

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

(SEC 002) Batemans Barn, South Elmham Hall, Report of Building Recording & Monitoring of Groundworks

SCCAS Report No. 2006/138; Oasis ID suffolkc1-34991



Batemans Barn

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© July 2006

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Suffolk County Council

Environment and Transport



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Summary

South Elmham, Batemans Barn (TM 3348 8979; SEC 002; SAM 838) A programme of conservation and modification to Batemans Barn, a building forming part of the South Elmham Hall moated complex, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, required archaeological recording.

Examination of the flint and mortar walls incorporated in the existing building confirmed their medieval date and identified constructional features (lift-lines), but no architectural detail. Later phases of patching, rebuilding and surface treatments were also recorded.

Monitoring of two trenches excavated by the contractors, one to the west of the barn and one inside, failed to identify any archaeological deposits.
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council & John Sanderson)

SMR Information

SMR No.	SEC 002
SAM No.	838
SCCAS Report No.	2006/138
Oasis ID	Suffolkc1-34991
Site Name	Batemans Barn, part of South Elmham Hall
Planning Application No.	W/13241/12
Applicant	John Sanderson
Finds	None
Features	Medieval standing wall

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning, Historical & Archaeological Background

Consent on Planning Application W/13241/12 covering the modification and repair of Batemans Barn at South Elmham Hall (Fig. 1) includes a PPG 16 condition. In order to discharge this condition, the applicant (John Sanderson) is required to provide for a programme of archaeological work as specified by the local authority's archaeological planning advisor (Bob Carr) of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

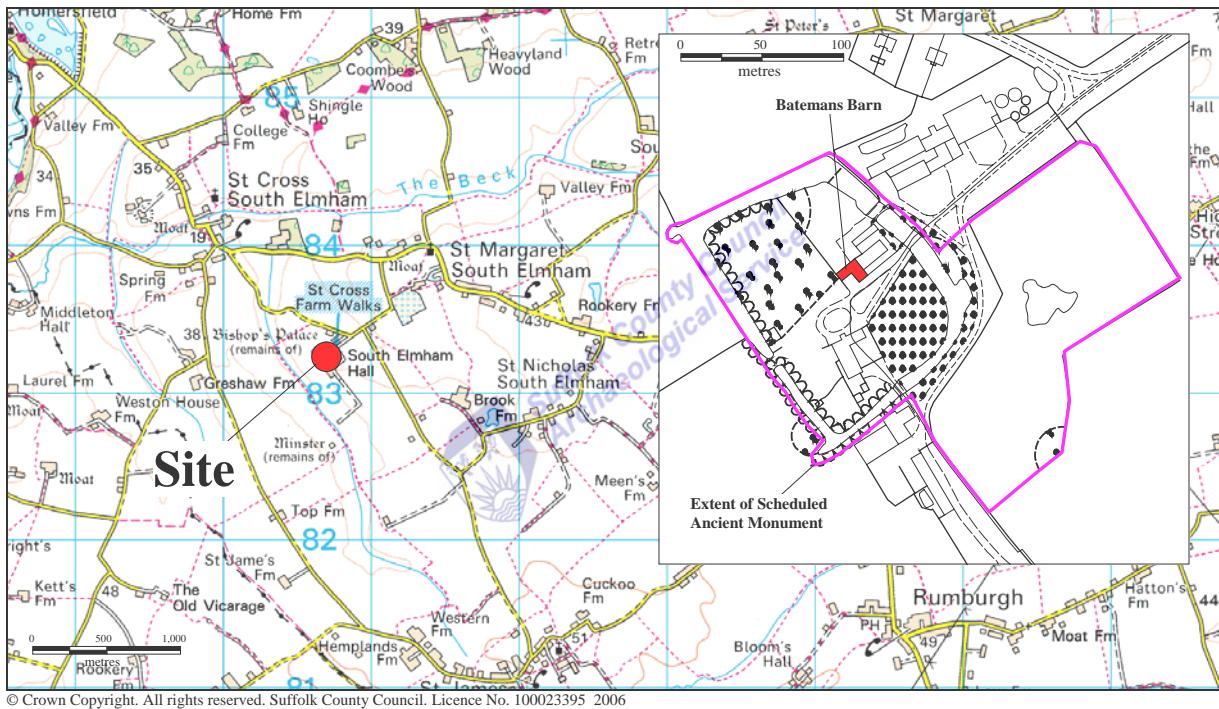


Fig. 1 1:50,000 & 1:5,000 scale OS map extracts showing the location of the site

Batemans Barn forms part of the Elmham Hall complex, elements of which date back to the 13th century, and lies within a large moated enclosure. Owned by the Bishops of Norwich the complex of buildings was effectively used as a grand hunting lodge serviced by the surrounding parkland.

One of the standing buildings, known as Batemans Barn, includes a c.12.5 metres stretch of flint and mortar wall fabric that forms the bottom half of its north wall. The wall then turns for a short distance (c.1.5 metres) towards the south and forming a stub beyond the end of, but not an integral structural element in, the western wall of the standing building (Fig. 2).

In a Brief and Specification document (Appendix I), Bob Carr detailed the archaeological recording that would be required to be undertaken in conjunction with the works covered in the planning application. In this instance, the works included a basic recording of the standing wall and monitoring of groundwork trenches.

Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team were commissioned by the project architect (Hugh Bunbury) to undertake the

archaeological works, the fieldwork for which was carried out on the 15th and 19th of June, 2006.

1.2 Topographical Setting & Drift Geology

The site is situated on a shallow north-east facing spur at height of c.37 metres OD, overlooking a shallow valley to the north-east and another, deeper valley to the south-west (Fig. 1).

The underlying drift geology comprises heavy glaciogenic clays of the Lowestoft Till Formation.

2. Methodologies

2.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork for the project effectively could be divided into two distinct stages:

- The visual examination and interpretation of the fabric of the standing flint and mortar wall.
- Monitoring of groundwork excavations.

A photographic record (monochrome print & digital shots) were made of both the standing flint and mortar wall and the groundwork excavations both internal and external to the barn.

The wall fabric was examined and notes regarding its character and mode of construction were made.

The location of the excavated trenches was recorded on a ground plan provided by the architect (Hugh Bunbury of Nicholas Jacob Architects) (Fig. 2).

Upcast spoil was examined for the presence of archaeological material and the exposed surface of the trenches were checked for features.

2.2 Post-excavation

All photographs were added to Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Photographic Archive held at Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

Elevation photographs (Plates 1 – 5) of the standing walls were overlain with structural information and interpretative detail that is also included in the text.

The locations of the monitored trench excavations and the two phases of the standing wall were included on a groundplan (Fig. 2).

3. Results

3.1 Recording of Standing Wall

The examination of the external elevation of the c.12.5 metres long north and shorter (c.1 .5 metres) west walls revealed that while the majority of the fabric belonged to one phase of construction, there was evidence for a number of alterations and repairs (Plates 1 & 3 & Fig. 2).

Plate 1: Batemans Barn, North Wall, External Elevation



0 1 2 metres



Plate 2: Batemans Barn, North Wall, Internal Elevation (East End)

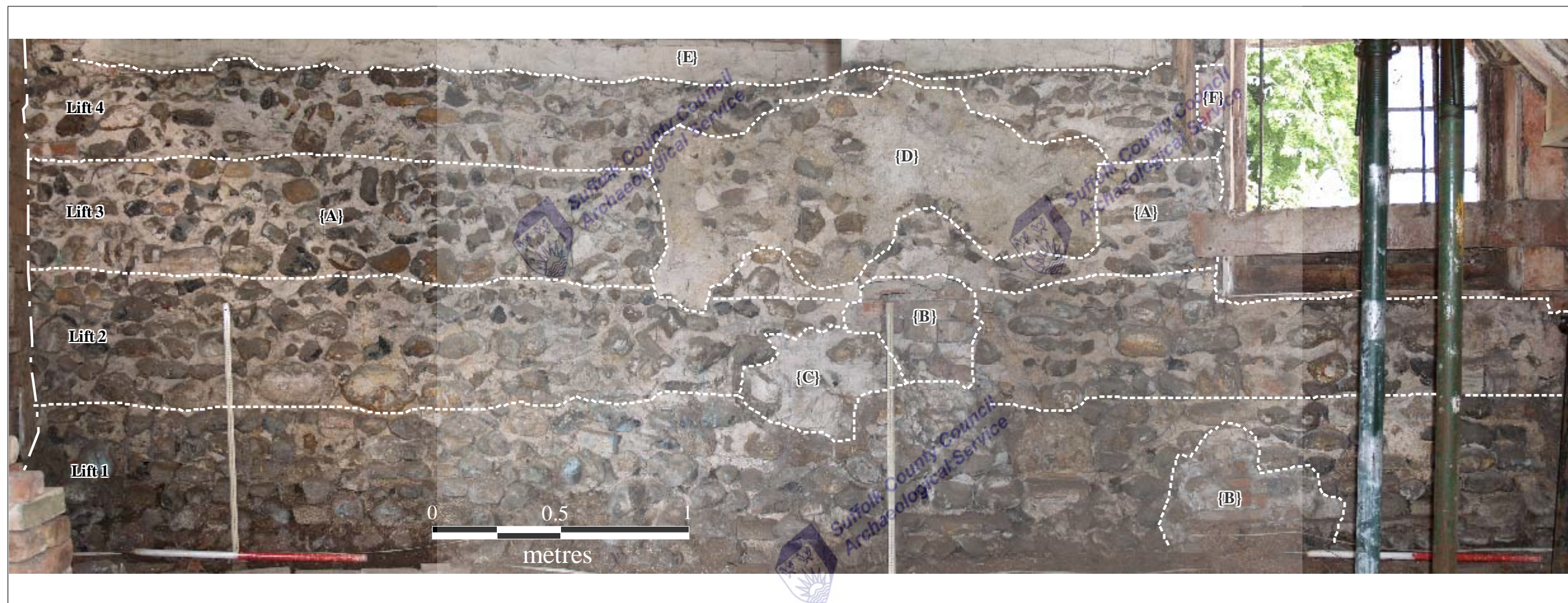


Plate 3: Batemans Barn, West Wall

External elevation; View from the west (all Fabric {A})



View from the south (all Fabric {A})

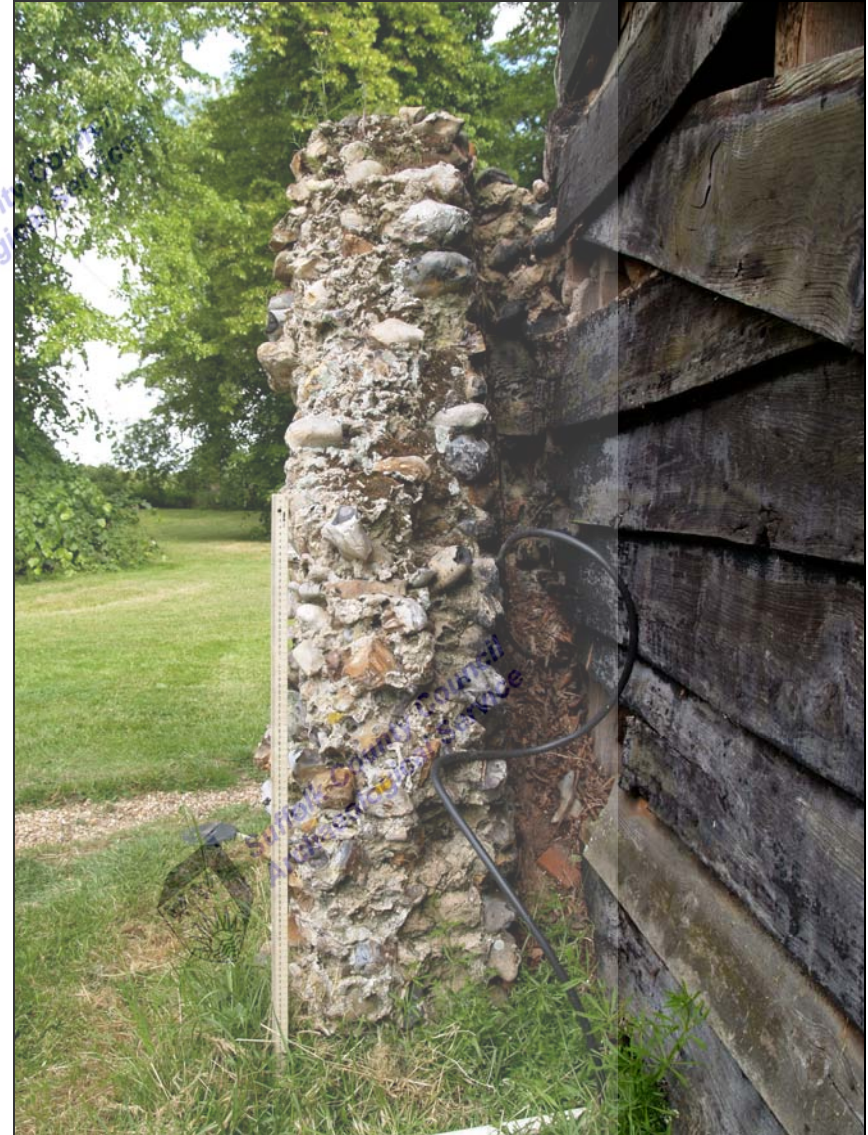


Plate 4: Batemans Barn, Internal Elevation (Western End)



0 1 metre





Plate 5: Batemans Barn, Internal Elevation (Stable/Animal Stall)

Original fabric ({A} on Plates 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) was best represented in the internal elevation at its eastern end (Plates 2 & 5). Standing for a height of c.2 metres, the wall was clearly divided into four distinct lifts of c.0.5 metres (c.5 flint courses).

The included flints varied in size from 5 centimetres through to some that were in excess of 20 centimetres. Larger pieces appear to have been preferentially lain as the basal course of each lift (see Plate 2,

Lifts 2 & 3). Approximately 90% of the facing material were flints, mainly unknapped with c.10% comprising sandstone and other erratics. One large red brick, measuring 9¹/₂ by 2¹/₂ inches with an indeterminate width, was clearly incorporated in the original fabric (Plate 6). Similar bricks were included in the fabric of other standing structures and are likely to be of medieval date and locally made.

The lime mortar of Fabric {A} was beige/cream in colour with common inclusions of gravel-sized flint and small pieces of clunch. Examination of the short (c.1.5 metres long) west wall (Plate 3) revealed that it had been constructed from similar materials to the main stretch although no lifts were identified. However, this could have been due to the fact that the majority of the external facing had gone, unlike the north wall which has survived relatively intact, a fact which also accounts for the apparent disparity in thickness (0.4 metres rather than the 0.5 metres of the north wall) and its apparent shape in plan which suggests that it was not exactly at 90° to the north wall.

In addition, the west wall was clearly not continuous with the western end of the north wall, and while the external face was largely obscured by later repointing ({H} on Plate 1) it was possible to see that the westernmost c.3 metres of the northern wall was a later rebuild or possibly a blocking of an original opening ({J} on



Plate 6: Batemans Barn, External Elevation, Medieval Brick

Plates 1 & 4 & Fig. 2). Externally, the facing included more crudely knapped flints than the original fabric {A}. Fabric {J} was more clearly exposed internally in the small room at the western end of the barn and in spite of recent repointing obscuring the upper levels, it was visible at its base where facing had been lost to expose its core. No coursing was visible and the mortar was hard and white with sandy patches and common inclusions of clunch (Plate 4).

The relationship between two limestone quoins seen internally at the junction between wall fabrics {A} and {J} was difficult to assess as access was limited (Plate 7a). While clearly overlain by fabric {J}, the fact that one of the quoins could be seen externally on the north wall with its tooled face on the western side (Plate 7b) it seems likely that it is actually incorporated within Fabric {J}.



7a (internal junction)

7b (north wall, external)

Plate 7: Detail of Quoins at Junction Between North and West Walls

In addition to the two main wall fabrics ({A} & {J}), a number of other features relating to structural insertions, repairs and surface treatments were also recorded. These are listed in below in alphabetical order.

- {A} Original wall fabric (see previous text and Plates 1, 2, 3,4 & 5)
- {B} Brick patching, 18th-20th century date, includes blocking of hole right through wall (Plates 1 & 2)
- {C} Hard white lime mortar patching (Plate 2)
- {D} Clay, straw & horsehair layer, surface covering surviving over a limited area of the internal wall face (Plate 2)
- {E} Plaster packing at top of wall, seen internally (Plate 2)
- {F} Inserted window, includes brick of c.18th-19th century date
- {G} Two courses of bricks capping flint and mortar north wall of barn provides a level surface for wooden frame and roof above (Plates 1 & 4)
- {H} Layer of hard lime mortar repointing extending for the entire c.12.5 metre length of the north wall to a height of between 1 and the full 2 metres. Covers both wall fabric {A} and {J}. Includes imprint of earlier gatepost at west end

of north wall. Includes some small flints and brick/tile fragments within it (Plate 1)

- {I} Recent lime mortar repointing at east end of north wall, undertaken as part of present project? (Plate 1)
- {J} Rebuilt section of north wall, or blocking of earlier entrance. Includes large crack towards west end (Plates 1 & 4)
- {K} Recent brick patching (Plate 4)

3.2 Monitoring of Groundworks

Two trenches were monitored; one internal to the standing building and another external running diagonally away from the west wall (Fig. 2).

The shallow internal trench was *c.*0.25 metres deep, *c.*0.4 metres wide and following the removal of the brick floor, was entirely excavated through brown loamy clay with common inclusions of tile and brick fragments. A stiff brown clay was revealed at the base of the trench which almost certainly represents the naturally occurring subsoil.

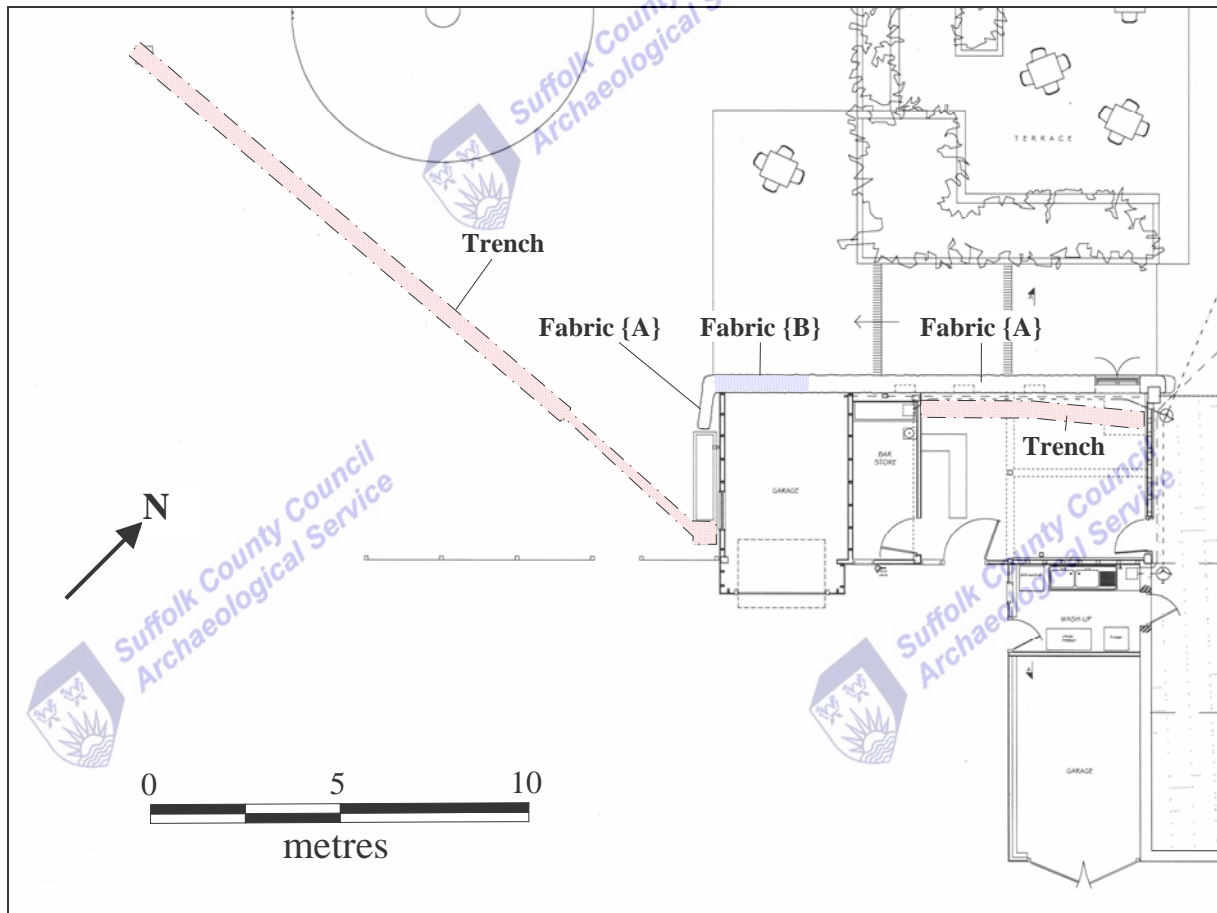


Fig. 2 1:200 scale plan of the extant building & locations of the excavated trenches

The external trench was *c.*20 metres in length running diagonal away from the barn towards the north-west. The easternmost 6 metres was 0.3 metres wide with the remaining *c.*14 metres 0.4 metres wide. The depth of the trench increased from 0.3 metres at the easternmost end down to 0.6 metres towards the north-west. A uniform 0.25 metres of topsoil was recorded, with common inclusions of brick and roof-tile, overlying stiff brown clay. While the presence of fragments of roof-tile and brick

incorporated within this clay suggests that it has been disturbed, it almost certainly represented the top of the naturally occurring subsoil. Only two features were visible in the side of the trench: the accumulated gravel layers of a path conforming to the existing route around the barn and a topsoil filled pit with some domestic rubbish. The latter was identified as being caused by a large tree falling over in the gales of 1987 (Sanderson *pers. comm.*). There was no evidence for the southward continuation of the western wall of Batemans Barn.

4. Archaeological Interpretation

The standing wall has no surviving architectural features, the style of which could be used to provide tighter dating for its construction, although there was nothing to suggest that it was anything but medieval. Even the inclusion of brick fragments within the original fabric does not contradict a medieval date, as records show that bricks were being made in large quantities at the site from as early as the 14th century (Sanderson *pers. comm.*). However, there was no indication as to what part of the medieval building complex the wall represents. It apparently lines up with the south wall of the standing building to the east and both may reflect elements of the original building layout.

Constructional elements in the wall are also consistent with techniques used in the medieval period with relatively well developed coursing and lift-lines at c.0.5 metre intervals, the latter representing the maximum height that can be built in one time given the properties of lime mortar.

Only one possible blocked opening was recorded, that forming the rebuilt section at the western end of the barn's northern wall. However, this is just as likely to represent repair of a collapsed or dismantled section of the earlier wall.

The various surface treatments and patching are testament to a continuing history and use as a working farm building up until the present day. It should be noted, however, that the internal face of the north wall has survived relatively intact, but the intervening mortar between the facing flints has clearly been eroded back to some considerable depth. As the original internal wall face is likely to have presented a flat surface to take plaster or paint, it seems likely that it was exposed to the elements for some time, possibly while the building was in a ruinous state, before its incorporation into the existing barn. If this were the case, the surviving patches of applied surface treatment are almost certainly associated with the later phases of activity rather than the original medieval structure.

No significant features were recorded in either of the excavated trenches other than a modern disturbance (tree-hole) and the earlier levels of an extant pathway. While the western flint and mortar wall stub forming part of Batemans Barn must originally have continued towards the south-east, there was no evidence in the trench within the excavated 0.3 metres. This may be due to the somewhat wholesale removal of walls documented in early records (Sanderson *pers. comm.*).

5. Conclusions

The archaeological recording associated with the present scheme of works has recorded elements of the standing structure that will be obscured by repairs and has attempted to place the within its original context and date.

In addition, the monitoring has proven that no significant archaeological deposits were present in the limited excavation areas of the service and soakaway trenches.



SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

**Appendix I Brief and Specification for the Archaeological Record of a building
& monitoring of groundworks**

South Elmham Hall, adjacent Bateman's Barn

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted (W/13241/12) for repair works to conserve and modify the building. The planning authority have applied a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition to the consent. The intention is that this should secure a programme of archaeological work which will record those parts of the structure which will be altered by development or conservation repairs, together with sufficient detail to provide an adequate context for the basic record.
- 1.2 The process of assessing a structure, assessing the potential for damage that may be caused to a structure by development, and using planning conditions to ensure programmes of work take place to mitigate damage are all integral to Planning Policy Guidance 15, "Planning and the Historic Environment". This brief follows the substance of the advice of PPG 15 and "Informed Conservation: Understanding Historic Buildings and their Landscapes for Conservation", English Heritage 2001. This latter proposes that a programme of Conservation-Based Research and Analysis (CoBRA) is needed in order to:
- i) Provide information in support of an application for statutory consent (listed building consent/scheduled monument consent/petition for faculty or other) or grant-aid.
 - ii) Better articulate the significance of the site.
 - iii) Inform a programme of proposed works or repair.
 - iv) Subsequently record significant fabric to be removed or hidden during building work (normally as a condition of consent or grant).
 - v) Subsequently produce a record of features which will be lost in mitigation of partial or wholesale demolition (normally as a condition of consent).
- 1.3 In outline terms the present building includes a flint and mortar north wall with, at the west end, a fragmentary return to the south. The wall fabric is built in a style consistent with medieval construction date (with some later repair and addition); it is the fragmentary remnant of a building, to which we cannot ascribe a full size or purpose, but which lies adjacent and to the west of a second flint and mortar wall (part of Bateman's barn itself), also of medieval style, indicating a second building. Together these indicate the presence of a building complex within the moated area at some distance from the domestic palace and potential for agricultural use.
- 1.4 Development proposals include conservation of the historic flint and mortar fabric both internally and externally; some disruption to the floor at the east end for water pipes and brick flooring repairs or replacement (not fully defined); reconstruction of a wall plate and plinth of a later partition wall at the east end; external drains for waste water to the east and rain water to the west. Although it is accepted that the intent is to minimise disruption and where possible to preserve *in situ*, it is important that a full analysis and record of the historic fabric is made before any development begins. This will both inform detailed development proposals and provide a context for recording and excavation required by development. It will also provide a detailed record to inform future assessments of the rate of deterioration of the external fabric and its long term conservation requirement.
- 1.5 All arrangements for the field evaluation 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 with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Recording of the Historic Structure**

- 2.1 Undertake systematic drawn and photographed record of the building fabric affected by development and conservation/repair.
- 2.2 Provide a description and analysis of the building fabric, with particular reference to the flint and mortar structure.
- 2.3 Provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.4 Provide an archive of results and a written report.
- 2.5 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the recording stage.
- 2.6 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as below) 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.

3 **Minimum Standards of Recording**

- 3.1 A measured ground plan of the building to be prepared to a minimum scale of 1:50. The architects plan may provide an adequate base for this purpose.
- 3.2 Full face measured elevation of the external flint wall face, and the internal face to a minimum scale of 1:20. This need not be a stone by stone record (see below) but must include the limits of the wall, the external outline of windows, any cracks, any identified fabric joint lines or phasing lines, if lift lines showing fabric construction are present these are to be included. This may be achieved by, e.g. direct measurement, rectified photography or photogrammetry.
- 3.3 To accompany and complement the elevation drawing a photographic record using black and white negative stock and negative size of 6cm x 6cm or greater is to be made. Photographs are to be taken square on to the wall fabric; a wall length no greater than 5m is to be included in each frame; overlaps between frames of at least 2m are to be allowed. The wall face is to have a grid of a minimum of 2m square or fixed points at this approximate interval surveyed in to the outline elevation drawing, marked (e.g. by masking tape) on the wall face and related to a horizontal datum shown on the elevation drawing. A conventional 2m photographic scale should also be visible. The photographs to be suitable for orthogrammetry should this be required at a later stage.
- 3.4 Digital photography may be used to supplement the archive quality black and white images, they may be particularly appropriate to enable cost-effective rectification to overlay with the measured elevation outlines.
- 3.5 Alternatively, a full stone by stone elevation showing all features in detail to be prepared.
- 3.6 A descriptive text and linked analysis of results must be provided. The results should be set in the context of the building as a whole.

3.7 Standards of recording and archive keeping should be in general accord with “Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage” (May 2000, English Heritage, National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon).

4. Arrangements for Monitoring

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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 1.4 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor’s programme of works and time-table.

4.4 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.

5. Specification

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 In the case of drain trenches unimpeded access to the excavated area at the rate of one hour per 5 metres must be allowed for archaeological recording.

5.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

5.5 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.

6. General Management

6.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.

6.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

6.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

6.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

6.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

7. Report Requirements

7.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991.

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

7.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

7.4 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

7.5 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

7.6 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

7.7 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

7.8 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual.

7.9 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.

7.10 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: R D Carr

Date:

Reference: /Elmham-Batemans

CONSERVATION TEAM Archaeological Service SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date.

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.