

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/263

Land at Manor Cottage, Rattlesden RAT 037

HER Information

Planning Application No: 3085/06

Date of Fieldwork: September 2009; January 2011

Grid Reference: TL 9789 5892

Funding Body: Mixbrow Construction

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS ID: suffolkc1- 92441

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Manor Cottage, Rattlesden, in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. Three incised features were observed within the footprint of the proposed development, a medieval pit, a ditch and a large, deep pit of post medieval date. No features were revealed by the groundworks excavated for the garage in the north of the site.

1. Introduction

Planning permission for a new dwelling and associated garage on land at Manor Cottage, Rattlesden, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site is centred on TL 9789 5892 and comprises a total of approximately 1,400 square metres (Fig. 1).

The site lies within an area of archaeological activity recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits, were they present. Monitoring of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team, based on a Brief and Specification by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork took place in September 2009 and January 2011 and was funded by Mixbrow Construction.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of approximately 50m OD on a pronounced south to north slope. The soils are deep loamy clay derived from the underlying chalky till.

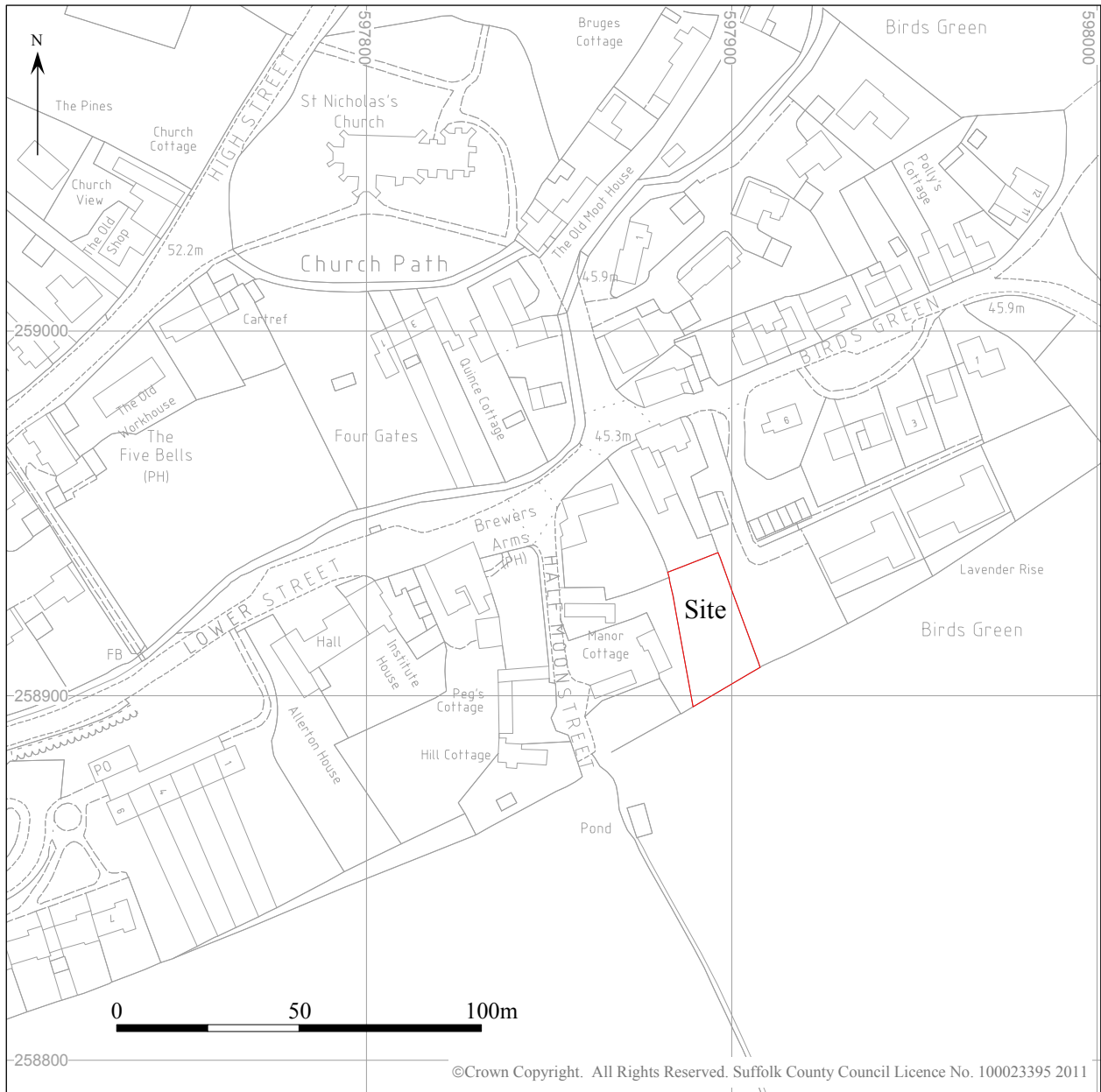
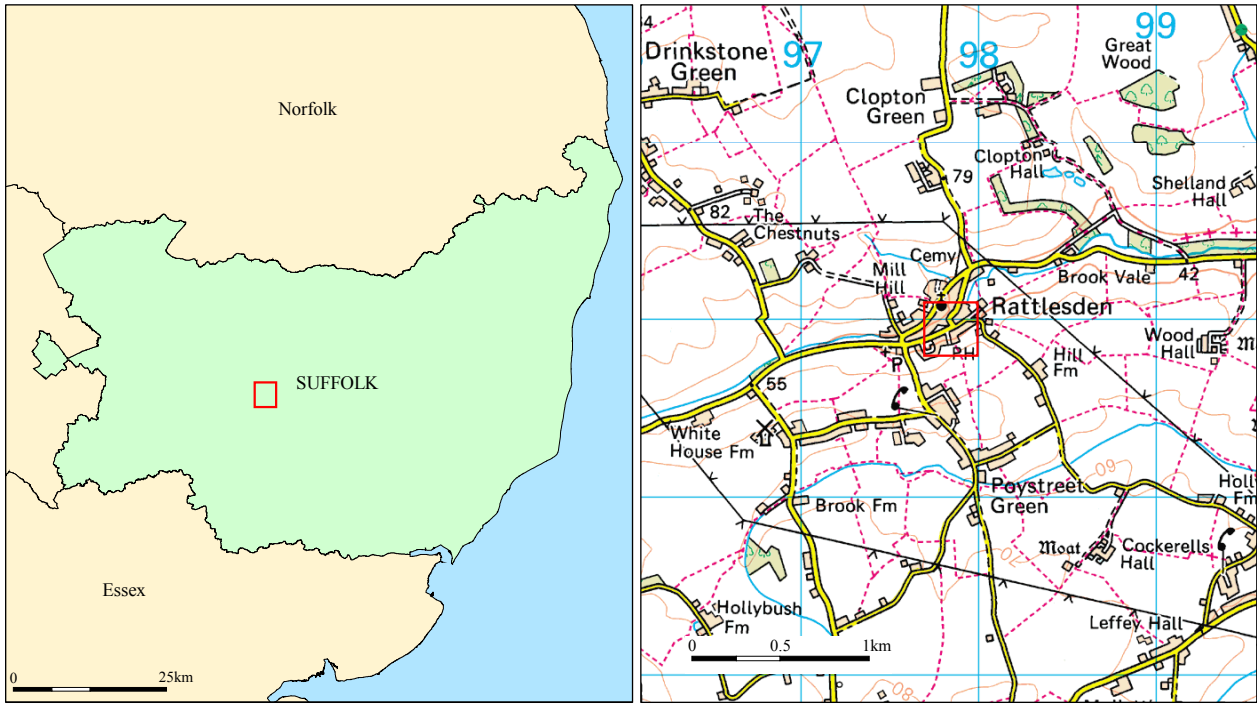


Figure 1. Site Location.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The high archaeological potential for the site was based predominantly on its location within an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County HER. It lies on the southern fringes of the core of Rattlesden village, east of the line of a Roman road (RAT 012). A medieval gilded figurine was also found in fields to the south of the property (RAT 004).

4. Methodology

Various visits were made to the site during two phases of groundworks, in order to observe and record any archaeological evidence. Identified contexts were allocated numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the HER code RAT 037. Context information was recorded on SCCAS 'pro-forma' recording sheets. Exposed features were hand cleaned for definition then partially excavated. A 1:50 plan and 1:20 excavated sections (Fig. 4) were drawn on site. A photographic record, both monochrome prints and digital shots, was made throughout. The evaluation archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

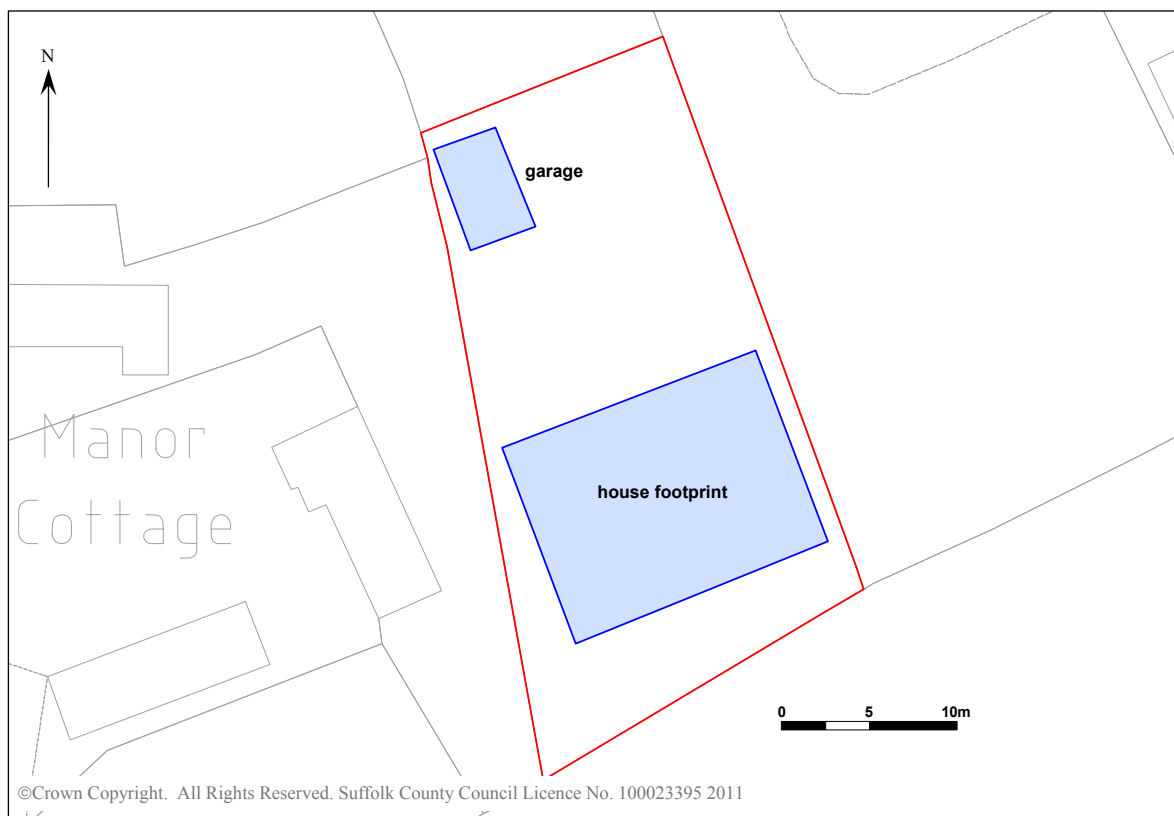


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks

5. Results

House footprint

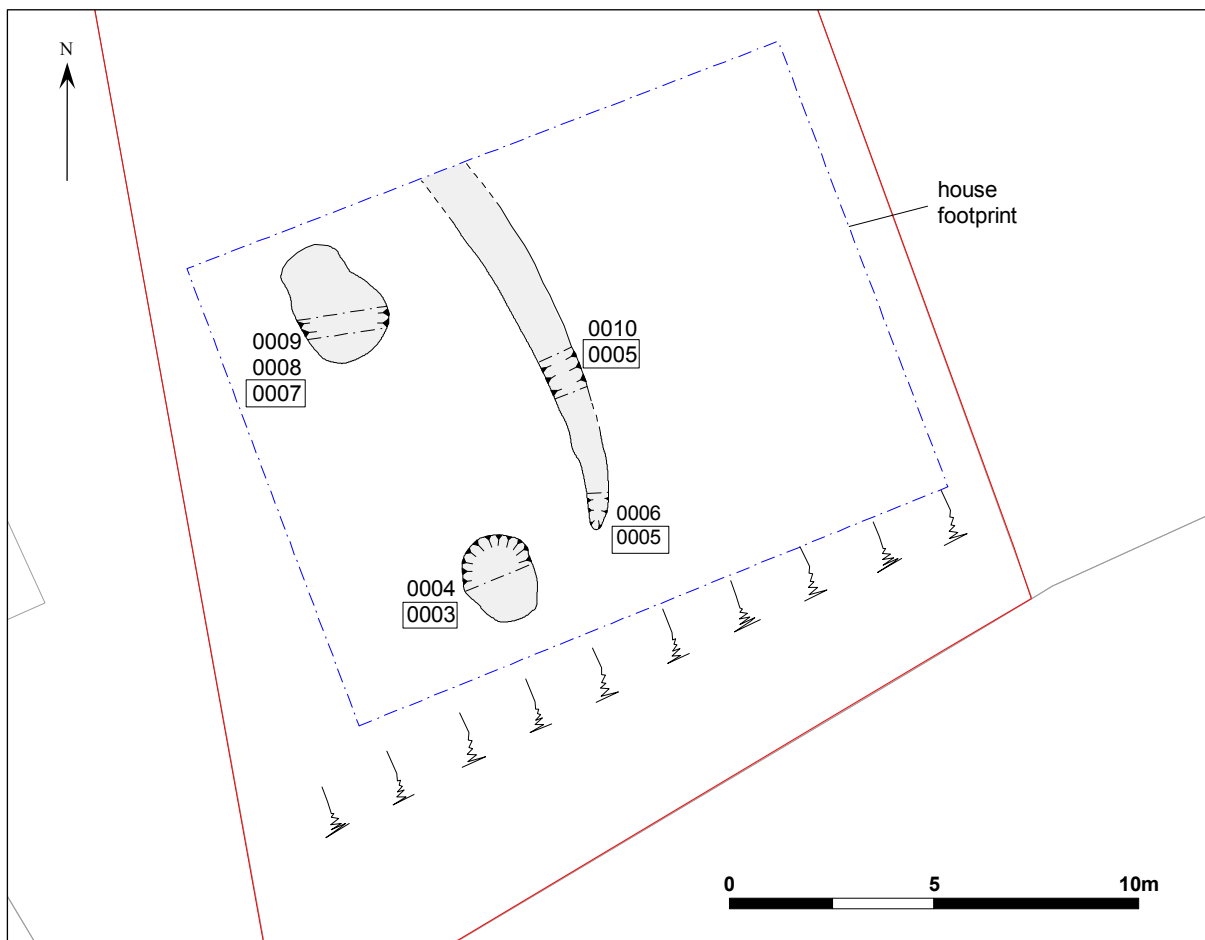
An area c.12m by c.12m was stripped of overburden to the depth of the natural subsoil, through broadly the same stratigraphy:

- *Topsoil* 0.3m mid-dark brown clay loam with regular stones, occasional chalk flecks and regular modern artefacts (tile, glazed china etc.)
- *Subsoil* 0.5m mid orangey brown silty clay with regular chalk flecks and occasional angular flints. Possibly a layer of re-worked natural subsoil.

The natural subsoil was a pale yellowish brown boulder clay with frequent chalk flecks and lumps and occasional flint pebbles.

Three archaeological features were observed:

0003 was a sub oval pit with rounded sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. It was filled by 0004, a friable-compact mid greyish brown chalk flecked clay mottled with orange clay. Occasional flint pebbles were observed, as well as CBM fragments. Finds of late 12th-14th century date were recovered.



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Figure 3. Plan of the excavated features

0007 was a large, deep, irregularly shaped pit with steep sides and a flattish base. Its main fill, 0008, was a mid brown compact clay with regular chalk lumps and flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds included CBM, pipe stems, animal bone, tile and glazed pottery, all of which was dated to the 16th-18th century. At the base of the pit, a thin layer of black charcoal rich ashy material, 0009, was recorded. Finds of 16th-18th century date were also recovered.

Ditch 0005 was approximately NNW-SSS aligned, but curved away slightly to the south where it also terminated. It was shallow, with a rounded profile at the terminus section, but angled sides breaking sharply to a flattish base elsewhere. Its fill, 0006 and 0010 was a compact pale yellowish brown chalky clay which contained a low density of finds dated to both the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Garage site

This area was stripped to a depth of 1m through the same stratigraphy as that observed during the excavations for the dwelling and into the natural subsoil. No features were observed within the garage footprint, nor were any pre-modern artefacts recovered from the topsoil or subsoil.

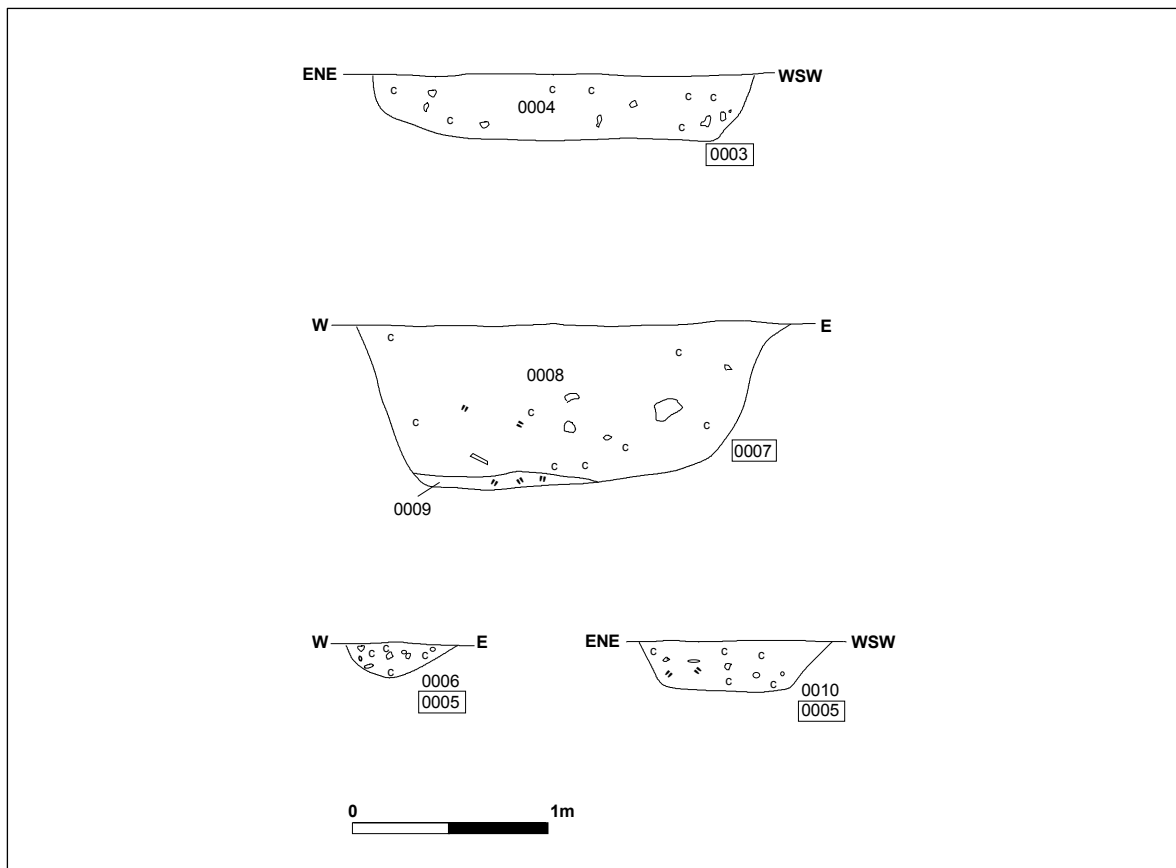


Figure 4. Excavated sections

6. The finds (Andy Fawcett)

Introduction

A total of eighty finds with a combined weight of 3661g was recovered from the site. The majority of the finds are split between three groups pottery, CBM and animal bone, as demonstrated in Table 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	5	66	1	17	1	2		18th to 19th C
0004	5	34	10	83	12	72	Shell 3 @ 7g	Late 12th to 14th C
0008	4	51	4	1013	1	6	Clay pipe 2 @ 14g	16th to 18th C
0009	5	411	6	1347	10	341		16th to 18th C
0010	1	3	5	86	4	105	Metalwork 1 @ 3g	Late 12th to 14th C
Total	20	565	26	2546	28	526		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

In total, twenty sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 565g were recorded in five contexts. Two time periods are represented by the pottery assemblage, medieval and post-medieval.

A single body sherd (34g) of unprovenanced glazed ware (UPG) was retrieved from the unstratified context 0001. The sherd is considerably abraded and only partial fragments of the green glaze survive. It is dated from the late 12th to 14th century. Four abraded body sherds (34g) of medieval coarseware (MCW) were noted in pit fill 0004. One of the sherds is part of a cooking pot base in a reduced fabric composed of ill sorted quartz. This context also contained some very abraded pieces of post-medieval roof tile as well as shell and animal bone. Finally, ditch fill 0010 contained a single medieval body sherd (MCW). The sherd is small, abraded (3g) and is dated from the late 12th to 14th century. The fill also contained post-medieval roof tile.

The post-medieval pottery assemblage, apart from unstratified examples, is concentrated in pit 0007 and its two fills 0008 and 0009. Nearly all of these sherds are Glazed red earthenwares (GRE), amounting to seven fragments with a weight of 308g. All three of the GRE sherds in fill 0009 join to form the possible section of a dripping pan. Finally in the same fill, two sherds of post-medieval white ware were noted (PMWW). The sherds join (154g) to form part of a possible jar base and like their GRE counterparts, are dated from the 16th to 18th century. The fabric is fine with sparse red iron ore however its surface is completely degraded, and only beneath the base are very small traces of glaze visible.

Ceramic building material

A total of twenty-six fragments of CBM (2546g) was noted in five contexts. The CBM can be divided into two main groups, roof tile (RT) and late brick (LB). Virtually all of the CBM assemblage is abraded and fragmentary, the only exception being the roof tile in ditch fill 0010, which displays only slight abrasion.

The roof tile assemblage (22 fragments @ 713g) is dated to the post-medieval period and the majority of examples are all oxidised peg tile pieces in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (msfe).

The unstratified context 0001 contained a single fragment of black glazed pan tile (17g). The example is in a medium sandy fabric (msfe) with some with streaky clay pellets; a similar fabric to this was noted at the Hyndman Centre (BSE 341) in Bury St Edmunds (Fawcett 2010). This type of tile was modelled on Dutch imports, but was not produced in this country until after 1701. In particular black glazes were a speciality of Norfolk (Clifton-Taylor 1972, 279). The tile is dated from the 18th to 19th century.

All of the late brick fragments were noted in pit 0007. The upper pit fill 0008 contained three pieces (891g) of which two are coloured dark red (msfe) while a third is white with iron rich red clay pellets (mscp). The only measurable dimension was depth and this ranged between 49-53mm. The lower fill (0009) contained a single fragment (942g) in a medium sandy fabric with sparse large flint (msf). The example also has some mortar attached and has a depth of 53mm. The entire late brick assemblage is dated to the post-medieval period.

Clay pipe

Two clay pipe stems were noted in pit fill 0008, which also contained post-medieval pottery and CBM.

Small find

A single fragment of iron (3g) was retrieved from ditch fill 0010. The piece is non-magnetic, however it is not possible to comment further as it is entirely and solidly

encrusted with deposition material and it awaits radiography. The ditch fill contained abraded medieval pottery and post-medieval roof tile.

Animal bone

By Mike Feider

Introduction and methodology

In total twenty-eight fragments of animal bone were recovered (526g). The remains from each context were scanned following MAP2 guidelines (Davis 1992; English Heritage 1991; 2002). Each element was identified to species where possible with the remainder being classed as unidentifiable. The number of fragments and any associated butchery, ageing, taphonomic, and metrical information were also recorded and a full catalogue of this information forms part of the site archive.

Preservation

Overall the bone, although fragmentary, was in a fairly good state of preservation displaying only light root marking and surface weathering.

Summary

Pit fill 0004 contained twelve fragments of animal bone (72g). Three of these were partial sheep/goat molars, and a small fragment of mandible was also identifiable as sheep/goat. An additional incisor was also likely from this species, but this is an uncertain association. A tibia shaft fragment may have been deer, but again exact identification was not possible. A cow third phalanx was also recovered, as well as four small unidentifiable fragments.

A cow mandible with a Grant mandible wear stage of 55 (Grant 1982) was found in pit fill 0009.

Ditch fill 0010 held a fused, partial distal cow femur and three tiny unidentifiable bone fragments.

Overall the animal bone assemblage is small, fragmentary and of little archaeological value in terms of interpretation.

Shell

Two types of shell were recorded. The first of these is oyster (2 fragments @ 6g) which was noted in pit fill 0004; both of the pieces are small and broken. The second type (also in fill 0004) is a single broken example of the land snail *Helix aspersa* (1g). Fill 0004 also contained medieval pottery, abraded post-medieval CBM as well as animal bone.

7. Discussion

The features identified during the monitoring relate to two distinct phases of activity, the earliest associated with 12th-14th century occupation in the vicinity, and a large pit, most likely excavated for the disposal of domestic waste sometime between the 16th-18th century. Neither is entirely surprising, given the sites location on the edge of the assumed historic core of the village. Although the archaeological evidence here is fairly limited, both in terms of density of features and the finds assemblage, it still contributes new information to the landscape of the village.

Linzi Everett
February 2011

References

- Clifton-Taylor, A., 1972, *The pattern of English building* Faber & Faber, London.
- Davis, S. 1992, 'A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites', English Heritage, AML Report 71/92.
- English Heritage 1991, 'Management of Archaeological Projects'. English Heritage, London.
- Fawcett, A. 2010 'The finds' in Tester, A, *Excavations at the Hyndman Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds*, SCC Report No 2010/21
- Grant, A. 1982, 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates', In: B. Wilson, S. Grigson, and S. Payne, Eds. *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, Oxford.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

MANOR COTTAGE, HALF MOON STREET, RATTLEDEN, 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 a new dwelling, following severance of garden, on land at Manor Cottage, Half Moon Street, Rattlesden, Suffolk IP30 ORH (TL 9789 5892), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 3085/06). 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 the historic settlement core, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, c. 100m to the south of the medieval church and churchyard (RAT 008). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at 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 override 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 dwelling, which will be terraced into the existing bank, access and car parking. 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 County Historic Environment Record 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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Reference: /ManorCottage-Rattlesden2008

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.