
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Barn Conversion & New Swimming Pool, Moat Farm, Wilby WBY 018

Planning application no. 2925/06

Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2007/157

OASIS ID No. 29894

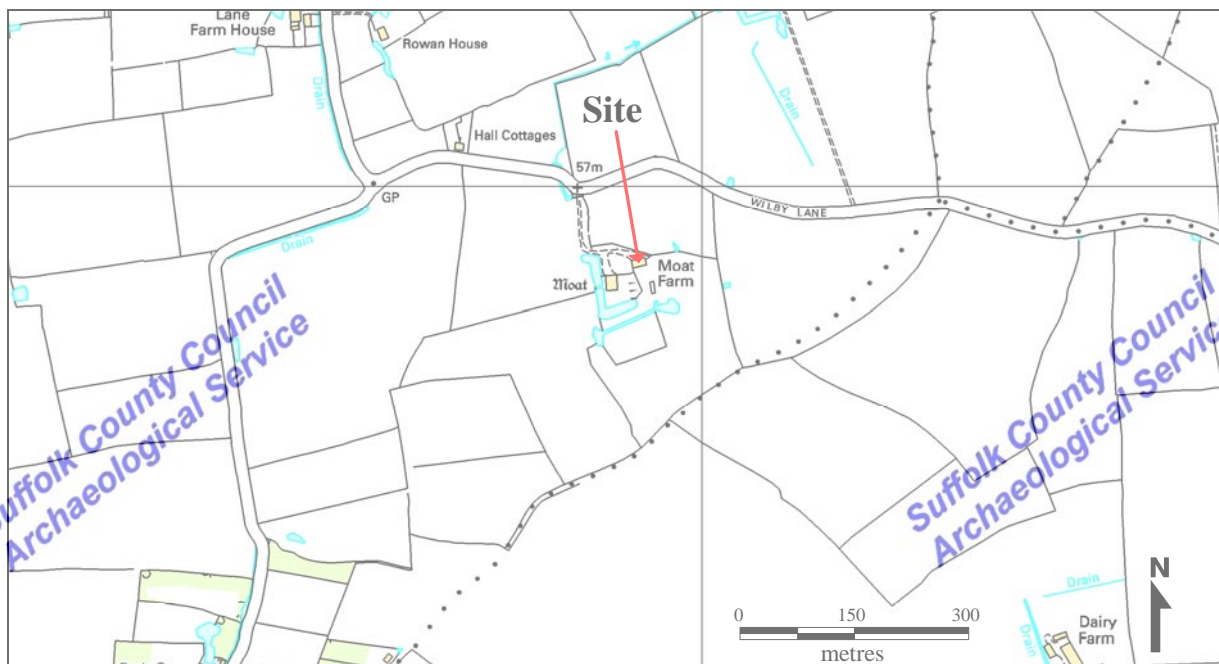
Summary

Wilby, Barn at Moat Farm (TM 2591 7189; WBY 018) Conditional planning consent for the conversion of redundant farm buildings and construction of a swimming pool at Moat Farm, Wilby required a programme of archaeological works. This report covers an initial phase of monitoring of the groundworks associated with the barn conversion and a subsequent visit made when the swimming pool had been excavated.

A series of representative underpinning trenches beneath the barn were examined during the initial site visit. No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered from the upcast spoil. The existing brick base at the bottom of the barn walls was found to continue for c.0.2 metres below the existing ground level, sitting directly on naturally occurring boulder clay.

The fully excavated swimming pool was seen during a second site visit. The vestiges of a cobbled yard surface were seen at a depth of 0.35 metres lying directly on clean naturally occurring clay subsoil. The material overlying the cobbles comprised modern fill comprising almost entirely of building debris.

(Stuart Boulter for S.C.C.A.S. & Mrs R. Regis; report no. 2007/157)



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Fig. 1 Site Location

1. Introduction

Planning consent for the conversion of an existing historic farm building, a 16th or 17th century barn (Listed Building No. 280285), and the construction of a swimming pool at Moat Farm Wilby (TM 2591 7189) (Fig. 1), was conditional on the completion of a programme of archaeological works. The initial requirement involved the monitoring of groundworks, principally underpinning associated with the extant barn and the excavation of a swimming pool.

The site lies just to the north of and below a shallow spur on the 60 metre contour line with the lay of the land sloping very gently down towards the north. The barn forms part of a farm complex associated with surviving elements of a medieval moat (WBY 001) and the potential at the site for the presence of archaeological deposits of that date was considered to be high and formed the basis from which Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team (hereafter SCCASCT) defined the necessary archaeological work.

To that end, a Brief and Specification document (appended to this report) outlining the required archaeological work was written by Jess Tipper of SCCASCT. Subsequently, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Field Team (hereafter SCCASFPT) was commissioned by the project architect (Gorniak & McKechnie Ltd) to undertake the archaeological work on behalf of Mrs R. Regis.

2. Methodology

Two site visits were made; one on Friday 25th May 2007, while excavation for underpinning was in progress, and a second on Monday 3rd March 2008 after the swimming pool had been fully excavated. All of the open excavations were examined, as was the upcast spoil.

The site was recorded under the SMR code WBY 018 and the archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

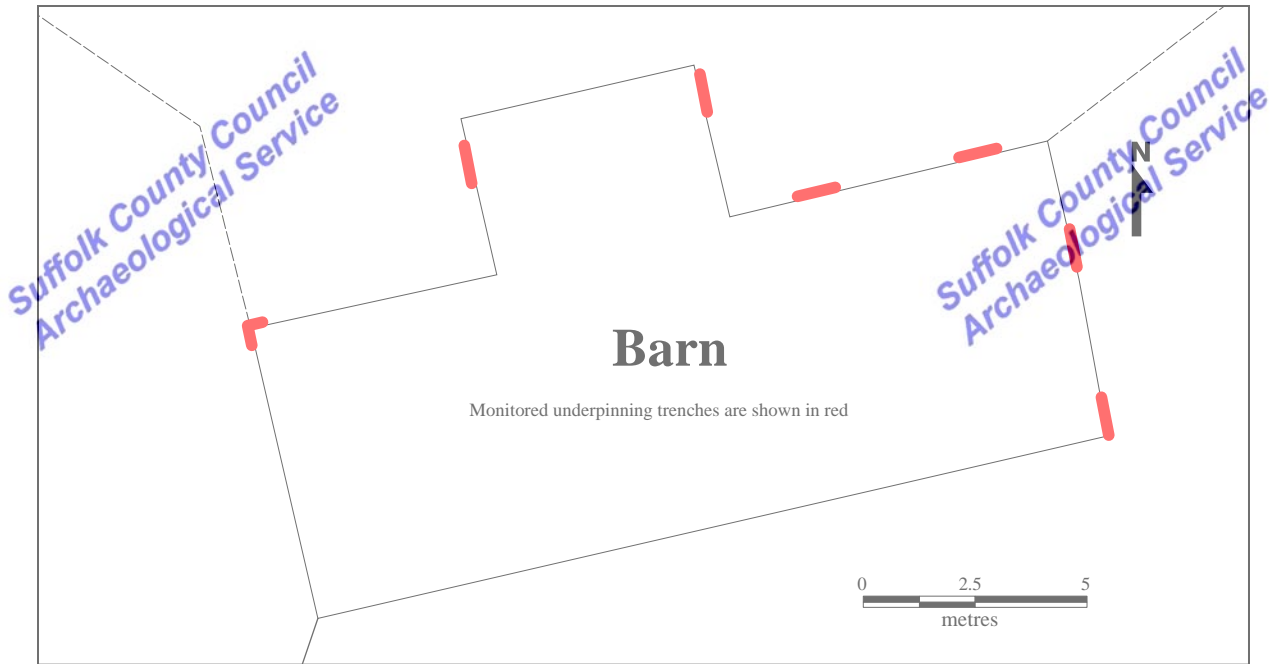
3. Results

Visit 1 (made by Stuart Boulter), underpinning: A total of seven sections of underpinning trench were open at the time of the site visit (Fig. 2) giving a representative sample of the north side and the eastern and western ends. The southern side had previously been underpinned and no further work was being undertaken at that juncture.

In all of the underpinning trenches, the base of the existing dwarf brick wall, supporting the wooden superstructure of the barn, was seen to continue down for c.0.2 metres below the existing ground level and lay directly on very heavy boulder clay. No archaeological features were recognised with all earlier interventions limited to recent provision of services. On the basis that a representative sample of the area to be underpinned had been seen, no further visits were considered necessary to see adjoining excavations that would subsequently be excavated.

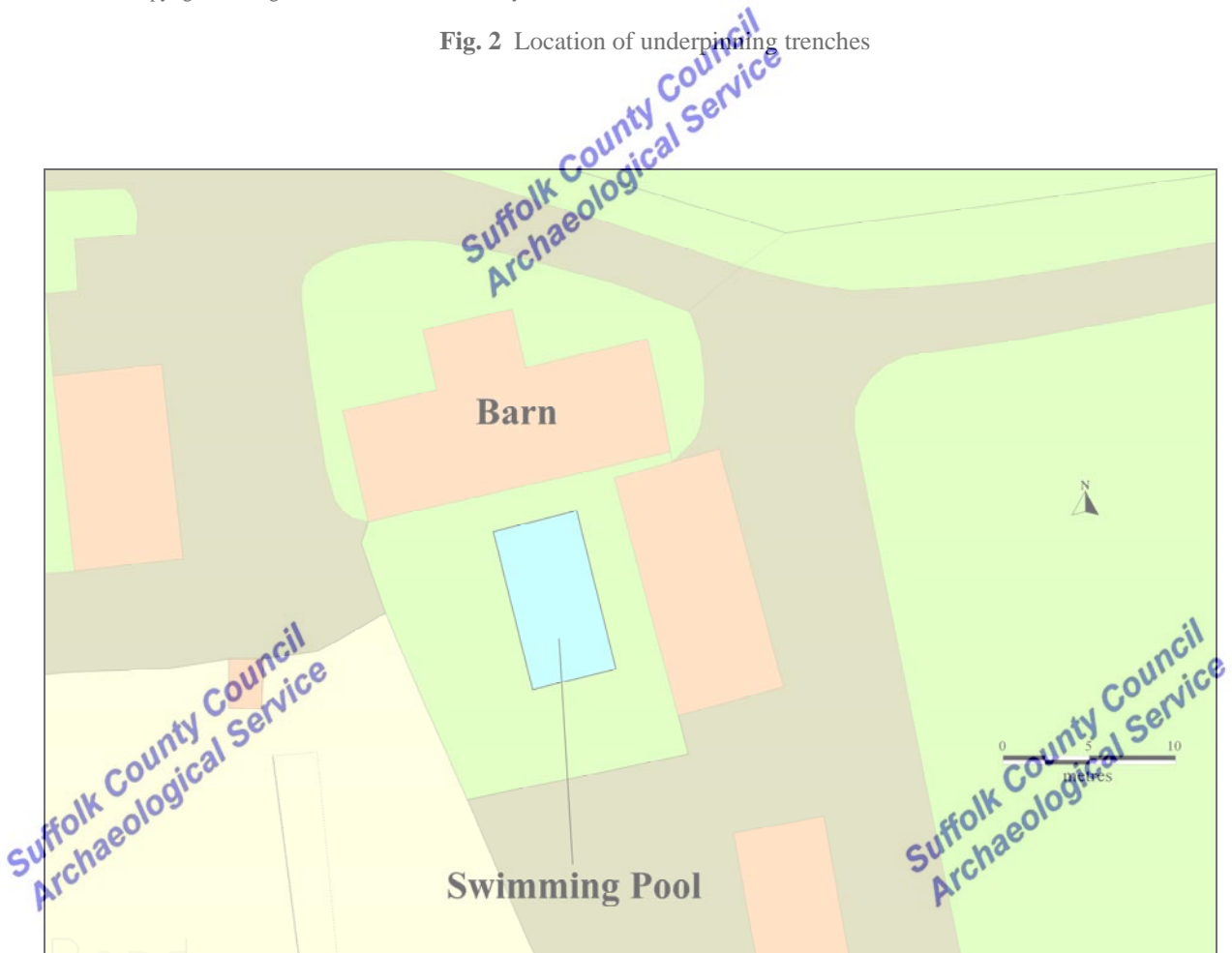
Visit 2 (made by John Newman), swimming pool: At the time of the visit the entire footprint for the swimming pool had been excavated (Fig. 3). The edges of the hole provided vertical sections through the overburden and upper levels of the naturally occurring subsoil.

An earlier cobbled yard surface was visible at a depth of c.0.35 metres lying directly on the naturally occurring heavy clay subsoil. Overlying the cobbles was a modern layer comprising almost entirely of building debris.



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Fig. 2 Location of underpinning trenches



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Fig. 3 Location of the swimming pool

5. Discussion

Despite the high potential for evidence of medieval date, no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed in what must be considered to be a representative sample of groundworks associated with the barn conversion.

Similarly, the area for the swimming pool failed to provide evidence for anything other than relatively modern activity associated with the recent farmyard.

Stuart Boulter
Senior Project Officer
Field Projects Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
August 2007 & March 2008

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of Development

MOAT FARM, FOALS GREEN, WILBY, IP21 5LU

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 permission for the conversion of a redundant farm building and also the construction of a swimming pool with storage/changing room and boiler room at Moat Farm, Foals Green, Wilby (TM 2588 7188), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 2925/06). The local planning authority have been advised that the building is important and will need to be recorded before development. In addition, areas of ground disturbance will be recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application concerns the conversion of a historic farm building that lies within the curtilage of a Grade II Listed Building of special architectural and historic interest, which dates from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century (Listed Building 280285). A recent policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (*Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*, 2006 – available at www.helm.org.uk) advises that recording of such structures before conversion works is desirable. The buildings will retain important archaeological information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use. Any groundworks associated with the conversion would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 In addition, the application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, on the edge of a medieval moated enclosure (WBY 001). 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.
- 1.4 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). 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.

- 1.5 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 (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring

- 2.1 To compile an English Heritage (2006) Level 2 descriptive record combined with a photographic survey of the barn before the demolition takes place.

- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 The excavation of the swimming pool, building footing trenches, service trenches, underpinning and replacement of the internal floor of the barn, as well as any other works that might disturb below-ground archaeological remains, are to be observed during stripping and after they have been excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

- 2.4 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the nature and development of the farm building and its immediate context. There is also the potential to produce evidence for medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation of the site relating to the moated enclosure.

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 SCCAS/CT - see 1.3 above.

- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 English Heritage Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the building. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. A plan, and other drawings as deemed necessary, should be made based on either an architect's drawing or the Ordnance Survey. The record will present conclusions regarding their location, form, date, development and use.

- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 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.

- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.8 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

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel.: 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 20 April 2007

Reference: /MoatFarm-Wilby2007

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.