

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

COTTON HALL, RECTORY ROAD, KEDINGTON KDG 032

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VEHICLE BRIDGE AT COTTON HALL, KEDINGTON

Planning Application No. SE/05/02733

NGR: TL 7074 4567

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-14089

Funded by: Mrs H Carson

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/58

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for a vehicle bridge over the river Stour at Cotton Hall, Kedington did not locate any archaeological deposits.

Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 21st April 2006 to monitor footing trenches for the construction of a vehicle bridge (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) following consultation with English Heritage, to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/05/02733. The work was funded by the developer, Mrs H Carson.

The groundworks consisted of two small trenches on either bank of the River Stour within pasture fields. The western trench lay within a nationally important site, a substantial Roman building and its environs, which is registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Suffolk 232) and is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record as KDG 007. Scheduled Monument Consent had therefore been obtained for the development and, although the groundworks were limited in size, a program of archaeological monitoring was required as the trenches had the potential to disturb important archaeological deposits.

Methodology and Results

The two trenches, measuring c.3m long, 0.6m wide and up to 0.6m deep were observed after excavation whilst fully open. Both showed a similar profile with 0.2m-0.25m of topsoil overlying a homogenous brown silt/clay. No archaeological deposits were seen.

Discussion

Both trenches showed undisturbed natural subsoil of alluvial deposits lying beneath the topsoil with a complete absence of archaeological evidence. However the limited size of the trenches,

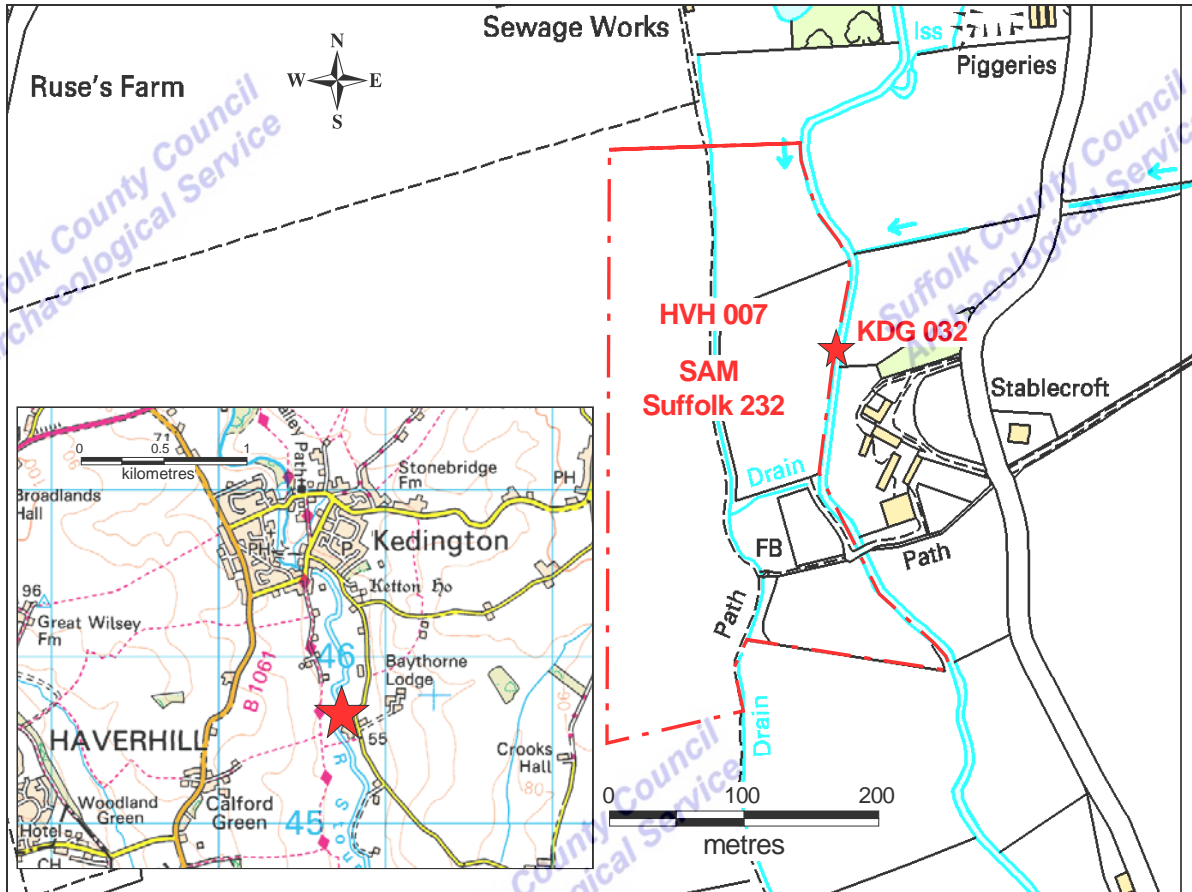


Figure 1. Site location plan

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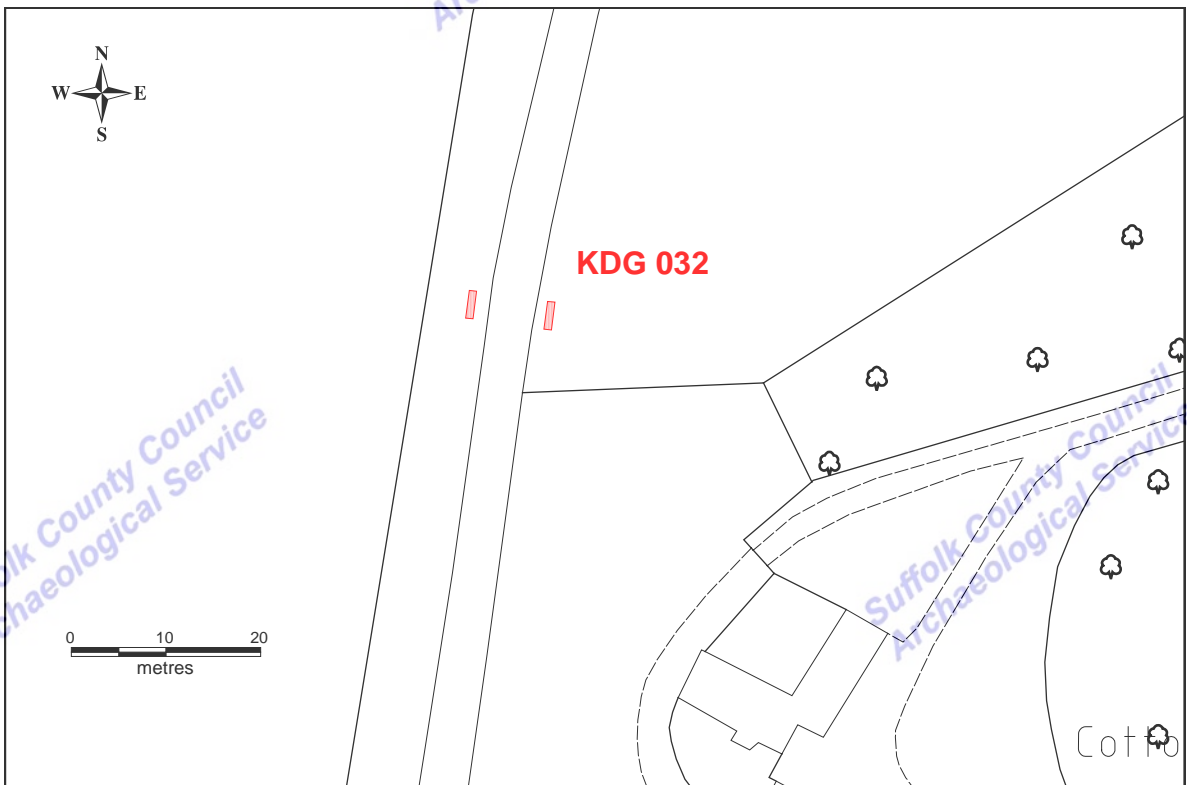


Figure 2. Site plan

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and their very close proximity to the river bank, had meant that there had been only a limited likelihood that deposits associated with the known Roman settlement would be located.

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May 2006

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

Bridge construction Cotton Hall, Kedington

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (SE/05/02733) has been made to build a bridge over the river Stour. The local planning authority has issued consent but has made this conditional upon a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition : “No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.” Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that an adequate programme of work will be achieved by archaeological monitoring of development as it proceeds.
- 1.2 The bridge has an abutment on the west bank of the Stour which falls within the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Suffolk 232), the remains of a substantial Roman building and its immediate context (Suffolk County SMR KDG007). The east bank is close to a late medieval/16th century building and linked agricultural complex. There is some potential for early occupation and earlier bridges / riverside works at this general location.
- 1.3 The proposed bridge is designed in outline. Provisional engineering designs are for the abutments to be concrete pads less than 1m square in section supported by mini-piles.
- 1.4 A site visit and examination of the development area shows that the soil exposed in the river banks is a fairly homogenous brown silty clay which shows some localised lenses of gravel and chalk. The firm impression gained was that these are alluvial deposits; there are strong indications that the area of the proposed bridge is in an area which would not have been suitable for habitation in antiquity (or today).

- 1.5 Provided the draft design is adhered to the potential for damage to archaeological deposits is thought to be low. Archaeological monitoring of groundwork for the pads as this take place will provide adequate mitigation.
- 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 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in “Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England” Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 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 are damaged or removed by any development permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping and the excavation of trenches for the abutment pads.

These and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

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 the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must 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 Unimpeded access to groundworks must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments 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 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, 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).
- 5.4 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must 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: RDCarr

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 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Environment and Transport Department
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 09/02/2006

Reference: Kedington Cotton Hall.doc

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.