

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

LAND TO THE REAR OF 10 HAWKSMILL STREET, NEEDHAM MARKET (SMR ref. NDM 019)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT BLOCK
(Application No. 424/04)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/147
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-16390)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a residential apartment block on land to the rear of 10, Hawksmill Street, Needham Market (NGR; TM 0885 5538), was undertaken during July 2005. It was found that the natural subsoil was buried beneath a c.1.6m thick deposit of made ground and was unlikely to be encountered. Two World War Two spigot mortar emplacements were noted within the development area but they were not under direct threat from construction (for a Condition Report see SCCAS Report No. 2006/011). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference NDM 019. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by MLM Civil, Structural and Building Services Engineers, on behalf of their client.



Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with construction of a residential apartment block on land to the rear of 10, Hawksmill Street, Needham Market, was undertaken during July 2005. Interest in the site is due to its location within c.100m of known prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation excavated in 1993 at the Pightle, which is located south of the site.

The new structure is to be built on piles with connecting ground beams which are likely to 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 that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I).

The site lies on the edge of high ground between a possibly man made watercourse running along the edge of a flood-plain and the main Norwich-London railway line. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0885 5538; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference NDM 019. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by MLM, Civil, Structural and Building Services Engineers, on behalf of their client.

Methodology

Site visits were to be made to inspect the groundwork underway. Stripped areas were to be examined for archaeological features and deposits which would be excavated and recorded. Any significant soil profiles revealed by the groundwork were to be recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified being noted. Any on-site spoil tips would be examined for finds.

Results

The site was visited on the 12th July 2005 to observe the soil strip in advance of construction. This was undertaken using a the back arm of 'JCB' type wheeled excavator but only revealed an underlying deposit of brown sandy silt and clay containing occasional brick fragments interpreted as 'made-ground'. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed and no artefacts were recovered from the stripped area or any temporary spoil heaps.

A Site Investigation Report, dated November 2003 and produced by JP Chick and Partners Limited details the results of trial pit and borehole tests which indicate that made ground is present over the building footprint to a depth of c. 1.6m.

It was hoped to make a further visit to examine the excavation for a sewerage

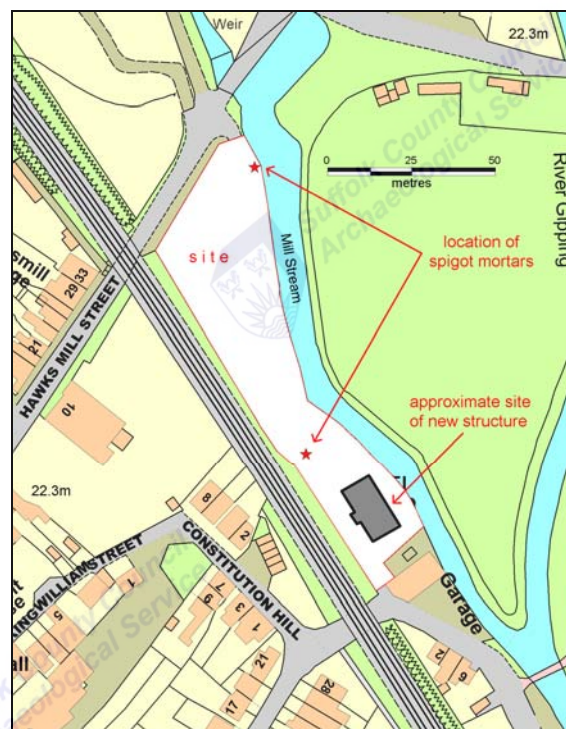


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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connection, which may have cut through the made ground deposits, but were not informed when this event took place.

During the monitoring visit two spigot-mortar emplacements dating from World War Two were noted. After intervention by the Mid Suffolk District Council, SCCAS were separately commissioned to report on their condition and importance with a view to their possible preservation (see SCCAS Report No. 2006/011).

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference NDM 019, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-16390.

Conclusion

The natural subsoil is believed to lie at a depth greater than 1.5m, as indicated by the Site Investigation Report, and no excavations to this depth were observed. Only a very limited amount of deep excavation which may have encountered the natural subsoil was undertaken in association with this development. Unfortunately this was not monitored but would only affect a relatively small area. Consequently, it is believed that no significant archaeological deposits or features were damaged or disturbed by this development.

The made ground deposit was relatively clean containing only very occasional brick fragments. It may be associated with development of the adjacent Mill Stream or the construction of the railway line. Alternatively it may be the result of a deliberate dumping to create a usable space out of reach of flood water.

At the time of writing the fate of the two spigot mortars is unknown. Although neither were directly threatened by the construction work it is believed the site owners wished for them to be removed.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

5th July 2006



Plate I: Site strip underway – 12/7/2005

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

REAR OF 10 HAWKS MILL STREET, NEEDHAM MARKET

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for residential development to the rear of 10 Hawks Mill Street, Needham Market, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (424/04). 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 100 metres of known prehistoric, early Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation excavated in 1993 at the Pightle, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip 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 multi-period 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: 12 July 2005

Reference: /NeedhamMarket-HawksMillSt07

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.