

**Church Farm, Mendlesham**  
**MDS 150**  
**Planning application no. 1572/03**  
**Archaeological Monitoring Report, 2004/193**  
**OASIS ID No. 5833**

***Introduction***

Conditional planning consent for the construction of a new barn at Church Farm, Mendlesham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 1058 6586, just off the street frontage at the head of the former medieval market area, and immediately north of the church of St. Mary. It also lies within a large moated enclosure, itself almost certainly medieval and the site of a significant building. Remains of such a building and other settlement evidence may survive as buried deposits.

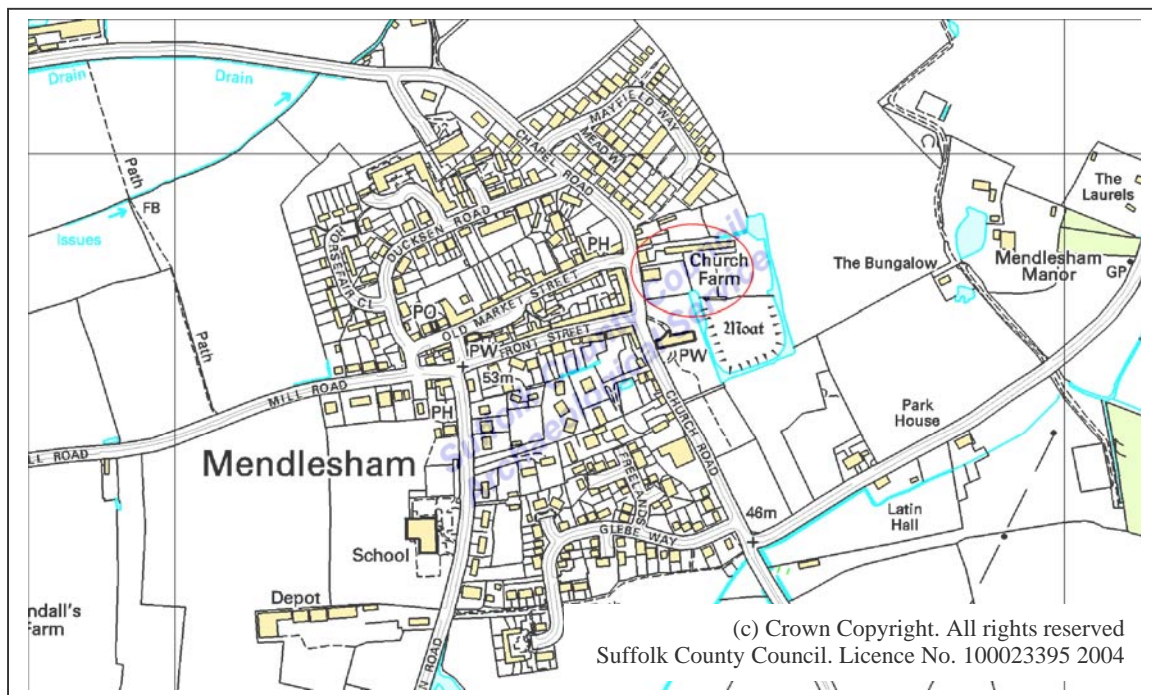


Figure 1: Site location

***Methodology***

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the machine excavated post-holes. The site was recorded under the SMR code MDS 150. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Bob Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The monitoring work took place during September 2004 and was commissioned by the owner, Mr. M. Exley. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

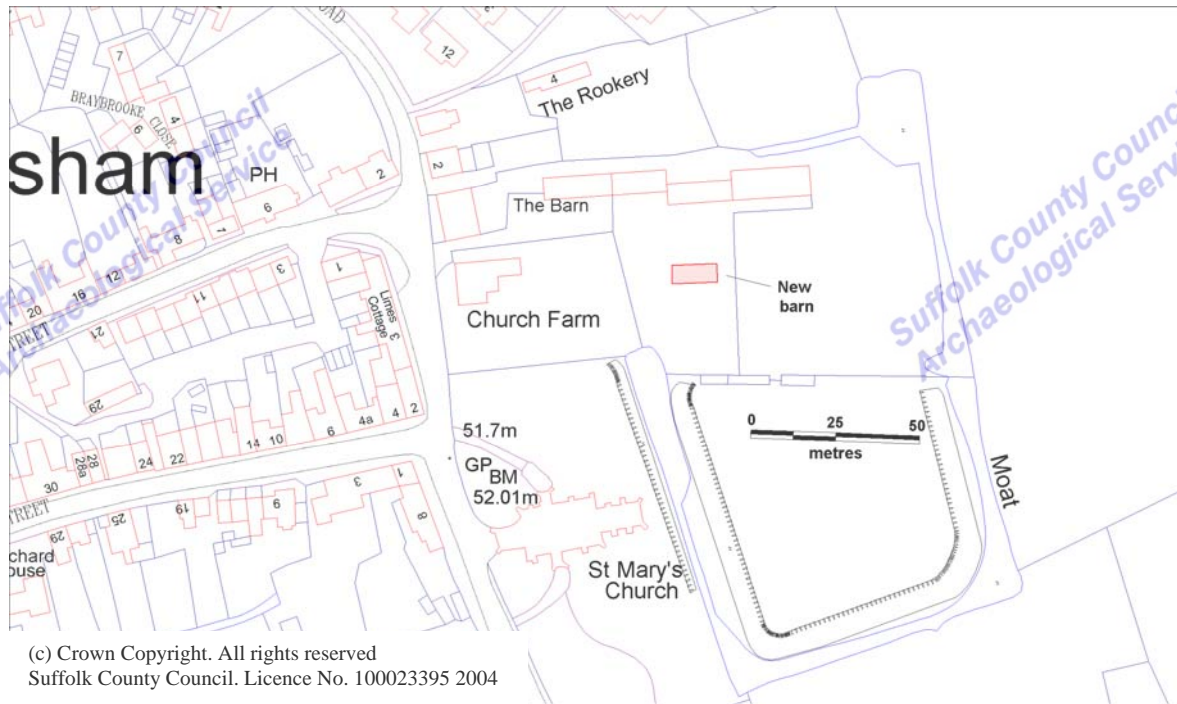


Figure 2: Location of new barn

### **Results**

Post-holes of approximately 1 square metre were excavated to a depth of c.0.5m, revealing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. The topsoil was some 350mm thick and comprised a dark brown sandy loam rich in post-medieval brick and tile. This sealed the natural subsoil, a pale yellowish brown clay sand. No archaeological interventions were observed in any of the excavated holes nor was any artefactual evidence recovered.

### **Discussion**

The excavated post-holes represent only a small glimpse into the site and thus the lack of archaeological evidence may not be representative. Until quite recently, modern agricultural buildings occupied the area, the construction and subsequent demolition of which may have disturbed shallow deposits, and probably accounts for the ceramic building material within the topsoil.

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 January 2005.