

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

ST EDMUND'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST MARY'S STREET, BUNGAY (SMR ref. BUN 057)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF
GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN
EXTENSION TO ST EDMUNDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
(Application No. W/1770/6)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/47
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-7572)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to the St Edmund RC Primary School, St Mary's Street, Bungay (NGR TM 3371 8964), was undertaken during March 2005. Trenches excavated for strip foundations were observed. An undated feature cutting into the natural yellow sand subsoil was identified beneath a buried topsoil which was overlain by c.1m of relatively modern material. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BUN 057. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by DPA Ltd. on behalf of their clients, Suffolk County Council, who funded the work. The monitoring work was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team.

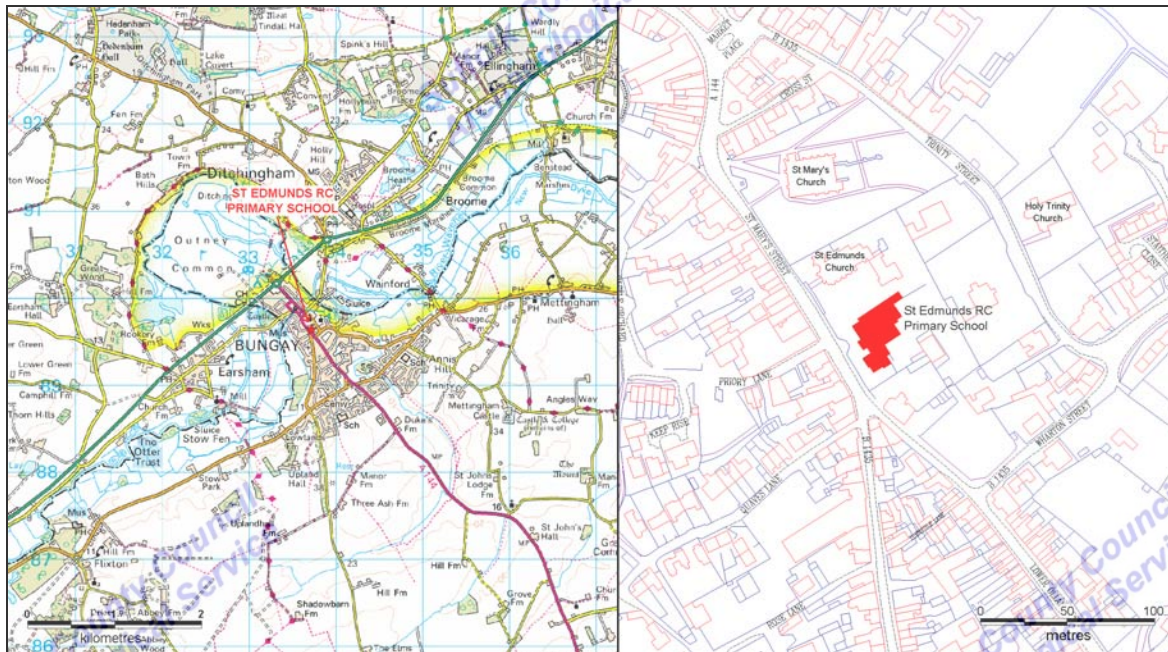


Figure 1: Location Plan

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2005

Introduction

An application to construct an extension to the St Edmunds RC Primary School, St Mary's Street, Bungay (application no. W/1770/6), was approved with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work. The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Bungay as defined in the Waveney Local Plan. The site

lies within the medieval core of the Bungay and fronts one of the town's main streets. It is also situated c.80m south of the medieval church of St Mary's and the ruins of a Benedictine Priory which are located within the churchyard. A second medieval church, The Holy Trinity, is located c.90m to the northeast and a Victorian Catholic church, St Edmund's, sits immediately to the north of the school.

The extension was to be built on strip foundations and it was the excavation of these that had the greatest potential to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits or features that may exist. As only limited ground disturbance was proposed a continuous monitoring condition was deemed appropriate and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3371 8964; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BUN 057. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by DPA Limited on behalf of their clients, Suffolk County Council, who funded the work. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team.

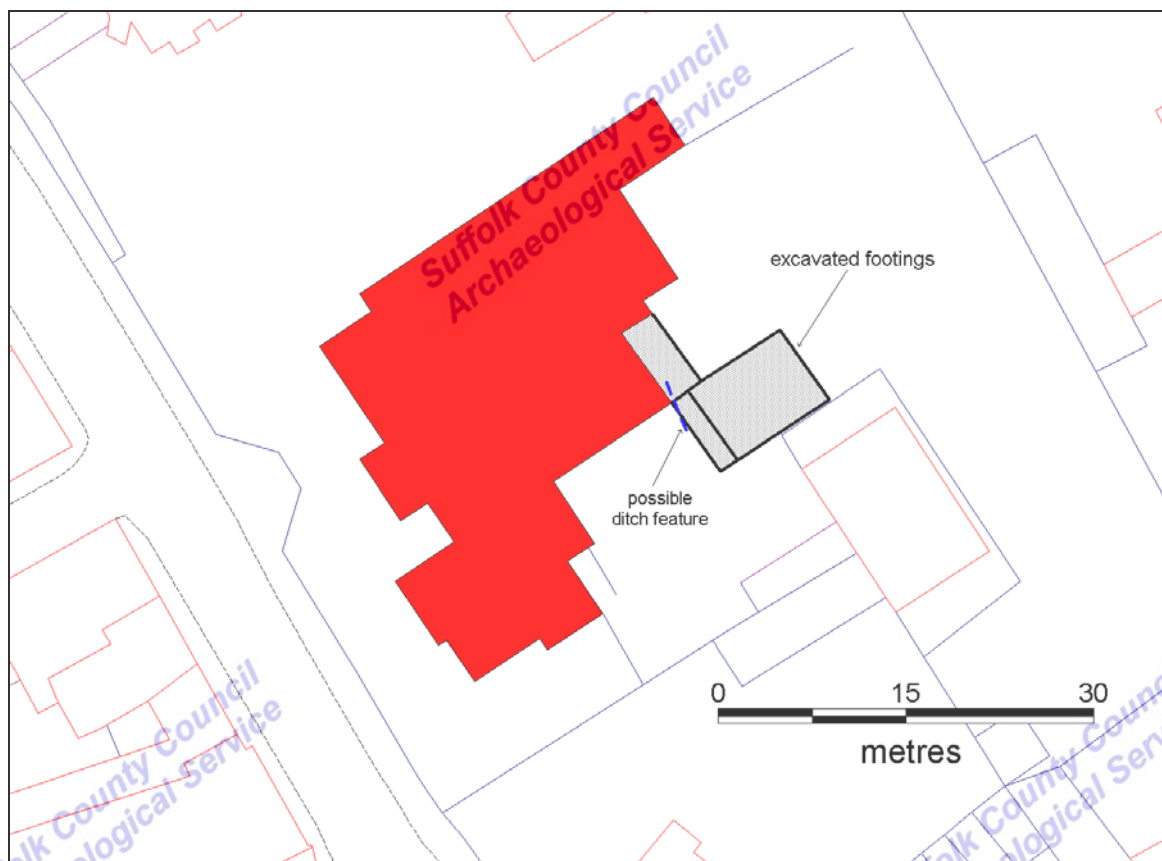


Figure 2: Monitoring Results

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2005

Results

The site was visited on three separate occasions, on the 16th, 17th and 21st March 2005. During these visits the excavation of the footings for the new extension were observed. Figure 2 illustrates the position of the excavated footings and the results of the monitoring. The footings were excavated using the rear acting hoe of a wheeled 'JCB' excavator to a total depth of c.2.3m. This revealed a soil profile that comprised 1m of made ground

consisting of a 0.3m thick layer of imported shingle mixed with rubble and sand overlain by 0.7m of sandy topsoil. This overlay a now buried topsoil layer c.0.65m thick that immediately overlay a natural subsoil consisting of yellow sand with occasional patches of gravel. The footing trench cut into the natural subsoil to a depth of c.0.6m. The interface between the buried topsoil and the underlying natural subsoil was blurred suggesting the subsoil surface had not been truncated. The interface between the upper surface of the buried topsoil and the overlying made ground was very abrupt indicating the former land surface had been previously truncated.

Close to the corner of the existing school building a feature was noted cutting into the natural subsoil. It was 'U' shaped in profile with sloping sides and a fill of pale brown sand which was sealed by the buried topsoil layer. It was not particularly clear but it appeared to be a linear feature on an approximately north-south alignment but it was not possible to undertake a detailed examination of this feature due to the depth of the trench and the unstable nature of the ground making it hazardous to enter.

The spoil was initially retained in a spoil tip on site and this was regularly examined for artefacts but no finds, other than post-medieval building debris, were recovered.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BUN 057, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-7572.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features have been destroyed or damaged by the works observed.

The upper 1m of made ground appears to be associated with the building of the school and later extensions as indicated by the relatively modern building debris seen in the layer immediately overlying the buried topsoil. This earlier land surface is roughly comparable to the small playing field lying to the east of the school. The ditch feature noted beneath the buried topsoil layer may be associated with early, possibly medieval activity but without dating evidence it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

ST EDMUNDS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST MARY' STREET, BUNGAY

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend St Edmunds RC Primary School has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (W/1770/6). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Bungay as defined in the Waveney Local Plan, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be 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 the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 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 should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should 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: Keith Wade

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

Date: 15 December 2004

Reference: /Bungay-StEdsSchool12

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.

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service