

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

CHURCH FARM ALL SAINTS AND ST NICHOLAS SOUTH ELMHAM (SMR ref. SEN 002, SM No. 30521)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION
(Application Nos. W/6796/5)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/171
(OASIS Ref. suffolk1-30989)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to Church Farm, All Saints and St Nicholas South Elmham (NGR; TM 3299 8286), was undertaken during June 2007. Church Farm stands within a moated enclosure which is recorded on the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SM No. 30521). The excavation of a series of footings was observed but no archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered. The monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing SMR reference, SEN 002. 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 Awtry.

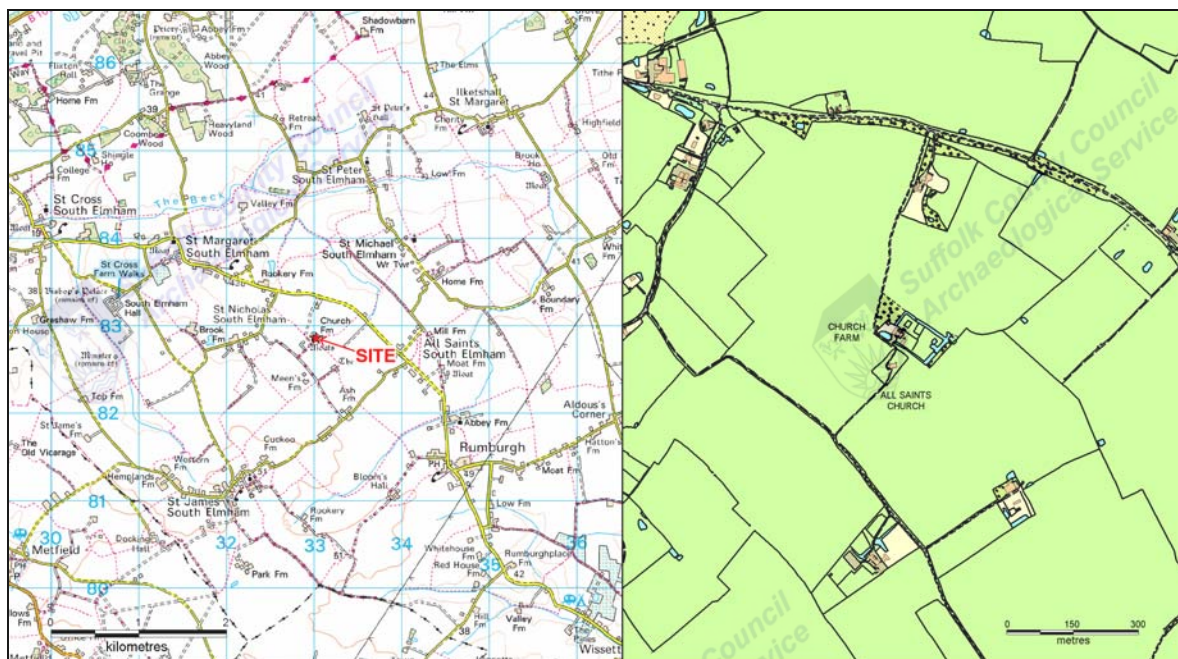


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to Church Farm, All Saints and St Nicholas South Elmham, was undertaken during June 2007. Church Farm stands within a medieval moated enclosure (recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record, ref. SEN 002) and is situated adjacent All Saints' Church (SMR ref. SEN 007). The moated enclosure is has also been entered on the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SM No. 30521) and the farmhouse, which dates from the early 16th century is a Grade II Listed Structure (ref. 282280).

The moated enclosure is believed to have been the site of a medieval manor house that was occupied by the Throgmorton family and it is likely that evidence for the earlier history of this site exists as buried archaeological features and deposits. The proposed development would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present. Consequently a 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 3299 8286 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the existing reference SEN 002 and on OASIS, the online database under the reference; suffolkc1-30989. 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 Awtry.

Methodology

The site was visited to observe the excavation of the footings for the new extension in order to identify any cut features and/or archaeological deposits that may be present and to recover datable artefacts. The excavation was continually observed throughout by a trained archaeologist. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified was noted. A number of digital photographs of the work in progress as well as the finished trenches were taken.

Results

The site was visited on the 18th and 19th June 2007 during which time the footings for the new extension were excavated. The trenches were excavated to a depth of *c.* 0.8m and revealed approximately 0.3m of rich dark topsoil over a yellow boulder clay. See figure 2 for a plan of their locations.

Within the excavated footing trenches no archaeological features or deposits were noted and only late post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil. A number of digital photographs were taken, a selection of which are reproduced overleaf.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference SEN 002.

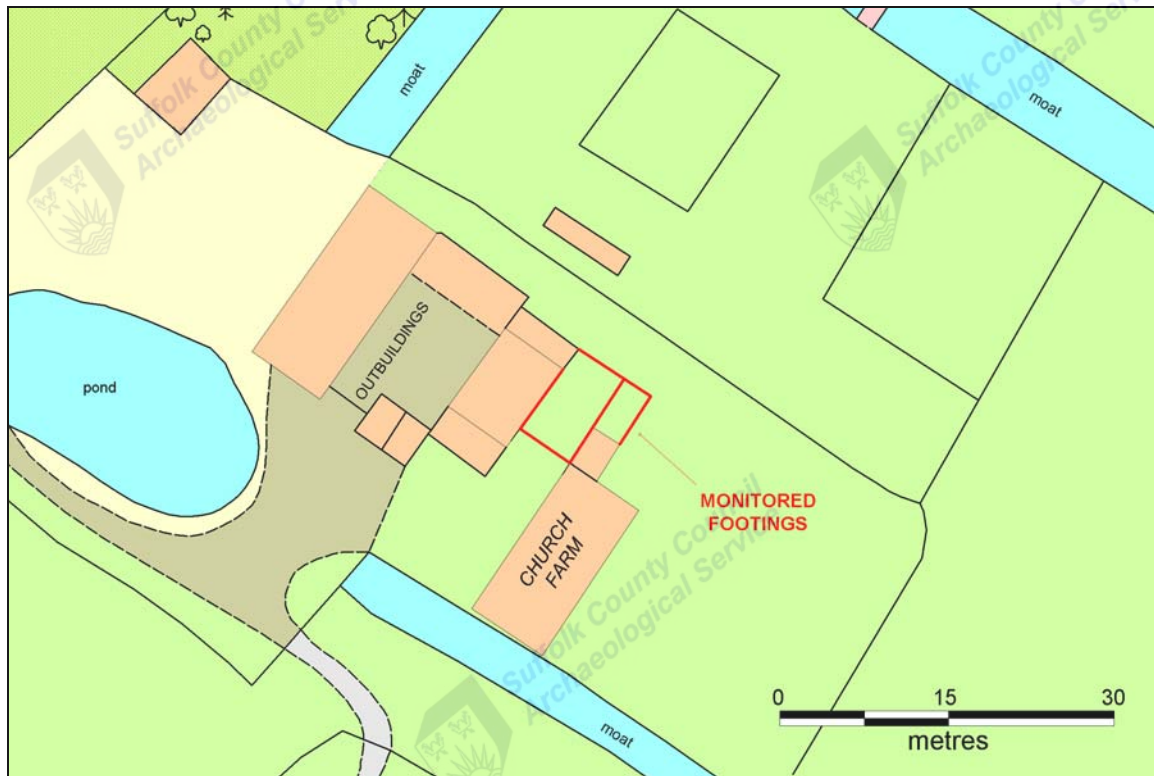


Figure 2: Location of Monitored Footings

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Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted within the monitored excavations and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered. There was no evidence for any disturbance to earlier ground levels that could have removed all earlier evidence and it is therefore unlikely that any substantial medieval structure stood in the immediate vicinity of the monitored groundworks. The complete lack of any earlier artefacts indicates that this area may have been part of a formal garden associated with the former manor house and as such was not an area in which general household debris would have been discarded.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

14th September 2007



Works underway



sample of footing trench

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

CHURCH FARM, ALL SAINTS SOUTH ELMHAM

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 consent (application W/6796/5) has been granted by Waveney District Council for the construction of an extension at Church Farm, All Saints South (TM 3300 8287), with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition requiring an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30521), which is protected by statute. The site is a medieval moated enclosure (Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record SEN 002), located to the north east of the churchyard of All Saints' Church (SEN 007). The site is said to have been the site of a medieval manor house, once occupied by the members of the Throgmorton family. Church Farmhouse and its associated buildings occupy the south western quadrant of the enclosure. The house is dated to the early 16th century, with later alterations (Grade II Listed Building 282280). There is high potential for ground disturbance to affect medieval occupation deposits which are likely to represent settlement (including remains of dwellings and ancillary structures), yard surfaces, enclosure moat ditches and rubbish deposits.
- 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.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body. In particular, the archaeological contractor must obtain Scheduled Monument Consent from English Heritage before the work can proceed.

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 remains on the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of the footing trenches (c. 16000mm of trenching x 450mm wide x 1000mm deep) for the extension, which measures c. 37m² in area, and also topsoil stripping for the concrete slab (c. 200mm deep). 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.
- 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 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT and to the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for this region (John Ette, Team Leader for Suffolk and Bedfordshire) for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.6 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT and also a single hard copy to the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments. A single hard copy should be presented to the county SMR as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Sites and Monuments Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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: /ChurchFarm-AllSaintsSouthElmham2007

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.