

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

**Former Horse Hair Factory,
Bell's Lane, Glemsford
GFD 033**

**Planning Application No.: B/03/1664
NGR: TL 83265 48302
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-7806**

Funded by: Ellisdale Builders Ltd.

SCCAS Report no. 2005/64

Summary

Monitoring of footing trenches recorded several brick structures dating from the 19th century and thought to relate to the old horsehair factory. Although the site is close to the church and within the medieval village core there was no evidence of medieval occupation activity.

Introduction

Two visits were made to monitor the groundworks for the construction of new residential units on part of the site of the former horse hair factory, Bell Lane, Glemsford (Fig.1). The monitoring was a condition of the consent on planning application (B/03/1664) and was completed in accordance with a brief and specification by R.D.Carr from Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, Conservation Team. The visits were made during April 2005 by members of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team and funded by the developer Ellisdale Builders Ltd.

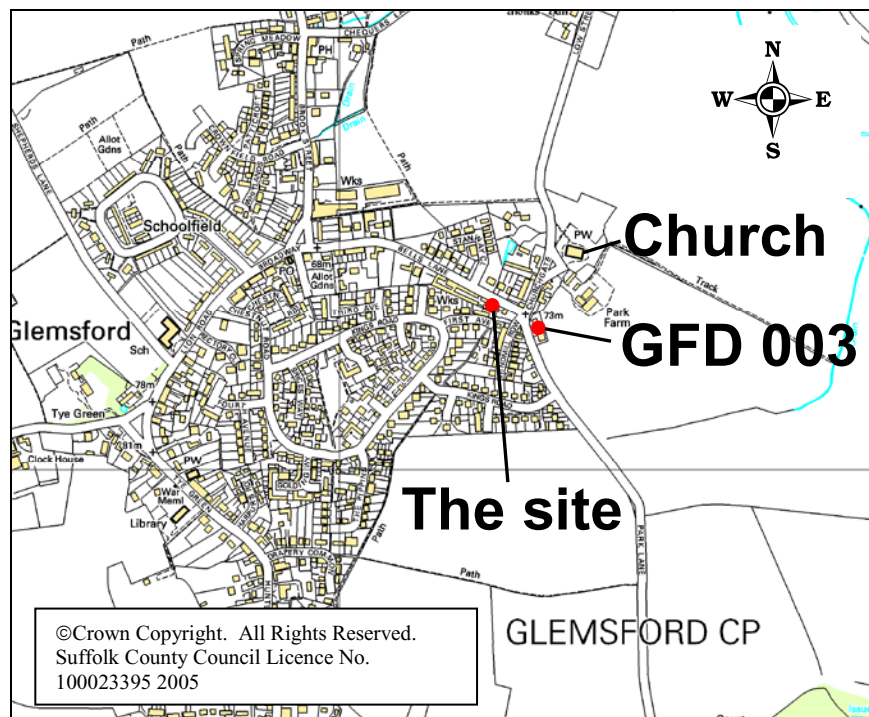
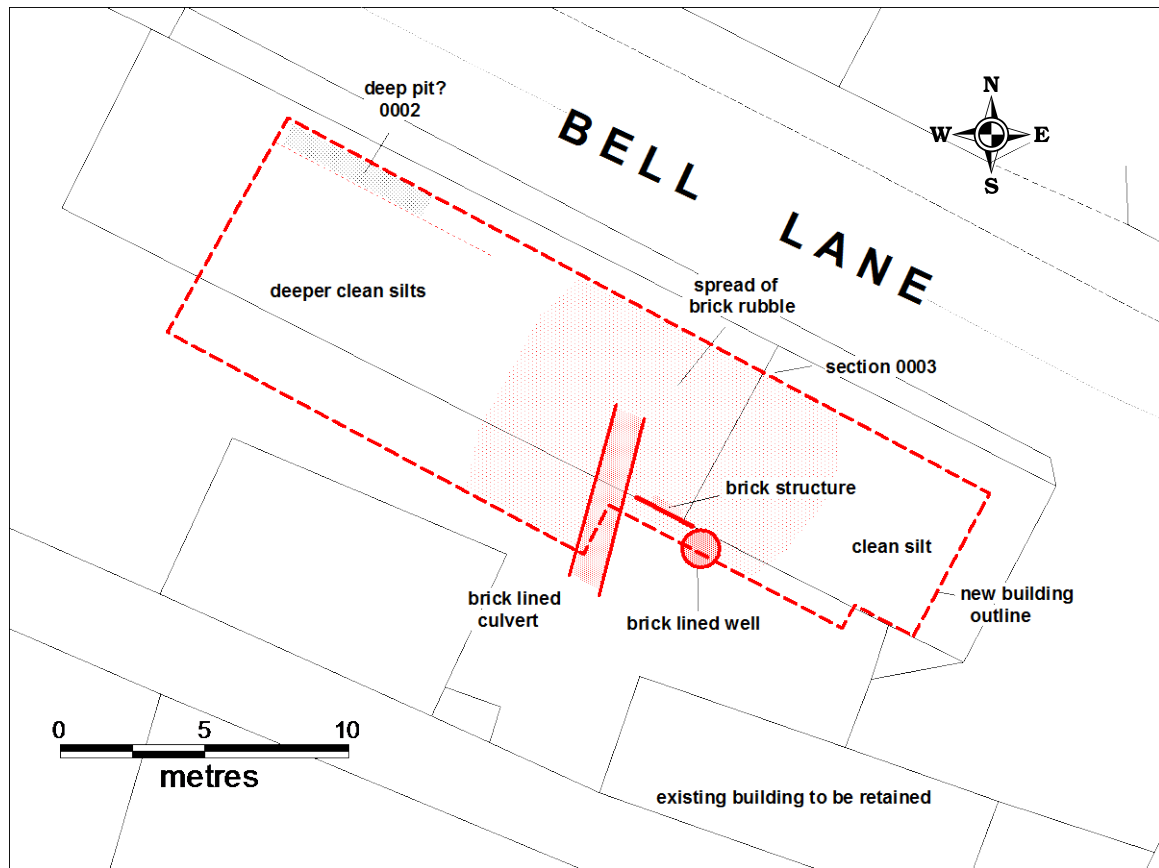


Figure 1 Site location

The site lies potentially within the medieval settlement core; it is within 140m of the medieval church, close to a moat, GFD 003, and fronts onto the probable early roadway linking the church with 'Fair Green'.

Results

At the time of the visits all of the footing trenches were open and available for inspection and the spoil stockpiled on the site. The footing trenches were c.50cm wide and generally 1m deep, excavated into the underlying silty clay of the surface geology. 30cm of brick rubble covered the central area of the new building and this was recorded in plan (Fig. 2) and section, 0003 (Fig. 3). A brick built culvert, well and part of a wall were recorded in the trenches on the southern side of the footing; these dated to the 19th century and were probably associated with the old factory.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2005

Figure 2 Site plan

The soil profile either side of the rubble area comprised a horizon of clean silt directly over the subsoil. This was 25cm at the east end deepening to 45cm at the west. The silt was homogeneous and archaeologically sterile. At the north east corner of the building footprint was a large pit 0002, this was 4m across and 2m deep, and excavated into standing ground water. The upper part of the pit was filled with brown clay silt and at its base was waterlogged organic peat/silt to a depth of about 25cm (Figs. 2 and 3). It was unclear whether the peaty organic layer was an infill deposit or developed *in situ*; which would have required the pit to have remained open long enough for vegetation to establish. However the preservation of the organic content indicates that the pit had been consistently wet. Its position on the edge of the street makes it seem unlikely that this was an open feature so it was probably not dug as a water source or stepping tank, but there were no other indications to suggest the pit's function or date.

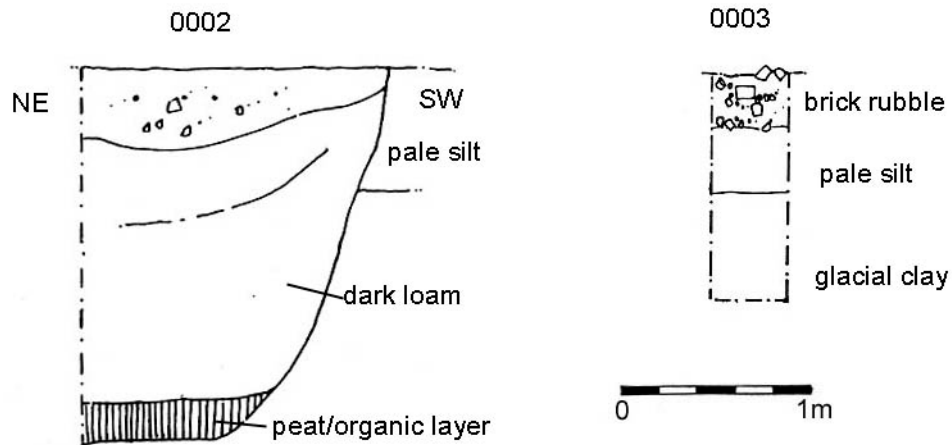


Figure 3 sections

Conclusion

The monitoring failed to produce evidence of occupation activity that could be dated to the medieval period and the clean soils and complete absence of finds indicates that the site is not within the immediate vicinity of a dwelling. The brick structures were all 19th century and thought to relate to the horsehair factory. There was no evidence to suggest the function or date of the pit but the preservation of organic material indicates a stable level of the water table.

David Gill
July 2005