

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## THE COACH HOUSE, THE STREET, BAWDSEY (SMR ref. BAW 158)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GARAGE BLOCK  
(Application Nos. C/06/0970/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/165  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-30668)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a garage to the rear of The Coach House, The Street, Bawdsey (NGR; TM 3467 4029), was undertaken during May 2007. Footings for the new building were examined but only undisturbed natural subsoil was seen under garden topsoil. The natural subsoil comprised yellow silty sand and lay at a depth of 0.45m. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BAW 158. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr R. Saunders.*



Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a garage block on land to the rear of a pair of semi-detached houses known as 'Coach House' and Tailors House', The Street, Bawdsey, was undertaken in May 2007. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area interest in the site is due to its location within the area of the medieval settlement core for Bawdsey as recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record.

The garage block is to be constructed on strip foundations that would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to reveal and damage 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 Dr J. Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3467 4029 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 8.5m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BAW 158. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-30668. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr R. Saunders.

## Methodology

A 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 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 when the excavation of the footings was near complete (see figure 2 for their location). These had been cut to a depth of c. 0.7m deep through c. 0.45m of garden soil and into the underlying natural subsoil which comprised clean yellow silty sand. A small pit was located along the footing for the eastern wall of the new garage block but the finds, which consisted of domestic rubbish, indicated this feature dated from the mid to

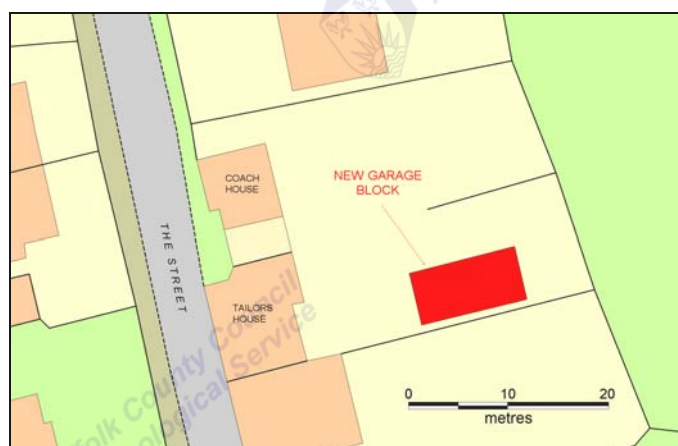


Figure 2: Development Area

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late 20<sup>th</sup> century. No earlier interventions into the natural subsoil were evident and there was nothing to indicate that the subsoil had been truncated.

Spoil from the groundwork had been deposited in a skip. This surface was examined but no significant 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 BAW 158.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits or features were noted within the excavated footings and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered. The small pit containing late domestic rubbish is likely to have been dug in order to dispose of rubbish in the era before regular doorstep collections. The site is located some 25m east of the roadway and the results would suggest this area has only ever been open fields or a backyard area to the properties that front The Street.

# APPENDIX

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

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

#### **COACH HOUSE, THE STREET, BAWDSEY, WOODBRIDGE, IP12 3AJ**

*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 to a block of two double garages (following the demolition of existing garages/carport) to the rear of Coach House, The Street, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, IP12 3AJ (TM 3467 4030), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/06/0970/FUL). 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 in the area of medieval settlement core recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (BAW 016, BAW 023 and BAW 037). There is high potential for encountering medieval settlement 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 (SCCAS/CT) 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 are the footing trenches associated with the construction of the garages, which measure c. 11.5 x 6m in area. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and 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 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 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 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.

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 monitoring).

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 three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the SMR Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.3 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.

5.4 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).

- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/T> 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: 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](mailto:jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk)

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Reference: /CoachHouse-Bawdsey2007

**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.**