

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**MOAT FARM, CRETINGHAM**

**CRE 003**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007  
(SAM No: 21296)

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Linzi Everett  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/78

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## List of Contributors

Linzi Everett    Project Officer    Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service  
Richard Darrah    Independent wood specialist

## Summary

Monitoring of desilting works at Moat Farm, Cretingham, was carried out as a condition of the Scheduled Ancient Monument consent. (SAM 21296). A small area of consolidated deposits was observed east of the northern causeway but map evidence suggests these are of relatively modern origin. Modern rubbish was also present in the same area, amongst which was a large oak plank off-cut of uncertain date or origin. Elsewhere only detrital silts were present, from which no archaeological or artefactual evidence was recovered.

## HER information

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) no.	21296
Date of fieldwork:	October - November 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 2358 6138
Funding body:	Mr. A. Lettin
OASIS ID:	61120

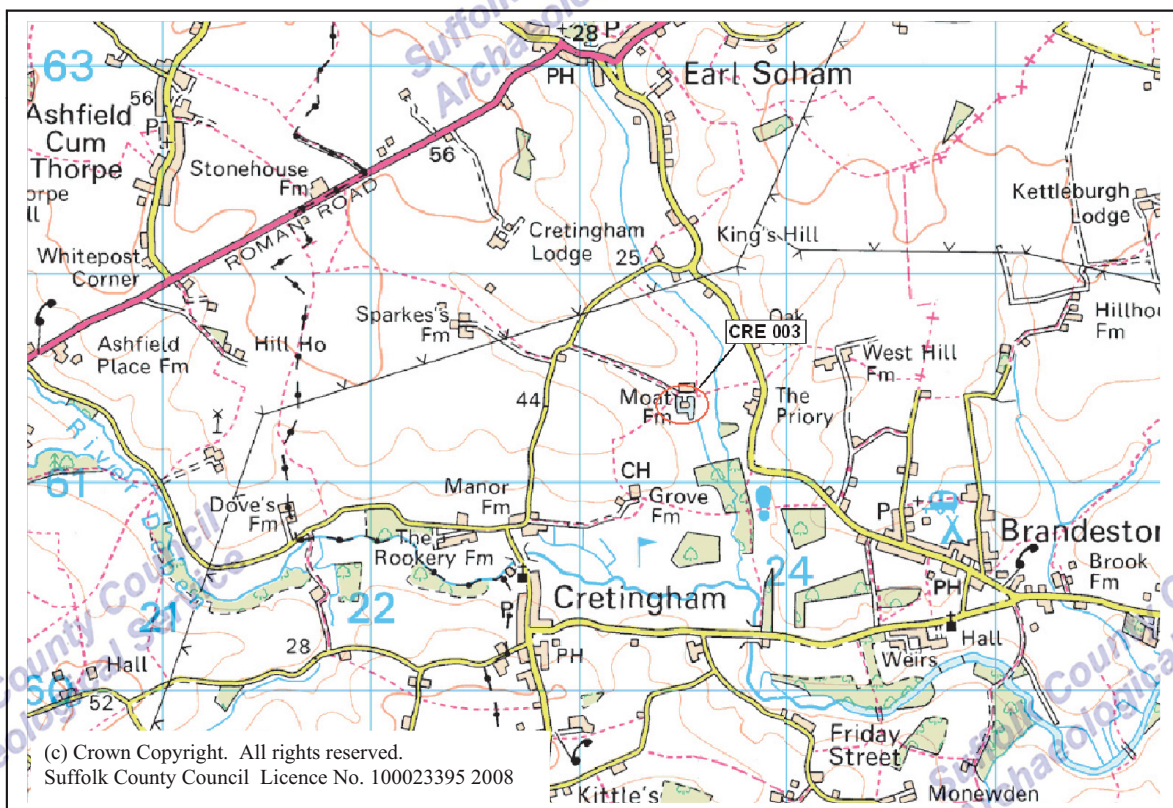


Figure 1. Site location

## Introduction

Desilting works at Moat Farm, Cretingham,, required a programme of archaeological monitoring as a condition of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) consent as provided by English Heritage. The site lies at TM 2358 6138 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 23m OD. The square moat is located in an isolated position adjacent to a tributary of the River Deben which also forms the parish boundary.

## Methodology

Various visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to supervise the moat clearance as it took place. Supervision was intended to provide a record of the moat clearance, ensure that only recent deposits were removed, consolidated deposits were preserved in situ and the profile of the earthwork was not compromised. The deposits removed were discarded in a known location and allowed to weather before being inspected for artefactual evidence. The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code CRE 003. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by William Fletcher of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork took place during October 2007 and was funded by the owner, Mr. A. Lettin.

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

## Results

Prior to desilting, trial excavation was carried out in three locations around the moat in order to determine the nature and depth of deposits. These suggested that no significant consolidated deposits survived within the moat which would require preservation in situ, only recent organic silts were observed overlying the natural gravel and clay deposits which formed the sides and base of the moat. Where the machine needed to work from within the moat, access was gained from a point where the original ditch profile appeared to have already been compromised.

Immediately east of the causeway at the north of the site, removal of the detrital silts revealed a mid brown sandy silt consolidated deposit which was carefully scraped clean of silts then left in situ (Plate 2). Nearby, an area of modern rubbish was noted in the internal bank of the moat, including brick fragments, glass and glazed china. A large, well preserved piece of worked oak was also present (Plates 3 and 4). This was taken to wood specialist Richard Darrah for comment. He identified it as a 405mm x 75mm off-cut from the end of a heavy plank, probably discarded whilst green, the end and faces of which were sawn whilst the sides were hewn. An angular cut had been made at one end which measured 95°. It is likely that this off-cut, perhaps from a piece of furniture, was either casually discarded into the moat as rubbish or deliberately placed on the bank to provide some kind of makeshift platform (R. Darrah, pers comm.)

Silts removed were spread over an adjacent field shown on Fig 2. No artefactual evidence was recovered from this upcast spoil.

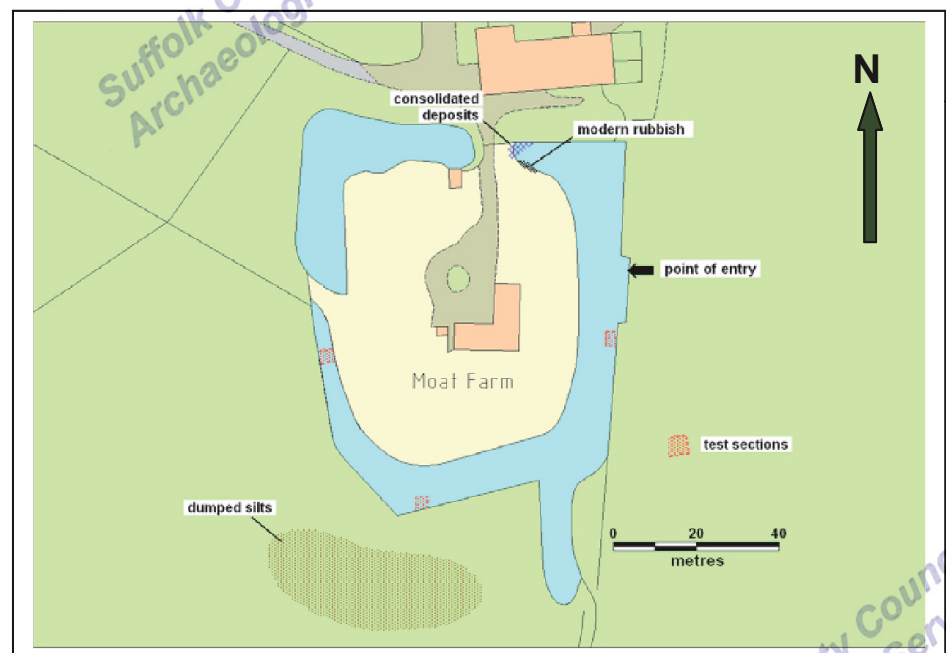


Figure 2. Location of ground works

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## Discussion

Despite the sites high potential for evidence of medieval activity, no pre-modern deposits were observed. Only a small area of any kind of consolidated deposits was present, within which no archaeological evidence was visible on the surface. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3) suggests that this part of the moat was more extensive than it is today, with the recent rubbish noted on the internal bank perhaps the result of some deliberate infilling in this location. The lack of any consolidated silts elsewhere within the moat suggests regular cleaning over its lifetime and/or thorough machine desilting in modern times.

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December 2008

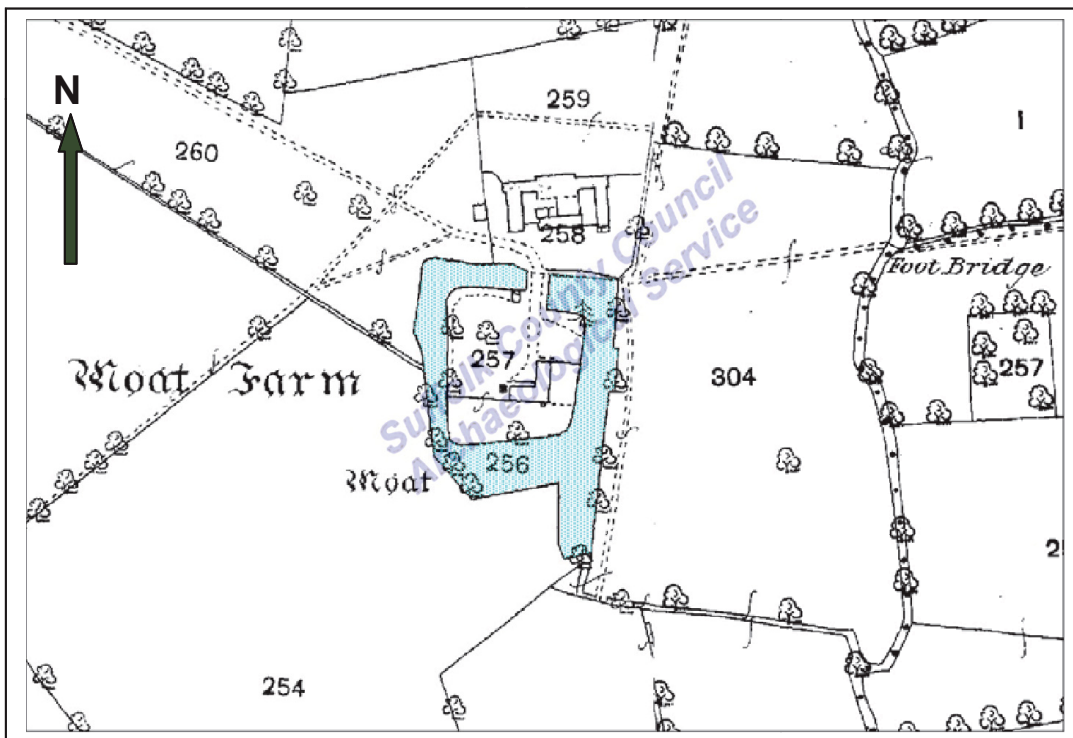


Figure 3. Moat Farm, Cretingham, as shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map dated c.1880



Plate 1. North west corner of moat during desilting, looking south east



Plate 2. Consolidated deposits adjacent to causeway, looking south west



**Plate 3.** Oak object



**Plate 4.** Close up of sawn angle



**Plate 5.** Southern end of the east arm during de-silting, looking south



**Plate 6.** Southern end of the east arm after de-silting, looking south



**Plate 7.** North east corner during de-silting, looking south west



**Plate 8.** North west corner after de-silting, looking north east



**Plate 9.** South west corner of moat after de-silting, looking south



**Plate 10.** West end of northern arm after de-silting, looking west

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

*Brief and Specification for Archaeological Consultation and Monitoring of Specific works  
relating to the refurbishment of moats and moated sites.*

Relating the Moat at Moat Farm, Crettingham, On behalf of Mr Alan Lettin.

NB. This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), and this archaeological work is central to and a condition of the SAM consent as provided by English Heritage

*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 building contractor and will have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.1 & 4.1*

## 1. Background and General Principles

- 1.1 Moated sites are one of Suffolk's commonest archaeological sites with nearly 1000-recorded examples surviving to the present day. This does not diminish their importance as it is a factor of the local settlement and soil condiments that means Suffolk has more than any other county in England.
- 1.2 These are settlement features of the medieval landscape and the majority of them date to the period between 1200 and 1350 AD, although there are both earlier and later examples in Suffolk. In form they are normally a square, or sub-square shape with a single entrance or causeway. Again however a local geographical conditions and variations produce a wide range of forms and sizes. They are however almost an entirely a feature of the high Suffolk Clay soils, which often share issues relating to drainage.
- 1.3 Many moats have associated features, such as adjoining fishponds, ditches and ancillary moats or are found in clusters around a landscape feature such as a large former green or common. On the whole the main buildings were on the central island with the farm on the outside, although many moats are no longer inhabited or the current building is of a later period.
- 1.4 Up to 20% of the moats in Suffolk are Scheduled Ancient Monument, and protected under national legislation. These monuments are considered of national importance. Any work on a SAM will require permission from English Heritage. Many of the remaining moats are recognised on the County based Sites and Monuments Register (SMR) and are considered to be of regional importance, and of a high management priority. Consent is required for-
  - Any work within the area of scheduling
  - Work affecting the setting of a SAM monument including areas directly outside of the scheduled area
- 1.5 Damage to archaeological deposits commonly occurs during the following management tasks
  - Scrub management, tree clearance of the ditch or Island
  - Ditch cleaning
  - Environmental and conservation activities
  - Development work relating to building within the island, and around the curtiledge of the monument
- 1.6 The archaeological element of a moated site are-
  - The site context e.g. its setting and location
  - The interior (or island) of the moat- e.g. Surviving elements that include
    - A raised island created from ditch upcast
    - Surviving (above ground) structures e.g. house, gate house, or bridge
    - Preserved below ground archaeological deposits relating former structures and habitation
  - The moat ditches-
    - The shape of the moat in plan
    - The shape of the moat ditches in profile
    - Archaeological material from within the moat ditch, e.g. preserved structures, building or demolition debris, preserved organic finds such as wood
  - Preserved ditch deposits and archaeological sediments e.g. silts and organic rich mud from within moat ditches

- Primary and secondary deposits could contain preserved organic and non-organic archaeological finds relating to the site and they should be left in situ as an intact part of the archaeological record.
- These sediments have the potential to preserve plant remains, molluscs, or small micro fossils such as pollen, which have the potential to inform on past environments relating to earlier periods
- Areas adjacent to site- e.g. immediately outside of or surrounding the moat
  - The archaeological remains of external or ancillary buildings both above and below ground
  - The archaeological remains of additional features such as ponds, secondary or ancillary moats
  - Ditches and drainage features feeding into or draining away from the moat,

1.7 Moat ditches that are currently unexcavated or are dry should only be excavated when an acceptable program of archaeological monitoring has been agreed and a palaeo-environmental assessment has taken place.

1.8 Wet ditches, i.e. those that retain water all year round are very likely to have been cleaned out at some point in the past. Therefore the removal of tertiary deposits (such as detrital build up within a wet moat) essential to maintain the water table of the moat, is a generally desirable principle, as this maintains the context of that monument. Two principles apply

- only silts that can be demonstrated to be modern (i.e. recent detrital build up) should be removed
- Excavation of detrital build up should not impinge or damage surviving archaeological deposits or deeper primary/secondary fills.

1.9 The shape in plan of the site and the shape and profile of the ditches should not be compromised or altered by any work Palaeo-environmental assessment prior to the commencement of any capital works may be required to establish the state of affairs.

1.10 No work should be carried out on the interior or 'island' of the moat with out SAM consent, and work including access by heavy plant or other machinery should be restricted to prevent damage to surviving archaeological deposits.

## 2. The Archaeological Consultation and Monitoring - Background

2.1 SAM consent has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the potential exists for archaeological deposits or finds to be present at the sites.

2.2 This work is the refurbishment of the moat at Moat Farm, Crettingham, by clearing vegetation and the removal of a build up of modern detrital material.

2.3 The moat is considered a part of a large-scale archaeological monument, is part of the Scheduling and it is assumed that there is a potential that archaeological deposits will be affected and compromised by this proposal.

2.4 This work can however be adequately managed, guided and recorded under a program of careful works, which has included archaeological consultation with the conservation team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Archaeological control will be provided by way of a three stage monitoring.

- Part one - The archaeologist will be consulted prior to and during the initial stages of the work. They will seek to guide and inform the contractor on the level, depth and amount of sediments to be removed. This is ensure that important archaeological deposits are not removed during this work
- Part Two- The archaeologist will monitor the work as it progresses to ensure that the moat and the work is adequately recorded, and that any features uncovered are identified, recorded and protected insitu.
- Part Three- The contractor will ensure that material removed from the ditch is spread out locally and allowed to weather down. The archaeologist will be allowed access to this waste to recover any archaeological material for recording and analysis

2.5 The contractor is to seek archaeological guidance at and during each stage of the works

2.6 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. Therefore a Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief will be required. This is two



fold and should include a methodological statement by both the contractor used for the moat refurbishment and the archaeological contractor commissioned to undertake the monitoring work on how the moat work will be undertaken, what equipment will be used and under what condition.

- 2.7 This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval prior to the commencement of the project. Furthermore work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractors as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.

### 3. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 3.1 The work here is to be provided in three stages.
- To provide initial guidance for the moat refurbishment by undertaking on site visual evaluation of the situation, before and during the first stage of the works, to ensure that only those deposits, which are considered not to be of archaeological value, are removed.
  - To provide a monitoring and recording of the work as it progresses, to ensure that the refurbishment does not over cut or expose new and previously unexcavated areas around the remainder of the sites
  - To evaluate the material that has been removed from the ditch to recover any artefactual evidence
- 3.2 The main academic objective will be to monitor, investigate and record the moat, and deposits exposed as work progresses and to provide a record of any archaeological deposits, which are accidentally damaged or removed during the development, permitted under this proposal.
- 3.2 Further examination of deposits that have been removed will be required to ensure that any archaeological artefacts are recovered.

### 4. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 4.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- 4.2 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, 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.
- 4.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The approved archaeological contractor should estimate the size of the contingency from the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 This work may be weather critical and arrangement should be made not to undertake work which may compromise archaeological control in unfavourable conditions

### 5. Specification

- 5.1 The developer shall consult initially with and will 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.
- 5.2 The 'observing archaeologist' will initially set the level and extent to which the deposits are removed based on the conditions found on site. This is to ensure that the moat shape and profile are not compromised, that no primary archaeological deposits are removed and that structures or feature revealed in the moat such as causeways or bridges are left intact.

- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 Opportunity must be given to the observing archaeologist to observe any silt deposits removed from the site. These should be spread out in a nearby location in a manner to ensure that they can be examined and material recovered if necessary. All finds are to be kept, processed and recorded as part of the work.
- 5.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:20.
- 5.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 5.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

## 6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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 Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.2 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 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.
- 6.3 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).
- 6.4 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 6.5 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.

Specification by: William Fletcher

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
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Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007

**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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