

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

HOPE COTTAGE, CRAG PATH, ALDEBURGH (SMR refs. ADB 086)

REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH A SMALL EXTENSION
(Application Nos. C/05/2314/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/035
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-23158)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork at Hope Cottage, Crag Path, Aldeburgh (NGR; TM 4652 5660), was undertaken during January 2007. Only clean shingle deposits were revealed in the excavated footing trench. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference ADB 086. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by Mullins Dowse and Partners on behalf of their client, Ms C. Smith.



Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a small extension to Hope Cottage, Crag Path, Aldeburgh, was undertaken on the 23rd January 2007. Interest in the site is due to it being located within the area of the late medieval town of Aldeburgh which has been defined as an archaeological site of regional importance.

The excavation of footing trenches for foundations for the proposed extension 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 (application no. C/05/2314/FUL) to allow for archaeological monitoring of the work 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 K. Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 4652 5660 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 4.0m O.D. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference ADB 086. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the architects, Mullins Dowse and Partners, on behalf of their client, Ms C. Smith.

Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the footing trenches once they had been excavated by the onsite contractors. They were examined for cut features and archaeological deposits which, if located, were to be sampled through hand excavation in order to assess their shape, depth and to recover datable artefacts. The revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts. The location of the monitored excavation is illustrated in Figure 2.

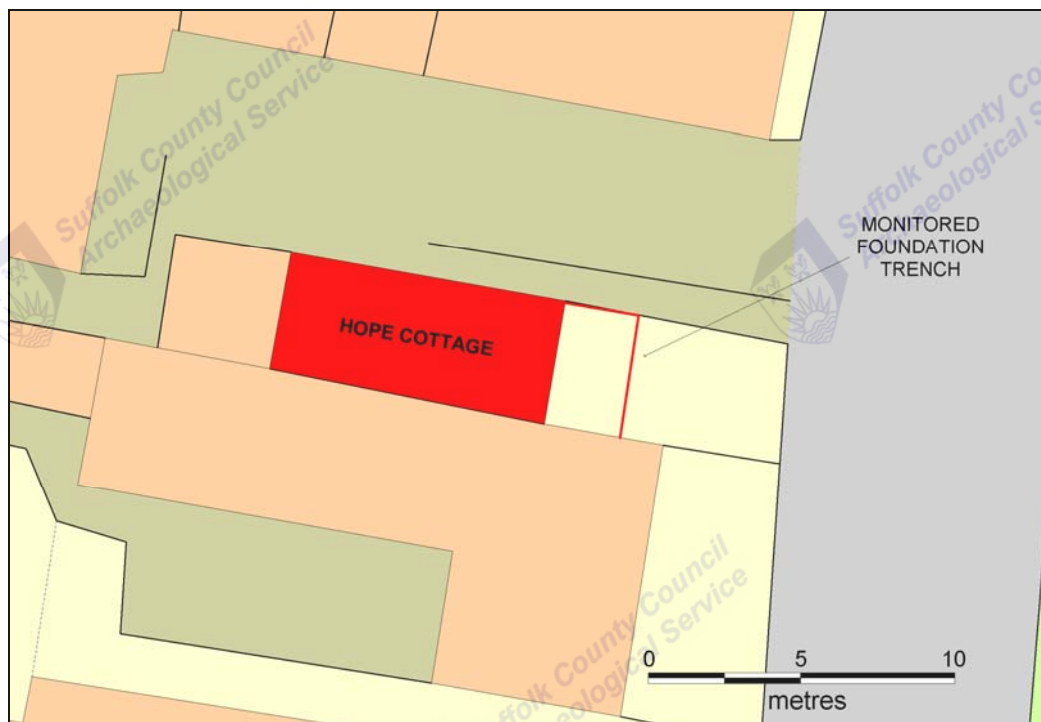


Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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Results

The site was visited on the 23rd January 2007 to inspect the excavated footing trench. It measured c. 600mm wide and had been excavated to just over 800mm deep. The top 500mm comprised of tarmac over yellow sand which in turn overlay a dark brown to black shingle and sand mix. Beneath this only shingle was seen although fragments of red brick were visible in the side of the trench close to its base suggesting there had been some previous localised disturbance or that the area of the extension was comprised of made ground.

The spoil from the foundation trench was temporarily stored in a skip adjacent the site and this was examined but no significant finds were located.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference ADB 086. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-23158.



Plate I: sample of excavated footing trench, camera facing north

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed or damaged by this development as no significant features or deposits were noted in the monitored excavations. It appears likely that the trenches were excavated through made ground with a post medieval deposition date judging by the brick fragments noted close to the bottom of the footing.

All observed excavations were cleanly cut and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

HOPE COTTAGE, CRAG PATH, ALDEBURGH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Hope Cottage, Crag Path, Aldeburgh, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/05/2314/FUL). 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 the area of the late medieval town of Aldeburgh, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, and will involve significant ground disturbance.

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 late medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of footing 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: 24 March 2006

Reference: /Aldeburgh-2314

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.