

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF

## Land Adjacent to East View

### Barking Tye

### BRK 108

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 1104/04

N.G. REF: TM 0658 5247

OASIS REF: Suffolkc1- 9528

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Funded by: Steve Clarke Projects

### Summary

The site was anticipated to be on the line of a Roman road, although no road surfaces, roadside ditches or Roman artefacts were observed during the monitoring. A feature, possibly part of a south-west to north-east running ditch, was recognised in the extreme north-west corner of the site. This ditch could represent a boundary of the medieval green before encroachment by buildings, such as East View, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

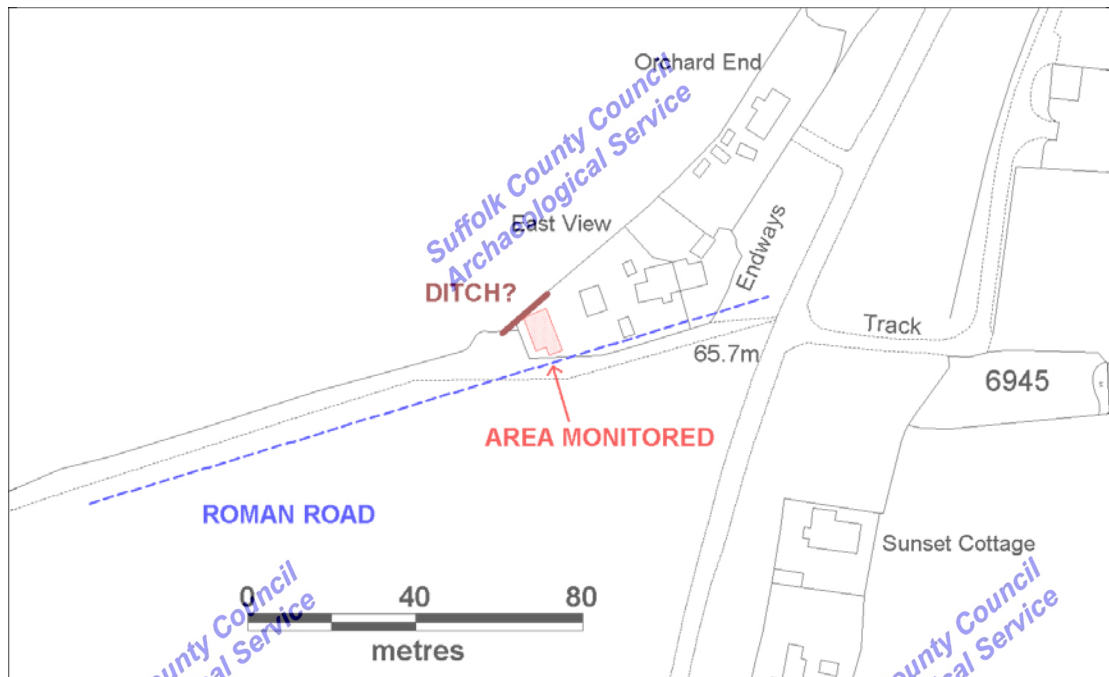


Figure 1: Location plan showing the area of footings monitored (in red), the probable line of the Roman road (in blue) and a ditch, possibly defining the edge of the medieval green (in green).

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### Introduction

The land adjacent to East View, Barking Tye was likely to be on the line of a probable Roman road (see figure 1). This area is also on the edge of the village green so medieval green-edge settlement might also be encountered. The archaeological monitoring of any development in this area might encounter deposits, features or artefacts from either of these periods.

The planning permission granted for the building of this new property was conditional upon an archaeological monitoring of footings trenches. These were observed across the western half of the site on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005. It was anticipated that further monitoring would be required during the repair of the track, damaged by plant during the winter months, which runs along the southern edge of the site. A fax from Steve Clarke Projects (dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August) states that this work no longer needs to be carried out. This report therefore deals only with the monitoring visits made in December.

## Results

The site had previously been stripped of c.200mm of topsoil.

The excavation of footing trenches was observed across the western side of the building plot. Any features along the projected line of the Roman road would have been encountered here. Heavy rain and collapsing trench edges made the observation of the deeper excavations difficult, however significant features would have been recognised.

The footings monitored included four 2m by 2m pits of 2.8m depth. Intervening shallower trenches (700mm deep) connected the deeper pits. At c.600mm depth natural clay deposits were encountered

In the extreme north-west corner of the trenches, a topsoil / loam-filled feature of c.700mm depth cut across the corner of the trench.

No remains of the Roman road - either surfaces, roadside ditches or artefacts - were recognised. No indication of medieval green-edge settlement was revealed.

## Conclusions

It is unlikely that the Roman road crosses the site. It must either run to the south of the site or turns before entering the development area.

The topsoil-filled feature in the extreme north-west corner of the footings is likely to be part of an earlier boundary ditch running along the north-western edge of East View's garden. It is possible that this represents an earlier edge of the green before encroachment by East View and other buildings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Jezz Meredith, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, August 2005**