

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/190

93 Cliff Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FEX MISC

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/08/2159

Date of Fieldwork: 06-08 July 2009

Grid Reference: TM 3215 3604

Funding Body: Mr and Mrs Woodhouse

Curatorial Officer: Judith Plouviez

Project Officer: Kieron Heard

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-61791

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

Summary

FEX MISC, 93 Cliff Road, Felixstowe: An archaeological monitoring was carried out in advance of the construction of side extensions to the existing house. It revealed a vertical sequence of natural deposits consisting of boulder clay, glacio-fluvial sand and loessic soil. No archaeological deposits were found and no artefacts recovered.

1. Introduction and methodology

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 93 Cliff Road, Felixstowe (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of side extensions to the existing house (planning application number C/08/2159). It was commissioned by the architect, Mr. Allerton, on behalf of the householders Mr and Mrs Woodhouse, who funded the archaeological work. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by Judith Plouviez (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and a copy is appended to this report.



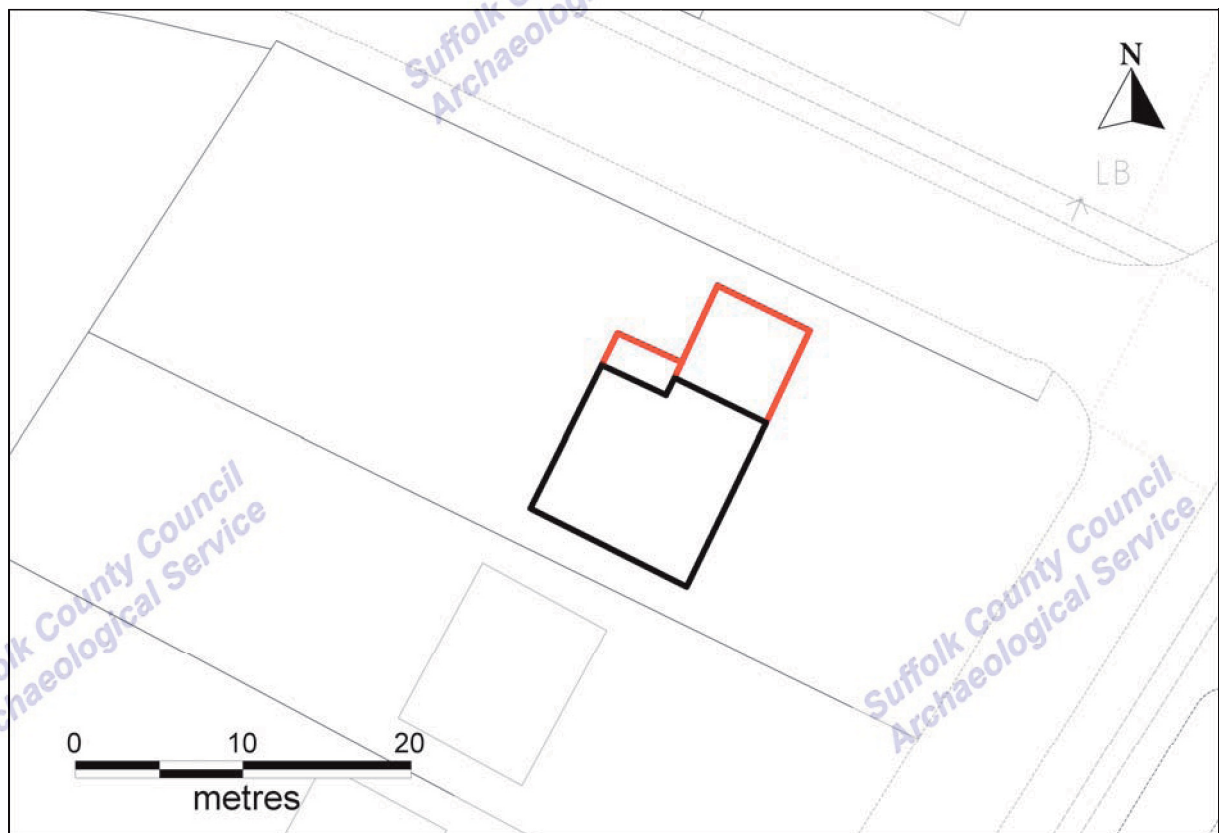
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Figure 1. Location map

The site is located in an area of archaeological significance, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. Notably, it is approximately 250m northwest of the remains of a Roman shore fort (HER number: FEX 030; shown on Fig. 01) and close to the site of possible Roman burials exposed by cliff erosion in the 19th century. Due to the high potential for Roman activity on the site the Brief and Specification called for continuous monitoring of the groundwork associated with the development.

The writer monitored the excavation of the trenches for the strip foundations of the proposed extensions, which were dug by site contractors using a small mechanical excavator. The trenches measured 0.60m wide by 1.00 – 1.20m deep and had a combined length of 26m (Fig. 2).

Site records were made in a field notebook and all salient details have been reproduced in this report. A digital photographic record was made. A metal detector was used to scan excavated soil and former flower beds at the front of the house.



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Figure 2 Plan showing the existing building (black) and the proposed extensions (red)

2. Results

The monitoring revealed a straightforward, vertical sequence of natural strata, disturbed in places by modern service trenches and the footings of former buildings. The deposits are summarised in Table 1, where *depth* refers to the depth below the adjacent pavement level, estimated at approximately 13m OD. Figure 3 shows a typical section, as seen in the northeast side of the trench adjacent to the pavement.

Deposit descriptions	Average depth
Made ground / recently disturbed soil	0.15m
Loessic soil: Compact, light brownish grey, slightly clayey silt; contains occasional rounded pebbles but no cultural material. It becomes lighter towards its base and has an undulating interface with the underlying sand. It is generally about 0.55m thick	0.25m
Natural sand: Loose, orangey brown or yellowish brown coarse sand and fine gravel, containing occasional rounded pebbles. Thickness varies from 0.20-0.35m	0.80m
Natural clay: Stiff, mid bluish grey clay with an undulating surface. Its thickness is unknown, since it extends below the bases of the trenches	1.10m

Table 1. Deposit summary

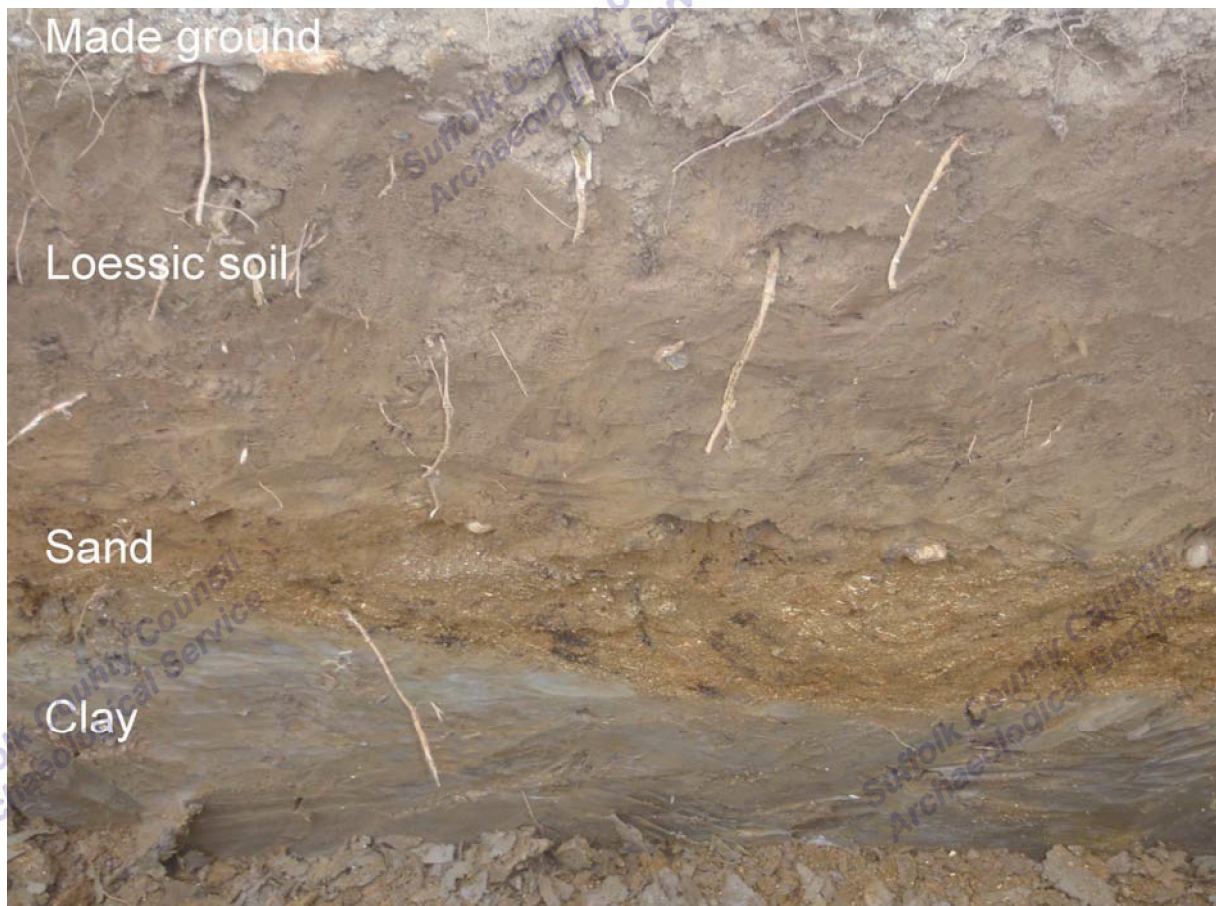


Figure 3. A typical section

3. Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring has revealed a vertical sequence of natural deposits, such as might be expected at this location. The clay at the base of the observed sequence is thought to be glacial till. The overlying sand is a glacio-fluvial deposit and the loessic soil (a wind-blown deposit of glacial origin) is found typically in the Felixstowe and Shotley peninsulas. These deposits are typical of the *Plateau Estate Farmlands*, as defined in Suffolk County Council's *Landscape Character Assessment*.

No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were found. The absence of topsoil or former ploughsoil indicates that there has been some horizontal truncation of the site, presumably when the existing house was constructed.

In view of this negative result it is anticipated that no further fieldwork will be required on this site. This document will be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report via the OAS/S on-line archaeological database and a summary will appear in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

Kieron Heard, Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

July 2009

Appendix: Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

93 CLIFF ROAD, FELIXSTOWE

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to build an extension (c.5m x 6m) on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/08/2159). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The application area is at TM 321 360 between 10m and 15m OD with the coast to the east and a minor inlet to the south. The remains of the Roman shore fort (FEX 030) are about 250m to the south-east. There are also records of possibly Roman burials being exposed by cliff erosion in the 19th century immediately east of the development area (FEX 043). Soils in this area tend to have a 'loess' type upper deposit with archaeological features only visible at a depth greater than 500mm. There is thus quite high potential for Roman activity, including burials, relating to the 4th century military phase in this area to be exposed by footings trenches for construction.
- 1.3 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 (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 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.
- 1.4 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.

- 1.5 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 are 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 earlier occupation of the site, particularly in the Roman period.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

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 the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 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.
- 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 time-table.
- 3.4 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. Specification

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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 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, 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).
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets must be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.

- 5.7 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: Judith Plouviez

Date: 31 March 2009

Reference: /93 Cliff Road

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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