ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

CHURCH FARM, WILBY
(HER ref. WBY 005)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS FOR TWO NEW EXTENSIONS
(Application No. 1374/08)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/060
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-51916)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of footings excavated for the construction of two new extensions to Church Farm, Wilby (NGR; TM 2422 7211), was undertaken during November 2008. The farmhouse is a 17th century timber framed structure and stands within a medieval moat. In both sets of footings the natural subsoil, which comprised pale orange clay, lay at a depth of c. 0.75m. A layer of charcoal ranging in thickness from 50mm to 100mm was present in all trenches, overlying the natural subsoil. This was sealed beneath a 0.5m thick deposit of grey clay with chalk flecks which lay under a 0.25m thick deposit of topsoil. No significant artefacts were recovered from the trenches or the resultant spoil. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the existing reference WBY 005. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mrs J. Reader.

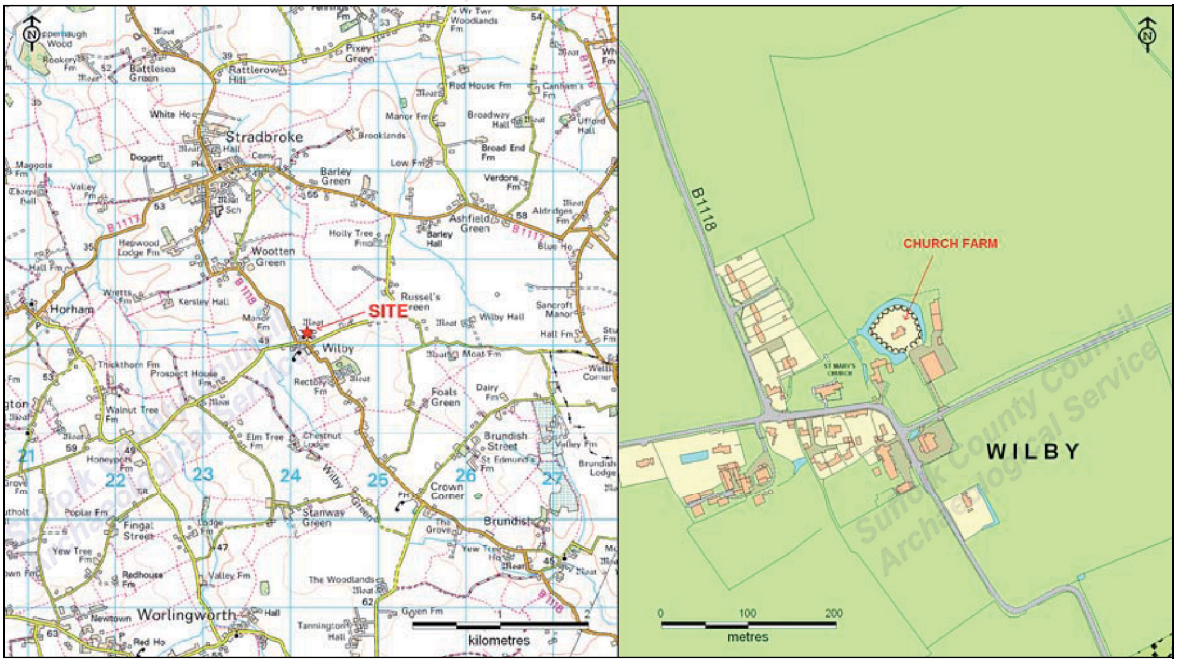

Figure 1: Location Plan

Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of footing trenches excavated for the construction of two new extensions to Church farm, Wilby, was undertaken in November 2008. Church Farm is a 17th century, timber framed building which stands within a medieval moat adjacent the medieval church of St Mary. Interest in the site is due to its location within the moat and its proximity to the church. The moat is recorded on the County's Historic Environment Record under the reference WBY 005.

Plate I: general view of the excavation of the breakfast room footings, view looking north

Two new extensions were proposed, a breakfast room at the building's eastern end and a utility room on the northern side adjacent an existing, late 19th century extension. The 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 (application No. 1374/08) 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 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 2422 7211 (for a location plan see figure 1) and the site lies at a height of approximately 56m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the existing reference WBY 005 and the monitoring archive will be held under that reference. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, under the reference; suffolkc1-51916. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mrs J. Reader.

Methodology

A site visit was made to inspect the excavated trenches during and after their excavation. Each footing 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 all spoil tips were examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

The site was visited on the 24th November 2008. Upon arrival the majority of the footings for the breakfast room had been completed and these were inspected. Following this the footings for the utility room were excavated under archaeological supervision and examined (see figure 2 for the location of these footings).

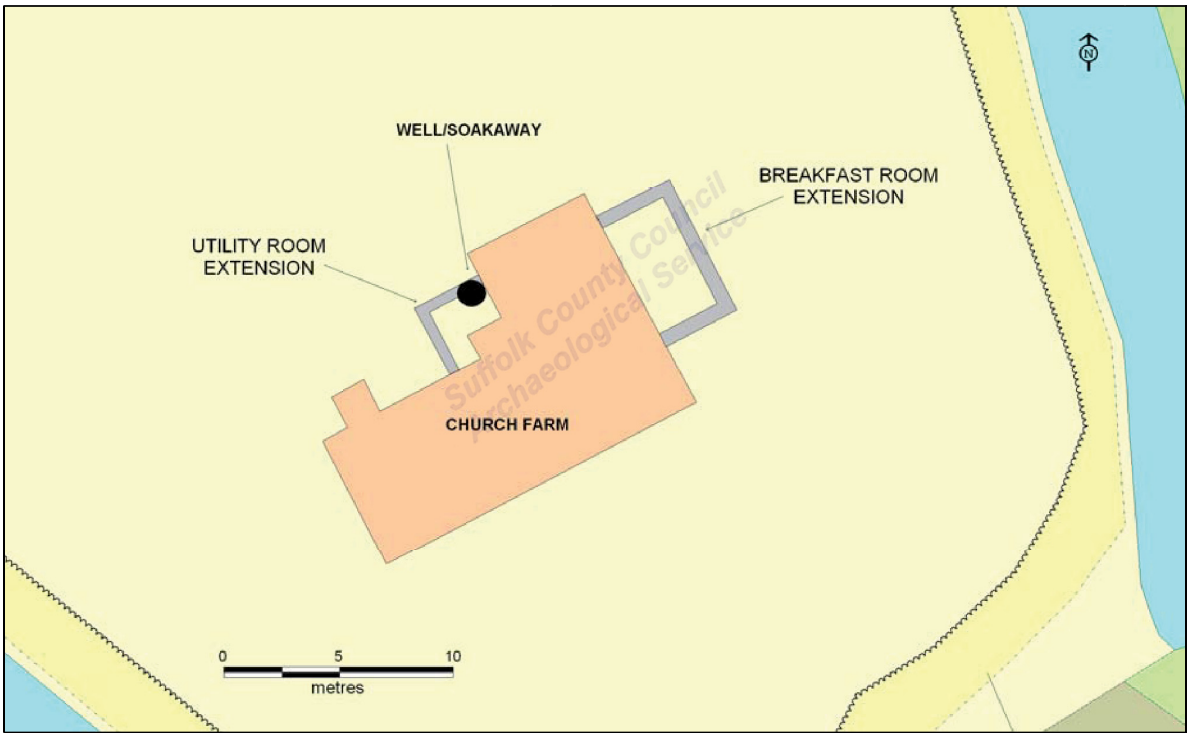

Figure 2: Monitoring Results

The exposed soil profile revealed in both sets of footing trenches comprised a layer of dark rich topsoil, approximately 0.25m thick, which immediately overlay a *c.* 0.5m thick deposit of grey clay with chalk flecks. This deposit sealed a layer of charcoal which ranged between 50mm and 100mm in thickness which in turn overlaid a pale orange clay (Plate III). This continued to the base of the footing trench, at 1.20m, and was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

In the northern corner of the breakfast room extension a *c.* 180mm thick layer of reddened and fired clay was combined with the charcoal layer. This could be traced along the footing trench for 1.8m to the southeast and 2m to the southwest, getting progressively thinner in both directions (see figure 3 and Plate II).

No artefacts were recovered from the trenches. The spoil from the footing trenches was stored nearby and this was examined for artefacts but no significant artefacts of any period were noted.

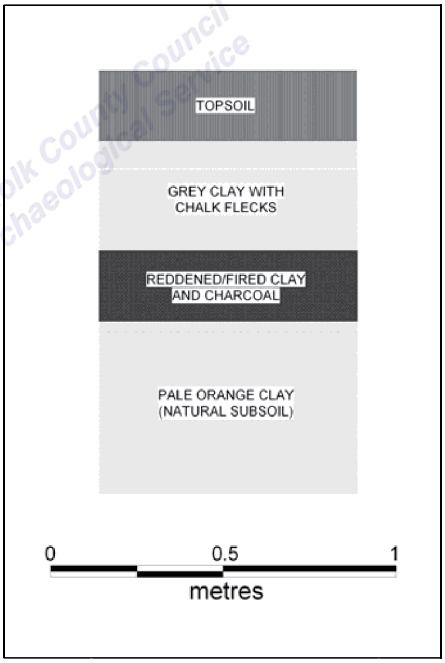

Figure 3: Soil profile as seen in northeastern corner of breakfast room footing


Plate II: northeastern corner of breakfast room footing, view looking northwest

In the northeastern end of the footing trench excavated for the utility room extension a brick lined circular shaft, approximately 1.5m in diameter and 4m deep, was uncovered beneath a concrete slab. It was constructed from soft red, frogless bricks, laid without mortar and was approximately half filled with water. A small access point covered with a stone slab was present on the northwest edge (Plate IV).


Plate III: Utility room footing showing charcoal layer


Plate IV: View of well/soakaway

Conclusion

No significant features or artefacts were noted during the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the footing trenches although two interesting deposits were recorded. The upper layer of grey clay immediately beneath the topsoil is undoubtedly redeposited material. It is highly probable that it is the resultant spoil from the excavation of the moat that has been spread over the area enclosed by the moat. This would raise the level of the moat 'island' to make a more impressive monument and to reduce any possible threat from flooding. It was noted during the monitoring visit that the area within the moat is noticeably higher than the surrounding land outside of the moat. The redeposited material is clean with no obvious layering and did not yield any artefacts suggesting the excavation of the moat and the spreading of the spoil was undertaken as a single, relatively swift act with no topsoil or debris layers being given time to accumulate.

Assuming the above premise to be correct the layer of charcoal and fired/reddened clay noted overlying the natural subsoil relates to activities on the original land surface prior to the excavation of the moat. No artefacts were recovered from this layer to suggest the charcoal is from the destruction of an earlier building. The presence of large amounts of burnt/fire-reddened clay, with the tapering off of the layer indicating it was in a low heap when buried beneath the moat spoil, could be a result of a deliberate industrial process. It could be related to construction work at the nearby church, such as the burning of chalk to create lime, although another possible explanation is that it relates to something as simple as the clearance of vegetation and trees prior to creation of the moat.

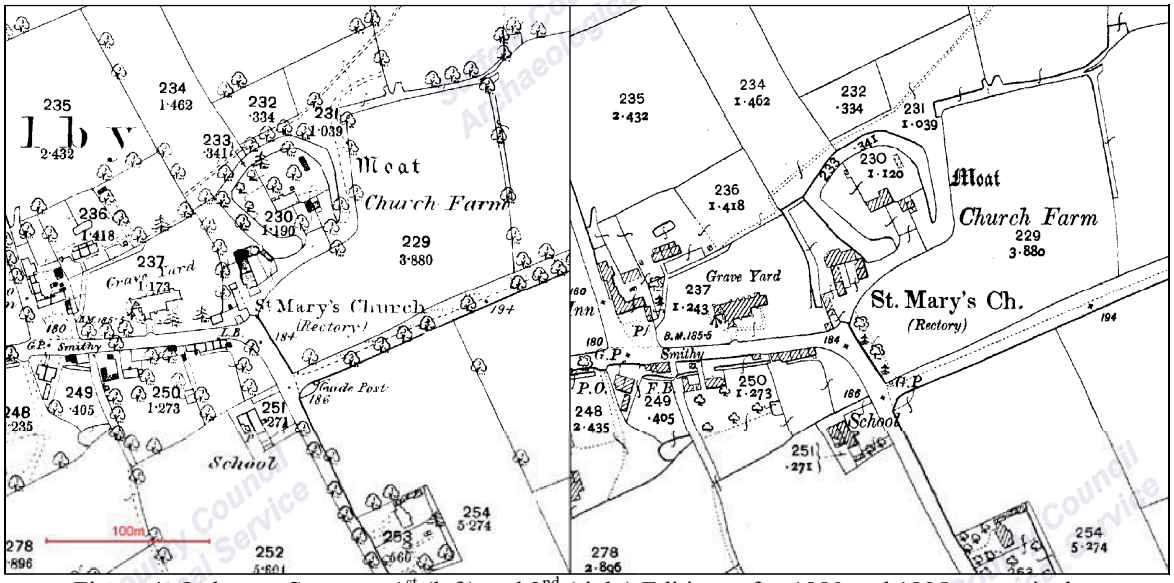

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey - 1st (left) and 2nd (right) Editions of *c.* 1880 and 1895 respectively

The brick lined shaft located in the utility room footing is possibly a well for drawing fresh water or a soakaway dealing with drainage from the present house. The bricks appear to be of a 19th century origin but the concrete capping appeared to be much later. No well or pump is marked in this location on late 19th maps of the site (Figure 4), which could suggest the feature is in fact a soakaway. It was noted that down pipes from the roof drained into this feature.

APPENDIX

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

CHURCH FARM, CHURCH ROAD, WILBY, SUFFOLK

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 erection of single storey side extensions to include porch, breakfast room, utility room and conservatory, and also for the erection of a detached garage and associated access at Church Farm, Church Road, Wilby (TM 242 721), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (1374/08).

1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).

1.3 The application lies in an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record, within the internal area of a medieval moated enclosure (WBY 005). There is high potential for medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.4 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 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.

1.5 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liase with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.6 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.

1.7 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and

its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.9 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new extensions, detached garage and associated access. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

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.

3.2 The developer or his contracted 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 this 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 SCCAS/CT 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 scale of 1:20 of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data

to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.

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 Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record 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*.

5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also 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.

5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.

5.7 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).

5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

5.9 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.10 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.

5.11 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 Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.12 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.

5.13 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. 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: 23 October 2008

Reference: /ChurchFarm-Wilby2008

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.