

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## CHURCH COTTAGE, LOW ROAD, BADINGHAM (SMR ref. BDG 050)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION  
(Application Nos. C/05/1359/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/161  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-30428)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of Church Cottage, Low Road, Badingham (NGR; TM 3049 6874), was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Natural subsoil was exposed across the footprint of the proposed extension but no archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised clean pale yellow sand and lay immediately beneath a thin topsoil. The area of the house slopes up to the northeast although the site of the extension had been previously terraced. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BDG 050 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were funded by the owners, Mr and Mrs M. Williamson.*



Figure 1: Location Plan

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2007

## **Introduction**

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of Church Cottage, Low Road, Badingham, was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The building is located on a terrace cut in to the northeast face of a slope which runs up to St John the Baptist's Church, some 60m to the northeast. The edge of the church graveyard lies immediately beyond the boundary of the garden of Church Cottage, approximately 10m from the site of the proposed extension. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the area of the extension interest in the site is due to its close proximity to the church and graveyard.

The back edge of the terrace upon which the house stands is revetted with a low wall. This is to be removed, the terrace extended by c. 0.5m towards the church and a new retaining wall built. The new extension is to be constructed on strip foundations which, in conjunction with the extension of the terrace, would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr R. Carr of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3049 6874 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 26m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BDG 050. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-30428. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were funded by the owners, Mr and Mrs M. Williamson.

## **Methodology**

A site visit was made to inspect the groundworks once they were underway. Any open excavations present during the site visit were examined for cut features and archaeological deposits. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were examined for archaeological artefacts.

## **Results**

The site was visited on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007. At the time of the visit the original retaining wall had been removed and the terrace cut back. The footprint of the new extension had also been reduced which had revealed the natural subsoil, but the footings were yet to be excavated. See figure 2 for a plan indicating the location of the extension and retaining wall. Across the footprint of the extension the natural subsoil, which consisted of a silty sand and gravel, had been revealed but no archaeological features or deposits were present. The exposed soil profile at the back of the terrace extension revealed a garden soil directly over the natural subsoil and that the natural subsoil had been truncated by as much as 0.6m in the area of the extension.

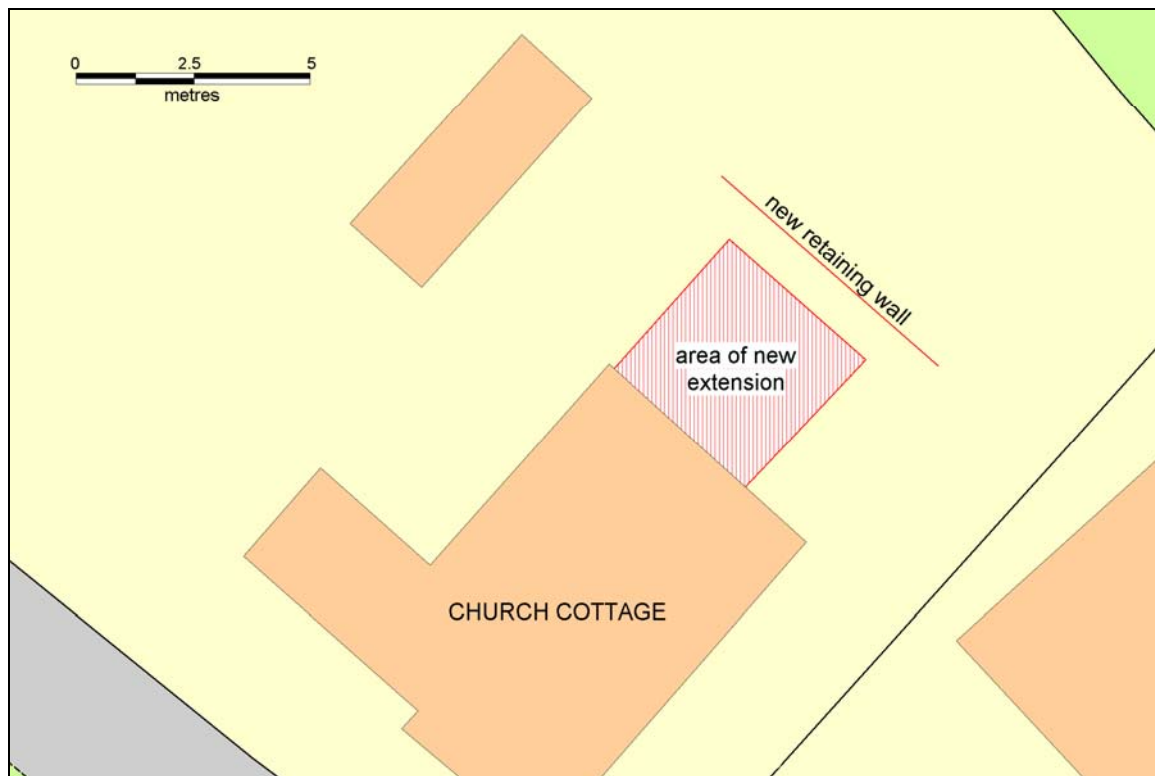


Figure 2: site of extension

Spoil from the groundwork was stored in heap in a nearby lay-by. This was walked over and examined but no artefacts were located.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BDG 050.

### **Conclusion**

No evidence for earlier occupation was noted within the monitored excavations and there was no indication that the graveyard had ever extended into the garden area of Church Cottage. Although the natural subsoil in the area of the extension had been previously truncated it is likely that had any graves been located on the original slope some remains would have been noted in the small area cut back to extend the terrace.

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



#### *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development*

## CHURCH COTTAGE, BADINGHAM

*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 C/05/1359/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 This development area is in the historic village core, abutting onto the medieval churchyard. The County SMR records that in the next but one property to the north-west a human skeleton was found in the back garden (BDG 040), together with middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery and medieval pottery. There is demonstrated potential for the medieval churchyard to have extended beyond its present boundary, perhaps originally fronting the road, and also for early domestic occupation. The development comprises an extension *c. 4m x 4m* and requires additional minor terracing into a raised area of back garden.

Note : there is the potential for burials on this site, see paragraph 3.5 & 3.6 of the brief and specification. **Attention must be paid to the requirements of the Burial Act 1857.**

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 and to inform knowledge of the extent of the area with burials.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the slight terracing and soil removal to floor formation levels) and the excavation of building footing trenches.

If site preparation works involve topsoil stripping the stripping process and the upcast soil are to be observed **whilst** they **are** excavated by the building contractor.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed **whilst** they **are** excavated 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.

- 3.5 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; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' provided by English Heritage & the Church of England in 2005. This includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.  
[<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/cathandchurchbuild/humanremainsguidance.pdf>]

- 3.6 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of remains following study and analysis will be required in the Project Design.

### 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 In the case of topsoil stripping for site preparation, access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 15 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **one and a half hours per one metre** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. 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. 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.
- 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. 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

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

Date: 11 October 2005

Reference: /Badingham-ChurchCottage10

**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.**