

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

COTTON HALL, RECTORY ROAD, KEDINGTON KDG 032

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TENNIS COURT AND
SWIMMING POOL AT COTTON HALL, KEDINGTON

Planning Application No.:se/06/1418

NGR: TL 7081 4567

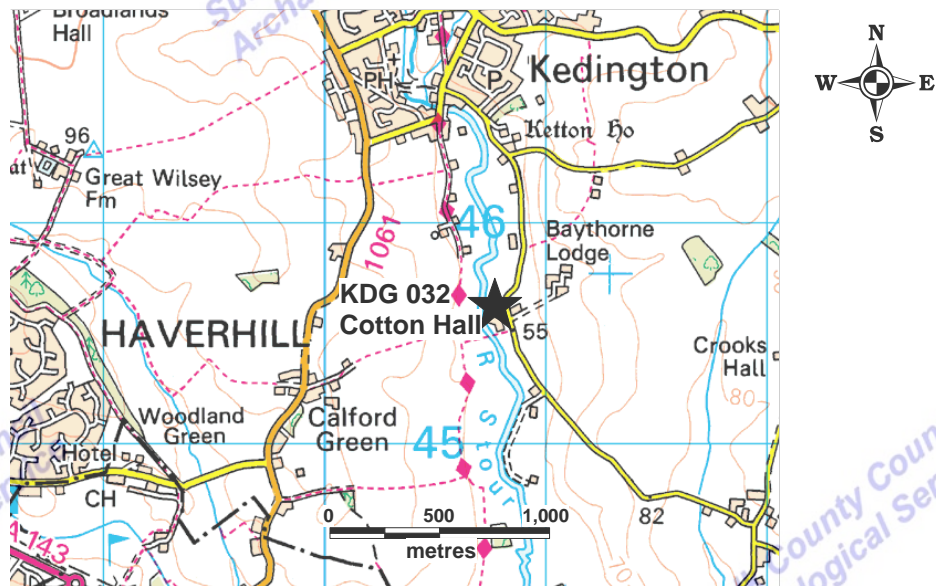
Oasis Ref. Suffolk1-20977

Funded by: Mrs H Carson

SCCAS Report no. 2006/186

Summary

Archaeological monitoring during minor construction works near to a known Roman settlement site recovered Roman and post-medieval building material but no sign of archaeological features.



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Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Cotton Hall, Kedington during the construction of a tennis court and swimming pool, in order to fulfil a condition on the planning application, SE/06/1418. The site lies at TL 7081 4567, within a flat rough grassed field, 50m east of the River Stour at c.55m OD. A Roman settlement of national importance, Suffolk Scheduled Ancient Monument 232, County Sites and Monuments number KDG 007, lies on the west side

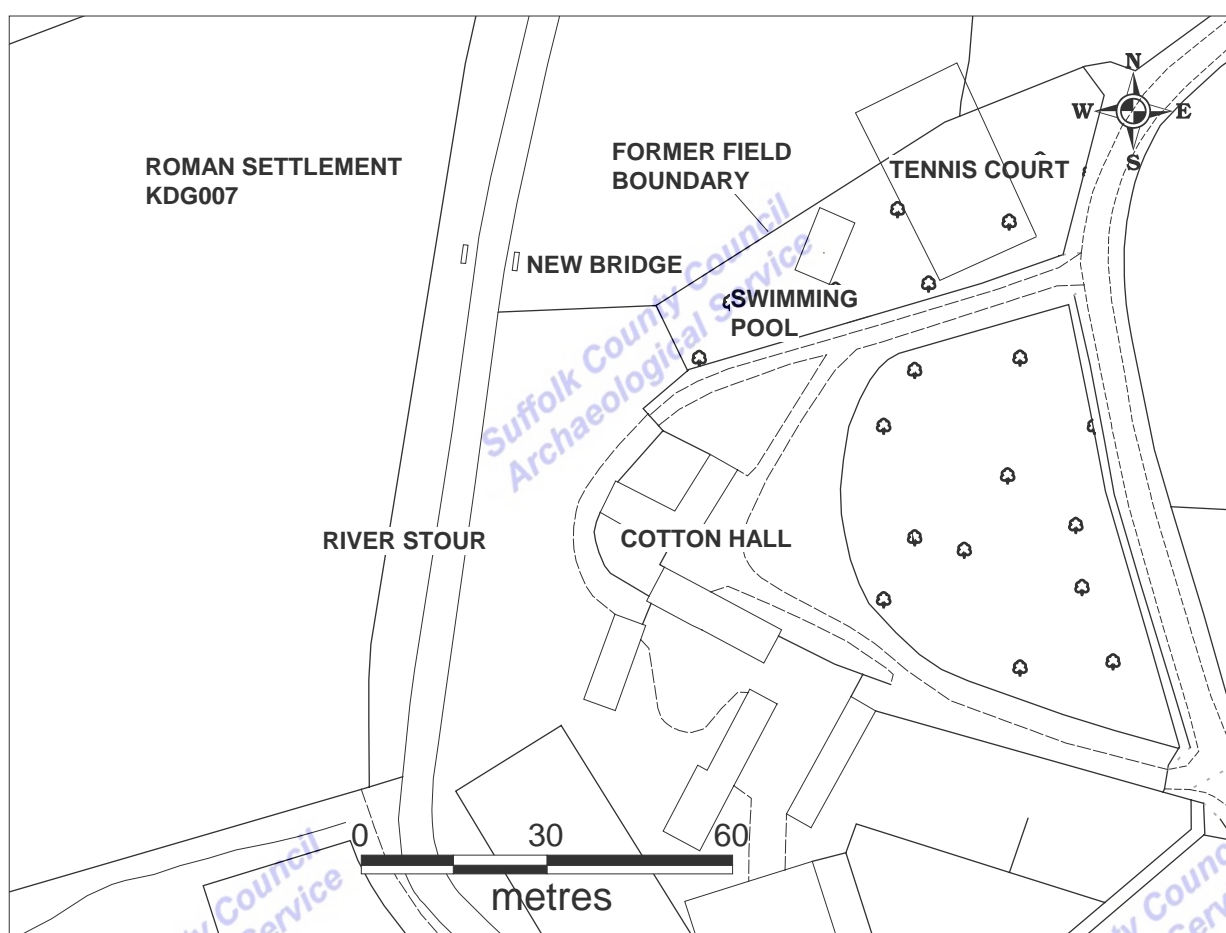
of the river. Two visits were made to the site, on 13th June to examine the groundworks for the tennis court and 21st of June to monitor the excavations for the swimming pool.

Results

The monitoring did not identify Roman deposits, although occasional finds were indicative of the proximity of the site to the known Roman settlement.

Tennis court

The ground works for the tennis court, c. 15m x 30m were observed following excavation during which c. 20cm of topsoil was removed from the whole area of the court. Finished levels were still within topsoil and therefore no archaeological features were identified, however the line of an infilled field ditch could be traced as a sparse distribution of post-medieval tile and brick fragments. This line coincided with the location of a former field boundary shown on even the most modern Ordnance Survey maps.



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Figure 2. Site plan

Swimming pool

The excavations for the swimming pool, c. 6m x 11m were largely (c. 75%) observed as they were carried out. No archaeological features were identified although occasional Roman and post-medieval tile fragments were collected. The soil profile at the edge of the excavations showed 0.5m of brown loam topsoil, from which the tile fragments were recovered, 0002, overlying 0.2m of clean orange-brown sandy-silt, onto natural clay and chalk. The spoil heaps from the excavations were examined and further tile recovered from these, 0001. The tile was sparsely scattered throughout the upper layer, with no particular concentrations, and this layer was otherwise without evidence of occupation debris.

The Finds Evidence by Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from 2 unstratified contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	CBM		Animal Bone		Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001	9	804	3	423	1	3	Roman/Post Med
0002	3	567					Roman
Total	12	1371	3	423	1	3	

Table 1. Finds quantities

Ceramic building material

A total of 12 fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the site, weighing 1.371kg. Most of this material was recovered from the spoilheaps (0001), with a few additional fragments from topsoil deposit 0002. The assemblage is mixed in date, and includes both Roman and post-medieval building material.

Two fragments of *tegula* (flanged roof tile) were collected from the spoilheaps (0001). Both pieces were abraded, and were made out of fine/medium sandy fabrics, one of which has a reduced core. Two other fragments were classified as general Roman brick and tile, as they had insufficient diagnostic features to be more closely described. The same group of material included a post-medieval roof tile with a round peg hole, and four other post-medieval fragments, from probable bricks and tiles. Three more fragments of Roman building material were collected from the topsoil (0002). Two fragments of *imbrex* or curved roof tile, made in medium sandy fabrics with occasional flint were identified, and one piece of unspecified Roman brick and tile. These tiles were made in hard, oxidised fabrics, which are orange or orange-red in colour.

Flint (identification by Colin Pendleton)

A single flint flake with hinge fracture was recovered from the spoilheaps (0001). It is unpatinated and has limited edge retouch on the bulbous face. It is late prehistoric in date.

Animal bone

A large fragment from the upper part of a bovine tibia was collected from the spoilheaps, with two joining fragments of another large limb bone, probably a radius.

Discussion

A small quantity of unstratified ceramic building material was recovered from topsoil deposits and spoilheaps created during the construction of the swimming pool. In addition to later material, a number of fragments of Roman date were identified, including pieces of flanged and curved roof tile. These finds reflect the proximity of the Roman settlement to the west of the site. No other dateable artefacts were collected, apart from a single worked flake dating to the later part of the prehistoric period.

Discussion and conclusion

The evidence from this monitoring demonstrates proximity to Roman settlement, but does not appear to indicate that it continues into this part of the site. The topsoil depth was greater than

might have been expected, but it is unclear how this has accumulated. It is well worked throughout its depth and therefore has probably been cultivated for many years and this may suggest a gradual build-up. The site lies next to the River Stour and it may be that the soil has built up through occasional flood deposits, although there is no stratigraphical evidence for this.

Jo Caruth
November 2006

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