

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/022**

### **2 Church View, Wixoe WIX 019**

**R. Brooks**  
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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** SE/07/0920

**Grid Reference:** TL 718 430

**Funding Body:** Mr and Mrs Revell

**Curatorial Officer:** R D Carr

**Project Officer:** Andrew Tester, David Gill and Rob Brooks

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-58266

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

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## Summary

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 2 Church View, Wixoe, Suffolk. This revealed two undated possible quarry pits, one undated posthole and two ditch cuts. These two cuts may represent the same ditch and as such appear to respect a field boundary and road shown on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. Despite some truncation near to the existing building, there seem to be well preserved archaeological levels across the site. No finds were recovered.

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## 1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the machine excavation of footing trenches for a garage and house extension to the side and rear of 2 Church View, Wixoe, Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1), to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/07/0920 and was funded by the house owners, Mr and Mrs Revell.

The site was located off Church Terrace at grid reference TL 718 430 and at a height of c.60m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 1). The development area sloped gently towards Church Terrace and was a garden/driveway prior to construction.

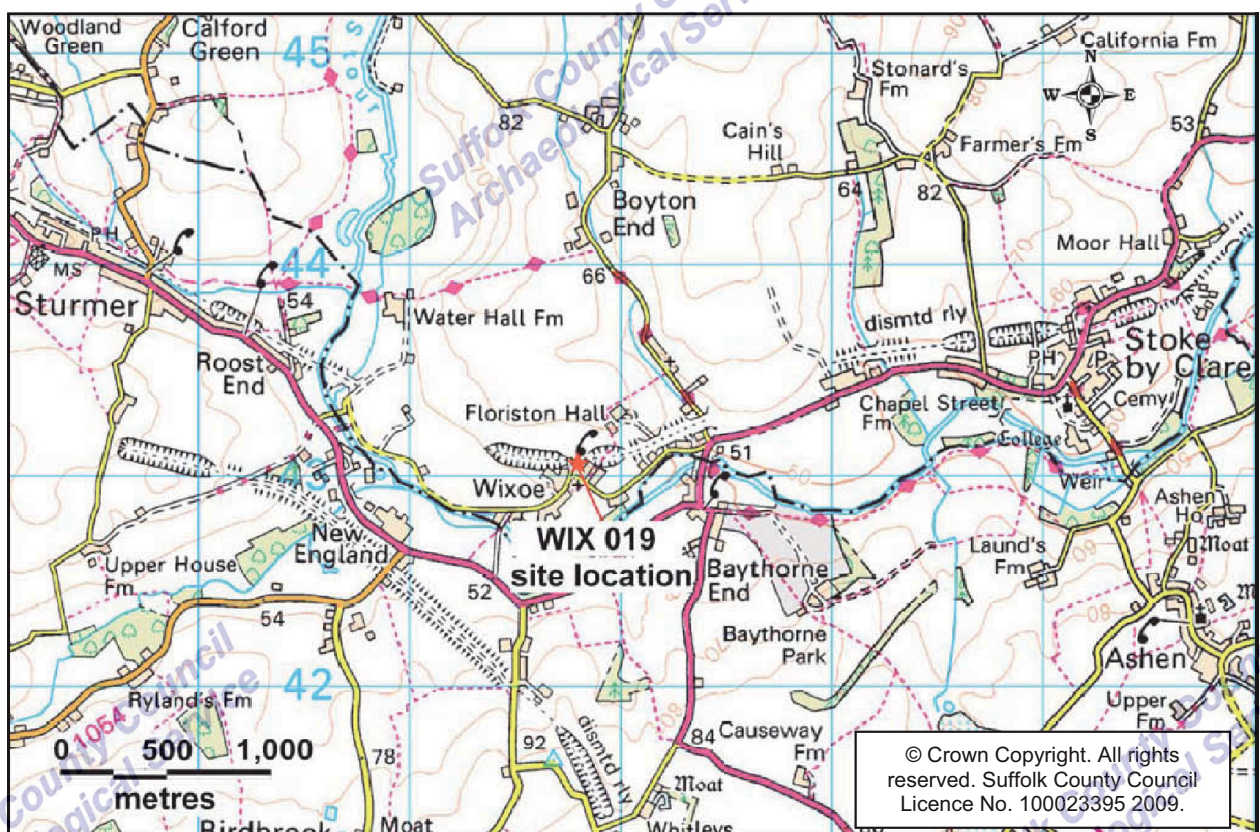


Figure 1. Site location

## 2. Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within an area of known medieval occupation, with pottery found to the south-west and south-east of the site at WIX 008 and WIX 010, respectively. The medieval parish church of St Leonard is also directly south of the site at WIX 004.

Roman pottery has also been found south-west of the site at WIX 008. Figure 2 highlights these listings from the Historic Environment Record (HER).

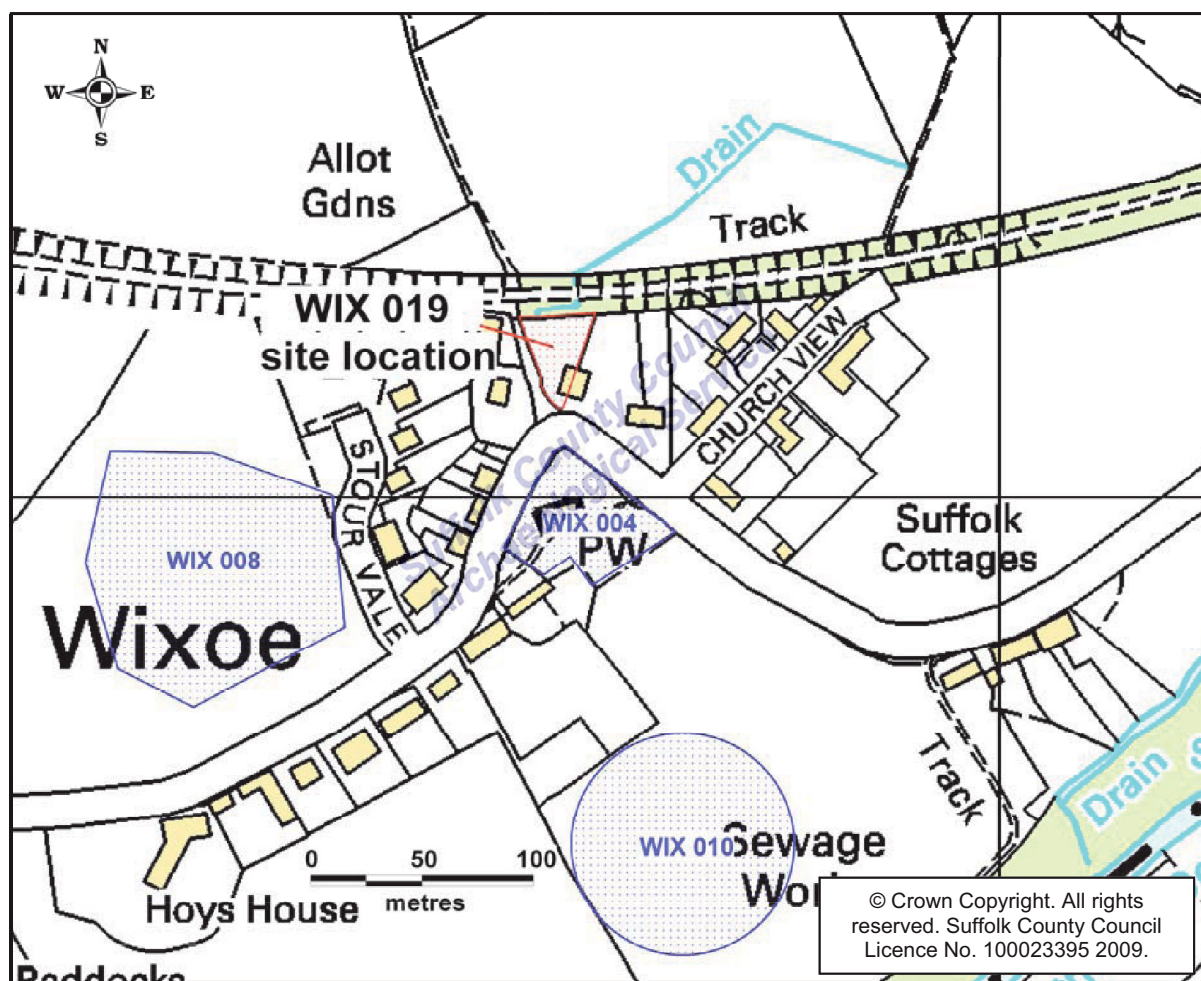


Figure 2. WIX 019 in relation to listings from the HER

Site code	Description
<b>WIX 004</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish church of St Leonard, consisting of a nave, with bell turret over it, a chancel, north vestry &amp; south porch. Medieval.</li> </ul>
<b>WIX 008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 rim sections of Thetford ware; 7 body sherds of late medieval type, including four of the late 15th century.</li> <li>Slight scatter of Roman pottery &amp; tile.</li> </ul>
<b>WIX 010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scatter of medieval pottery found by fieldwalking.</li> </ul>

Table 1. HER descriptions relating to Figure 2



### 3. Methodology

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Visits were made to the site after the trenches had been excavated in order to record any archaeological features. The trenches measured c.0.5m wide and were excavated using a mechanical digger through the level of the natural subsoil to c.1.0m deep (Figs. 3 and 4). Feature and trench profiles were cleaned by hand and then drawn at 1:20 scale. Spoil from the trenches was monitored and sorted for finds.

On-site records have been input into the MS Access database and recorded using the HER code WIX 019 (Appendix 2). Inked copies of feature and trench sections have been made (Fig. 4). An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-58266) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds, under the HER code WIX 019.

### 4. Results

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(Fig. 3 and Appendix 2)

The footing trenches revealed that the archaeological level was often well preserved below topsoil 0002 and subsoil 0018 but was partially truncated near the house by up to c.0.3m of concrete and the sub-base. The soil profile revealed in the trenches showed c.0.3m of very dark grey topsoil 0002, above a c.0.1m deep mixture of chalk and grey silt 0018. Below this was a chalk natural subsoil.

In total, two isolated pits, one posthole and two ditch cuts were recorded. The two ditch cuts are thought to possibly be part of the same feature as they were relatively close to each other. However, their appearance in section was quite distinct from one another in terms of their stratigraphy and form.

The features produced no finds and so could not be positively dated, although it is thought that pit 0003 in Trench 2 was likely to be relatively modern as it contained decaying wood in upper fill 0006.

#### **4.1 Trench 1**

This trench revealed pit 0003, in the north-west corner. This measured >1.04m (NNE-SSW) x >1m (WNW-ESE) x 0.92m deep. It contained three fills of dark and mid grey clayey silts. Basal layer 0004 was 0.44m deep, middle layer 0005 was 0.24m deep and top layer 0006 was 0.34m deep. 0006 contained decayed wood which appeared to be quite modern. It is unclear where the pit cut into the section of Trench 2.

#### **4.2 Trench 2**

Excavation of this trench revealed two distinct cut features. Posthole 0007 was located approximately halfway along the trench and was visible in the WNW section of the trench. It measured c.0.44m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.6m deep. It was filled with a single context of pale brown chalky silt, recorded as 0008.

The third feature in Trench 2 was ditch 0009. It was seen in both sections of the trench near the northern end and measured c.2.1m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.77m deep. It contained basal fill 0010 which was a grey clayey silt and was c.0.2m deep, middle layer 0011 which was a heavily iron stained grey clayey silt and was c.0.12m deep, and top layer 0012 which was a mid brown/grey clayey silt with chalk nodules that was c.0.52m deep.

#### **4.3 Trench 4**

In Trench 4 only one cut feature was recognised. Pit 0015 measured c.1.98m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.65m deep. It was filled with single context 0016, which was a mid-dark grey clayey silt with no inclusions.

#### **4.4 Trench 6**

Trench 6 contained one cut feature, ditch 0013. This is thought to be a possible continuation of ditch 0009. If this is the case then it is likely to be nearing a terminus of

the feature to the north-west because the ditch is smaller than in Trench 2 and did not appear to run on into Trench 5.

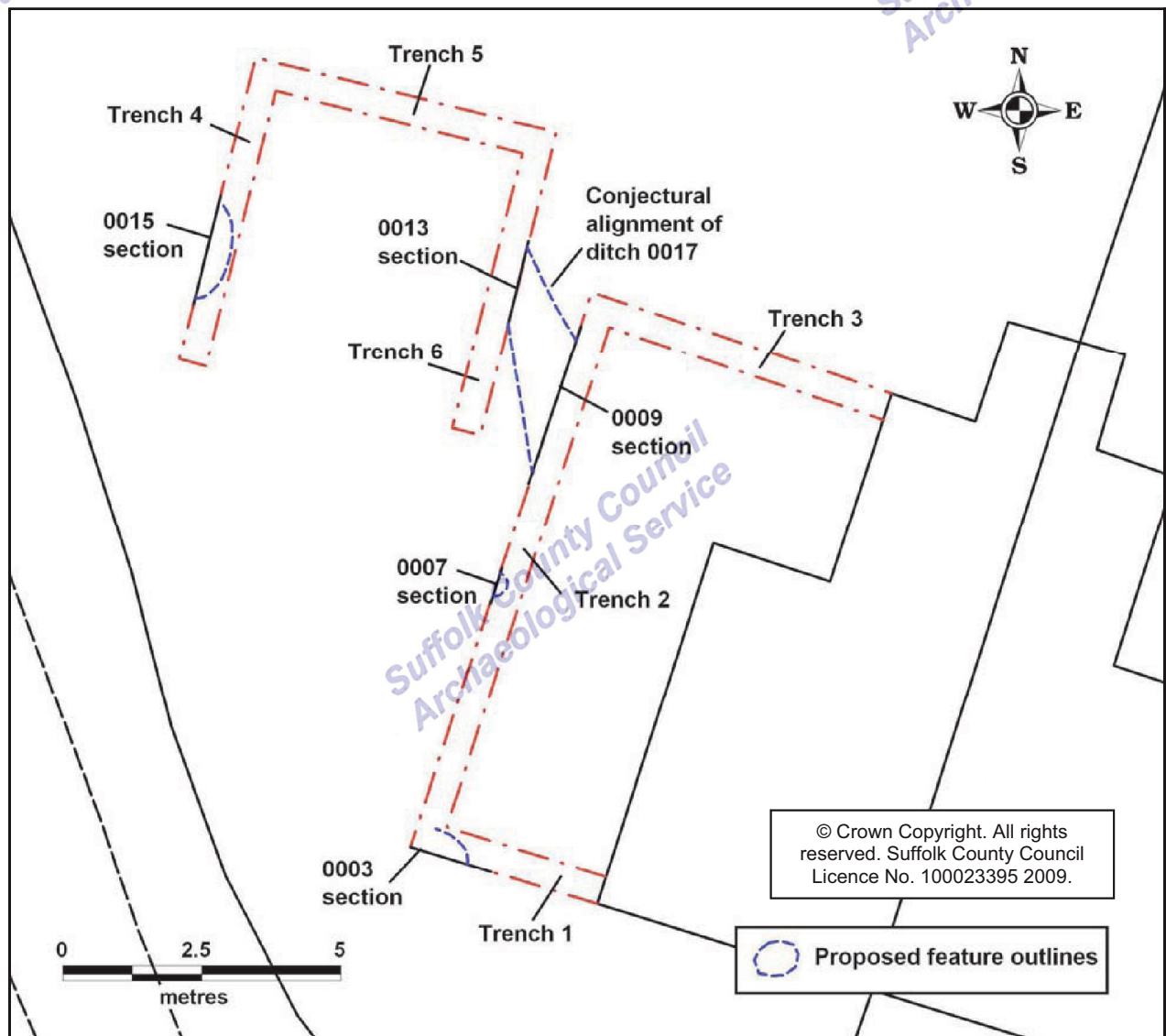


Figure 3. Trench and feature plan

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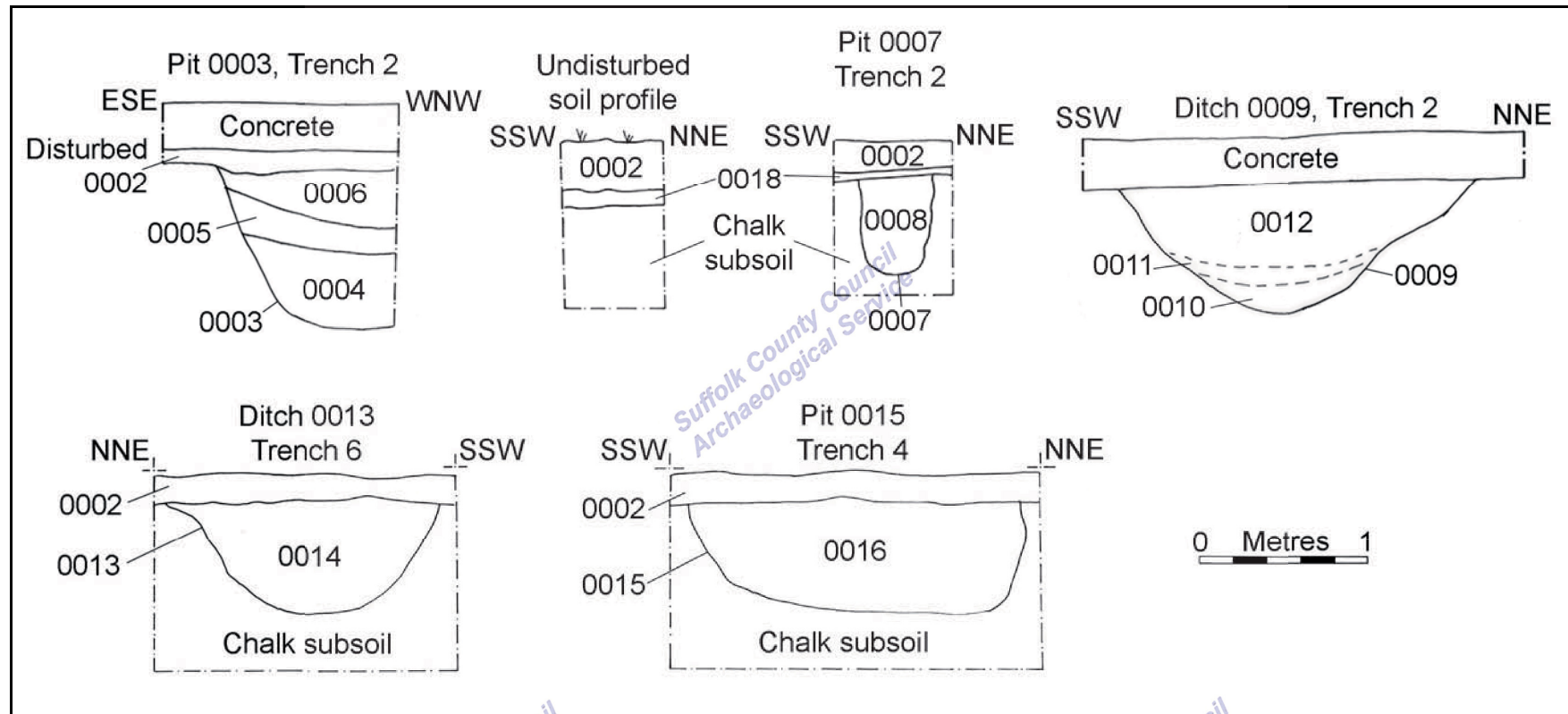


Figure 4. Feature sections and soil profile



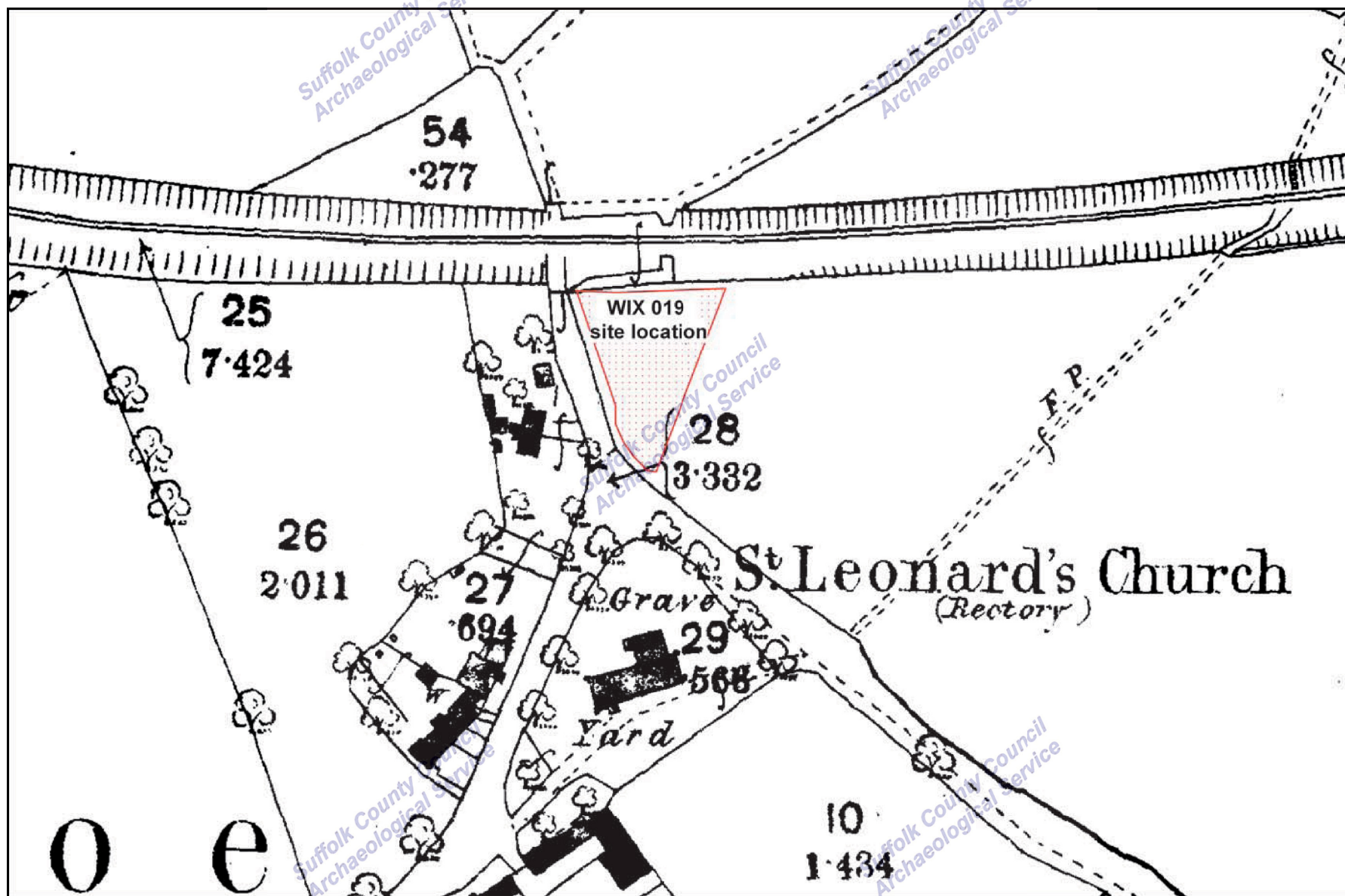


Figure 5. 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map showing site location



## 5. Discussion

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Monitoring of the groundworks revealed several features located throughout the trenches, although none of them could be positively dated. Whilst there was some disturbance in Trenches 1-3, it is not thought that this had truncated the site stratigraphy below topsoil 0002 and subsoil 0018. The first to third editions of the Ordnance survey maps (late 19th to early 20th century) showed only that the site was located close to a field edge, with no boundaries or other features shown to run across the area of the trenching.

The ditches defined in Trenches 2 and 6 are probably from the same feature. They indicate a ditch running north-west to south-east, which would correspond approximately with the alignments of the road and field boundary illustrated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and as such suggests some sort of relationship (Fig. 5). However, this is uncertain for two reasons. Firstly, the potential ditch boundary is located some distance from the original field boundary on Figure 5 and secondly, the stratigraphy and form in the two cuts differ slightly. This means that the interpretation of cuts 0009 and 0013 as a single feature is open to question.

The pits and the single posthole give very little evidence as to the prior occupation of the site. Pit 0003 appears to be of a relatively modern date due to the decaying wood found in upper fill 0006. It is possible that the pits were being used primarily as quarry pits to mine the chalk subsoil, which would explain why they were dug to a relatively great depth through such hard material. Posthole 0007 is obviously a remnant of some sort of structure, though whether this belonged to a building, fence line, or functioned in some capacity on its own is uncertain.

## 6. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

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Although several features were found in the open trenches during this monitoring, the lack of finds makes it very difficult to date the features and also to analyse their function. Similarly the lack of evidence for other postholes makes it very difficult to understand the use of 0007 in a wider context beyond being part of an undefined structure. Ditch

0017, comprising cuts 0009 and 0013, is possibly the most clearly interpretable feature, suggesting and respecting a late 19th century field or road boundary. Despite being some distance from the boundary shown on Figure 5 it may be a boundary or part of a trackway that had moved over time. The pits may well represent quarrying extractions that were back-filled with topsoil and subsoil. This is uncertain, but it would explain the lack of finds and why they were dug into chalk.

With projects of this nature it is difficult to make strong conclusions on the nature of past activity because of the limited visibility in trenches, and in this case, the lack of finds. However despite this, the monitoring was valuable in confirming the presence of archaeological features on the site and in the wider area as a whole, especially in relation to the position of the church.

## **7. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\Archive field proj\Wixoe\WIX 019, 2 Church View

## 8. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The monitoring was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andrew Tester and David Gill) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed and managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report by Rob Brooks.

The production of sections was carried out by Gemma Adams. The report was checked by Jo Caruth and Richenda Goffin.

### **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 1 – Brief and specification

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### **2 CHURCH VIEW, WIXOE**

*Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).*

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/07/0920). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.
- 1.2 The consent is for extensions to an existing building which is 30m from the medieval church and churchyard. There is high potential for this location to lie within the medieval and earlier historic settlement core.

The principal objective of the monitoring will be to establish whether early settlement extended to this location and to characterise it.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day.

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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

## 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 objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 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.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footings or ground-beam trenches and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. 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.

- 2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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: 3 August 2007

Reference: /2 Church View

**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.**

**CONSERVATION TEAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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## Appendix 2 – Context list

Context	Feature	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description	Over	Under
0001				Finds	Unstratified finds. None collected.		
0002				Layer	Topsoil. Recorded at depths of up to c.0.3m across the site, although sometimes truncated by concrete and other modern. Very dark grey varied topsoil. Often containing modern material.	0018	
0003	0003	1 2	Pit	cut	Recorded in the outside corners of Trenches 1 & 2. Contained fills 0004-0006. Truncated at the top by modern. Visible sides indicated c.55-65°, slightly concave sides, curving to a fairly flat base. >1.04m (NNE-SSW) x >1m (WNW-ESE) x 0.92m deep.		0004
0004	0003	1 2	Pit	fill	Basal layer in pit 0003. Dark grey clayey silt. No finds. Max depth c.0.44m.	0003	0005
0005	0003	1 2	Pit	fill	Middle layer in pit 0003. Mid grey clayey silt. No finds. Max depth c.0.24m.	0004	0006
0006	0003	1 2	Pit	fill	Top layer in pit 0003. Dark grey clayey silt. No finds, but did contain decayed wood, suggesting a relatively recent date for this fill, if not the pit as a whole, particularly taking into account the similarities of this fill to basal layer 0004. Max depth c.0.34m.	0005	
0007	0007	2	Posthole	cut	Small possible posthole or pit seen in the outer section of Trench 2. Abrupt break of slope. Sides are somewhat uneven but slope at c.0.85° before curving abruptly to a slightly concave base. C.0.44m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.6m deep. Fill = 0008.		0008
0008	0007	2	Pit	fill	Only layer recorded in pit 0007. Pale brown chalky silt. No finds. C.0.6m deep. Machine excavated.	0007	
0009	0009	2	Ditch	cut	Ditch seen in Trench 2. Probably the same as 0013, component 0017. Average break of slope. Slightly concave sides at c.45°, which curve gently to a rounded base. C.2.1m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.77m deep. Fills = 0010-12. Truncated at the top by modern		0010
0010	0009	2	Ditch	fill	Basal layer seen in 0009. Dark grey clayey silt. No finds. No inclusions. C.0.2m max depth.	0009	0011



Context	Feature	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description	Over	Under
0011	0009	2	Ditch	fill	Middle layer seen in 0009. Grey clayey silt but with a heavy concentration of Fe staining. No finds or inclusions. Max depth c.0.12m.	0010	0012
0012	0009	2	Ditch	fill	Top layer seen in 0009. Mid brown/grey clayey silt. No finds. Occasional small chalk nodules. Max depth c.0.52m.	0011	
0013	0013	6	Ditch	cut	Ditch in Trench 6. Probably the same as 0009, component 0017. NNE side = gentle-average break of slope, slightly convex at c.35°, before curving gently round to an approximately 55°, slightly concave slope. Gentle break of base. SSW side = abrupt break of slope, curving at c.60° and concave. Gentle break of base. Slightly concave base. 1.63m (NNE-SSW) x 0.68m deep.		0014
0014	0013	6	Ditch	fill	Only layer seen in ditch 0013. Mid-dark grey clayey silt. No finds. No inclusions. Max depth c.0.68m.	0013	
0015	0015	4	Pit	cut	Pit seen in Trench 4. SSE side = abrupt break of slope, c.55-60°, concave slope, gently curving break of base. NNW side = abrupt break of slope, c.85°, slightly concave slope, average break of base. Relatively flat base, sloping slightly to the NNE. C.1.98m (SSW-NNE) x c.0.65m deep.		0016
0016	0015	4	Pit	fill	Only layer seen in 0015. Mid-dark grey clayey silt. No finds. No inclusions. Max depth c.0.65m.	0015	
0017	0009 0013	2 6	Ditch	component	Component number for ditch seen in Trenches 2 and 6 which runs NNW-SSE. However, it was not seen in Trench 5. This may indicate that it was either terminating before this point, which is potentially indicated by its diminishing size from Trench 2 into Trench 6, or it may indicate that there was disturbance in Trench 5.		
0018				Layer	Subsoil layer. Mixture of chalk and grey silt. No finds recovered.		0002