

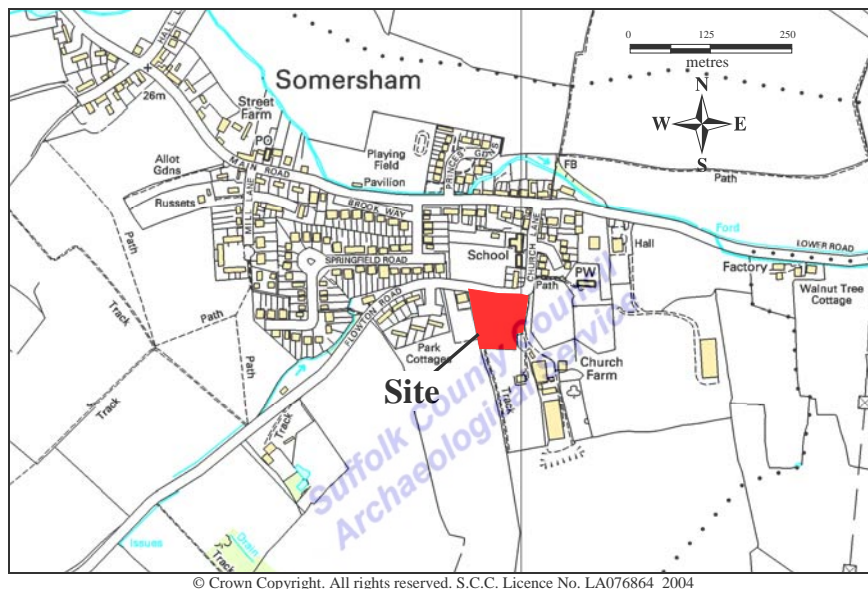
## Church Farm Somersham, Record of Archaeological Monitoring

### SMR Information

<b>Application No.:</b>	819/03	<b>Find:</b>	None
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TM 0897 4841	<b>Period:</b>	Post Medieval
<b>SMR No.:</b>	SSH 013	<b>SCCAS Rpt. No.:</b>	2004/164
<b>Oasis Rpt No.:</b>	Suffolkc1-4896	<b>SCCAS Job No.:</b>	SOME/CHU/001
<b>Funding Body:</b>	Ingleton Contracts		

### Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the construction of housing at Church Farm, Somersham (Fig. 1). The planning consent was conditional on the developer (Ingleton Contracts Ltd.) providing for a programme of archaeological monitoring



**Fig. 1** 1:12,500 scale OS map extract showing the location of the site

The sites archaeological potential was based on its location within 100 metres of the medieval church, although it was known that terracing to accommodate farm buildings is likely to have already truncated or damaged any archaeological deposits.

The Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service prepared a Brief and Specification document (appended to this report) and their Field Team was commissioned to undertake the necessary work.

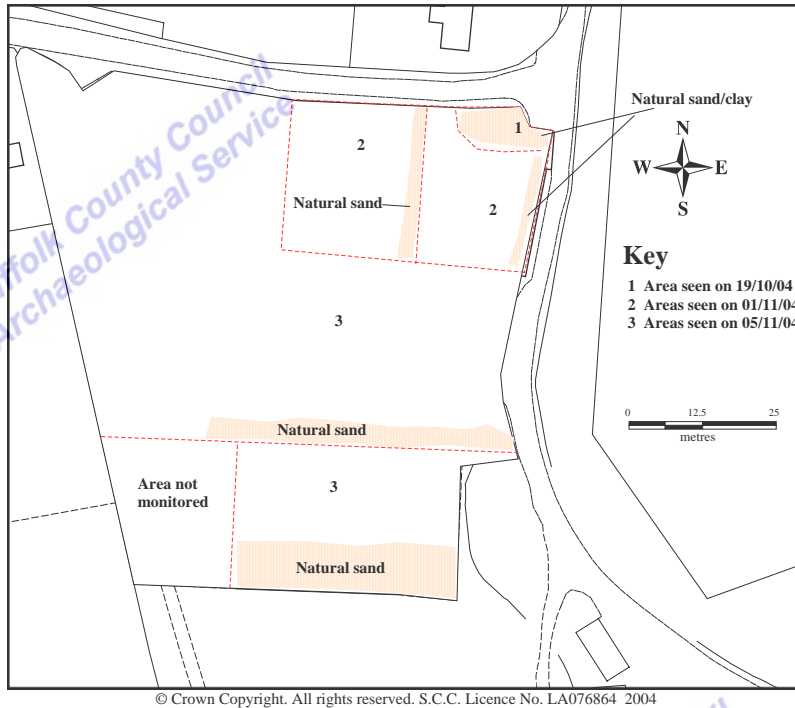
### Methodology

Three site visits were made during soil-stripping over the development area. The exposed surface was examined for the presence of archaeological features and artefactual evidence.

### Results

#### Visit 1 (19/10/04)

Contact was made on site with the developers to ascertain their future work programme. A small area of soil-stripping had been completed in the north-east corner of the site (number 1 on Fig. 2). Where natural subsoil was revealed it comprised yellow/brown chalky clay. No archaeological features were identified.



**Fig. 2** c.1:1,250 scale OS map extract showing the results of the archaeological monitoring

**Visit 2 (01/11/04)**

During this visit soil-stripping had progressed over an area comprising two stepped terraces, with a fall of c.0.6 metres between the two, dropping from east to west, (number 2 on Fig. 2). A depth of approximately 0.4 metres of topsoil was encountered over both levels with a c.2 metres wide strip of clean natural sand subsoil recorded to the rear of each terrace.

**Visit 3 (05/11/04)**

The majority of the southern and central portions of the site had

been stripped and was available for inspection during this visit (numbered 3 on Fig. 2). The fall between the southernmost terrace and the central area of the site was approximately 1 metre, with a c.4 metre wide strip of natural sand subsoil visible to the rear of the terrace. The southern edge of the site was also cut into the slope, with a vertical fall of approximately 1 metre which revealing a c.10 metre wide strip of natural sand subsoil along the rear of the cut.

The remainder of the exposed area had not been reduced to natural subsoil and was covered by a variable depth of mixed topsoil, sand and clay with common inclusions of rubble and modern rubbish. The only features visible were certainly related to the farmyard and its buildings. In addition there were a number of clearly recent pits with intact animal skeletons in their fill.

After this visit, only a small area remained to be stripped of its topsoil cover and due to the negative results obtained from the rest of the site, it was considered unnecessary to make a further visit.

**Conclusions**

While it was clear that the site had been previously truncated and disturbed, there was no evidence for archaeological deposits surviving in the limited areas where the surface of the natural subsoil was found to be intact.

Stuart Boulter  
 Field Projects Team, Archaeological Service  
 Environment & Transport Dpt., Suffolk County Council  
 November 2004

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



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

#### CHURCH FARM, SOMERSHAM

*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.*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (819/03) has been made to develop the site for housing. 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 proposal area lies within 100m of the medieval church and churchyard and has the potential to be within the early settlement core. However, the area is quite steeply sloping valley side and has been extensively re-modelled with terracing to locate the existing agricultural buildings. There are areas on the lower levels (north side) isolated strips between terraces and the access road which have the potential to contain undisturbed levels. The expectation is that 'presence/absence' and a date range of occupation may be demonstrable.
- 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.

#### 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 earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the preparation of site infrastructure (roads and services) and the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed *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 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 site infrastructure unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 200 square metres. In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **one and a 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 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.

4.6 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 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*, 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.

Specification by: R D Carr

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

Date: 23 March 2004

Reference: /Somersham03

**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.**