

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/002

The Chantry, Rougham
RGH 060

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/08/1646

Date of Fieldwork: 25th November to 8th December 2009

Grid Reference: TL 907 617

Funding Body: Mr. J. Harrison

Curatorial Officer: Will Fletcher

Project Officer: Liz Muldowney

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-70134

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

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at The Chantry, Rougham between the 24th November and 8th December 2009. Foundation trenches for a pavilion and an extension to the main house were monitored. No archaeological features were encountered. Modern service trenches and a modern brick-lined soakaway were noted.

1. Introduction and methodology

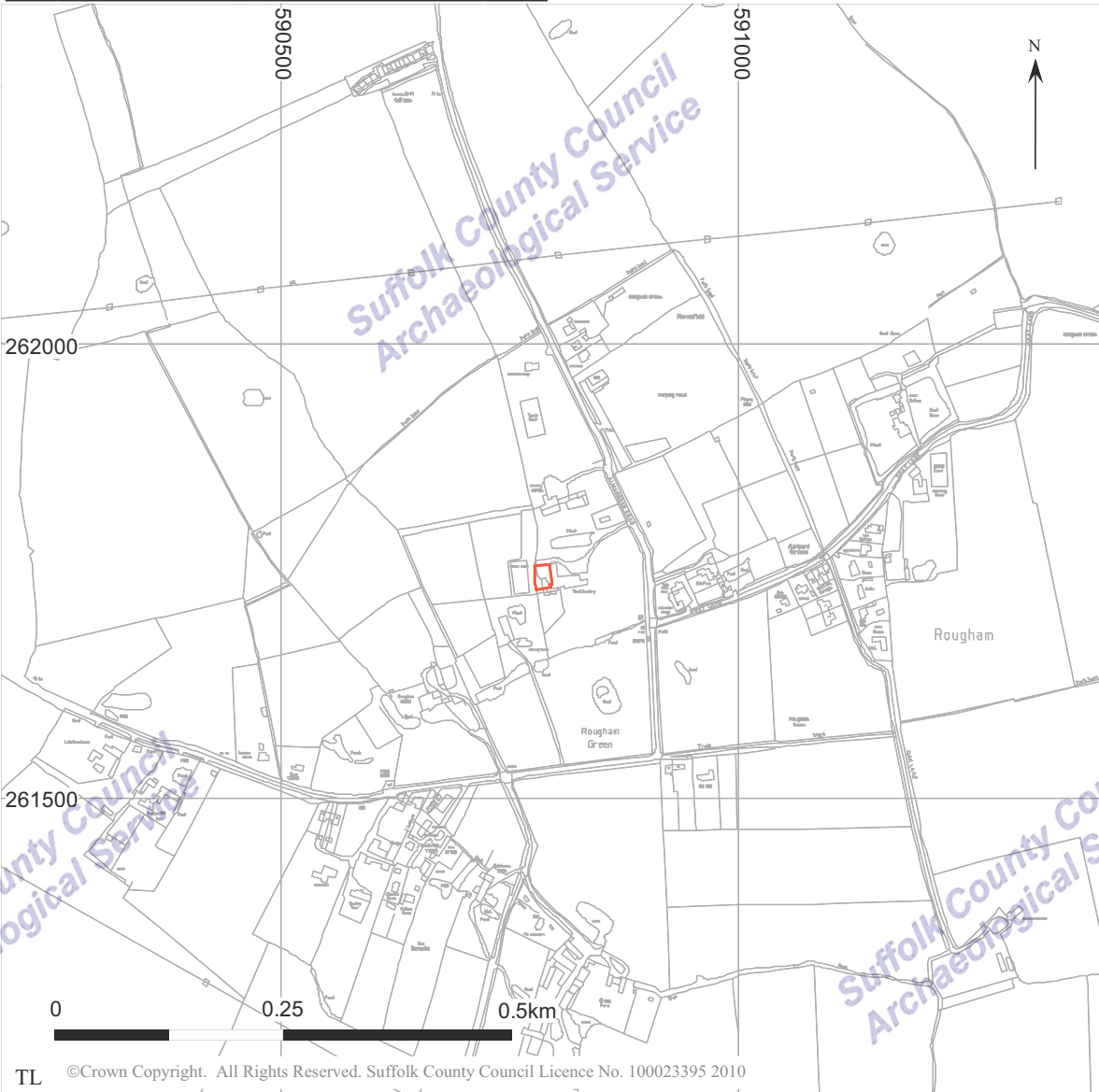
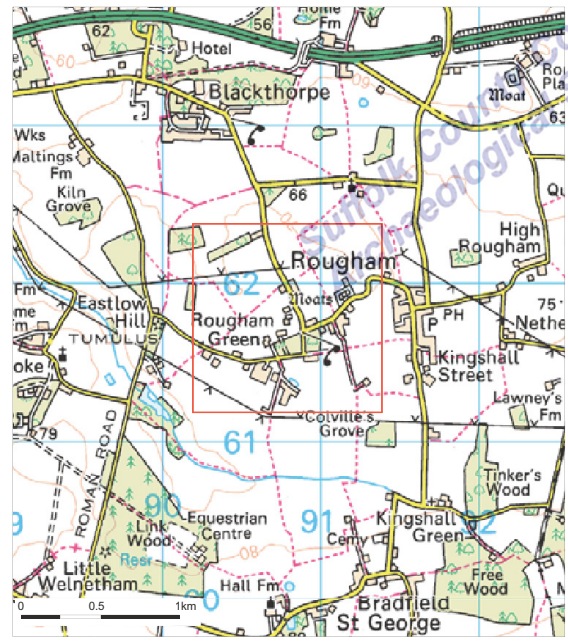
Monitoring of foundation trenches for a pavilion and an extension to the main property at The Chantry, Rougham (Fig.1) took place between the 25th November and the 8th December 2009. The monitoring was carried out by Liz Muldowney on behalf of the client Mr. J. Harrison.

Topsoil, demolition debris and driveway surfaces were stripped over the footprint of the pavilion to the top of the subsoil. The subsoil was at approximately 73.5m OD. This layer was mid brown orange silty clay approximately 0.3m in depth. A wide north to south oriented electricity service trench was observed cutting the subsoil on the west side of the stripped area extending beyond the limit of the development area (Fig. 2).

The foundation trenches for the pavilion were then excavated, using a 360 degree excavator, in short 2 to 4m long stretches and immediately filled with poured concrete. This method was employed because the sides of the foundation trenches collapsed where they cut through the loose fill of the electricity service trench. Elsewhere the sides of the trenches were more stable but the high water table meant that the risk of flooding and collapsing was high.

Five interconnecting trenches for the pavilion were observed during excavation. They were oriented north-north-west to south-south-east and west-north-west to east-south-east. They measured 8.8m north to south, 6.6m east to west and approximately 1.0m in depth below the stripped level. A further three foundation trenches were not observed because of the absence of archaeological remains in the first five.

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Figure 1. Location map

An east to west oriented foundation trench measuring 5m by 0.9m by 1.2m was seen after it had been excavated. This formed the northern wall of the extension to the main building. The other foundation trenches for the extension were not observed because of the absence of archaeological features in the other trenches.

Plans were drawn at appropriate scales and high resolution (7 megapixel) digital photographs were taken of the foundation trenches. The position of the pavilion foundation trenches was located using differential GPS (Leica 1200). The location of the extension foundation trench was established by tape using existing OS mapping data.

No finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

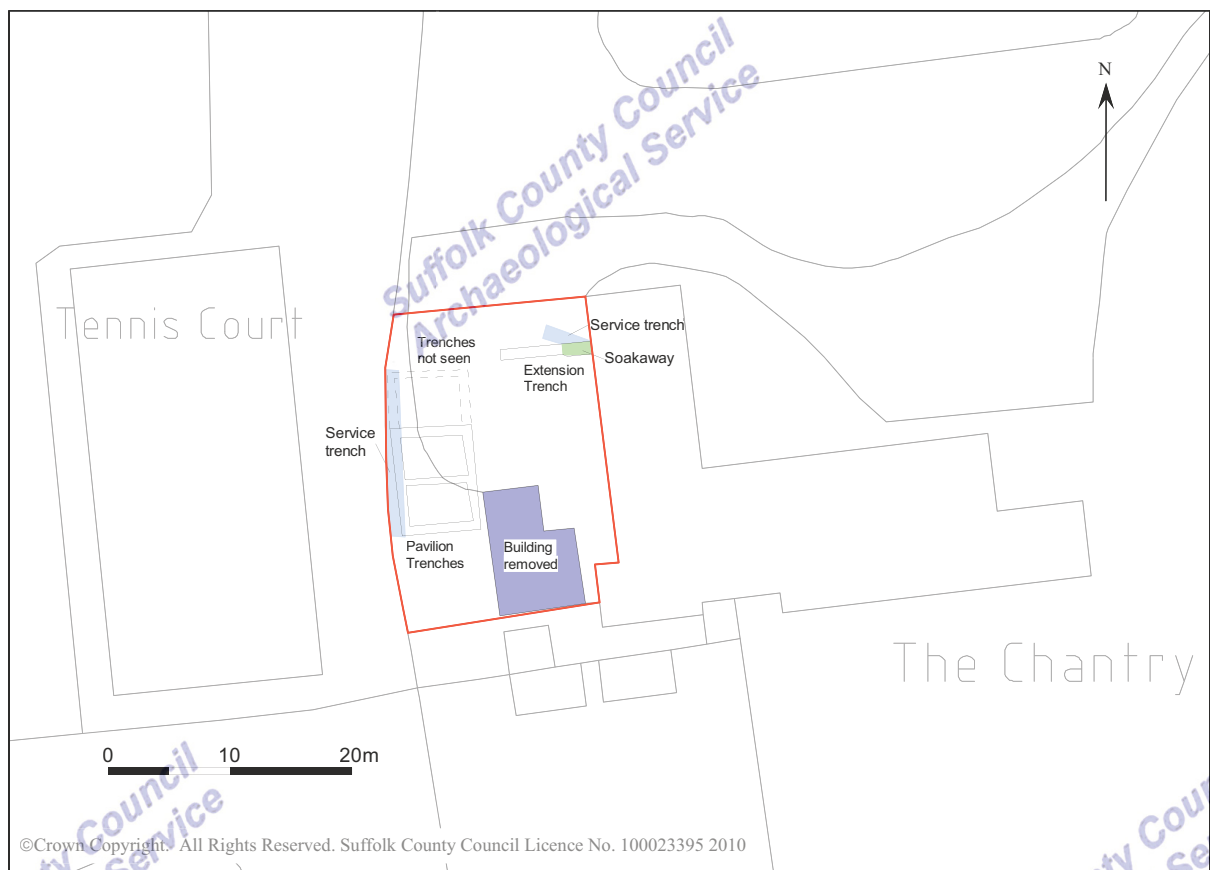


Figure 2. Location of foundation trenches

2. Results

No pre-modern features were encountered during the evaluation.

The pavilion foundation trenches contained no archaeological features. The modern electricity service trench ran obliquely across its western side on a north to south alignment. The natural geological horizon was light bluish yellow clay with frequent small rolled chalk nodules. This was overlain by 0.3m of mid brownish orange subsoil. This had been sealed by topsoil, demolition debris and the remains of the gravel driveway which variously formed the modern ground surface. These upper layers were mechanically stripped prior to the excavation of the footing trenches.

A brick-lined, possibly octagonal, soakaway was encountered at the east end of the extension foundation trench (Plate 1). It was sited immediately adjacent to the west wall of the present house. It measured 1.5m east to west and was approximately 1.25m in width north to south. It appeared to continue below the base of the foundation trench, although slumped material obscured the base of the trench. Ceramic pipes entered the feature from both the east and west sides of the foundation trench. These pipes were still active and water flooded the trench. A modern service trench entered the foundation trench from the north-west and electricity cables ran through the soakaway into the building (Plate 2).



Plate 1. Soakaway in extension foundation trench showing ceramic pipe, looking south



Plate 2. Service trench running into soakaway in extension foundation trench, looking north-west

E. Muldowney
January 2010