

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/103

**Grounds of the Uplands Hotel, Victoria Road,
Aldeburgh
ADB 149**

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/06/1524/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 5th & 17th April 2009
Grid Reference: TM 4624 5608
Funding Body: Mr. J. Clark
Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Linzi Everett
OASIS ID: suffolkc1-65167

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at The Uplands Hotel, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh, in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. Pottery of late medieval and post-medieval date was recovered from the upcast spoil, along with a lump of ceramic building material which is characteristic of medieval daub.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for a new building to the rear of the Uplands Hotel, Aldeburgh, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 4624 5608 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 13m OD. The development area is situated close to the medieval church (ADB 018) within Aldeburgh's historic settlement core and an area of archaeological importance defined in the County Historic Environment Record.

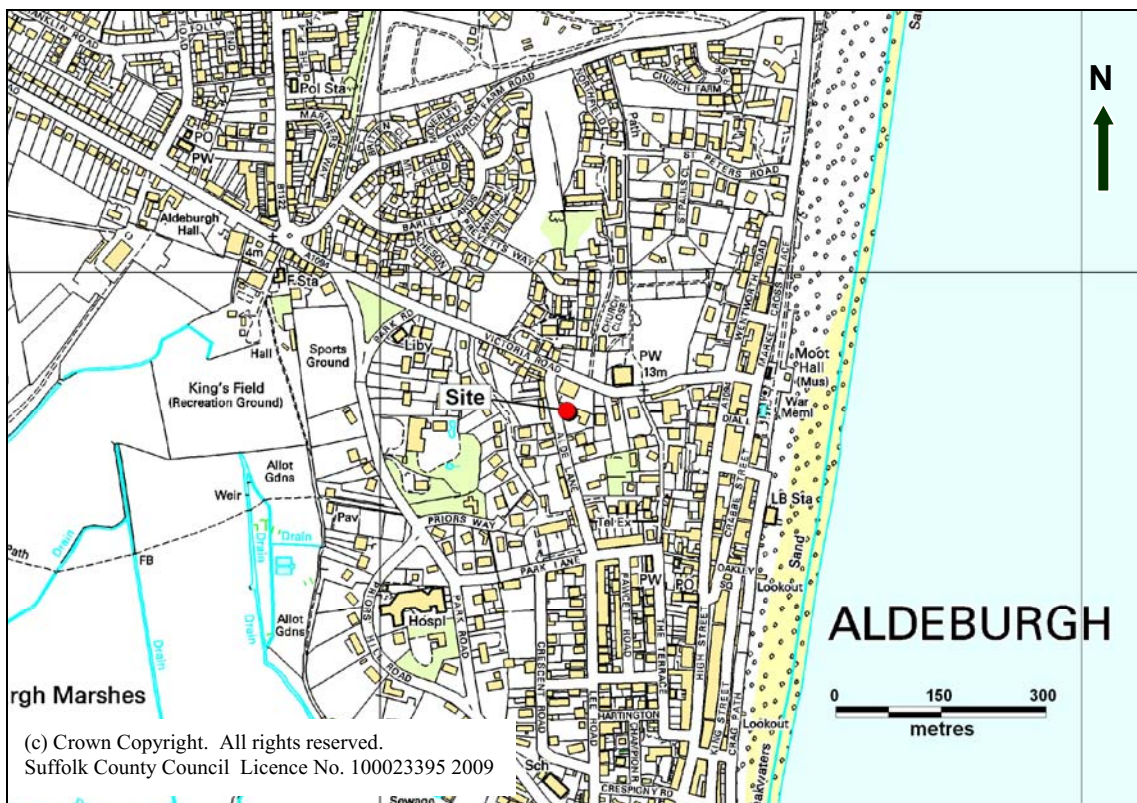


Figure 1. Site location

Monitoring of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, based on a Brief and Specification by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS

Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork took place in April 2009 and was funded by Mr. J. Clark.

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various groundworks. The site was recorded under the HER code ADB 149.

The monitoring archive is held in the county HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

2. Results

Footings excavated for a new dwelling in the grounds of the Uplands Hotel, Aldeburgh, were inspected for evidence of archaeological activity. The trenches measured c.800mm deep and c.0.5m wide, excavated through 150mm dark brown sandy loam topsoil, 450mm mid brown sand subsoil and subsequently into the natural subsoil which comprised a clean orange sand. Late medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, including a semi-complete vessel, were recovered from the spoil but no incised features observed within the monitored sections.



Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks



Plate 1. Northern footing trench, looking east

3. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single unstratified context, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001	4	824	1	30	1	63	Post-medieval
Total	4	824	1	30	1	63	

Pottery

Four different redwares vessels were recovered as unstratified finds from the footings of the new building. The substantial remains of a shallow unglazed red earthenware dish was collected which dates to the post-medieval period, c.18th-20th century. A smaller fragment of another base with small splashes of internal lead glaze may be slightly earlier but is still post-medieval. The rim of a glazed redware jar which is abraded with worn surfaces dates to 16th-18th century, whilst a further redware fragment has a slightly grey brown fabric core and a slightly sagging base, suggesting that it is more transitional in date, probably c.15th-16th century.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment of fully oxidised pegtile made in a sandy post-medieval fabric was also collected.

Fired clay

A large fragment of fired clay was identified. It is made in a pale orange to buff dense fine fabric containing frequent linear impressions of organic inclusions, and circular voids, together with moderate chalk (up to 8mm in length). No structural impressions are visible to indicate how this material was used, but it may be part of walling infill or perhaps be from the lining of a hearth. Such clay objects cannot be intrinsically dated, but often the mixture of organic and chalk inclusions is found with medieval daub.

4. Discussion

Despite the sites location within the historic settlement core where evidence of domestic activity might be expected, no incised features were observed. This suggests that the development area was not subject to intensive activity, but it is possible for isolated features not to have been disturbed by the footings. The finds from the monitoring, recovered from the spoil and therefore unstratified, are mostly post-medieval in date, although a fragment of fired clay may be earlier.

Linzi Everett

October 2009

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

GROUNDS OF, UPLANDS HOTEL, VICTORIA ROAD, ALDEBURGH

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 to erect a dwelling at Grounds of, Uplands Hotel, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5DX (TM 4624 5608), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C06/1524/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application lies south-west of the medieval church and churchyard (ADB 018), in an area likely to be historic settlement core. There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works 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. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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 in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

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 main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and service trenches for the dwelling and any associated topsoil stripping and levelling. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

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 the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.

- 3.2 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, 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 paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 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.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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. 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 minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.4 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.7 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments 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 Sites and Monuments Record within 3 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 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. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

- 5.3 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).
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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: 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: 19 January 2007

Reference: /Uplands-Aldeburgh2007

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.