
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/073

Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham FML 046



D. Stirk
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www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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HER Information

Planning Application No: C/07/0366/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 24 February 2009

Grid Reference: TM 2862 6367

Funding Body: Framlingham Castle Bowls Club

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Duncan Stirk

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Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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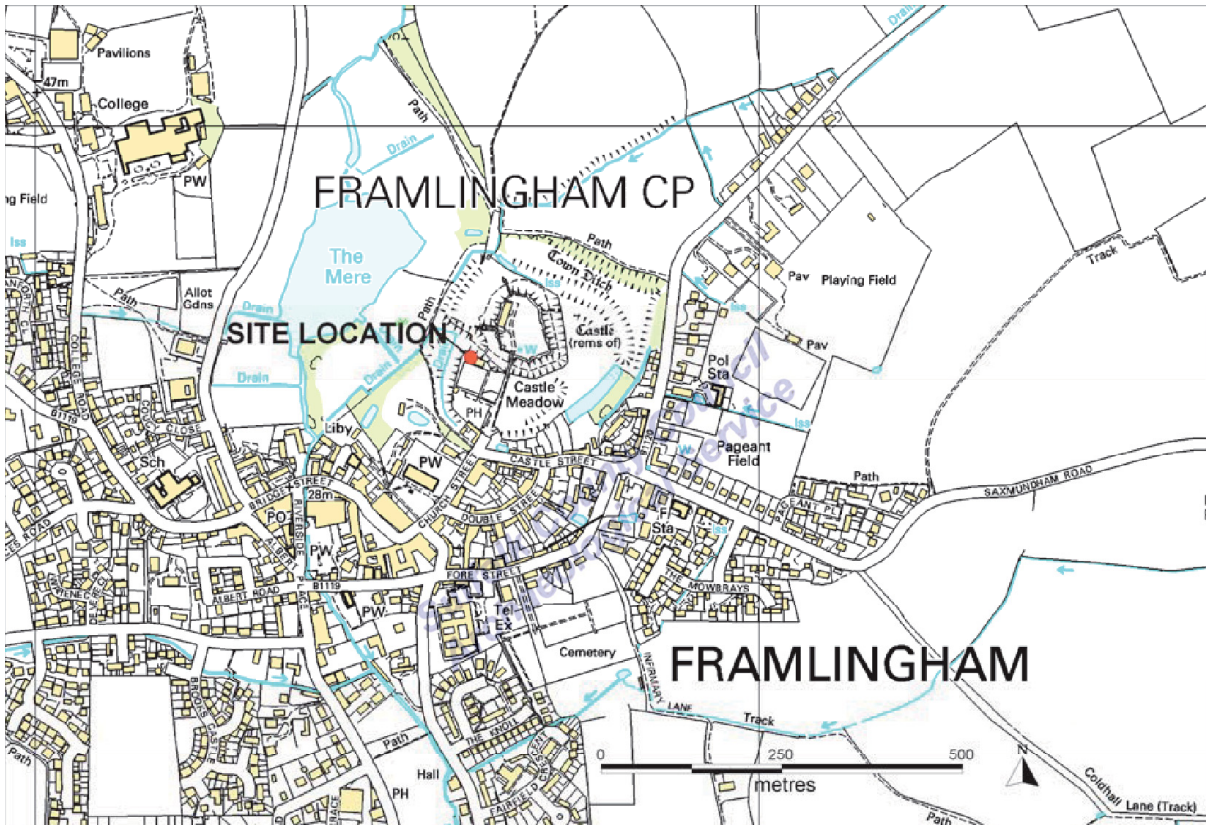
Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Framlingham Castle Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham (TM 2862 6367; FML 046). Monitoring work was carried out at the above site during the excavation of foundations for an extension to the clubhouse.

A number of features of archaeological interest were recorded during the monitoring work. A thick deposit of re-deposited natural was recorded which may be the up-cast from the excavation of the adjacent castle ditch. A number of large cut features, possibly pits, cut this deposit. The pits were sealed by a thick deposit of organic garden soil and the current lawn. A small assemblage of finds from the medieval, post medieval and early modern periods was collected during the work.

1. Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of building work was carried out on land at Framlingham Castle Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham, as part of an archaeological condition in relation to planning permission for the construction of extensions to the existing clubhouse. (Application number: C/07/0366/FUL) This work took place on 24th February 2009.



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Figure 1. Site Location

2. Geology and topography

The site is located adjacent to the northern side of the clubhouse of Framlingham Bowls Club. The ground prior to the monitoring works was occupied largely by a lawn and partly by a concrete raft, and was relatively level, sloping very gently to the north-west. To the south and east of the trench was the current clubhouse building, to the north was a boundary hedge separating the bowls club from the castle ditch, while to the west was another boundary between the bowls club and an arm of the castle Outer Bailey ditch. The site is located on calcareous clayey soils of the Hanslope association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

The site is located in the Outer Bailey of Framlingham Castle a Scheduled Ancient Monument considered to be of national importance (FML 001). Although the Bowls Club (and adjacent car park) are currently unscheduled they have the potential to contain archaeological remains that are as important as those within the scheduled area. For example in 1954, and again in 1972, drainage works along the castle access road to the south-east of the site revealed burials of probable Late Saxon date (FML 002). The work in 1954 produced finds dating to the Middle Saxon period, but it is likely that the cemetery is of Late Saxon or Medieval date.

English Heritage conducted a geophysical survey of the Outer Bailey area in 2002 as part of a wider programme of earthwork survey (Martin, 2002). The Bowls Club was not within the survey area. However, the adjacent areas may be indicative of the type of features present in the Bowls Club site. Of note in the geophysical survey was a potential enclosure adjacent to the castle entrance road, and some large possible pits scattered across the wider outer bailey area. There are hints that the small enclosure may have been mirrored on the other side of the entrance road on the Bowls Club site, in the form of a fossilized boundary and an alignment change in the bailey ditch. The enclosure could potentially relate to the cemetery, although it seems coherent with the castle layout rather than an earlier feature.

4. Methodology

A single extension to the rear of the clubhouse was the subject of this monitoring work, and a second extension will be the subject of a further report. The site was allocated the Historic Environment Record (HER) number FML 046 which was carried on from the evaluation phase of work.

The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team (see Appendix I).



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Figure 2. Plan of Extension.

Monitoring of the digging of foundation trenches was carried out on the 24th February 2009. The works involved general ground reduction to a depth of 0.25m Below Ground Level (BGL) using a 360° mini-digger and a 0.6m wide toothless bucket. This was undertaken over the whole footprint of the extension measuring 5.3m by 2.2m.

Foundations were then excavated from this level using the mini-digger and a 0.4m toothed bucket. A central foundation was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level (BGL) while two sides of the peripheral foundation were excavated to a depth varying between 1.0m and 1.2m BGL. All machine excavation was carried out under

close archaeological supervision, and the spoil was examined for finds. The exposed surfaces of the trenches, where possible, were then cleaned by hand to better reveal changes in colour and composition that would indicate the presence of archaeological deposits and features. Finds were collected during this phase of work. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service. All archaeological deposits were drawn in plan and in section at 1:20 scale, and photographed. This report has produced drawings using MapInfo mapping software.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

The geological natural was not seen during the monitored works. The earliest deposit was a mixed light grey brown clay sand and light grey clay deposit (0108). This was seen from 0.62m BGL to the base of the foundation at 1.2m BGL. From it a single sherd of unglazed Late Medieval and Transitional type ware dating to the 15th -16th century was recovered and two fragments of bone. Appearing to cut deposit (0108) in the southern portion of the western foundation was a feature with a moderately steep and concave side [0110]. The base of this feature was unseen as it extended below the bottom of the foundation trench. Feature [0110] held a mid brown clay sand silt fill (0109) with frequent chalk fragments. From this a single sherd of glazed ware of 15th - 16th century date, and two bone fragments were recovered.

In the middle of the northern foundation trench deposit (0108) was cut by a steep sided feature [0111], measuring 1.7m by over 0.5m by over 0.5m deep. The feature was deeper than the foundation trench, and appeared to be roughly circular where visible in the base of the trench. This held three fills: the lowest, (0105), was mid grey clay with some gravel and sand, overlain by (0106), a mixed light orange brown gravelly sand and mid grey clay, and topped with fill (0104), a mixed grey brown sandy clay with chalk inclusions. Two fragments of tile were recovered from the upper fill of this feature (0104), which were likely to have been deposited no earlier than the medieval/late medieval period.

Cutting the eastern side of feature [0111] was a similarly steep sided feature [0112] measuring over 1.1m by over 0.5m wide by over 0.36m deep. This held a lower fill

(103) that was a light grey brown clay sand, and an upper fill of light grey brown sandy clay (0102). Two sherds of tile of medieval/late medieval date were recovered from the upper fill, and a fragment of corroded iron (0102).

A thin spit of light orange brown gravelly sand (0107) was recorded between features [0111] and [0112]. This was unlike deposit (0108), which was present across the rest of the trench, so may have been a fill of a feature that had been almost entirely removed by the later features.

The entire trench was sealed by 0.45m - 0.6m of very dark grey organic clay sand silt (0101). This was cut by two modern drains and sealed by 0.2m of very dark grey organic clay sand silt across most of the trench and concrete across the eastern end (0100).

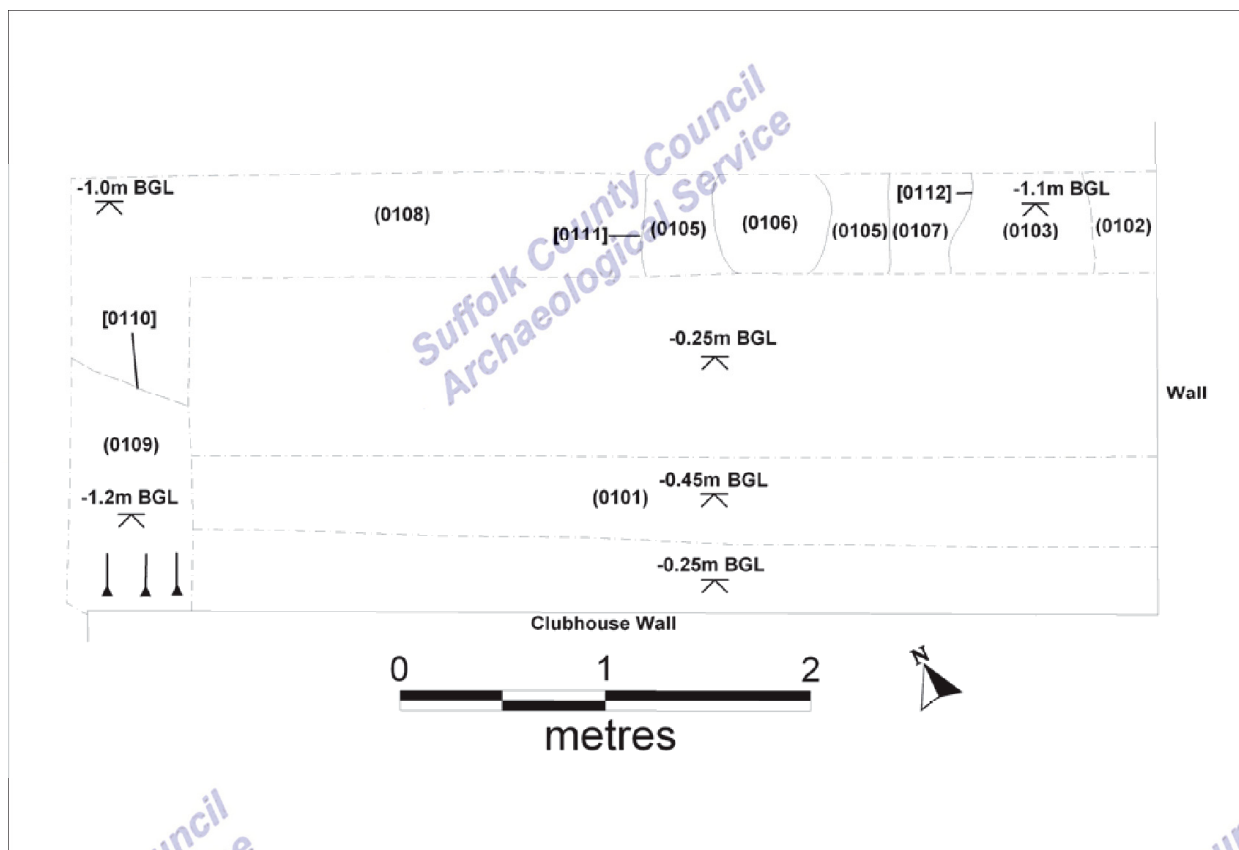


Figure 3. Plan



Plate 1. Trench location

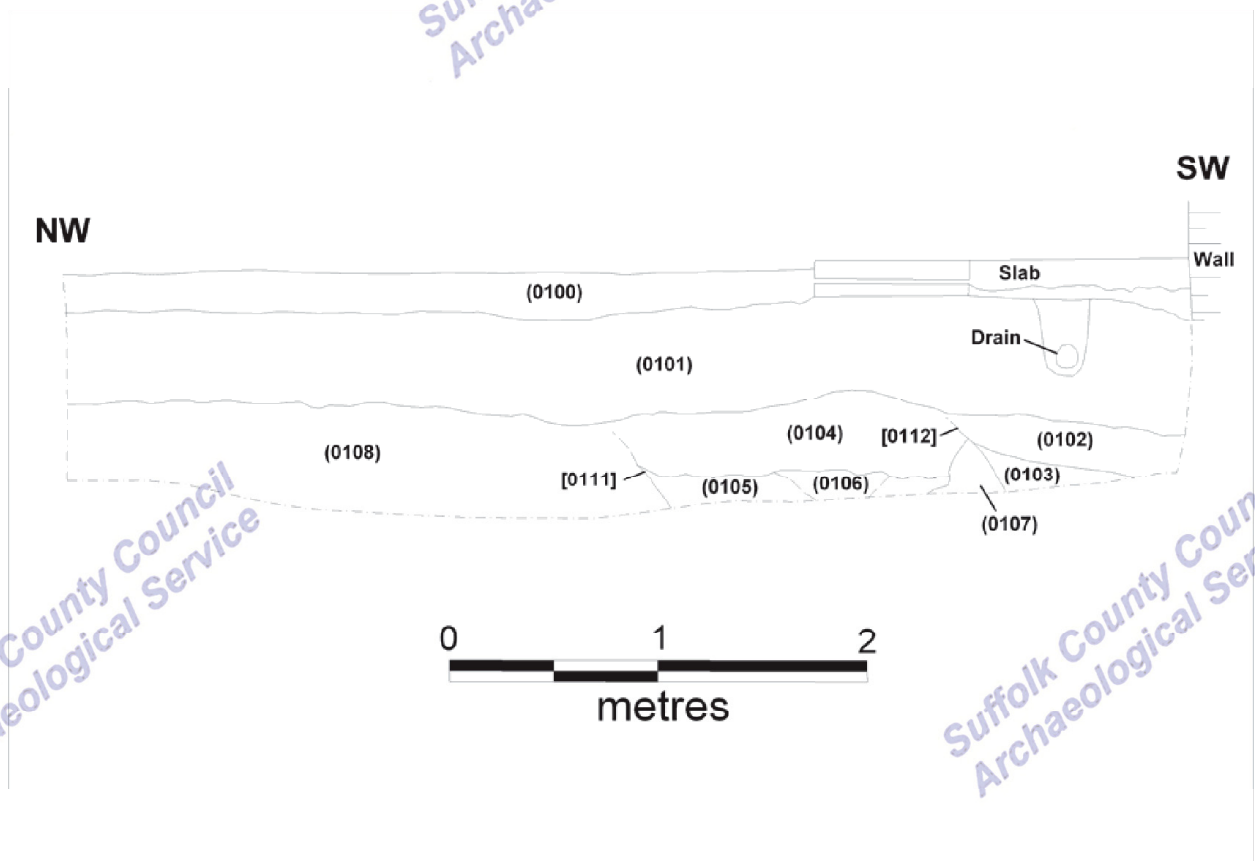


Figure 4. Southwest facing section.



Plate 2. Intercutting pits [0111] and [0112]

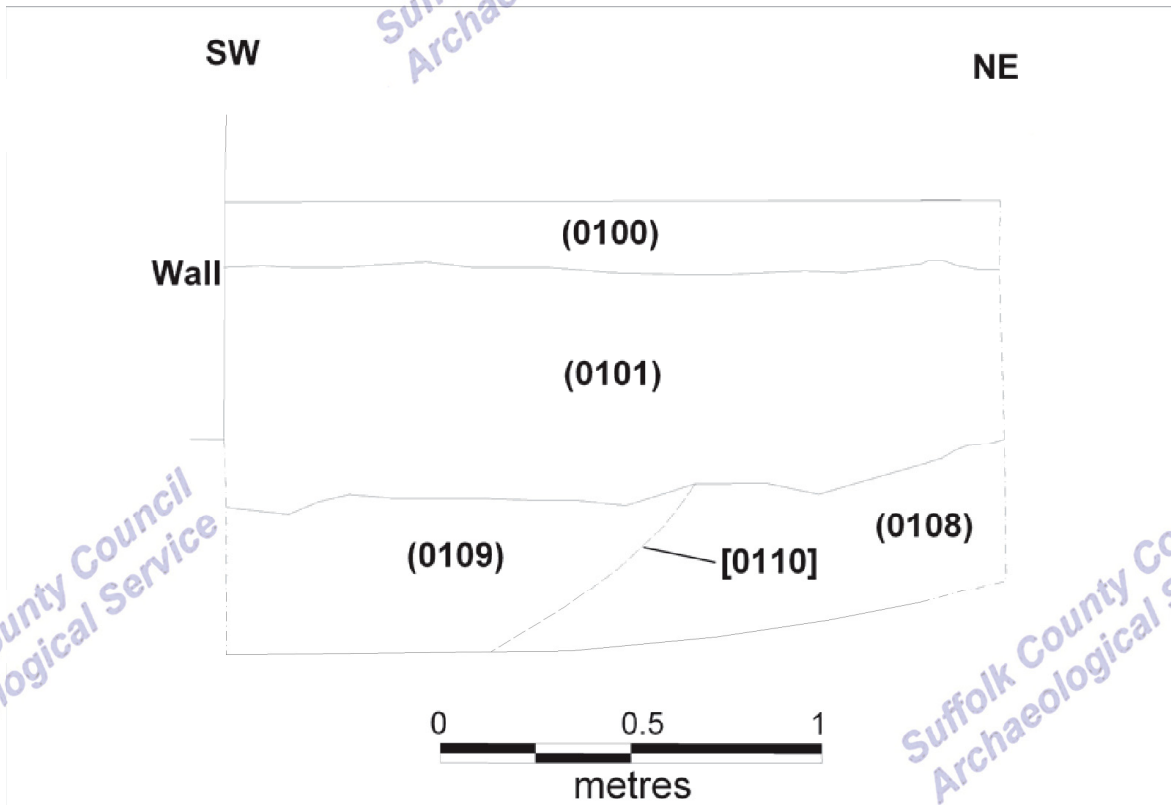


Figure 5. Southeast facing section.



Plate 3. Possible pit [0110] in Southeast facing section.

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6. Finds and Environmental Evidence. (Richenda Goffin)

6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from five contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	2	23			5	25		Unstratified
0102			2	44			1 iron frag @ 11g	Med/Late med
0104			2	124				Med/Late med
0108	1	3						15th-16th C
0109	1	1			2	19		15th-16th C?
Total	4	27	4	164	7	44		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Four fragments of pottery were recovered from the monitoring (0.027kg). A sherd of medieval coarseware (L12th-14th C) and a fragment of a Late post-medieval earthenware (18th-20th C) were collected as unstratified finds. A small fragment of unglazed Late medieval and Transitional type ware was found in 0108 dating to the 15th-16th century, and a very small piece of glazed ware with iron oxide stripe weighing less than a gramme was found in fill 0109, which is likely to be of a similar date.

6.3 Ceramic building material

Four pieces of ceramic roof tile were recovered (0.164kg). Two fragments from the fill 0102 of a possible pit are made in a medium sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions (msc) and have a slightly reduced core. Two additional joining fragments from pit-fill 0104 are similar in fabric and date, but as they have slight signs of mortar along one edge and on one flat face it is possible that they have been re-used. Both types of tile are medieval/late medieval in date.

6.4 Metalwork

A highly corroded fragment of unidentifiable iron was found in fill 0102.

6.5 Animal bone

Small quantities of animal bone were collected (0.44kg). The unstratified material was very fragmentary, but a bovine phalange was present in fill 0109.

6.6 Discussion

Only a small quantity of finds was recovered from the monitoring. The pottery and ceramic building material which were collected from a number of the features are not dissimilar in their date ranges. The finds may provide some evidence for the reworking of the site during the Tudor period.

7. Discussion

The fact that the natural geology was not seen in any portion of the foundation trenches indicates that the ground was raised significantly in the past. A number of possibilities spring to mind. If, as local legend suggests, the bowling green has a Tudor period predecessor then the thick re-deposited natural deposit at the base of the trench (0108) may have been an attempt to level up an adversely sloping outer bailey area to allow bowls to be played. The single sherd of late medieval or Transitional ware pot recovered from this deposit is at least of a date consistent with this theory. The proximity of the trench to the castle ditch may even suggest that the bowling green was starting to encroach on the edge of the ditch, necessitating a certain amount of infilling. A closer look at the English Heritage earthwork survey hints that just such a partial infilling of the ditch had occurred. Alternatively, deposit (0108) may be the up-cast from a phase of castle ditch enlargement. It seems possible that the clay inclusions within deposit (0108) may be alluvial silts from the base of the ditch. The limited assemblage of datable finds collected during the monitoring work does not really resolve the issue. At least one of the cut features seen to be truncating deposit (0108) has the form of a pit; [0111] although without having fully excavated its use remains unknown. The two other cut features, [0110] and [0112], were only partly seen and even less can be said about them. Rather than pits, it is possible that they may be parts of ditches, robbed out foundations, or industrial features. Once again the limited finds assemblage does not help the interpretation of these features, although they all appear to be of similar 15th-16th century date as the underlying deposit. The features may relate to some sort of enclosure mirroring the one indicated by the geophysical survey beside the castle entrance road; however this is purely hypothetical.

No human remains were collected during the works and nothing resembling a grave cut was recorded, so we can tentatively say that the probable Late Saxon cemetery does not extend as far as the clubhouse extension. This may of course depend on how deep the make-up layer is and whether it seals earlier graves, thereby protecting them from later disturbance.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The results of the work indicate that the portion of the outer bailey area of Framlingham Castle seen during the monitoring work was extensively occupied prior to its use for Bowls. The nature and even the date of this occupation remains unclear due to the limited scale of the monitoring work. Even so, the work has been a useful addition into our knowledge of the site. It is likely that the further phase of monitoring on the second extension to the clubhouse will also add to our understanding of the area.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

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10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Duncan Stirk of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was supervised by Duncan Stirk, and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. The production of site plans and sections was carried out by Duncan Stirk, and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

- Brown, D., 2007 Archaeological archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, IFA
- Heard, K., 2007 Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham. A Report on the Archaeological Evaluation, 2007. SCCAS Report 2007/173.
- Martin, L., 2002 Framlingham Castle, Framlingham, Suffolk, Report on Geophysical Surveys, July 2002. Centre for Archaeology Report 89/2002.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales , 1983, Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 4 Eastern England.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix I: Brief & Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

FRAMLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to construct a conservatory and store room extension at Framlingham Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/07/0366). 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 outer bailey of Framlingham Castle (a nationally important archaeological site). The bowling green and adjacent car park are excluded from the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument but the archaeological deposits underlying them are technically of the same national importance.
- 1.3 The original design for the foundations was a raft with thickened edges which would only have disturbed to a depth of some 300mm and an evaluation by trenching was carried out across the footprints of the two proposed buildings in September 2007. This revealed only garden soil with no archaeological features in the 300mm depth excavated (*Bowls Club, Castle Street, Framlingham (SMR ref.FML 046): A Report on the Archaeological Evaluation, 2007, SCCAS Report No.2007/173*).
- 1.3 Since this evaluation, the foundation design has been changed to include strip foundations to a depth of 900mm.. These will only cause minimal damage to any archaeological deposit present, 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 occupation relating to Framlingham Castle.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. 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: 2nd March 2009 Reference: /Framlingham Bowls Club

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.

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Appendix II: Context List

Context	Type	Description
0100	Deposit	Very dark grey organic clay sand silt. Trench wide by 0.20m thick.
0101	Deposit	Very dark grey organic clay sand silt. Trench wide by 0.45m - 0.60m thick.
0102	Fill	Light grey brown sandy clay. 1.14m by over 0.5m by 0.24m thick. Fill of pit? [112].
0103	Fill	Light grey brown clay sand. 0.75m by over 0.50m by 0.24m thick. Fill of pit? [112].
0104	Fill	Mixed grey brown sandy clay with chalk inclusions. 1.7m by over 0.5m by 0.40m thick. Fill of pit [111]
0105	Fill	Mid grey clay with some gravel and sand. 1.5m by over 0.5m by 0.14m thick. Fill of pit [111].
0106	Fill	Mixed light orange brown gravelly sand and mid grey clay. 0.58m by 0.5m by ? Fill of pit [111]
0107	Deposit	Light orange brown gravelly sand. 0.30m by over 0.5m by over 0.26m.
0108	Deposit	Mixed light grey brown clay sand and light grey clay deposit. 2.8m by 1.1m by over 0.52m. Re-deposited natural make-up.
0109	Fill	Mid brown clay sand silt fill with frequent chalk fragments. 1.5m by over 0.5m by over 0.34m thick. Fill of [110].
0110	Cut	Moderately steep and concave side and unseen base. 1.5m by over 0.5m by over 0.34m deep. Cut feature.
0111	Cut	Steep straight sided and unseen base. 1.8m by over 0.5m by over 0.52m deep. Cut of pit.
0112	Cut	Steep sided feature Over 1.1m by over 0.5m wide by over 0.36m deep. Cut feature.

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Appendix III: Finds

Context	Pottery No.	Pottery Wt/g	CBM No.	CBM Wt/g	Animal bone No.	Animal bone Wt/g	Miscellaneous	Spotdate
0001	2	23			5	25		Unstratified
0102			2	44				Med/Late med
0104			2	124			1 iron frag @ 11g	Med/Late med
0108	1	3						15th-16th C
0109	1	1			2	19		15th-16th C?
Total	4	27	4	164	7	44		