

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

DAIRY FARM BUILDINGS, HENHAM (SMR ref. HAM 017)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CONVERSION OF OUTBUILDINGS AT DAIRY FARM TO FORM A SINGLE DWELLING
(Application No. W/5835/11)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/151
(OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-16961)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the conversion of outbuildings at Dairy Farm, Henham (NGR; TM 4499 7839), was undertaken during July 2006. The farm is part of the Henham Estate and lies within Henham Park. The outbuildings stand within an area that was possibly partially enclosed by a moat and it has been theorised that the site may be the location of a medieval Henham Hall. Observation of excavated footing trenches did not reveal any evidence for any earlier structures and no early artefacts were recovered although it did appear that the natural subsoil, which comprised yellow brown silty sand, had been previously truncated. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference for the moat, HAM 017. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Hektor Rous.



Figure 1: Location Plan

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the conversion of a series of outbuildings at Dairy Farm, Henham, was undertaken during July 2006. The site lies within the Henham Park Estate close to the known sites of two former halls, an Elizabethan hall lost to a fire in 1773, and a later Georgian hall built c. 1793 and demolished in the 1950s. Interest in the site is due to its location immediately south of a linear pond that is thought to be the remnants of a moat. A map of 1699 indicates that at

that time it was 'L' shaped and formed the northern and western boundaries of an area named on the map as 'The Dairy Yard'. It has been theorised that if this is the remnant of a moat it may be associated with a hall that predated the Elizabethan structure. 'Dairy Yard' is the site of a series of buildings still referred to as having been part of a dairy and it is one group of these that are to be converted to single residence. An archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent calling for monitoring of the groundwork associated with this conversion 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 Mr R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I).

The dairy buildings are built in a style similar to the now demolished Georgian hall and may be of a similar date. They originally consisted of a central block with two perpendicular wings arranged around an open courtyard (see figure 2). The conversion involves the demolition of a timber shed, which had been built across the courtyard, and the erection of new walls to form an 'L' shaped dwelling. Some of the new walls are to be built on existing foundations associated with now demolished areas of the former dairy buildings whilst others will require new foundations entailing the excavation of footing trenches. It is the excavation of these footing trenches that has the

greatest potential to damage and destroy any archaeological remains that may be present and consequently their excavation was to be monitored for archaeological remains. See figure 3 overleaf for approximate locations of the monitored footings and other details.

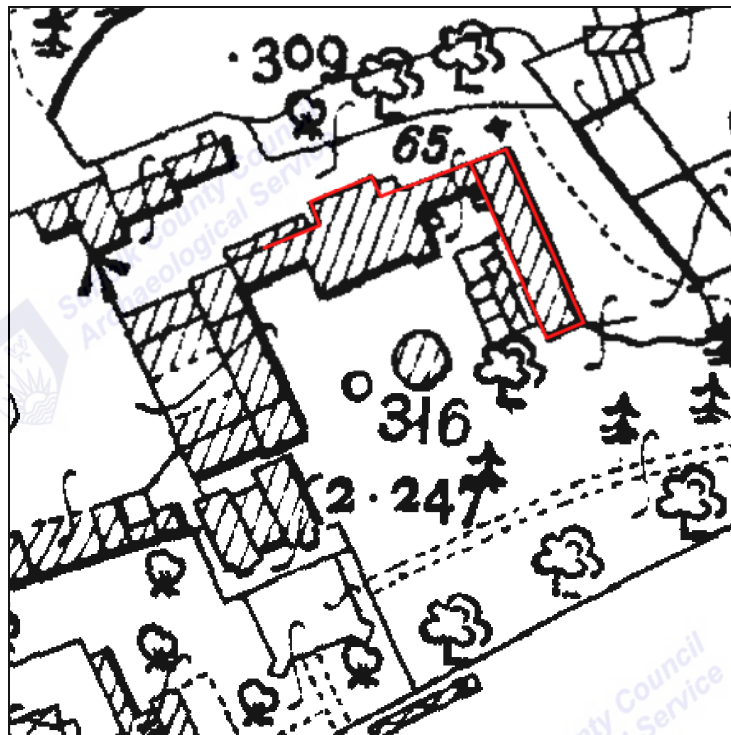


Figure 2: Extract from 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey c. 1900 (walls to be reused are highlighted in red)

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the dairy buildings is TM 4499 7839; for a location plan see figure 1. This monitoring event is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) under the existing reference for the possible moat, HAM 017. The two former hall sites are also recorded on the SMR under the references HAM 015, for the Elizabethan hall, and HAM 006, for the Georgian hall. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Hektor Rous.

Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the groundwork underway during which any stripped areas and excavated footings were to be examined for archaeological features and deposits. Had any been located they 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.

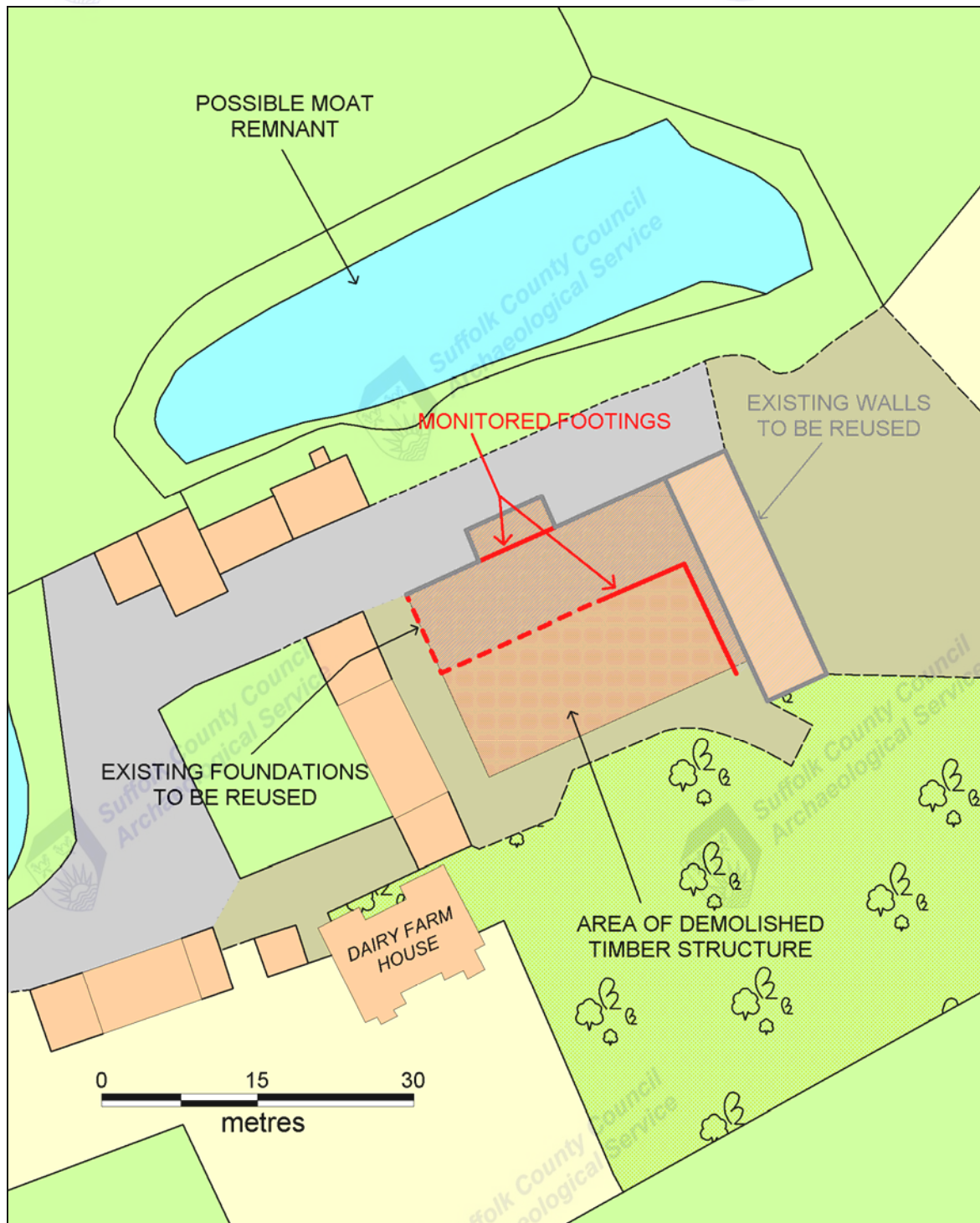


Figure 3: Location of Monitored Footing Trenches

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Results

The site was visited on the 24th July 2006 to observe the excavated footing trenches. They were excavated using the back arm of 'JCB' type wheeled excavator and were cut to a depth of c. 0.9m from the existing ground level. Two separate lengths of footing trench were monitored but no significant archaeological remains or deposits were noted in either trench. The approximate locations of the monitored trenches are illustrated in figure 3.

Fragments of timber were recovered in one area of the footing trench but upon examination these did not exhibit any evidence of having been worked and it was concluded that they were the remains of the roots of a substantial tree. The natural subsoil, which comprised yellow brown silty sand, was revealed within the excavated footing trenches at a depth of c. 0.6m below the present ground surface. The overburden comprised a brown sandy loam containing much debris in the form of brick and concrete rubble. Over much of the area of the footings trenches the interface between the overburden and the natural subsoil was very abrupt indicating that the subsoil had been previously truncated. The spoil from the footing trenches was stored nearby and this was quickly examined but no artefacts were identified

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference HAM 017, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-16961.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted in any of the monitored footing trenches. The trenches were cleanly cut and had features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

The surface of the natural subsoil appeared to be truncated which presumably occurred during the original construction of the dairy buildings. The fragments of timber noted in one trench are undoubtedly the remains of the roots of a substantial tree that formerly stood on this site.

No evidence for any earlier structures associated with the possible moat were noted and no artefacts indicative of occupation in the medieval period were recovered. This suggests that this is not the site of an earlier hall although it is possible that the truncation of the subsoil noted in the footing trenches has removed all earlier evidence. It must also be noted that only a very small proportion of the area potentially within the possible moat was inspected and that the results of this monitoring cannot be seen as conclusive proof that an earlier hall did not exist.



Plate I: View looking northeast - Dairy Farm Buildings
*Old foundations associated with the dairy buildings are clearly visible.
Excavated footing trench is just visible - centre right foreground*

APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

DAIRY FARM BUILDINGS, HENHAM

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 (W/5835/11) has been made to convert barns into four dwellings. 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 new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

- 1.2 The application area falls within an area recorded as the remnant of a medieval moated enclosure (SCC SMR HAM 017). The process of conversion as described in the planning application will involve significant disturbance for the creation of drainage and underpinning.

The archaeological interest is in establishing the presence or absence of a moated enclosure; if present the date and form of the structure coupled with the recording of any subsidiary structures (i.e. buildings and yards) within the enclosure.

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

In the case of excavated trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed **after** they **have been** 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 In the case of excavated trenches unimpeded access at the rate **of one hour 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 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 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. 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
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 3 November 2005

Reference: /Henham-DairyFarm11

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.