

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE CHANTRY, CHURCH LANE, BRUNDISH (SMR ref. BUH 025)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWIMMING POOL

(Application Nos. 0263/07)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/169

(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-30857)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a swimming pool located just outside the moated area at The Chantry, Church Lane, Brundish (NGR; TM 3467 4029), was undertaken during August 2007. The initial topsoil strip and creation of a level terrace for the construction of the pool was observed. The natural subsoil comprised a pale yellow boulder clay with pockets of orange/yellow sand within which two ditches were revealed. One ditch was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and ran across the western end of the pool area. Its fill comprised topsoil and late 20th century debris suggesting it had been recently filled and this was confirmed by the owner. The second ditch ran approximately northwest-southeast across the site. The fill comprised a homogenous pale orange silty clay from which no artefacts were recovered. Its alignment is coincidental with a nearby boundary and it is perpendicular with the first ditch. These are in turn on similar or perpendicular alignments to a nearby arm of the moat suggesting a possible medieval or later date for these features. The monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BUH 025. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr and Mrs Lees.

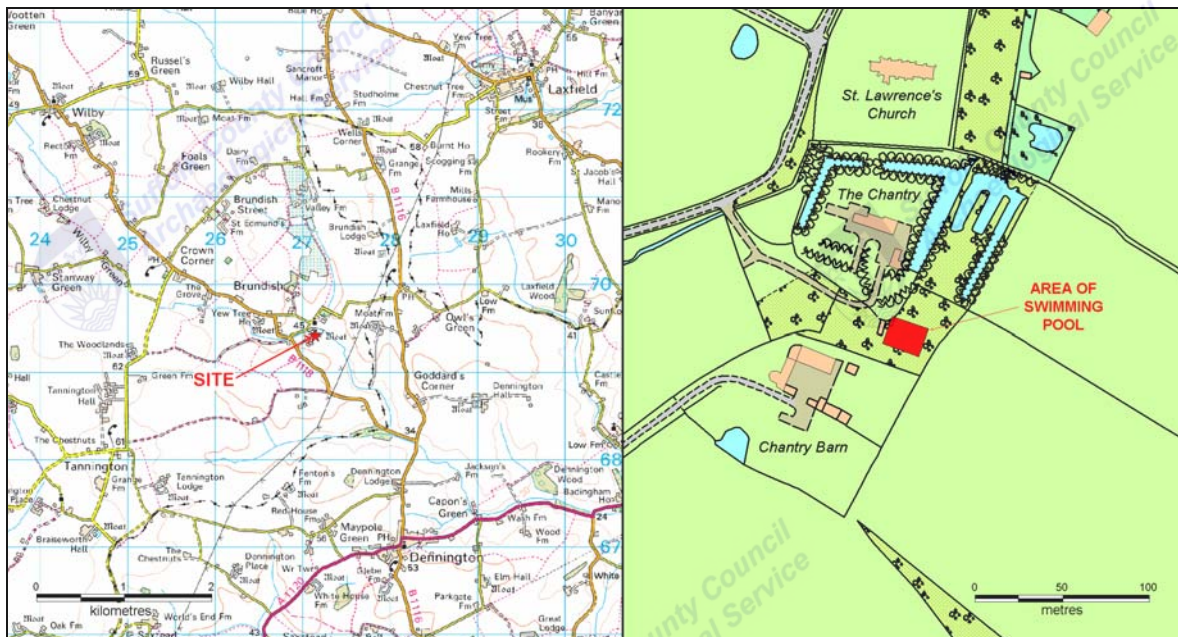


Figure 1: Location Plan

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a swimming pool at The Chantry, Church Lane, Brundish, was undertaken in August 2007. The Chantry (formerly Chantry Farm) stands within a medieval moated enclosure (recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record, ref. BUH 003) and is situated adjacent St Lawrence's Church (SMR ref. BUH 016). The actual site of the proposed swimming pool lay immediately to the south of the moated enclosure on an area of slightly higher ground that gently sloped down to the north.

Construction of the swimming pool would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage or 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 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 2715 6939 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BUH 025 and on OASIS, the online database under the reference; suffolkc1-30857. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owners, Mr and Mrs Lee.

Methodology

A visit was made to observe the topsoil strip once it was underway in order to identify any cut features and/or archaeological deposits that may be present and to recover datable artefacts. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified was noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken.

Results

The site was visited on 22nd August 2007 in order to observe the topsoil strip which had recently been completed. This had entailed removing much of the overlying topsoil down to the level of the natural subsoil and been carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The natural subsoil comprised a pale yellow boulder clay with occasional patches of orange/yellow sand but unfortunately the resultant surface was not clean enough for the positive identification of archaeological features. The next stage of the construction was to cut a level terrace into the gentle slope and this work was undertaken under archaeological supervision.

Along the western edge of the pool area only a very limited amount of excavation was required although towards the southeastern corner it was necessary to remove up to c. 0.8m of the subsoil to create a level terrace. Two linear features were revealed, both of which were interpreted as ditches. These are marked on figure 2 as Ditch 1 and Ditch 2.

Ditch 1 ran along the western edge of the pool area on a southwest-northeast alignment and measured approximately 1.5m in width. It was filled with a rich dark topsoil containing occasional fragments of brick rubble and roof slates and had the appearance of

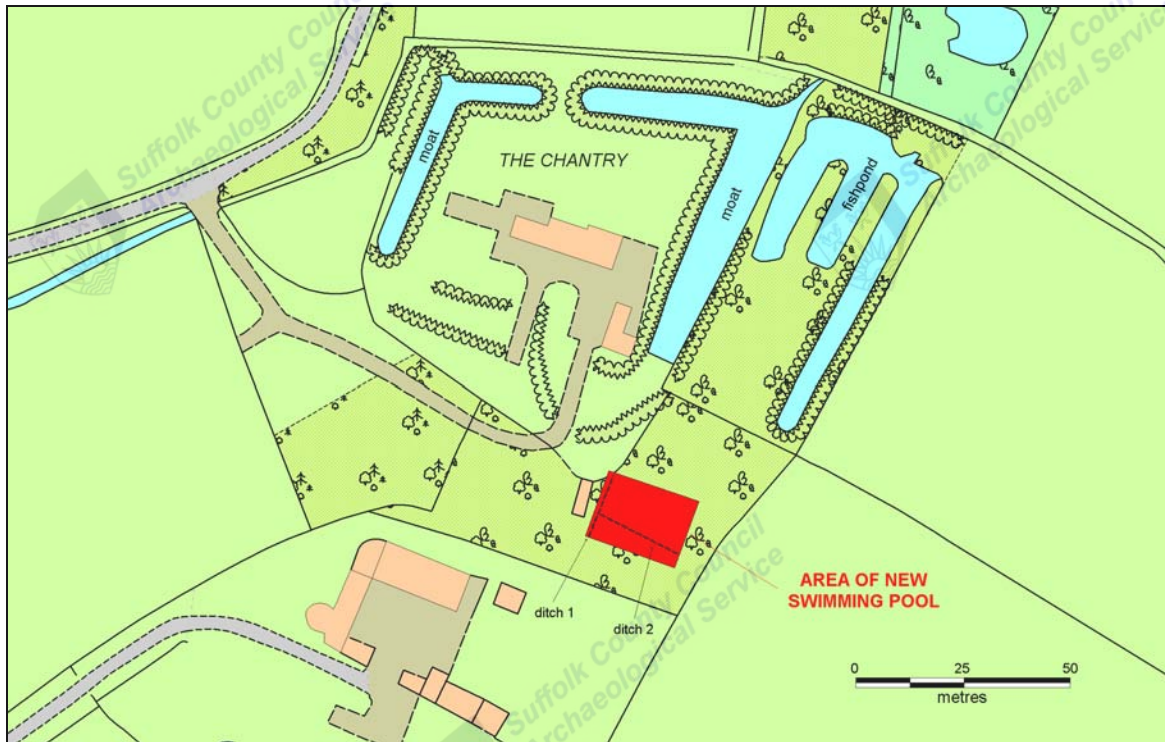


Figure 2: Area Monitored and Results

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having been recently filled. It was confirmed by the landowner that a ditch running down to the end of one arm of the moat to the north had been filled in recent years and that it had drained water from the former farmyard to the south.

Ditch 2 ran approximately perpendicular to ditch 1 on a northwest-southeast alignment. It measured 1.1m in width at the surface of the natural subsoil and was approximately 1m deep. The fill comprised a homogenous pale orange silty sand and clay from which no artefacts were recovered.

The majority of the spoil was removed from the swimming pool area and was stockpiled in an adjacent paddock (approximate NGR TM 2691 6936). The topsoil from the initial strip had been placed immediately to the south of the swimming pool area where it was to be landscaped. This was walked over and examined but only mid to late 20th century debris was present.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BUH 025.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted within the monitored excavations and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered. Ditch 1 appears to have acted as a drain for the farmyard to the south and although it was only recently filled the original date of its excavation is unknown. The date of Ditch 2 is also unknown although the homogenous nature of the fill would suggest it was filled some time in antiquity. It is likely that these ditches would not have been just for drainage but that they would also have acted to divide the property into smaller plots, probably to delineate areas

of orchard from garden etc. The fact that the two are near perpendicular suggests that they were at some point contemporary. Ditch 2 is also parallel with a boundary situated some 30m to the north which divides the swimming pool area from a series of medieval fishponds. Although no positive dating evidence was recovered from their fills their alignments respecting those of the moat suggest they were excavated after its creation indicating a medieval or later date.

Plates



Plate I: General view looking southwest.

Ditch 1 is visible in the immediate foreground whilst ditch 2 can be seen as a darker strip running away from the camera.



Plate II: Section on eastern edge of terrace excavated for the swimming pool.
Cross-section through Ditch 2 is just about visible to the right of the scale.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

THE CHANTRY, CHURCH LANE, BRUNDISH, WOODBRIDGE, IP13 8AY

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 construct a swimming pool at The Chantry, Church Lane, Brundish, Woodbridge, IP13 8AY (TM 2715 6941), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0263/07). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Site and Monuments Record, immediately outside a medieval moated enclosure (BUH 003) and within 80m of the medieval churchyard (BUH 016). There is high potential for occupation deposits of this period to be disturbed by development. 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, and possibly earlier, occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the swimming pool, which measures 12 x 5.5m, and also any associated service trenches.

These, and the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored 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 archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground, specifically the excavation of the swimming pool.
- 4.2 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. 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

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Reference: /TheChantry-Brundish2007

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.