

Archaeological Monitoring Report

**Land Adjacent to Lathbury Institute, Church Row,
Bury St. Edmunds.
BSE 243**

SCCAS Report No. 2005/55

Planning Application No: SE/01/3450/P

Oasis reference: suffolkc1-7487

National grid reference: TL 8531 6469

Date of fieldwork: March 2005

Funded by: Mothersole Builders

Summary

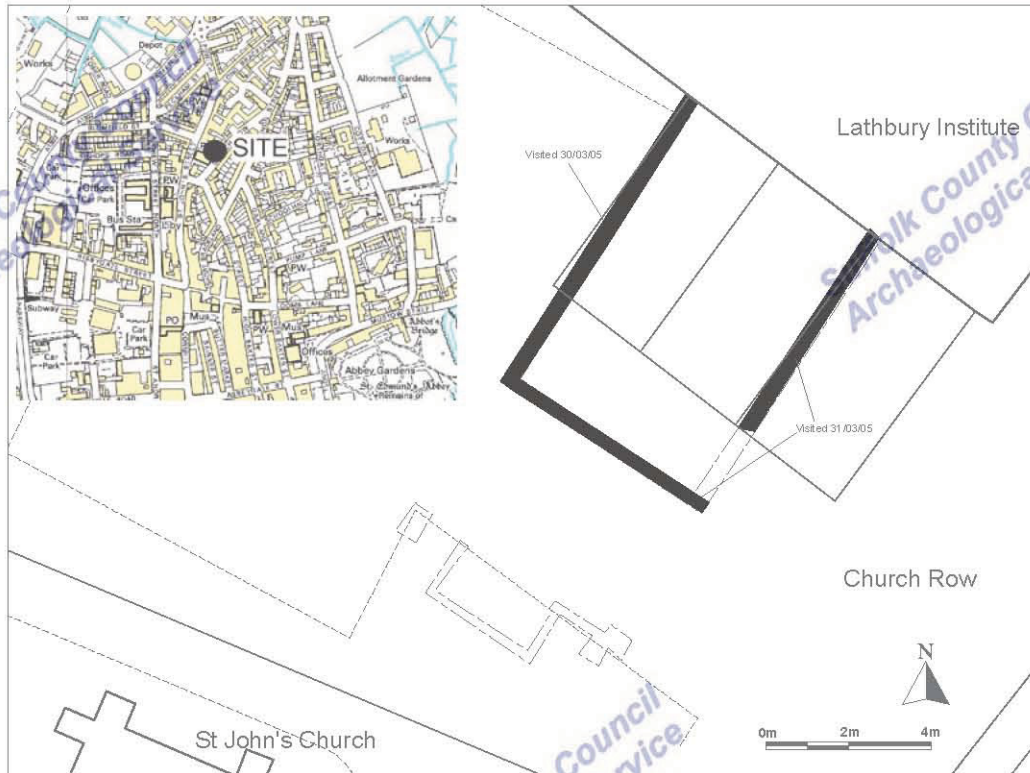
Archaeological monitoring work was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches to the south-west of the existing Lathbury Institute building. The site consisted of an upper layer of modern levelling material over a dark brown silty sand. This in turn sat directly on the natural subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

Introduction

A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footing trenches for a new structure to the south-west of the existing Lathbury Institute (Planning Application Number SE/01/3450/P) (Figure 1). The monitoring followed a brief and specification (Appendix 1) by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team).

The site is identified as within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Draft Local Plan. The site is located within the medieval walled urban area though peripheral to the main urban core. Previous archaeological work to the north-west of the existing Lathbury Institute building has indicated medieval and later activity on the site (BSE 175 – Caruth 1999 and Tester 2003). This evidence was suggestive of activity to the rear of street fronting properties though it is unclear if these related properties were those of St. John's Street or Church Row.

Warren's Map of 1741 shows few buildings along Church Row which appears to continue until substantial development of the area in the 19th century. It has been suggested that this lack of expansion during the post-medieval period may reflect a decline in the wealth of the town (Tester 2003) with the area being more built-up in the medieval period.



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Figure 1 Site location

Methodology

The footing trenches were excavated by a 360 degree machine fitted with a toothed bucket measuring 0.4m wide. The spoil was immediately transported off site. Archaeological monitoring of the excavation was made in two visits. The footing trenches and any visible archaeological features were recorded in plan and section. A digital photographic record was also produced.

The site archive is held at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds under site code BSE 243.

Results

The two visits made on 30/03/05 and 31/03/05 inspected the main footing trench extending south from the existing Lathbury Institute building. The upper fill within the trench was a heavily disturbed modern build-up presumably for the existing car park to the west. This layer was 0.9m deep and became gradually thinner to the east as the ground surface sloped down towards the road surface.

Below the modern build-up layer was a mid to dark orangey brown silty sand layer from which no finds were recovered. This layer was approximately 0.8m deep and overlay a natural orange silty sand.

No archaeological features were identified within the footing trenches.

Conclusion

The area monitored to the south-west of the Lathbury Institute appears to be heavily disturbed by the later build-up on the site for the construction of the present car park. However, the preserved layer below the modern build-up is suggestive of a buried topsoil similar to that identified further to the south at Lawsons Yard (Duffy 2004). If this is similar then there is the possibility of well preserved archaeological features below even though no features were identified within the limited footing trenches. A similar layer was encountered in the evaluation to the north (Caruth 1999) and was visible as an even brown loam containing post-medieval pottery sealing earlier features.

Although no dating evidence was recovered from the site the brown silty sand is likely to be post-medieval in date based on the evaluation evidence to the north (Caruth 1999), and historic maps such as Warren's map which show the area as open ground. Earlier activity on the site is also suggested by the results of the evaluation (Caruth 1999), though it is unclear whether activity continued as far as the present site as no archaeological features were identified during the monitoring work. However, it must be remembered that the area exposed was very limited and no definite conclusions can be drawn from this site.

References

- Caruth, J. 1999. Lathbury Institute, Church Row, Bury St. Edmunds (BSE 175). SCCAS Report 99/72.
- Duffy, J. 2004. Lawsons Yard, Bury St. Edmunds (BSE 233). SCCAS Report 2004/125.
- Tester, A. 2003. Land Adjacent to Lathbury Institute, Church Row, Bury St. Edmunds (BSE 175). SCCAS Report 2003/43.

John Duffy
Assistant Project Officer
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

June 2005

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

ADJACENT LATHBURY INSTITUTE, BURY ST EDMUNDS

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, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/01/3450/P). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The development area is within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Draft Local Plan, it is inside the walled medieval urban area. Archaeological evaluation of the adjacent area demonstrated the presence of archaeological deposits (SCCAS Report 99/72 for BSE 175).
- 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 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the

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contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination.

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 activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the 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.

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- 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.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.6 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.
- 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. 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.

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- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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: R D Carr

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

Date: 15 December 2004
/LathburyInstitute12

Reference:

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.