

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

HALL FARM, LOUND LUD 036

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008
(Planning App. No. DC/07/1580)

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Linzi Everett
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

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Summary

Monitoring of ground works at Hall Farm, Lound, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. A written and photographic record of the historic farm buildings to be converted was made by Leigh Alston, concluding that the main brick building is an historically important example of an 18th - early 19th century Broadland barn with 16th - early 17th century origins.

No evidence for concentrated occupation or other activity was identified during the archaeological monitoring, either as artefactual evidence or incised features.

HER information

Planning application no. DC/07/1580
Date of fieldwork: 14th January 2008
Grid Reference: TM 5156 9902
Funding body: M. S. Oakes Ltd.
OASIS ID: 42982

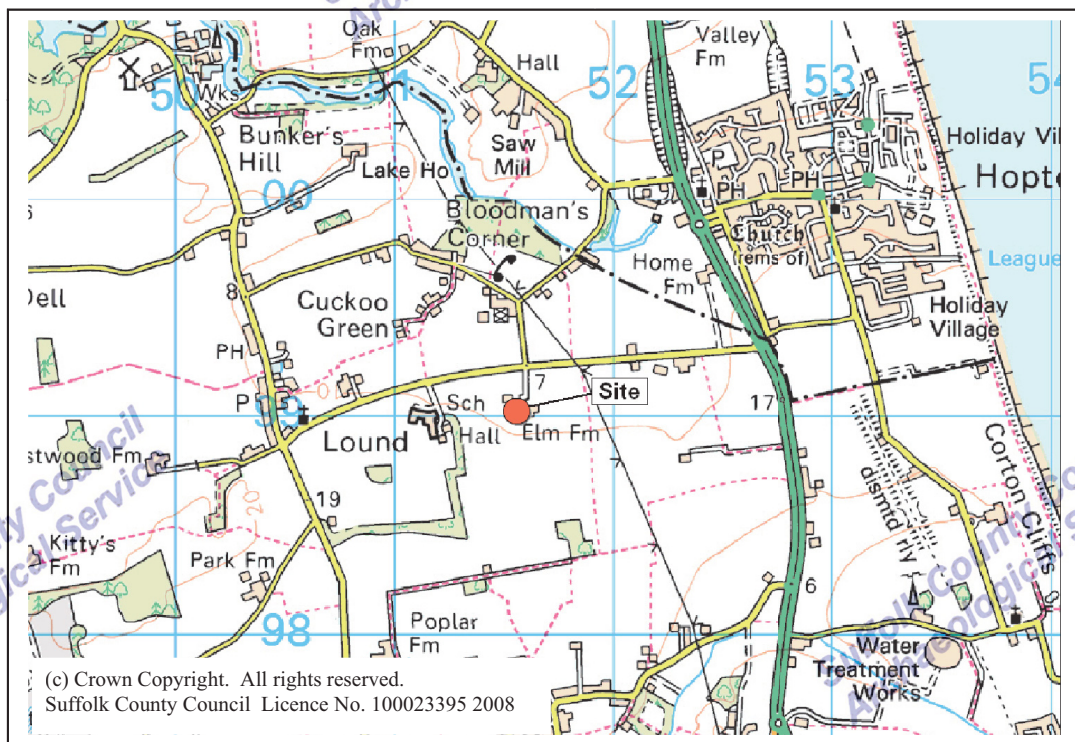


Figure 1. Site location

Introduction

Planning permission for the conversion and alteration of a group of historic farm buildings at Hall Farm, Lound, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 5156 9902 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 9m OD. The site lies close to known ring ditches (LUD 017, LUD 013) and in an area of multi-period rectilinear cropmarks (LUD 008, LUD 018). There is high potential for the presence of archaeological deposits within the development area. A record of the buildings to be converted was carried out by Leigh Alston in January 2008 and his report is provided as a stand-alone document. The results suggest that the main barn is of 16th or early 17th origin, with substantial later alterations.

Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various ground works. The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code LUD 036. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork took place on 14th January 2008 and was funded by M. S. Oakes Ltd. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

Results

Footings had been excavated inside the main barn to a depth of 300mm through concrete floor 150mm thick. The concrete had been laid directly onto the natural subsoil, a clean, orangey yellow natural sand into which no interventions were seen to cut.

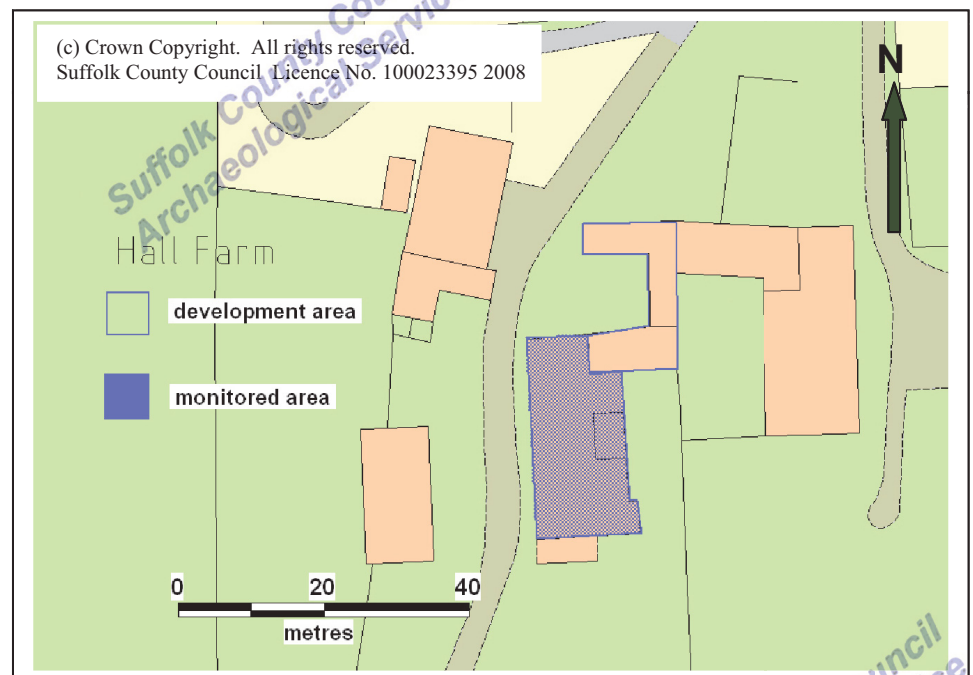


Figure 2. Location of ground works

Discussion

Despite the sites high potential for evidence of medieval and earlier activity, no archaeological deposits were observed. It is possible that scattered features exist here but were not disturbed by the ground works, although disturbance during various phases of extension, rebuilding and alteration of the farm buildings may have destroyed evidence of earlier activity.

Linzi Everett
Field Projects Team,
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
June 2008

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of Development

PLOTS 1 & 2 MAIN BARN SITE, HALL FARM, CHURCH LANE, LOUND, SUFFOLK, NR32 5LH

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 for the Conversion and alterations to main barn and outbuildings to form 1no. bungalow and 1no. house at Plots 1 & 2 Main Barn Site, Hall Farm, Church Lane, Lound, NR32 5LH (TM 5156 9902), has been granted by Waveney District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application DC/07/1580/FUL). The local planning authority have been advised that the building is important and will need to be recorded before development. In addition, areas of ground disturbance will be recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application concerns the conversion of a group of historic farm buildings. A recent policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (*Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*, 2006 – available at www.helm/org.uk) advises that recording of such structures before conversion works is desirable. The buildings will retain important archaeological information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use. Any groundworks associated with the conversion 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

- 2.1 Historic building and archaeological recording, as specified in Sections 3 and 4, is to be carried out prior to and during conversion.
- 2.2 The objective will be to compile a descriptive record (English Heritage Level 2) of the building complex before conversion takes place.
- 2.3 The excavation of building footing trenches, service trenches and replacement of internal floors, and also any topsoil stripping and levelling associated with the construction of parking, as well as any other works that might disturb below-ground archaeological remains, are to be observed during stripping and after they have been excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.4 The academic objective will be to provide a detailed understanding of the nature and development of each building, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building complex. There is also the potential to produce evidence for medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation of the site.

3. **Specification for Archaeological Recording**

The survey methodology will form part of the WSI and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

- 3.1 English Heritage Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the buildings. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed.
- 3.2 A block plan should be produced of the site, to locate each building in the courtyard group. The main components of the complex shall be numbered for reference in the report.
- 3.3 A historical document search (documentary, cartographic and pictorial) should be undertaken to situate the history of the farm building complex within the immediate local context.
- 3.4 The record will present conclusions regarding the location, form, date, development and use of each building within the group.

4. **Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation 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 In the case of footing and main service trenches unimpeded access 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. In the case of the topsoil stripping and levelling unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.7 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.

- 4.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.9 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

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 HER within six 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 HER Officer 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 HER may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.3 The project manager should consult the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (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 Two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT and a single copy to the Waveney District Council Conservation Officer for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 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 HER. 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 County HER. 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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Date: 30 November 2007 Reference: /Plots1&2MainBarnHallFarm-Lound2007

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.