

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/33

**Leisure Facility, Stonehouse Road, Hadleigh
HAD 126**

HER Information

Planning Application No: B/08/01760
Date of Fieldwork: November 2011- February 2012
Grid Reference: TM 0295 4259
Funding Body: Babergh District Council
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Officer: Linzi Everett
OASIS ID: suffolkc1- 120531

Summary

Monitoring of groundworks for a new leisure facility was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence present. Red brick footings likely to be associated with a building which formerly fronted George Street were identified in a service trench, along with a large undated probable extraction pit. No interventions were observed in the excavated building foundations and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the upcast spoil or seen in any of the trench sections.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for the construction of new leisure facility at Hadleigh Swimming Pool, Stonehouse Road, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 0295 4259 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 25m OD. The site is located within the area of the medieval town of Hadleigh as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) and it lies close to the recorded findspot of an Early Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn (HAD 044) .

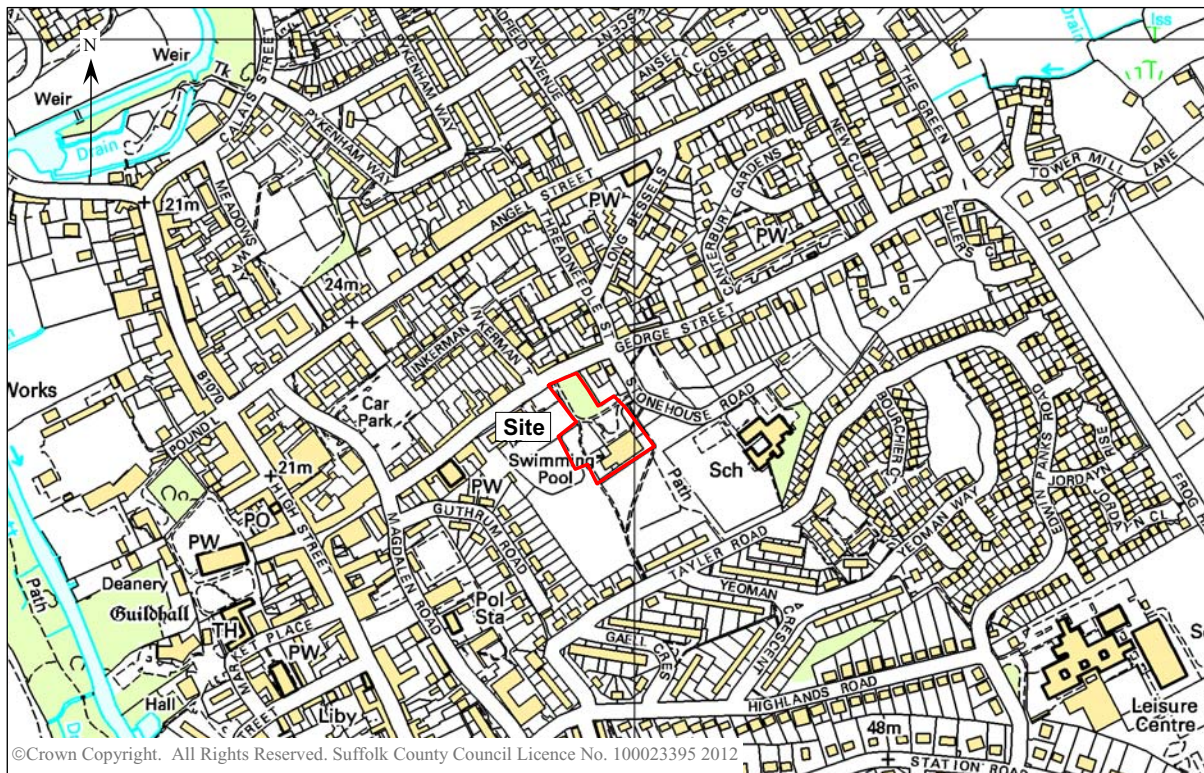


Figure 1. Site location

Several visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated groundworks. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork was commissioned by Babergh District Council. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

2. Results

A service trench measured 1m wide and 1m deep was excavated through c.0.3m of mid brown sandy loam topsoil which contained regular brick fragments (Figure 2). In the northern end of the trench by the road frontage, brick footings and surfaces were observed (Plate 1). These were assumed to be associated with a building shown on the 1st-3rd Ordnance Survey maps but since demolished. A possible large pit was also noted (Plate 2). This feature was steep sided where it could be seen to cut the natural subsoil, was over a metre deep and extended beyond the base and the sides of the excavated trench. It was filled by a single discernable matrix, a pale yellow brown homogenous and sterile silty sand.

Pads for the new building were excavated through broadly the same soil sequence as described above and measured between 0.5 and 1m deep. No pre-modern features were observed in the exposed sections or trench bases, nor were any pre-modern artefacts recovered. Disturbance from various modern services was noted throughout the site.

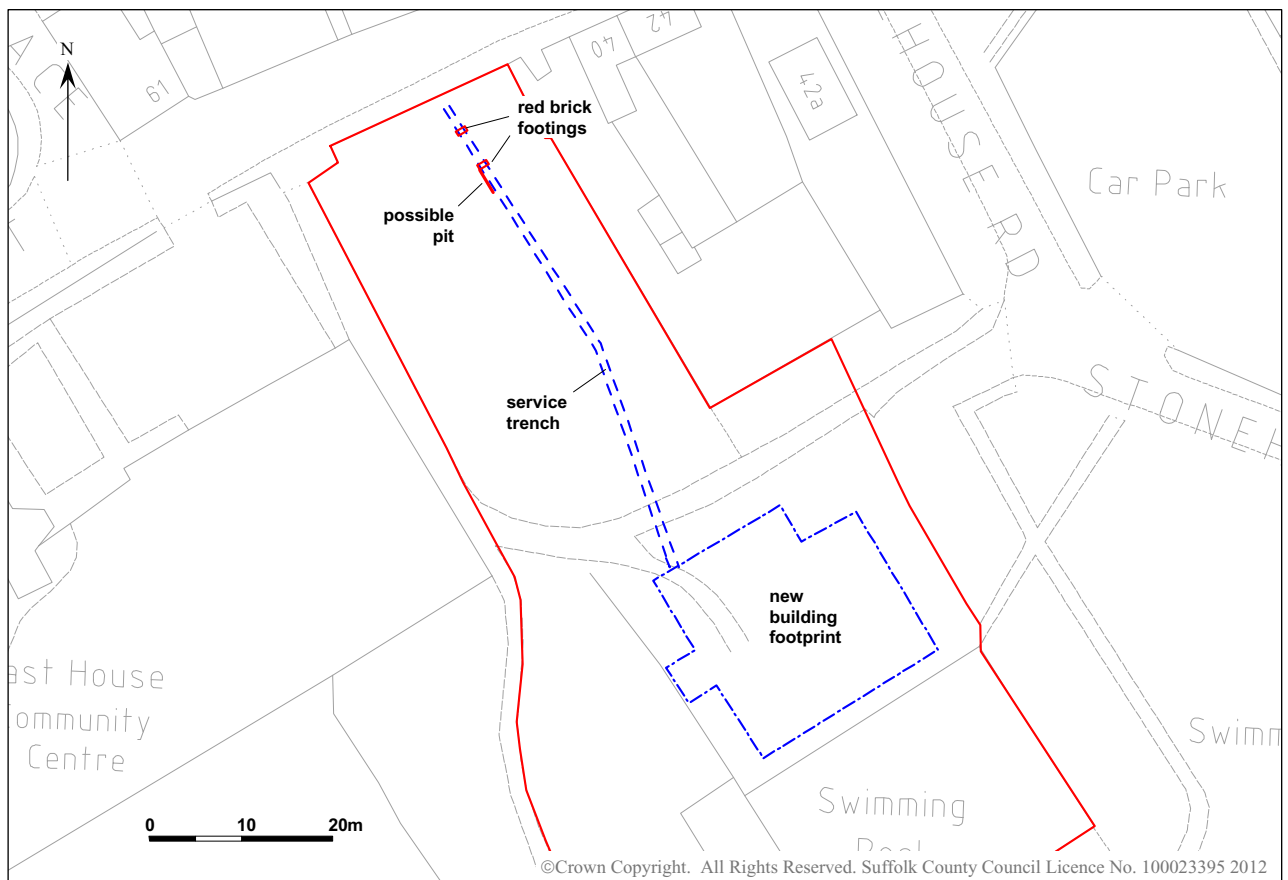


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks



Plate 1. Red brick footing in service trench. Looking west



Plate 2. Possible extraction pit in service trench. Looking west



Plate 3. Excavated pads in northwest corner of new building. Looking north west

3. Discussion

A possible extraction pit of unknown date was recorded in the northern part of the site, otherwise no archaeological interventions were observed nor artefactual evidence recovered during the monitoring. Although this has shown that archaeological evidence is not present in any density within the development area, scattered features could still exist.

Linzi Everett
March 2012

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Hadleigh Swimming Pool, Stonehouse Road, Hadleigh

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a leisure facility at Hadleigh Swimming Pool, Stonehouse Road, Hadleigh has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/08/01760/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 Hadleigh in the Babergh Local Plan and will involve extensive ground disturbance. In addition, the County Historic Environment Record lists that an Early Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn was found sometime between 1931 and 1961 in the grounds of East House, which were formerly more extensive and included the area now occupied by the Swimming Pool. In view of this, archaeological evaluation by trenching was carried out prior to determination of the application. This revealed no archaeological features and only a single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery. However, trenching was restricted by the presence of services and there remains a possibility that archaeological features and finds survive in the area to be developed.
- 1.3 In view of the low probability of any archaeological deposits being present, further archaeological work can be restricted to a monitoring by a trained archaeologist during excavation of foundation and service trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 this office before execution.

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 prehistoric or medieval occupation or the suspected Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery.
- 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 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.
- 4.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

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 Historic Environment 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 HER 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 Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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 HER. 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: 26th January, 2009 Reference: HadleighLeisureFacility

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.

Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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