

## Elms Barn, All Saints South Elmham

SEN 058

Planning application no. W/5518/5

Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2005/71

OASIS ID No. 7510

### Summary

*All Saints South Elmham*, Elms Barn, Capps Lane (TM/33248252; SEN 058) A single visit to observe footings associated with a barn conversion project at The Elms, All Saints South Elmham, revealed no archaeology within the trenches. To the north of the house, a slight dip in the lawn adjacent to the driveway appears to be a section of backfilled moat, some of which survives as a series of ponds surrounding the house. The slightly elevated location of The Elms, an early timber framed building, suggests it occupies a raised platform, a feature commonly associated with medieval moated enclosures.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Mr. D. Haddingham; report no. 2005/71)

### Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the conversion of barns at The Elms, All Saints South Elmham, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 3324 8252, at approximately 48m OD, some 350m south east of All Saints church and a two moated sites classified as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Roman and medieval pottery have also been found within 150m of the site. The barn lies within an area of ponds with the potential to be the remains of a medieval moated enclosure around The Elms, a large timber framed house which is believed to be largely of fourteenth century date.

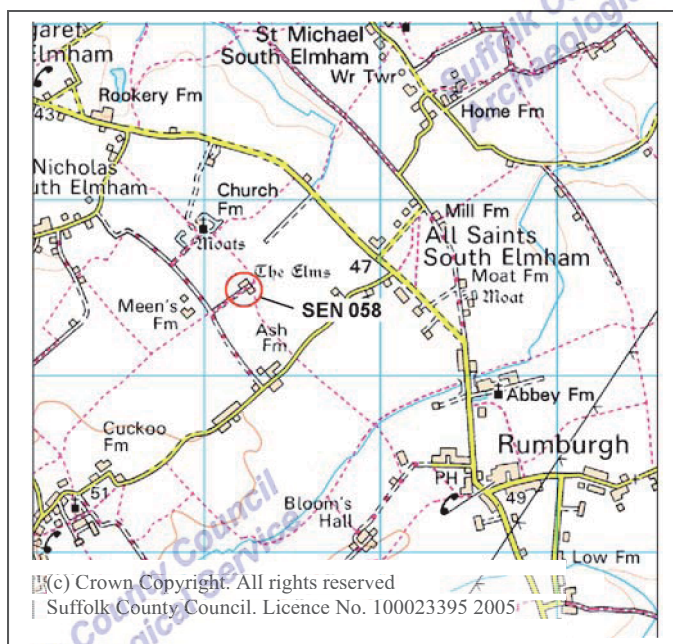


Figure 1: Site location

### Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the hand dug footings and to look for evidence of the ponds having once formed an enclosing moat. The site was recorded under the SMR code SEN 058. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Bob Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The monitoring work took place in March 2005 and was commissioned by the owner, Mr. D. Haddingham. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

### Results

The footings followed the line of a courtyard wall, the existing concrete foundations of which were left in situ for re-use (Fig.2). Where there were gaps in these foundations, footings had been excavated to a depth of c.0.4m, revealing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. A 150mm thick layer of loose hardcore sealed the natural subsoil, a pale yellowish

brown boulder clay. No archaeological interventions were observed nor was any artefactual evidence recovered.

A former owner of the site recalls a NNE-SSW ditch along the south side of the driveway in front of the house, over which a bridge was set to allow access to the house (Fig. 2). This has since been filled in and now forms part of a lawn. At least two attempts have been made to drain the backfilled ditch, which remains a wet area. Whilst no definite evidence of the moat arm remains, there is a very slight fall in ground level where the ditch is reputed to have been. Indeed, the house does occupy a slightly elevated position, as though located on a raised platform.

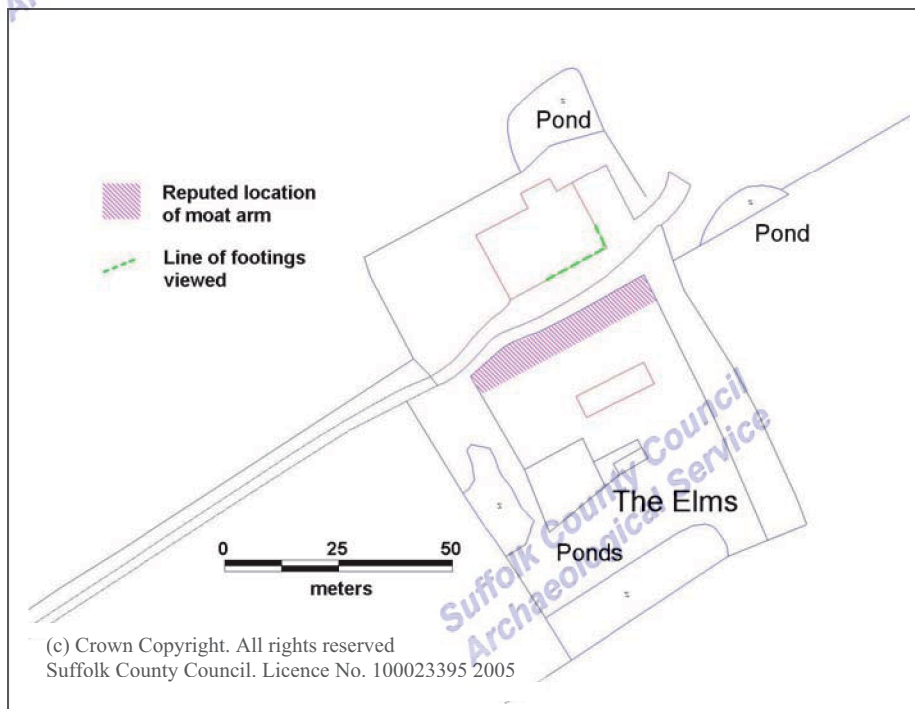


Figure 2: Location of monitored groundworks and moat

### Discussion

The excavated footings represent only a small glimpse into the site and thus the lack of archaeological evidence may not be representative. Anecdotal and topographical evidence suggests that the ponds which surround the house did once form a moat which at least enclosed The Elms itself. Whilst the remains of a NNE-SSW moat arm were extant within living memory, no such feature is clear on the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps. Owing to the low potential of the footings and the identification of the probable northern moat arm, no further monitoring of the site is considered necessary.

Linzi Everett  
Field Projects Team,  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.  
March 2005.