

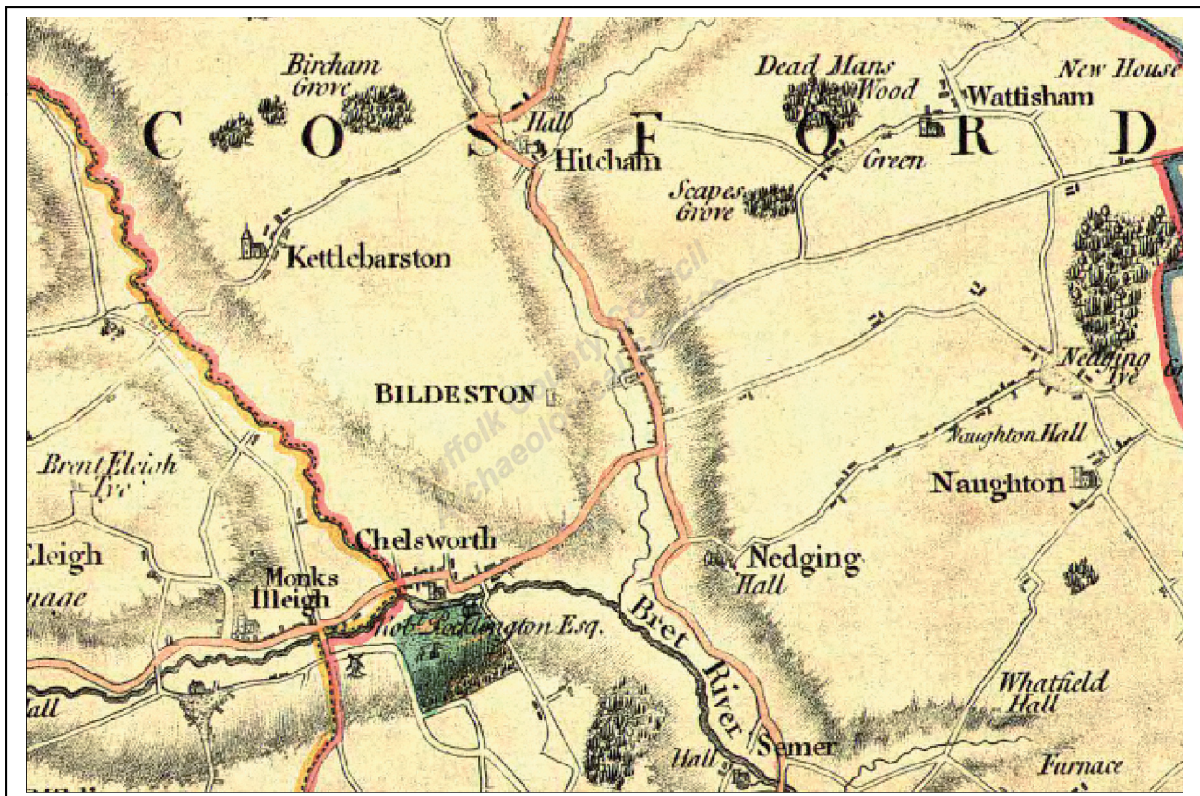
---

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

---

### MARTIN'S WEFT, BILDESTON BIL 019

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008  
(Planning App. No. B/07/01517)



Extract from Hodkinson's map of Suffolk, 1788

Linzi Everett  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© June 2009  
SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/257

Lucy Robinson, Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

---



## List of Contributors

Linzi Everett    Project Officer    Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service  
Richenda Goffin    Finds Manager    Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

## Summary

Monitoring of ground works at Martin's Weft, Duke Street, Bildeston, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. Ground works for a raft foundation revealed a general deposit containing 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century pottery but within which no incised features were visible.

## HER information

Planning application no.    B/07/01517  
Date of fieldwork:    18<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
Grid Reference:    TL 9914 4915  
Funding body:    Roger Balmer Design  
OASIS Ref:    51872

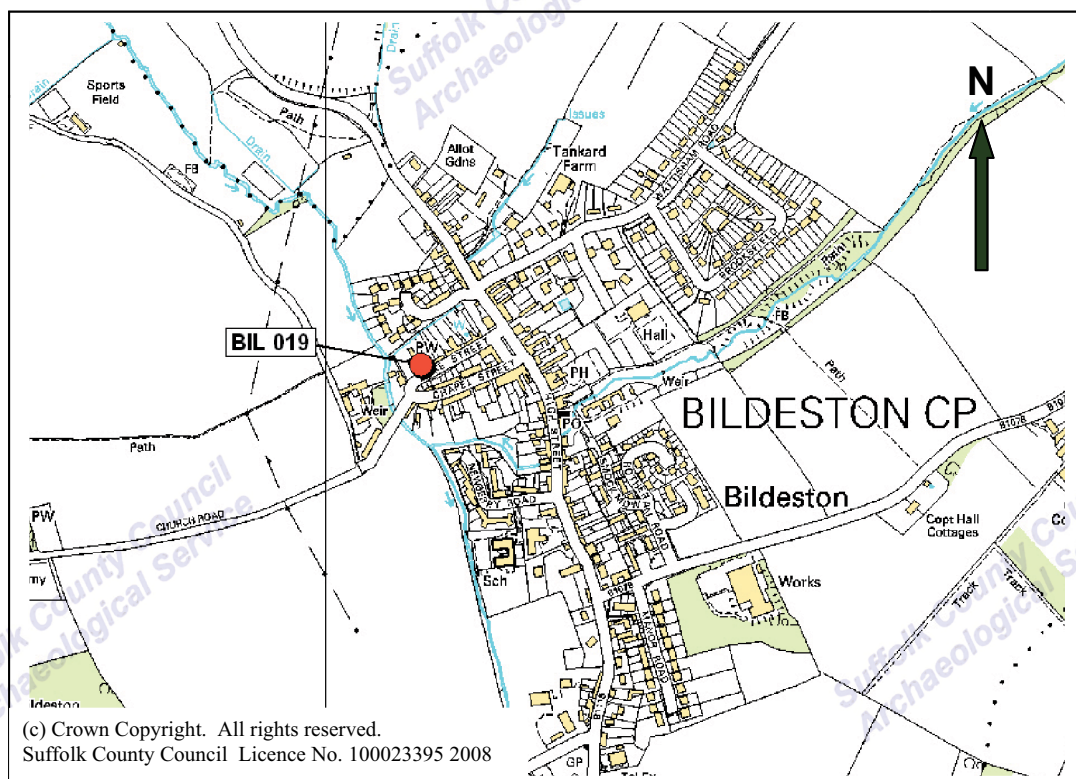


Figure 1. Site location



## Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to Martin's Weft, Duke Street, Bildeston, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TL 9914 4915 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 40m OD on the NE side of a valley tributary of the River Brett. The site lies within the area of the medieval small town of Bildeston defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER), with the potential for the survival of medieval occupation. Roman evidence has been recorded in the vicinity, with the line of a Roman road some 400m to the north. Martin's Weft is also a Listed Building.

## Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. The site was recorded under the HER code BIL 019. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork was commissioned by Roger Balmer Design.

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

## Results

The footprint of the extension had been stripped to a depth of c.500mm below the existing ground level with footings associated with the raft foundation a further 100mm deeper (Plate 1). Most of what was excavated from the footprint was made up ground and topsoil with frequent demolition rubble, ceramic building material (CBM), post medieval glass and glazed china sherds (0001). The stripped surface comprised a mid brown clay with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps and chalk fragments (0002). CBM fragments were also noted and pottery was collected from the surface. No distinct incised features were visible within the stripped surface, nor was the natural subsoil exposed at any point.



Figure 2. Location of ground works



Plate 1. View of excavated extension footprint, looking south

### **The Finds** by Richenda Goffin

A total of three sherds of pottery was recovered from 0002. Two joining sherds of a sooted vessel made in a medieval coarseware fabric were present (35g). They are hard-fired and probably date to the later part of the medieval period or later (14th-15th C). An additional LMT variant made in an orange sandy fabric with a small splash of glaze on the sooted exterior dates to the 15th-16th (20g).

### **Discussion**

The ground works revealed what appeared to be a general deposit relating to late medieval occupation, within which no incised features were visible, sealed by post medieval overburden. It is possible that further evidence of medieval or earlier activity survives below the excavated formation level and thus remains preserved *in situ*.

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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

MARTIN'S WEFT, DUKE STREET, BILDESTON

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Martin's Weft, Duke Street, Bildeston, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/07/01517). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of the medieval small town of Bildeston, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance.
- 1.3 As a raft foundation is proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 would be 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 the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavations for the raft foundation. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

**3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

#### 4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and 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 should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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 Historic Environment 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 HER 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.



- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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 HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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

Date: 8 August 2008

Reference: /Martin's Weft, Duke Street

**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.**

## Appendix II: Context list

OPNO	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	OVER	CUTBY	UNDER
0001	0001	Deposit	Made up ground- dark brown loamy topsoil mixed with frequent demolition rubble, CBM and post medieval/modern ceramics		0002		
0002	0002	Deposit	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy clay, flecked with occasional chalk and charcoal. Fairly homogenous, no interventions. Medieval pottery recovered, no post-med/modern material observed. Exposed at formation level for new extension				0001