

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

VANNERS, GREGORY MILLS, WEAVERS LANE, SUDBURY (SMR ref: SUY 083)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Application No: B/06/02048)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/159

(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-30335)

Summary

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork at Vanners, Gregory Mills, Weavers Lane, Sudbury (NGR: TL 8713 4137) was carried out on 14 August 2007. This monitoring event is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference SUY 083. The fieldwork was conducted by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, and was commissioned by Suffolk Design & Build on behalf of their client Vanners.

The fieldwork revealed 'made ground' deposits and brick foundations of 19th-century date. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

Introduction

An archaeological monitoring of groundwork was conducted at Vanners, Gregory Mills, Weavers Lane, Sudbury (Figure 1) as part of an archaeological condition in relation to planning permission for the erection of a water tower (application number: B/06/02048).

The site is located in the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan, with potential for evidence of Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation.

Methodology

The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, Conservation Team.

The foundation for the proposed water tower comprises a 2.5 x 3.0m reinforced concrete slab on a hardcore base, in a foundation trench measuring 0.60m deep. The sides and base of this trench were examined for archaeological features and deposits and for artefactual evidence. A measured sketch plan, a representative vertical section and a digital photographic record were made. Written and drawn records were made in a field notebook, and all salient details have been included in this report.

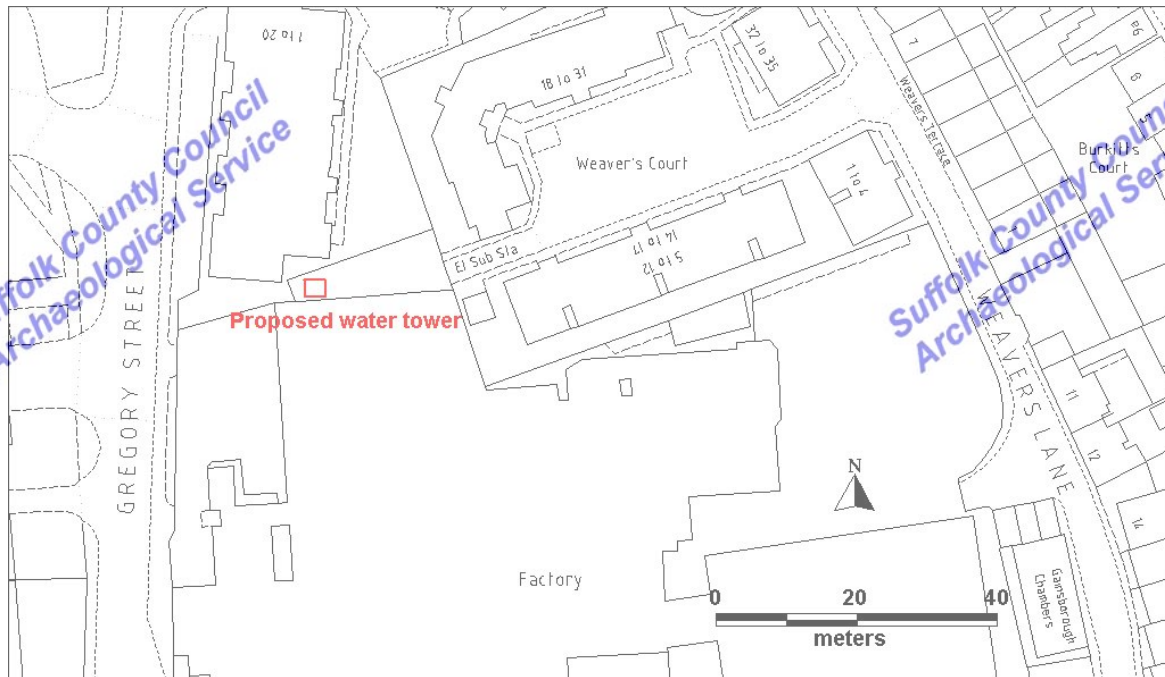


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the proposed water tower

Results

The trench contained two brick foundations, as shown on Figure 2, surviving to just below modern ground level. Wall A was 0.47m wide and greater than 0.60m deep, extending below the base of the trench. It was constructed of red bricks measuring 230 x 102 x 58mm, bonded with a hard, off-white mortar. It was truncated to the south by the construction cut for a modern factory wall and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north. Wall B abutted Wall A on its west side and was constructed of similar materials. It was 0.22m wide and 0.30m deep, with only four surviving courses. It extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west. A rectangular concrete base abutted Wall A on its east side.

No construction cuts for the foundations were apparent, although they might have been erased by subsequent reworking. The foundations were abutted by 'made ground' deposits of soil containing brick and tile rubble, pebbles, fragments of chalk, coal, bone, pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems. The pottery included 19th-century white china and transfer-printed wares and the pipe stems were of the same date. Similar 'made ground' deposits extended beneath Wall B and below the base of the trench.



Figure 2. Plan showing the trench outline (red) the site of an existing water tower (green) and the location of the brick foundations



Figure 3. General view of the trench looking east, showing the brick foundations

Conclusion

The brick foundations are probably of 19th-century date and must have belonged to one of several buildings shown in this approximate location on the Ordnance Survey map of 1880. The 'made ground' deposits that abutted the foundations and extended below the base of the trench are clearly of 19th-century date. Any archaeological deposits that might exist at this location must be at depths greater than 0.60m below ground level.

Based on this evidence, and given that the foundation trench for the proposed water tower will not be excavated to a depth greater than 0.60m, it is considered that the groundwork has no archaeological impact. However, it should be noted that this decision remains with the Archaeological Planning Officer.

Kieron Heard

15 August 2007

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