

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Cockerells Hall, Buxhall BUX 027

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. no. 0196/07/FUL)
Oasis ID: suffolkc1-26759



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Archaeological Service

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

Robert Atfield Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr. and Mrs. M. Angela and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division). The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Planning permission for the construction of an outdoor swimming pool was granted on the condition that a programme of continuous archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall. The site lies at the north-west corner of a once rectangular medieval moated enclosure (BUX 002), of which, only part of the moat survives to the south. It was anticipated that the excavations may reveal part of the original rectangular circuit of the moat; however the site area appears to have been located marginally too far to the south-west to expose any of the moat ditch. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of this monitoring.

SMR information

Planning application no.	0196/07/FUL
Date of fieldwork:	25-04-2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9864 5770
Oasis ID	Suffolkc1-26759
SMR number	BUX 027
Funding body:	Mr. and Mrs. M. Angela



Figure 1. Site location

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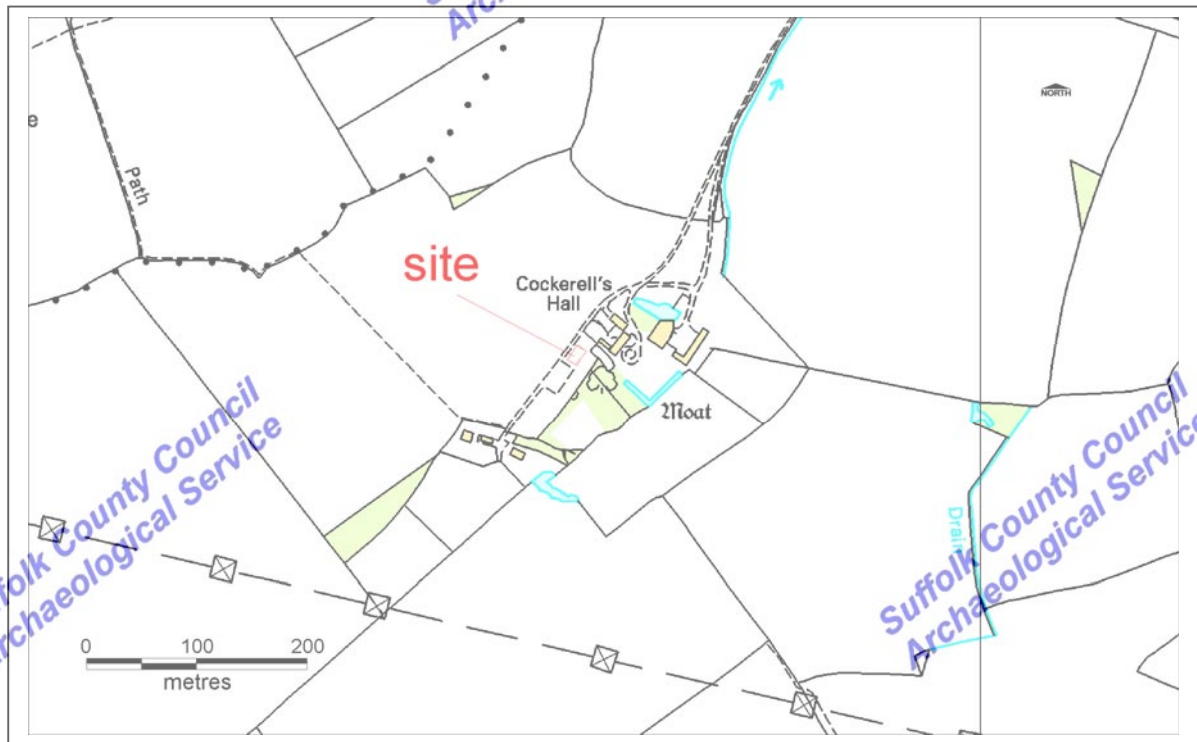


Figure 2. Trench location

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Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of an outdoor swimming pool was granted on the condition that a programme of continuous archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall (application 0196/07/FUL). The site lies between the 60 and 70 metre O.D. contours in an area of heavy clay agricultural land. The area outlined for the swimming pool lies at the north-west corner of a once rectangular medieval moated enclosure (BUX 002) of which only part of the moat survives to the south. The present Cockerells Hall is a late sixteenth century farmhouse with extensive alterations carried out during a number of later periods. It is thought that the north-west arm of the moat was backfilled at the same time as the present house was constructed (English Heritage 2007). The early editions of the Ordnance Survey Maps indicate that few major changes have occurred during the last century (see Figure 3.). A farm track is shown approaching the site area from the north-east and the remains of a probable continuation of this track were located just below the turf during ground reduction.

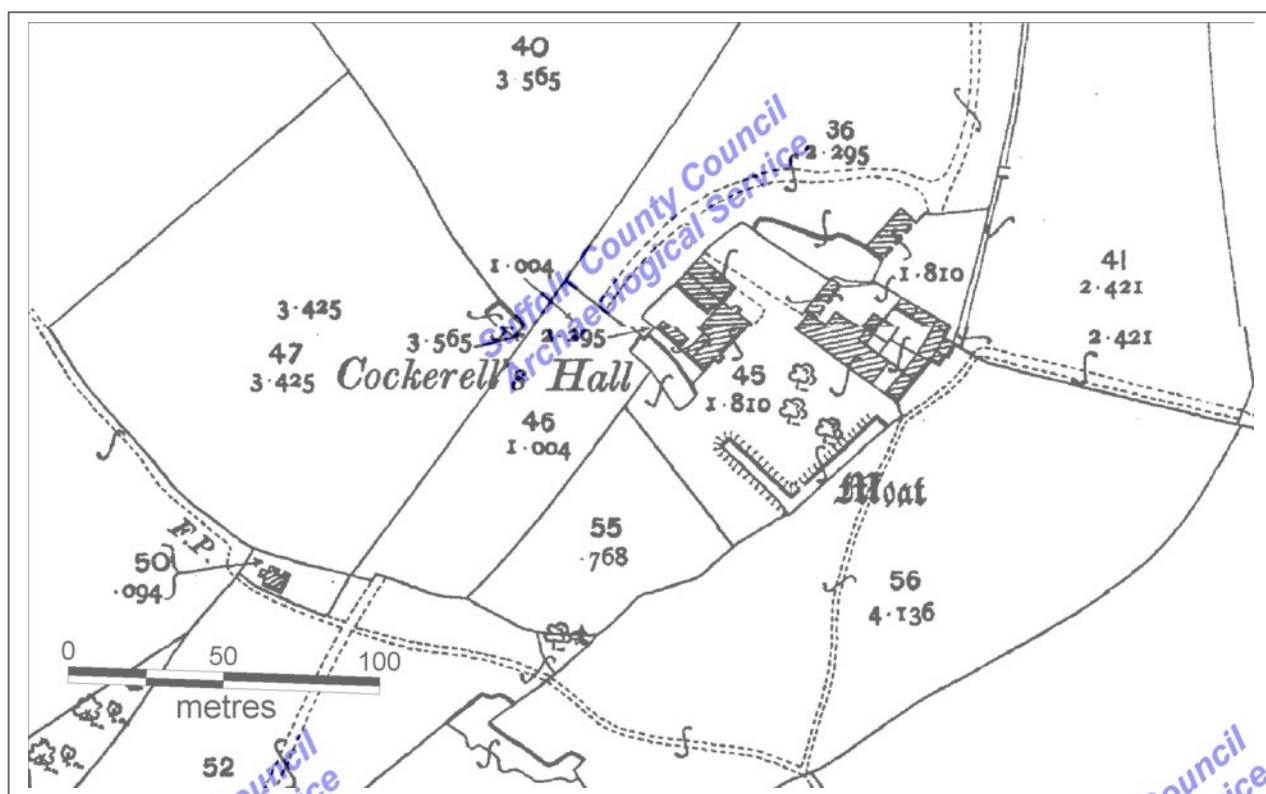


Figure 3. Early Ordnance Survey Map c.1890

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Methodology

The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Robert Carr (SCCAS Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1.). Continuous monitoring was carried out at the site over a period of one day on the 25th of April 2007. All ground disturbance including site clearance, levelling and deep excavation of the actual swimming pool area were observed and

recorded. Details of the ground disturbance, features and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 6.0mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. The site area was lowered in two phases starting at the north-east end of the development footprint. The deposits were excavated in shallow spits of around 0.10m using a tracked 360° mechanical mini-digger, which was fitted with a 0.5m toothed bucket. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the removed spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. The spoil was also searched using a metal detector once it had been spread over an area within an adjacent meadow. Site conditions were ideal in terms of visibility and moisture levels. The finished dimensions, which are specified for the swimming pool, are 13.41m by 4.87m; this required an excavated area of 10.00m (north-west to south-east) by 15.00m (north-east to south-west). Minor levelling and clearance took place around the margins of the swimming pool area where ground disturbance did not exceed a depth of 0.15m. The depth excavated for the construction of the swimming pool ranged from 1.00m (shallow end at the north-east) to 2.5m (deep end at the south-west).

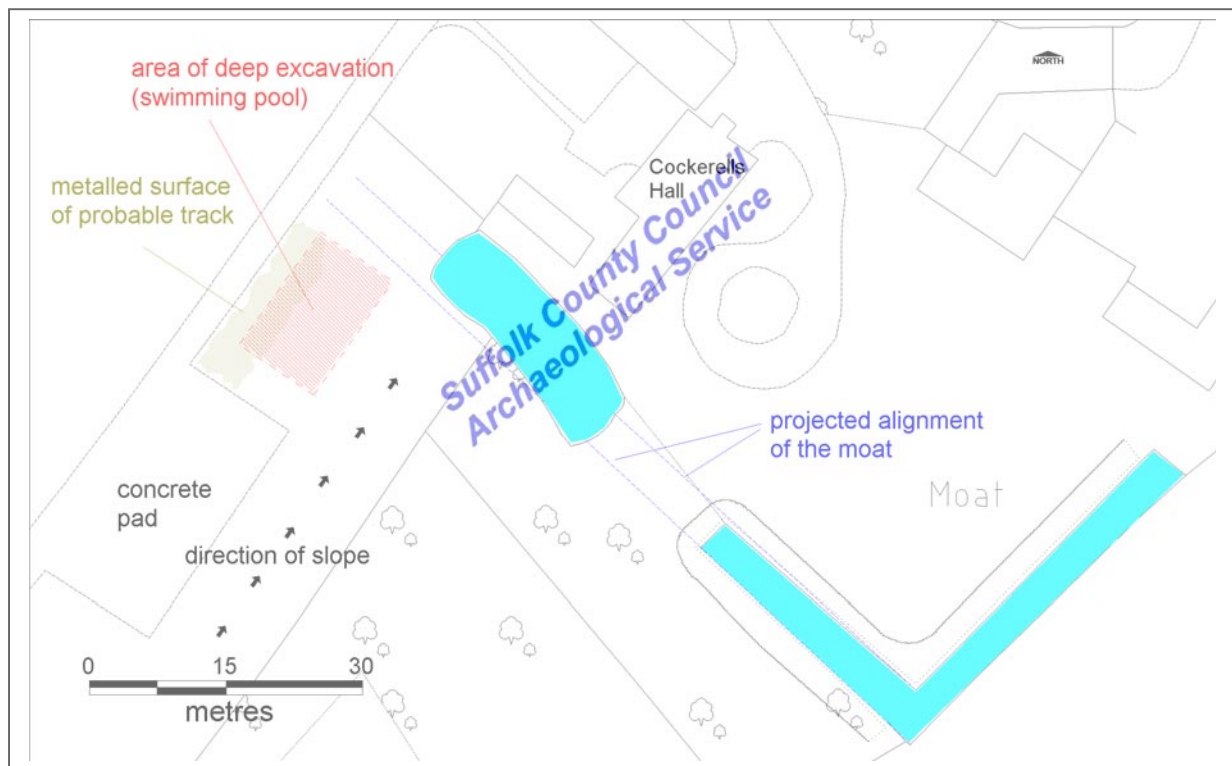


Figure 4. Excavated area and other site features

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Results

The area excavated for the swimming pool failed to reveal any evidence of the original extent of the moat. The original planning details which relate to the proposed development indicate an area which extends further to the north-east than that which was actually excavated and it is possible that as a result the trench ended up narrowly missing the line of the moat. The only feature located during the monitoring were the remains of a probable farm track, which crossed the site from the north-east to the south-west (see Figure 4.) This feature was located just below the turf of the stripped area of the swimming pool and could also be followed further to the

south-west where some minor levelling had exposed it before reaching the edge of a concrete pad. The surface of the feature was metalled with roughly laid cobbles and flint rubble with occasional brick and tile fragments. No distinct edge could be seen to the south-east, where the surface gradually became more sparsely metalled; the north-west limit of the feature was not revealed and probably extended beyond the present hedge line towards the current access road. In other respects the site was notably lacking in any other features; finds were also virtually absent, with the exception of minor quantities of modern ceramic building materials in the topsoil. The topsoil was of pale-mid brown loamy clay which was fairly compacted and ranged in depth from 0.20-0.40m. Below the topsoil, was a subsoil which was around 0.50m deep consisting of mixed pale orange-brown clay with occasional small chalk lumps, but otherwise very few inclusions. A second subsoil was located below this with a depth of up to 0.20m and was of very compact pale brown clay with fine chalk fragments and occasional patches of orange sand. Natural underlying clay was reached at a depth of between 0.90-1.10m below the old existing surface level and consisted of heavy pale grey chalky clay. Variable amounts of root disturbance occurred across the site, but was most concentrated in the upper deposits near to the north-east corner of the swimming pool area where a large Chestnut tree is located.



Figure 5. North-east end of trench at final level (looking north)



Figure 6. Probable segment of moat circuit, now a pond (looking south-east)

Summary and Conclusion

Figure 4 shows the projected alignment and possible extent of the moat ditch in relation to the excavated area. The swimming pool excavation trench probably missed the line of the medieval moat circuit by between 1.00-2.5m. This distance could even be greater if the pond, which is adjacent to the development area, represents an additional remnant of the south-western leg of the moat ditch, because the line of the pond suggests that the moat may have veered towards the north at this point in the circuit. A number of other explanations for the absence of the moat ditch could also be suggested such as a break in the moat circuit related to a point of access, or the possibility that the moat turned to the north-east before the excavated area is reached. However, at present these ideas are purely speculative without knowing the full extent and alignment of the moat circuit.

References

English Heritage 2007 'Cockerills Hall (formerly listed as Cockerell's Hall) Rattlesden Road, Buxhall Listed Building No. 279814' English Heritage Listed Buildings Online, <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/BuildingDetailsForm>

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

COCKERELLS HALL, BUXHALL

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 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0196/07/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The proposed swimming pool lies within the area of a medieval moated enclosure identified in the County Sites and Monuments Record (BUX 002). The moat ditch is only partly preserved as a landscape feature, but originally it would have formed a complete rectangular circuit. The pool location is likely to lie partly on the north-west corner of the moat ditch and will have the potential to cut into early moat silts.
- 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, particularly the location and content of the moat ditch.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving soil stripping and the excavation of the pool.

Excavation of the pool is to be observed whilst it takes place 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 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features.. 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

Date: 2 April 2007

Reference: /Cockerells Hall

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.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE
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