

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## WILLOW FARM, SHOP STREET WORLINGWORTH (SMR ref. WGW 023)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK  
ASSOCIATED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO  
WILLOW FARM, SHOP STREET, WORLINGWORTH  
(Application No. OL/45/03 & 783/04)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/42  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-7246)

**Summary:** Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a residential development on the former garden area of Willow Farm, Shop Street, Worlingworth (NGR TM 2226 6836), was undertaken during late 2004 and early 2005. Numerous house plot footings and an area stripped for an access road was monitored but no evidence for medieval, or earlier, activity or occupation was identified and no artefacts were recovered although a single Post-medieval ditch was recorded. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WGW023. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from the developer, a partnership of Howard New Homes Limited and Bell & Wright Limited.

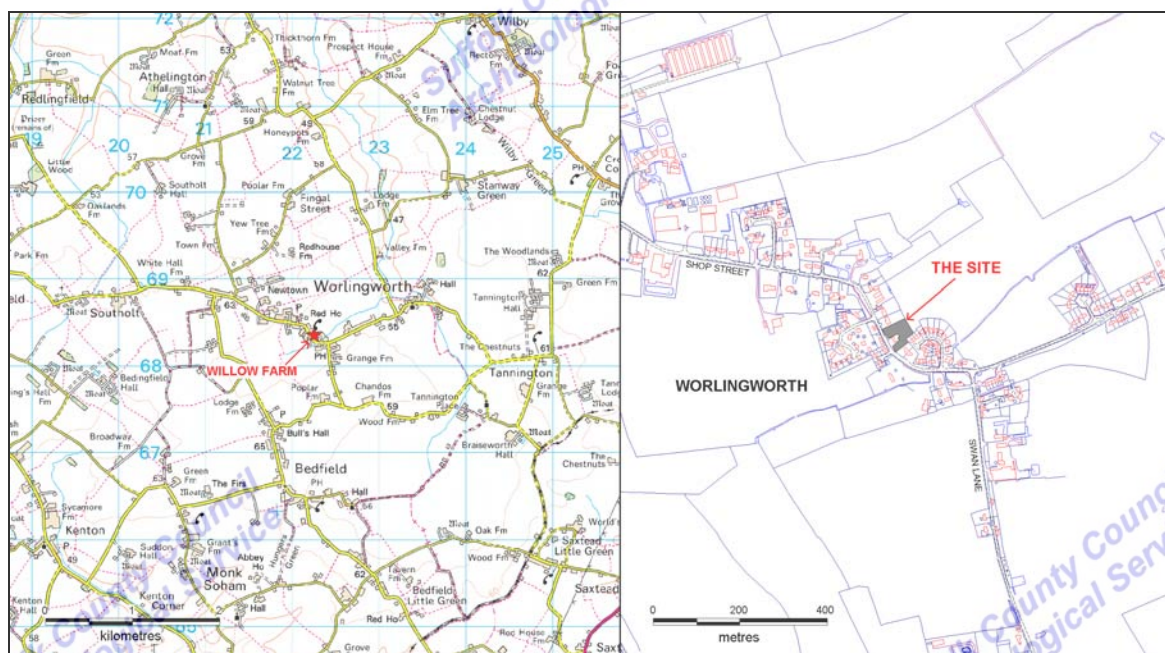


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

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## Introduction

An application for a residential development within the garden area of Willow Farm, Shop Street, Worlingworth (application nos. OL/45/03 and 783/04), was approved but with an attached condition calling for a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to the commencement of construction work. The development area fronts onto the medieval road line within the medieval settlement area of Worlingworth. It is also located on or near the edge of a medieval green. The site had the potential to yield evidence for

medieval occupation in the form of early building remains, yard surfaces and rubbish pits which would be damaged or destroyed by this development. Consequently a Brief and Specification (B&S) was produced detailing the works required to comply with the archaeological condition (Appendix 1).

The development was to consist of nine dwellings in four separate buildings and two garage blocks. The dwellings were to be constructed on ground beams resting on pilings and accessed by a newly built roadway. The B&S called for archaeological monitoring of any topsoil strips and the excavation of trenches for ground beams as these works had the greatest potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits that may be present.

The development area was formerly the rear garden of Willow Farm, a 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic residence built of red brick and fronting onto Shop Street. Within the development area numerous small trees were cleared as well as a timber workshop with a lean to structure on the southern side (Plate I). The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 2226 6836; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WG023. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-7246.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from the developer, a partnership of Howard New Homes Limited and Bell & Wright Limited.

## **Methodology**

Visits were made to the site to inspect any areas stripped of topsoil for archaeological features and deposits. The trenches for the ground beams were also examined after they had been excavated by the building contractors. The depth of each trench was recorded and the make-up of the ground as revealed by the trench was noted. The spoil was retained onsite in heaps and this was examined for artefacts. It is believed that the spoil was to be later removed from site although the topsoil was to be retained for reuse within the site.

## **Results**

A total of four visits were made to the site. See figure 2 below for details of the plot locations and of features noted during the monitoring visits.

The first two visits were made on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2004 to inspect the roadway area which had been stripped of topsoil (Plate II). The topsoil was c.0.25m thick. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed although a ditch feature was noted running parallel to Shop Street but set back c.30m. The ditch fill, which comprised of dark loam containing 20<sup>th</sup> century debris, was removed as part of the topsoil strip. This feature is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The natural subsoil, which lay immediately below the topsoil, comprised yellow clay with occasional areas of pale orange clay.

The site was revisited on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005 as the ground beam trenches for plots 1, 2 and 3 were open. The footprint of the building had been stripped of topsoil and the ground beam trenches had been excavated to a depth of c.0.6m. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were noted.

Two further visits were made, one on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and the second on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005, to inspect the areas of plots 4, 5 and 6 and plots 7 and 8. Again the building

footprints were stripped of topsoil but wet conditions had resulted in the exposed surface becoming very muddy making the identification of archaeological features problematic. The ground beam trenches were cleanly cut giving a good opportunity to observe for deposits but none were seen (Plate III). It was noted during the final visit that the foundations for plot 9 had been completed. The excavation of these and the garage foundations (marked 'G' in figure 2) were not monitored.

During each visit the on-site spoil heaps were examined but no artefacts of any period were recovered.



Figure 2: Plot and Garage Locations and Features Noted  
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## Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits appear to have been damaged or destroyed by the development of this site. All monitored footing trenches were cleanly excavated and gave a good opportunity to observe for archaeological features and deposits. The areas of the roadway stripped of topsoil also gave good opportunities to observe for deposits. Where observed, the interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was blurred and irregular suggesting that the surface of the natural had not been previously truncated.

The ditch noted in the road strip is marked on early Ordnance Survey maps and its fill indicated a deliberate backfilling sometime in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century but no evidence to date its original cutting was recovered and the possibility of an early origin cannot be ruled out.

It was noted that the area of Willow Farm itself was on a slightly raised platform which continued and was more prominent to the south (Plate IV). It was most noticeable at the front of the building with the front garden and the corresponding area to the south lying c.0.2m lower. This feature was not apparent to the north of Willow Farm. It is possible that this raised area represented a medieval building platform but no further evidence was identified. It was not entirely clear, but it appeared to have been formed through variation in the thickness of the topsoil. Part of this platform will be preserved in the remaining portion of Willow Farm's garden.

Mark Sommers  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
Field Projects Team

10<sup>th</sup> February 2005



Plate I: Timber workshop on the site of plots 1, 2 and 3, prior to demolition



Plate II: area of stripped roadway, view looking from rear of plot towards Shop Street



Plate III: Ground beam trenches excavated for plots 7 and 8



Plate IV: view looking north towards Willow Farm illustrating the slightly raised platform

# APPENDIX 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

#### WILLOW FARM, WORLINGWORTH

*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 & 4.4. 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 OL/45/03 and 783/04). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area fronts onto the medieval road line, I son or near the medieval green edge, and is believed to be within the medieval settlement area. There is potential for early building remains and associated occupation debris including yard surfaces and pits.
- 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.

## 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.
- 2.4 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 & 4.4).

## 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.
- 4.4 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: R D Carr

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

Date: 13 October 2004

Reference: /Worlingworth-WillowFarm10

**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.**