

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/206

**The Driftway, The Street, Capel St Mary
CSM 027**

HER Information

Planning Application No: B/05/01880

Date of Fieldwork: February 2006 – February 2008

Grid Reference: TM 0866 3814

Funding Body: Thorcross Builders Ltd

Curatorial Officer: Judith Plouviez

Project Officer: Jezz Meredith

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1 - 62909

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

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during construction of new dwellings at The Driftway, Capel St Mary (TM 0866 3814). Up to eight separate ditches were identified, all on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. One of the ditches contained Roman pottery and all are parallel to other ditches identified during the evaluation and dated to the Roman period. Considerable quantities of fired clay or burnt daub were recovered from one of these features and small amounts of fired clay were found in some of the other ditches and from a large pit of at least 1m depth, possibly indicating settlement or industrial activity in the vicinity. A small number of more recent features are probably contemporary with the Victorian cottages that previously stood on this site.



Figure 1. Site location in south-eastern Suffolk

1. Introduction and methodology

As a condition of planning consent, an archaeological monitoring of groundworks was undertaken for new housing developments at The Driftway, Capel St Mary (TM 0866 3814). Previously an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) had been undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site (Meredith 2006). As a consequence of this, a new Brief and Specification had been issued by Jude Plouviez (Appendix 1) specifying the nature of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks.

The site is close to the medieval church of St Mary (CSM 013) and is thus likely to be within the medieval, and possibly Saxon, core of the village. A Roman cremation (also CSM 013) was found at the back of the church, 100m to the north-west of the site. Another Roman cremation was found 125m to the north (CSM 010). During the evaluation, evidence for prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval activity was revealed (Meredith 2006).

During monitoring visits stripped areas and footing trenches were examined for archaeological deposits, finds and features. Records were made of depths of deposit and the dimensions, locations and nature of features, with each separate deposit and feature given individual context numbers (e.g. O.P. nos. – ‘Observable Phenomena numbers’, Table 1).

Monitoring visits were made during 2006 on the 27th of February, 7th of March, 15th of May, 13th of June, 5th of July and the 4th of September. Visits during 2008 were made on the 20th and 26th of February. Visits were made by Jez Meredith, Mark Sommers and Anna West. Finds were analysed by Cathy Tester. All staff were members of the Field Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

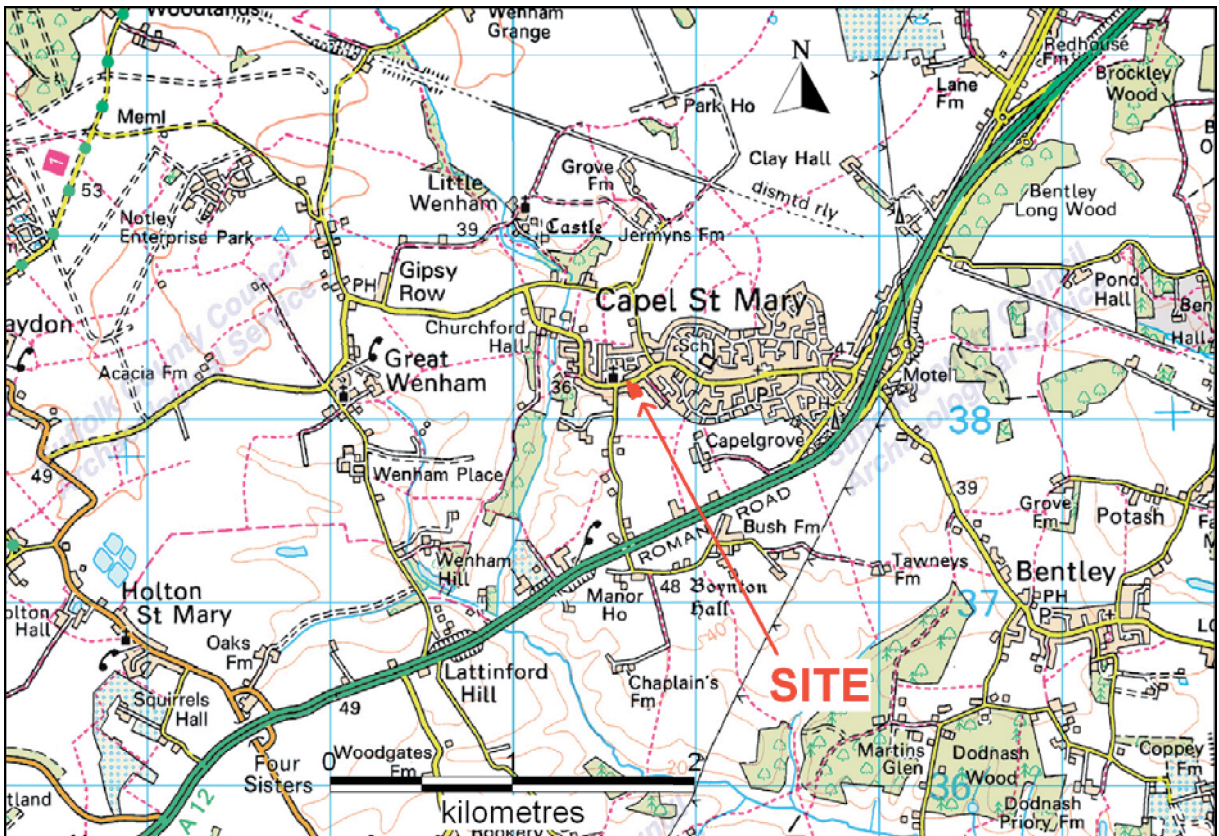


Figure 2. Site location in the village of Capel St Mary

2. Results

A series of north-north-west to south-south-east ditches and a large pit were identified within the footing trenches of plots 4 and 5. At least one of these ditches contained Roman pottery and possibly all the similarly aligned ditches belong to this period. Across the rest of the site a small number of pits were also encountered (Plots 3, 5 and 6) but these were probably all of post-medieval or modern origin.

Features within Plots 4 and 5 were difficult to recognise as they were cut into a deep hillwash-type (colluvial) deposit of orange brown sandy clay silt (0104 and 0132). In some cases profiles and dimensions of features were almost impossible to identify but charcoal flecks and occasional pieces of fired clay allowed ditch fills to be traced. Where seen, segments of ditches were given separate context numbers. In plan it was later recognised that segments lined up with each other from opposite sides of the plot. Figure 3 gives the likely corresponding cut numbers from one side of the plot to the other (e.g. in plot 4, ditch 0106 is shown to be probably continuous with 0108).

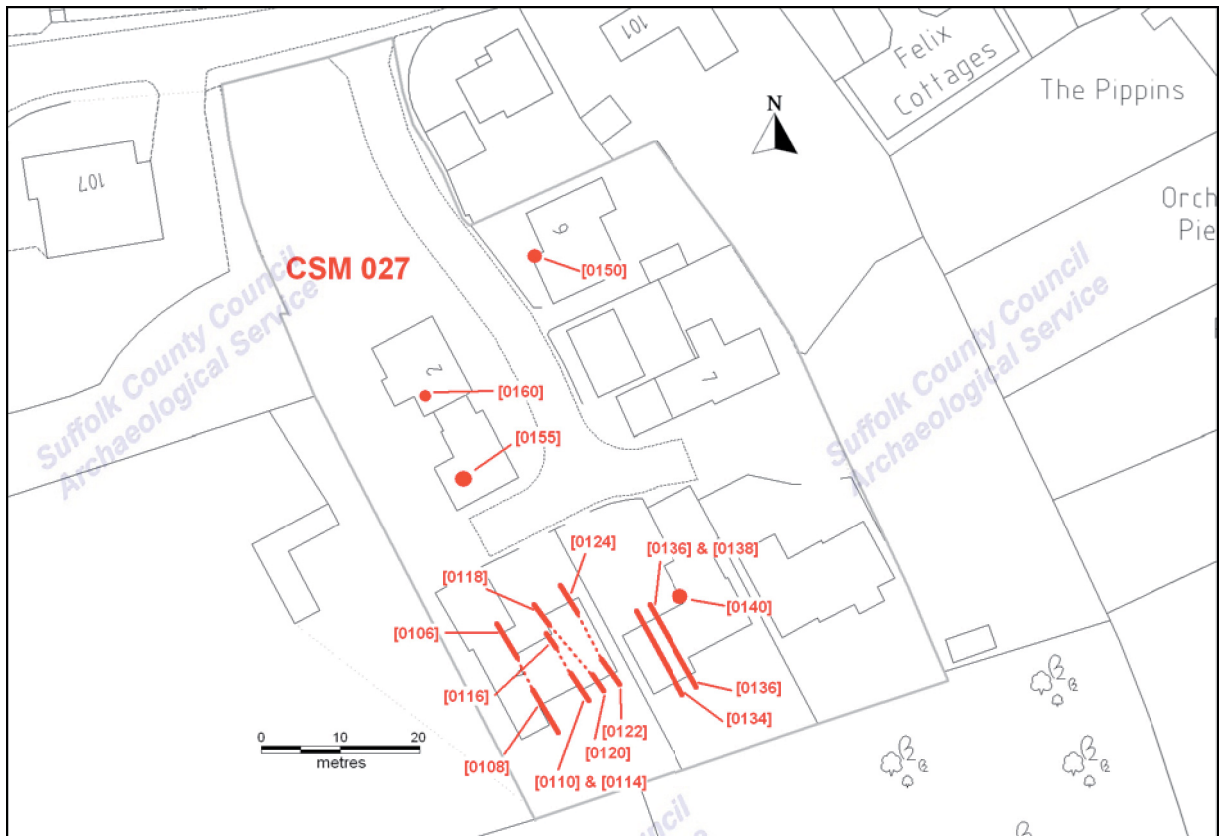


Figure 3. Features identified during the monitoring

Plot 4

Within this plot at least five separate north-north-west to south-south-east ditches were identified.

Ditches 0106 and 0108 were probably the same and were 1.7m and 1.5m wide and 700mm and 500mm deep respectively. Their fills were mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal and fill 0109 contained two sherds of Roman pottery.

At the southern edge of Plot 4, ditches 0110 and 0114 were adjacent features, probably intercutting but with no clear relationship apparent. Together they were of 1.4m in width, with the former 800mm and the latter 450mm in depth. Further to the north-west the larger 0110 contained a series of fills (0111 – 0113) showing considerable signs of burning, with the upper fill 0111 containing a substantial quantity of burnt daub fragments. To the north, ditch 0116 was probably the continuation of 0110 but its width could not be detected and its depth here was c.400+mm.

Ditch 0120 was c.1m wide and c.500mm deep and possibly could be the same as 0118 which was c.1.2m wide and c.800mm deep; if these were parts of the same

ditch they appear however to be on a slightly different alignment from the other ditches in this series (alternatively 0118 might be a good match with 0110 but that would leave no continuation for 0120).

Towards the east of the plot ditch 0122 was c.500mm wide and 350mm deep and appeared to line up with 0124, which was c.700mm wide and 500mm deep. Fills of both were mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal.

Plot 5

The first ditch encountered along the western edge of Plot 5 was the north-north-west to south-south-east ditch 0134 which could be traced for approximately 8m from one side of the plot to the other. This ditch was 400mm wide and 200mm deep towards the south and 700mm wide and 400mm deep towards the north. Fill 0135 was mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional to moderate charcoal flecks and contained fragments of fired daub.

Running parallel with this ditch and c.2m to the east was 0136. This ditch also appeared to be larger in the north than in the south, with a width of 400mm and a depth of 250mm in the south and a width of up to 600mm and a depth of 400mm in the north. The fill 0137 was similar to 0135 and also contained fragments of fired clay.

Ditch 0138 appeared to be a recut of 0136 but could only be seen at the northern end where it clearly cut fill 0137. This feature was 450mm wide and 300mm deep and had a slightly paler fill with less charcoal than 0137.

Pit 0140 was a large feature truncated by the footing trenches but of probable c.2.2m diameter and c.1m depth although the edges were difficult to identify. The fill 0141 was mid to dark brown sandy clay silt with moderate to frequent charcoal and with moderate flecks of chalk and crumbs and fragments of fired clay.

Plots 2, 3 and 6

In Plot 2 a small pit 0160 was identified which contained glass, blue and white pottery and iron and was of probable recent or modern origin.

In Plot 3 pit 0155 was of 800mm width and 350mm depth and its fill contained frequent ash and charcoal and occasional small brick fragments. This feature was probably of post-medieval or modern date.

In Plot 6 pit 0150 a large topsoil-filled pit was identified. The dark unleached fill and the sharpness of the pit edges suggested a recent origin of this feature. The pit had been truncated by the footing trenches and so could not be measured in diameter but was at least 1.5m in depth.

The following table summarises the context numbers assigned during the monitoring (numbers 0001 to 0043 had been used during the initial evaluation):

OP no.	Feature	Location	Description	Finds
0101			Unstratified finds, whole site	none identified
0102		Plot 4	Topsoil; c.300mm depth. Mainly removed during initial scrape	
0103		Plot 4	Mid brown sandy clay silt subsoil; c.200mm but blends into and almost indistinguishable from underlying 0104	
0104		Plot 4	Pale orange brown sandy clay silt (?hillwash / colluvium); at least 600mm in depth, eg to base of footing trench. Natural seen occasionally in base trench	
0106	0106	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.1.7m width of 600-700mm depth; probably = 0108	
0107	0106	Plot 4	Mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal	
0108	0108	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.1.5m width and c.500mm but very vague; probably = 0106	
0109	0108	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	Roman pottery
0110	0110	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.1.5m width and at least 800mm depth	
0111	0110	Plot 4	Dark grey brown clay silt with frequent charcoal lumps and pieces and crumbs of fired clay; of 650mm max	Abundant fired clay / daub
0112	0110	Plot 4	Pale grey silt with probable high ash content; of 50mm thickness	
0113	0110	Plot 4	Pink to purple heat-altered silty clay – could be in-situ burnt natural; of 100mm thickness	
0114	0114	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch, running with but no clear cutting relationship with 0114; of c.450mm depth; =0116	
0115	0114	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	
0116	0116	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch, unable to see width and c.400mm depth; probably = 0114	
0117	0116	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	

OP no.	Feature	Location	Description	Finds
0118	0118	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.1.2m width and 800mm depth; could be = 0120?	
0119	0118	Plot 4	Dark brown clay silt with moderate to frequent charcoal	
0120	0120	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.1m width and c.500mm depth; could be = 0118?	
0121	0120	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	
0122	0122	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.500mm width and 350mm depth; probably = 0124?	
0123	0122	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	
0124	0124	Plot 4	NNW-SSE running ditch of c.700mm width and 500mm depth; probably = 0122?	
0125	0124	Plot 4	Similar to 0107	
0130		Plot 5	Topsoil; c.300mm depth	
0131		Plot 5	Mid brown sandy clay silt subsoil; c.200mm	
0132		Plot 5	Pale orange brown sandy clay silt (?hillwash / colluvium); 300mm depth	
0134	0134	Plot 5	NNW-SSE running ditch of 400mm (SSE) to 700mm (NNW) width and 200mm (SSE) to 400mm (NNW)	
0135	0134	Plot 5	Mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional to moderate charcoal	Fired clay / daub
0136	0136	Plot 5	NNW-SSE running ditch with a width of 400mm (SSE) to >600mm (NNW, where truncated by 0138) and a depth of 250mm (SSE) to 400mm (NNW)	
0137	0136	Plot 5	Similar to 0135; cut by 0138	Fired clay / daub
0138	0138	Plot 5	NNW-SSE running ditch seen in section at SSE side of Plot 5, of 450mm width and 300mm depth; recut of 0136	
0139	0138	Plot 5	Similar to 0135 but slightly paler and less charcoal	
0140	0140	Plot 5	Large pit of c.2.2m and c.1m depth	
0141	0140	Plot 5	Mid to dark brown sandy silt clay, with moderate to frequent charcoal and moderate flecks of chalk and crumbs of fired clay	Fired clay / daub
0150	0150	Plot 9	Large, probably modern, pit, trench truncated so diameter not detected but depth of c.1.5m	
0151	0150	Plot 9	Very dark humic loam – probably modern topsoil	
0152		Plot 9	Hillwash / colluvium: mid brown sandy clay silt of c.1m depth along S edge of Plot 9 and c.1.8m along N edge	
0155	0155	Plot 3	Probable modern pit of 800mm width and 350mm depth	
0156	0155	Plot 3	Dark brown loam with frequent ash and charcoal and with occasional brick fragments	
0160	0160	Plot 2	Possible small pit of modern date	
0161	0160	Plot 2	Fill of pit 0160. Containing blue & white china and other C19th/20th debris (not retained)	

Table 1. List of context numbers and simple descriptions

3. Finds by Cathy Tester

Introduction

Finds were collected from five features, four ditches and a pit on the south side of the site during the monitoring. The quantities by context are shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Fired Clay		Spotdate
	No.	Wt./g	No.	Wt./g	
0109	2	24			Roman
0111			20	1129	
0135			2	5	
0137			1	18	
0141			1	1	
Total	2	24	24	1153	

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery

Two fragments of a Roman sandy greyware jar base were found in ditch 0108 (0109). A similar small amount of undiagnostic Roman pottery was found in the fill of ditch 0034 which is possibly the same as 0108 seen in Trench 5 during the evaluation.

Fired Clay

Fragments of fired clay were collected from four contexts. Most notable was a homogenous group of 20 fragments of daub (1129g) from ditch fill (0111). The material includes some large unabraded fragments all in the same buff-coloured medium sandy fabric with common coarse chalk. Many of the pieces have smoothed surfaces and impressions of large (15-20mm) round-section wattles. The material is not closely datable and although ditch 0110 may correspond to ditch 0038 in Evaluation Trench 5, neither feature produced other datable finds.

A single buff-grey fragment (18g) with a sandy matrix and chalk was collected from ditch 0136 (0137). The piece has one smoothed surface and may be daub. Tiny abraded fragments (5g) with a light orange sandy fabric and common chalk were collected from ditch 0134 (0135) and a single abraded fragment (2g) in a fine sandy fabric with voids was collected from pit 0140 (0141). None of these are datable.

Discussion of Finds Evidence

Limited finds were collected from five features, mainly ditches, during the monitoring and the only datable material found was a small amount of Roman pottery. They probably represent evidence of domestic activity in the vicinity and along with the evaluation finds (Tester 2006) provide evidence for activity on this site during the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

4. Conclusion

The monitoring at the Driftway, Capel St Mary (CSM 027) revealed a series of ditches running north-north-west to south-south-east. At least one of these (ditch 0108) contained Roman pottery. These ditches correspond closely with those on a similar alignment, identified during the evaluation trial trenching of 2006 (ditches 0030, 0032, 0034, 0036 and 0038). Two of these ditches (0032 and 0034) also contained Roman pottery and it is quite likely that all these ditches belong to a similar period and possibly represent the expansion and/or contraction of an enclosure boundary or field system over a period of time. The large pit 0140 also contained fragments of fired clay and could therefore also belong to this period.

Unfortunately the area of the site where these ditches were recognised (Plots 4 and 5) was an area of deep colluvium making it very difficult to identify measurements and profile shapes of features. In at least one case (ditch 0110), part of the ditch could easily be traced because of the abundance of fired clay and charcoal that it contained. Such quantities of fired clay found in this and to a lesser degree in the other ditches indicate past intensive activity probably during the Roman period. Such material could be the result of a burnt down building (burnt daub) or could be the remains of industrial activity such as the remains of a bread oven.

The spread of undated, prehistoric and Roman features identified towards the north-eastern edge of the site during the evaluation could not be followed into the areas of Plots 6 and 7, although it is possible that slight terracing in advance of putting in footings might have destroyed the shallow archaeology here. Pits of more recent character, recognised within Plots 2, 3 and 6 are likely to be of more recent origin and might be contemporary with the Victorian cottages that previously occupied the site.

In conclusion, up to eight separate boundary or enclosure ditches of probable Roman date were identified. A large pit plus considerable quantities of fired clay or burnt daub recovered from the ditch fills indicate fairly intense use of the site. This was probably over an extended period, given the number of boundary changes evidenced by the ditches. Roman cremations have been identified 100m to the north-west and 125m to the north of the site and these could even have been associated with the projected line of the ditches or could have been extra-mural to the settlement that the ditches were bounding. Although finds were scarce and not closely datable, archaeological remains indicate a fairly intensive use of the site during the Roman period.

Jezz Meredith

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Field Team)

August 2009

References

Meredith, J., 2006, *Archaeological Evaluation Report: The Driftway, Capel St Mary CSM 027*; SCCAS archive report 2006/014.

Tester, C., 2006, 'The Finds' in Meredith, J., *Archaeological Evaluation Report: The Driftway, Capel St Mary CSM 027*; SCCAS archive report 2006/014.

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

THE DRIFTWAY, CAPEL ST MARY

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 develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/03/01723/OUT & B/05/01880). 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 archaeology of most of the area has been investigated by trial trenching (SCCAS Report 2006/014). This identified features, mainly linear, and prehistoric and Roman finds, mainly in the northern half of the site. A large area at the north-west was not accessible for trenching and has potential for clarifying the layout of features, although partially on a strong slope. There is also a paucity of dating evidence. Levels of deposits below present surface are variable due to the slope and subsoil deposits.
- 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 especially in the later prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing trenches.

Where site preparation works involve topsoil stripping (e.g. access road) the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed 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 topsoil stripping for site preparation , access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 100 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

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 Sites and Monuments Record.

- 4.6 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 Sites and Monuments 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 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.

- 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. 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 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.
- 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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 18 April 2006

Reference: /CapelStMary_Driftway04

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.