

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/133

Barton House, The Park, Great Barton BRG 050

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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/07/1531
Date of Fieldwork: 6th-8th July 2010
Grid Reference: TL 8881 6702
Funding Body: Mr P Andrews
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: J. A. Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-79344

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring carried out on land at Barton House, Great Barton, identified further evidence, consisting of sherds of unstratified pottery, of a phase of Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity to add to that seen at BRG 015 to the north.

Monitored groundworks also exposed foundations and a probable cellar relating to the post-medieval Barton Hall, parts of which still survive above ground. This clearly shows that foundations for lost parts of the structure are substantial and probably survive intact below the current landscaped gardens.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Barton House, Great Barton during the groundworks for a new garage extension to the property on the 6th - 8th July 2010 (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/07/1531. The work was funded by the developer, Mr P Andrews.

2. Geology and topography

The property lies on an area of level ground at a height of c.64m AOD in the centre of the modern village. The site geology is of clayey soils over chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3. Archaeological and historical background

The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for important archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as archaeological evaluation at the property to the north, BRG 015, has previously identified evidence of Iron Age occupation.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1884 (Fig. 2) shows the property as standing within Barton Park, the entirety of which is now largely occupied by the modern village. At the centre of this estate lay Barton Hall, an early 17th century brick-built property, which was largely destroyed by fire in the early 20th century. Parts of Barton Hall still stand in the gardens to the north of the current house and the proposed extension was positioned to cross the southern wall of the Hall, immediately adjacent to part of the standing ruins.

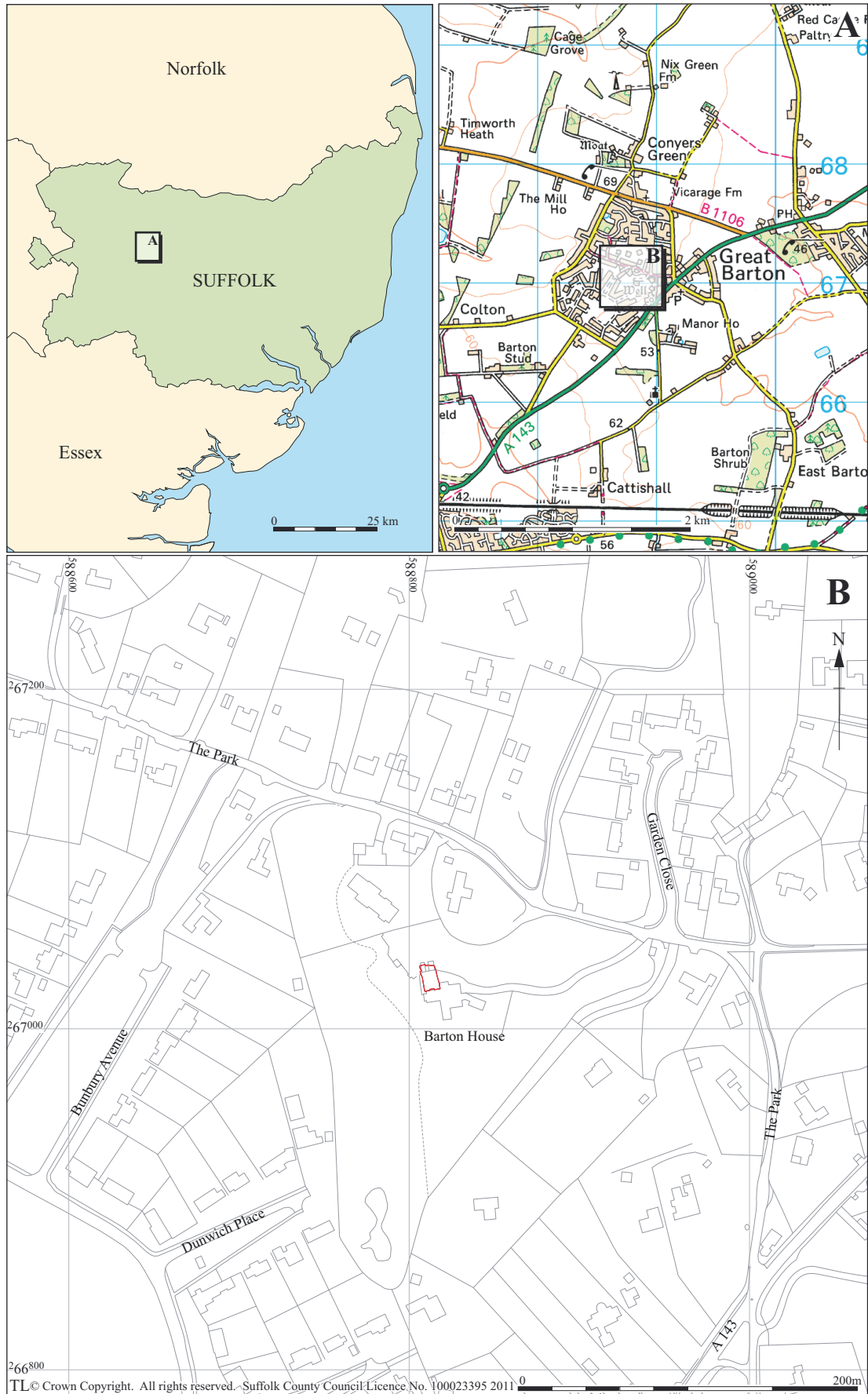


Figure 1. Location plan showing area of excavation (red)

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks was therefore required to record any archaeological deposits affected by the development.

4. Methodology

The construction works consisted of two separate phases, both of which were continuously monitored. The extension footprint of c.13m by 7m was initially levelled to the height of the existing driveway, which involved terracing into the raised gardens on the north and western sides. This was followed by the excavation of footing trenches, which measured c.33m in length, 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep.

Excavated spoil was examined for finds. Hand cleaning of trenches and features was carried out as required. The site was planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour and black and white photographs were taken at all stages of the fieldwork.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-79344) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. BRG 050.

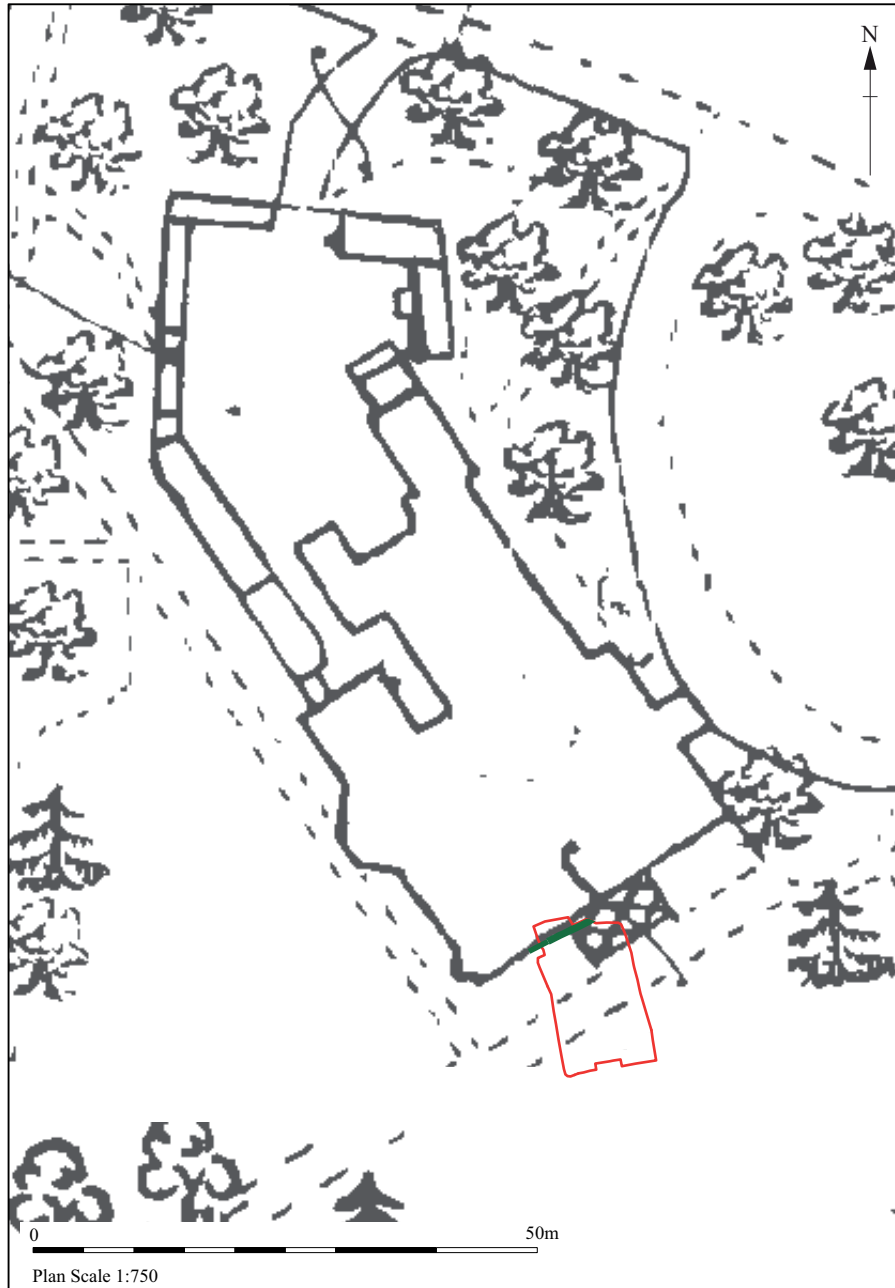


Figure 2. Site on 1884 OS map

5. Results

Site strip

The initial levelling of the site saw ground levels reduced by c.0.6m on the western and northern sides of the plot (Fig. 3). As the pre-existing ground-level descended, the amount of overburden removed gradually reduced to zero along the southern and eastern sides.

Across the majority of the site the site strip removed modern deposits. An apparent edge to the modern material was seen, 1m in from the western edge, cutting a thick garden topsoil. The site strip was not deep enough to expose the natural subsoil and left modern deposits and topsoil *in situ* across most of the site, apart from in the north-east where a layer of mid grey/brown sandy clay, 0005, which contained fragments of post-medieval CBM, was seen.

The north-west edge of the site strip passed immediately adjacent to an extant section of the southern wall of Barton Hall which had been consolidated. The reduction of ground levels showed that the 0.8m wide foundations for this wall survived in situ, a 6m long section being revealed before the wall continued eastwards offsite. The machining, carried out with a toothed bucket, removed 1 or 2 upper courses of the structure before it was hand-cleaned and recorded. A curvilinear brick lined drain with a tiled floor was seen extending from the exterior face of the wall, possibly from a recessed drainpipe, for a distance of c.2m terminating in a small brick-lined soakaway. A 1.25m opening through the wall was also observed where a level surface of bricks overlaid with mortar was set c.0.1m below the surviving height of the wall on either side. Notches within the wall to either side, connected by a linear line of bricks on edge, indicated the presence of a door or window frame and two rows of bricks to the south indicate a stepped entrance. To the north of the wall the garden topsoil overlaid a deposit of brick rubble, 0013, from the demolished structure which extended below the level of the initial site strip. To the south the wall foundation and drain was seen to cut layer 0005.

Footing trenches

The southern footing trench exposed the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.6m along its length under modern deposits.

The southern end of the western footing trench showed the orange sandy clay subsoil, 0002, at a depth of 0.6m, under a thin layer, 0001, of buried topsoil. Above this lay 0006, a modern deposit of mixed topsoil and redeposited natural and areas of other modern disturbance. 4m to the north of the house, and extending for a further 3m, was the construction trench (0007) for a modern brick soakaway, 0009, which was infilled with 0008, an orange/grey sandy clay with frequent small stones and chalk. Beyond this disturbance layers 0006 and 0001 were again present and overlaid 0005, a mid grey/brown sandy clay. The natural subsoil was not seen.

Where the footing trench cut across the foundation of the southern wall of Barton Hall, 0003, it showed the wall cutting layer 0005, with 0006 likely being built up against it. The foundation was seen to extend beyond the base of the trench at 1.1m and consisted of at least 15 courses of red brick with small flint inclusions. As the trench cut through the structure it showed it to step out slightly to 0.9m wide and have a 0.35m wide inner core of irregular brick and occasional flints. On the north side the rubble deposit 0013 also continued to this depth indicating the presence of an infilled cellar.

A construction trench cut, 0010, for the wall foundation, measuring up to 0.5m wide, was seen on its southern side within the northern footing trench and was infilled with 0011, a compacted mid grey/brown sandy clay with frequent flecks of ceramic building material (CBM) and small flints. 0010 cut the natural subsoil which was visible through the remainder of the trench at a depth of 0.2m under 0005.

Three sherds of unstratified Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, 0004, were collected from the machining of the footing trenches.

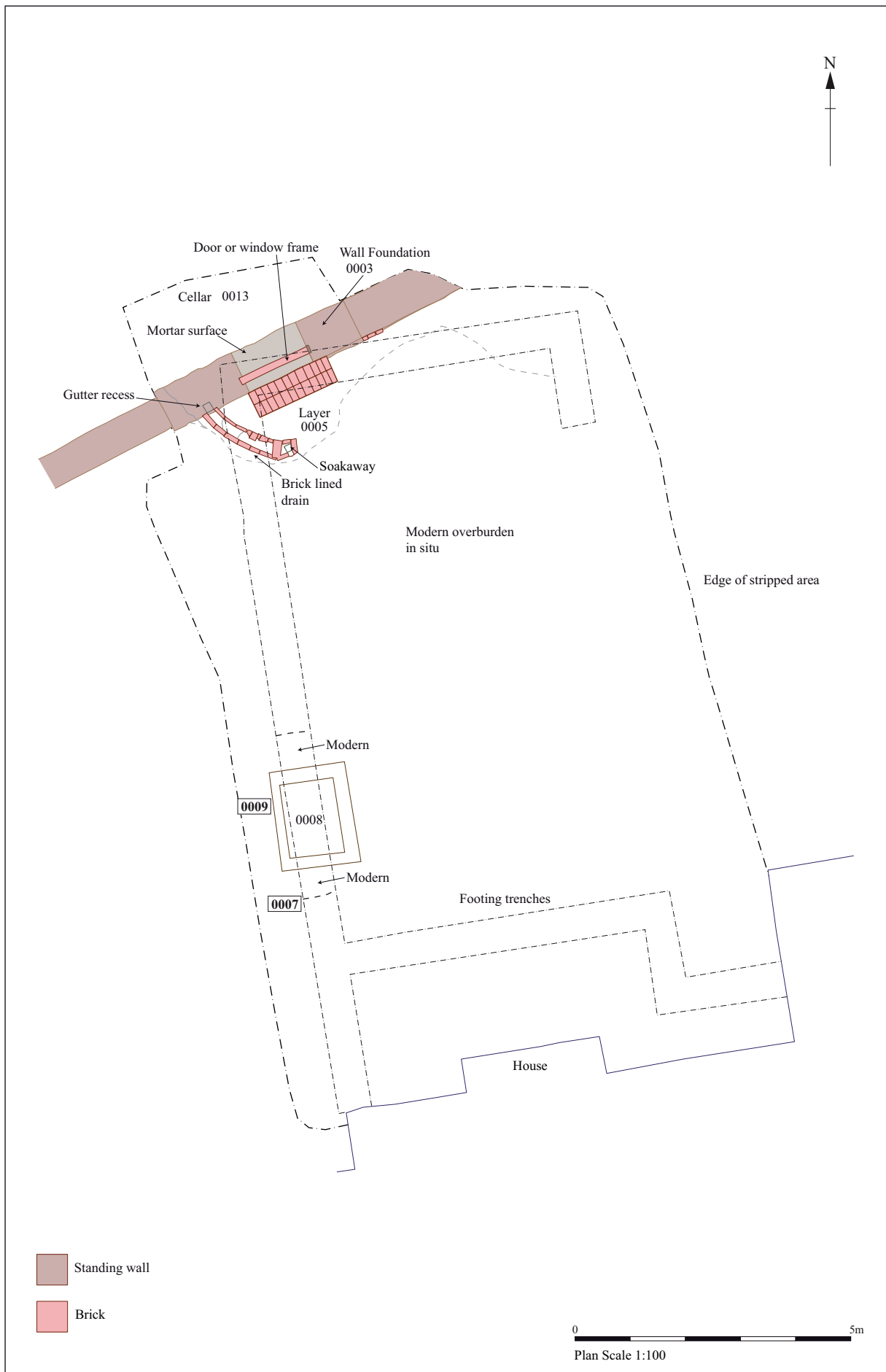


Figure 3. Site plan



Figure 4. Northwest site corner showing existing walls of Barton Hall and exposed wall foundation

6. The finds

Steve Benfield

Three fragments of a large wheelthrown Roman storage jar, of Late Iron Age/Early Roman 1st century date, were recovered as an unstratified find from context 0004 (245g). Two of the sherds are joining.

Form

Pakenham 4.2 - large storage jar, medium mouthed, thick rounded rim (Camulodunum form Cam 271). Vessel has horizontal combing band around the shoulder with angled combing on the body below.

Fabric

STOR, Grog-tempered (red and dark grog pieces) with some silver mica visible in surfaces.

In addition four fragments of ceramic building material were collected from 0005 (252g). Two fragments of post-medieval brick (msfl) were identified, a small late or post-medieval fragment with clay pellet inclusions (fscp) and a fragment made of mixed clay bands which is likely to be of a similar date.

7. Discussion

The unstratified pottery sherds indicate the presence of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman activity in the area although no cut features were identified. Combined with the pottery of similar date recovered in the BRG 015 evaluations to the north it demonstrates that there may be widespread deposits in the vicinity.

The known footprint and layout of Barton Hall is well-established from historic mapping, photographs and the extant structure. The monitoring though has clearly shown that foundations for lost parts of the structure are substantial and probably survive intact below the current landscaped gardens. The uncovered section of wall foundation is clearly part of the southern wall and the possible window may be set below ground level to provide light to a cellar.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The monitoring of the soil strip and footing trenches has shown that the natural subsoil has been heavily disturbed in the post-medieval and modern periods, although in places it has also been buried under deep modern deposits. While no cut features pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed, the fragments of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pottery indicate the presence of some activity in the period.

The monitoring has also demonstrated that the foundations for Barton Hall are likely to survive across the site, reaching a considerable depth below ground.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: T:\arc\archive field proj\Great Barton\BRG 050

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The monitoring fieldwork was carried out by Robert Brooks and John Craven from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians, the production of site plans and sections by Crane Begg and Ellie Hillen and the specialist finds report by Steve Benfield.

11. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

Appendix 1

Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

BARTON HOUSE, THE PARK, GREAT BARTON, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect two extensions at Barton House, The Park, Great Barton, Suffolk IP31 2SU (TL 8881 6702), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/07/1531). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring. **(Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development).**
- 1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, close to the find spots of Iron Age material that is indicative of further occupation deposits. There is a strong possibility that archaeological deposits will be encountered in this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the

archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

- 1.7 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.8 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the erection of the new extensions. These, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and 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.

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 SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of

the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.

- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental 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.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.
- 5.6 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).

- 5.7 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.8 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 1 April 2008

Reference: /BartonHouse-GreatBarton2008

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.