

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Bures Primary School, Nayland Road, Bures St Mary Sudbury

BSM 049

Oasis ID: suffolkc1-27058

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007

*Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service*

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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

Robert Atfield Project Officer

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Suffolk County Council Property Division and was monitored by Jess Tipper (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

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Bures St Mary Primary School, Nayland Road, Bures St Mary, as a condition of planning permission to erect an extension to the rear of the existing building. The site was formerly occupied by a temporary building, which had been demolished prior to the monitoring. A single visit was made to the site on the 2nd of February 2007. The site area had been cleared of the remains of previous structures, surfaces and topsoil and an area of footing trenches had been excavated to a depth of up to 2.2m from the reduced ground surface. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.

SMR information

SMR number:	BSM 049
Oasis ID. Number:	Suffolkc1-27058
Date of fieldwork:	02-02-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 9089 3393
Funding body:	Suffolk County Council Property Division

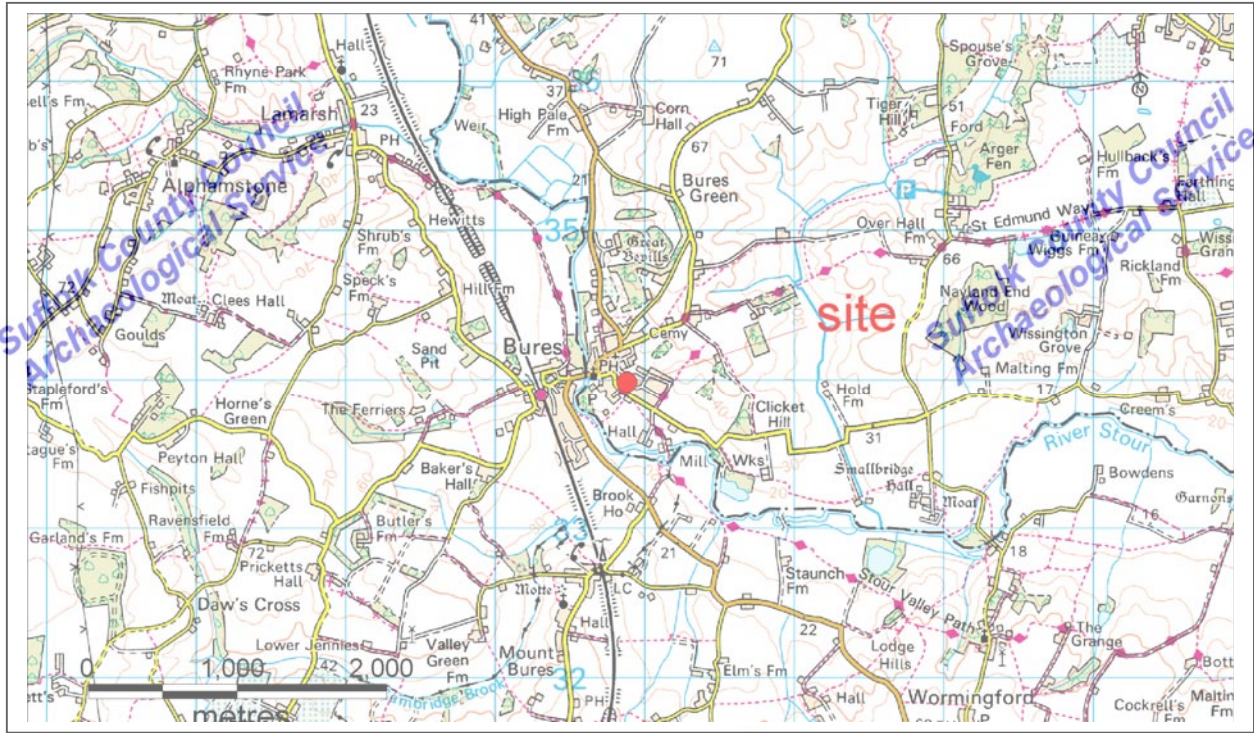


Figure 1. Site location

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Figure 2. Site area

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Introduction

The site lies at a height of between 20-25m A.O.D., and around 150m. south-east of the medieval church and churchyard (BSM 015). The development consists of an extension to the existing school buildings to provide a new hall and kitchen, in place of an existing building, which has been demolished. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Tipper 2006) produced the Brief and Specification for the archaeological monitoring (see Appendix 1.). Existing records indicate that the site lies at a location, which is within the historic settlement core and alongside a medieval roadway. Therefore, the location was considered likely to produce medieval occupation deposits.

Methodology

All of the footing trenches were excavated mechanically by the building contractors and were examined by the visiting archaeologist during the same day. Conditions were dry and bright, allowing good visibility of all the exposed deposits. A measured sketch plan was produced on site in order to allow the accurate recording of all trench locations along with any features or deposit variations within the trenches. A small amount of hand cleaning was carried out in order to define the characteristics of the deposits. All of the upcast spoil was available for searching to allow for the collection any archaeologically datable material.

Results

The footing trenches were excavated to depth of between 1.60m-2.20m and a width of 0.70-0.80m. All of the trench faces and base deposits were examined, but the characteristics of the sub-surface deposits remained notably similar throughout the trenched area. The trench sections revealed distinctive, but remarkably undisturbed deposits with the exception of service pipe trenches and other modern building disturbance. No topsoil survived on the site, the upper deposits consisting of a deep layer of natural mid-dark brown silty clay, around 1.60m in depth. Below the clay was a layer of natural gravel, the depth of which was not fully exposed in any of the trenches, but certainly exceeded 0.60m.

Conclusion

Although there is evidence of early occupation close to the site, this particular area failed to produce any features or finds material. However, the limited area exposed by the trenches is not sufficiently representative to draw any firm archaeological conclusions in relation to the possible density of occupation in this location.

Robert Atfield
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

May 2007

References

Tipper, J. 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development: Bures St Mary Primary School, Nayland Road, Bures St Mary' Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.

Appendix 1. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

BURES PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAYLAND ROAD, BURES ST MARY, SUDBURY

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent to erect an extension, following the demolition of an existing temporary building, at Bures Primary School, Nayland Road, Bures St Mary (TM 9089 3393), has been granted by Suffolk County Council, Development Control, conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application lies south-east of the medieval church and churchyard (BSM 015), in the historic settlement core and along a medieval roadway. There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

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 medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches and associated ground reduction for the extension. 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 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 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.7 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

- 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 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.
- 5.6 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: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 3 November 2006

Reference: /PrimarySchool-BuresStMary2006

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.