

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

PAKEFIELD HALL, LONDON ROAD GISLEHAM (SMR ref. GSE 002)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGE
(Application Nos. W/12763/7)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/205
(OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-18816)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a large garage within the moated area at Pakefield Hall, Gisleham (NGR; TM 5322 8902), was undertaken during September 2006. All footings for the structure were observed but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised grey boulder clay with occasional pockets of sand. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference for the moated site, GSE 002. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Shoebridge.

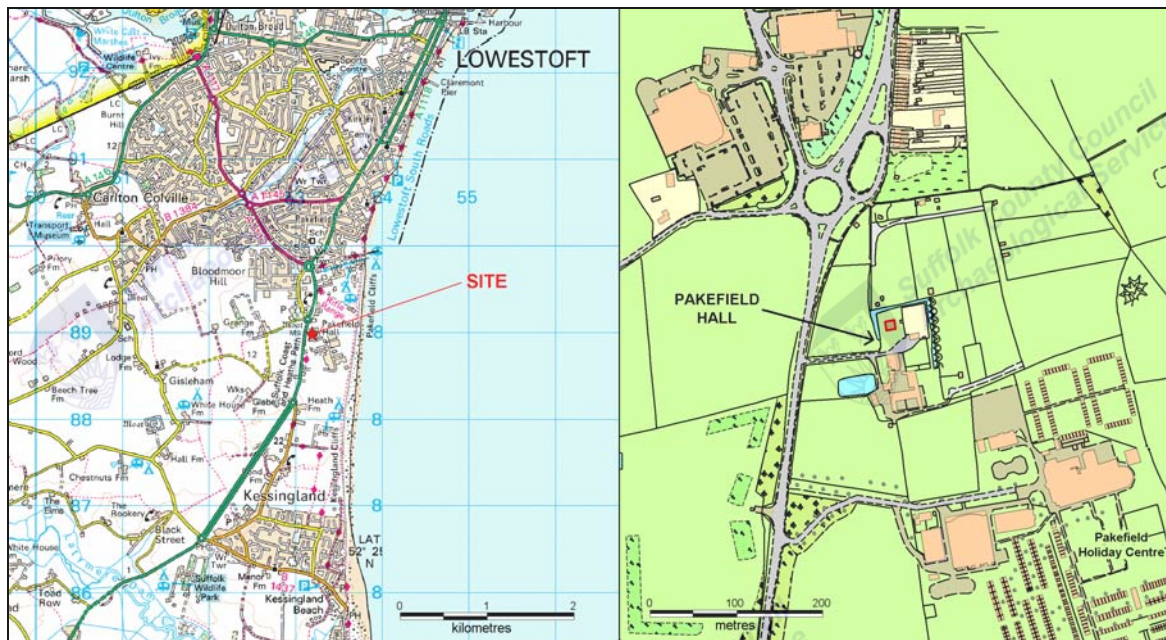


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a large garage block within the moated area at Pakefield Hall, London Road, Gisleham, was undertaken during September 2006. The development comprised a single structure to be constructed to the north of the existing house in the northwest corner of the moat. Interest in the site is due to its location within a medieval moat with a high potential for encountering medieval settlement deposits.

The garage was to be built on strip foundations that would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits revealed by the groundworks associated with this development. 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).

The location of the proposed structure had been moved to the north since the Brief and Specification was issued to avoid a backfilled pond, the site of which was known from early Ordnance Survey maps.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 5322 8902; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference GSE002. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr Shoebridge.

Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the footings once they had been excavated. The revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified being noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visit were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

The site was visited on the 19th September 2006 to inspect footings that had been excavated earlier in the day; see figure 2 below for a plan their location. The footing trenches were cut to a depth of *c.* 1.2m through a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil and into the natural subsoil which lay immediately underneath. The surface of the natural subsoil, which comprised grey boulder clay with occasional sand filled hollows, did not appear to have been truncated.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of the examined footings.

A spoil tip was present to the rear of the site. This was briefly examined for artefacts but no significant finds were present.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference GSE 002. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-18816.

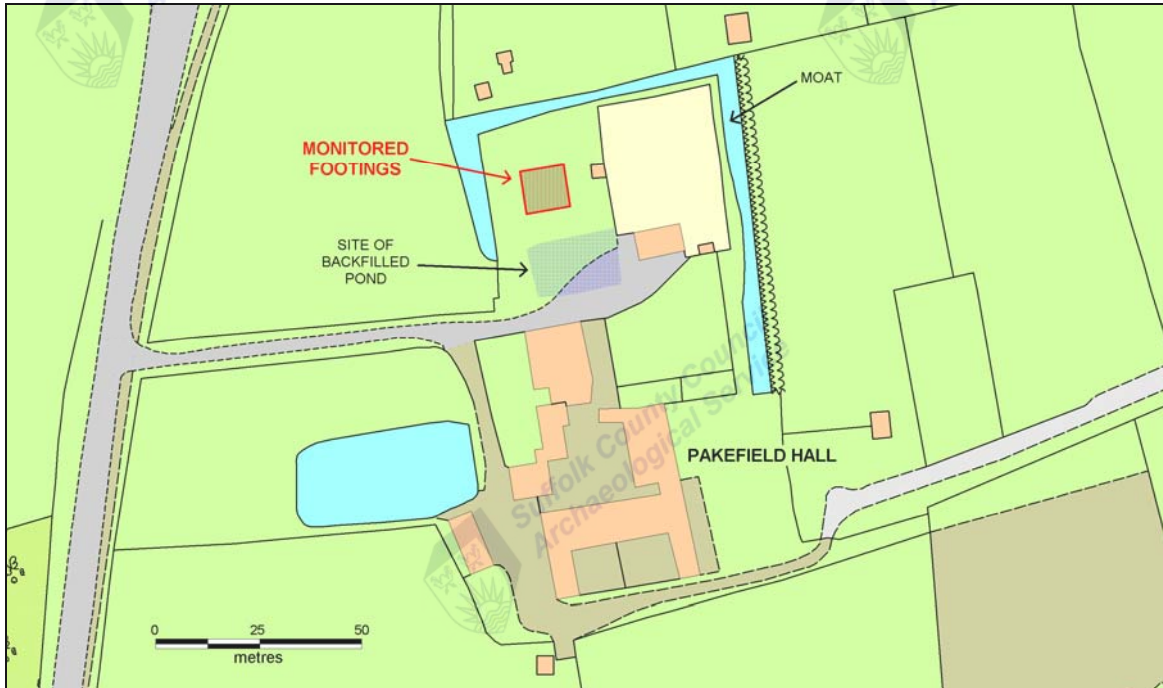


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed by this development as no significant features or deposits were noted in the monitored footings. All observed excavations were cleanly cut and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

3rd October 2006

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

PAKEFIELD HALL, GISLEHAM

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (W/12763/7) has been made to build a triple garage with accommodation above. 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 development area lies within the island of a medieval moated enclosure which is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (GSE 002). The existing dwelling lies near the west side of the long axis of the moat, near the access. The owner reports that the eastern boundary of the moat island has a substantial (c.3ft wide) brick wall – which probably originally acted as a moat ditch revetment and house wall. It seems highly probable that the original dwelling, therefore, was against the eastern side of the moat, well away from the proposed development. The OS 1887 and 1904 maps show a substantial pond feature on the area to be built upon. This is an undated feature.
- 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.

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 of medieval occupation within the moat, and to date the pond feature.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed **after** they **have been** excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for

archaeological 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 footing trenches 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. 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.
- 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.

Specification by: Robert Carr

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

Date: 16 April 2002

Reference: /Gisleham04

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.