

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/038**

**Kent Lodge, Eye Road, Yaxley  
YAX 030**

### **HER Information**

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**Planning Application No: 1927/06/FUL**

**Date of Fieldwork: 9th February 2010 to 11th August 2010**

**Grid Reference: TM 1220 7453**

**Funding Body: Mrs V. Chambers**

**Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper**

**Project Officer: Mark Sommers**

**Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-94607**



## Summary

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Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of two houses and a garage block on land to the rear of Kent Lodge, Eye Road, Yaxley, was undertaken during spring and summer of 2010. A series of foundation trenches were examined and a large, north-south aligned, undated ditch measuring c. 2m wide and 1.5m deep, was revealed. The natural subsoil consisted of stiff pale yellow and grey clay which lay under the topsoil, at a depth of approximately 0.5m.

## 1. Introduction and methodology

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Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a house and a garage block in the former back garden of 'Kent Lodge', Eye Road, Yaxley, was undertaken during the spring and summer of 2010. Figure 1 shows a location plan.

Archaeological interest in the site is primarily due to the location of a number of archaeological sites or findspots in the vicinity, which are recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER). These consist of a medieval moated site situated 160m to the west (HER ref. YAX 001), the findspot of a Roman coin and a collection of Anglo-Saxon finds, including a lead weight and a 'caterpillar' type brooch, c. 200m to the south (HER ref. YAX 002), and a further Roman coin findspot less than 100m to the south-west (HER ref. YAX 005).

The Roman road between the settlements at Coddensham and Scole, large parts of which now form the A140, runs through the village of Yaxley. It can be traced to a point c. 350m to the south of the site (HER ref. TMP 004) and a point c. 500m to the north (HER ref. BRM 011). Unfortunately the route of the road between these two points cannot be precisely determined but an extrapolation of the known stretches of the road would suggest it passes close to or possibly through the site.

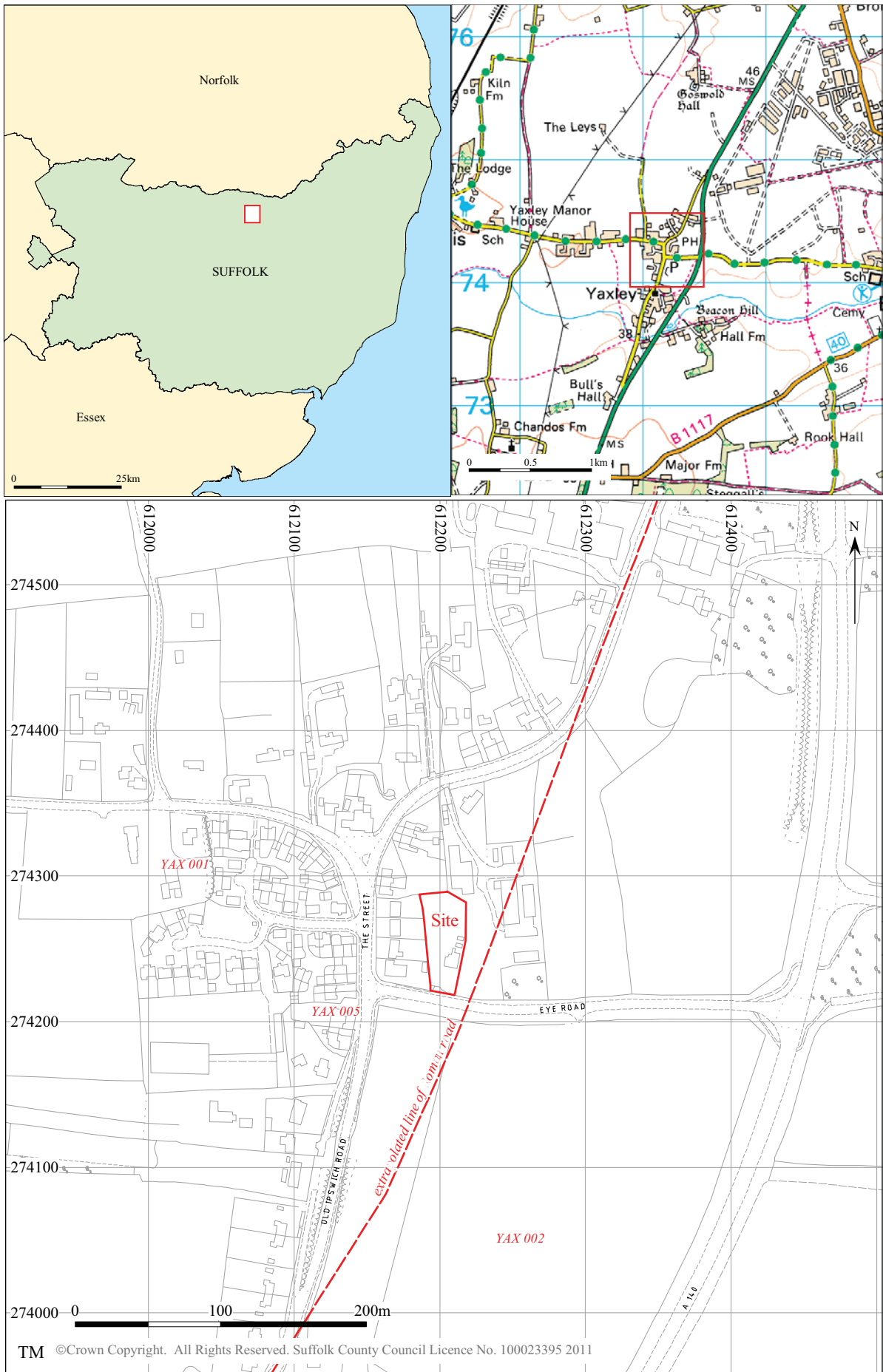


Figure 1. Site location plan

To mitigate against the potential loss or damage to any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed building works, a condition was attached to the planning consent calling for archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with construction. To detail the work required, a Brief and Specification was prepared by Dr J. Tipper of the County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the open foundation trenches in an attempt to identify archaeological features and/or deposits. The locations of the foundations and any features noted were then plotted and any significant stratigraphy recorded. The spoil was stored in heaps on site and these were investigated in an attempt to recover datable finds. Digital photographs were also taken as part of the record.

## **2. Results**

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The site was visited on a number of occasions during the spring and summer of 2010. See Figure 2 for a plan of the site and the results of the monitoring.

The site was initially visited on the 9th February 2010 to monitor works associated with improvements to the access road to the site. This work entailed a limited amount of ground reduction in preparation for a new surface but this revealed only made ground and did not penetrate into archaeological levels (Plate I).

Excavation of the foundation trenches for the garage block was monitored during a site visit on the 18th March 2010. These were cut to a depth of c. 1.5m and exposed a stratigraphy consisting of 0.45m of garden topsoil over a natural subsoil of stiff clay. This was initially pale yellow at the surface becoming pale grey after approximately 0.2m (Plate II). Within this trench a large feature was seen on the northern edge of the proposed structure and close to the south-eastern corner. These were believed to be parts of the same feature, which has been interpreted as a ditch. It measured 1.5m in depth and had a 'V' shaped profile, which splayed out towards the top giving it a width of 2.5m at the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate III). The fill consisted of a pale brown silty soil with no obvious layering. No artefacts were recovered from the fill or from the resultant spoil.



Figure 2. Site plan

The excavations of the foundations for House 1 were monitored on the 11th August 2010. This foundation required the creation of a series of six large concrete pads and involved the excavation of six holes c. 2m by 1m. Each was examined but no archaeological features or deposits were noted and no artefacts were recovered.

The construction of House 2 has been postponed but it is planned to monitor the groundwork when it eventually goes ahead.

During the visits it was noted that the remains of a Second World War spigot mortar emplacement was present in the northern end of the garden (Plate IV). It consists of the central thimble in concrete with a stainless steel pin upon which the spigot mortar would have been placed. No accompanying ammunition lockers were visible, although not all emplacements were provided with them, but some loose pieces of concrete slabs and blocks were located nearby which may have been related. The site is adjacent the former Eye airfield (HER ref. EYE 072) and this emplacement would have formed part of the outer defences.

### **3. Conclusion**

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The large ditch noted in the foundation trenches excavated for the garage block was unfortunately undated as no artefacts were recovered from its fill. It is aligned north-south and it would be tempting to interpret it as a possible drainage ditch alongside the Roman road but there is no positive proof for this and an alternative interpretation that it is a medieval or later field boundary is probably more likely. It should be noted that the ditch is in line with an existing boundary situated 11m to the north. This could be coincidental although the possibility that the ditch seen in the foundation trench is part of a southern extension of this boundary cannot be ruled out.

M. Sommers

March 2011





#### 4. Plates (scales are divided into 0.5m sections)

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Plate I. improvement works to the site access road



Plate II. typical stratigraphy as revealed in the garage foundation trench



Plate III. ditch noted in the northern foundation of the garage, camera facing north



Plate IV. spigot mortar thimble in the rear garden of Kent Lodge, camera facing north

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

KENT LODGE, EYE ROAD, YAXLEY, 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 consent (application 1927/06/FUL) has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the erection of two dwellings with garaging and associated site work at Kent Lodge, Eye Road, Yaxley, Suffolk (TM 1220 7426), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, to the east of a Roman find spot (YAX 005). There is high potential for encountering Roman occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.

## **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 Roman occupation remains on the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the footing trenches for the dwellings and garages, the excavation of service trenches and also any topsoil stripping required for the new dwellings and associated access. These, and 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 - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his 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 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 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 both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist 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 minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 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 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 three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the SMR 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*. 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

5.4 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).

5.5 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.

5.6 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the county SMR as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.7 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.

5.8 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 Sites and Monuments 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.

5.9 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.

- 5.10 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Reference: /KentLodge-Yaxley2007

**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.**