

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

‘SAXON HOUSE’ No. 1, CROMWELL SQUARE, IPSWICH (SMR ref. IPS 485)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURE
(Application Nos. IP/04/01264/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/159
(OASIS Ref. Suffolke1-10738)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of drainage work associated with the construction of an extension to Saxon House, No. 1, Cromwell Square, Ipswich (NGR; TM 1621 4431), was undertaken during October 2005. The monitored excavations were only c.1m in depth and did not encounter any significant archaeological deposits or features. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 485. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by Bob Davis Building Design Limited on the behalf of their clients.

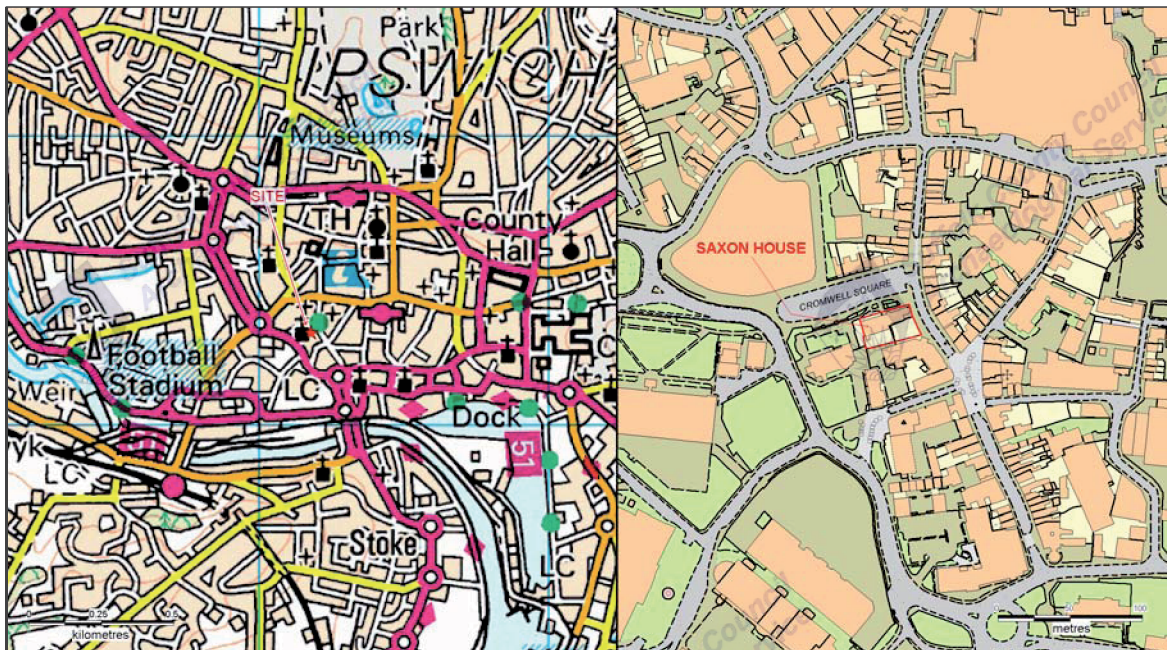


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with construction of an extension to 'Saxon House', No.1, Cromwell square, Ipswich, was undertaken during October 2005. Interest in the site is due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich, as defined in the Ipswich Local Plan.

The extension was to be built on piles with connecting ground beams, which would cause only limited damage to any buried archaeological deposits or features that may be present. An archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent calling for monitoring of the groundworks in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits revealed by the groundworks associated with this development. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1621 4431; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 485. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by Bob Davis Building Design Limited on behalf of their clients.

Methodology

Site visits were to be made to inspect the groundbeams and any other excavation associated with this planning consent after they had been excavated by the building contractors. The revealed soil profile was to be recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified being noted.

Results

Unfortunately the archaeologist contracted to monitor the works were not notified when the foundation works were underway. Consequently, none of the groundwork associated with the construction of the foundations was monitored.

Later drainage work was monitored on the 11th October 2005. Two excavations, c.2m square and 1m deep, and a short length of trench of a similar depth, had been excavated in the small yard to the south of Saxon House (see figure 2). Underneath the hardcore forming a foundation for the yard's surface a deposit of dark loamy soil was revealed. This deposit was present for the entire depth of the excavations and was also visible across the bases. No layering was apparent and no cut interventions were identified. The edges of the excavations were quickly examined for artefacts but none were seen. A small amount of spoil was present nearby, the surface of which was quickly examined but without result.

A Site Investigation Report, dated January 1978 and produced by the SCC Soils and Materials Section details the results of borehole tests undertaken prior to the construction of 'Saxon House'. This indicates that the entire site comprises of 'made-ground' consisting of 'soft brown sandy clay with gravel, concrete and brick rubble, etc.' to a depth of 1.6m to 1.9m.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference IPS 485, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-10738.

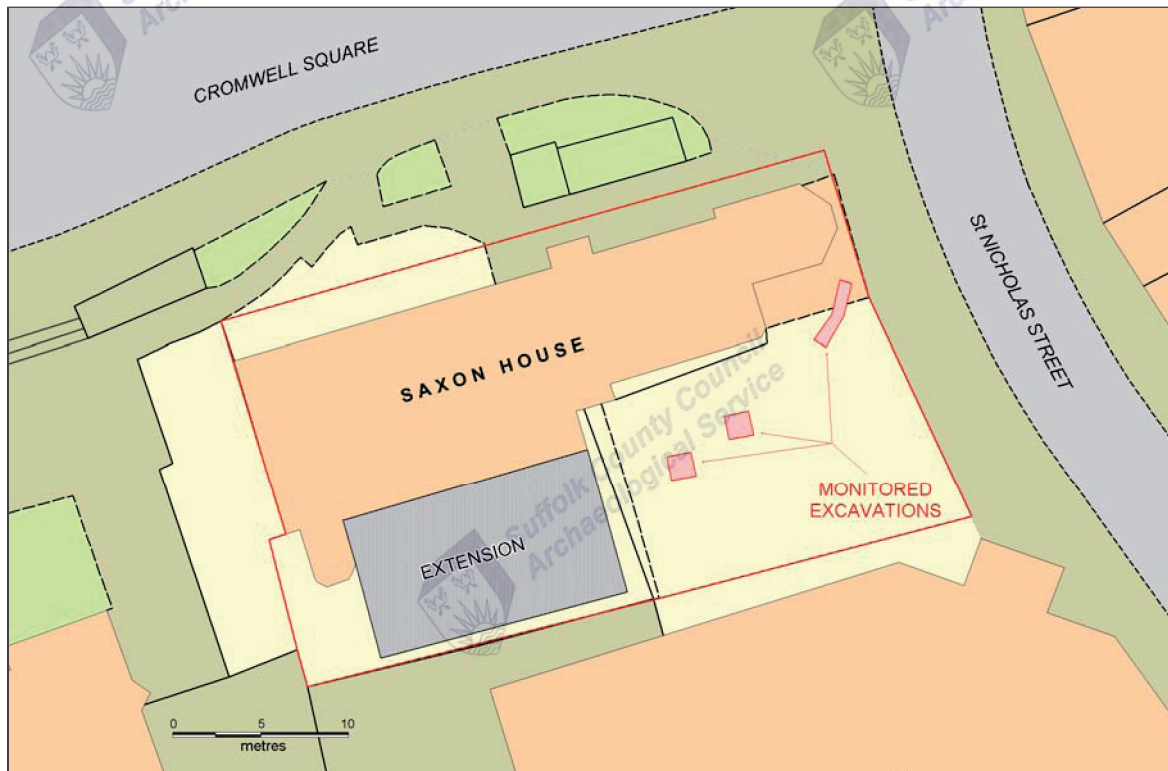


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted in any of the monitored excavations as only a later fill was present at the depths seen. The natural subsoil is believed to lie at depths greater than 1.6m and no excavations to this depth were observed.

The 1978 Site Investigation Report suggests the 'made-ground' consists of material containing brick rubble and concrete which would suggest the deposit is of relatively modern origin. It is not made clear if this material is present through out the 'made-ground' deposits as it would seem more likely to be present in the upper levels only with the lower levels being of an earlier origin. As the borehole tests were undertaken to assess the soil's ability to support a structure, rather than to identify specific archaeological levels, it is unlikely that any subtle divisions within the made-ground would have been recorded.

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

SAXON HOUSE, 1 CROMWELL SQUARE, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Saxon House, 1 Cromwell Square, Ipswich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/04/01264/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich, as defined in the Ipswich Local Plan, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As pile and beam foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches 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 Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and service trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 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 timetable.
- 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 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 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: 17 June 2005

Reference: Ipswich-SaxonHouse06

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.