

New dwelling west of Chestnut Lodge
Wilby
WBY 023

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/077

Client: Mr and Mrs J. Bigden

Author: Simon Cass

May 2011

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Report Date: May 2011

HER Information

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Cass
Date: 24th May 2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Summary

A planning permission was granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the change of use and works to convert farm buildings into a single dwelling on land to the west of Chestnut Lodge, Wilby. This permission contained a condition relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological works, as approved by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in order to assess the potential for the preservation of any archaeological remains within the area to be affected by the development and, if necessary, develop and inform a suitable mitigation strategy to preserve or record the remains identified. A trenched evaluation was conducted on the site in May 2011, and no artefacts or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered. No further archaeological work was recommended as being necessary.

1. Introduction

Planning permission (1895/10) was obtained from Mid Suffolk District Council for the change of use and development of farm buildings into a single dwelling on land west of Chestnut Lodge, Wilby. This permission contained a permission relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to commencement of the development in order to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains to be present within the affected area, and if so inform a mitigation strategy to record the remains prior to their destruction during the building process.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on generally flat land, at an approximate height of approximately 60m AOD, and the underlying geology is recorded as chalky till of the Beccles Series, and this was observed in the trench.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The farm buildings concerned with this development are in the curtilage of Chestnut Lodge, which is a Grade II* Listed Building (LB no. 280280) of late 16th- and early 17th-century date. The house is surrounded by the remnants of a medieval moat (Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. WBY 012) and the farm buildings appear to be contained within an adjacent semi-moated enclosure. Twelve other confirmed or probable medieval moated sites are recorded within two kilometres of this site, in all directions. Chestnut Lodge was the subject of a building recording survey carried out in 2008 (Alston, L. 2008).

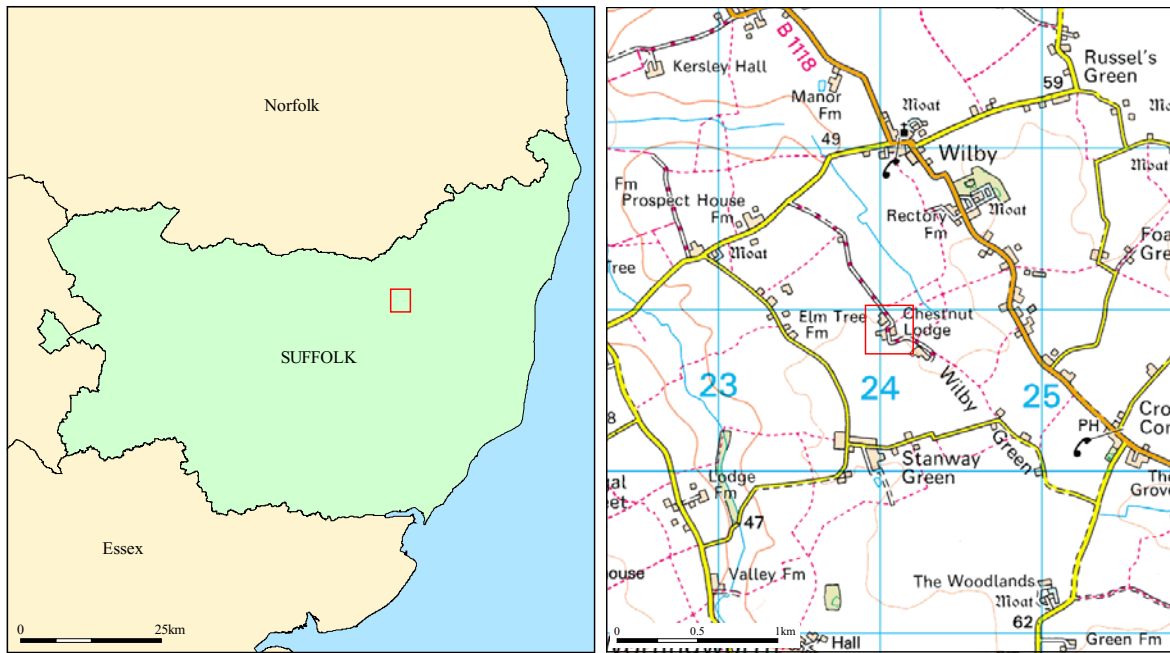


Figure 1. Location map

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to trial trenching. On this occasion a single trench was required to be excavated within the footprint of the proposed sunken structure, 1.8m wide and 22m long, between the two existing farm buildings and extending to the west. The trench was located using hand-tapes from established reference points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site.

The trench was excavated by a 360⁰ mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera (6.2 megapixels) and a black and white film camera.

The area was not scanned with a metal detector prior to commencing the stripping of the trench due to the visible make-up of the surface deposit – scattered modern metallic objects and fragments would have caused too much interference with the survey.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

This trench was 22m long, 1.8m wide and up to 0.45m deep, orientated approximately east-west between two extant farm buildings. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.2m and 0.45m of rough unsorted flint nodules of varied sizes and occasional/moderate brick fragments. This lay above natural mid brownish yellow chalk-flecked clays. The natural geology was stained with probable hydrocarbons towards the western end of the trench, below the previous piggery's concrete floor. Two ruts were

observed along the length of the trench, believed to be the result of farm carts/machinery travelling through the narrow gap between the two buildings. Brick fragments were observed at the base of these ruts.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing west (2m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were observed during the course of this evaluation. The only objects that were not either brick fragments or modern demolition rubble were two iron horse-shoes. These were not retained for analysis, since their presence is adequately explained by the old stable forming part of the southern farm building involved in this development, and their condition suggested a relatively recent depositional date.

7. Discussion

The flint/stone accumulation encountered in the trench could be from one (or both) of two likely sources – either stone-picking from the fields over a long time-scale in order to consolidate a working yard surface behind the two farm buildings (in particular the access between the two structures which appears to have suffered badly with rutting) or a modern consolidation event to allow a relatively soft clay surface to cope with modern machinery. The variety of flints observed, with varied sizes and amounts of angular or rounded flints would suggest that the material was not ‘graded’, possibly supporting the former suggestion, although the brick rubble found throughout the deposit would tend to suggest the latter. In all likelihood it seems the most probable explanation is a mix of the two, with occasional stone-picking providing a steady source of material for the farm to make a suitable surface for frequent activity, followed by a modern enhancement of this process using more common hardcore material.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The negative result of this evaluation suggests that there is little or no further archaeological potential within the proposed development area. The shallow depth to natural geology, coupled with the lack of any observable subsoil suggests that had there have been any activity prior to the medieval farmstead that it would not have survived the historic development of the site. No further archaeological works are recommended as being necessary to satisfy the condition applied to planning application 1895/10.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Wilby\WBY 023 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HGA-HGZ

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by Rhodri Gardner. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Rhodri Gardner.

11. Bibliography

Alston, L., 2008. Chestnut Lodge, Wilby, Suffolk An Historical Survey.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

**CHESTNUT LODGE, HORHAM ROAD, WILBY
TM 1895/10
(1895/10)**

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council (1895/10) for the conversion of two farm buildings and the construction of a sunken structure to link them. The consent requires the prior implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation (condition no. 5).
- 1.2 The farm buildings are in the curtilage of Chestnut Lodge, which is a Grade II* Listed Building (LB no. 280280) of late 16th- and early 17th-century date. The house is surrounded by the remnants of a medieval moat (Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. WBY 012) and the farm buildings appear to be contained within an adjacent semi-moated enclosure. The buildings are adequately described and recorded in these documents submitted with the planning application:
 - 'Heritage Statement for Stables, Cart Shed & Piggery' by Brian Belton, in conjunction with drawings 768/01a, 768/02a, 768/03
 - 'Historical Survey' of Chestnut Lodge by Leigh Alston
- 1.3 **In order to inform the additional archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:**
 - **A linear trenched evaluation is required along the long axis of the sunken link structure (the footprint of this structure and its access slope is stated to be 22m x 9.8m; please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site).**
- 1.4 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any further mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and may be the subject of an additional specification.**
- 1.5 All arrangements for the field evaluation 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 with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 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 satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology* Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).

- 1.8 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.9 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 over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.10 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow.

Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) 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.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 A single linear trial trench is to be excavated along the long axis of the proposed link structure and access slope, measuring 22.00m x 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the 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.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000) and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation 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.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 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 HER. 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.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Edward Martin

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Date: 5 October 2010

Reference: SpecEval(EM)_ChestnutLodge_Wilby_1895/10

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.

As 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.

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