

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT No. 11, THOROUGHFARE, WOODBRIDGE (SMR ref. WBG 057)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK  
ASSOCIATED WITH A RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(Application No. C/03/0247)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/115  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-9413)

**Summary:** Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a residential and commercial development on land adjacent No. 11, Thoroughfare, Woodbridge (NGR TM 2734 4905), was undertaken during April 2005 when the excavation of a large area for a basement under the proposed new structure was monitored. Five late post-medieval pits were recorded but no evidence for earlier occupation was revealed. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WBG 057. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by Whitehall Investments Limited.

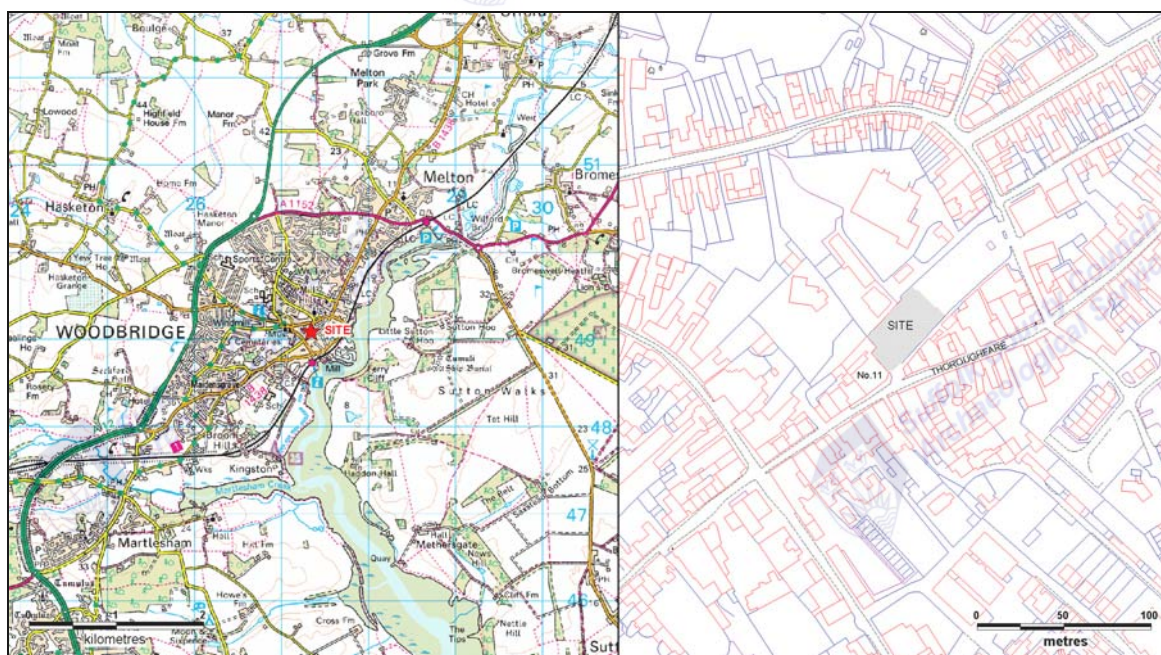


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Introduction

An application for the construction of a commercial development, with residential units above, within a former car park to the northeast of number 11, Thoroughfare, Woodbridge (application no. C/03/0247), 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 within the area of medieval Woodbridge, which is defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as an archaeological site of regional importance. The site is located to the north of 'Thoroughfare', a street which is likely to have medieval origins although the actual site probably lies in the rear plots of buildings that formerly fronted the street.

The proposed development was to comprise a three-storey building incorporating an underground car park in the basement. The creation of the basement would entail extensive excavation and would result in the complete destruction of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present. As only a low-level of archaeological remains were expected the area affected by the basement 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 2734 4905; for a location plan see figure 1 above. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by Whitehall Investments Limited.

## **Methodology**

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken through visiting the site on a regular basis whilst excavation of the basement area was underway and observing for any irregularities in colour or consistency of the subsoil which could indicate the presence of archaeological features.

The dimensions, nature of the fill and the position of any features noted was recorded and attempts were made to recover datable material from the feature's fill. A small number of digital photographs of the site and any features noted were taken.

## **Results**

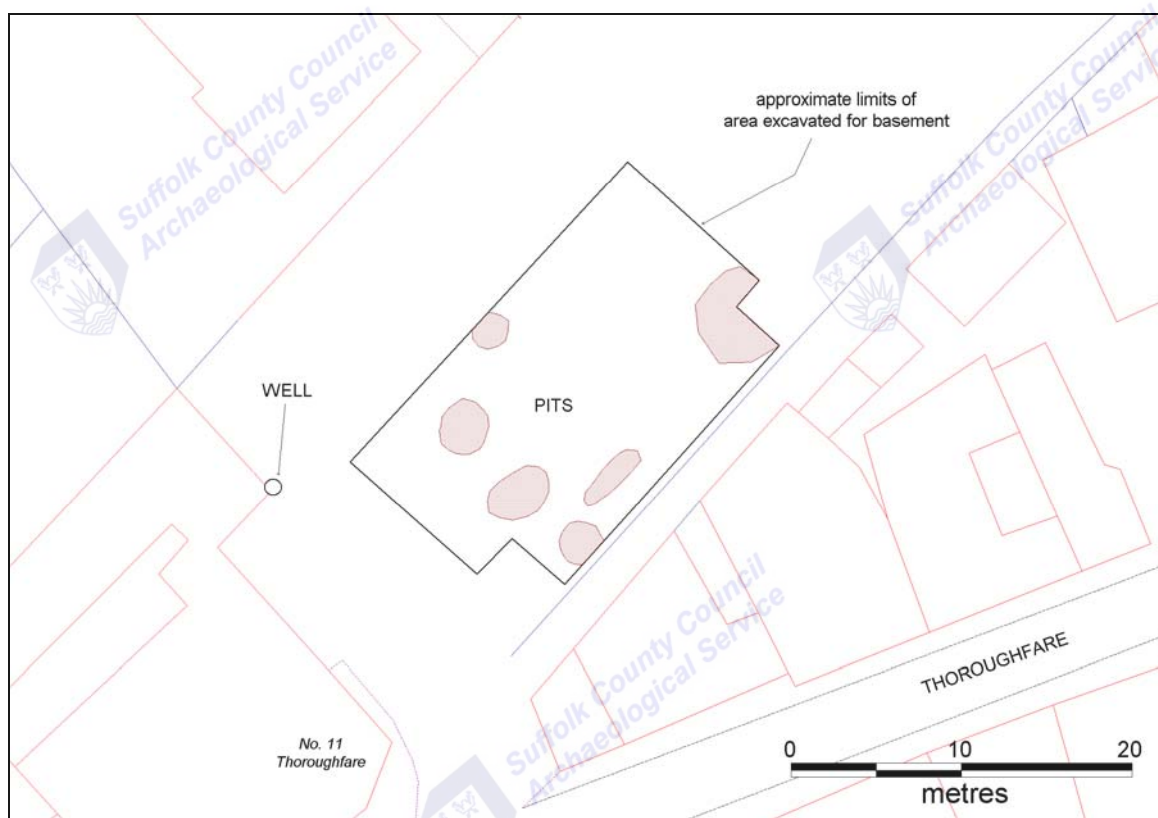
*See Figure 2 for details of any features noted.*

The site was visited on four occasions during the excavation of the basement, namely; 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

The basement area was excavated by a tracked machine fitted with a toothed bucket, which placed the resultant spoil immediately into a waiting lorry to be off-sited (Plate I). The ground level was reduced in spits of c.0.8m until the maximum depth of c.2.5m had been reached. On three of the sides the edges were battered to prevent collapse whilst on the fourth, northwestern, side the edge was stepped.

The natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of c.0.25m (approximately 8.9m OD) after the removal of the tarmac car park surface, a thin layer of hardcore and a layer of brown loamy topsoil. The interface between the topsoil and the natural subsoil was relatively abrupt suggesting the subsoil had been previously truncated. The natural subsoil comprised a orange sandy gravel up to a depth of c.2m. Below this the subsoil comprised a clean soft yellow sand.

The removal of the initial spit cut through the upper layers and directly into the natural subsoil leaving its surface heavily truncated and uneven.



**Figure 2: Monitoring Results**

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One linear and four roughly circular shaped pit type features were noted within the basement area. All were filled with a loamy topsoil similar to that present across the site. Finds from these pits consisted of fragments of machine made brick and tile but mostly comprised broken, glazed ceramics, the odd tin bucket and other unrecognisable metal items, all suggestive of a 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The majority of the finds from these pits formed the primary fill with only occasional artefacts located higher (Plate II). These features were 2m to 3m in diameter and as the excavation of the basement progressed they were found to have depths of 1m to 1.5m. In the eastern corner of the basement a c.5m diameter feature cut to a depth of c.1.2m was present. The fill comprised a clean grey sandy loam. No other archaeological features or deposits were noted within the area excavated for the basement.

A protruding extension on the northeast face of number 11, Thoroughfare, was being underpinned as part of this development. This work was underway at the time of the monitoring visits and it was noted that a brick lined circular shaft located at the corner of the extension had been revealed (Plate V). The brick lined shaft, which was interpreted as a well, was located so that its northwestern edge was situated just under the actual corner of the building. The upper courses of the brickwork were mortared and the remnant of a domed vault over the top was present. Emerging from the shaft was lead pipe and a narrower iron pipe, both of which were placed to run up the wall. These had presumably been cut off just below ground level but the ends were encased in a blob of concrete associated with a nearby drainpipe from the building. The shaft appeared to be filled with soil.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference WBG 057, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-9413.



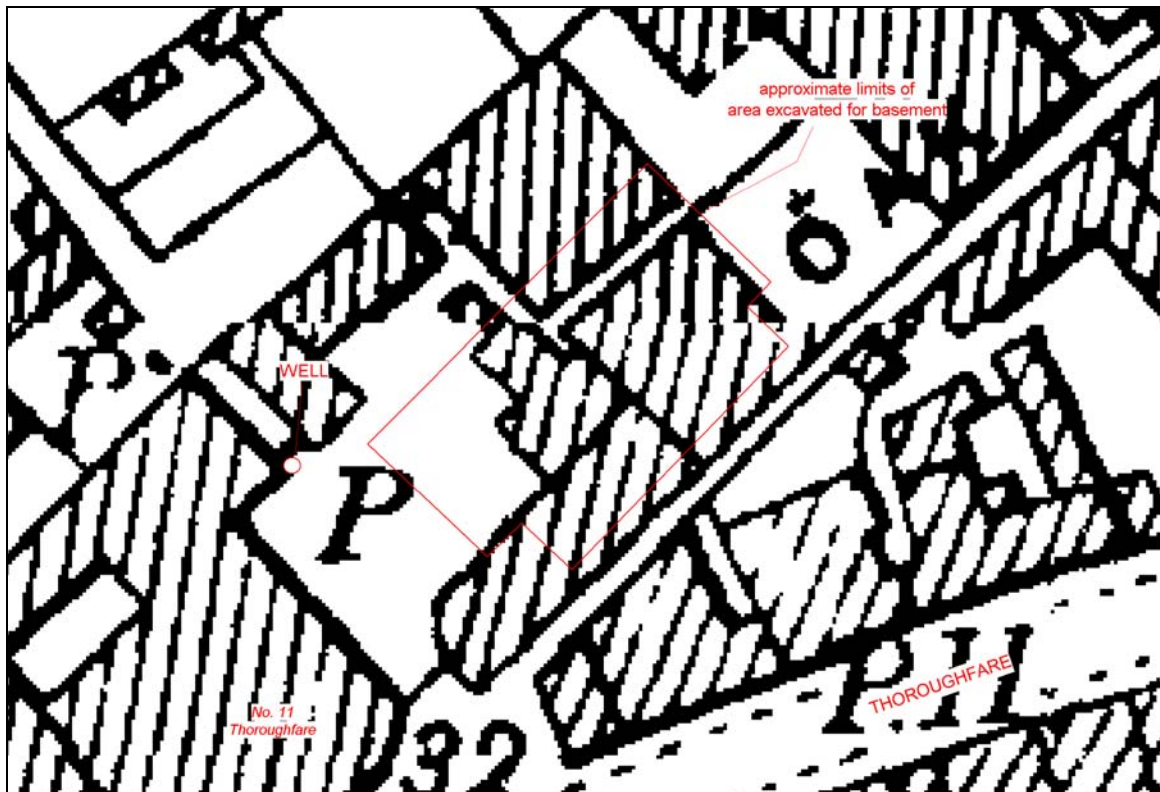


Figure 3: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, c.1900 (extract)

## Conclusion

The pits are all relatively modern in date and the fact that the majority of the artefacts within these features were located in a mass at the base suggests that these features were excavated for the sole purpose of disposing of rubbish.

The brick lined shaft is undoubtedly a well and the remains of the vaulted dome indicate that it would have been sealed and buried beneath the ground. It would have probably served a pump, via the lead pipe, mounted on the wall immediately above the shaft, with the iron pipe acting as a 'breather' to allow air in. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (dated c.1900) does indeed mark a pump in the area of the well (see figure 3, 'P' = pump).

No medieval or earlier archaeological features or deposits were noted during the monitoring which could confirm the belief that this area just formed the rear yards of buildings that formerly fronted onto Thoroughfare although it must be noted that the excavation methods employed would have immediately destroyed slight or ephemeral features. Even if the work had been continually monitored the fact that the top c.0.8m of material went straight into a lorry and was then off sited means that relatively large features and deposits could have been completely missed by an observing archaeologist.

## PLATES



Plate I: excavation method  
(15/04/2005)



Plate II: Illustrating rubbish at base of pit  
(19/04/2005)



Plate III: The Site  
(19/04/2005)



Plate IV: The basement excavation near completion  
(21/04/2005)



Plate V: Well under corner of existing building  
(19/04/2005)

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

#### **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

#### **ADJACENT 11 THE THOROUGHFARE, WOODBRIDGE**

##### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for retail/residential development on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/03/0247). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of medieval Woodbridge, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance and will involve extensive ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As the site lies well behind the street frontage to The Thoroughfare archaeological features are likely to be low density and can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during groundworks by the building contractor.

##### **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/early post medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of a basement. This, and the upcast soil, is to be observed during and after it has been excavated by the building contractor.

##### **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 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).
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Suffolk County Archaeological Service (Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; Telephone/Fax: 01284 352443) five working days notice of the commencement of groundworks 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 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 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should 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: Keith Wade

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

Date: 23 June 2004

Reference: /Woodbridge-Thoroughfare06

**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.**