

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/182

Rear of 18 High Street, Clare CLA 068

J. A. Craven
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

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/0435
Date of Fieldwork: 27th-28th September 2010
Grid Reference: TL 7690 4543
Funding Body: R & P Barrable Ltd
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Officer: J. A. Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-83708




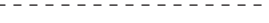







Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features Observed In Section 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\overline{\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}}$

Contents

Summary	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	2
5. Results	5
6. The finds	6
7. 7. Discussion	8
8. Conclusions	8
9. Archive deposition	9
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	9
11. Bibliography	9
Disclaimer	9

List of Figures

1. Location plan	3
2. Trench location plan	4
3. Site plan and sections	7

List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification

Summary

An archaeological monitoring, carried out on land to the rear of 18 High Street, Clare during residential development, identified an undated former boundary ditch which is thought to have defined a property boundary to the rear of the post-medieval street frontage and may have earlier medieval origins, together with three large pits of post-medieval date that were probably rubbish pit within the yards to the rear of the extant 15th/16th century buildings.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land to the rear of 18 High Street, Clare, Suffolk, during the groundworks for a new residential property (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/09/0435. The work was funded by the developer, Mr P Barrable.

2. Geology and topography

The property lies at a height of 51-52m AOD on a slight east facing slope, 350m north of the River Stour. The site geology is of deep loam soils over glaciofluvial drift (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 the historic medieval settlement core of Clare, within the area of archaeological importance as defined in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (CLA 058), c.40m west of the 13th century parish church of St Peter and St Paul (CLA 023).

Archaeological monitoring at CLA 032, c.20m to the south has previously identified archaeological deposits of 12th century to late medieval date while similar, albeit truncated, deposits were seen in an archaeological evaluation of a former coal yard immediately to the west (CLA 031), which extended west to the former town boundary ditch.

17-19 High Street, a range of timber-framed houses of 15th or early 16 century date, heavily modified in the 19th century, is a Grade II listed building (LBS No: 282986) while No 16, Galloway House, also Grade II, is late 18th century (LBS No. 282985). The 1st,

2nd and 3rd Ordnance Surveys (dated 1886, 1904 and 1922 respectively) all show a building on the site of the proposed development, a building range to the north, and small structures along the south side of the plot.

The site therefore had high potential for further evidence of medieval settlement and so archaeological monitoring of groundworks was required to record any deposits affected by the development.

4. Methodology

As the site lay on a slight east facing slope the first stage of works was the reduction and levelling of the building plot. This site strip, carried out by the building contractors using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, clearly exposed the archaeological horizon or natural subsoil throughout meaning that the subsequent excavation of deeper footing trenches did not need to be observed.

Excavated spoil was examined for finds. Hand cleaning and excavation of archaeological 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. suffolkc1-83708) 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. CLA 068.

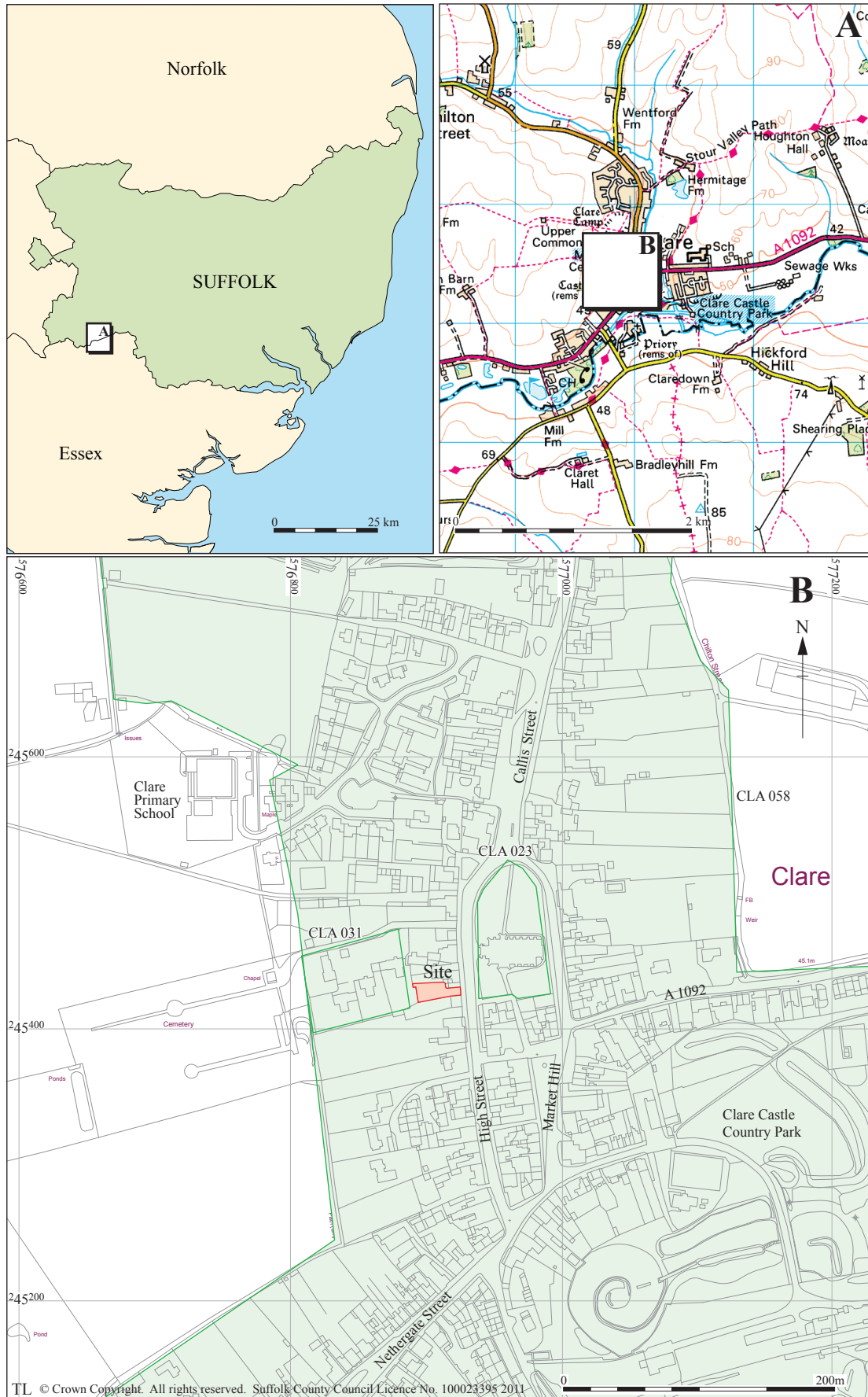


Figure 1. Location plan showing development area (red) and HER sites mentioned in the text (green)



Figure 2. Trench location plan

5. Results

The site strip of the building plot initially removed 0.4m of modern deposits, including the remnants of the wall foundations and brick tiled floor of the building shown on the 19th and 20th century maps. This exposed a mid brown silty clay with fine grit, 0001, which was up to 0.4m thick but thinned due to probable truncation towards the east. This in turn overlaid the natural subsoil of orange clay/silt/gravels which gently sloped down to the east. The formation level for the development was achieved by truncating the subsoil by up to 0.2m in the western part of the plot while to the east it was just exposed. Along the eastern edge 0.4m-0.5m of modern deposits directly overlaid the natural subsoil, apparently wholly removing layer 0001. A large modern disturbance, a wall foundation around a concrete floor, lay in the north-east corner of the plot and a further area of modern disturbance was seen to the south-east.

Four features were identified within the building plot. 0002 was an oval pit, aligned north to south, measuring 1.5m by 0.8m and 0.7m deep, apparently cutting layer 0001 and ditch 0006. Steep sided, with a concave base, its fill, 0003, was a mid brown silt/sand with frequent grit and chalk. The feature was not clearly visible until after the removal of 0001, which meant that it was partially truncated by machining and resulted in machine disturbance to a partially articulated animal skeleton of which a sample was collected.

0004 was a rectangular pit, partially visible against the western site edge cutting layer 0001. Measuring 1.2m wide and 1m deep it had near vertical sides, a flattish base and squared corners. Its fill, 0005, was a loose and soft mid grey/brown silt/sand with frequent brick, tile, flint and chalk debris. A small sample of the tile was collected, together with a sherd of late medieval/post-medieval pottery.

0006 was an apparent ditch, aligned east to west and only partially visible running along the southern edge of the site. Measuring at least 0.8m wide and 1m deep it had steep sides and a flat base. Its relationship with layer 0001 was unclear although it was cut by pit 0002. Its basal fill, 0007, was a slumped deposit of compact fine orange gravel. Above lay the main fill 0008, a uniform deposit of soft mid brown/grey silt/loam.

0009 was a large oval pit, measuring 1.7m by 1.1m and 1m deep. Steep sided with a concave base it had a fill, 0010, of friable mid grey/brown silty clay with frequent brick,

tile, mortar and chalk rubble. A sample of the tile was collected, together with three sherds of late medieval/post-medieval pottery.

A site visit during excavation of service trenches in December 2010 demonstrated that the 0.4m of modern deposits seen in the eastern side of the building plot continued across the yard. This meant that the strip for the access driveway, carried out in September 2011, was not of a sufficient depth (i.e. less than 0.2m) to cut through the modern yard deposits and so was not monitored.

6. The finds

Richenda Goffin

A small quantity of finds was recovered from the fills of three different pits.

Three fragments of pottery were found in pitfill 0010 (20g). A single sherd of Glazed red earthenware dating to the 16th-18th century was identified, with two joining sherds of unglazed redware dating to the fifteenth to sixteenth century. The fill also contained three fragments of late medieval to post-medieval ceramic roofing tile. These were made in fully oxidised fine sandy fabrics with ferrous inclusions. One fragment had a circular peghole. The largest tile (width 170mm, depth c15mm, has clearly been reused with mortar over a broken edge.

A single sherd of post-medieval redware (13g) was recovered from pitfill 0005. It is a hard redware which is partially reduced and contains flint inclusions, and is probably a Late Colchester type ware dating to the 15th-16th C. A fragment of animal bone and five fragments of ceramic roof tile were also present. The tile was made in a number of fabrics which also date to the late medieval to post-medieval period. All of them have been stained with charcoal, and one of them has become partially vitrified, suggesting that it had been burnt.

Seventeen fragments of bone from a horse skeleton were recorded in pitfill 0003. These too were partially stained in the same way as the CBM from 0005.

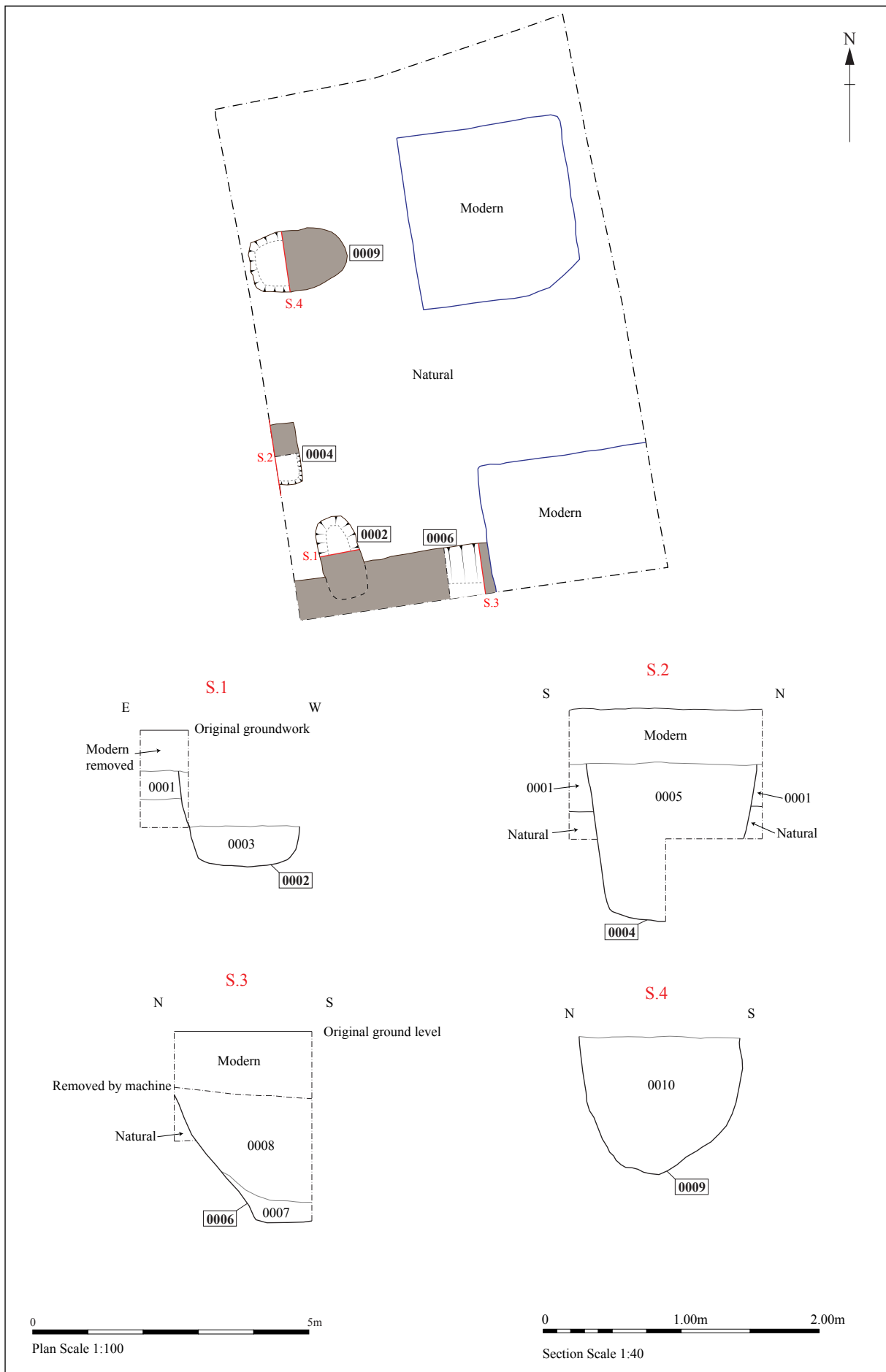


Figure 3. Site plan and sections

7. Discussion

Layer 0001, being sealed beneath the former building which was of at least 19th century date and cut by post-medieval pits is likely to be a former topsoil or occupation layer.

Ditch 0006, although undated, is clearly a former marker for the boundary of the yard to the rear of 17-19 High Street. Its unclear relationship with 0001 may mean that it pre-dates this deposit and so could be the earliest feature recorded on the site, perhaps being of a late medieval or earlier date.

The three pits are probably of a broadly similar post-medieval date and relate to a phase of activity contemporary with the listed buildings forming the road frontage. Their function is uncertain but they are probably most likely to be rubbish pits in the yards/gardens to the rear of the post-medieval buildings.

No evidence of any medieval settlement contemporary with the church or deposits seen to the east and south at CLA 031 and 032 was identified.

8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

The monitoring of groundworks has identified an undated former boundary ditch which is thought to have defined a property boundary to the rear of the post-medieval street frontage and may have earlier medieval origins, together with three large pits of post-medieval date that were probably rubbish pit within the yards to the rear of the extant 15th/16th century buildings.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Digital archive: T:\arc\archive field proj\clare\CLA 068

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The project was carried out and managed by John Craven. The specialist finds report was written by Richenda Goffin and digital illustrations produced by Ellie Hillen.

11. Bibliography

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

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1

Brrief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Land to the rear of 18 High Street, Clare

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a new dwelling on land to the rear of 18 High Street, Clare has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/09/0435). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for medieval Clare in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 would be 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 medieval occupation.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and drainage trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 As this is a sloping site, the formation level for the new building will be increasingly cut into the slope from east to west (with the western edge of the building set in some 600mm below present ground levels). The soil strip to formation level should be monitored by the observing archaeologist and should be stopped if natural subsoil or archaeological deposits are encountered so that full recording of any exposed features or finds can be undertaken prior to completion of the topsoil strip. If this ground lowering is undertaken by machine, a toothless ditching bucket should be employed, to limit any potential damage to archaeological deposits.

- 4.4 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and 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 should be fully excavated and planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.8 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 the 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.
- 4.9 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

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 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 HER 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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 HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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

Date: 2nd July 2010

Reference: Rear 18 High Street

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.