

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

12, TRANMERE GROVE, IPSWICH (HER ref. IPS 593)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION
(Application Nos. IP/07/00546/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/085
(OASIS Ref. suffolk1 – 38733)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to No. 12, Tranmere Grove, Ipswich (NGR; TM 1478 4669), was undertaken during February 2008. No archaeological features or deposits were noted within the trenches and no significant artefacts were recovered from the spoil. The natural subsoil comprised yellow sandy silt and lay immediately beneath the topsoil. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference IPS 593. 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 R. Barker.

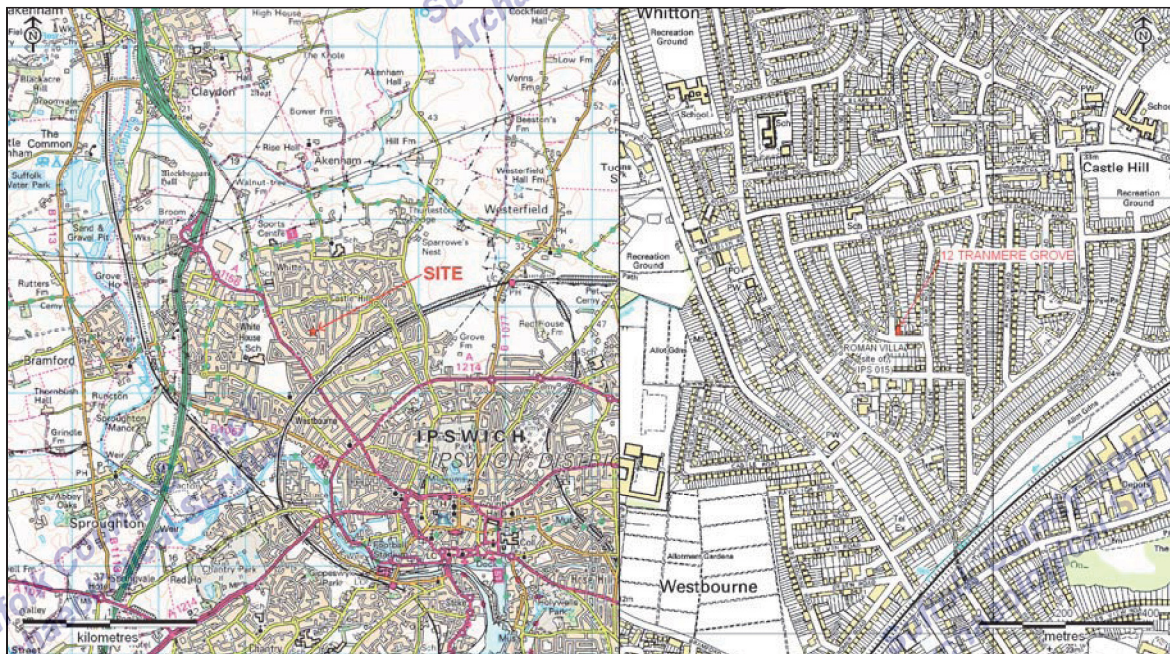


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of the footing trenches excavated for the construction of an extension on the western side of No. 12, Tranmere Grove, Ipswich, was undertaken on the 8th February 2008. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area interest in the site is due to its location on the northern edge of a major Roman villa complex (HER ref. IPS 015). The main range of villa buildings lies to the south and the northern extent of the villa complex has yet to be identified. There is also evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity north of the villa.

Excavation of the footing trenches was likely to 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 groundwork 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 Jude Plouviez of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1478 4669 (for a location plan see figure 1). The site lies at a height of approximately 37m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference IPS 593. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-38733. 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 Barker.

Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the open footing trenches after they had been excavated by the on-site contractors and prior to their being filled with concrete. Each trench was examined for cut features and archaeological deposits. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. The surfaces of any spoil tips were examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

At the time of the visit the on-site contractors were just completing the hand-digging of the footings for the new extension (see figure 2 for its location). The footing trench was approximately 1m in depth and had been cut through a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil and into the underlying natural subsoil which comprised yellow sandy silt.

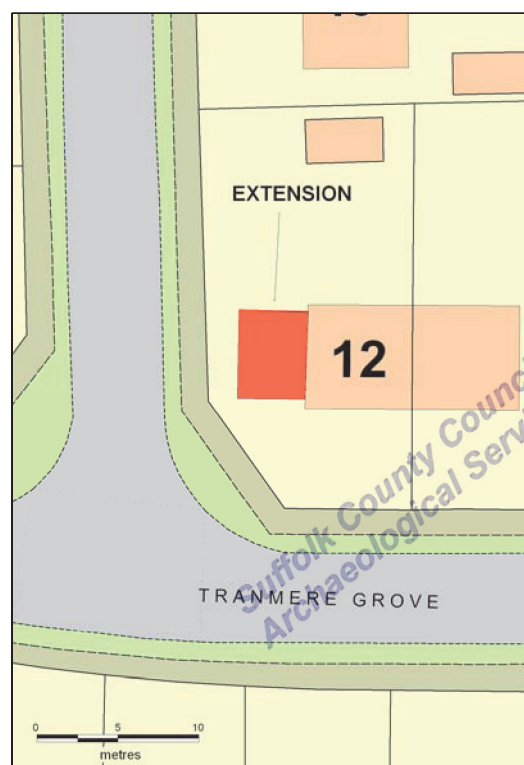


Figure 2: Location of New Extension

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The trench was examined for cut features and archaeological deposits but none were noted. The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was well defined with the upper surface of the natural subsoil being relatively even suggesting an unknown degree of earlier truncation. The spoil from the trenches was being removed from site in a skip and a small tipper truck both of which were near full. The surface of the spoil was examined but no significant artefacts of any period were noted.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference IPS 593.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features were noted within any of the inspected trenches. The trenches were extremely cleanly cut and had any features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been recognised. The abrupt interface between the top and sub soils suggests possible truncation and the complete lack of any evidence in the form of archaeological features or artefacts could be a result of landscaping during the construction of the housing estate that Tranmere Grove is a part of.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

4th March 2008

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

12 TRANMERE GROVE, IPSWICH

Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to build an extension on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application IP/07/00546/FUL). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.
- 1.2 This application affects a small area at TM 1477 4668 on the north side of a major Roman villa complex (IPS 015). The main range of identified buildings lies immediately to the south and the northern edge of the complex has not yet been identified. There has also been evidence of early Anglo-Saxon activity to the north of the complex. It is, therefore, likely that any ground disturbance may impact on significant Roman or Saxon deposits.

The principal objective of the monitoring will be to establish whether such deposits are present.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day.

- 1.3 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination.
- 1.5 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 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.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping (e.g. the construction of access roads, hard standing construction, and landscaping) and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

- 2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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: Judith Plouviez

Date: 4 February 2008

Reference: /12 Tranmere Grove

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.

**CONSERVATION TEAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
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