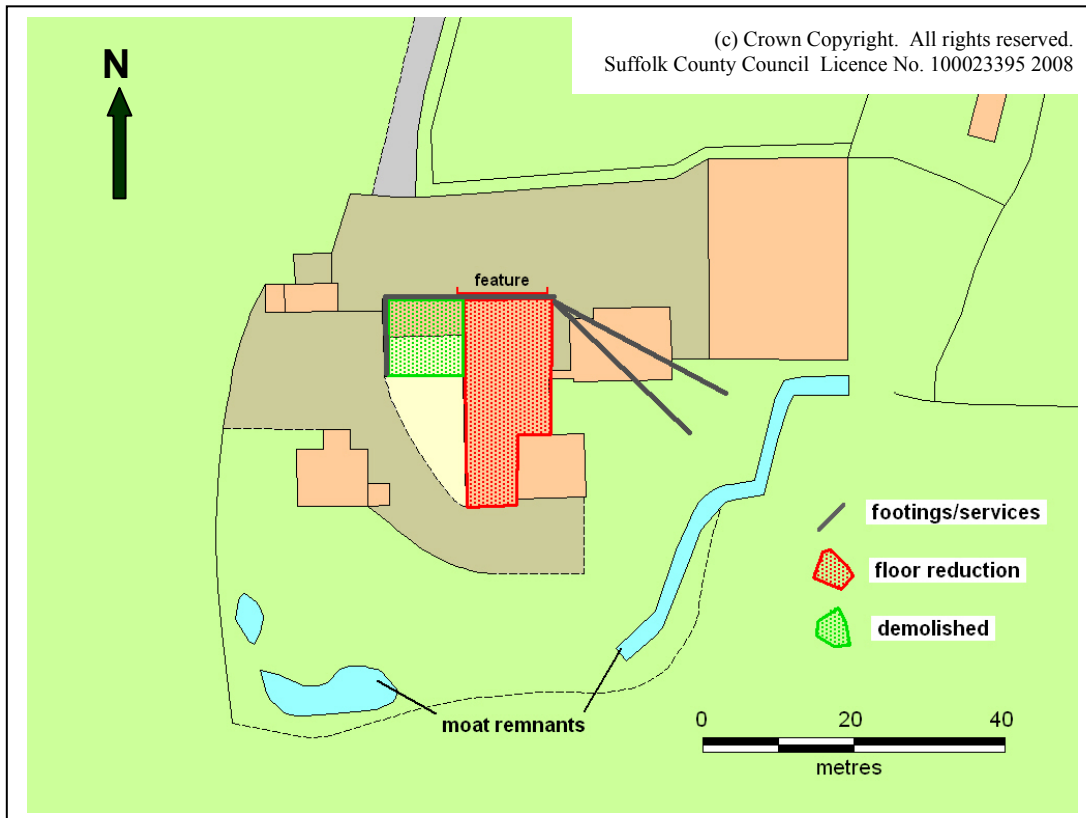


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks

Discussion

The ground works only provided a small window into the archaeology of the site and into an area where there had been some modern disturbance. Some evidence for archaeological activity was identified in the form of a single sherd of medieval pottery and the undated feature present under the north end of the barn. The internal area of the barn appeared to comprise a mixed deposit uniformly across the stripped area, possibly representing a layer of subsoil trampled and mixed as a result of agricultural activity.

Linzi Everett
Field Projects Team,
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
2008

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

POPPY'S FARM, WEYBREAD

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (509/04) has been made to convert a barn to a residential dwelling. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site lies within the remains of a moated medieval enclosure recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (WYB 019). On the 1878 OS mapping a broad enclosure type ditch is shown south of the farmhouse and barn, there are vestigial remains of this moat in a pond and drains to the south-west and south-east of the barn.

Lowering of the existing floor level within the barn is required in order to achieve height for a new first floor, there will also be service trenches. This ground disturbance has the potential to cut down to and disturb any medieval deposits which lie within the moat island.

The removal of the existing concrete floor and any associated sub-base can be carried out without archaeological supervision, but any ground disturbance below this level will require archaeological involvement.

- 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 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 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 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 earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be floor lowering below the existing modern concrete and service trenches.

In the case of the barn floor the soil surface below concrete and its sub-base must be cleaned and examined whilst this level is prepared by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the 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 the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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.
- 4.3 In the case of floor lowering, unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 40 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between the base of modern concrete and its sub-base and any archaeological deposit below this.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 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 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, 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).
- 5.4 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must 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: R D Carr

Date: 12 June 2007

Reference: /Poppy's Farm

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.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE
Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443