

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

The Old Rectory, Campsea Ash
(Planning Application C/06/0213/FUL)

SMR- CAA 027

SCCAS Report No. 2006/223

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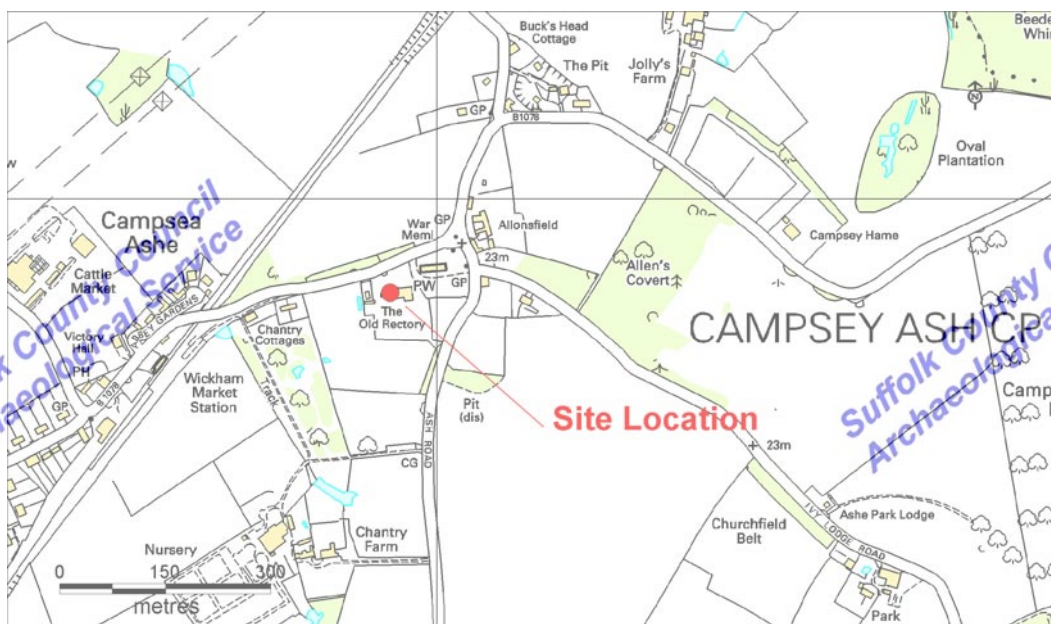
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Robert Carr: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)

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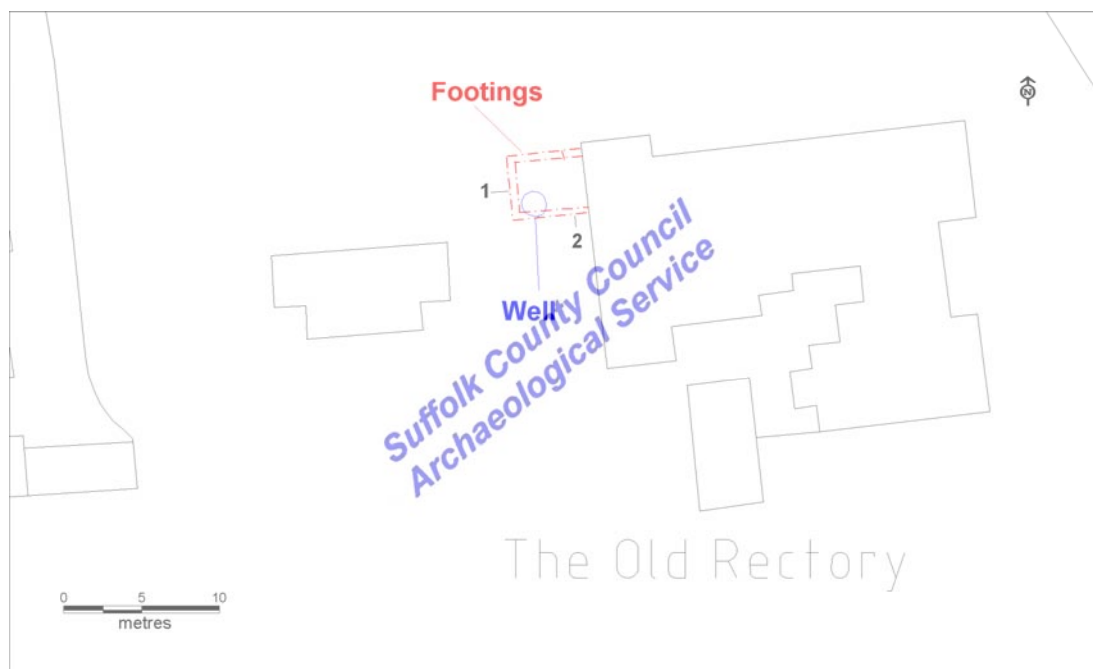
Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Old Rectory, Campsea Ash as a condition of planning application C/06/0213/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Mr. S Simonds. The site is centred on TM 3293 5586 where a small extension to west side of the existing dwelling is to be constructed. This entails demolition of an existing lean-to room and digging around 13.5 linear metres of building footings. A single visit was made to the site on the morning of 17th of November 2006, when it was possible to examine the majority of the open trenches in bright dry conditions. However, in spite of a thorough examination of all deposits under the full co-operation of the landowners and contractors the monitoring failed to produce any evidence of archaeological features or finds. The only feature to be revealed was a nineteenth century brick built well.



Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was produced by Robert Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 6-04-2006)(Carr 2006). The site has high archaeological potential, especially in relation to the medieval period and is likely to lie within the early settlement core of the village. The development area is adjacent to the medieval church and churchyard. The Old Rectory was listed as Grade II in 1984 (LBS No. 285192) and is generally of late eighteenth century date, although the house is thought to have an earlier core (English Heritage 2006). The west side of the house, where the extension is to be constructed, is relatively modern. The 1880s Ordnance Survey Map indicates a large densely wooded formal garden surrounding the house and the grounds continue to retain much of this character today.



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Methodology

The Brief and Specification stated that the principal objective of the monitoring was to attempt to establish whether there is medieval or earlier settlement remains at this location. If present, evidence for this is most likely to be revealed within the footing trenches for the new extension. During the monitoring visit, a measured sketch plan of the trench location was produced on site in order to record localised soil profiles, features and any finds positions. The Trench had largely been dug by hand due to space limitations and also the obstruction caused by a substantial nineteenth century well. Soil profiles were recorded at two locations in the trench. The well, which was the only feature to be observed, was also closely examined and characterised.

Conclusion

The dimensions of the trench were consistent throughout and measured 0.60m wide by 1.00m deep. The individual deposits varied in depth: at Location 1 The topsoil was 0.20m deep and consisted of mid-dark brown sandy loam with extensive root disturbance, typical of garden soil; the same deposit was slightly deeper at Location 2 at 0.35m. The subsoil had a very consistent depth of 0.20m and was of mixed fine crag banded with orange and pale yellow sands; the subsoil was virtually stone free. Finally, the underlying natural was exposed to a depth of 0.60m and consisted of soft mid-pale brown clay, again with very few stones, but very occasional small chalk inclusions.

The only apparent previous ground disturbance was from the footings associated with the demolished lean-to extension and also a substantial well located in the south leg of the trench. The well had an external diameter of 1.70m and was in good condition from a depth of around 0.40m below the present ground surface; the well had not been backfilled. Sufficient amounts of the top of the well were preserved to show that the head of the structure had been domed, although the uppermost brickwork was truncated. The area within the trench layout had previously been capped with a very substantial concrete slab. The well was constructed of specialised curved red bricks and was also rendered inside with a 10mm thick cement based mix; a nineteenth century date is therefore most likely.

No Archaeological features were observed during the monitoring and no finds were retrieved. However, the area of ground disturbance was small and it therefore remains likely that medieval or earlier archaeology may exist around this location.

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November 2006

References

Carr, R., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development: The Old Rectory, Campsea Ash' SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.

English Heritage, 2006 'Listed Buildings Online: The Old Rectory, Mill Lane, Campsea Ash, LBS No. 285192' . [http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/ Building Details](http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/BuildingDetails)