

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Hempnalls Hall, Willow Lane, Cotton COT 021

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS FOR AN  
EXTENSION AT HEMPNALLS HALL, COTTON.

Planning Application No. 0670/06

NGR: TM 08086756

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-15259

Funded by: Mr & Mrs A Banks

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/60

### *Summary*

*An archaeological monitoring of the site strip for a new extension at Hempnalls Hall, Willow Lane, Cotton did not locate any archaeological features. The natural subsoil underlaid a series of deposits relating to the modern driveway and debris from possible earlier yard surfaces.*

### **Introduction**

A single visit was made to the site on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 to monitor the groundworks for a small extension to the property. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application 0670/06. The work was funded by the developer, Mr & Mrs A Banks.

Interest in the site was due to its location within the area of a medieval moated enclosure, recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record as COT 010. The present house, which occupies the centre of the island is Grade II listed (LBS 281611) and dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A brick bridge crossing the north arm of the moat is also Grade II listed (LBS 281612) and possibly dates from the same period. The first edition Ordnance survey, c.1880, shows that a late 20<sup>th</sup> century extension on the east gable has replaced an earlier structure and that a range of outbuildings in the southeast quadrant of the island have been demolished.

The new extension was to be built on the eastern gable of the house, removing and enlarging the current 20<sup>th</sup> century extension. As it is thought probable that the moated site was occupied by an earlier medieval building, a program of archaeological monitoring was required as the groundworks had a high potential of disturbing archaeological deposits from the medieval or later periods.

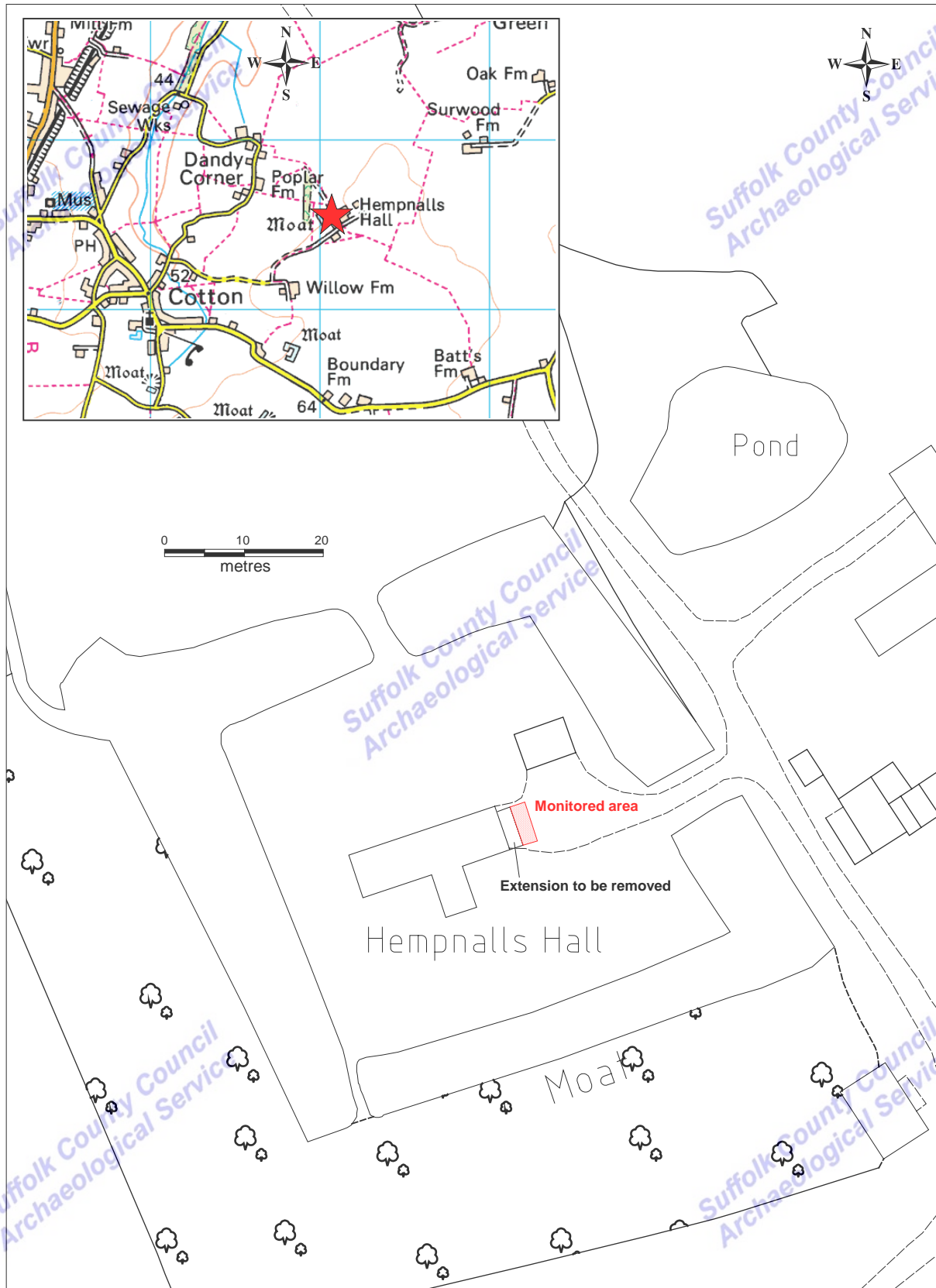


Figure 1. Site location plan

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## Methodology and Results

The first stage of groundworks was a site strip of the entire extension footprint, an area measuring c.5m by 2m, prior to the excavation of footings. As the extension was being built on the existing gravel driveway this involved the removal of 0.35m-0.4m of modern hardcore deposits, at which point the site visit was made.

Removal of the driveway foundations generally exposed the natural clay subsoil, the surface of which was mixed with fragments of brick, rubble and charcoal and the occasional fragment of oyster shell. The north-west corner was disturbed by pipelines whilst the foundations of the pre-existing extension extended up to 0.2m into the western side of the site.

In the east and south parts of the site the natural clay was less clear and so the trench was cleaned by hand. No features were identified but it was evident that the natural subsoil at times was covered by a 0.05m-0.1m thick layer of mixed clay, soil and debris.

As the site had been fully observed during this phase of the groundworks the subsequent footing trenches were not monitored.

## Discussion

The site strip did not identify any archaeological features and there was no firm sign of medieval, or post-medieval, occupation or structural evidence. The clay subsoil did partially lie under a thin layer of disturbed clay and brick debris, or had some of this debris material pressed into its surface. This probably represents a former yard or occupation surface, adjacent to the house and now underlying the modern driveway, of a post-medieval or later date. It is possible that the modern driveway may have heavily truncated any more substantial former surfaces.

The size of the trench was limited, being only c.0.5% of the total area of the moat platform, and so it is not unsurprising that no archaeological evidence was seen. Evidence of Medieval occupation, pre-dating the current house, may still survive elsewhere on the island, as may other later buildings.

J. A. Craven  
Assistant Project Officer  
Field Team  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
May 2006

<b>SMR Number</b>	COT 010 SF5497	<b>Record Type</b>	Monument
<b>Site Name</b>	Hempnalls Hall; Caldecott Moat.	<b>Period</b>	Med

**National Grid Reference**

TM080675 Area

**Administrative Area**

Civil Parish COTTON, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

**Status and other references**

Sites &amp; Monuments Record - 5497

Parish Code - COT 010

**Type and Date**

MOAT Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD

HOUSE Medieval to Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1600 AD

SITE - to

EARTHWORK

**Associated Finds**

FLOOR TILE Medieval to Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1600 AD CLAY

ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT Medieval to Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1600 AD CLAY

**Description**

Moat. Square, inhabited, isolated on edge of parish.

Garden works have exposed a cragstone retaining wall on the S side of the moat island (S1).

Originally part of the Domesday vill of Caldecota (Kaldecotes, Caldecoten, Caldencotan). Held in the C14 by the knightly de Hemenhale family from Hempnall, Norfolk, hence the present name. Sir Robert de Hemenhale (d.1402/ 3) married Joan de la Pole and Hempnalls Hall was probably the birthplace of William de la Pole, 4th Earl and 1st Duke of Suffolk in 1396.

Manor sold by Sir Robert's widow 1403-4. Later acquired by Sir John Fastolf of Caister Castle (d.1459). Succession of John Paston to Fastolf lands at Cotton Hall and Caldecott disputed (see Paston Letters). Held by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk 1515-38. Acquired 1560 by Sir John Tyrell of Gipping. Occupied by his daughter, Dame Anne Clere till her death 1576. For subsequent owners and occupiers see (S4).

Traces of mortared flint and brick revetment on S, W and E sides. Crag blocks underpinning revetment on S side near SW corner. Stump of flint and brick walling near SE corner. Brick bridge (?C16 with later upper part) across middle of N side. C16 timber-framed house with brick crow-stepped W gable wall. Stone fireplaces. Foundations of wall extending southward from the S wall of house exposed in the garden (S2). Two C14 tiles - one impressed with a version of the de Hemenhale coat-of-arms, the other inlaid with a wheel design (S3). Two terracotta architectural fragments, very similar to the material from Westhorpe Hall (1520s). Mortar on break surfaces suggests they were used at some stage in a rubble wall (?salvaged material from the demolition of Westhorpe Hall)(S2).

**Sources**

(S3) : , , , , Drawings &amp; notes in parish file, also photographs

(S4) : , , , , Farrer E, 'Hempnalls Hall, Cotton', E Anglian Misc, 1912, 86f

(S2) : , , , , Martin E, notes, 1998

(S1) : , , , , SAU, Carr R, visit, May 1996

(M1) Unpublished document: Parish file, , Suffolk Archaeological Service, , Parish file: (S1)

**Associated Events**

SF13337 Event - Survey: Site Visit by SAU (RDC), 10/05/1996 -

SF13698 Event - Survey: Site Visit by SAU (EM), 01/05/1998 -

**Associated Individuals**

Mr Lunk van de Does, - Mr Lunk van de Does, Hempnalls Hall, Cotton Land Owner

Plouviez Judith - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Compiler

Carr Robert - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Reviser

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

#### HEMPNALLS HALL, WILLOW LANE, COTTON

*Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).*

#### 1. Background

1.1 Planning permission to erect a small extension at Hempnalls Hall, Willow Lane, Cotton (TM 0806 6755) has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0670/06). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.

1.2 This development lies within an area of archaeological interest. The development is situated within the area of a medieval moated enclosure, which is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (COT 010). The existing building apparently dates from the late sixteenth century and it seems probable that an earlier medieval building is located on or close to the same site. The development proposal will involve the excavation of strip footings with a total length of c. 12m in an area on the east side of the existing building. Therefore, there is potential for medieval occupation deposits to be encountered in the area of the extension.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day.

1.3 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.

1.4 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.

1.5 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

#### 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 objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval occupation of the site.

2.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

- 2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Tel. : 01284 352197

Date: 3 May 2006

Reference: /HempnallsHallCotton2006

**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.**