

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/143

The Hall, Hawks Lane, Brockley BKY 023

D.Gill
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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/09/0170

Date of Fieldwork: June 2009

Grid Reference: TL 826 555

Funding Body: Gavin Fisher

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: David Gill

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-62422

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

The excavation of the footings for a replacement garage at The Hall, Hawks Lane, Brockley were continuously monitored. The Hall dates to the turn of the 14th century and lies within a double-moated enclosure; it is a Grade I listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The monitoring recorded a large ditch which ran adjacent to the hall and formerly sub-divided the moat platform. The ditch was infilled in the 16th century. This is broadly contemporary with the remodelling of the hall and the ditch may have been infilled to accommodate the addition of a cross-wing. A pit which produced pottery with a date range of 13th-15th century was also found.

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1. Introduction

The excavation of the footings for a replacement garage at The Hall, Hawks Lane, Brockley was continuously monitored. The garage is situated alongside the Hall within a moated enclosure. The Hall is Grade I listed LBS no. 403982 and the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM 33286.

The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/09/0170 and as a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent. The work was funded by the owner, Mr. Fisher.

The principle works likely to impact on archaeological levels were the excavations for strip footings and the ground reduction to lay the garage floor.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at TL 826 555 on a north facing slope just above Chad Brook (Fig. 1). The site drops over the width of the enclosure from 95mOD to 90m on the valley floor (Fig. 2). The Hall itself is built on a level platform terraced into the slope and behind (south of) the hall there appear to be further platforms at the corners of the enclosure with a hollow area, in which is located a well, lying between them (Fig 6).

The surface geology is deep, slowly permeable calcareous clay over chalk till.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The Hall at Brockley is a medieval manor house situated within a moated enclosure (BKY004) and is part of a double moat complex which also includes the 13th century church of St Andrews (BKY 008) and a smaller secondary square enclosure (BKY005). The main enclosure is rectangular and large, just over 0.5 hectares (1.2 acres) and this is often (as it is in this case) an indicator of manorial status (Martin 1989). A further separate moat (BKY 003) is situated 300m to the west of the Hall.

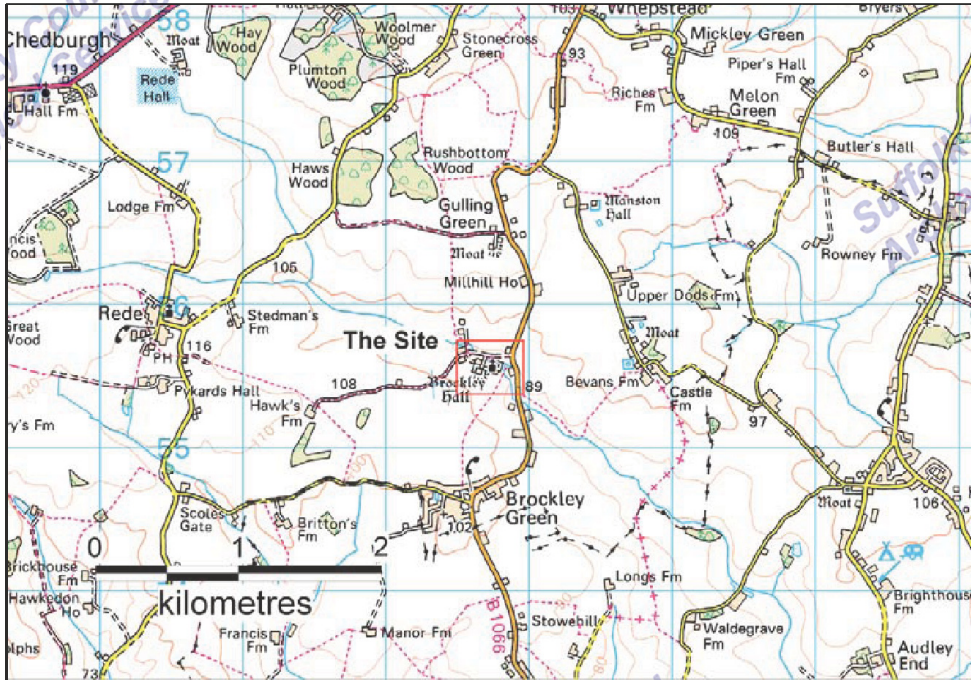
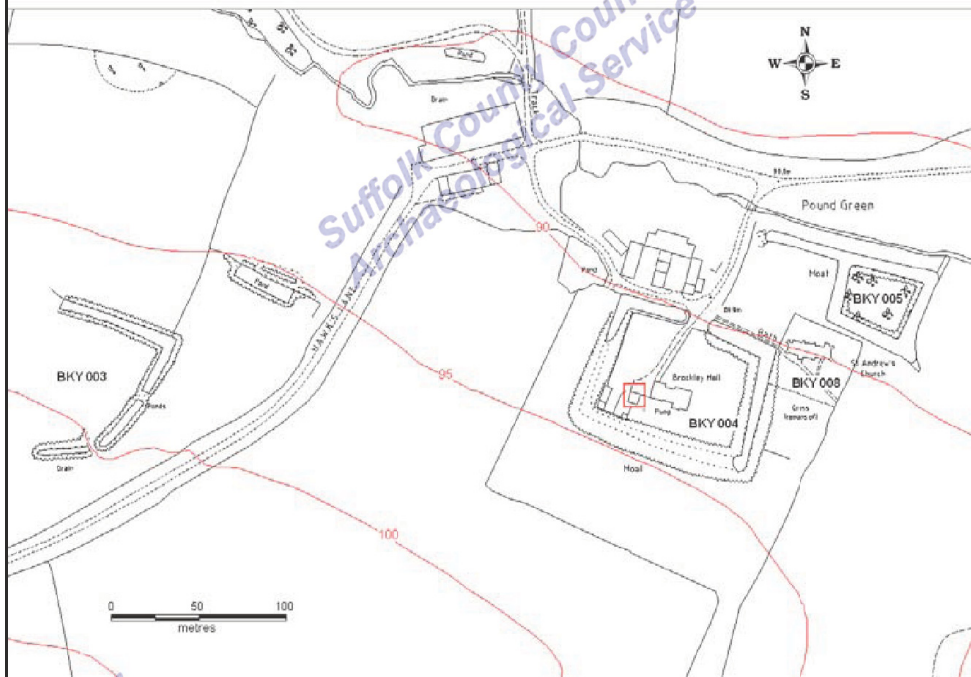


Figure 1. Site location plan



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Figure 2. Site plan showing moat complex and site contours.
Development area shown highlighted by a red square

The listing describes The Hall as a 14th century aisled hall house with contemporary cross-wing which was possibly built for Alexander de Walsham, who held the manor of Brockley from 1303 to c.1338. The listing notes that the quality of the original carpentry is unusually high and that the building merits Grade 1 listing grade I, as a rare and relatively complete example of an aisled manor. The

building was altered during the 16th century when a chimney and first floor were added to the hall, and at around 1700, a service cell at the west end of the building was replaced by the current cross-wing.

The development area is within an area of High Archaeological Importance as recorded on the County's Historic Environment Record and is described as nationally important.

The proposed garage is a replacement, and is to be built on the site of an existing garage. The Hall is at the centre of a working farm and the development area was formerly the site of farm outbuildings.

4. Methodology

All of the excavation was observed by the monitoring archaeologist. Spoil from the excavation of the archaeological features was temporarily stockpiled and systematically sorted for finds, with the lower fills being hand excavated. The side of the trench were cleaned and photographed. Sections were drawn at 1:20 and plans at 1:50 and a sketch plan drawn of the site contours.

All pre-modern finds were retained for analysis by in-house finds specialists. The finds and site records have been catalogued and archived in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds and the Historic Environment Record under the parish code BKY 023 and lodged with the OASIS on-line database (suffolkc1-62422).

5. Results

With the monitoring archaeologist in attendance the footprint of the garage was reduced by c.200mm to formation level by a tracked machine fitted with a wide toothless bucket. Over most of the site this was still within the thickness of a rubble layer which had formed the sub-base of the previous garage. The rubble was made up of building flint and 18th-19th century brick, part of a former outbuilding/stable that had previously occupied the site (Mr Fisher, landowner pers comm.). Part of the outbuilding range still survives as a row of small sheds on the west side of the enclosure and a ruined wall on the edge of the south moat ditch.

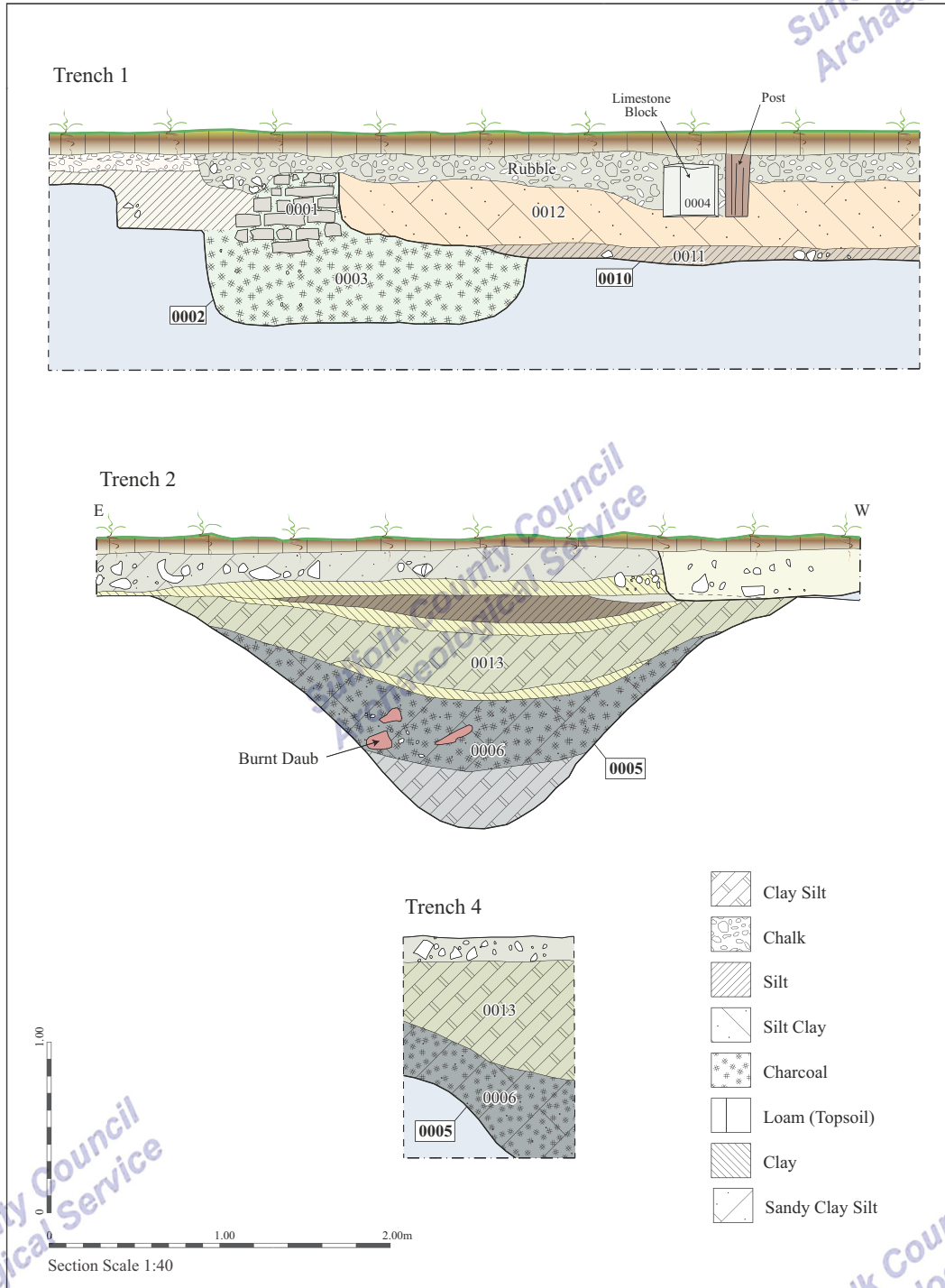


Figure 3. Sections

Beyond the limits of the rubble almost the entire ground surface was disturbed with the intact subsoil surface being seen only in a small area in the south east corner of the development. Most of the surface disturbance was related to the building that had previously occupied the site which dated to 19th century.

The garage was an open fronted design and required footings only on three sides, the trench was 500mm wide and excavated to a depth of 1m.

Trench 1

The west footing was cut through the below ground remains of the former outbuildings. The top of the section (Fig. 3) shows a floor surface of crushed chalk and part of a brick structure, possibly a lined tank, 0001. To the north of this was the terminus of an east-west wall, 0004 which was finished with a large block of dressed Barnack limestone. Wall 0004 and the brick structure cut an earlier wide flat-bottomed cut feature, 0010, which was infilled with a thick deposit of clay, 0012 over a basal layer of black silt, 0011. The silt layer produced brick and bottle glass dating to the mid-late 18th century and preserved organic material including fragments of wood and a pierced leather strap or belt. Cut 0010 was sealed beneath a layer of late building rubble and could not be seen at the level of the reduced soil strip.

A large steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit, 0002, was recorded at mid-trench (Fig 3 and 4). This pre-dated and was truncated by building remains 0001 and feature 0010. The pit was filled with a close-textured dark grey-green silt, ash, charcoal and cess, 0003. The fill was moist, and the base of the trench in standing water. Fragments of wood were well preserved within the fill but all the examples recovered were fragments of un-worked round wood branches. The pit produced a low density of domestic finds including pottery, food waste in the form of animal bone and oyster shell, and peg tiles. The pottery included medieval and late medieval coarsewares and the feature was dated to the 14th-15th century.

Trench 2

The southern run of the footings cut across the course of a large ditch, 0005 (Fig 3 and 4). The ditch was 3.8m wide and 1.7m deep and ran north-south. Although the fills were similar it could be distinguished as a separate feature from pit 0003 by

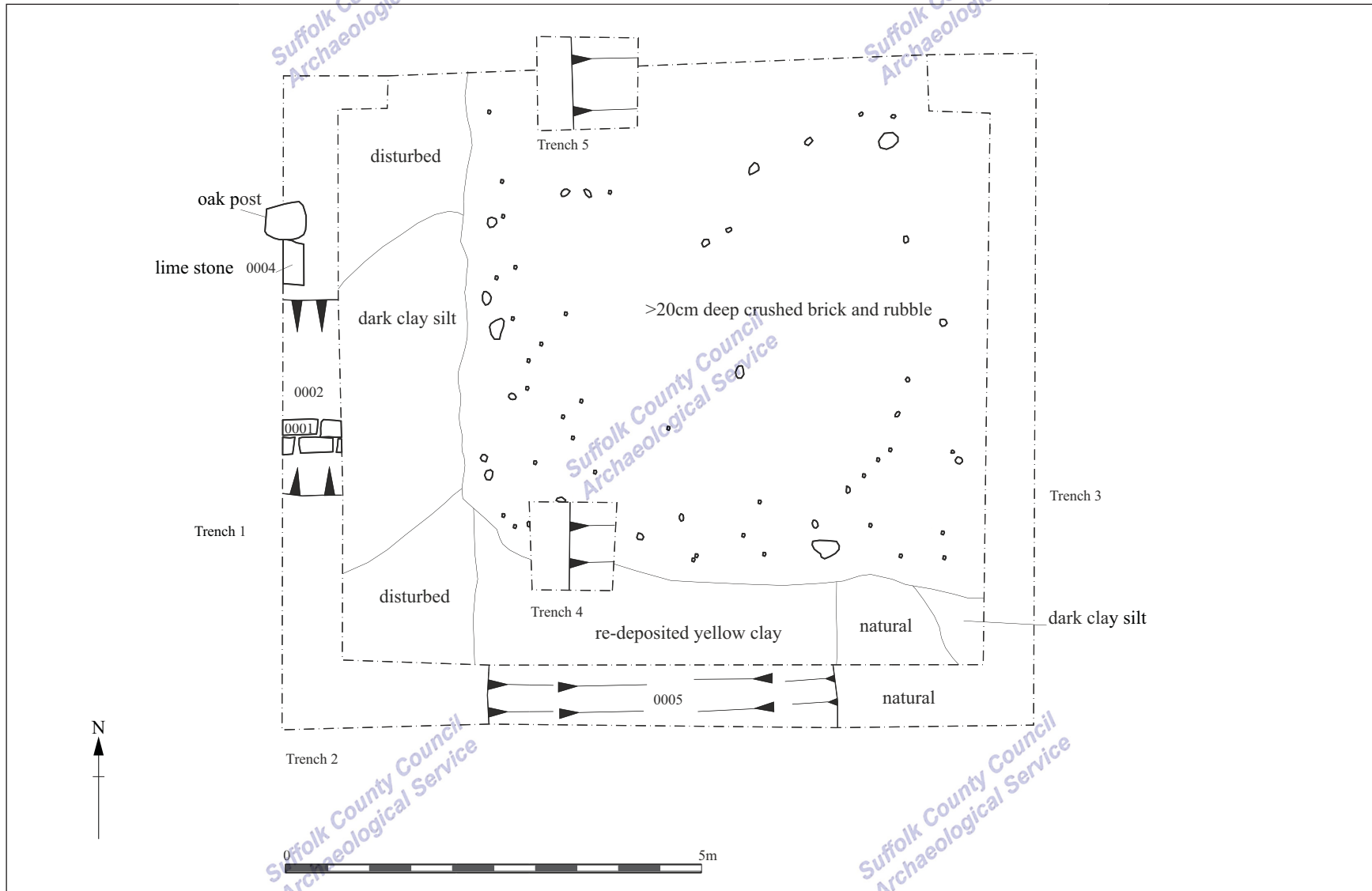


Figure 4. Site plan

the profile of the cut. The main and bottom fill of the ditch was made up black organic fine silt or mud, 0006, over grey clay silt. The dark silt contained occupation debris material but only a single sherd of pottery dating to the 15th-16th century was found. The fill included frequent charcoal, with fired clay and daub. This material was concentrated on the east (hall) side of the ditch suggesting that the material had been tipped into the ditch from this side.

Overlying the silt layers were banded layers of clean yellow and mixed muddy clays, 0013. The nature of the clay suggested that this was re-deposited natural and contained no finds or occupation material. The clay sealed the ditch and was built up over the course of at least four deposition events. The line of the ditch was observed again in the footings (Figs 3 and 4; Trench 4 and 5) for the two internal pillar supports which confirmed the ditch's course.

The course of the ditch could be seen crossing the platform and sub-dividing the enclosure as a slight topographical feature and could be most clearly seen as a dip in the hedge line on the edge of the north moat ditch (Fig. 5).

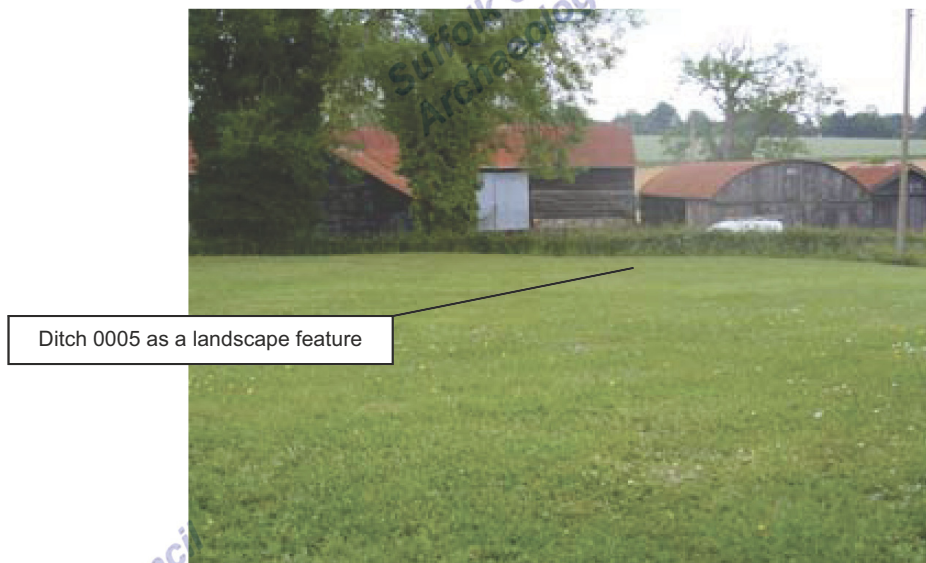


Figure 5. Course of the ditch visible in the hedge line

Trench 3

The depth of the sub-base of the former garage was 200mm below the reduced strip and the potential archaeological level within the east trench was truncated and there were no features deeper than this in this length of footing.

6. Finds Evidence

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0003	3	26			1 frag lavastone @ 229g	14th-15th C
0005	1	19	1	91	1 frag animal bone @ 5g	15th-16th C
Total	4	45	1	91		

Table 1 Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 4 fragments was recovered (0.045kg). A single sherd of an abraded medieval coarseware jar was present in pitfill 0003. It has a thickened everted rim of a type which dates to the 12th-13th century. It was accompanied by a single fragment of unglazed coarseware which is later (14th-15th C). A third sherd is of a similar date. It has lost both outer surfaces, but is made in a hard fine fabric with occasional rounded quartz and sparse calcareous material, and has a reduced core with oxidised external margins.

A large fragment of a wheel thrown medieval greyware was the only pottery found in ditch fill 0005.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of plain glazed floor tile was recovered from 0005. It is made in a red fired, medium sandy coarse fabric with moderate calcareous inclusions up to 4mm in length and occasional red grog and sparse flint which varies in size up to 12mm in length. The remains of a white slip is visible on the surface, which is very worn. Height: 37mm. Probably English, late medieval/early post medieval.

Miscellaneous

The remains of a grinding stone made in Rhenish lavastone was recovered from 0003. It has few diagnostic features but one of the faces is roughly dressed and the opposite face is worn through grinding. The height of the stone is 14mm. It may be part of a millstone rather than a hand-turned domestic rotary quern, but cannot be closely dated.

Animal bone

A small fragment of an animal bone rib was collected from 0005.

7. Discussion

The main 'house' moat at Brockley Hall encloses 1.2 acres, a large area commensurate with its manorial status. The Hall sits centrally within the enclosure in an elevated position facing the entrance and the barns (albeit the current barns are not original) are sited off the main moat within what appears to have been a separate moated enclosure; this arrangement is typical of a moated manor house of 13th-14th century (Martin 1989). The results of the monitoring however suggest the moat as we perceive it today is the result of a remodelling in the 16th century and that that the main enclosure was either smaller or, more likely, once subdivided by a secondary ditch. This ran north south and partitioned off about $\frac{1}{6}$ of the moat platform. This suggests that the hall may have once shared the platform with ancillary service buildings and was part of a less symmetrical layout.

The ditch was c.4m wide and similar in proportions to those which form the main moat. The ditch was deliberately infilled, rather than silting up, and the top of the ditch was plugged with a thick deposit of clean clay. This material appears to have been specifically excavated and brought to site to fill the ditch and was archaeologically sterile. The clay was probably to seal the ditch and prevent it slumping, but this was only partly successful as the section shows that additional clay was added periodically as the lower fills settled and compacted. The finds suggest that the ditch was infilled during the 15th or 16th centuries; this is broadly contemporary with the addition of the later west cross-wing to the hall and suggests that the two events are related. In the listing description the author postulates that the later cross-wing replaced an original service range, and the fill of the ditch which included daub and other building remains is consistent with the demolition of a building on the site.

The topography within the moat suggests that the hall was constructed on a level platform terraced into the natural slope. The area in front of the hall appears to follow the natural contours but to the rear of the hall the ground level has been

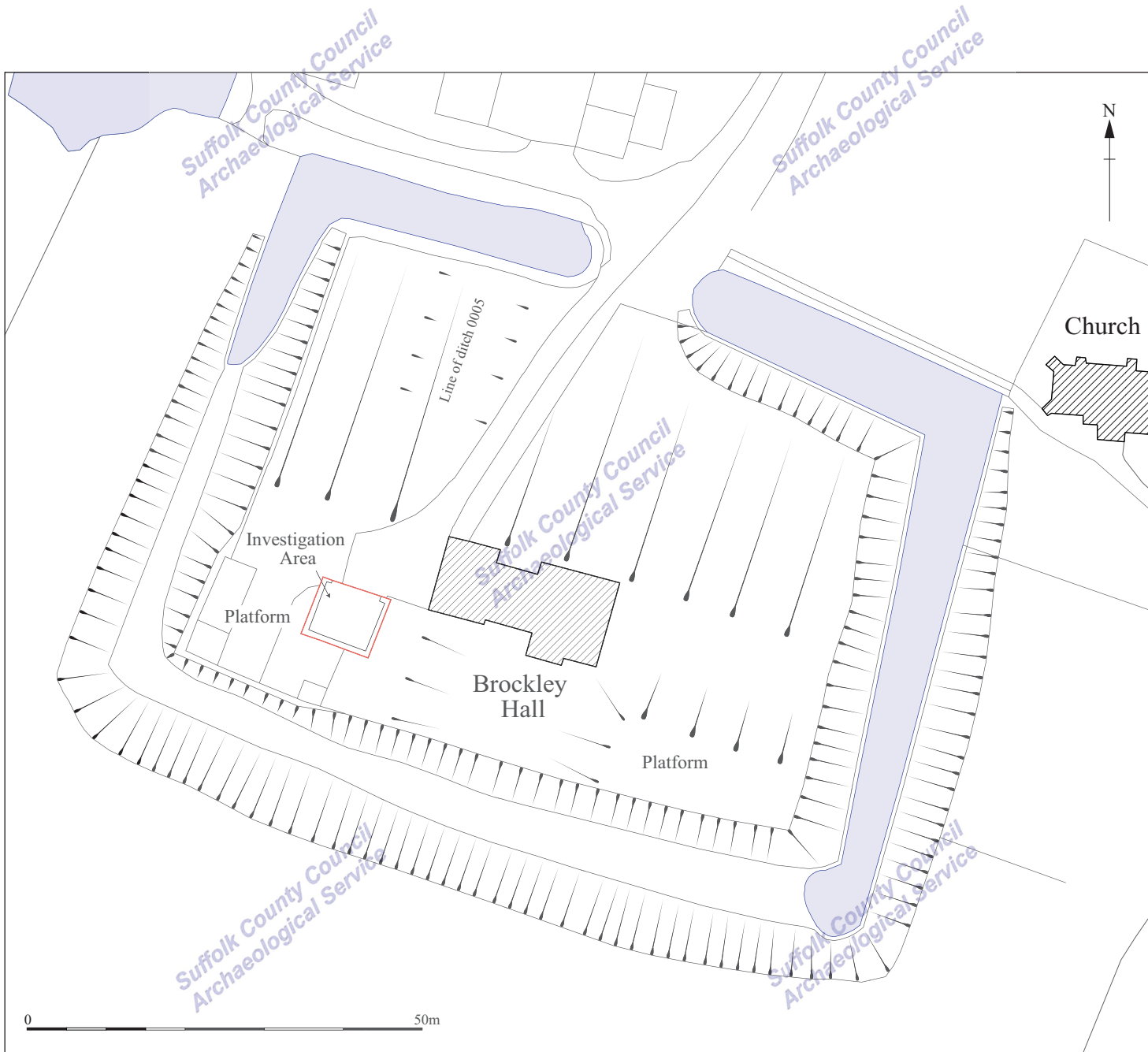


Figure 6. Topography of moat platform

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Archive store

Digital archive T:\ar\archive fieldprojects\brockley\BKY023 Brockley Hall

9. Bibliography

Martin, E., 1989 'Medieval Moats' in *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk*, Dymond D. and Martin M. Suffolk County Council



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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

THE HALL, HAWKS LANE, BROCKLEY, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK (SE/09/0170)

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 a new garage (following demolition of existing garage) at The Hall, Hawks Lane, Brockley, IP29 4AQ (TL 826 555), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/09/0170).
- 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 This proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the internal area of a medieval moated enclosure (HER no. BKY 004). This is a nationally important archaeological site that is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 33286). There is a strong possibility that medieval occupation deposits will be encountered at this location. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have 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 (9-10 The Churchyard, 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 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. In this case, the scheduling of a monument means that permission - 'Scheduled Monument Consent' (SMC) - is required for works affecting that monument from the Secretary of State, in consultation with English Heritage, regardless of whether or not planning permission is needed or has been obtained.
- 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 garage (including demolition of the existing garage) and other associated ground works that are associated with the current planning permission. 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 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 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 both SCCAS/CT and English Heritage (John Ette) 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 and English Heritage. 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).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 6 April 2009

Reference: /TheHall_Brockley2009

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.