

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND TO THE REAR OF 'THE FIRS' AND 'SMYRNA', MAIN ROAD, MARTLESHAM (SMR ref. MRM 091)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Application No. C/04/1439 and C/04/1885)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/16
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-6887)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with the construction of a residential development on land to the rear of The Firs and Smyrna, Main Road, Martlesham (NGR TM 2429 4639), was undertaken during February 2005. The initial topsoil strip and the excavated foundations were observed but only an undisturbed natural subsoil of pale brown/yellow sand was seen. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference MRM 091. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Bell and Wright Limited, the site's developers.

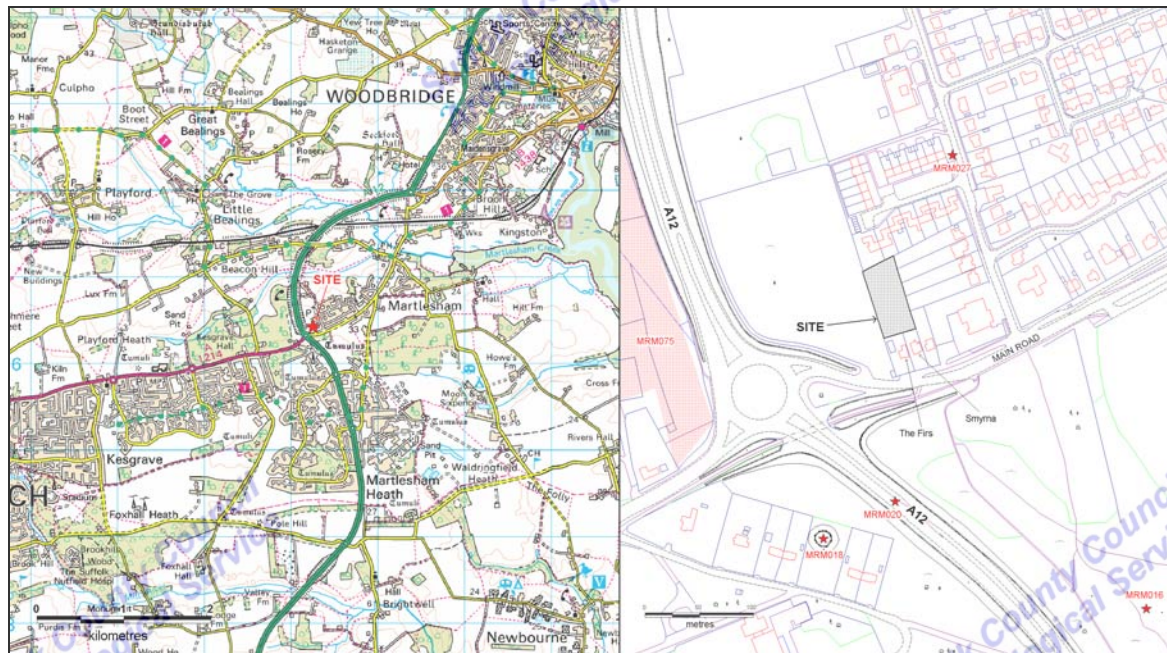


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application for a small residential development on land to the rear of The Firs and Smyrna, Main Road, Martlesham (application nos. C/04/1439 and C/04/1885), was approved but with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work.

The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within an area of known archaeological activity with five entries on the Sites and Monuments Record recorded in the locality (see figure 1). These are as follows:

- MRM 016 The site of three now destroyed round barrows of probable Bronze Age date. Located c.350 to the south.
- MRM 018 The site of an extant round barrow of probable Bronze Age date. Located c.200m to the southwest.
- MRM 020 A blue glass bead of possible Roman or Saxon date was recovered from a molehill c.160m to the south
- MRM 027 A Neolithic axe or adze was discovered c.100m to the northeast
- MRM 075 Open area excavation of the Park and Ride site c.200m to the east, revealed the ditches of a Roman field system and numerous pits containing pottery indicative of a Bronze Age settlement site

Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicated that the area affected by the development could be adequately be recorded under a monitoring condition and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 2429 4639; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference MRM 091. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Bell and Wright Limited, the site's developers.

Results

Visits were made to the site during the groundwork phase of the development. The first visit was made on the 8th February 2005 to observe the topsoil strip. c.250-300mm of a brown sandy loam was removed over the entire area of the proposed buildings' footprint which revealed a pale brown/yellow sand subsoil. No archaeological features were noted and no artefacts were recovered.

The second and third visits were undertaken on the 10th and 11th February 2005 to inspect the excavated footings. During these visits all the footings for the four houses were inspected. All were cut cleanly into the natural pale brown/yellow subsoil to a depth of c.0.5m. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified.

Two further visits were to the site to inspect the footings for an extension to 'The Firs' and those for a bungalow at the northern end of the site. These visits were undertaken on the 17th March 2005 and 12th April 2005 respectively but again no archaeological deposits or features were identified.

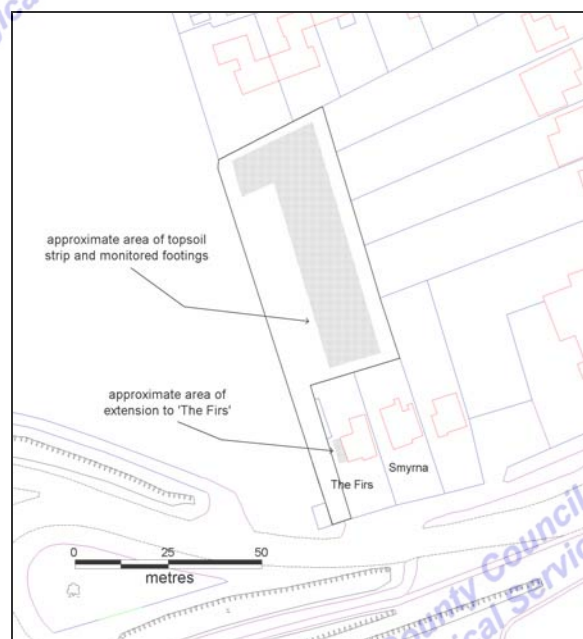


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference MRM 091, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-6887.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed or damaged by this development. The topsoil strip and the monitoring of the footings gave good opportunities to observe for archaeological interventions into the natural subsoil but none were present.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

28th February 2005

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

Rear of The Firs & Smyrna, Main Road, Martlesham

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 construct 4 houses and access works on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application nos C/04/1439 and C/04/1885). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development lies at TM 242 463 at c. 30m OD on a ridge between east-west valleys. There is evidence for prehistoric, mainly Bronze Age activity in the vicinity, including a dispersed group of barrows to the south and other features to the west (MRM 075). The main identified late Iron Age and Roman focus in the vicinity lies to the east, but the findspot of a glass bead of uncertain, possibly Roman (or Anglo-Saxon, MRM 020) date lies immediately south of the development. There is thus potential for prehistoric or later activity within the development area.
- 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.

- 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 or ground-beam trenches.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping 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 after they have been 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.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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: 17th December 2004

Reference: MainRdMartlesham12.doc

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.