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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/098

Lorne Villa, 18 The Croft, Sudbury SUY 093

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M. Muldowney
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HER Information

Planning Application No: B/09/01380/FHA/GC

Date of Fieldwork: 12th May, 29th September and 1st October 2010

Grid Reference: TL 869 415

Funding Body: Mr and Mrs D Kisby

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Mo Muldowney

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1_83874

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out in the grounds of Lorne Villa, Sudbury and identified a heat-affected brick structure, which may be a late medieval kiln/oven and a series of post-medieval deposits and pits.

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1. Introduction

Two stages of monitoring were carried out at Lorne Villa, Sudbury (Fig. 1) during groundworks associated with the construction of a garden store and the redevelopment and extension of an existing outbuilding (Planning Application B/09/01380/FHA/GC).

The work was carried out on 12th May, 29th September and 1st October 2010 and was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

2. Geology and topography

The underlying geology is recorded as chalk overlain by gravel, sand and clay, with lenses of silt clay or peat (British Geological Society).

The land lies at a height of approximately 30m OD and slopes down from east to west to the mill stream which forms the west boundary to the garden. To the south, the slope has two terraces and it is upon the upper terrace that the extension and new store were constructed. Prior to the development of the outbuilding and garden store, the land was used respectively as a vegetable patch and as uncultivated lawn.

3. Archaeological and historical background

Lorne Villa is located at the north-west edge of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core (SUY 040) of Sudbury as defined in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) and it lies less than 100m north-west of the medieval church of St Gregory (SUY 032). It may also be located within the former precinct of St Gregory's College (SUY 004) (founded by Simon of Sudbury in 1375 and dissolved in 1544), which stood to the south.

Archaeological interventions to the south of Lorne Villa have noted the presence of Iron Age remains with Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery (SUY 014), post-medieval pits and quarrying (SUY 019 and SUY 029) and an undated buried soil horizon (SUY 020). In addition, seven late 3rd/4th century Roman coins (SUY 049) were found in a nearby garden.

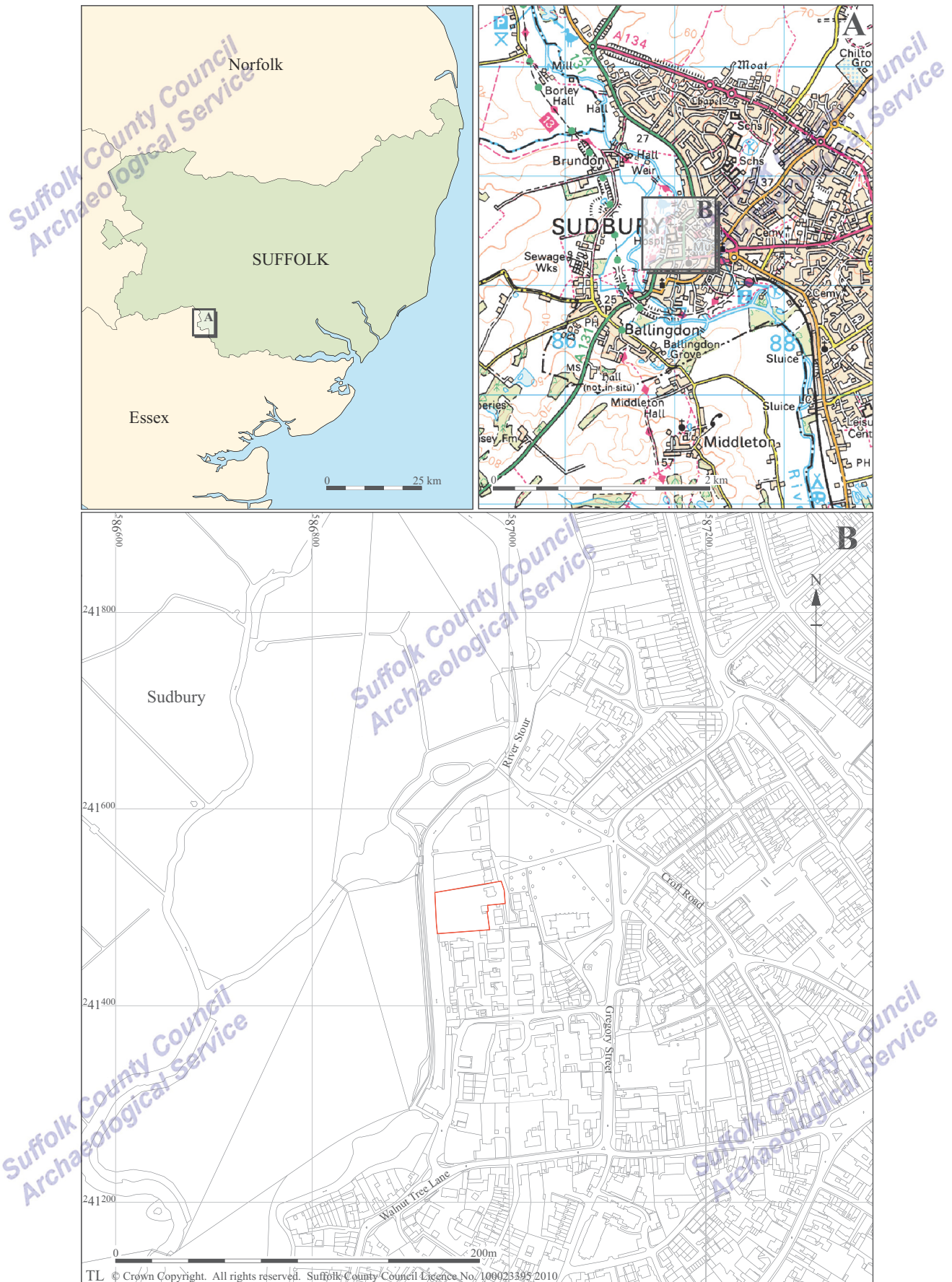


Figure 1. Site location, with development area (outlined red)

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
SUY 004	Documentary ref.	Building	Medieval	St Gregory's College, 14th to 16th century. Site reused as the Workhouse then the Walnut Tree Hospital
SUY 014	Excavation	Features	Iron Age; Anglo-Saxon; medieval	Iron Age gully and hollow associated with pottery. Late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery retrieved
SUY 015	Excavation	Pottery	Medieval	11th to 12th century pottery found in 1977 excavation
SUY 016	Excavation	Pottery	Medieval	12th century pottery found in 1977 excavation
SUY 018	Monitoring	Pottery	Medieval	Pottery recovered from foundation trench
SUY 019	Excavation	Pits etc.	Post-medieval	Two pits (17th and 19th century)
SUY 020	Excavation	Pottery	?prehistoric	One sherd recovered from buried soil on Walnut Tree Hospital site
SUY 022	Monitoring	Pottery	Medieval	Seven sherds were found during the redevelopment of 21-22 Market Hill
SUY 024	Unknown	Defensive feature	Undated	Possible location of town defences
SUY 026	Reference	Building	Medieval	Location of Chapel of Holy Sepulchre found in 1826 during building work
SUY 028	Excavation	Settlement	Bronze Age; Iron Age to Romano-British; Anglo-Saxon; medieval	Bronze Age pits with grooved ware and beaker ware pottery Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosure and pits Late Anglo-Saxon pits with Thetford ware and St Neots ware pottery Medieval pits and property boundary on same alignment as late Iron Age ditch
SUY 029	Excavation	Pits etc.	Iron Age; Romano-British; Anglo-Saxon; post-medieval	Multi-period artefacts recovered from backfill of 19th century quarry pits. Small area of Anglo-Saxon features survived
SUY 030	Findspot	Pottery	Medieval	Thetford ware and medieval pottery recovered by builders
SUY 032	Building	Church	Medieval	Church of St Gregory. 14th century building on site of earlier Anglo-Saxon and medieval church
SUY 040	Documentary ref.	Town	Medieval	Area of the medieval town. Urban from late Anglo-Saxon period. Located between mill stream and defensive ditch below current main road
SUY 043	Documentary ref.	Building	Post-medieval	Watermill on site of medieval mill, now a hotel
SUY 044	Monitoring	Pits	Medieval	Five medieval pot sherds recovered during construction
SUY 046	Excavation	Pit	Anglo-Saxon	Late Anglo-Saxon pit in area disturbed by 18th and 19th century quarrying
SUY 047	Monitoring	Pits	Iron Age; medieval	Two Iron Age pits and a series of late medieval pits seen in foundation trenches
SUY 048	Unknown	Earthwork	Post-medieval	Parallel depressions in a meadow
SUY 049	Findspot	Coins	Romano-British	Seven late 3rd to 4th century coins found in a back garden
SUY 058	Evaluation	Ditch	Anglo-Saxon	13m by 3.4m deep defensive ditch. Medieval pottery in upper fill
SUY 063	Monitoring	Features	Undated	Features possibly associated with town defensive ditch
SUY 064	Monitoring	Well	Medieval; post-medieval	Late medieval or post-medieval well constructed in built up ground
SUY 065	Reference	Skeletons	Undated	Skeletons discovered when digging out a cellar in 1800
SUY 071	Monitoring	Pits etc.	Medieval; post-medieval	A pit, foundation trench and brick well/soakaway were found in footings trenches
SUY 074	Monitoring	Pits	Medieval; post-medieval	Pits found despite post-medieval cellaring at 17 Market Hill
SUY 075	Monitoring	Deposits	Medieval	1.2m deep deposits of both medieval and post-medieval date
SUY 092	Evaluation	Layers; pits	Post-medieval	A single trench identified over 1.2m of post-medieval and modern deposits at the Fire Station

Table 1. Summary of HER entries in proximity to the development area

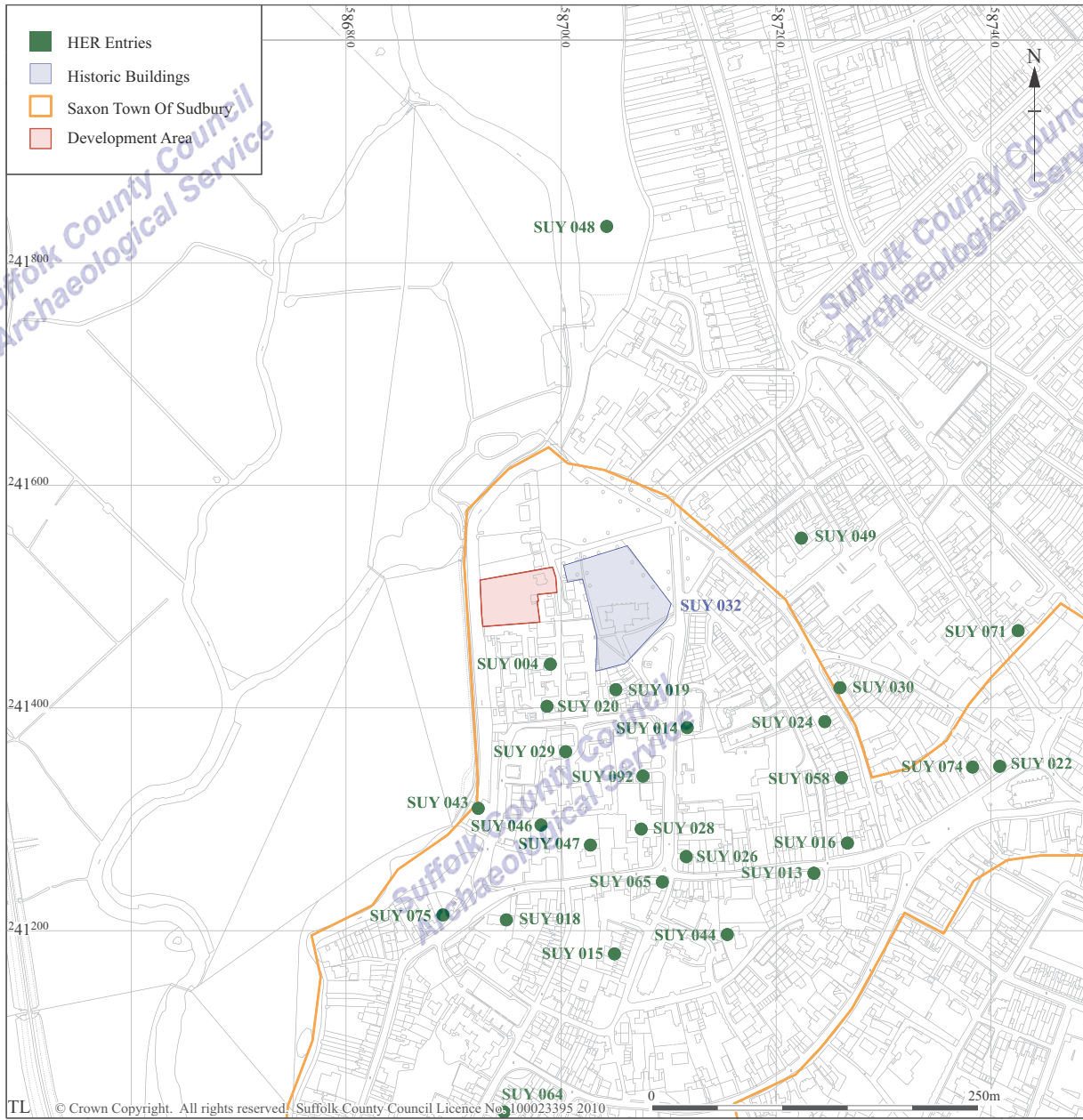


Figure 2. Historic Environment Record entries

Nearby, to both north and south of Lorne Villa, are a small number of other post-medieval remains, including parallel depressions in a meadow (SUY 048), a mill on the site of an earlier medieval mill (SUY 043) and an area of quarrying (SUY 046), where a late Anglo-Saxon and late medieval pit were also identified. In addition, post-medieval deposits of significant depth (over 1.2m) were identified during an excavation at the Fire Station (SUY 092).

There is therefore a medium to high potential for finding archaeological remains of Roman to post-medieval date in the development area, although given its location within the Saxon and medieval core of Sudbury and the high number of post-medieval remains nearby it is most likely that the monitoring will identify remains of medieval and/or post-medieval date. A summary of a search of the HER within the vicinity of the development area is presented in Table 1 below, and the location of these entries are recorded on Figure 2.

4. Methodology

Observations were made of the groundworks (Fig. 3, Pl. 1) for the garden store during the first visit which consisted of reducing (using a Takeuchi TB016 mechanical excavator and a Thwaites 1 tonne dumper) the east half of the area to a level surface and the excavation of the footings trench. The store footings were excavated to a depth of between approximately 0.25m and 0.70m.

The second and third visits observed the reduction of the central area of the extension (Fig. 3, Pl. 2) by 0.40m and the excavation of the footings to a depth of approximately 0.70m.

A record of exposed deposits was sketched and all records were written on SCCAS *pro forma* sheets. A plan of the stripped areas was produced using the main contractor's technical plans. A colour photographic record was taken using a high-resolution (314 dpi) digital camera.

Metal-detection was not carried out and no environmental samples were taken.

5. Results

Monitoring identified three post-medieval pits, a heat-affected brick-and-clay structure and a series of three deposits.

The underlying chalk geology was not observed in any of the footings, but the superficial fine yellowish orange gravels were seen in the north soakaway at a depth of approximately 0.70m below the ground surface (between 20m and 30m OD).

5.1 Garden store footings

Deposit 0004 was the lowest observed layer in the footings trench of the garden store. It was dark brownish grey silty clay up to 0.50m deep with an upper lens of 0.16m thick (max) mid brownish yellow sandy peagrit. Towards the east end of the footings 0004 merged with 0003, the lowest of the observed deposits underlying the patio. Deposit 0003 was mid whiteish grey silty sand with a mixed lower half of silty clay and sandy peagrit. The sloping angle of this gritty deposit might indicate pit(s) underlie this sequence: where the fills of the underlying pits settle and sink, overlying deposits sink with them.

Overlying this was 0002, dark grey silty clay. Its total depth was 0.26m, which included an ash/fire rake-out deposit in the upper 0.06m. This ashy lens extended from the south wall outwards to the front (north) edge of the patio, where it became thinner and petered out.

5.2 Outbuilding extension

The outbuilding footings were excavated by the building contractor over a period of three days and by the time of the third visit were in part backfilled. This meant that observations could not be made of the entire footing area. Despite this, part of a brick structure, possibly a kiln or oven (0211), was identified on the west side of the footings trench (Fig. 3, Pl. 3), which had a thick deposit of heat-affected clay on its outside edge. Two post-medieval pits were also located here. A third pit was located in the south-east corner of the footing trench.

The exposed structure of the kiln/oven was 0.45m wide and was over 0.15m deep and the upper surviving surface was encountered approximately 0.40m below the ground surface. The visible inside edge had a slight curve, which indicated that it may have

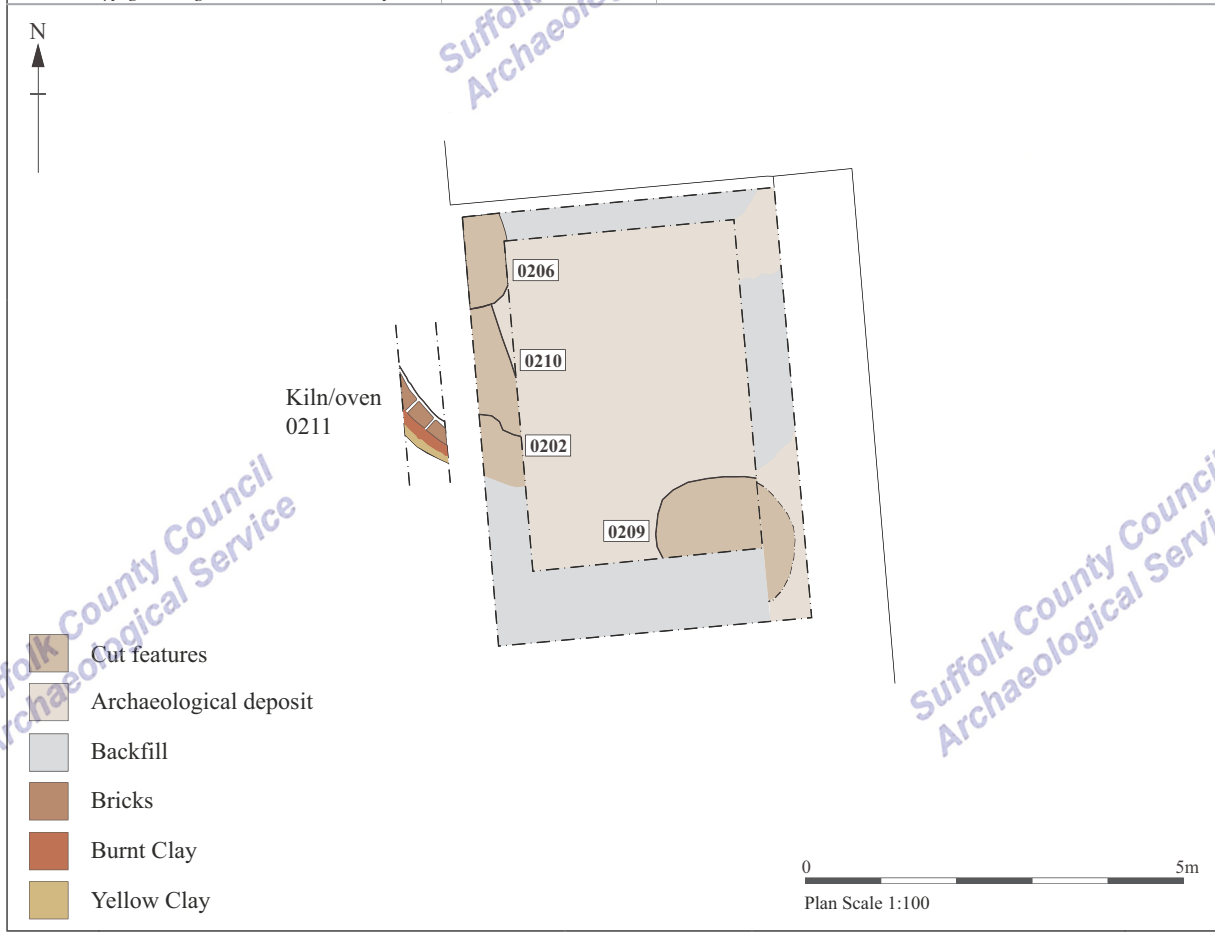


Figure 3. Location of footings and detail of extension area, showing kiln/oven 0211 below pit 0202

been a large structure. A lime mortar render had been applied to the inside face of the kiln/oven, which was approximately 0.03m thick. Where exposed, the mortar and single skin of brickwork (0211) were ragged, suggesting that this was not the top of the kiln/oven and that it had been demolished. No finds were recovered from the kiln/oven, but the dimension of the bricks (9.68" (L) x 4.13" (W) x 2.75" (H)) indicates that they are 16th century. An area of crushed brickwork/burnt clay (0203) lay directly above the kiln/oven structure and was probably the damaged/truncated remnant of this structure.

Two pits truncated the kiln/oven, one to the north and one to the south. Pit 0206 was at least 1.25m long, but its shape in plan was unclear due to part of the footing having been backfilled. It was filled by 0204, reddish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered. Pit 0202 lay to the south of the kiln/oven and was at least 0.60m wide and filled with 0201, dark grey sandy loam.

The third pit (0209) was located near the south-east corner of the footings and cut from directly below the modern topsoil/garden soil. The upper fill was crushed chalk (0208), which may have acted to seal the contents of the pit. The lower fill (0207) was dark grey brown sandy loam and black ash, suggesting that this pit was filled with the rake out from either a domestic setting or perhaps from the kiln/oven. Again, no finds were recovered.

Topsoil 0001 was mottled mid and pale brownish grey sand, with occasional small patches of yellow sand where root disturbance had pushed the natural upwards. It was the uppermost deposit and overlay all other described deposits.

No archaeological features were identified in either of the two soakaways (Fig. 3), instead post-medieval deposits were identified that may relate to the terracing here. The south soakaway was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.60m, but the natural was not seen, only topsoil. Interestingly, this soakaway was located further down the terracing than the north soakaway, which raises questions concerning the landscaping and soil movement in this area.

6. Finds evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A total of fifteen finds (510g) was recovered from two contexts, 0002 and 0004 (Table 1).

The pottery assemblage from both contexts is chiefly composed of Transfer Printed Earthenwares (TPE) and English Stonewares (ESW); these are all dated from the 19th century onwards. Other associated finds include modern decorative tile, mortar and green bottle glass. Finally two pieces of large mammal bone have also been recorded, a fragment of rib and a possible tibia.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Glass		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	8	99	2	86	2	207	1	15	Late 19th C+ 19th C?+
0004	2	103							
Total	10	202	2	86	2	207	1	15	

Table 2. Finds quantities

7. Discussion

Monitoring of both footings at Lorne Villa has identified a series of post-medieval pits and deposits, and part of a possible late medieval or early post-medieval kiln or oven. The pits and kiln/oven were observed in the footings for the extension and other deposits were seen in both the extension and store footings.

Possibly the earliest feature identified was the remains of a possible kiln/oven in the west side of the extension footings. The dimension of the surviving brickwork suggests a 16th century date for the structure, although it is possible that they could have been re-used, and therefore put the kiln/oven at a later, post-medieval date. Regardless of the date, the presence of the structure is evidence for probable small-scale industrial activity in this location.

Because of the limited nature of the intervention here, it was not possible to investigate the pits fully, but they all appear stratigraphically and by the nature of their fills to be post-medieval in date. The fills of pit 0209 in particular (ashy waste sealed with a chalk deposit), suggest that this area was near either light industrial activity or near properties,

whether domestic or institutional, such as a hospital, an example of which stands close to the site.

The natural gravels were not exposed in either of the footings, but were observed in one of the soakaways. This was probably because both areas under development were sited high up the river terrace and may have been subjected to landscaping in the recent past. The extent and nature of this landscaping was not identifiable at the time of the works and due to the limited nature of the intervention beyond the practical remit of the work. A much larger-scale, specific intervention would prove more useful.

Additionally, no subsoil was observed and its absence may be due to the reasons set out with regard to the natural.

8. Conclusions

Although the development area lay at the north-west edge of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core (SUY 040) of Sudbury, and potentially within the former medieval precinct of St Gregory's College (SUY 004), the monitoring works failed to identify any deposits of these dates. Instead, post-medieval deposits probably relating to small-scale industrial, institutional and/or domestic activity were found.

Medieval and earlier remains may still lie *in situ* at and near the development area however, at a depth greater than the groundwork allowed on this occasion.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

T:\Arc\ALL_site\Sudbury\SUY 093 Lorne Villa, 18 The Croft

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. H / 81 / 3.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Mo Muldowney and Duncan Stirk from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team and the project was managed by Jo Caruth.

Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and illustrations and graphic were produced by Crane Begg and Ellie Hillen. The specialist finds report was written by Andy Fawcett and Richenda Goffin edited the report.

11. Bibliography

British Geological Society 2010 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HEAD>
Accessed 12/05/10

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.

Plates.



Plate 1. Store footings, east end, facing south



Plate 2. Extension footings, facing north



Plate 3. Kiln/oven structure 0211, facing south-west

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Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

LORNE VILLA, 18 THE CROFT, SUDBURY

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to convert and extend an outbuilding and erect a garden store at Lorne Villa, 18 The Croft, Sudbury has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/09/01380). 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 Importance for Sudbury as defined in the Babergh Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance. Lorne Villa is also likely to be located within the precinct of St Gregory's College, founded by Simon of Sudbury in 1375 and dissolved in 1544.
- 1.3 As deep topsoil is expected in this area, raft foundations are proposed and there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavations 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 the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation for raft foundations. 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 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.4 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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 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.
- 4.7 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: 11th February, 2010

Reference:/Lorne Villa

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.