

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Church of St. Mary, Great Bealings

BEG 053

Planning App. No. C/06/0752

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-30344

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

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SCCAS Report No. 2007/160

SMR information

Planning application	C/06/0752
SMR No.	BEG 053
Date of fieldwork:	24-07-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 2313 4888
Funding body:	Mr. M. Cleveland (The Whitworth Partnership)
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-30344

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was a requirement of planning permission for a small free standing WC building outside the present churchyard. The location may lie within the area of medieval settlement associated with the church. Bealings Hall (BEG 002), once stood on a site to the west within 60m of the development. The footing trenches were dug to a depth of 1.00m, revealing heavily disturbed deposits containing large amounts of ceramic building material. Brick fragments and mortar suggest that the material dates to the eighteenth or nineteenth century, probably associated with the construction of a substantial boundary wall less than a metre from the trenches. No archaeological features or finds were observed during the monitoring.

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1.0 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Church of St. Mary, Great Bealings, as a condition of planning consent (C/06/0752).

The footings for a small free standing WC building were examined during a single visit to the site on 24th July 2007. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was produced by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1.). The location may lie within the area of medieval settlement associated with the church (BEG 016). A church was recorded at Great Bealings in The Domesday Book, while medieval Bealings Hall (BEG 002), once stood on a site to the west, within 60m of the development (see Figure 2). Medieval pottery has been found immediately to the south-east (BEG 033), in addition to scatters of Thetford ware and Ipswich ware. Roman and Iron Age pottery, along with other artefacts, have also been located in areas surrounding the church (BEG 019, BEG 028, BEG 032). The first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map (see Figure 3.), suggests that the location has altered little during the last century, the site continues to be surrounded by established park and meadow land.

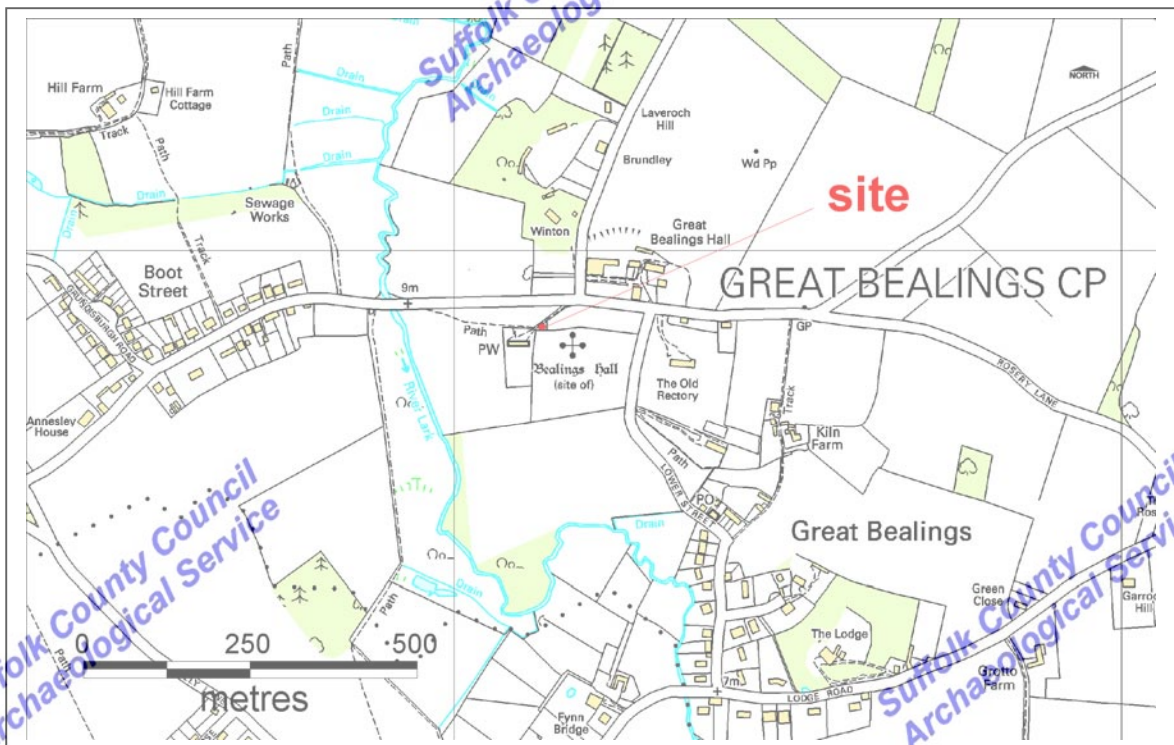


Figure 1. Site location

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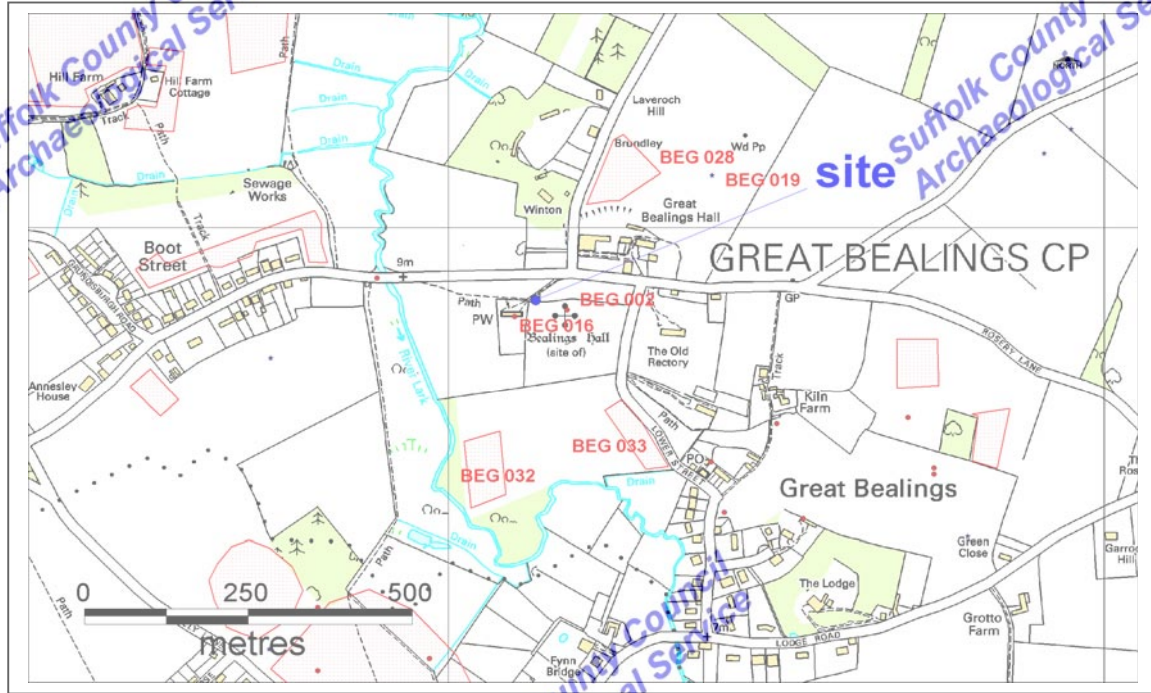


Figure 2. Nearby sites on the SMR

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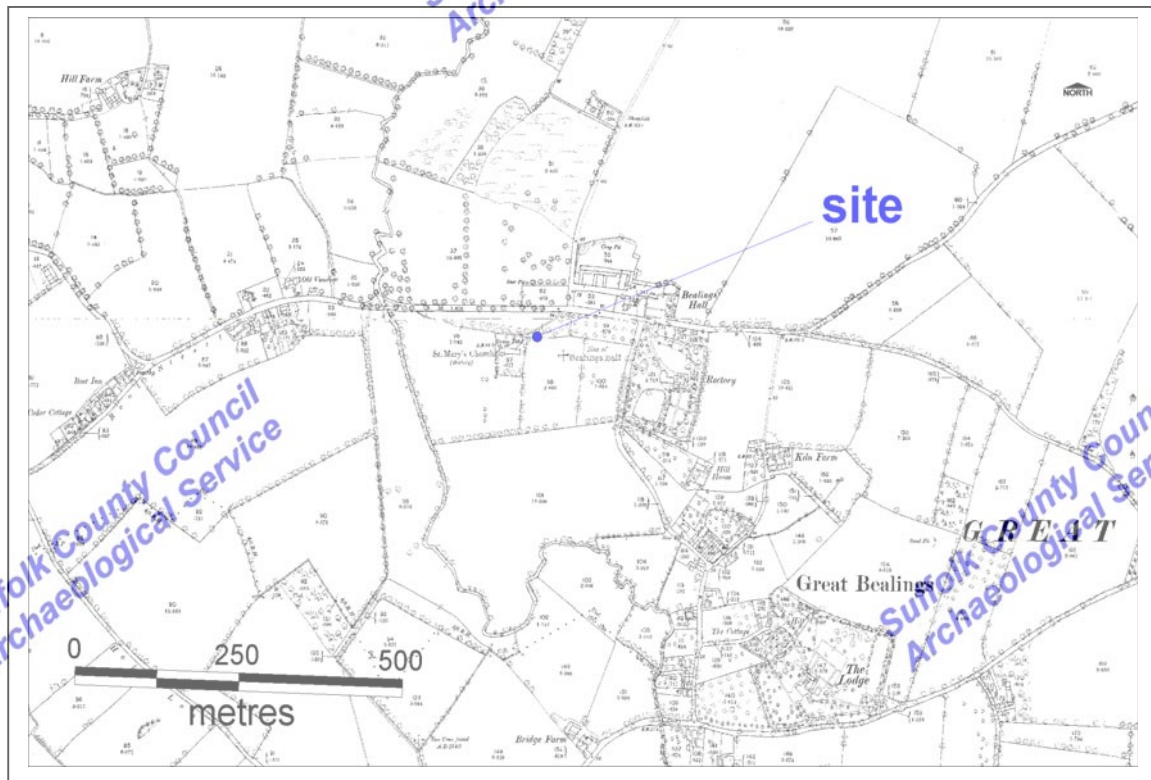


Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS

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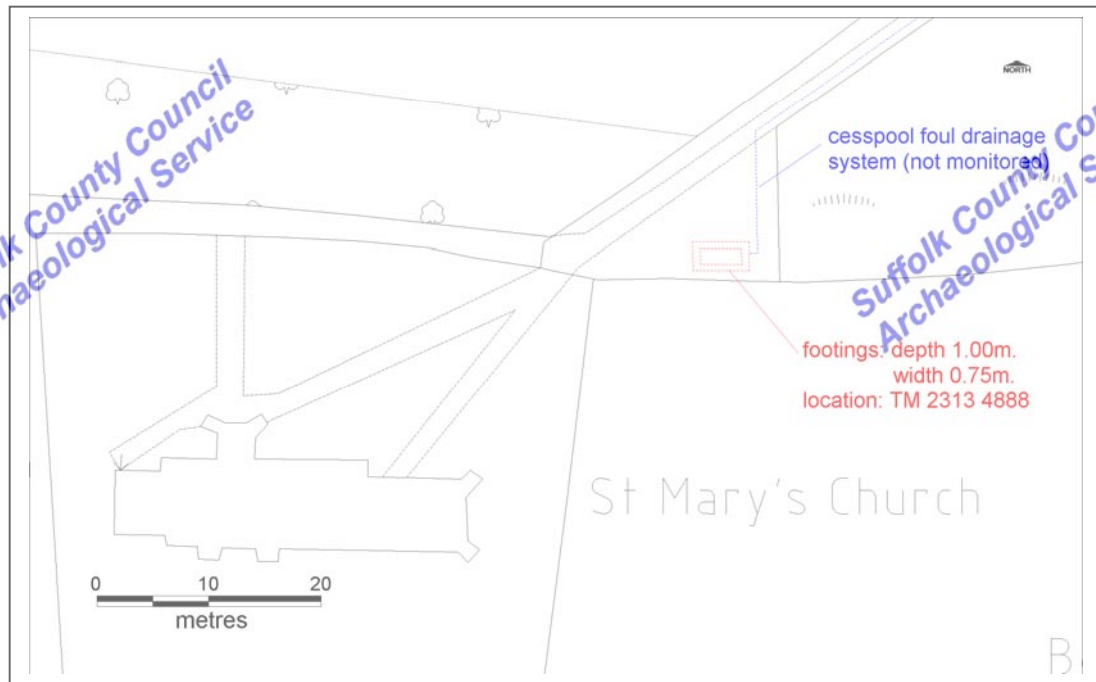


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

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2.0 Methodology

The Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring was produced by Robert Carr (SCCAS Conservation Team) (see Appendix 1.). Monitoring was carried out at the site during a single visit on the 24th July 2007. All ground disturbance including site clearance, levelling and footing trenches were examined 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 footing trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° mechanical mini-digger, which was fitted with a 0.3m toothed bucket; some additional hand digging was also carried out. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the removed spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Soil profiles were recorded at two locations within the trench configuration. Site conditions were ideal in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

3.0 Results

The trench measured 1.00m deep by 0.75m wide and covered an area of 5.00m (E-W) by 2.50m (N-S). The ground deposits had clearly been

previously heavily disturbed. Topsoil: 0.40m deep dark brown sandy loam/silt; subsoil: 0.60m deep re-deposited mid-brown silty sand. The subsoil contained large amounts of CBM, probably mainly associated with the construction of the adjacent large boundary wall (c.18-19th cent.). Natural deposits, of Suffolk Crag were partially revealed in the base of the footing trenches. No archaeological features or finds were located.

4.0 Conclusions

Previous ground disturbance had completely obliterated the natural deposits within the area of the footing trenches. The remains of ceramic building material, incorporated in the re-deposited soil, suggest an eighteenth or nineteenth century date; although deposition could quite likely have been later. A large part of the ground disturbance can probably be attributed to the construction of a substantial boundary wall, running parallel to the present development and less than one metre to the south. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of this monitoring.

5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mr. M. Cleveland (The Whitworth Partnership) and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team, carried out the fieldwork.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

CHURCH OF ST MARY, GREAT BEALINGS

Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).

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 C/06/0752). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.
- 1.2 The development consists of a small free standing WC building outside the present churchyard. The church is isolated and is presumed to have been within the focus of a settlement at the time of its original construction. The currently defined limits of the churchyard may not represent early boundaries. The location is within 60m of the site of Bealings Hall and has potential for structures and landscaping associated with the Hall.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day.

- 1.3 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.

- 1.4 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.

1.5 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

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 objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.

2.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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.

2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

2.12 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 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.

2.15 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.

2.16 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: 24 January 2007

Reference: /Church of St Mary

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

CONSERVATION TEAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE SUFFOLK COUNTY
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