

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/101

**Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold
SWD 049**

HER Information

Planning Application No:	DC/09/0147
Date of Fieldwork:	15th April 2009
Grid Reference:	TM 5067 7634
Funding Body:	Mr. S. Davis
Curatorial Officer:	Keith Wade
Project Officer:	Linzi Everett
OASIS Ref:	64703

Summary

Monitoring of ground works for an extension to Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. Strip foundations revealed a single ditch in the eastern footing which contained pottery of late 13th-14th century.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to the rear of Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 5067 7634 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 12m OD within the area of the medieval town of Southwold defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER), and 75m south west of the medieval church. The site has high potential for the survival of medieval activity.

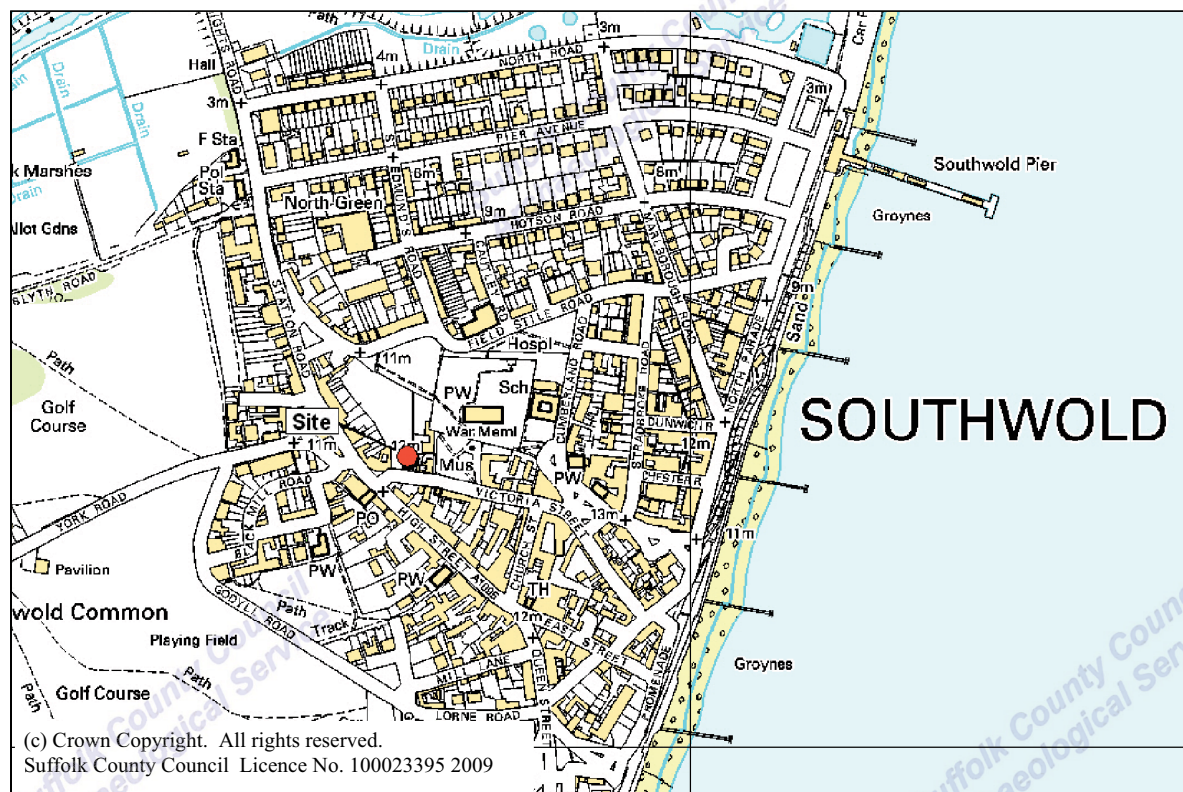


Figure 1. Site location

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the

HER code SWD 049. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix II). The fieldwork was commissioned by Mr. S. Davis. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

2. Results

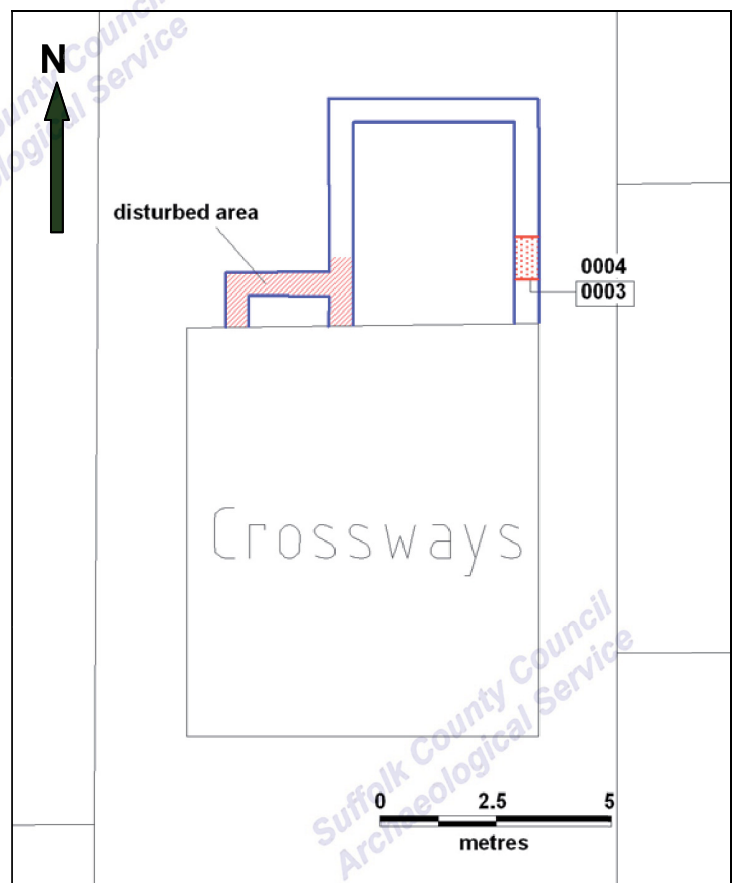
The footprint of the extension had been stripped of 0.6m of topsoil on the east side, gradually thinning to 0.3m on the west of the site. Footing trenches were subsequently excavated into this formation level, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep, through broadly the same stratigraphy:

- *Topsoil* 0001 Dark brown sandy loam with heavy root disturbance, regular CBM fragments and small flint pebbles. 0.3m thick (from stripped formation level).
- *Subsoil* 0002 Mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate small pebble inclusions. 0.2m thick.
- *Natural subsoil* Orangey brown gravelly sand subsoil.

The only part of the groundworks where this was not the case was the small extension in the south west corner where modern services and associated disturbance was present to a depth of nearing 2m. No archaeological levels were observed within this area.

One incised feature was recorded within the groundworks This was 0003, an east to west aligned ditch in the south east corner of the footings. This measured 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep, cutting through subsoil 0002 and just into the natural subsoil. Its fill, 0004, was a mid greyish brown clay sand with occasional shell and animal bone fragments, charcoal flecks and lumps of chalky clay.

A single base sherd from a late 13th-14th century ceramic vessel was recovered from the ditch fill, as was a large handmade iron nail.



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Figure 2. Location of groundworks



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Archaeological Service

Plate 1. General view of the monitored area, looking north east.

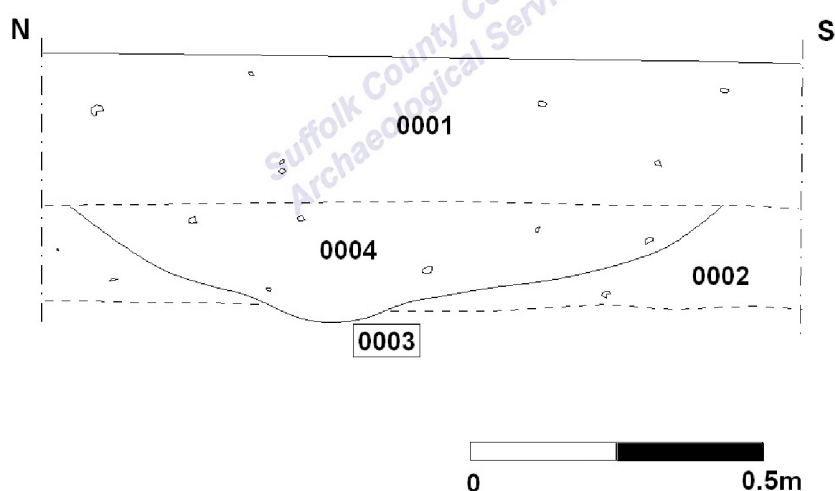


Figure 3. North to south section of ditch 0003

3. The finds

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

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

Context	Pottery		Iron		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001			2	21	Undated
0004	1	19	2	32	L13th-14th C
Total	1	19	4	53	

Pottery

A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of a possible pit or ditch 0004 which was sealed by topsoil. It is part of the base of a Hollesley-type coarseware vessel with a sagging base, dating to the Late 13th – 14th centuries.

Metalwork

The remains of a socketed iron implement, possibly a blade was recovered as an unstratified find. The socket is 15mm in diameter. Further description is not possible without radiography of the object.

Two heavily corroded joining iron fragments were found in the pit or ditchfill 0004. The object is a large nail with a square sectioned shank.

4. Conclusion

The finds recovered from the monitoring include a small amount of medieval pottery which is not unexpected given the location of the site near the church within the core of the medieval settlement. As the footings only represent a small 'keyhole' into the site, further evidence of medieval or earlier activity could still survive below the excavated formation level and thus remains preserved *in situ*.

Linzi Everett
September 2009

Appendix I : context list

OP	Context	Identifier	Description	Cuts/ Cut by	Over/ Under
0001	0001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam with heavy root disturbance, regular CBM. Up to 0.9m thick.		Over 0002
0002	0002	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate small pebble inclusions. 0.2m thick.	Cut by 0003	Under 0001
0003	0003	Ditch cut	E-W ditch, 1.1m wide, 0.25m deep. Gently sloping sides, rounded profile.	Cuts 0002	
0004	0003	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown clay sand with occ. shell, bone frags and charcoal flecks. Lumps of chalky clay noted.		Under 0001

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/09/0147/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of medieval Southwold, defined in the County Historic Environment Record, as an archaeological site of regional importance, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 would be 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 the medieval or late medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 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 should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.

- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental 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.

- 4.8 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. 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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 HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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

Date: 6th April 2009 Reference: Crossways, Victoria Street, Southwold

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.