

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF

## CARLTON HALL CARLTON COLVILLE (CAC 004)

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: W/12990/10  
N.G. REF: TM 5093 9030

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/49

OASIS REF: suffolkc1-7705

Date of fieldwork: 18<sup>th</sup> September – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Funded by: **Mr G. Baxter**

### 1. Summary

The present Carlton Hall is an 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century structure believed to be on the site of the medieval hall and possible Late Saxon manor. Archaeological features and finds belonging to the high medieval period (12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century) were recorded within footing trenches for an extension to the south-west of the Hall. Medieval ditches on a similar alignment to the present Hall could represent the expansion or shift of a ditched enclosure for an earlier phase of the settlement.

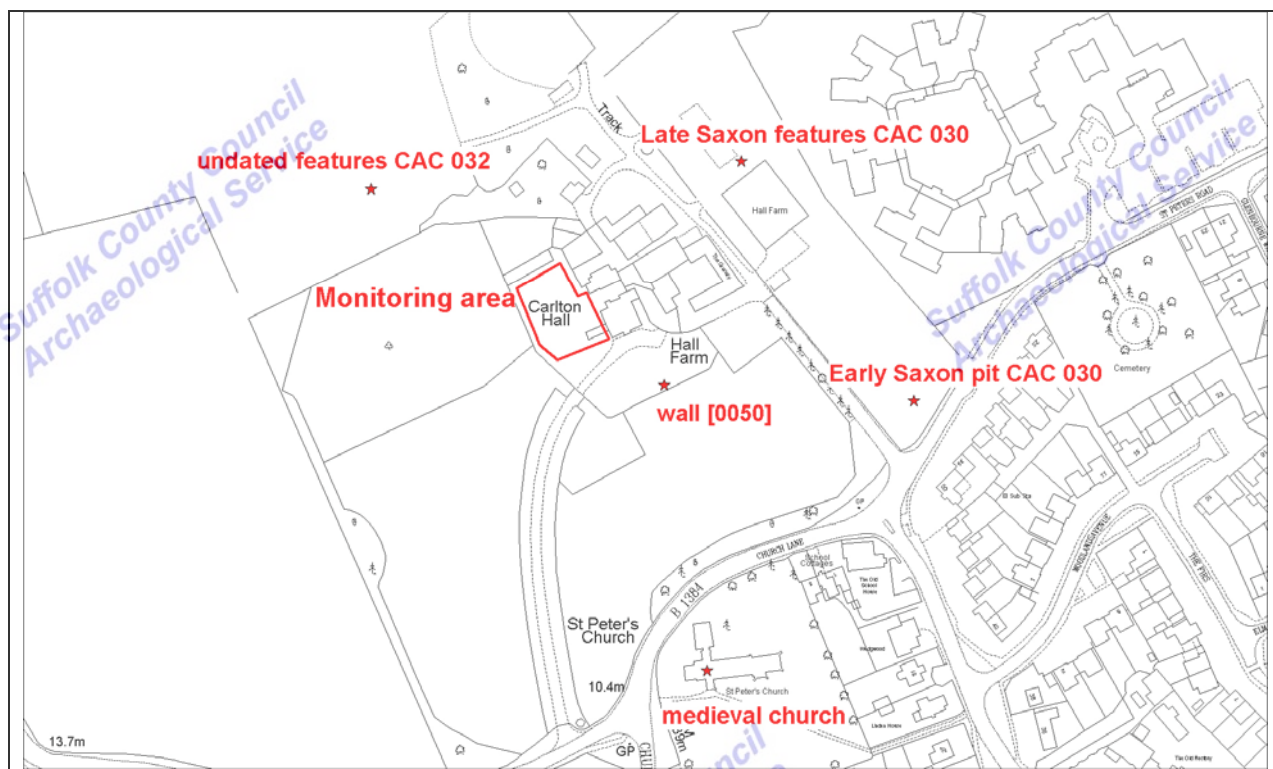
A flint and mortar wall discovered 20m to the south-east, within the excavation for a pond, contained brick pieces of probable recent origin. This wall is likely to be part of a landscape feature of 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

A single Early Saxon pottery sherd indicates activity of this period to the south of the Hall, a similar aged feature was located on St Peter's Road to the south-east. Late Saxon settlement evidence has been discovered to the east of the Hall (CAC 030) and now medieval deposits have been located to its immediate west, indicating that the present structure is likely to be over the medieval and Saxon manorial centre.

### 2. Introduction

The planning permission granted for the extension to Carlton Hall was conditional upon archaeological monitoring visits made during the excavation of the footing trenches (see Appendix 1: Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development).

Carlton Hall is recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record as CAC 004 and is a structure of predominately late post-medieval and modern build (Georgian and Victorian) and is indicated in its present location on the Hodgkinson map of Suffolk of 1783. A manor at Carlton Colville is recorded in the Domesday Book, whose centre could be at the same location as the present building. If this was the case, a Late Saxon manorial complex on this spot is possible. Evidence for Late Saxon occupation is known from excavations 90m to the east (CAC 030) and the medieval church is 120m to the south, so the Hall is likely to be within the early core of the village. An Early Saxon pit was recorded close to St Peter's Road to the south-east (CAC 030) and a cluster of features to the north-west of the site (CAC 032) were undated (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Location of the monitoring area and nearby locations of Saxon and medieval interest**

Four visits were made between 18<sup>th</sup> September and the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003. During the initial visit 60% of the site was stripped of topsoil, which revealed no archaeological finds or features. Visits on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> September were made to observe open footing trenches to the north and east of the site. The trenches in the south-west corner were not seen, but this was an area of considerable disturbance due to the removal of a large tree stump and other modern interventions. The last visit was made after the site owner, Mr Baxter, had alerted the Archaeological Service to the discovery of a flint wall. This wall was revealed in the side of an excavation for a new pond to the south of the Hall.

### 3. Results

All archaeological deposits, finds and features were assigned individual numbers (0001 to 0051). Context numbers for ditches and pits are written within square brackets (e.g. ditch [0008]) as are numbers for the wall [0050] and for the cistern [0018]. Numbers for layers, fills and finds are written without brackets (e.g. 0002 is a topsoil layer, 0009 is the fill of [0008], 0051 are the finds associated with wall [0050]). Each context or related group of contexts will be discussed in numerical order.

Contexts 0001 to 0027 are associated with the extension to the west of Carlton Hall, contexts 0040 to 0051 are associated with the flint and mortar wall revealed c.20m to the south-east of the Hall (see figure 2).

#### *Finds 0001*

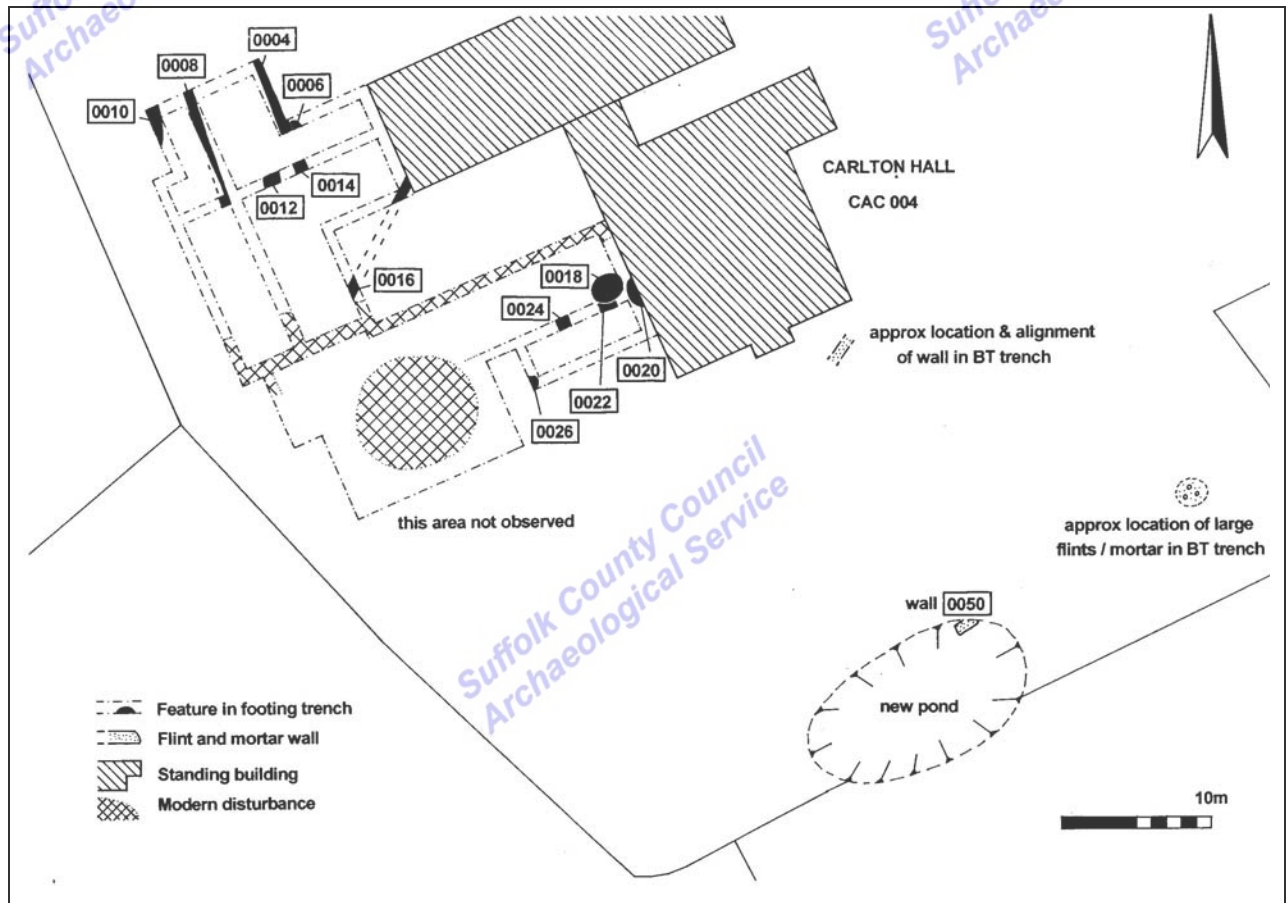
This number was reserved for unstratified finds, eg finds from the spoil without a context. No finds were collected under 0001.

### *Topsoil 0002*

A deposit of up to 400mm thickness and containing a considerable amount of demolition rubble in places.

### *Subsoil 0003*

A deposit of 200mm thickness consisting of mid brown silty clay. Features [0004], [0006], [0012] and [0014] were observed cutting this layer.



**Figure 2: Plan showing features of archaeological interest**

### *Ditch [0004] and fill 0005*

A north-north-west to south-south-east running ditch of up to 2m width and depth of 600mm under the topsoil 0002. The fill consisted of mid grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks and chalk crumbs and contained medieval pottery sherds. This feature is likely to be the continuation of 0014 on the same alignment. Ditch [0004] cut the fill of, and is thus later than, the underlying pit [0006].

### *Pit [0006] and fill 0007*

A highly truncated pit cut by the ditch [0004] with a diameter of at least 600mm and extending to below the level of the footing trench (e.g. c.1m depth). The fill was mid to dark grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

### *Ditch [0008] and fill 0009*

Another north-north-west to south-south-east running ditch parallel to [0004], with a width of c.1m and a depth of 400mm. The fill was dark grey-brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal

flecks and moderate oyster shell fragments. No pottery or other dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

*Pit [0010] and fill 0011*

Revealed in section in the north-west corner of the site, this was a large pit with a diameter of at least 2.5m and a depth of 900mm. Fill 0011 was mid brown sandy clay with moderate to frequent charcoal flecks. A piece of lava quernstone was recovered from this feature and is of probable medieval date.

*Feature [0012] and fill 0013*

A possible ditch or pit, this feature was 1.4m wide and over 600mm deep before disappearing beneath the base of the trench. The fill consisted of mixed dark grey and mid brown sandy clay with localised concentrations of abundant charcoal and chalk fragments. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from fill 0013.

*Ditch [0014] and fill 0015*

This ditch is probably the continuation of ditch [0004] – see description above.

*Ditch [0016] and fill 0017*

A north-east to south-west running ditch with a width of c.1m and depth of 600mm. The fill was dark brown loamy sandy clay and was of probable modern origin.

*Cistern [0018] and fill 0019*

A brick-corbelled and lined rainwater cistern, backfilled with rubble. Of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Pit [0020] and fill 0021*

Partly revealed within the footing trench, a pit of at least 1.3m diameter and a depth of 600+mm (e.g. deeper than the footing trench). The fill was mid to dark brown sandy clay with abundant mortar crumbs. No finds were recovered from this feature.

*Feature [0022] and fill 0023*

Pit or possible ditch with a width of 1.7m and a depth of 600+mm. The fill was mid brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal and mortar flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

*Feature [0024] and fill 0025*

A shallow possible ditch with a width of c.1m and a depth of 300mm. The fill was mid brown clay sand, with moderate chalk and charcoal flecks and contained a pot sherd of medieval date.

*Feature [0026] and fill 0027*

A pit or other feature with a width of c.1.2m and depth of c.800mm. The fill was mid brown clay sand with moderate charcoal, chalk and mortar flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

A large area of modern disturbance, appearing to run north-east to south-west with the new central footing trench (see figure 2), could have been the grubbed out footings for an earlier phase or extension to the hall.



The following contexts were recorded from the side of an excavation for a new pond c.20m to the south-east of Carlton Hall.

#### *Topsoil 0040 and 0041*

The stepped side of the new pond revealed a very deep topsoil with 300mm above the step (0040) and 200mm below (0041). This depth of dark humic loam is probably the consequence of landscaping or the filling in of an earlier hollow.

#### *Wall cut [0042] and fills 0043 and 0044*

A probable footing trench, cut obliquely by the side of the pond excavation, for wall [0050]. This trench had two distinct fills with the lower, 0044, being mid to dark sandy clay with occasional to moderate small lumps of orange clay. The upper fill, 0043, was friable mid orange brown sandy clay with abundant small stones, brick and tile crumbs and burnt clay pieces (see Figure 3).

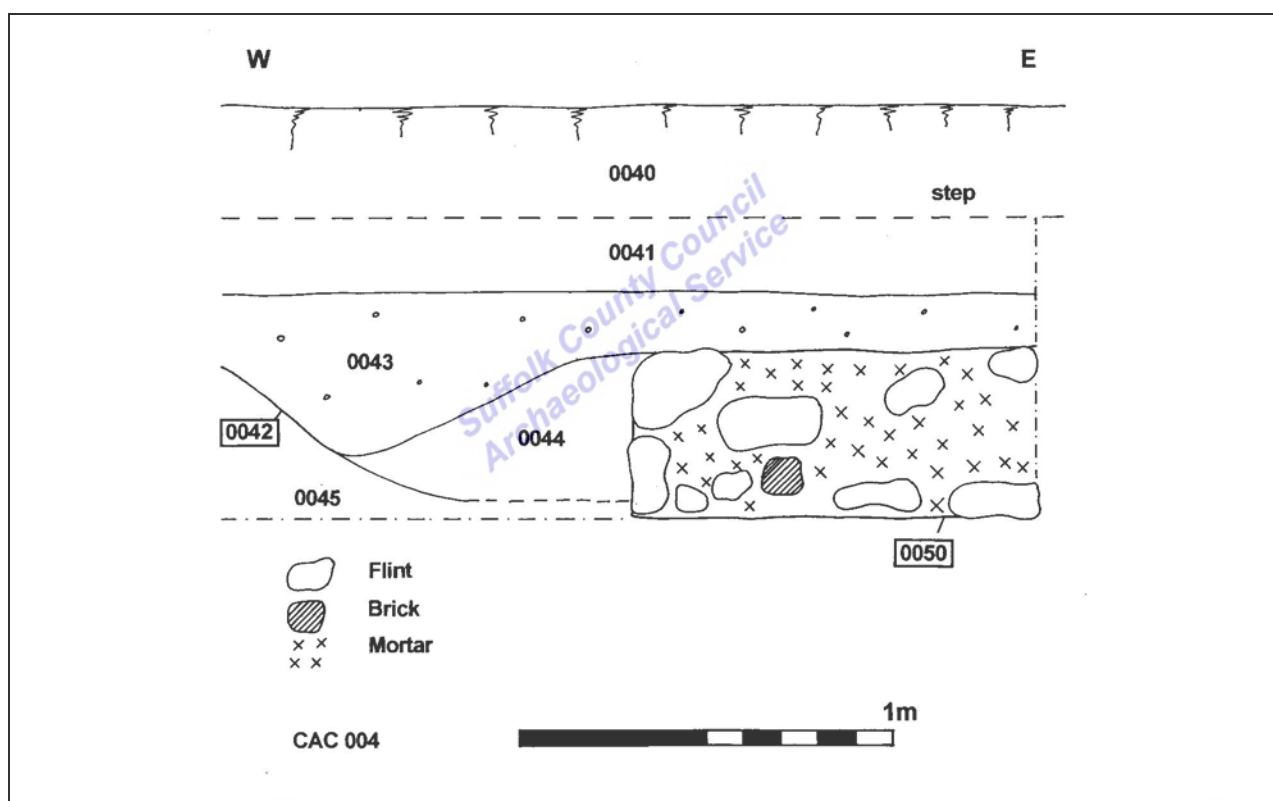


Figure 3: Drawn section of wall [0050] and surrounding deposits

#### *Layer 0045*

Pale to mid brown sandy clay. This layer could represent a deep subsoil layer or could be the top of the natural clay deposits.

#### *Wall [0050] and associated finds 0051 (see figures 3 and 4).*

A flint and mortar wall with occasional brick fragments. This wall stood to a height of c.450mm and a length of just over 1m was revealed in the side of the new pond. No obvious courses of stone could be detected, although large stones placed at the west end indicate this might have been an actual terminal for the wall. Most of the stone was covered in mortar and it is likely that this is an exposed section of wall footing, the stone and mortar being cast within the trench [0042]. A piece of associated brick from the wall is of probable modern date (0051). A piece of pottery recovered from the vicinity of the wall was of possible Early Saxon date.

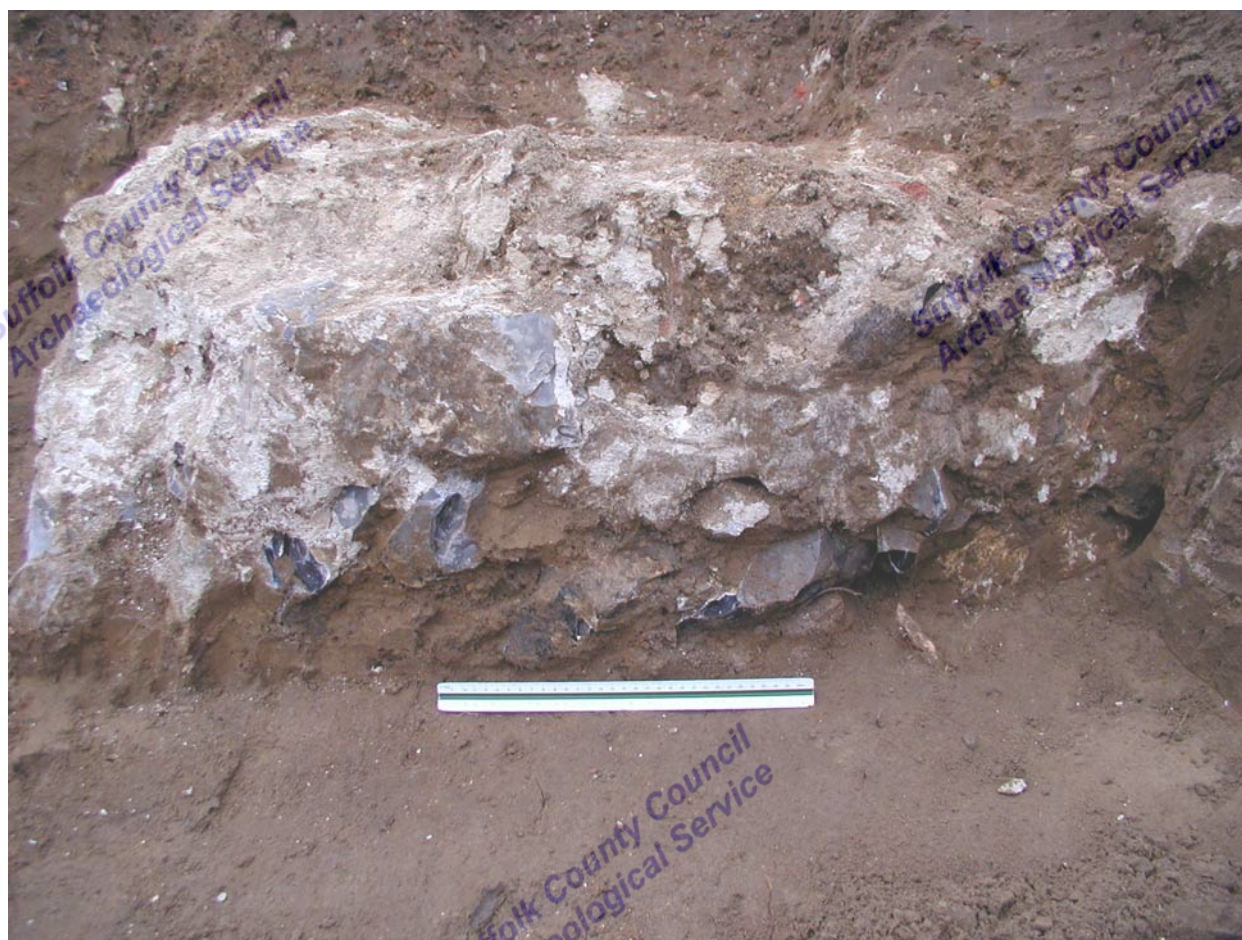


Figure 4: Photograph of wall [0050] looking north-west

## 4. The Finds

Sue Anderson, October 2003, Revised December 2003.

### Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		CBM		Mortar		Lava quern		Shell		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g					No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0005	4	44							1	11	13th-14th c.
0011							1	315			Med?
0013	2	7									12th-14th c.
0025	1	4									12th-14th c.
0051	1	1	1	46	1	14					Modern
Total	8	56	1	46	1	14	1	315	1	11	

### Pottery

Four sherds from a single vessel in a fine sandy fabric were recovered from 0005. These were probably medieval coarseware, but could be a late medieval fabric. Two sherds of a vessel with bright orange oxidised surfaces, again in a relatively fine fabric, were collected from 0013 and again were probably medieval. One other medieval coarseware body sherd was found in 0025. One small sherd of black sandy pottery was found in 0051 and could be Early Saxon.

## Building materials

One fragment of fine sandy brick of modern date and a fragment of post-medieval lime mortar were collected from 0051.

## Miscellaneous

One piece of a quernstone in Rhenish lava was found in 0011. It was a full-thickness fragment and measured 41mm thick. The upper surface was pecked and the grinding surface was worn smooth. It is likely to be medieval.

One fragment of oyster shell was collected from 0005.

## Discussion

This finds assemblage is largely of high medieval date, but is too small to provide any insight into the use of the land at this period. A single sherd of possible Early Saxon pottery may be evidence of activity at this period.

## 5. Conclusions

The discovery of medieval features in the vicinity of Carlton Hall shows that this was the likely location of an early settlement and that the present Hall could be located over the medieval and possibly the Saxon manorial centre referred to in the Domesday Book. The pottery assemblage indicates a high medieval date of the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The small number of finds recovered, and their utilitarian and humble nature, gives no indication of the status of the Hall during the medieval period (the presence of quernstone might indicate high status as milling was, in theory, a controlled activity in the medieval period – John Newman pers. com.). Nor is there any evidence for structural remains belonging to this period, although the central area of modern disturbance running north-east to south-west within the new footing trench might be the grubbed out footings of an earlier structure (see figure 2).

The parallel north-west to south-east running ditches, [0004 / 0014] and [0008], could represent paired droveway ditches or the remains of a ditched enclosure. If features [0022] and [0024] were also ditches on the same alignment, then these ditches could be indicating the westward or eastward shift (or the expansion and contraction) of the enclosure for the earlier Hall. Pit [0010] is to the west of the ditches, so it seems likely that at some point the enclosure for the Hall was further west still, possibly under the present fence-line. It is interesting to note that the ditches are on the same alignment as the present Hall.

The brick-lined cistern was probably built for the collection of rainwater and its location designed to gather water run-off from the present Hall structure. Ditch [0016] is probably a recent garden feature or previous service trench.

The area to the south-east of the Hall revealed a flint and mortar wall footing [0050]. This wall also contained a small quantity of brick fragments, one of which was collected for analysis. Despite hopes that this might be conclusive evidence for an earlier stone-built phase of the Hall the brick fragment was shown to be of a modern fabric (see 'The Finds' above). It seems likely therefore that the wall is the base of a garden feature of 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, the thick accumulation of topsoil above it possibly indicating its function as terracing or retaining raised beds.

The site owner, Mr Baxter, had also noted a flint and mortar wall and another area of large mortared flints within a recently dug service trench for a BT cable. The wall appeared to be on a slightly different alignment from the present Hall and from [0050]. These structural remains



could belong to earlier phases of the Hall, but are just as likely to be landscaping or garden features.

The single sherd of Early Saxon pottery recovered from adjacent to wall [0050] points to possible activity of this period in the area. A feature of a similar date was recovered from the St Peter's Road frontage to the south-east.

The Carlton Hall area has now shown evidence for Early Saxon to the south, Late Saxon to the east and high medieval to the west. This indicates that this location is within the heart of the early core of Carlton Colville and that the present Hall is likely to be over the medieval and Late Saxon manorial centre.



# APPENDIX 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### CARLTON HALL, CARLTON COLVILLE

*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.*

#### 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 W/12990/10). 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 is adjacent to the Hall which is recorded as CAC 004 in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The medieval church is within 120m to the south and medieval and Saxon settlement has been recovered from excavations (CAC 030) within 90m to the east. The area is demonstrated to be in the likely early settlement core and to have potential for early occupation.
- 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.

#### 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 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 upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological 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 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.
- 4.6 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.

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: 23 September 2003

Reference: /CarltonHall09

**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.**