

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/024

**Windy Hall, Church Lane, Hepworth
HEP 026**

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/08/0563
Date of Fieldwork: 15th January and 23rd April 2009
Grid Reference: TL 9867 7484
Funding Body: Mr P Betts
Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mo Muldowney
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1_58622

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Summary

An archaeological monitoring carried out at Windy Hall, Church Lane, Hepworth identified the presence of a pit of probable medieval origin continuing in use into the early post-medieval period. A small body sherd of a glass vessel recovered from the latest fills of the pit dated to between the 16th and 18th centuries. Additionally, the monitoring identified a large, gravel and sand-filled possible pit, located partly beneath the north-east corner of Windy Hall itself.

1. Introduction and methodology

Two stages of monitoring were carried out at Windy Hall, Hepworth (Fig. 1) prior to a proposed extension to the rear, front and east side of the property (SE/08/0563). The work was carried out on 15th January and 23rd April 2009 and was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) and a Method Statement produced by Stuart Boulter (SCCAS Field Team).

Monitoring of the rear and side extension footings took place after the areas had been excavated and/or stripped. A small area in the south-east corner of the latter footing underwent additional stripping to obtain a good, clean exposed surface and to establish the density of any archaeological remains. The front extension and porch footings were monitored during excavation.

A drawn record of the exposed deposits was created at a scale of 1:20 and all records were written on SCCAS *pro forma* sheets. A plan of the footings was produced using a combination of on-site measurements and technical plans provided by the clients' architects. A colour photographic record was taken using a high-resolution digital camera.

Finds in the topsoil and subsoil were noted and a single sherd of glass was retained for identification and dating purposes.

No metal-detecting was undertaken and no environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. HEP 026 and a digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 1. Site location (marked by red star)

2. Results

Monitoring identified the remains of a pit of probable medieval origin and a large possible pit of recent origin.

The pit was located at the east edge of the area stripped for the side extension to the property (Fig. 2) and contained three visible fills (Table 1). No lining was observed. It lay partially beyond the east edge of excavation and was 2.2m long by 1.7+m wide. A single sherd of glassware was recovered from the rubble upper fill (0006). The feature was not excavated.

Footings excavated for the rear and front extensions to the property did not contain any features of archaeological significance but revealed a clear sequence of topsoil (0002), subsoil (0003) overlying natural sands and gravels (0004). This sequence is disturbed in the front extension footings by a large gravel-and-sand-filled possible pit (0009) that directly underlay the north-east corner of the existing building. Due to the manner in which the footings were excavated, it was not possible to define the extent of this pit but it was at least 1.14m deep (the depth of the footings trench) (Fig. 2). No finds were recovered.

Context	Description	Depth (m)
0001	Unstratified finds	-
0002	Dark orange brown sandy silt; friable; rare charcoal flecks; small angular flints. Topsoil	0.34
0003	Mid orange brown sandy silt; friable; rare charcoal flecks; Post-med tile fragment x1. Subsoil	0.35
0004	Light yellowish orange sands and gravels; loose; whole and broken medium flint nodules and moderate pea grit. Natural	0.66+
0005	Mid greenish brown silty clay; friable; occasional charcoal flecks; occasional small, sub-rounded chalk. Cess-rich	-
0006	Building rubble (brick, tile etc.), mixed with light greyish white chalk	-
0007	Dark grey silty clay; occasional CBM fragments; common coal flecks	-
0008	Cut of pit. 2.2m long by 1.7m+ wide. Sub-circular	-
0009	Sand and gravel-filled pit, extent not definable in footings trench	-

Table 1. Context summary



(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 2. Trench plan

3. Conclusion

The monitoring has identified a potential medieval pit located on the east side of Windy Hall, itself a building of medieval origin. Although no finds were recovered from the earliest fill, 0005, its distinctive colour and high cess content is very similar to medieval cess pit fills observed by the author during previous archaeological interventions. The single fragment of 16th to 18th century glass (*pers comm* Richenda Goffin) from the upper fill of the pit indicates an approximate date for its final years of use and may coincide with the previous extension to the building.

The large possible pit sited partly beneath Windy Hall was undated but is likely to be no later than the early post-medieval period, the point at which the house was extended northwards.

No Roman features were identified despite a previous find of a late 3rd century coin (HEP 008) within 100m of Windy Hall.

Mo Muldowney
April 2009

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

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

WINDY HALL, CHURCH LANE, HEPWORTH, 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 extensions, including double car port, at Windy Hall, Church Lane, Hepworth (TM 9867 7484), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/08/0563).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application lies within an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Historic Environment Record, within a historic settlement core and close to the medieval church (HEP 015). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the 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 liaise 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

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

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 (principally foundation trenches, and any ground reduction) associated with the new extensions. 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.

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 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

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

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 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).

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel. : 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 20 August 2008

Reference: /WindyHall-Hepworth2008

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.