
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

**The Highstead, Haugh Lane, Woodbridge
WBG 071
Planning application no. C/06/1036/OUT
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2007/201
OASIS ID No. 37101**

Summary

Woodbridge, The Highstead, Haugh Lane (TM/268497; WBG 071) Conditional planning consent for the erection of a house on land adjacent to The Highstead, Haugh Lane, Woodbridge, required archaeological monitoring of the associated groundworks. Despite the sites proximity to recorded archaeology with the potential to continue into the development area, no interventions were observed in the excavated trenches, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from the upcast spoil.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Mr. C. Palmer; report no. 2007/200)

Introduction

Conditional planning consent for work at The Highstead, Haugh Lane, Woodbridge, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 2680 4972, at a height of approximately 35m OD. The development lies immediately north of the recorded findspot of an inhumation burial within a possible barrow (WBG 022) which is indicative of further burials, possibly a cemetery site in the vicinity. As such, there is high potential for the presence of archaeological deposits within the development area.



Figure 1. Site location

Methodology

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various groundworks. The site was recorded under the SMR code WBG 071. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place in September and October 2007 and was funded by Mr. C. Palmer.

The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

Results

Trenches were excavated to a depth of *c.*1.2m showing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy loam *c.*250mm thick and sealed a clean, loose, mid orange brown sand natural subsoil. No features were observed in any of the footings, nor were any pre-modern artefacts recovered from the upcast spoil.

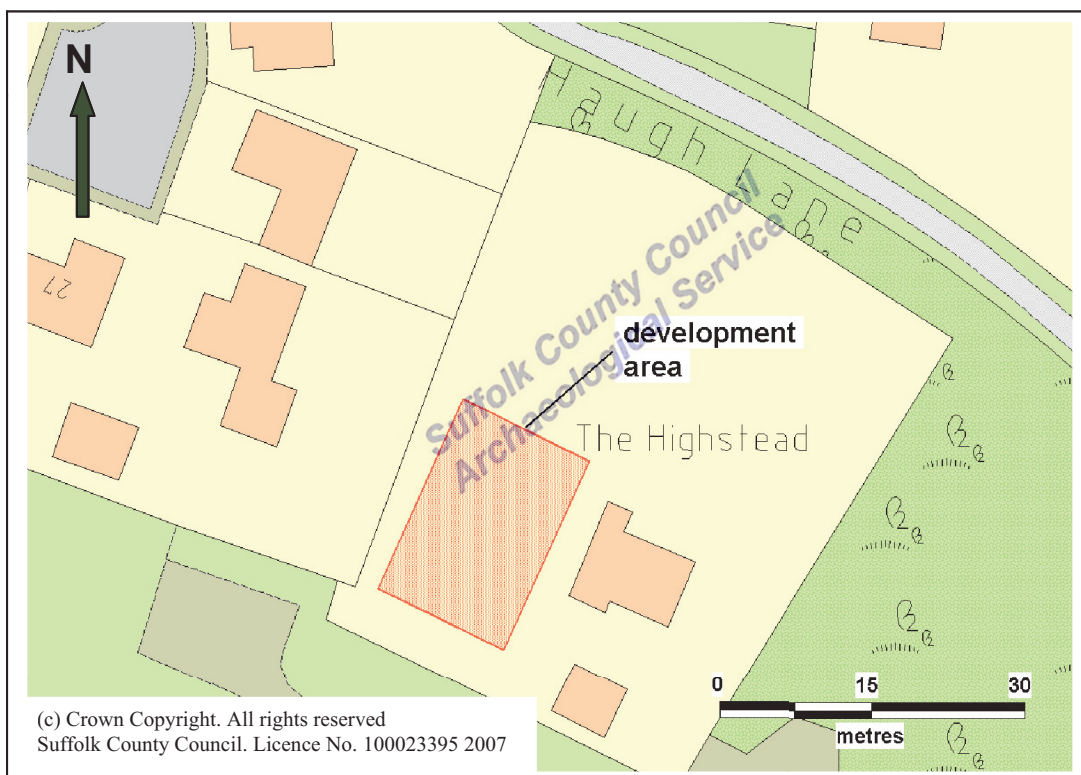


Figure 2. Location of excavated footings

Discussion

Despite the potential for evidence of burials or activity within the development area, no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed by the groundworks.

Linzi Everett
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November 2007.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

*Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development****PART SIDE GARDEN, THE HIGHSTEAD, HAUGH LANE, WOODBRIDGE***

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for the erection of a house on land to the west of The Highstead, Haugh Lane, Woodbridge IP12 4NJ (TM 2608 4973) has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/06/1036/OUT). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance, recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. In particular, an inhumation burial, within a possible barrow, was recovered from the area of the Junior House of Woodbridge School immediately to the south (WBG 022). This burial is indicative of further burials, possibly a cemetery site, in the immediate area. These strongly indicate the high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development.
- 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 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 Anglo-Saxon, and earlier, occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches and the provision of services for the dwelling, and also any topsoil stripping

and levelling associated with the construction of vehicle access. 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 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.

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 any footing and service trenches unimpeded access at the rate of two hours per 10 metres 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. 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. Sidell, 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 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, 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).
- 5.4 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 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.
- 5.6 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: TheHighsteadWoodbridge/2006

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.

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