

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Dalham, DAL 026

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TENNIS COURT, THE OLD RECTORY, DALHAM.

Planning Application No. F/2004/0982/FUL

NGR: TL 7248 6246

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-14882

Funded by: P. Regis

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/076

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of the soil strip for the construction of a tennis court failed to locate any archaeological features.

Introduction

The soil strip of an area of land was monitored on 11th April 2006, prior to the construction of a tennis court. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2004/0982/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Peter Regis. The site is located on a south facing slope (OD 75m) between the church to the north and village to the south.

The primary interest in the site was based upon its location close to the site of the medieval church and alongside a sunken lane. There was moderate potential therefore for the development to disturb evidence of settlement.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited and the topsoil was stripped by a back acting machine with a flat bladed bucket by the developer under archaeological supervision. Between 0.25 and 0.4m of topsoil overlay natural chalk over most of the site. Towards the eastern side of the excavations a colluvial deposit of grey silt/clay had built up on a gentle eastern facing slope. Two 20th century pits and a concrete slab were exposed. No features of archaeological interest were identified. Approximately 80% of the development was seen and it was agreed by the planning archaeologist that no further work was necessary.

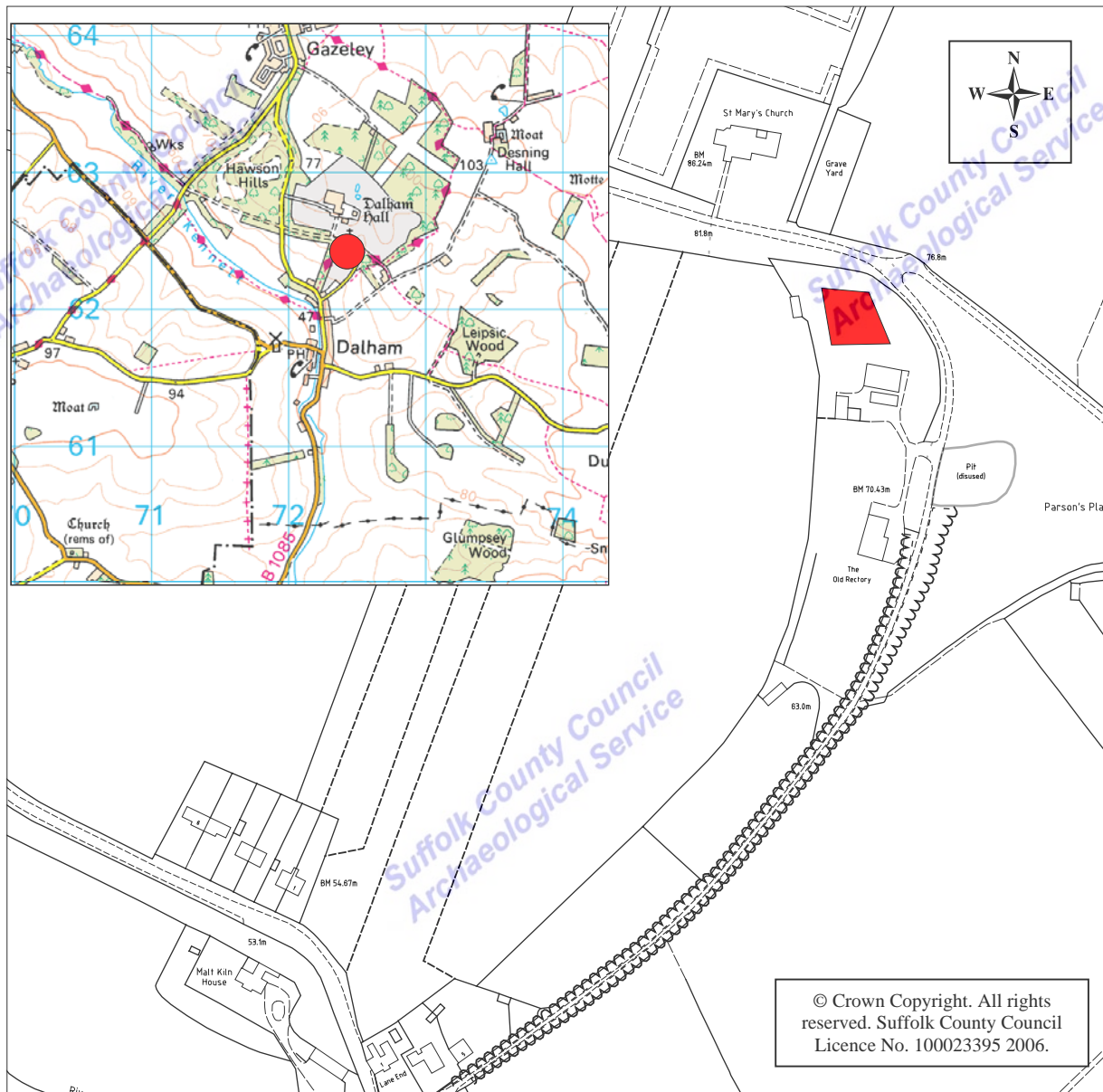


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

No features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were recovered from the topsoil and silt which were removed over the underlying chalk bedrock. This may be due to the position of the tennis court which is set back from both road ways, however the absence of any finds in the soil may reflect a gap in settlement.

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Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

May 2006

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

THE OLD RECTORY, DALHAM

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 (F/2004/0982/FUL) has been made to create a tennis court. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the tennis court can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

- 1.2 The proposal area lies within 60m of the medieval church and churchyard. It is in an area which has the potential to lie within the early settlement core. Extensive terracing is required to prepare the site area so soil disturbance offers a significant threat to any archaeological deposit which may exist.

It is understood from conversation with the agent that development will be undertaken directly by the applicant and that some delays in the timetable would be acceptable – on this basis it has been mutually decided that monitoring with contingencies for delays (as opposed to formal evaluation before development) will be an acceptable approach.

- 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 [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 earlier occupation of the site, particularly medieval and pre-medieval occupation.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be site preparation works involving topsoil stripping and subsequent ground reductions to the top of subsoil (i.e. likely to concern only the top c.600mm). These works are to be observed as they take place; the manner and depth of the initial works are to be under the control of the observing archaeologist. Subsequently adequate time is to be allowed for the recovery and recording of any archaeological deposit before works proceed.

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 During soil removal unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 25 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

The surface area of soil disturbance is roughly 580 square metres; the maximum contingency provision is thus approximately three days delay for archaeological recording after the identification of any archaeological deposit.

- 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.

- 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*, 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: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
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Date: 23 March 2005

Reference: /Dalham-OldRectory03

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.