

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/189

**Wickerstreet Cottage, Kersey  
KSY 021**

S. Cass

© August 2009

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** B/09/00449  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 2nd July 2009  
**Grid Reference:** TM 9815 4220  
**Funding Body:** Mr David Lay  
**Curatorial Officer:** Edward Martin  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-64604

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
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## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Wickerstreet Cottage, Kersey after the demolition of a de-listed building, in order to fulfil part of a planning condition placed on application B/09/00449 for the erection of a new dwelling on the same site. A building recording survey had already been commissioned which highlighted the possibility of there being a rare attached medieval kitchen in one part of the house. An evaluation, seeking to investigate the archaeological footprint of buildings of this type as well as confirm the presence of any kitchen structures and/or hearths was also part of the planning condition. The evaluation trench revealed evidence of fire debris (numerous charcoal fragments and 'cooking' pottery) dating from the 12th – 14th Centuries but no floor layers, or definite early structural features/cross-walls between the bays. The only structural evidence was a short length of a possible footing pad, but this is not directly attributable to a specific phase of development on the site.

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# 1. Introduction

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An evaluation was carried out at Wickerstreet Cottage, Kersey, after planning permission was granted for the demolition of a de-listed and fire-damaged house and the erection of a new dwelling on the site. The redevelopment of this plot afforded the opportunity to examine the archaeological footprint of a known early 15th century timber-framed building (probably a three-bay parlour cross-wing adjoining an open hall) and specifically, to examine a prominent house overlooking the medieval green with a possible rarely surviving medieval attached kitchen. It would also allow for investigation of the suspected third bay, which seems likely to have been removed in the 17th century (or later).

# 2. Geology and topography

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The site lies to the south-west of the village of Kersey, approximately half-way to Boxford, and 2.5 miles west of Hadleigh. The geology in the area is listed as deep fine loam over clay and clayey soils, and the natural geology observed in the trench fits with this. The site lies at a height of approximately 67.5m AOD and is generally flat, with a slight slope down to the pond at the southwest corner of the property.



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Figure 1. Site location

### 3. Archaeological and historical background

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The previous building on the site dated, in part, to the early half of the 15th century and formed part of a timber framed hall with cross-wing(s). It was situated on the edge of a long narrow medieval green, occupying a prominent position at the northeast end. This area of Suffolk had significant wealth in the late Middle Ages, related to the cloth/wool trade, with both the villages of Kersey and Boxford being well-preserved examples of settlements of this period. A fuller description of the previous house can be found in a report commissioned by SCCAS from Leigh Alston (Alston 2009).

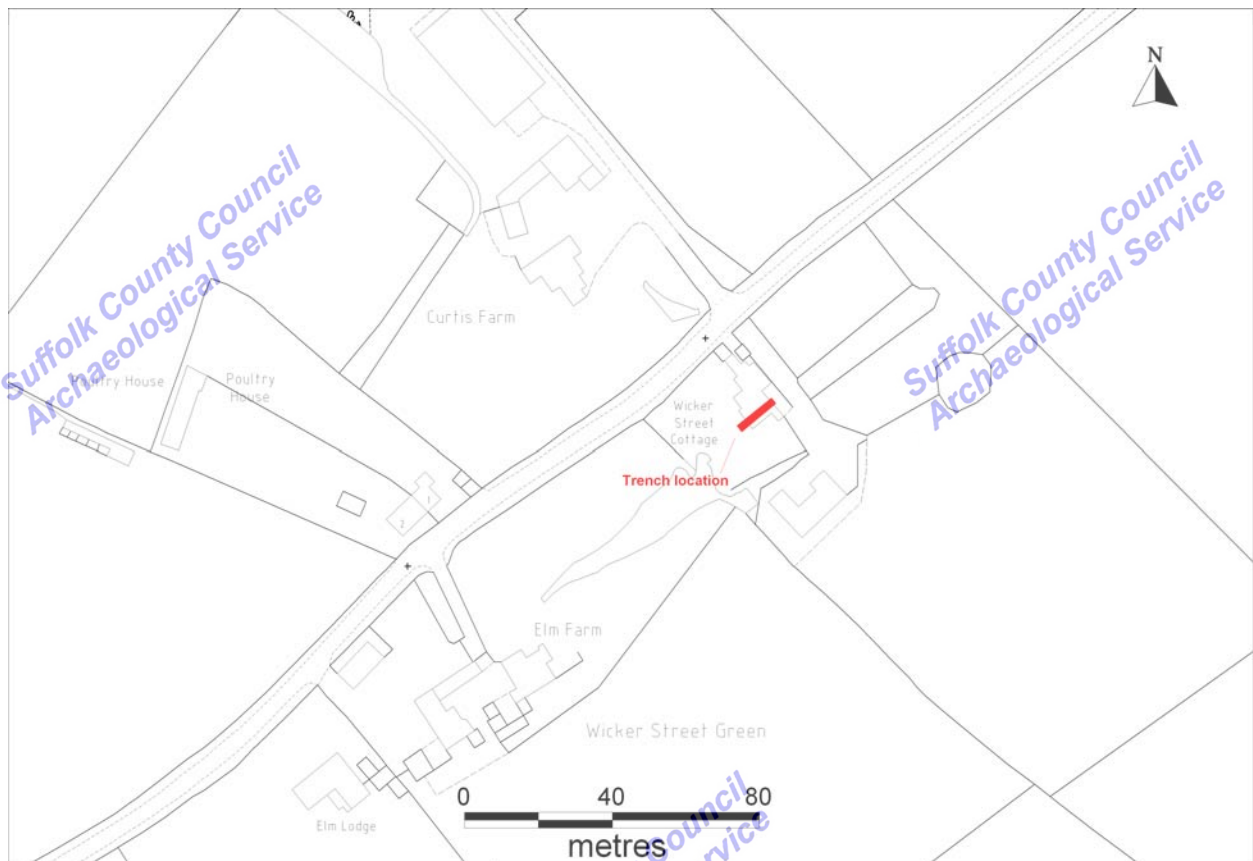
### 4. Methodology

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A trench was to be excavated through the middle of the footings of the 15th century cross-wing, in an attempt to locate and examine any floor layers, internal structures and remains relating to the construction of the medieval house and any evidence for the alterations visible during the building recording. The trench was to be opened by a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless 'ditching' bucket under constant archaeological supervision down to either the top of archaeologically significant levels, or natural geology, whichever occurred first.

Prior to the trenching taking place, the remains of the previous building were demolished, and the modern concrete floor slab was broken up and removed. The trench was intended to be 2m in width, and of sufficient length to cover all three bays of the original structure, although unfortunately the location of the outer wall in the third, missing, bay was probably not reached.

Archaeological deposits were all cleaned and investigated by hand, with a full record being made, prior to their removal by machine until natural geology was reached. In one area, along the line of the back wall of the original building, the trench was widened to c. 2.5m wide, in order to search for further evidence of any internal structures or remains of the original wall, the first part of the trench proving inconclusive.



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Figure 2. Location of trench 1

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Trench 1

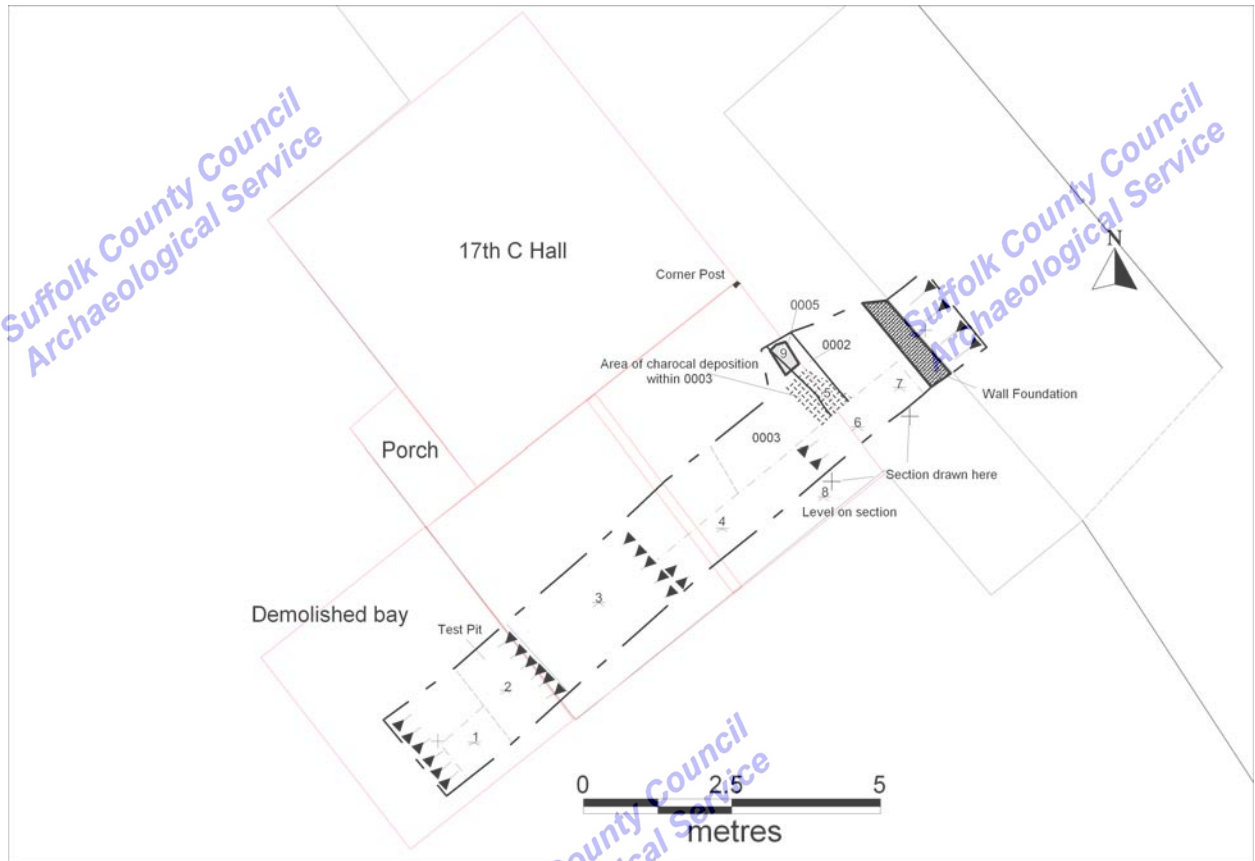
Trench 1 was 11.8m long, and between 1.6 and 2.5m wide, orientated approximately northeast-southwest. It was between 0.25 and 0.4m deep, and the stratigraphy encountered varied between the areas inside and outside the previous building footprint. At the south-western end it consisted of 0.3m of dark brown clayey silt garden soil with moderate amounts of post-medieval/modern inclusions (willow pattern pottery, fragments of CBM) and occasional chalk flecking. This area was previously part of a rose bed, so the depth may have been affected by planting. Below this was 0.1m of mid greyish brown silty clay with modern inclusions, interpreted as disturbed subsoil, sitting above natural mid orange/grey mottled clay. Within the footprint of the building, the stratigraphy consisted of up to 0.3m of mid greenish/greyish brown/yellow silty clay (deposit 0003) sitting above natural yellow/grey clay. The modern concrete slab that was removed prior to the trenching sat directly above this layer, and several hand-dug test pits confirmed that the natural geology was undisturbed, rather than redeposited. A

noticeable crest in the natural occurred at 5.2m, with the underlying clays sloping away towards the northeast and southwest. At this point the trench was only 0.25m deep, with the overburden consisting of 0.15m of disturbed clay and demolition rubble, and 0.1m of natural mottled clays.

A single linear feature [0004] was revealed towards the north-eastern end of the trench, roughly in the correct line for the back wall of the 15th C. cross-wing. This feature was up to 0.95m wide and 0.17m deep, filled with light yellowish brown clay with moderate chalky flecks, occasional red CBM flecks and fragments of tile and organic material (grass or straw?). This could be either unused wall daub or the remains of a floor layer filling up an emptied ground-beam slot (possibly relating to 17th C. remodelling of the house). No dateable finds were recovered from this feature.

A short length of mortared flint [0005] was encountered in the widened area of the trench, orientated similarly to [0004], towards the northern side of the trench. This feature was very shallow (in places having been totally removed) by the time it was distinguishable from the remains of the concrete floor. It appeared to have a definite end at its south-eastern extremity, rather than continuing across the trench, along the line of [0004]. It is possible that this was the remnant of a footing pad for the rear wall of the cross-wing, although as it did not carry on across the trench it may have been a more localised footing, such as that needed for an internal structure or for a particular area of wall that would need extra support (maybe indicating a greater localised load on the wall at this point). No dateable finds were encountered with this feature, and the damage apparently caused by the laying and then removal of the previous concrete floor layer appears likely to have removed most of this context.

Deposit (0003) occupied the north-eastern third of the trench, where the natural clay sloped down. It contained a significant concentration of charcoal underneath feature [0004] but there were no distinguishable cuts or layers within the deposit. Pottery recovered dated from between the 12th to 14th centuries, noticeably earlier than the house was believed to be. This deposit, occurring underneath any 15th century structure, could be evidence of an earlier phase of occupation on the site with the broken pottery fragments and charcoal representing hearth-fire debris disposed nearby in a shallow dip in the ground.



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Figure 3. Feature plan with original floorplan

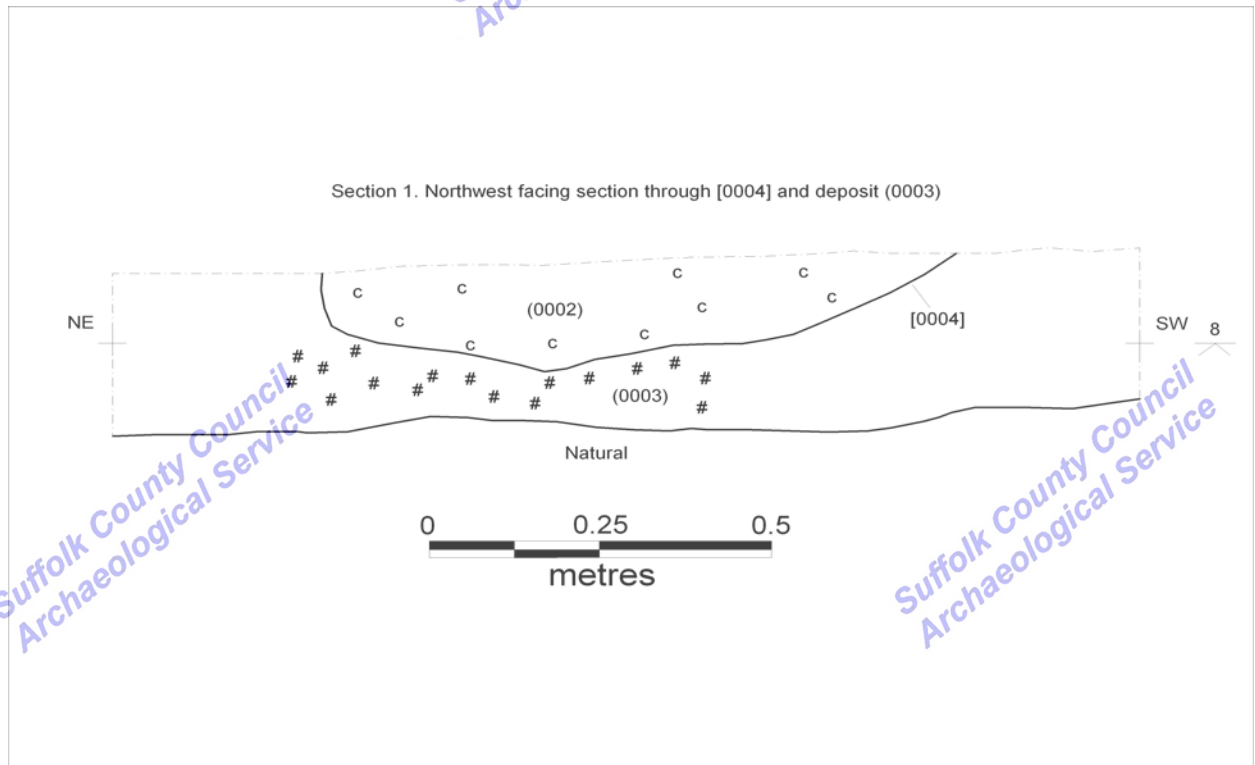


Figure 4. Section through [0004] and deposit (0003)



Plate 1. Section through [0004] and deposit (0003)

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence By Cathy Tester

### 6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, deposit 0003 in Trench 1. The quantities are shown in the table below.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	45	572
CBM	1	71
Iron	1	7
Shell	1	12

Table 1. Finds quantities.

### 6.2 Pottery

Forty-five sherds of medieval pottery weighing 572g were recovered from throughout deposit 0003 in the areas inside and outside of the house. The pottery was quantified by count and weight and fully catalogued with details of fabric, form and form element.

Each 'sherd family' was given a separate record in the database table and details are shown in Appendix 3.

Almost all of the pottery, 43 sherds, was identified as medieval coarseware (MCW) which broadly dates from the late 12th to 14th century. Forms identified are jars including several with sagging bases and a small flanged bowl. A single fragment of unprovenanced glazed ware (UPG) in a sandy orange fabric with grey core and green glaze on the external surface was also identified.

Possibly the latest piece is a single sherd of late medieval and transitional ware (LMT), a strap handle from a pitcher or jug found in the area 'outside of the house.'

### **6.3 Miscellaneous**

A fragment of rooftile, made in a medium sandy fabric, nearly fully oxidised but with a darker reduced core is late medieval or post-medieval.

An iron nail and a single oyster shell were also recovered.

### **6.4 Discussion of the material evidence**

Deposit 0003 in Evaluation Trench 1 produced a small assemblage of finds which consists mainly of medieval coarseware pottery representing up to 20 vessels. Fourteen of these vessels however are only represented by single bodysherds which is typical of the dispersed nature of an 'open' feature.

An environmental sample taken from an area of charcoal within deposit 0003 has been retained for future analysis if necessary after expected monitoring works elsewhere on the property.

## **7. Discussion**

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The remains encountered in the trench excavated across the southern cross-wing of the 15th century hall appear to relate, in the main, to an earlier phase of occupation on the site. Deposit (0003), extending outside the bounds of the original 15th century building, dating from the 12th – 14th centuries, provides a date *terminus post quem* for features 0004 and 0005, but in this case, where the demolished building is known to have been 15th C and later, is of little use in attempting to isolate the features to a specific phase of development. The lack of any other dateable deposits hinders further analysis of the late medieval/early post-medieval development of the building, although it is perhaps

significant that both features 0004 and 0005 exist on the approximate line of the rear wall of the cross-wing. If feature 0004 does represent the remains of an in-filled beam slot, then 0005 could perhaps be related to the 17th century works, maybe a footing for a supporting upright while the wall was removed and the structure altered.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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This evaluation has provided evidence that the minimal archaeological footprints of timber buildings such as this are highly fragile when affected by more modern developments. In this case, it appears that re-flooring the building has removed all of the previous floor layers, although it seems doubtful that there was ever a significant thickness of floor layers built up over time. The presence of earlier pottery underneath the 15th century footings is suggestive that occupation on the site was earlier than first believed, and the proposed foundations of the new building may well encounter similar early deposits or structural evidence to the north of the trench location. Because of this potential, it is suggested that any opportunity to view these footings should be taken, and may well have implications for several other buildings in Wickerstreet Green listed as having 15th century origins, as these too may have earlier precursors.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich T:\ENV\ARC\PARISH\Kersey

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: **H/80/4**

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass and Simon Picard of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, with the assistance of Leigh Alston and Tom Outhwaite.

The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.



The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. The production of site plans and sections was carried out by Simon Cass, with further specialist finds advice from Jane Carr (Finds Recording Officer). The report was checked by Rhodri Gardner.

## 11. Bibliography

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Alston, L., 2009      Wickerstreet Cottage, Kersey, Suffolk Historic Building Record, SCCAS

### 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.

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**Appendix 1      Brief and specification****Brief and Specification for Historic Building Recording and  
Archaeological Investigation****WICKERSTREET COTTAGE, WICKERSTREET GREEN, KERSEY**

*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      Wickerstreet Cottage was damaged by a fire in April 2008. Planning permission for its demolition has been granted by Babergh District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/09/00449).

**The local planning authority has been advised that the cottage is historically important and will need to be recorded before demolition. In addition, the footprint of the building will need archaeological investigation.**

- 1.2      This application concerns the demolition a timber-framed cottage that was a Grade II Listed Building of special architectural and historic interest dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries with 20<sup>th</sup>-century additions (formerly Listed Building 276625, but delisted by English Heritage on the 16 Apr. 2009). The building still contains important archaeological information concerning its construction, character, date, context and use. In addition, the application site is located on the north-east edge of the former medieval green called Wicker Street Green (Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. KSY 013). The cottage may therefore be on the site of an earlier house and this needs to be investigated before ground works for this development remove the possible evidence.

- 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006; this defines the different levels of recording recommended by English Heritage, see: [www.helm.org.uk/server/show/category.19612](http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/category.19612)) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000).

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 (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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

## 2. **Brief for the Historic Building and Archaeological Recording**

- 2.1 Historic building and archaeological recording, as specified in Sections 3 and 4, is to be carried out prior to demolition and during development.
- 2.2 The objective will be to compile a descriptive record at English Heritage Level 2 of the cottage before its demolition takes place and to investigate its footprint.
- 2.3 The academic objective will be to provide a detailed understanding of the timber-framed part of the building, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building group.

## 3. **Specification for the Historic Building Recording**

The survey methodology will form part of the WSI and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

- 3.1 English Heritage Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the cottage. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed.
- 3.2 A block plan should be produced of the site, to locate the building within the group. The main components of the complex shall be numbered for reference in the report.
- 3.3 A historical document search (documentary, cartographic and pictorial) should be undertaken to situate the history of the building complex within the immediate local context.
- 3.4 The record will present conclusions regarding the location, form, date, development and use of the building.

## 4. **Specification for the Archaeological Investigation of the building footprint**

- 4.1 A 2-metre wide trench across the site of the demolished house is to be excavated. The definition of the excavation area is to be agreed on site with the Conservation Team of SCCAS. Where possible, any groundworks for the development should also be monitored.
- 4.2 Fully excavate all features that are, or could be interpreted as, structural. Post-holes, and pits that may be interpreted as post-holes, must be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (e.g. paths, yards, hearths & floors) must be fully

- exposed and cleaned. Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement with a member of the Conservation Team of SCCAS, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 4.3 All other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date and function. For guidance:
- a) A minimum of 50% of the fills of the general features is to be excavated. Note that it is likely that prehistoric features e.g. especially pits, are likely to require full excavation.
  - b) Between 10% and 20% of the fills of substantial linear features (ditches etc) are to be excavated, the samples must be representative of the available length of the feature and must take into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature and any concentrations of artefacts. Any variations from this practice are to be agreed [ if necessary on site ] with the Conservation Team.
- 4.4 Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement with a member of the Conservation Team of SCCAS, and must be confirmed in writing. 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.
- 4.5 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.6 A photographic record of the work is to be made.
- 4.7 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County HER.
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 HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER 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*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER Officer 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.

- 5.4 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 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).
- 5.7 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT and a single copy to the Babergh District Council Conservation Officer.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.10 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 HER. 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Date: 27 May 2009

Reference: SpecHBR&Ex\_Wickerstreet\_Cott\_09

**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 List

OPNO	FEATURE	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION
1		Unstratified finds	No unstrat finds.
2	0004	Layer	Light yellowish/brown clay, moderate chalky flecks, occasional red CBM flecks and fragments of tile(?) Possible unused wall daub or floor packing? Decayed grass/straw visible within clay mix. Fill of feature 0004
3		Layer	Mid greenish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks beneath 0004, occasional pottery sherds, occasional tile frags, 1 Fe Nail. Extends across c. 4m at NE end of trench and is up to c. 0.2m deep.
4	0004	Cut	Shallow linear cut feature. Possibly infilled or grubbed out beam slot. Feature aligns with supposed rear wall of 15th C building. Filled with 0002. No finds. Up to c.0.9m wide by 0.17m deep (though usually c. 0.36m wide and 0.1m thick.
5	0005	Cut	Cut for possible wall footing/or internal structure pad. V. badly truncated by modern concrete floor and demolition.
6	0005	Fill	Flint and sandy mortar-type mix. Possible degraded footing/internal structure pad. Survived to 0.03m deep, probably mostly removed by modern concrete flooring directly above.
7		Natural Drift Deposits/Layer	Natural yellow/grey/orange mottled silty clay deposits.

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## APPENDIX 3. Pottery

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	No.	Wt./g	Form	Notes	Date
0003	LMT	h	1	35		Strap handle	15th-16th C
	MCW	rb	18	81	jar	SV Jar upright rim (c130mm,20%) outplayed L.12th-14th C. at top. Hard grey fab	
	MCW	ba	1	4	jar	Sagging base, dark grey fabric	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	r	1	6	bowl	flanged bowl (c150-160mm, 5%) Abraded. red orange fabric	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	ba	1	58	jar	Sagging base. dark grey/black, v hard fabric	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	ba	3	40		Black surfs., brown margins. Light grey core.	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	ba	1	12		Grey surfaces & dark grey/black core sooting on int	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	ba	3	57		SV Flat base.Grey ext surf, orange/brown core and int surf..	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	5	33		Miscellaneous bodysherds from 4 separate vessels	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	r	1	9		Bowl or jar flat-topped outturned rim (145-150mm) Grey fabric	12th-13th C
	MCW	b	1	59		Hard, black ext surf, buff margins, red-orange and dark grey core -orange-brown int surf.-	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	1	110		large hard-fired bodysherd. Black ext/int surf & brown core	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	2	22		Light grey ext, red-brown core and int surf.	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	1	11		Dark grey/black surfs, buff marg, red-brown core	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	1	14		Dark grey/black ext & int surf orange margin and blue-grey core	L.12th-14th C
	MCW	b	3	17		SV Grey ext surf, orange-brown core and int surface	L.12th-14th C
	UPG	b	1	4		Orange surfaces, lt grey core. green glaze on L12th-14th c ext.	

Key: b = bodysherd, ba = base, h = handle, r = rim, SV = same vessel

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## Appendix 4. Monitoring report note

The footings were observed on a single visit on the 7th August 2009. They were between 1-1.2m deep and 0.6m wide, covering the area previously evaluated and most of the area believed to be the site of the 17th century hall. The stratigraphy observed consisted of up to 0.15m of demolition rubble and disturbed topsoil above natural grey/yellow mottled clays. No subsoil deposits were visible, and it appears likely that late medieval, post medieval and modern development on the site has adversely affected the archaeological horizon within immediate vicinity of the proposed building. The charcoal-rich deposit already identified during the evaluation phase was noted in a footing crossing the rear wall of the previous building, and it is possible that this layer continues further north, making it more likely to be related to a possible construction cut for the 15th century building than an earlier dumped deposit.

Due to the extremely shallow depth of the natural, and the corresponding lack of protective overburden, it seems likely that any earlier shallow building remains will have been destroyed prior to the current development.



Plate 1. Site view across new footings, facing north

S. Cass

August 2009