

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

ORCHARD VIEW FARM, CAPEL ST. MARY (SMR ref. CSM 024)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF
GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN
OUTBUILDING AT ORCHARD VIEW FARM, CAPEL ST MARY
(Application No. B/04/01514/FUL/RC)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/82
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-8427)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an outbuilding at Orchard View Farm, Capel St Mary (NGR TM 0808 3709), was undertaken during April 2005 but only an undisturbed natural sand subsoil was seen. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference CSM 024. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Terry Nunn.

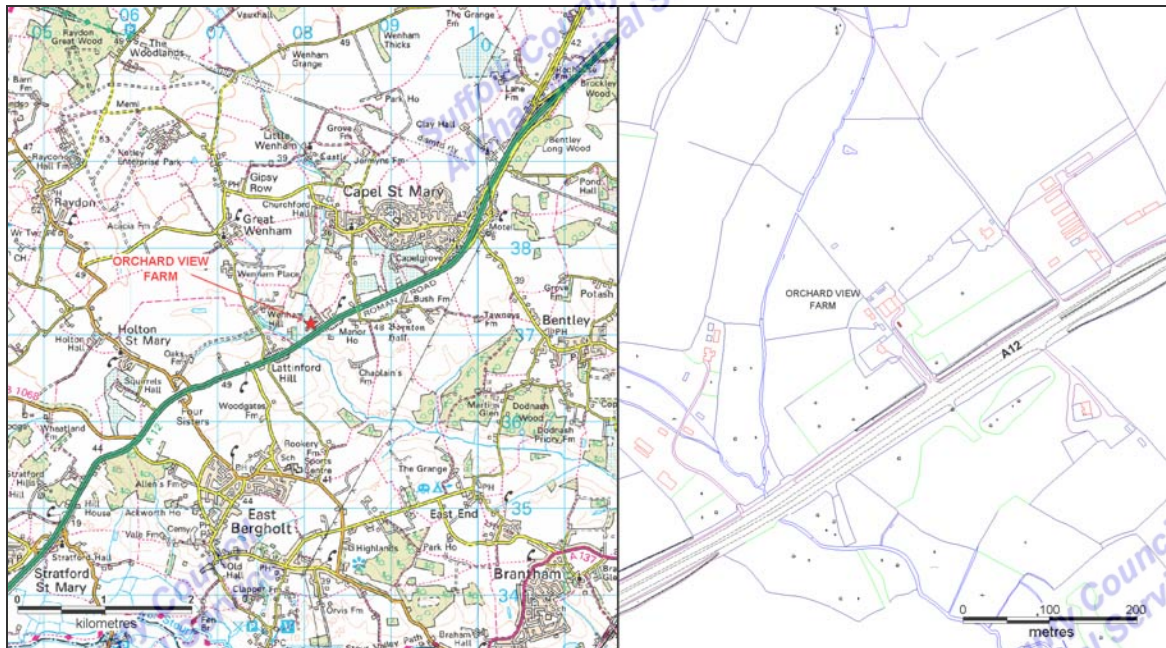


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application for the construction of an outbuilding at Orchard View Farm, Capel St. Mary (application no. B/04/01514/FUL/RC), was approved but with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work.

The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location adjacent the A12, which runs along the line of a major Roman road, close to a river crossing. The site is also situated c.250m southwest of Roman finds (SMR refs. CSM 005, 007, 011 and others) indicative of a roadside development, the full extent of which is unknown.

As the groundworks would only cause limited damage to any archaeological deposits that may be present, the areas affected by the application could be adequately recorded under a monitoring condition and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0808 3709; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference CSM 024. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Terry Nunn.

Results

Two visits were made to the site during the groundwork phase of the development. See figure 2 for the location of the monitored footings.

The first visit was made on the 21st April 2005 to observe the first part of the footing as excavated by the contractor. It had been machine excavated to a depth of c.1m. The top 0.3m comprised a light sandy topsoil. This immediately overlay the natural subsoil, which comprised a clean pale yellow sand. The interface between the two was blurred and there was no indication that the natural subsoil surface had been truncated. The spoil from the footing was heaped nearby. The surface of the heap was examined for artefacts but none were identified. The natural subsoil was very dry and loose and in several areas the sides of the footing trench had partially collapsed. The site was visited again on the 26th April 2005 to examine the remainder of the footings. The entire footing had been excavated and an identical soil profile to that described above was seen. No archaeological deposits or features were noted during either visit.

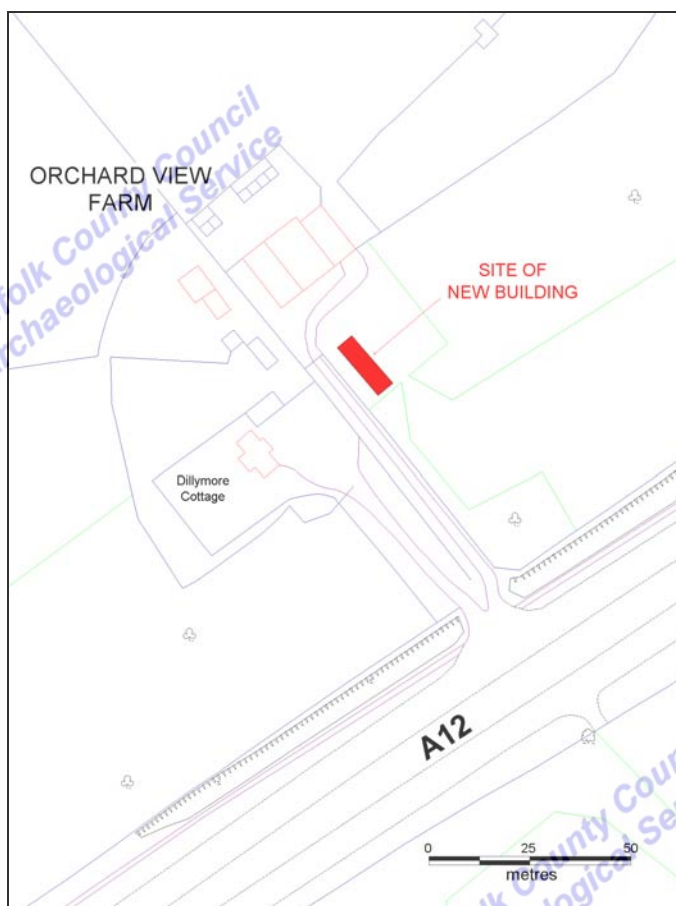


Figure 2: Areas Monitored

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The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference CSM 024, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-8427.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed or damaged by the monitored construction work. Observation of the excavated footing revealed relatively clean exposures of the natural subsoil and gave good opportunities to observe for archaeological interventions but none were identified and no artefacts were noted. The complete absence of archaeological evidence possibly indicates that the Roman roadside settlement did not extend into this area although it is hard to draw meaningful conclusions as only a small area was disturbed by this development.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

25th May 2005



Plate I: The Site (21st April 2005)

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

ORCHARD VIEW FARM, LONDON ROAD, CAPEL ST MARY

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. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (B/04/01514/FUL) has been made to construct an agricultural building. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site lies at TM 080 371 just above 30m OD on the east side of a river which is crossed by the A12 (on the line of a major Roman road) 250m to the south-west. Numerous finds (CSM 005, 007, 011, etc) indicate a Roman roadside settlement, but the extent of activity to the north and south is undefined. The Roman material is mostly early and there is also a high probability of pre-Roman Iron Age activity in the vicinity.
- 1.3 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

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 occupation of the site, particularly in the Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footings or ground-beam trenches and services.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the 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).
- 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.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.7 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
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Shire Hall
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Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 7 December 2004

Reference: /CapelStMary12

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.