

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/030

**Bures Mill, Nayland Road, Bures St
Mary
BSM 053**

M. Muldowney

© May 2009

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

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

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HER Information

Planning Application No: B/09/00029/FHA
Date of Fieldwork: 27th and 28th April 2009
Grid Reference: TL 9110 3350
Funding Body: Dr. N Temple
Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mo Muldowney
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1_59168

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Bures Mill, Bures St Mary ahead of proposed development at the rear of the property. Footings trenches for a new conservatory were excavated and revealed a sequence of at least seven layers (including modern topsoil), the lower of which were either flood deposits or had been waterlogged previously. A fragment of pegtile recovered from the base of the exposed sequence suggests that all the observed layers were deposited in the late medieval or post-medieval period.

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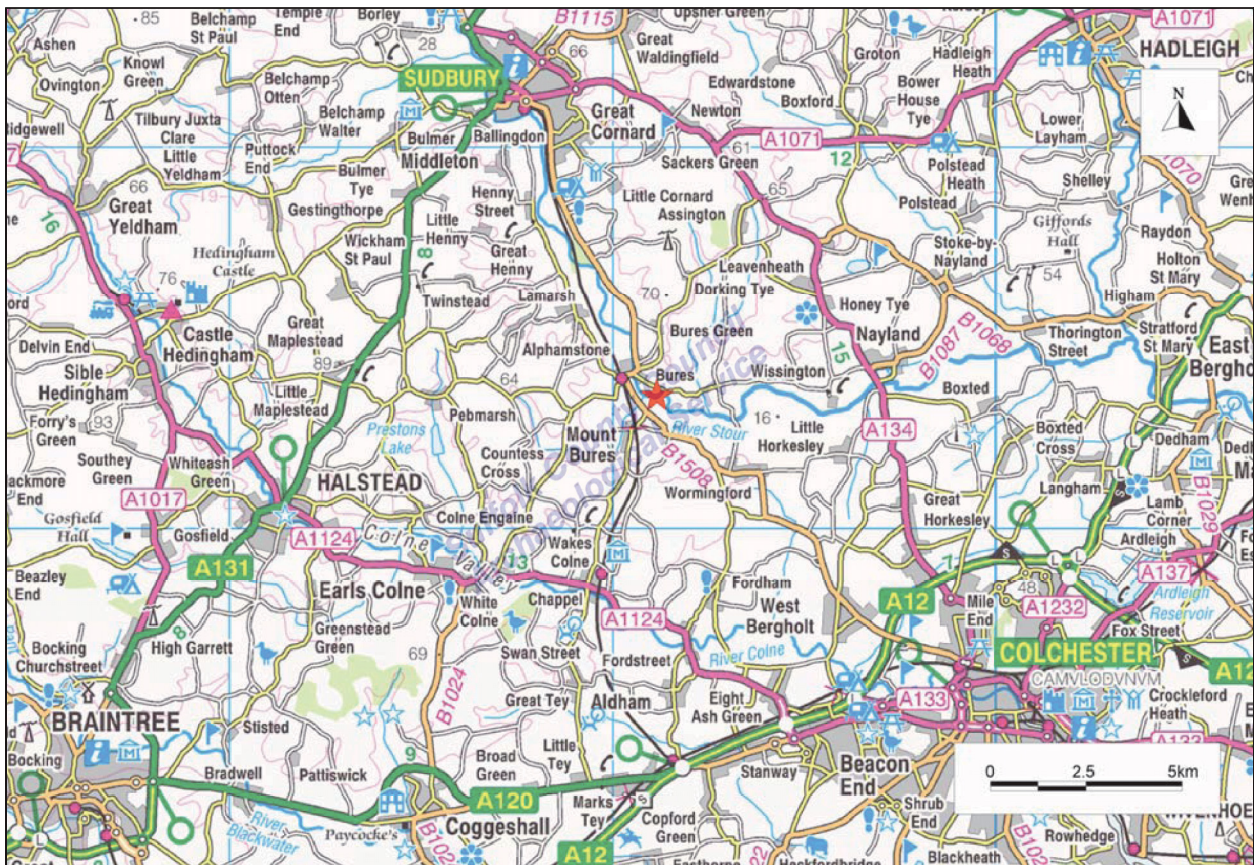
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1. Introduction

Monitoring at Bures Mill, Bures St. Mary (Fig. 1) was carried out prior to the proposed construction of a conservatory on the south side of the property (B/09/00029/FHA). The work was carried out on 27th and 28th April 2009 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).



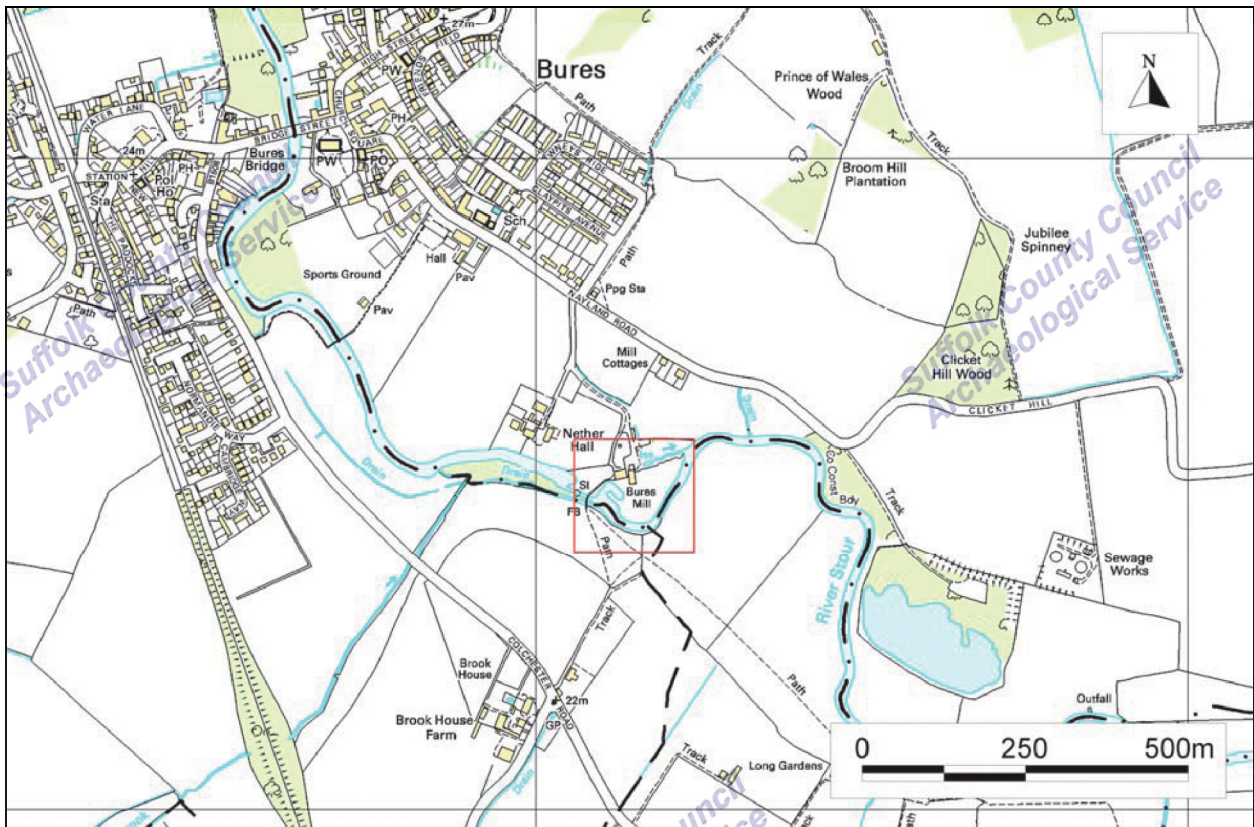
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Figure 1. Site location (marked by red star)

Bures St Mary straddles the River Stour, which acts as the county boundary between Suffolk (east) and Essex (west) and Bures Mill itself is located 760m to the south-west of the village, on the north side of a tight bend in the course of the river (Fig. 2).

2. Geology and topography

The underlying geology comprises glaciofluvial drift. The site itself lies on a slight



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Figure 2. Bures Mill

plateau, approximately 70m from, and just above the banks of, the River Stour at between 20m and 25m OD. The proposed conservatory lies with the garden of Bures Mill and replaces an earlier brick structure (demolished prior to archaeological works commencing).

3. Archaeological and historical background

Five Historic Environment Record (HER) entries are recorded within a 0.5km radius of the subject site (Table 1) and include Bures Mill itself (BSM 025). Most of the entries refer to undated cropmarks – predominantly ring ditches - that are probable prehistoric monuments.

On the south-facing valley side of the Stour, the HER records a further seven cropmarks (east of the 0.5km search area) denoting enclosures and a possible cursus monument (BSM 008) (Table 1). As before these are all undated, but are highly likely to be prehistoric in date, given their size and shape and their geographical location on the valley side. Additionally, just over 600m to the north-east, a fragment of a Bronze Age

socketed blade fragment (BSM 030) was found during metal detecting. On the Essex side of the River Stour there is further cropmark evidence for extensive prehistoric occupation of the lower valley, where a number of ring ditches and barrows have been identified, along with a series of linear ditches (McMaster and Evans, Fig. 7, 1996). These remains are likely to date from the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The mill, therefore, is set at the base of a valley which appears to have been well-used in the prehistoric period and thus the probability of identifying remains or objects of that date is medium to high.

| | HER Code | Description | Date | Grid Ref |
|----------------------|----------|--|----------|-----------------|
| Within 0.5km radius | BSM 006 | Two "marks on air photograph" | Undated | TL 9160 3360 |
| | BSM 012 | c. 30m diameter ring ditch | Undated | TL 9087 3358 |
| | BSM 017 | Cropmark of causewayed c.15m diameter ring ditch | Undated | TL 9092 3359 |
| | BSM 025 | Bures Water Mill and leat | Post-med | TL 9110 3350 |
| | BSM 028 | c. 30m diameter ring ditch, probably a garden feature in the grounds of Bures Hall | Undated | TL 9107 3359 |
| East of 0.5km radius | BSM 004 | Circular cropmark seen on OS air photograph | Undated | TL 9205 3338 |
| | BSM 008 | Parallel lines c. 30m apart – possible cursus? | Undated | TL 9188 3325 |
| | BSM 009 | c. 11m diameter ring ditch within ditches of BSM 008 | Undated | TL 9183 3325 |
| | BSM 010 | Outline of ?long barrow at east end of BSM 008 | Undated | TL 9176 3323 |
| | BSM 011 | Faint outline of ?long barrow at right angles to BSM 008 | Undated | TL 9193 3322 |
| | BSM 014 | c. 25m diameter ring ditch within rectilinear field cropmark | Undated | TL 9225 3334 |
| | BSM 030 | Socketed axe blade fragment | Br Age | TL 9165 3385 |

Table 1. Selected HER entries

Within the area of the post-medieval mill complex (BSM 025) known today as Bures Mill there is a high possibility of identifying post-medieval remains associated with the mill and also of discovering deposits (or structural remains) pertaining to a medieval or earlier Anglo-Saxon mill.

4. Methodology

The footings trench (measuring approximately 9m long by 5m wide) (Fig. 3) was mechanically excavated using a 600mm wide toothed ditching bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist following a plan established by the architect. Overburden and all other deposits were excavated to a depth of

approximately 1m and upcast spoil was removed using a small dumper. All exposed deposits were hand-cleaned and visually examined.

A drawn record of the exposed deposits was created at a scale of 1:20 and records were written on SCCAS *pro forma* sheets. A plan of the approximate location of the footings trench was produced using a combination of on-site measurements and technical plans provided by the client's architects. A colour photographic record was taken using a high-resolution digital camera.

No metal-detecting was undertaken and no environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. BSM 053 and a digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

5. Results

A series of seven layers (Fig. 4, Plate 1) were identified in the footings trench (Plate 2), which sloped gently downwards from west to east. Each deposit is described in sequence from earliest to latest in Table 2 below. A full description of each deposit can be found in Appendix 2.

Neither a natural deposit nor subsoil layer was encountered in the sequence.

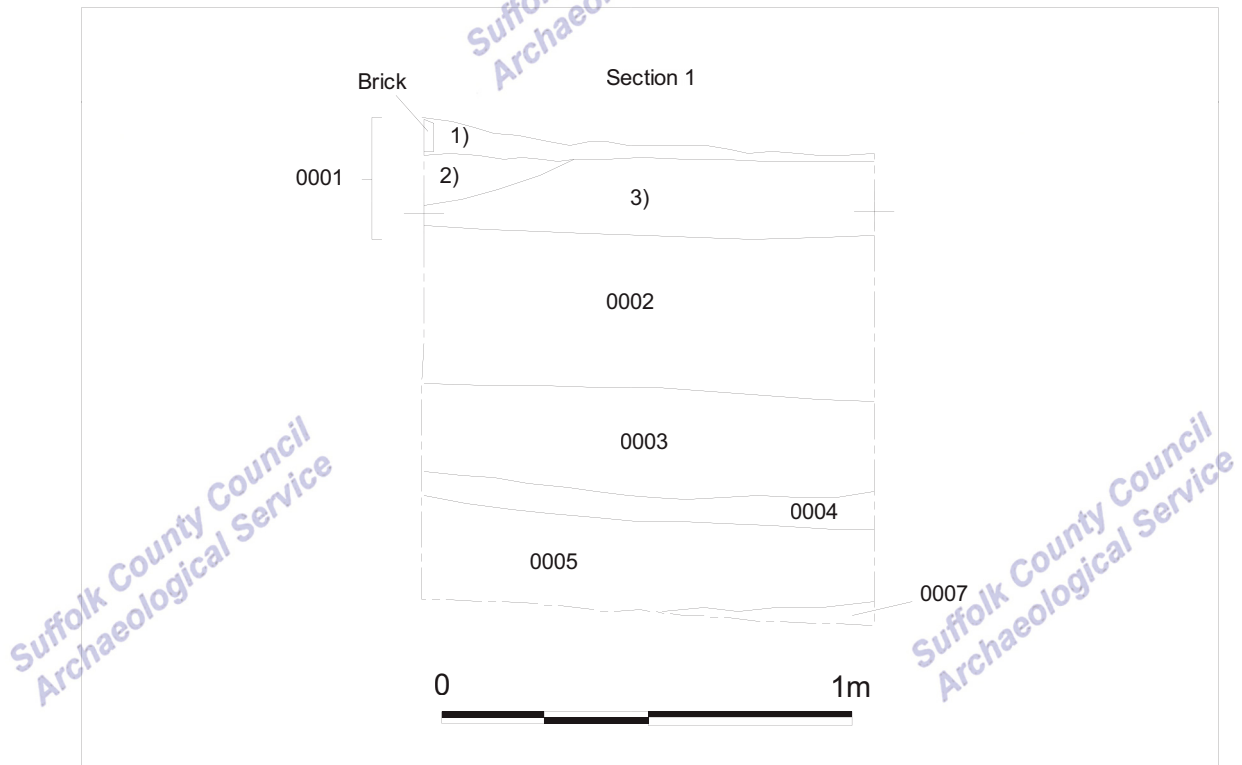
| Cont- ext | Description | Thickness | Finds | Date |
|--------------|---|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| 0001 | Three modern layers comprising: dark yellowish brown silty clay; redeposited mid yellowish clay; rounded pea gravel | 0.29m | - | Modern |
| 0002 | Dark greyish brown silty clay | 0.44m | - | Undated |
| 0003 | Mid yellowish brown silty clay | 0.28m | Rooftile, animal bone, iron object | Undated |
| 0004 | Mid brownish yellow silty clay | 0.08m | - | Undated |
| 0005 | Mid yellowish brown clay | 0.28m+ | - | Undated |
| 0006 | Mid reddish grey clay | - | Pegtile | Late Med/ Post-med |
| 0007 | Mid orange red clay with grey mottling | 0.06m | - | Undated |

Table 2. Layers observed within footings trench



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Figure 3. Footings trench plan (approximate location)



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Figure 4. Section 1



Plate 1. Section 1



Plate 2. Footings trench from south-east

6. Finds Evidence

Introduction

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

| Context | CBM | | Animal bone | | Miscellaneous | | Spotdate |
|---------|-----|------|-------------|------|---------------|------|-------------------------|
| | No. | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | |
| 0003 | 2 | 20 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 44 | Late med/ post-medieval |
| 0006 | 1 | 59 | | | | | Late med/ post-medieval |
| Total | 3 | 79 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 44 | |

Table 3. Finds quantities

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the monitoring (0.079kg). Two small pieces of rooftile were found in deposit 0003, which contained finds typical of agricultural or cultivated soil. One of these is made in a fine sandy fabric with small clay pellets (late med/post-medieval), whilst the second fragment is darker in colour and made of a coarser sandy fabric which is likely to be earlier in date, possibly medieval. A larger pegtile fragment from flooding layer 0006 is made in a medium sandy fabric with clay pellets, with a slightly reduced core and is also likely to date to the late medieval or post-medieval period.

Animal bone

Two fragments of animal bone collected from deposit 0003 include a fragment of rib, probably bovine.

Miscellaneous

A heavily corroded iron object (68mm in length) recovered from deposit 0003 awaits radiography.

Discussion

No finds dating to the prehistoric, Saxon or medieval periods were recovered from the features recorded during the monitoring, although a single rooftile fragment may be medieval. The ceramic building material may reflect late medieval/post-medieval activity in the vicinity, with the presence of the late medieval/post-medieval tile in layer 0006

providing useful evidence for the flooding deposits predating the construction of the house.

7. Discussion

The lowest three layers identified in the footings trench (0005 to 0007) had characteristics that are typical of flood deposits or waterlogged deposits. All had high clay contents - with an element of very fine silt - in comparison to layers 0002 to 0004, and contained occasional very small (less than 2mm) rounded fragments of chalk, charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM). Layer 0007 had a mottled appearance and layer 0006, immediately below, contained frequent patches of very small freshwater snail shells. That this type of water-affected/waterborne deposit was encountered at Bures Mill is not surprising given the proximity of the development area to the River Stour (less than 100m) and its position at the bottom of a valley. Indeed, flooding still occurs in the present day.

The overlying layers 0002 to 0004 were more reminiscent of agricultural or cultivated soils and contained oyster shell fragments, glass sherds, charcoal or coke-like material, animal bone and further fragments of CBM. These inclusions indicate that there was settlement nearby and may be traces of the domestic waste produced at the mill and the house that was subsequently built next to the mill.

The single fragment of pegtile recovered from layer 0006 suggests that the layers were all deposited in the late medieval/post-medieval period, regardless of where the tile derived from. A heavy artefact such as this could have been picked up upstream during a severe flooding episode and deposited here at the inside of the river bend.

8. Conclusions

The recovery of a pegtile fragment suggests that the lower sequence of clay-rich layers revealed in the footings trench can date to no earlier than the late medieval/post-medieval period and represents the last flooding event prior to the construction of the house. The later layers, containing small quantities of domestic waste, were also late to post-medieval in date and relate to the most recent domestic activity, up to and including the present day.

Although the monitoring identified solely late medieval/post-medieval layers, earlier deposits or features - in particular the medieval and Anglo-Saxon features highlighted in the Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) and the prehistoric remains indicated above (3 Archaeological and historical background) – may remain undisturbed beneath them. The potential, therefore, of finding archaeological remains in the vicinity of Bures Mill of medieval or earlier date is still high.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\ALL_site\Bures\BSM 053 Bures Mill

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

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10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Mo Muldowney from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team and managed by Jo Caruth.

Finds processing was carried out by Rebekah Pressler and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin, who also edited the report.

11. Bibliography

McMaster, I., and Evans, K A., 1996 Mount Bures: its lands and its people. A brief history from Prehistoric to Victorian times / McMaster, *Mount Bures*

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.

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

THE MILL HOUSE, NAYLAND ROAD, BURES ST MARY, SUFFOLK (B/09/00029/FHA)

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a new conservatory (measuring c. 8.00m x 4.70m in area) at The Mill House, Nayland Road, Bures St Mary (TL 911 335), has been granted by Babergh District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/09/00029/FHA).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This proposal is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the area of the post-medieval mill complex (HER: BSM 025). There is high potential for archaeological deposits relating to the mill complex to be encountered at this location. There is also a strong possibility that medieval, and earlier Anglo-Saxon, deposits relating to an earlier mill will be encountered at this location, given the favourable topographic location on the River Stour. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 (9-10 The Churchyard, 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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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.
- 1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.6 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

- 1.7 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new conservatory and other associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

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 SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.

- 5.7 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel. : 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 6 April 2009

Reference: /TheMillHouse BuresStMary2009

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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 2. Context Summary

| Context | Description | Thickness | Findings | Date |
|---------|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0001 | Three modern layers comprising: 1) rounded pea gravel in a dark brown silty matrix (see section) 2) redeposited firm mid yellowish clay with small chalk flecks and occasional sub-rounded flint 3) friable dark yellowish brown silty clay | 0.29m | - | Modern |
| 0002 | Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with common small chalk and charcoal/coke/coal flecks, CBM fragments, oyster shell and glass. Rare small to medium rounded flint | 0.44m | - | Undated |
| 0003 | Friable mid yellowish brown silty clay with common small oyster shell, charcoal/coke/coal, chalk and CBM. Slightly more yellow in colour at east end | 0.28m | Roof tile, animal bone, iron object | Late med/post-med |
| 0004 | Friable, mid brownish yellow silty clay with rare, rounded medium flint and very small flecks of chalk and charcoal | 0.08m | - | Undated |
| 0005 | Firm mid yellowish brown clay with common small charcoal, occasional small chalk flecks and rare, very small rounded flint | 0.28m+ | - | Undated |
| 0006 | Firm, mid reddish grey clay with occasional charcoal, chalk and oyster shell | - | Peg tile | Late med/post-med |
| 0007 | Compact, mid orange red clay with grey mottling with rare chalk, charcoal and very small CBM fragments | 0.06m+ | - | Undated |